

Escape Preparation

[LtGen Clark] For one or two guys to get out, it took fifteen, twenty, or thirty behind the lines to make clothes for them, to make compasses, forged passes, and all that kind of stuff. It was a very elaborate, difficult job to protect it against the Germans who knew we were trying to do these things and were determined to prevent it. They were pretty efficient at it, so we had to go to great lengths to do a little bit. At one time I figured we got over 350 people clear of the camp, I mean outside the wire, and about eight got home.

[Col von Lindeiner-Wildau] The increased perfection of escape preparation resulted in an increase of the countermeasures of the German personnel. At least in this area, Stalag Luft III, became a model POW camp. New personnel to be used in the POW system came here for training. The escape material which had either been found or confiscated filled two huge barracks after only two years and was known as the “escape museum.” It served as training aid for personnel tasked to duty in other camps as well as the local communal police.