



Allied POWs plan for several hundred of their number to escape from a German camp during World War II.

Release date: July 4, 1963

Directed and produced by **John Sturges**

Written by **James Clavell, W.R. Burnett, Walter Newman**. Based on *The Great Escape* by **Paul Brickhill**

Music by **Elmer Bernstein**

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STARRING:

Steve McQueen

as Captain Virgil Hilts USAAF, "The Cooler King"

James Garner

as Flight Lieutenant Bob Hendley DFC RAF,
"The Scrounger"

Richard Attenborough

as Squadron Leader Roger Bartlett DFC RAF,
"Big X"

James Donald

as Group Captain Ramsey DSO MC RAF,
"The SBO [Senior British Officer]"

Charles Bronson

as Flight Lieutenant Danny Velinski DSC DFC RAF,
a "tunnel king"

Donald Pleasance

as Flight Lieutenant Colin Blythe RAF, "The Forger"

James Coburn

as Flying Officer Louis Sedgwick RAAF,
"The Manufacturer"

Hannes Messemer

as Oberst von Luger, "The Kommandant"

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FUN FACTS:

1. Canadian Flight Lieutenant Wally Floody OBE (Chatham, Ontario, April 28, 1918 – September 25, 1989) was an imprisoned Second World War pilot who was instrumental in organizing and implementing the "**Great Escape**" from the German Stalag Luft III prisoner of war (POW) camp. He acted as a technical advisor in production of the film, after **John Sturges** called him. He is popularly considered the real-life counterpart to the film's fictional "Tunnel King", Danny Velinski, played by **Charles Bronson**.
2. **Kirk Douglas** and **Burt Lancaster** were considered, but when Sturges was told, "you've got to cut the budget if you want to get this made" and with two relatively inexpensive, young actors (Garner and McQueen) 2 million dollars was saved in one stroke!
3. During idle periods while *The Great Escape* was in production, all cast and crew members - from stars **Steve McQueen** and **James Garner** to production assistants and obscure food service workers - were asked to take thin, five-inch strings of black rubber and knot them around other thin strings of black rubber of enormous length. The finished results of all this knotting were the coils and fences of barbed wire seen throughout the film.
4. **Williams** and **Mila Kunis**. and art direction, but did not win in any category.

UP NEXT:

To Catch a Thief (1955)

Sunday, July 7 at 12:45 p.m.
Wednesday, July 10 at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m.

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