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A devout Catholic, de Valera went to daily mass and one morning he spotted the key to the rear gate on the church table. He took an impression of the key with a wooden spoon over the altar candles. Cryptic copies were dropped to two escapee and generous guards, which passed undetected under the eyes of the enemy. One showed a drunkard man fumbling with a key. "That's not it," the other said. 

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