

October 2015

Dear Clients and Friends:

Over the course of time, there have been human accomplishments that make us sit back and say, “No way! How could anyone do that?”

The Great Escape is a good example. Imagine it’s World War II, and you’ve been captured by the Germans. They’ve sent you to a high-security prison camp. You look around at guard towers manned with machine guns, a warning wire thirty feet inside the double barbed-wire fence, searchlights combing back and forth at night, and you think, “There’s no way out of here.” Unless of course, you can dig one heck of a tunnel.

That’s what captive British and American soldiers did before the end of the war, right under the noses of the German guards in Stalag Luft III. You’ve probably seen the movie with Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough, based on this improbable event. But you can only pack so much into a movie.

When it all played out, seventy-six men crawled from a hole on the far side of the prison fence. It was a cold, moonless night in March of 1944, and they were a long way from safety. The inspiring account of what came before, and after, can be yours for \$11.00 in paperback from Amazon.com. It’s “The Great Escape,” by Paul Brickhill.

The magic and marvel is in the details. Starting with nothing but desire and an incredible amount of organization, these prisoners managed to dig down thirty feet and build four tunnels, complete with buttressing, trollies and air pumps. By hook or crook, they were able to fabricate clothing, fake documents to get through checkpoints, and hide all of it in places the Germans couldn’t find for over a year, despite constant searches.

It’s a reminder that through our own ingenuity, the impossible can be made possible.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford