

M. Robert Bre

27 July 79

Dear M. Bre,

I'm delighted you phoned me. I'm sure it's a good thing for the translator to be able to talk to the author, and I'll be glad to give you any help I can.

p3 You're quite right. An Anderson shelter was a tunnel-like hut which people erected in their gardens and courtyards. Families would shelter there during the bombing.

p5 Yes, to say someone was 'degenerate' in those days implied that the person was homosexual.

p13 The Pipe Rolls are the most important of medieval manuscripts. They are kept rolled up and stacked upright, so that they look like a stack of pipes - hence their name.

p15 Lord Woolton, who was in charge of the Ministry of Food, invented a pie which was made with no meat. It was called Woolton Pie. The Savoy, which like all posh English restaurants likes to have everything in French, had Woolton Pie on their menu out of patriotism, but they called it 'Le Lord Woolton Pie' to make it sound better. This is rather comical in English.

p18 The Duke of Wellington is a common name for a pub. Jack Thornton is nobody special, just an old man who cried.

p21 Not many English people would know the name of the tune Crimond. I think you should leave this as it is.

p33 Special Branch is the political police.

p76 Basingstoke is a town.

p232 The London Controlling Section was an Intelligence body created by Churchill.

p274 'Salle de rassemblement' sounds right for 'scramble room'. The instruction 'Scramble!', however, does not mean 'assemble' but 'run to your aircraft'. No doubt the French air force has an equivalent.

I hope all this is clear. Please don't hesitate to write again for further clarification or to ask new questions.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Follett.