Ken Follett

From: Bernard Green [Syemon.Es@btinternet.com]
Sent: 26 November 2000 20:33
To: Ken Follett
Subject: Re: The next book

Ken

I have tracked down two main cable routes laid
into France by the Germans. The instructions to
lay were given in May 1940

Route 1   Liege---Valenciennes-----Amiens
This probably went on to Aachen ---- Koln (
Cologne)

Route 2   St.
Vith------Jemelle-------Hirson------St Quentin
St Vith is just inside Belgium just north of the
northern tip of Luxembourg
I cannot find Jemelle other than in a time table
for the train line between Namur and Luxemburg
Hirson is just inside the French border due north
of Reims

Both run as far as possible in Begium before
turning into France which fits in with the less
active Belgium resistance.

One reference refers to two FeldFernkabel-
Baukompanie (field long distance cable
construction units) which would suggest that not
all long distance routes were in French Post
Office control.

I can confirm that destroy the copper wires in a
cable terminated of a Main Distribution Frame the
fire would need to be intense. A low temperature
fire would leave many of the copper strands
enabling a careful person the recover much of the
wiring information. A fire in a factory control
cabinet left enough of the copper to reconstruct
the wiring, the only set of drawings being kept in
the cabinet. Stacked paper is difficult to burn,
it has to be crumpled a few sheets at a time or
shredded and teased out. An incendary device would
be needed.

Also the repair of underground cables was by
pulling out either side of the break and patching
across the break with a cable laid over ground.
Either acess chambers or manholes either side
would be used to get to the undamaged cable.

A remark about cables in the area of the Russian
front caught my attention,

""the cable and wire streets (possible other word
than street) had first shown symbolised way
forward march for the german companies, and now
they show the fleeing teams and soldiers the way
back.""

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