

The Dodger

[Narrator] Maj John Dodge was the only American to participate in the great escape. He was already an incorrigible escaper. A veteran of the First World War, he joined the British forces in 1939. His fellow prisoners nicknamed him “The Dodger.” Here Dodge is shown being escorted at gunpoint back to the train from which he had just jumped.

[?] “The Dodger was in the camp and I think he was more responsible for us being saved unwittingly than he realized because he had stuffed his clothes with so much stuff in the escape that he couldn’t get through the tunnel very clearly and was pulling all the boards down. They had to pull him back and unload him and put him back on the train again. A lot of time was lost. So only seventy-six people escaped from the tunnel. They did intend to have 250 people escape. And Hitler was so angry, at Berchtesgaden, when the 76 escaped, there is no question that if 250 had escaped, he would have gone berserk.