

Fabel July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr Ken Fallett.

Dear Sir,

I don't know what happened to me on the phone but I could hardly say a word. Sure, I don't have here many occasions to practice English speaking but then... that was really something, no? On top, I must confess that I am a little hard of hearing, not that much though. All that, plus the french phone lines being what they are, explains why I sounded so silly. Forgive me, please. Must also tell you, in case you didn't guess it, that I am much more at ease with American than English, having lived about eight years in N.Y. and wellbe about a month and a half altogether in London. Which is not enough to understand all the fine points of the King's English.

So much for apologies & everything and now down to business.

First, I like very much "The eye of the needle". For my money it's a good tough story and I promise to do my best not to betray it. Believe me, please, my knowledge of English is better than it

sounded to-day. and then, I have your  
address if some nut turns up too hard to  
crack I'll take the liberty to call on you.  
But I don't think that will be the case,  
after <sup>twice</sup> reading your "Eye"; first to get acquainted  
with the story, second to make a list of the  
parts about which I am not too sure.

Dear Mr Follett, thank you very much  
for your help and the way you reacted to  
my request. I'll try not to impose too much  
on you but I want to do a good job - always  
do, in fact, but even more for the Needle, no  
fooling.


The list is enclosed.

I wish you all the best.

yours truly

Robert Bre'

Robert BRE'



from the Debor House edition

- Page 3 - "Anderson shelter" - (The tunnel like metallic things I saw in London courtyards right after the war?)
- Page 5 - Does "degenerate", for the retired naval officer, mean effeminate as I am inclined to understand?
- Page 13 - The Pipe Rolls? There I am at a complete loss. Some manuscripts? But if so which.
- 15 - Lord Woolton Pie (on the menu) is it important, invented & can I use an equivalent if there is no special meaning.
  - 18 - ... the Duke of Wellington (A bar?)  
... old Jack Thornton (somebody well known?)
  - 21 - They sing Psalm 23 to the tune Crimond (Don't know what Crimond is, may I use "Malborough s'en va-t-en guerre" if the tune Crimond is not known too much here.)
  - 33. Special Branch at Scotland Yard. (What activity?)
  - 76 - Basingstoke. (College or town?)
  - 232 - London "Controlling section" (Service d'intoxication de Churchill?)
  - 274 - RAF "scramble room" (Salle de rassemblement où les pilotes wait in between missions).  
"Scramble!" (command. ~~Would~~ ~~Rassemblement~~! be good enough? Or maybe: Eu selle!  
Eu piste!  
or the equivalent in the French Air Force?)
- That's all for to-day. Oh, no: thanks a million!

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