AWM 65

[414]

BRICKHILL, PAUL CHESTER JEROME 403313

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES ACCESS STATUS

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

OPPICERS & ALE CREWS

Mossing 17/3/43 POW 21/A/43 Safelik 10-5-005

True following biographical details are required for use at R.A.A.F. Overseas Haadquarters, LANDON.

SURFAME, BRICKHILL MURBER 40-3313
PAUL CHESTER JEROME
CHRISTIAN NAMES
DEGREES, DECORATIONS ETC PRESENT APPOINTMENT AND LOCATION No. 74. SERVINEY, LONG. KENT. N. LALAND
DATE OF BIRTH, 20:12:16 PLACE MELBOORNE
DATE OF BIRTH. 20:12:16 PLACE MELROURNE
EDUCATED NORTH Sydney High School, Sydney University
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE. 6:1:41.
PROVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE. 3 years. No.7 Fd. Bdc. RARA (M)
() ()
PLACES OF TRAINING BRADFIELD Cars, NARAANDARA(M. W.) OTTAWA, CANADA.
CIVILIAN CARBER AND ACTIVITIES. JOYANANST. AVIGENAN & Defence.
. teporter. on Sydney Sun.
SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED), RECREATIONS, CLUBS ETC
Swimming.
FATHER GR BRICKHILL
WIFE
CHILDREN.
HOME ADDRESS 132 Green wich Rd, Greenwich, N. S. W. Aust.
DATE EMBARKED 20:5:41 9.9.9.1
DATE EMBARKED 20:5:41 9.9.41 DATE
DESTINATION. Ottawa Bournemouth
(These forms are to be filled in and handed to the adjutant of the Unit
immediately after receipt).

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR PORCE.

Overseas Headquarters,
Kodak House,
Karenny, F.C.2.

The following biographical details are required for R.A.A.F.
Historical Records, Overseas Headquarters. Shose forms are to be filled in
and returned to the Officer Commanding Repatriation Disposal Section, No.11
(R.A.A.F) P.D.R.C.
Miles (in full) Paul CHESTER JEROME BRICKHILL MARKE AUS. 403313
RANK AND HUS TARRIND. F/ks. PILOT DESCRAPTIONS.
NUMBER I.T.S. COURSE. 10 O.T.U A.F.U. etc.
DATS LIST AUSTRALIA 20/5/81 DATS OF ARRIVAL U.K. 26/9/4/1.
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COLDER TO & TYPES OF ACTIVITY. Fighter a Justice bourber
OFFERITIONS OR TRAINING ATTH AMERICAN PERSONNEL, SQUADROIS, OR AIRCRAFT.
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following applicable headings;
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6 every folices as - (c) Various (g) -
(use other side, or attach extra shorts, if necessary)

TRAINING. NON-OFERATIONAL IND OFERATIONAL DECAMES

No. 403313 Rar	+ (A)	F/2-T	PCT.	BRICKHI	Corations
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"ANIZACS CALLING"

'Tunnel Escape from Stalag Luft 3'

03

(4033/3) P/Lt. P.C.J. Brickhill R.A.A.F.

PRODUCED BY MOS. R.J. DAYY
CENSORED BY G. LOOKER AND J. STURGES WHITING
PASSED BY AIR MINISTRY PRA

Recorded on DOX 50148 Duration 9tho" Transmission: Facific Service, Thursday June 7th 1945, 0615-0625 CET

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT:

this is London calling in the restiffs Service of the B.B.C.
"MALICS CALLING". You will remarke the attempted same escape last year from
Stalag Laff 3, at Sangem, near Berlin, after which 50 receptured officers were
shot by the Genzams. "Fit, F.C.T. Brickill, a Sittire plate from Sydney, majust been relaced from that camp. Before the mar real Brickill was on the
editorial staff of the Sydney "Sun', and in this talks he describes the building of
the turned through which the break was made.

F/LT. BRICKHILL:

Yes, I was in that comp, but now I find it hard to believe all the fentastic things that happened.

Tou see, it was no simple bunds. It was, well, there were three bundle, it work of what was called the TY computation - the work of 500 mm for 35 months, we contract out the whole show in a pretty burner compound short 500 yards square awards with determs security gastine night and day, securiding and snooping with probes and torches, As well as the tunnels, we had to organise factories for mass forgery, map and composs saiding, for producing iron retines, tellaring, camparity and satisfactor, hope, all part of the scheme for the big secure. We had to use a couple of hundred southers to consect our operations and the fact that we get many with if we already due top souring flighter equation till be was shot down over the beaches of hundrick in 1340.

The three turnels were always celled you, blok and story for security reasons, and Harry, our last chance, was the one that rang the bell. It was over 30 feet long, a world's prison one record, and 50 feet deep to grade the sound describes such by the common atomic our beloved barbed ware. Righty officers got out through Harry, souther world's record I think.

We began planning the big break short Curistans 1942. Six months later the boys had rom, our first tunnel, about 300 feet leng and were about to dig up, out and ammy, when Homans, one of the formes are called the Cemmen security guards, socialreally dig his probe - iron spike - into the invisible edge of Tos's trup door, an that was the end of You.

After that blow, we found that Mair was unsuitable because the demans suddenly out down the wood where is was to case up, and half another compound there, so easy in Jenuary last year, were west full steem shead on merry. The entercose to Heavy was a counting two door in a rose that the openine secreted at least six times, looking for just that nort of thing, but they never found Henry sackest portols. They were understant the store in a conner of the rose; well skicm a square of tiles out of the floor there, fitted them into a concrete truy, so that the whole lot lifted out cleanly in one piece - and it was no well done that you couldn't see the edges. That will be this we

dug a shart that dropped straight down for 30 feet. It was all wool-lined and aboved on another work of the terms of the strain of access of their cross alata = there were about 1500 beds = and we straighed our-tain other places too. It made for rether unconfereibble alongoing, but what of thirty fixing the down we day out an underground younging chanbers, designed and built a mix-pury and managinal it down. From old this we need on het physiciate that had a south of the strain of the st

th you, about this relive, we also do undergooms workends where on subblet wooden them. For shoring the tunnel and built wooden relivey lines and tablics with financed and mobil dyred wheels for tunnel transport. It was in three sortions — you had to change trucks whose to got the full length of the tunnel—the trucks was besiden to a you.

The turned theoly was aloued too foot square - protty cromped for weeking in and the bore digging used to wark unted or in the stood long underparts. Choices
would have imported them, and dirt stains would have given the slow energy but it was
easy for them to slide round to a bathracea where we'd rigged up a shower and until the
sand off their bottles and out of their lake. One lady lying that longth, should
sany of the send sast while his No. 2 lying just behind; sensed it best on the radiancy
sany day, onling to the loose send, there were dangerous falls on the free which
hadd up must boddy. The only warning would be a slight runtle and then No. 1 digger
sould - be brief under feet of sufforming sonly falls from the root. Our house-ende
laws and shrikes would be monthared; and No. 2 wasting four would have to find his
palts foot in siny bleckmose, and hould his buck out from under.

Setting rid of the send was one of our biggest difficulties, especially arter it began to snow. Some of it we put down Dick (the unfinished tunnel), and we put a lot under the camp theatre.

Recetting, we showe, hundreds of our our sentries - we called then steepes - were assignmenting our scoret satisfation. All the amonging common fewerts were failed, they couldn't move a foot without their actions being flashed to our vatious centrall points.

tunedling work was overheally helpel when one rather light flagmed ortions— "maked up" about 600 foot of clost into cable and we installed way post electrical lighting in laway. Three forms turbines were also by their own people for their correlaments on hiesing that wire.

over 300 chaps were picked by search ballet to attempt the eccept. The date want's facel high that the want's facel high that high that the want's facel hig

About 10 year, two experiments immediate due not the last few incides into the open. Tooy had a many shock, odd.collections were a few feet short, and instead of being just inside a wood, they were on the cape, in the open, and a bare 15 years from a carman control box and macrollaght. After that the tension was adjustly periodic on the chaps, subverbey with controllaght after that the tension was adjustly periodic to the chaps, subverbey with controllaght productions. He was an absolute tempole count them, clarked in the telline one at a time, and went should get towns from the balling periodic that the production of the last and the state balling periodic that are the state of the last and had to be classed under pretty mayor-reading conditions. In the middle of the last and had to be classed under pretty mayor-reading conditions, in the middle of the last and had to be classed under pretty mayor-reading conditions. In the middle of the last and had to be classed under pretty mayor-reading conditions. In the middle of the last and the state of the last and the theory should be supported to the tension of the last and the last and

About fire to five it was starting to get light and the centralizes decided to pade up. The last saw was gut shooting off down the tuned when a Gauss patrolling souty whiled along the edge of the wood, storped week from the tuned south - should fell down the sing | - murriculty trod on one quaking compact lying dogge in the most just out of the hole - previously two on one quaking compact lying dogge in the most just out of the hole - previously trod on one quaking compact lying dogge in the most just out of the hole - previously fired and the cut is the same tenther led counting shoot if you many. The guard let cut a houl, fired a short that lacking visionely and the game was upper stable in the comp horizon of Comman with town game, forevote with down recolvers and the forestellarly (a layely sight, his fence a cost of method upue), threatment to shoot two briefied actificacy hisself on any proceedation. He recovery and the fired particles of the compact of the com

of the 80 who went out through the tunnel, four were cought immediately. One by one, nost of the others were rounded up, frost-hitten and completely eshausted. Three out of the 80 get back to highest areas are still almost a.

It was short a fortnight after the break, our new Kommendent teld us that the 50 had been shot --- attempting, he sadd, to crade capture. I suppose the Germans throught the shooting rould stop our ecouping attempts, though if they call think that, I can only say they'd here got a pretty here; shock if they'd see he next turned to built. Homeonly it was a beauty, but we were excussed from the cump before we could finish it. And now I hope we're through with turnels for good. I'd much rother take a ham.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT

that was P/LE. Pull Erickill R.A.A.P. of Sydney the was recently repairabled from Stableg Duff 3, Commeny. P/LE. Erickill is writing a book in collaboration with a Sauthek Arison was correspondent about the extraordinary convent from Seath of some of his fellow princetors when they held out or were shot down.

"ANZACS CALLING"

'Tunnel Escape from Stalag Luft 3'

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(4033/3) F/Lt. P.C.J. Brickhill R.A.A.F.

2/2/05/240404 Democratical 20214

PRODUCED BY MPS. E.J. DAVY
CENSORED BY G. LOOKER AND J. STURGE-WHITING
PASSED BY AIR NUMBERS PRA

Recorded on DOX 50148 Duration 9*40" Transmission: Facific Service, Thursday June 7th 1945, 0615-0625 GRT

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT:

This is London calling in the restrict Service of the B.B.C. "MEMOS CALLING". You will remoder the attempted associated pair from Stalag Laft B. at Saagen, near Berlin, after which 50 receptured officers were shot by the Germans. F/Lt. P.C.J. Brickhill, a Syttire pilot from Sydney, has just been released from that camp. Before the war Paul Brickhill was on the chiterial staff of the Sydney "Sun", and in this talke he describes the building of the turned through which the break was made,

F/LT. BRICKHILL

Yes, I was in that comp, but now I find it hard to believe all the fantastic things that happened,

Tox sos, it was no simple bunnel. It was, well, there were three three bunnels, the work of 500 mm for 15 norths. We contrid out the whole show in a pretty burner compound short 550 yards square swamming with German socurity guards might and day, scarching and snooping with probes and torthes. As well as the tunnels, we had to expanie factories for meas forgery, may and compass suching, for proviousing iron rations, telloring, carpenty and stell-work shops, all part of the scheme for the big scaupe. We had to use a couple of hundred as a ganding, known as "Mag "X" who organized it all. Is had commanded the Mag. No as a ganding the scheme for the big scaupe. The had to use a ganding the scause of the scheme for the law of the scheme for the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940. He was another those the Gestapo short.

The tures turnels were always called ros, blok and Heary for security reasons, and Heary, our last chance, was the one that rang the bell. It was over 350 feet long, a world's prison comp record, and 30 feet deep to syste the sound described with a condition of the condition of

We began planning the big break shout Christman 1942. Six months later the boys had rum, our first tunnel, about 500 feet long and were about to dig up, out and away, when Homans, one of the formers as we called the German security geners, accidentally dug his probe - iron spike - into the invisible edge of Yem's trop door, and that was the end of Yem.

After that blow, we found that Mok was unsuitable because the germans suddenly cut down the wood where it was to come up, and built sucher compound there, so early in a cuming through the property of the summing through the property of the summing through the such as your built be german searched at least six these, blocking for just that nort of thing, but they never found library spoises portain. They were undermeath the store in a conner of the room; well them a square of tiles out of the floor there, fitted then into a concrete truy, so that the whole lot lifted out cleanly in one piece - and it was so well done that you couldn't see the edge. Under this we

ing a shaft that dropped stradght down for 30 feet. It was all wood-lined and shored, and so, incidentally, we the tunnel. To do this we stripped all the beds in the comp of some of some of their cross slats - there were about 1500 beds - and we stripped certain other places too. It made for rather unconfortable alonging, but what of that? Thirty feet down we day out an underground pumping chamber, designed and built an air yeap and smaggled it down. From old these we need on air yeap-line that had a secret inteke in a dissued chimny and was them along with a transferable months, from the transferable months, but one of the transferable months, and the stransferable months of the transferable months.

Oh yes, shout this railway. We also day at underground workside where we assembled wooden fraise for shoring the tunnel and built wooden railway lines and wouldes with flanged and setal tyred wheels for tunnel transport. It was in turce sections - you had to change trucks whice to got the full length of the tunnel—the trucks were healed beckwards and forwards by a roye.

The tunnel itself was shout two feet square - pretty cramped for working in and the boys digging used to work maked or in the hated long underpants. Choices
would have hampered them, and dirt stains would have given the show entry, but it was
easy for them to alig round to a betarcos where we'd ringed up a shower and maniths
sand off their bodies and out of their hair. One had, lying full length, should
easy at the sand sank while his No. 2 lying just beind, passed at book on the railway,
learly every day, owing to the loose sand, there were dengerous falls at the face which
hadd up mork bedly. The only warning would be a slight runtle and then No. 1 digger
would be bursted under feet of suffocuting sand, falle from the root. Our home-made
lamps and ciriline would be smothered, and No. 2 working fast would have to find his
pall's feet in hisly balcontons, and han his back out from under.

Getting rid of the sand was one of our biggest difficulties, especially after it began to snow. Some of it we put down Dick (the unfinished tunnel), and we put a lot under the camp thestre.

Meanting, up above, immireds of our our sentries - we called then stonges were an equating our secret satisfies. All the amonging cemes fewers were tailed. They couldn't move a foot without their actions being flashed to our vatious control points.

Tumelling work was eventually belief when one rather light fragmed officer-"picked up about 500 feet of electric celebr and we installed very pone electric lighting in Harry. Three German workmen were shot by their own people for their convolumence in losing that wire.

Over 200 chips were picked by serve ballet to attempt the ecomps. The direct want's fixed in advance and it was only on the sorring of March 24th that it was decided to break the turnel that night. The chaps concerned assembled in Herry's hat. They had about 100 Griged papers, civry clothes, maps compasses, iron rations made from our own recipes - and not bad either - plus other old gadgets, A highly unfriendly country under a foot of more was at the other and of the turnel.

About 10 p.s. two experienced tunnellers bug out the last few inches into the open. Tooy had a menty shock, Calculations were a few feet short, and instead of being just inside a wood, they were on the edge, in the open, and a bare 15 years from a German sentry box and searchlight. After that the tension was malightly terrific as the chaps, quivering with senitement, muffled in heavy clothes with bulging pockets, and blankets trupped around them, clicked on the relilier one at time, and went shorting off towards freedom. Here were inswitched complications. Several people than an experience of the several people of the lade and had to be cleared under pretty nave-racking conditions. In the middle of the lade and had to be cleared under pretty nave-racking conditions. In the middle of the lade and had to be cleared under pretty nave-racking conditions, but the middle of the lade and had to be cleared under pretty nave-racking conditions. In the middle of the late had been about the lade and had to be cleared under pretty nave-racking conditions was considered to the late of the the had shock with the books and out wort the electric lights in the tunnel. That caused a lovely shackles, and completely held up operations while our lamps, held ready for an emergency, were brought out and passed down the shart end up to that took late of the two helds as a stonge controlling the evenuation by your causelines.

About five to five it was starting to get light and the controllers doctifed to paic up. The last ans was put abouting off dom the tunnel when a Garman patrolling centry walked along the edge of the week, stopped a foot from the tunnel mouth - almost feel down the thing | - Industry are it a preciselly tred on one quaking ecompec lying dough in the many dust out of the helder like the like of the like and the like the like it was the like the like and like the like and the like and the like and the like and the game was up, which half an hour thore was concess in the damp; hardes of demands with town game, fewrote with drawn reculrers and the commendant, (a lovely sight, his face a cost of metidel upon), threetening to shoot the mixing of indome inhands on any provocation. He nervody missed being shot larger by his own people. He was complementabled and given a pretty stiff measure.

Of the 80 who went out through the turnel, four were cought hemoliately. One by one, most of the others were rounded up, frost-bitten and completely established. Three out of the 80 got back to Angland — sees are still insiding.

It was short a furnight after the break, our new Homendamit told us that the 50 had been abot —— attempting, he said, to erade on burne. I suppose the Garmann thought the shooting would stop our economic attempts, though if they come thought the shooting would stop our economic attempts, though if they come the said of the said that that; I can early say they a new economic attempts, but me were evacuated from the came before we could finish it. And now I hope we're through with tunnels for good. I'd much rather take a bus.

CLOSING AMNOUNCEMENT:

that was F/14. Peal Brickhill B.A.A.P. of Sydney the was recently repairable from Stellag Laft 3, Commeny. F/14. Exclobill is writing a back in collaboration with a Southeaf inform was correspondent about the extraordinary concept from death of some of his fellow prisoners when they baled out or were that Green.