

German underground phone facilities.

Ken Follett

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**From:** Bernard Green [Syemon.Es@btinternet.com]  
**Sent:** 18 December 2000 09:18  
**To:** Ken Follett  
**Subject:** German War Time communications

Ken

+++09:08+++ I have to go to Luton this morning, I could drop in the drawings of the Amt 10 and the Zeppelin map and write up ( in German ) on the way back if convenient to you. I will be leaving Sharnbrook 01234 782 203 at about 9:45 after that I can be reached on 07765281617

My interest in German war installations has been set on fire now. Although this is not directly relevant to your story line it may be of interest as a Chapter Heading

The Germans had at least two massive underground installations built to house the high command of the armed forces.

One was at Zossen south of Berlin and this went operational on 26 August 1939 when staff from the Blenderblock in Berlin moved in. By 1940 this installation consisted of more 30 under ground bunkers for staff supporting the main communication and command centre. These bunkers were in two colonies or settlements called Maybach I and Maybach II

This had the code name Zeppelin

There is a book published on the history of this installation. isbn 3-932566-17-3 Hans Georg Kampe 80 pages (Mr Kampe seems to have a lot of knowledge about the installations in Germany but cannot help with those outside Germany)

The other was at Giessen north of Frankfurt and appears to be the German end of the main kabel routes into France. This is claimed to be similar to the Zossen installation but is not ( as far as I can find ) documented.

This had the code name Gisela

Germans very often used code names with the same first letter as the town or village nearest the installation,

There were a number of other underground communications centres around the country known simple as Amt and a number. The source ( not a reliable one in my opinion ) has found evidence of these at Ohrdruf Amt 10 ( south of Gotha ) Arnstadt ( south of Erfurt ) Eisleben ( west of Halle ) in the old east Germany and Eulenberg Amt 8 ( north of Koblenz ) in west Germany The drawing of Amt 10 built in 1936, finished 1938 suggests these were main switching centres with almost no office space and probably were an extensive network of inter linked and re-routable circuits for phone, and teleprinter. Yet the

source questions where these were connected to.  
Mentions that shortly before the war's end many  
telephonists were moved into Amt 10  
This may have been in connection with the  
concentration on the production of the V2 and  
development of the V3 and V4 weapons.

Puzzles me a little as to why there was a need in  
1939 for these super defended areas when Hitler  
and Co were so sure that Germany would not be  
invaded and enemy aircraft would not penetrate in  
depth into German air space.

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