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Maze prison escape documentary

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View More » Edit User Reviews | Article | View More » Ireland | United Kingdom | Germany | Sweden Release Date: 22 September 2017 (Ireland) See more » Also known as: Labirent See More » Weekend Edit USA: \$8,308, 24 March 2019 Gross USA: \$44,381 Cumulative Worldwide Gross: \$1,067,045 More views on IMDbPro » Mammoth Movies, Cyprus Avenue Films, Filmgate Films See more » Runtime: 92 min Aspect Ratio: 2.35 : 1 See full technical specs » BBC documentary about the 1983 mass breakout of IRA prisoners from the Maze Prison. On 25 September 1983 The 38 provisional prisoners of the Irish Republican Army convicted of crimes including murder and causing an explosion escaped from H7 prison just outside Lisburn in Northern Ireland's Antrim county in the largest prison escape in British history. H7 Prison Maz (formerly known as Langkesh) was the maximum security prison considered one of Europe's most fugitive prisons, holding prisoners convicted of participating in armed militia campaigns during the troubles. A prison officer died of a heart attack and 20 others were injured, including two who were shot with a gun smuggled into the prison. The escape was a propaganda coup for the IRA, and a BRITISH government minister faced calls to resign. The official inquiry into the escape placed much of the blame on prison staff, who in turn blame the escape for political interference in the prison administration. It was one of Margaret Thatcher's biggest embarrassments while in office. By Gordon AdairBBC News NI media captionin 1983, 38 IRA prisoners escaped from the prison, near BelfastThirty-four years ago, a team of IRA prisoners escaped from what was supposed to be the most secure prison in Europe. It was, and remains, the largest jailbreak in British history. Despite being on the wrong side of 60, Brendan Mead is still a man of physical intimidation. Shaving towards, lean and muscular, has the air of someone who has known violence closely and personally. He was chosen as the tip of the cane for one of the most dramatic operations in decades of Northern Ireland violence. He mazed the first shot to start the breakout of 1983 from prison.Thirty-eight The militia used smuggled guns and knives over their blocks before fleeing across the crop-filled fields around the prison, some 12 miles from Belfast.image captionThe entrance to H-6 inside the former Maximum Security prisonRepublicans, with a sense of pride, hold it up as their great escape; unionists recall how one prison officer was killed and others were so badly injured or suffered an accident That their lives were effectively ruined. With its closets backed by armed soldiers and its distinctive 'H' block shape, the purpose built for northern Ireland's paramilitary home feared, HMP Maze has become an instantly recognisable feature in the violent landscape of the Troubles.It stood out as another reminder of how things in Northern Ireland are not the same in the rest of Britain. Prison officer James Ferris died of a heart attack after being stabbed while trying to stop the escape. Sixteen fugitives were later acquitted of his murder after the trial failed to prove that the heart attack was caused by the stabbing. media captionArchive: Prisoners escape from Maze prisonBrendan Mead is now a born-again Christian. A key organiser of the largest jailbreak in British history, he has spoken for the first time about what remains one of the most dramatic moments in Northern Ireland's troubled history. The second escape was planned, this time involving a gun battle, from Crumlin Road prison in Belfast escaping a shaky maze as IRA inmates search for details informing the tail of the shooting of a prison officer moments after facing the future of the Sinn Féin MLA Jerry Kellyimage captionA huge security operation was launched after the escapeMead was chosen to be the first prisoner to overpower a guard. This was because he was regarded by his fellow prisoners as the most suitable man on H7. This is the first time in 34 years that Mead has talked about this record about his role in events. He revealed that the getaway car used in the Maz breakout, a food delivery truck, had been delayed because the IRA intelligence officers were rifling after taking control of the wing through drawers and boxes of papers. media captionBrendan Mead speaks for the first time about his role in the 1983 Maze EscapeThe IRA volunteers, particularly the IOs [information officers] preferred to find out who had been an informer or who was working for the prison staff, or who was working for whomever. They needed to get those documents, but they were more focused on it, going through the information trying to find out if there was an informant in the ranks. Mead says the five-minute delay caused problems for the fugitives as their car was still in the yard when prison officers began arriving for the next shift.image captionSome of the Maze escapeesHe revealed, for the first time, details of a 'sister escape' plan that targeted the Crumlin Road jail. It was supposed to be put into operation after every escaped Prisoner of The Maz who had been recaptured it was sent there ahead of the trial. It was already set up, Brendan Mead said. This is the fugitive court we're talking about everything we needed to take into the mortar-packed pipes and shot them over at the exact time when we ran at the 'A' wing yard.media captionMaze: Breakout organiser Brendan Mead says a second jailbreak was planned to open the mortar pipe, take out the equipment, and then breach Crumlin Road as well. But that didn't happen because, people on mortar pipes, from where they were supposed to shoot, were trapped inside a garage in the back of the prison. Mead admits that people's lives were destroyed by what happened on the day of Muz's escape. People like prison officer John Adams shot him in the head during the jailbreak. image captionVisitors arriving at the Maze Prison in the 1980sBBC News NI has obtained documents from the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) relating to the subsequent trial of two leading escapees, Brand 'Bic' McFarlane and Gerry Kelly. They offer an intriguing insight into what went on in the maze that day. Among those documents is John Adams' account of what happened. In his statement, Mr Adams claims Jerry Kelly shot him in the control room. It reads:media captionMaze escape: Prison officer statement to the trial of two Maze escapeesAt 2:20 PM prisoner 58, Kelly, appeared at the grille with a gun pointed at me. He told me not to touch any of the controls or warnings, and he then told me to open the gate I did. He said: 'I have nothing to lose; I have nothing to lose. You know why I came, Then he told me to lie on the floor, put my hands behind my back. It was inside the control room. He was distracted by something and turned away from me. I climbed up and knocked on the door and tried to lock it, but it had to open. Kelly then came back into the control room and fired two shots. The first missed me and the second hit me above the left eye and entered my head. Image captionGerry Kelly had been jailed for life in 1973 - after the Maze Escape he was eventually captured in HollandIn a conversation with BBC News NI in 2013, Mr Adams repeated the version of events outlined in his original statement, once again naming the Sinn Féin man as his attacker. Jerry Kelly has never confessed to shooting Mr. Adams, and after his trial in 1987. In his own book on escape was found not guilty, Kelly points out of someone who shot John Adams only as a prisoner. A few years after the shooting, John Adams was found guilty of sexually assaulting a young girl. Mr Adams died on August 16 last year. media captionMaze Escape: No one was to be hurt says Brand Mead, one of the key organisers of the breakout. He was burned on August 31, arrangements made by the hospital where he died. His grave is still unsyded. Brendan Mead maintains that while he was nearby, he didn't see the actual shooting incident. Every claim that still exists is, he insists, something only Jerry Kelly can do. John Adams said it was Jerry Kelly who shot him. Detective Jerry was there, so that's what he was. He's to address that, not me.image captionArmy at the scene of the Maze escapeApparently Gerry was at the control room and, whatever happened between him and John, the shots then went off. This suggests that the IRA leadership feared ratings and file members along with the plan. It makes it clear that any prisoners told to join the escape would have no option but to go along with it.media captionMaze escape: Note to be read to IRA members who were chosen to take part in the breakoutTo all POWs (Prisoners of War) chosen by camp staff to go on escape. Very few of you are aware of what is happening right now. This is due to the security and possible refusal of some of you to go to this escape. Since the task of all POWs for my escape is now instructing you to go to this yard to ride the feed truck. Regardless of your feelings we take you with us, we have no time to argue. Another note was apparently intended for prison staff taken hostage:image captionAmong articles held in the Public Records Office note apparently intended for prison staff taken hostage to all prison staff who were arrested by Republican POWs on Sunday, September 25. What has taken place here today was a carefully planned exercise to secure the release of a significant number of POWs. The block is currently under our control. media captionJailbreak delayed as 'IRA tried to find out if there were informersIf anyone has been assaulted or injured, this has been a result of his refusal to cooperate with us. It's not our intention to settle old scores, misd behave and not degrade any of you regardless of your past. Though should anyone try to underestimate or wish to challenge our position, he or she will be severely dealt with. Anyone who refuses to follow our guidelines now or in the future will feel the wrath of the Republican movement, he said. If any member of the prison administration mis-behaves, victimized or committed any acts of lies against Republican POWs in any pursuit of inquiry, judicial or otherwise, they will lose their lives for what we see as an act of greater repression against nationalist people. media captionMaze escape: A note from IRA members to prison staff taken hostageTo conclude, we give you our word as Republicans that none of you will come to any harm providing you cooperate fully with us. Anyone who refuses to do so will suffer the ultimate consequences of death let common sense prevail, neither to be used as cannon fodder by the prison department nor faceless bureaucrats in Stormont and Whitehall. A About the case Escape, titled Simply Maze, goes on public release today. As with all our past interpretations, whether through drama or documentary, controversy seems inevitable. Asked if it was too early for a film to escape, Mead said he was concerned that the filmmakers would somewhat glory it, but that for him it was just history. What do I think about running away? I don't really think about anything from running away, he said. Will he go and see the film?image copyrightMammoth Filmsimage captionThe premiere of the new film MAZE took place in BelfastIt would be hard to match the reality, he said. I don't even know if I was watching it, it's not something that drives me, he says. It's not my life anymore, that's what I participated in. I'm not trying to moderne that past; it's a fact and I have to acknowledge that I was a complete, satisfying, participating in it all. It's not like I'm like, Oh look at me, look at what we've done. I could have played for Manchester United. It's part of my history that didn't happen. There was only one negative thing about this, which is that some people were seriously injured and their lives were destroyed. Thirty-four years may have passed but it is clear that many of the officers who have been taken hostage, hooded and terrified, are still trying to come to the fore with what they have experienced. BBC News NI approached several officers who were working at the Maz-in, or around, breakout time. only one agreed to the interview. As the visitation time approached, though, the retired officer now pulled out. The reflections implemented have just been too much for him. The blow is unbelievable, he explained, noting that none of his colleagues felt willing or able to help with the article. Article.

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