

Ken Follett

From: Bernard Green [Syemon.Es@btinternet.com]
Sent: 19 December 2000 10:38
To: Ken Follett
Subject: Re: German War Time communications

Morning Ken

I will get the drawings in the post to you today.

Yes the multi-conversation systems were being developed and were used by both sides. One advantage of war is the rapid technological advances made.

At the amplification stations the MDF would be quite small and simple and connected in logical (numerical) order. Incoming cables would mostly match the outgoing cables.

Burning diesel I don't think would not be hot enough to melt copper unless. Possibly by directing the air from the ventilation system directly onto the burning diesel it may be hot enough. Need to ask a combustion expert about that. Have a chat with the fire prevention officer at the local fire station. ((and get arrested as a suspected arsonist ??))

I did manage to melt copper using burning paper and a strong jet of air from a hot air gun set on cold but it would be difficult to arrange an effective set up in a MDF room

However the amplifying equipment would be very vulnerable to damage by fire. And a slow smoky diesel fire would be very destructive as the carbon deposits from the smoke would be as damaging to the equipment as the heat. There were no transistors in those days so valves were the only electronic amplifiers and high voltages, (remember the old HT batteries), were needed. Carbon deposits provide nice short circuits for these high voltages. Add some moisture and the sulphur dioxide in the exhaust gases will produce sulphurous acid H_2SO_3 , not as corrosive as sulphuric acid H_2SO_4 but still unpleasant for electronic equipment.

Plenty of carbon deposits on the MDF could provide enough conductivity to produce some crossed lines and unbalance the multi-conversation per line systems.

I seem to remember that diesel fuel is difficult to set alight to but once burning can produce lots of black smoke.

One sadistic idea creeps into my mind, les sobos connect the exhaust pipe of the diesel motor to the air intake of the ventilation system and alter the injectors to run the motor as smoky as possible. Wipe out the staff, contaminate all the

amplifying equipment and coke up the motor.

I have also invented a new gadget for the sobos, looks and works like a normal broom and has a classy brass cap at the top of the handle. But crush the cap and the slow burning fuse down the hollow handle is ignited and many hours later the plastic packed into the hollow broom head explodes.

Best regards

Bernard

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ken Follett" <kenprivate@ken-follett.com>
To: "'Bernard Green'" <syemon.es@btinternet.com>
Cc: "Dan Starer (E-mail)"
<Dstarer@bellatlantic.net>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2000 11:33 AM
Subject: RE: German War Time communications

| Dear Bernard,
| Chapuis told me a couple of interesting things.
| Apparently the technology was just coming in
whereby a single
| telephone line could be used to carry multiple
calls. If we imagine that
| the Germans have built a new France-Germany
cable that uses this
| technology, and it is the only one, then to
destroy its terminal (where
| the multiple-call equipment would be located)
would be a major coup.
| He also told me that what he calls a repeater
station, or centre
| of amplification, had its own electricity
generator, driven by a diesel
| engine. If my saboteurs were able to pump diesel
fuel into the room
| where the MDF is located, and if there were a
powerful ventilation
| system that fed fresh air into the room, would
the diesel burn hot
| enough to melt the copper cores of the cables?
| My postal address is PO Box 4, Knebworth SG3
6UT, and my actual
| address is The Old Rectory, Old Knebworth Lane,
Knebworth SG3 6PT. The
| phone number there is 01438 810 400, and that
phone is always manned
| during business hours. Fax 01438 810 444. Sorry
I've missed you today,
| but no doubt we will get together sooner or
later.

| Best regards,
| Ken.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bernard Green
[mailto: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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