

## **Richard Forbes**

### **Escape Tunnel**

And in the last camp I was in the escape tunnel it started off in the gymnasium of this girls' school, and what they did, the engineers in the camp, they cut off the water supply, removed the radiator, started the tunnel entrance there and started digging out. And then at the end of each shift replaced the radiator and nobody knew that anything had happened. Now the next question is where do you put the spoil from digging the tunnel? Well this is where Red Cross parcel boxes come in. We worked in shifts. We put the spoil in the Red Cross parcels, marched in front of the guards with the spoil in, climbed up the stairs, into the loft and emptied them in to the ceiling loft. Walked down and then on the next shift repeat the same process. And we were making marvellous progress till one day the guards noticed that the ceiling in the upper room was beginning to sag so, of course, that was a bit of a blow so we had to think of something else. So we did what they did in the *Wooden Horse*, so we had to go round, when we were marching round and round and round for a half hour or so, each of us had a handful of spoil from the tunnel in our pockets which we'd put slits in, and as we went round, of course, we just dribbled the soil out. But it was really funny to have these boxes under the German guards and it was full of soil from the tunnel. But unfortunately it was either through a stool pigeon that had been placed among us, because that was always the danger, but suddenly the German guards rushed in one day and they found the entrance. They ripped the radiator out and found the tunnel and that was the end of that.