

The Royal Air Forces Escaping Society (RAFES)



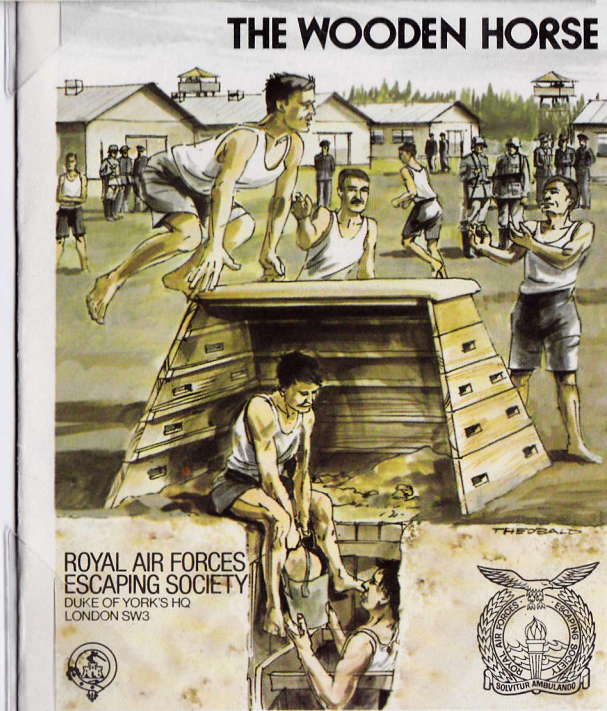
RAFES was a charity established in 1945. It raised funds to support those who had helped RAF airmen escape and evade capture from the Nazis during World War II. A network of escape routes was established across Europe, run by men and women who risked their lives to save the airmen.

The Society produced a set of 40 covers, some signed by RAFES members (all former escapers or evaders) and then sold for charity.

The signatory on this cover is Flying Officer Oliver Philpot, one of three men to successfully escape from Stalag Luft III prisoner of war camp in 1943, using the 'wooden horse'.

The Wooden Horse features on no. 29 of the RAFES covers. This was a vaulting horse, underneath which an escape tunnel was dug. The final escape from the wooden horse was made on Friday 29 October 1943.

The RAFES covers are all flown over one of the escape routes they portray. In 1983, this cover was flown from the UK to Poland, went by road to the site of the former POW camp, a cancellation was made, then it was flown back to London on the 39th anniversary of D-Day.



LOTNICZA
PAR AVION



Flown to Poland and then taken by road to Zagan the site of Stalag Luft III from where the wooden horse escape was made. After cancellation this cover was returned to Warsaw and flown to London in British Airways Boeing 737, G-BGDB on the 39th anniversary of 'D' Day.

Captain: R. Carter.
First Officer: C. Hawkins
Overseas Station Engineer: N. Lewis
British Airways Postal Courier: Mr. M. J. Crawley
Flight Time: 2 hrs. 25mins.

Royal Air Force
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