

**COLONEL.** *Our* retirement fund Geering? *I* found it!

**GEERING.** Yes. But *we* know about it.

**COLONEL.** I suggest we just say nothing and try and keep a low profile until he has forgotten about it all.

(**HELGA** enters.)

What is it Helga?

**HELGA.** (*Shouting.*) General Von Klinkerhoffen!

(**GENERAL VON KLINKERHOFFEN** enters. *The other officers jump to attention.*)

**GENERAL.** Heil Hitler!

**COLONEL.** Heil Hitler!

**HELGA.** Heil Hitler!

**GRUBER.** Heil Hitler!

**GEERING.** (*Late.*) 'Tler!

**COLONEL.** Ah, General, to what do we owe this pleasure?

**GENERAL.** I understand that we have lost the priceless painting of 'The Fallen Madonna With The Big Boobies' and it is all your fault!

**GEERING.** It's all our fault?

**GENERAL.** Ah, so you admit it. I had planned to sell it to fund a life of luxury after the war.

**COLONEL.** I'm sorry to hear that General, but it was nothing to do with us.

**GENERAL.** Nonsense. You will pay for your incompetence. To make it up, you must pay me fifty thousand francs by the end of the week, or you will all be sent to the Eastern Front.

**COLONEL.** Where are we going to find fifty thousand francs?

**GENERAL.** That is not my problem...it is *your* problem. If you cannot pay then you must find someone else who can.

**GEERING.** In Nouvien?

**GENERAL.** You have been too soft with these peasants. This is an occupation not a holiday. I have received word from Berlin that the Führer plans to reinforce this district in case of invasion. (*He indicates with a wooden pointer on the map on the wall.*) In this area we are deploying a regiment of artillery. In one month there will be over two thousand men camping here.

**COLONEL.** (*To GRUBER.*) Make a note of that, Gruber...

**GRUBER.** I already have.

**GENERAL.** Now get me that money. You have until Saturday night. Heil Hitler!

**ALL.** Heil Hitler!

**GEERING.** (*Late again.*) 'Tler!

(*The GENERAL exits.*)

**COLONEL.** What are we going to do? You heard the General. I don't want to end up on the Eastern Front.

**GEERING.** I have heard that the weather is terrible. The troops are forced to huddle together at night to keep warm.

**GRUBER.** That doesn't sound *too* terrible.

**HELGA.** I have a suggestion, Herr Colonel. We could insist that René in the café finds the money for us, after all, we know he has connections with the Resistance.

**GEERING.** Good idea.

**GRUBER.** But what if René refuses to help?