
**VERLAGSGRUPPE
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Re"Jackdaws"

Dear Mr. Follett,

Please find enclosed the table of comparable ranks I referred to in my mail. I hope this is readable, since the type is rather on the small side. It is copied from Robert Wistrich, »Wer war wer im Dritten Reich« (Harnack: Munich, 1983) [translated from »Who is Who in Nazi Germany«, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1982; although I do not know whether the original edition actually has this table as well].

Note that the rank of "Standartenführer" was basically a honorary one (although there were some of that rank doing active duty), "Oberführer" was the regular rank.

The police ranks, as I have found out in the meantime, refer to the para-military "Schutzpolizei" only. As a criminal investigator, Franck would have been a civil servant ("Beamter"), presumably with the rank of "Polizeirat". So "Superintendent" is just fine.

As for Franck's rank, of course you could have become an officer within less than four years in war time Germany; there were special training courses for otherwise qualified people. The problem is, even so it would have been virtually impossible to attain the high rank of Colonel, a rank just below the General levels, in that short a time.

However, what you said about battlefield intelligence has made us come up with a patent solution. He could have been a Colonel, and with the Wehrmacht as well.

If he was a Colonel in 1941, he must have been an officer already before the war. Let us suppose that instead of studying at Berlin University, Franck entered officers' training in the Reichswehr, still during the Weimar Republic, in 1921 (after leaving school at 17). After some years, he left the Reichswehr, say, as a lieutenant, and then going to join the

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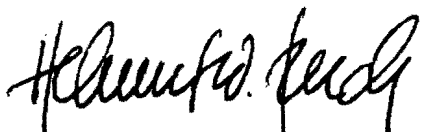
police would be a logical step. In fact, as a reserve officer, he would have been highly eligible as a husband; so make Wiltrud a "von Loewe", and the upper-class-name would fit. Franck would then be regularly called to reserve duty training, in the course of which he would be promoted further as a reserve officer. Re-joining the Wehrmacht in 1941, he would be re-commissioned as an officer in his present rank.

As for military intelligence, you were right and I was wrong. He need not be a member of the Abwehr. Tactical reconnaissance - as distinguished from strategic reconnaissance - was, I have learned, a matter of the Army (as it is in the British forces). That is, intelligence officers on the battlefield, even operating behind enemy lines, would have been members of the general's staff. In fact, Rommel did have some special interrogation specialists in Africa; that's what you were probably referring to, and Franck would have been one of those. In occupied France, fighting partisans again would have been a matter of tactical reconnaissance; a fact which I hadn't been aware of. In fact, a number of officers of the Wehrmacht have been brought to trial after the war for atrocities they committed fighting partisans.

The only minor detail I would still hold on to is the fact that his aide Hans should in any case be an officer, not a sergeant.

I hope this will clarify the remaining points; sorry if I caused some additional confusion, but as I said, I am not a military expert. This way, it should work. If there is anything else I can check I'd be glad to help.

With best wishes,



Dr. Helmut W. Pesch
Editorial Director
Gustav Lübbe Verlag

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VERGLEICHENDE ÜBERSICHT DER RÄNGE			
Wehrmacht	Polizei	SS und Waffen-SS	SA
Oberfähnrich (z.S.)	_____	_____	_____
Oberfeldwebel	_____	Hauptscharführer	Obertruppführer
Feldwebel	Meister	Oberscharführer	Truppführer
Fähnrich (z.S.)	_____	_____	_____
Unterefeldwebel Matr.Ob.Maats	Hauptwachtmeister	Scharführer	Oberscharführer
Unteroffizier Matr.Maats	Rev.O.Wachtmeist. Zugwachtmeister	Unterscharführer	Scharführer
Stabsgefreiter Hauptgefreiter	_____	_____	_____
Obergefreiter	Oberwachtmeister	_____	_____
Gefreiter	Wachmeister	Rottenführer	Rottenführer
Obersoldat	Rottwachtmeister	Sturmmann	Obersturmmann
Soldat Matrose	Unterewachtmeister	SS-Mann	Sturmmann

VERGLEICHENDE ÜBERSICHT DER RÄNGE

Wehrmacht	Polizei (Schutz-polizei)	SS und Waffen-SS (+ Gestapo)	SA
Reichsmarschall			
Generalfeldmarschall Großadmiral	Reichsführer-SS und Chef der deutschen Polizei		Stabschef
Generaloberst Generaladmiral	Generaloberst	Oberstgruppenführer	—————
General der Infanterie usw. Admiral	General der Polizei	Obergruppenführer	Obergruppenführer
Generalleutnant Vizeadmiral	Generalleutnant	Gruppenführer	Gruppenführer
Generalmajor Konteradmiral	Generalmajor	Brigadeführer	Brigadeführer
—————	—————	Oberführer	Oberführer
Oberst Kapitän z. See	Oberst	Standartenführer	Standartenführer
Oberstleutnant Fregattenkapitän	Oberstleutnant	Obersturmbannführer	Obersturmbannführer
Major Korvettenkapitän	Major	Sturmbannführer	Sturmbannführer
Hauptmann Kapitänleutnant	Hauptmann	Hauptsturmführer	Hauptsturmführer
Oberleutnant (z.S.)	Oberleutnant	Obersturmführer	Obersturmführer
Leutnant (z.S.)	Leutnant	Untersturmführer	Sturmführer
Stabsoberfeldwebel	—————	Sturmscharführer	Haupttruppführer

Email RD :

Comments on "Jackdaws"

Military ranks:

I wish to emphasize that I am not an expert on military matters (being a conscientious objector, among else). But one of my free lance translators is. So I asked him about some of the ranks.

The Police did have the same ranks for their officers as the Army (Wehrmacht), but I wouldn't know what rank a "superintendent" of the criminal investigative division of the Cologne police would have had. Anyway, they were civilians. "Colonel" (Oberst) is a fairly high military rank, just below the General ranks. It is virtually imposible for someone entering the military career in 1941, even with a special training, to hold the military rank of Colonel in 1944. Or you would have to dispose of the police career and have him attend an officers' school. Major, maybe. Very, very unlikely but not entirely imposible (to put it cautiously ...).

Generally officers' training took four years, before there were commissioned, that is.

He could have a "Sergeant" (Feldwebel) as an aide, at the end of the war. But this is rather unlikely, since the German "Feldwebel" was primarily an instructor. Also, a Sergeant couldn't have been a "young assistant" (p. 47). He presumably would rather be assisted by an officer - lieutenant, chief lieutenant or captain. Most aides were officers.

The Gestapo did not have military or police ranks but the same ranks as the SS. In a rank equivalent to Colonel, Willi Weber would be an "Oberfuehrer". At a lower rank, he might be "Obersturmbannfuehrer" (equivalent to Lieutenant Colonel) or "Sturmbannfuehrer" (Major).

Dieter Franck, as an intelligence officer operating rather freely on his own initiative, must have been a member of the "Abwehr" (the word is, I think, known as a foreigner in British English). The Abwehr generally had an office with the general staff, but agents would have to report directly to Berlin. Chief of Military Intelligence (Chef der Abwehr) was Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, but he was fired in February, 1944, and the MI Office was then taken over by the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA) combining Gestapo, Sicherheitsdienst (Security Police, including the administration of the Holocaust camps) and criminal police. Chief of the RSHA was Ernst Kaltenbrunner. The Abwehr was split up among Office IV ("Amt IV": Gestapo) and Office V ("Amt V": SD-Foreign Countries) of the RSHA. I think a scenario could be constructed that Rommel had asked for Franck to be assigned to his staff, after the Abwehr was dissolved, but formally he would presumably be a member of RSHA Office V. This would also explain his peculiarly powerless position.

Generally, I think that the military ranks of the non-historical characters should be downgraded by one or two degrees. If you need this, I could fax you a table of ranking equivalents of Wehrmacht, Police, SS/Waffen-SS and SA.

Chapter one

There is a saying: First the action, then the reflection. I think, there is too much

exposition in the first chapter, i.e., the reader being told by the narrator what Flick and Michel have done and how they have come to be in this place; it comes across a bit heavy-handed. It's just a feeling I had when I read this for the first time. In Chapter two the relationship between story and background is much better. Couldn't you postpone some of Flick's and Michel's background and tell it later, at appropriate places? Generally, it is always a good idea telling things after the action has slowed down.

See also my comment on p. 93

4

"all paintings had been stolen by the Nazis": In fact, the enemy in this case is "the Germans", the Nazis are, in this historical context, only the party members. The French, I think, would rather refer to "the Germans", their old arch-enemy of 1870-71. The Americans would probably think of fighting the "Nazis". I wonder about the British. In any case: the sentence sounds like a cliché. X

Chapter two

When I read this first, I wondered if "Dieter" is really a good choice for a name. It sounds rather middle-class to me, with a faintly comical ring to it: the perfect son-in-law. He is not a character you wish to get that familiar with.

Dieter is not a typical name for Cologne, where Franck was born (see p. 89), which is a catholic area. If his father was a professor of music, and not Jewish, he was probably a Wagnerian, so a name like "Siegmund" would be my choice. On p. 88 he is called Dieter Wolfgang, which makes some sense. In a way, I got used to Dieter in the end.

But, in any case, why not refer to him as "Franck"? It might be a good idea referring to the Germans generally by their last names, with the exception of Hans.

12

"He was perfectly willing to use torture when necessary": I would not mention the word "torture" right here, to start with, rather a circumscription. See comment on p. 29.

13

"Geheime Staatspolizei" (two words, both capitalized). Abbreviation: "Gestapo" (one word) ✓

14

"Field Marshal" (no hyphen, see p. 12) ✓

The paragraph about the former relationship between Dieter and Weber comes across a bit abstract and stereotyped. How about citing an actual incident when Weber failed in his task and Dieter caused him to resign, to avoid a formal investigation; this would give Weber real cause for resentment. By the way, if your father is a professor of music in pre-war-Germany, you are privileged, definitely.

26

Dieter is here described as a police detective in Cologne before the war. Before, he is given the rank of head of the criminal department. This may cause confusion.

For "Stephanie" read "Stéphanie" (always with accent, as before)

27

The Gestapo sergeant answers "Very good, sir." In German, he would have said: "Jawohl." (If he had known the officer's rank, he would have said: "Jawohl, Herr Oberst.") The German "jawohl" in this context is equivalent to the British naval "aye, aye", meaning that you have received a direct order from a superior officer and will comply. If you use British equivalents for the military etiquette, the sergeant's answer should be what a British sergeant would have said. Would he have said "Very good, sir."?

Generally, on forms of address: At that time, in particular, only personal friends will use the informal "du" and first names. Offering the "du" to someone is an explicit, formal act, usually done by the elder of the two, although a difference in rank may override that. So, even officers among themselves would not call each other by their first names, only if they are "buddies". The address is always "Herr + rank".

If Dieter Franck's assistant was a very young officer, he could call him "Hans", but that would be one-sided.

Note: The phrase "Very good" occurs rather often in the novel, from people speaking various languages. You might check this on the computer and opt for some variation.

29

Dieter Franck should not, in my opinion, reflect on torture, or be nauseated by it. He is clever, ruthless, conscientious. Exerting information by whatever means should, for him, be part of the job. He does not enjoy torturing people, he does not particularly loathe it, if it's necessary (that is to say: if he thinks it necessary). That's the way things worked with men of his kind in the Nazi system.

In German, the sergeant would have said: "Baecker, Herr Oberst." He wouldn't have said, "At your service."

The name "Baecker" is certainly correct. It does look wrong to me, because in German it would always be written with a-Umlaut before ck; ae is not a possible orthographic variant in this case. An equally possible common variation would be "Becker", just with an e (as in "Boris Becker").

47

"Hans Hasse": Strong objections to this name. Even in German, it associates "hate". It does sound like a British stereotype for a German (no offense meant). Similar, but acceptable names would be "Haas" or "Hesse" (which is probably the etymological

root: a Hessian).

Colonel Walter Goedel, Rommel's aide-de-camp: Is this a historical person? If not, this might be open to criticism by the experts.

48

Rommel's face "suffused with the naked aggression that had made [him] a legendary commander"? He was, presumably, popular, and intelligent (as was his son, who served as major of Frankfurt after the war). Did he really have this image of the bully, I wonder?

63

"said General Pickford" (delete "the")

88

Nobody ever in the novel calls Dieter Franck "Frankie". Perhaps Weber should call him that, derogatively, to show that he is a former colleague.

89

Some very fine points (this is something my German authors hate their editor for):

Technically, there is no "University of Berlin", it is called the "Humboldt University in Berlin". But in a British report, this fine point may be missed.

The other thing is, "educated at University of Berlin" suggest that he attended some "studium generale" or "classics" as in Britain, after which you can virtually enter various professions. In Germany, the system is - and was, even at that time - much more specific. The most like choice would be law, but in that case, one wonders why he did not pursue this with a career in jurisdiction, as a judge or state attorney. It would be the logical step for someone of his standing, as a professor's son. Also: Academic education tended to take fairly long; if he finished after six years, he would have been real fast. 26 is a rather early age for someone with an academic education to get married, at that time. At least, it is unlikely for someone who just finished his studies and downgrades by going to a police academy, to marry someone above his status.

Considering his character, I suppose that Dieter got dissatisfied with studying law, broke off his studies and entered a law enforcement career. Probably having a mesalliance with a woman he loved - at least he is still fond of her and loves his children - and marrying her to the disapproval of his father. Does that make sense, or is it just inconsequential? It is just my way of trying to explain the mental set up of a law-and-order-man, clever but no intellectual, no dyed-in-the-wool-Nazi, but someone who will use torture without thinking too much about it.

For "Rommel's headquarters" read "Monty's headquarters"

93

Things start getting really interesting at this point. That's rather late. Everything before that is just warm-up; there is no real sense of urgency.

So, do we really need all that stuff? Can't we try and shift anything, as far as factual information is concerned, into the part starting with ch. 11 (p. 95)? Just considering that the story always has to come first.

Or, move the staff meeting at Montgomery's headquarter to the very front of the novel, as a prologue, up to the emotional scene between Paul and Flick right after the meeting (i.e. ch. 8). Then have the initial story in France as a kind of flashback (in the sense of Flick reporting what actually happened). This will create some mystery at the beginning which will carry the impetus through the first quarter of the book. Then Paul meets again with Flick and Thwaite, and admits that he was wrong (or rather misled) in his judgment, and then the real story starts. It would have the additional advantage of introducing the two characters on which the reader's positive emotion falls, right at the very beginning of the novel. Also, since you have Paul as the focus character (the one through whose eyes we are seeing the scene), this would be a good starting point for your American readers (and the German ones wouldn't mind).

Thinking about it, I think that might be indeed a good solution, indeed, a major improvement. It would need only minor rephrasing; starting with a scenic view of the conference room.

106

I do not suppose that Dieter Franck and Walter Goedel are on a first-name-basis relationship. In particular, since one of them is with the Abwehr and the other one with the Wehrmacht.

123

Would Percy really tell him Michel's name? It is not necessary, and it is an information Paul could betray under pressure. Wouldn't he rather tell him the codename, or no name at all?

131

"... and out stepped Paul's younger sister, Caroline". This comes a bit off-hand, pulling her out of the drawer. I, als a reader, feel cheated: Should I have known this? It is never mentioned before that he had a sister. Better plant this information somewhere before, so that her existence does not come as a surprise, just the fact that she is in London. Also, this scene needs a few more sentences, just as verbal padding.

Or: leave it open. Just like "With that the back door opened. Paul stepped back in amazement. Then a delighted grin spread on his face. "Well, I'll be damned", he said." End of chapter. Leaves the reader just as puzzled as Flick - and he gets the explanation at the same time as she does.

147

A "half-bottle" of champagne? If we are talking about champagne as in Champagne, it is cultivated in the bottle. So you order either two glasses or one bottle. There are no small bottles.

154

Read "Gerhard" for "Gerhardt" as a first name (short form: "Gerd"). "Gerhardt" is a surname only. "Greta" as a stage name is fine, as in Greta Garbo.

161

"Flick now recalled Michel saying ..." This is too pat. Plant this information somewhere early on in the text, so that she now really recalls it. Then it's okay this way.

170

"Hotel Frankfort" with an o is correct?

182

"Wiltrud": The name is possible, but uncommon. I doubt whether he would still call her "Wiltrud" after being married to her for ten years. Probably "Trude" or "Trudi". Thinking about it, it does ring like a bit of a fake in my ears. "Waltraud" may be a better choice, more common at that time (and outdated nowadays), and, if you follow my arguments above, slightly more middle-class.

For "Rudie" read "Rudi"; for "Mausie" read "Mausi". "Rudi" ist short for Rudolf and properly so used for a little boy. "Mausi" is a general pet name for a little girl. In a prayer, he probably would have used her Christian name. On p. 314 her real name is given as Margareta. This is not a German spelling. In German, the full name would be "Margarete", familiar short form "Grete" (outdated nowadays), diminutive "Gretchen". The form Margaret(h)a is rather northern or Scandinavian, as in Greta Garbo. "How about "Marie" or diminutive "Mariechen" ("little Marie", very common in Cologne)?

189

"This was a useful piece of information." The really useful piece of information came earlier, namely that the set operates both with battery of mains power. The switch is just a technical detail you could resolve by trial and error.

224

On hunting: As you suspected already, the British type of fox hunt was not held in Germany. What they did have was both shooting from a raised hide, where the hunter (s) lay in wait for the game in the early dawn (this is the appropriate image here) and the battue, with drivers beating the bushes and driving the game into the range of the hunters' rifles. What was hunted? Small game such as hares or fowl (pheasants, partridges), wild boars, but primarily deer. The epitome was the antlered stag, and you wouldn't be considered a real hunter if you hadn't killed a "capital stag", preferably a

"Zwoelfender" (a stag with an antlered crown of twelve points).

229

"Why did I used to think" Just a typo, or did I miss something?

239

"Gestapo": Perhaps you should mention that although his experiences with the Gestapo were more than 6 months ago, old reflexes die hard. As a reader, I did not remember the fact (mentioned on p.59) that he had done clandestine work in France.

248

Schueller: A German name I have never heard in this form. It is at least uncommon.

250

"Walter, my friend"? In German, this would be interpreted as ironical. See my note on forms of address.

263

The arguments don't really convince me, too, in particular because they are piled on top of one another. Concentrate on the central argument that "Pierre Charenton" has saved Standish from the Gestapo.

269

This doesn't quite convince me either. The Gestapo men, operating in teams of two, has explicit orders not to do anything that might betray their presence (p. 249). The Resistance people did not notice any Gestapo people, but all the locals did? Otherwise, why does the village appear like a ghost town? Why did the baker not lit his oven?

314

On the names, see comment on p. 182.

316

"Mademoiselle Legrand": Just add, in the narrator's voice: "This was Diana's alias for the mission and Flick supposed that she had checked in under this name at the Ritz." Otherwise the reader has to surmise all that. The name has never been mentioned before.

317

Read "Matignon" for "Matigny" (as on previous page).

319

"Tuxedo": Just as a note: I always thought that was American English. Apart from that: why shouldn't he go to dine in an elegant dark suit with a white handkerchief in the breast pocket in occupied Paris ...?

320

"He must have broken some bones": not a necessary conclusion.

328

"Dieter prepared himself the usual way." He did not do that before. Better just: "Dieter sat in a perfectly-proportioned drawing room, stared at the intricately decorated ceiling for a moment, then closed his eyes. He had to sharpen his wits and at the same time numb his feelings.«

338

"Black coffee": I didn't quite get this. Was milk rationed in occupied France?

340f.

They are using the real names of the persons they are discussing. Would Paul, with his experience in undercover work, not at least be wondering why they are not using codenames. Or what are codenames good for, anyway?

341

How does the SS come in here? It was never involved before. Also: Franck possibly may commandeer the Gestapo, but the SS?

344

"Your men". Again, SS?

350

That's the idea: Gestapo men in SS-uniforms? Generally, I don't think that's possible, Gestapo men disguising themselves as SS. Much too dangerous for themselves, if this ever comes to light; even for the Gestapo, the SS is nothing to trifle with. And I don't really see the compelling reason why they should have done that, running such a risk. (Apart from that, I wonder how Flick should have come to the conclusion, just looking at them, that these men were "obviously" Gestapo officers.) They may have used SD-uniforms, field grey, with a lozenge on the sleeve. Or just drop the uniforms.

Flick may be a fast thinker, but, in a fraction of a second, peeping inside through a window, she is able to notice that Stéphanie is wearing a black and a brown shoe? Sorry, but this is simply incredible. Apart from the fact that she would not look down on the floor with her first glance, this would be such an instance of chance an author should not be allowed to get away with.

Rather: Although she cannot see whether the woman has one brown and one black shoe, she suspects her of impersonating Mademoiselle Lemas.

355

"Brian Standish". Again: codename?

359

"SS uniforms". Just as a reminder.

366

"His future had been wrecked; he hardly cared who ruled Europe." Cancel. The first sentence of the paragraph is enough. He doesn't reflect any further about that.

"Citroen" should always carry a trema on the e (as before). Check by Search and Replace.

370

In what way has Flick "breached the rules of war"? What she has done is in accordance with a rule of war.

372

(last paragraph) "by now": repetition.

376

For "Deiter" read "Dieter". This is a likely typo. Better check by Search and Replace.

381

Dieter's reflections hardly agree with what was stated on p. 366.

384

"He tried to focus his anger." Cancel.

398

"eat"?

414

"Gestapo captain": "Hauptsturmfuehrer". Again, a rather high rank for this post.

417

"Dieter shuddered with horror." Why so squeamish now?

420

"Flick recognized the voice of Dieter Franck". As far as I can remember, she only heard his voice once, in the Ritz, at a distance where she could not make out the words (p. 320), and him speaking French. How can she recognize the voice?

For "Gerhardt" read "Gerhard"

441

I am wonderin at the fact that Dieter is still able to command Gestapo men, after the shambles at the chateau and Weber's death. It should be at least made clear that just pulled that off, as if nothing had happened, and that they didn't mind taking orders. Otherwise, it seems a bit strange.

444

The Gestapo marksmen are the same two he had with him at the railway station, I suppose. Or where did he get them from?

450f.

Now "Dieter" has eventually turned into "Franck".

An on to the happy ending.

HP/20-Apr-01