

GRUBER

Gruber enters and crosses to the bar as Yvette exits

Gruber Good evening Rene.

Rene Ah, Lieutenant, what a pleasant surprise. Do you wish a table?

Gruber I think I would prefer a little snifter at the bar with you.

Rene Your usual- cognac?

Gruber Thank you. You are looking very pale Rene. You need to get out more into the fresh air. How do you fancy a spin in my little tank? It will do you good. Flat out with my ventilators open can be quite an exhilarating experience, and we can stop for a picnic. I understand you were born in Nancy.

Rene Yes, I have always been a - Nancy boy.

Rene puts the bottle back turning away from Gruber. As he does a bell rings and a voice comes from the speaker in the parrot in the cage.

Voice I have been trying to contact you.

Rene hits the cage.

Gruber Oh really?.....I have been out of the office quite a lot. Another drink?

Rene Of course.

Gruber And take one for yourself Why did you want to get in touch?

Voice I am not hearing you.

Rene hits the cage again- with more force.

Gruber **Loudly** Why did you want to get in touch?

Voice Are your connections good? ***Rene shakes the cage***

Gruber Well, I have a cousin who is quite friendly with Hitler's butler.
Rene ducks down and puts the cage on the floor behind the bar)

Voice It is urgent that I speak to you. Are you getting the message?

Gruber I think perhaps I am.

Voice This is very frustrating. I will contact you at midnight.

Gruber Yes, certainly. It is a bit public here.

Voice I know what you want and will drop them at half-past twelve behind the barn.

Rene appears again

Gruber Oh that is most thoughtful.

Voice I am sure we are on the same wavelength. Why do you not take your cockatoo out and stick your finger up the bottom?

Gruber Yes, why not? See you later then.

Gruber moves away taking the whole bottle. He sits with the Colonel & Captain as Yvette enters.