

## Ken Follett

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**From:** rjoverly@ukonline.co.uk  
**Sent:** 09 April 2001 22:43  
**To:** kenprivate@ken-follett.com  
**Subject:** Jackdaws

Ken,  
I am working my way through the manuscript, which works fine as a story. I do have quite a few historical notes which we could perhaps go over at the weekend, but I wanted to alert you early to some confusion over the nature of the Gestapo, which MRD Foot may have already noted.

The Gestapo was a state institution, not the Nazi security service (which was the SD=Sicherheitsdienst, founded in 1931, and expanded after 1936 into a mass organisation for monitoring opinion and providing intelligence). The officers wore uniform, but were often, if not usually, in civilian clothes. Most did not, I think, routinely carry a gun, though guns were on issue. They were a mixture of detectives and bureaucrats, and if they had a title it would be their SS title, not a police rank, e.g. Obersturmbahnfuhrer. The troops guarding the radio station would be regular soldiers, or possibly Waffen SS given its importance, but would not be 'Gestapo troops'. The Gestapo uniform was more like a party uniform, not a soldier's uniform. Chances are the radio station would have a mixture of personnel from the SD, security police, Gestapo counter-intelligence and SS. This is more than you need. I think the answer is to have a Gestapo HQ and radio station guarded by a couple of dozen Waffen SS, and to make Weber an SS Standartenfuhrer rather than the military 'colonel'.

Hope all this makes sense!

see you on Saturday,

Richard

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