

Diplomacy *World*



Diplomacy World #131 - Fall 2015
www.diplomacyworld.net

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of **Diplomacy World**, the Fall 2015 issue. This is the 35th issue we produced since I returned as Lead Editor back in 2007. It doesn't really seem that long ago; it feels more like two or three years instead of nearly nine.

The hobby was much different in 2007 than it was during my first term as Lead Editor (about ten years earlier) and it has continued to evolve during this stint. Sometimes I feel very connected to the hobby and what is going on, and at other times I feel like I am completely out of the loop. New conventions, new websites, new hobby groups...some of the older ones fade away and are replaced by new ones.



But through it all the hobby remains. Sometimes it even gets a bit of publicity. For example, Conor Kostick has just released a new Kindle book "The Art of Correspondence in the Game of Diplomacy" (which will be reviewed next issue, and can be purchased from Amazon at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Art-Correspondence-Game-Diplomacy-ebook/dp/B015XAJFM0>

Or there was a recent article in The Independent by Sam Kitchener which gave a fair and entertaining description of the game:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/extras/puzzles-and-games/treachery-s-the-way-to-win-at-diplomacy-which-makes-it-just-like-the-real-thing-10485417.html>

Both are recommended reading, by the way.

But as I was saying, sometimes I feel a little out of touch. So I encourage each of you reading this to send me an email, even a short one. What I'd like are answers to a few simple questions:

1. I would like to see more of this type of article in Diplomacy World: _____
2. I think Diplomacy World has too much of this type of article: _____
3. I play Diplomacy (include all that apply, face-to-face, at conventions, online, at home, etc.): _____

If you write something especially interesting I'll include it in the letter column. But the purpose of this exercise is to get a better handle on who is currently reading Diplomacy World, what you want out of the zine, and what kind of Diplomacy you play. At least if I can gather this information I'll feel more in touch with the readership of Diplomacy World, which is one step closer to feeling more in touch with the hobby at large.

I'll mention in passing that the Meet the Dippers idea published last issue failed to generate any entries. That's okay, it's always worth giving a decent idea a try. I suppose it just doesn't fit with the current readership.

...and that's who I want to learn more about!

I'll close by reminding you the next deadline for Diplomacy World submissions is January 1st, 2016.

Remember, besides articles (which are always prized and appreciated), we LOVE to get letters, feedback, input, ideas, and suggestions too. So email me at diplomacyworld@yahoo.com! See you in the winter, and happy stabbing!

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Contributions are welcomed and will earn you accolades and infinite thanks. Persons interested in the vacant staff positions may contact the managing editor for details or to submit their candidacy or both. The same goes for anyone interested in becoming a columnist or senior writer. Diplomacy is a game invented by Allan Calhamer. It is currently manufactured by Hasbro and the name is their trademark with all rights reserved.

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Knives and Daggers - The Diplomacy World Letter Column



Larry Peery - A few comments:

1) You've spoiled us. It's gotten to the point where we expect each issue of DW to be better than the last one and, for the most part, it's been that way for the last eight years. I was trying to figure out how to describe this last issue, which I think was one of your best (other than that peerinial problem of too much Peeriblah), and all I could come up with was, "You've found the right combo of meat, potatoes and veggies; with just the right herbs to give it some spice."

2) I like "theme" issues although they aren't always easy to pull off. One suggestion, allow at least one or two issues advance warning so potential writers have some time to think about and research the subject. You mentioned DW's 40 years but we shouldn't forget TDP's 20 years, and all those other zines in The Archives that have such so much to offer. It's a pity there's no universal search engine for all that material. Imagine

being able to type in a subject like "Germany" or "WDC I" and get a list of every article from every zine in one print-out. It's a huge job but I hope some day somebody will give it a try.

3) Pictures, maps, graphics, etc. are good. They make the zine look more professional and they give the eyes a rest from all that black and white.

4) Finally, I was impressed with the quality of the writing in this issue. The Kostick, Huys, Leavey, Leeds, Black and Danker-Dake articles were all very well done.



Charles Mosteller - Issue #10 of Suspense & Decision magazine is out:

<http://playbymail.net/mybb/showthread.php?tid=3097>

[[I encourage Diplomacy World readers to give S&D a look!]]

Selected Upcoming Conventions

Find Conventions All Over the World at <http://diplom.org/Face/cons/index.php>

Necronomicon 2015 – Friday October 9th 2015 – Sunday October 11th 2015 – Grand Hyatt Hotel, Tampa Bay, FL - <http://www.necronomicon2015.com>

Tournoi de Nimes - Saturday October 10th 2015 - Sunday October 11th 2015 - Nimes (magasin Janîmes), France - <http://www.18centres.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=5015>

Tempest in a Teapot 2015 - Saturday October 10th 2015 - Sunday October 11th 2015 - Silver Spring, MD - <http://ptks.org>

VII Legatio in Urbe - Saturday October 24th 2015 - Sunday October 25th 2015 - Rome, Italy - <http://forum.webdiplomacy.it/viewtopic.php?f=68&t=624>

Carnage - Friday November 6th 2015 - Sunday November 8th 2015 - Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, Vermont – <http://www.carnagecon.com>

MidCon - Friday November 13th 2015 - Sunday November 15th 2015 - Hallmark Hotel, Derby, United Kingdom - <http://www.fbgames.co.uk/Midcon/>

Championnat de France - Saturday November 14th 2015 - Sunday November 15th 2015 - 33 rue de la Boétie, Paris, France - <http://www.18centres.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=5086>

Poppy Con - Friday November 20th 2015 - Sunday November 22nd 2015 - Melbourne VIC , Australia - <http://www.daanz.org/dip-tournaments.htm>

Yorkshire DipCon 2016 - Friday June 17th 2016 - Sunday June 19th 2016 - The Lawns Centre, University of Hull, United Kingdom - <http://www.ukf2fdip.org>

World Diplomacy Championship at Weasel Moot X - Friday June 24th 2016 - Sunday June 26th 2016 - Chicago, IL - <http://windycityweasels.org/wdc2016>

A Paean in Three Parts to French Diplomacy – Part 2

by Larry Peery - /aka/ Duc de Peeriiguerx & Peerigord (from 1948), Lorenzo Cardinal Peericelli , of Peerijavo (from 1966)

FRENCH DIPLOMATS OF THE HIGHEST ORDERS

Introduction

Richelieu or Talleyrand: Which one was better?

Comparing Richelieu and Talleyrand is a bit like comparing apples and oranges or, perhaps, red hats and black dots, but I'm going to give it a go.

In this section we'll consider the career of the "four cardinal ministers" of France: Richelieu, Mazarin, Dubois and de Fleury. I'm sure you've heard of the first two, but perhaps not of the second two. As the title suggests these men were both princes of the Roman Catholic Church and ministers & diplomats of the evolving Kingdom of France. We'll then move on to a man who was a secular prince, a cardinal, and an elector of the Holy Roman Empire: the Cardinal de Rohan. However, although he was powerful, the one title he really wanted, King of France, eluded him as it did the rest of the Rohans. Although he held an ecclesiastical position Talleyrand was primarily a politician serving kings and emperors as prime minister, foreign minister and ambassador as the job demanded. Finally, we'll complete the circle and return to the Richelieus as they begin their exit from the world stage, an exit that only ended in 2013.

The Methodology

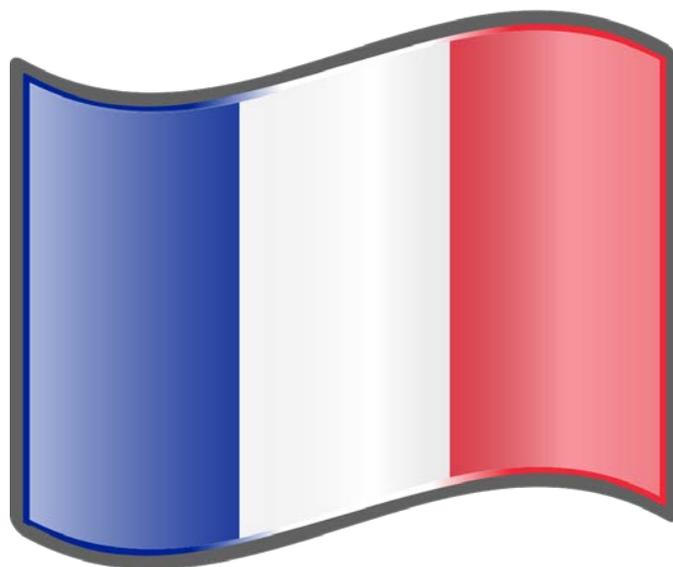
Sometimes simple is better and this is definitely one of those times. To come up with a way of evaluating the performance of nine very different diplomats of the classic French school was surprisingly simple. First I compiled a list of areas I wanted to evaluate and finally settled on this: Strategic Skills, Tactical Skills, Diplomatic Skills, Human Evaluation Skills and, of all things, Character. Then I devised a simple thermometer scale with values ranging from -5 (low) to 0 (neutral) to + 5 (high). Do the math and, voila!, you have a numerical evaluation of the subject's failure or success as a diplomate of the highest order.

My two primary resources were The Original Catholic Encyclopedia, a fifteen volume work published between 1907 – 1912, the Wikipedia online encyclopedia, a search and review of books on the subjects as listed on amazon.com and, where necessary, a Google/Chrome or Yahoo search.

I will leave it to the reader to do his own research. A review of the wiki entries should be enough basic information, but I encourage you to look further as these

are all fascinating subjects who were, diplomats of greater or lesser power and skills during their time. Some are largely forgotten by history, which is a shame, but others continue to attract writers, readers and Hollywood's attentions.

For each subject I've included: 1) Name, dates, key posts held, notable successes and failures, and legacy.



FRENCH CARDINAL-MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATS

Armand-Jean du Plessis, 1st Duke de Richelieu (1585 – 1642)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 5

Tactical skills: 5

Diplomatic skills: 5

Human evaluation skills: 3

Character: 2

Total: 20

To know how to dissimulate is the knowledge of kings.

If you give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest of men, I will find something in them which will hang him.

Carry on any enterprise as if all future success depended on it.

Secrecy is the first essential in affairs of the State.

War is one of the scourges with which it has pleased God to afflict men.

Career Highlights

Richelieu was known for: consolidating royal power and crushing domestic factions, restraining the power of the nobility and making France into a strong, centralized state. His primary foreign policy objective was to check the power of the Austro-Spanish Habsburg dynasty, and to ensure French dominance in the Thirty Years' War that engulfed Europe. Although a Roman Catholic he did not hesitate to make alliances with Protestant rulers to advance France's interests. Powerful in his own right, he still depended on his monarch for his power.

To Richelieu riches were not an end in themselves but merely a tool to greater ends: power, intellectual property (He was the founder the Academie Francais, as well as the author of his own memoirs.) and real estate.

Description

Richelieu can be described as: ambitious (But who among these diplomats was not?), powerful, a monarchist, political, an empirist, an antagonist, an intellectual, a deceiver, a "mouth-piece", a negotiator, fearless, religious, an educator (The Sorbonne was part of his legacy.), a supporter of both royal and papal power, a mediator, a non-extremist (Why fight when money could buy a better solution?), and followed a just way in domestic disputes between church and state, Palais Royale

Originally called The Cardinal's Palace the Palais Royale was a monument to Richelieu's power and wealth. It sits very near what is the Louvre today, where Richelieu could keep an eye on his king. Eventually it became home to several theaters and a center of French theater. Today it's vast spaces are home to various government offices, several hotels and many high-end luxury merchants.

Factoid

Name/Title: His Grand Eminence Armand-Jean du Plessis Cardinal de Richelieu
Metropolis: Bordeaux
Diocese: Lucon
See: Lucon
Installed: 1607
Term ended: 1624
Predecessor: Alphonse-Louis du Plessis de Richelieu
Successor: Jules Mazarin
Other posts: Duke of Richelieu, Duke of Fronance, Chief Minister of the French King (1624 – 1642)
Orders

Consecration: 1607
Created cardinal: 1622
Rank: Cardinal-Priest
Born (date, place): 1585; Paris
Died (date, place): 1642 (age 57)
Nationality: French
Denomination: Roman Catholic
Previous post
Alma mater : College de Navarre (Paris): Territorial abbot Coadjutor and abbot of Cluny

Finally let me note that Richelieu had no less than four French Navy vessels named for him. The third was particularly interesting. It was built in the 1930, almost captured by the Germans, escaped to Dakar, made its way to New York, USA where it was out-fitted with guns, saw service in WWII and again in Southeast Asia before it eventually was scrapped in the 1960s. The fourth was France's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier which was intended to be named the Richelieu but which, through the intervention of French President Jacques Chirac became the Charles De Gaulle.

Jules Mazarin (1602 – 1661)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 5

Tactical skills: 4

Diplomatic skills: 4

Human evaluation skills: 4

Character: 5

Total: 22

The French are nice people. I allow them to sing and to write, and they allow me to do whatever I like.

In France a woman will not go to sleep until she has talked over affairs of state with her lover or her husband.

<http://www.langantiques.com/university/index.php/Mazarins>

Career Highlights

Mazarin was Italian by birth and education, served in the military and served the pope in various diplomatic roles, including that of papal ambassador to France. From there he moved to the service of Richelieu and the King of France.

The following quotation makes me wonder what kind of Dipper Mazarin would have been:

"Ever as deft at the gaming table as with diplomacy, one evening his winnings were so great that a crowd gathered to see the stacks of gold écus, attracting the attention of the Queen; in her presence, Mazarin risked all, and won. He attributed his winnings to the Queen's presence, and in thanks, offered her fifty thousand écus. The Queen demurred, Mazarin pressed, and she accepted. Several days later, Mazarin quietly received a

great deal more than he had given. Thus he was affirmed in the favour of the King, the court and above all of Anne of Austria, who would soon be regent.

Mazarin continued to serve Richelieu and France, patiently waiting for his red hat and his chance to step into Richelieu's red shoes. As chief minister he continued on the path Richelieu had chosen; advancing the anti-Habsburg policy, supporting French expansionism, and increasing the power of the monarchy. His domestic policies were less successful, perhaps because of his Italian background; and eventually led to a period of exile. He was a very wealthy man and it is said his art collection was worth more than the king's. On taking the throne, Louis XIV brought him back to power.

Description

Mazarin, who was Richelieu's protégé after all, followed in his master's steps and shared many of his qualities, both good and bad. He was warlike, but also religious (Not a bad combination in his times.), a clever manager, humble in appearance and manner, gentle and kind, genuinely liked by the Queen and King, a high-ranking cleric who didn't dabble in Church politics, a peace-maker (He was largely responsible for the end of the Thirty Years' War.), a victim of exile several times he still managed to return to power with the support of his monarchs, a foundation layer, a dabbler in Italian politics and Church affairs, and a truly successful gold-digger. Last but not least he managed to arrange princely marriages for a half-dozen nieces, one of whom almost married the King of France.

Factoid

Name/Title: 2nd Chief Minister of the King of France

Monarch: Louis XIII and Louis XIV

Preceded by: Cardinal de Richelieu

Succeeded by: Jean-Baptiste Colbert (Minister of Finance)

Born: 1602

Died: 1661 (Age 58)

Nationality: Kingdom of Naples, naturalized French in 1636

Alma mater: Jesuit College of Rome

Occupation: Cardinal

Profession: Statesman

Religion: Roman Catholicism

Guillaume Dubois (1656 – 1723)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 4

Tactical skills: 4

Diplomatic skills: 4

Human evaluation skills: 3

Character: 2

Total: 17

To become a great man, it is necessary to be a great rascal (Pour devenir grand homme, il faut être grand scélérat).

It was worthy to have been the maxim of his life.

After being kicked five times by the regent, once each for the rogue, the pimp, the priest, the minister, the archbishop, Dubois coolly remarked, "I forgive you, because I await the sixth as cardinal."

"Richelieu bled France, Mazarin purged it, and Fleury put it on a diet". – dArgenson said.

Career Highlights

Guillaume Dubois followed a different path to the halls of power; that of a private tutor to one of the highest nobles of France. From there he moved to the position of secretary and his career advanced rapidly thereafter. He also proved a successful match-maker for the royals. When his patron became regent he moved to the center of power.

In his foreign policy he strongly supported the Treaty of Utrecht, going so far as to form an alliance with Protestant England against Catholic Spain. His power continued to grow, even though his mistress, who dabbled in politics in her own right, cost him support at court. It is said that his pursuit of the red hat cost some eight million francs in gifts and bribes, both in France and Rome. His support of Louis XIV and Louis XIV in turn brought him their support, power and riches, including the title of abbe of Cambrai, the richest in France.

Although not nearly as rich as the other three minister-cardinals, Mazarin did well by himself. Unfortunately, his wealth could not buy him health or happiness; and he died as a result of his debauched way of living.

Among all his other activities he did find the time to write his memoirs.

Description

Dubois' s greatest fault seemed to be his humble origins (His father was a country doctor.) which made him unpopular with the nobles, a feeling he returned with interest, not as bad as his critics made out or as good as his supporters suggested, he did some good things, but still used his church positions to fund his political ambitions. A possible secret marriage, his gross licentiousness and notorious impiety were not unusual for the day. His skills as a consummate liar took him far, and his ability to deny his lies when caught in them, took him even further. He was unscrupulous, but he brought France a quarter of a century of peace.

Factoids

Name/Title: Guillaume Dubois
Monarch: Louis XIV and Louis XV
Preceded by: Marquis d'Huxelles
Succeeded by: Comte de Morville
Born: 1656
Died: 1723 (aged 66)
Nationality: French
Alma mater: Jesuit College of Rome
Occupation: Cardinal
Profession: Statesman
Religion: Roman Catholicism

Andre-Hercule de Fleury (1653 – 1742)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 3
Tactical skills: 4
Diplomatic skills: 4
Human evaluation skills: 4
Character: 5
Total: 20

Career Highlights

De Fleury, the last of the four cardinal-ministers began his career as almoner to the queen and then to King Louis XIV. As tutor to the future Louis XV his access to power was almost inevitable. Although he refused the title of first minister, power collected in his hands. Perhaps it was his patience that brought him to the top, so that even at 70 years of age he could engage in court intrigues with the best of them.

His domestic policies were focused on economic reform, improving the country's finances, and avoiding the expensive projects of Louis XIV.

His foreign policies had one goal: peace; and he would even work to that end with the English. He dabbled in Spanish, Italian and even Corsican politics, but his unwillingness to fight for his goals cost him and France. His interference in Polish politics found him involved in a war with the Austrians and Russians, with only a Spanish ally. Military defeats because of a lack of preparedness damaged his and France's prestige.

A miswritten letter to an Austrian general was published and his death soon followed. Shortly thereafter France and England drifted into war and the "Thirty Years' Peace" that Fleury had worked so hard to preserve ended in yet more dynastic wars in Europe.

Description

De Fleury can be described as loyal and discrete; and Louis XV returned his trust. Thrifty to an extreme, sometimes he was downright cheap when it came to spending money on the navy at a time when France's maritime empire and trade were growing. He possessed

the qualities of a great minister: far-sighted, a willingness to listen to his advisors, and an ability to disrupt the old status quo of alliances that held Europe together. He was also an academic with a certain sense of scientific curiosity.

Factoids

Archdiocese: Aix
Diocese: Frejus
See: Frejus
Installed: 1698
Term ended: 1715
Predecessor: d'Aquin
Successor: Castellane
Other posts: Cardinal-priest, no title assigned; First minister for Louis XV of France
Ordination: 1679
Consecration: 1698
Created Cardinal: 1726
Rank: Cardinal Priest
Born: 1653: Lanquedoc-Roussion
Died: 1743: Ile de France (age 89)
Nationality: French
Religion: Roman Catholicism
Previous Post: Bishop of Frejus

Louis Rene Edouard de Rohan, Cardinal de Rohan (1734 – 1803)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 3
Tactical skills: 3
Diplomatic skills: 3
Human evaluation skills: 2
Character: 1
Total: 12

The Affair of the Necklace (2001)

Cardinal Louis de Rohan: [to Jeanne] Unless I meet her majesty face to face, our arrangement is over.

Cardinal Louis de Rohan: [to Jeanne, after meeting with the fake Antoinette] I know what you're up to. Antoinette is secretly in love with me. Deny it if you will, but don't ask me to play the fool.

Marie Antoinette (1938)

Prince de Rohan: Monseigneur, Madame. I have the honor to deliver this charming box.

Marie: A present! Yes, I'm sure it is! Our anniversary, you know! From whom?

Prince de Rohan: Oh, that Madame, I am not at liberty to say. Shall we unfasten the ribbon?

Marie: I shall do it myself! To Louis: Will you help me? It's for you too, you know. What do you suppose it is?

King Louis XVI: From the King perhaps?

Marie: Oh, I do hope so! To the Price de Rohan: Is it from the King?

Prince de Rohan: Madame, you positively must not ask or I shall break my vows, but Madame is warm, if I may so express myself. Madame, is very warm.

Marie: Unwrapping the gift with child-like excitement, and then a sudden look of confusion: A cradle... uh, an empty cradle. Read from the card attached to the present: Since at least it is quite beyond doubt this cot your unable to fill... go back to your schnitzel and kraut and leave the job to some baggage who will."

Prince de Rohan: Oh Madame! I assure you! I had no idea! The Countess DuBerry...

Marie: Will you go, Monsieur?

Prince de Rohan: I assure you, Madame, I knew nothing!

Marie: You may leave us, Monsieur. Go back to the person who sent you and let her have the satisfaction of knowing her barb went home.

Prince de Rohan: Madame!

Marie: Will you go, please?

Prince de Rohan: As he's bowing & departing: Oh, this is ! Deplorable!

King Louis XVI: Snatching the cradle from Marie Antoinette and quickly crushing it to pieces: I'll go to the King! I'll have her punished! I'll have her flogged! I'll have her branded!

Marie: Oh, go Louis!

King Louis XVI: It'll be no use.

Marie: Louis, this woman only dares to insult me because you seem to despise me.

King Louis XVI: But I...

Marie: Help me, Louie, please! I need you! I know you don't love me, but couldn't you pretend to like me a little?

King Louis XVI: Why I...

Marie: If only you would, before everybody. I'd feel so secure, so proud. I could even ignore DuBerry. Louie: It

would only make trouble. What if it does? We have been brushed aside as though we were of no account and we've been cowardly enough to submit! We should live as becomes heirs to the throne of France. I want life to be rich and full and beautiful. It could be if only we stood together!

King Louis XVI: I tell you I can't! I can't try to be anything but what I am! Why do you plague me? The King is the King?

Marie: And I'm a princess of the House of Hapsburg; I'm an Archduchess of Austria and a daughter of the Empress Maria Therese! I'm sorry you don't see it my way, Louis, but I mean to be the Dauphine of France. Not in the way I might have been if we'd stood together, but at least I'll be the highest, brightest figure in this court!

There are also some interesting videos of a reenactment of the court of the Cardinal de Rohan on You Tube videos.



Career Highlights

As I've mentioned Rohan breaks with his predecessors, the cardinal-ministers, and used his combined clerical and political power base to go his own way.

Unlike the others, Rohan was born to power based on his combination of political and church connections. He spent more time in Paris at the court seeking to advance his career than he did in Strasbourg attending to local affairs.

In foreign policy Rohan was a member of the anti-Austrian clique and an ostentatious display of his wealth and lack of taste in Vienna alienated the entire court, especially the Empress Maria Theresa. His involvement in Polish politics brought no success; and his earlier offending of Empress Maria Theresa was carried over to her daughter Marie Antoinette, the new queen of France.

His desire to regain the Queen's favor resulted in the infamous "diamond necklace affair" which resulted in his trial, conviction and exile. However, he returned to Strasbourg and eventually regained his power, only to lose it again, and once again went into exile. He eventually returned home and devoted himself to a variety of "good works" before his death.

Description

Rohan can best be described in two words, foolish and vain, and certainly crooked. He was the least powerful and most incompetent of our subjects.

Contents:

"The diamond necklace affair"

Factoids:

Metropolis: Strasbourg

Diocese: Strasbourg

Diocese: Strasbourg

Other posts: Prince de Rohan-Guemene, Bishop of Strasbourg, cadet of the Rohan family, Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, compeer of the German prince-bishops and not the French ecclesiastic's member of the Academie francaise.

Consecration: 1760

Created Cardinal: 1778

Rank: Cardinal-Priest

Born: 1734 (Paris)

Died: 1803 (aged 69)

Nationality: French

Denomination: Roman Catholic

Previous Post: Coadjutor bishop of Strasbourg

Alma mater:

Charles –Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord (1754 – 1838)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 5

Tactical skills: 5

Diplomatic skills: 5

Human evaluation skills: 3

Character: 2

Total: 20

Black as the devil, hot as hell, pure as an angel, sweet as love.

To succeed in the world, it is much more necessary to possess the penetration to discern who is a fool, than to discover who is a clever man.

I am more afraid of an army of 100 sheep led by a lion than an army of 100 lions led by a sheep.

The bold defiance of a woman is the certain sign of her shame, - when she has once ceased to blush, it is because she has too much to blush for.

The reputation of a man is like his shadow, gigantic when it precedes him, and pigmy in its proportions when it follows.

She is such a good friend that she would throw all her acquaintances into the water for the pleasure of fishing them out again.

Speech was given to man to disguise his thoughts.

Since the masses are always eager to believe something, for their benefit nothing is so easy to arrange as facts.

What clever man has ever needed to commit a crime? Crime is the last resort of political half-wits.

Without freedom of the press, there can be no representative government.

If we go on explaining we shall cease to understand one another.

Show me another pleasure like dinner which comes every day and lasts an hour.

Love of glory can only create a great hero; contempt of glory creates a great man.

A court is an assembly of noble and distinguished beggars.

Too much sensibility creates unhappiness and too much insensibility creates crime.

One's reputation is like a shadow, it is gigantic when it precedes you, and a pigmy in proportion when it follows.

War is much too serious a thing to be left to military men.

Mistrust first impulses; they are nearly always good.

The art of statesmanship is to foresee the inevitable and to expedite its occurrence.

Merit, however inconsiderable, should be sought for and rewarded. Methods are the master of masters.

Career Highlights

Intended for a military career, Talleyrand followed political and diplomatic aspirations to become France's premier diplomat who served the monarchy before and after Napoleon and, for good measure served Napoleon as well. He followed after Napoleon's military triumphs, seeking to make peace with one European power after another.

In this he was generally successful, but he eventually opposed Napoleon's policies, even as Napoleon continued to trust him. With Napoleon's fall he returned to backing the monarchy and his skills at the Congress of Vienna preserved France's territorial integrity and royal institutions.

History is divided about Talleyrand's destiny. Some regard him as a great statesman and diplomat; while others regard him as a traitor who betrayed ever master he had. Perhaps he was a bit of both.

Description

Talleyrand was the consummate opportunist and chameleon ; and his long career was one flip-flop after another; and yet he always seemed to come out on the winning side, at least for the moment. Perhaps he had no real causes, except his own advancement. Whatever, remains one of the most fascinating men in French diplomacy.

Factoid

Name/Title: Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, Prince of Benevento

Metropolis: Paris

Diocese: Autun

See: Autun

Monarchs serves: Louis XVI, Napoleon I, Louis XVIII, Louis Phillippe

Other posts: Prince Minister and Foreign Minister of France (1815), Foreign Minister of France (1799-1807), Foreign Minister of France (1797-1799), Ambassador Orders

Ordained priest: 1779

Consecration: 1607

Rank: Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Ambassador; grand chamberlain, vice-electoral of the Empire, Sovereign Prince of Benevento

Spouse: Catherine Grand (English)

Died (date, place): Paris, 1838, (aged 84 years)

Nationality: French

Denomination: Roman Catholic

Previous post

Alma mater : Lycee Saint Louis (Paris)

Armand-Emmanuel de Vignerot du Plessis, 5th Duc de Richelieu (1766 – 1822)

Ratings:

Strategic skills: 5

Tactical skills: 5

Diplomatic skills: 5

Human evaluation skills: 5

Character: 5

Total: 25

Career Highlights

By the time of the 5th Duc de Richelieu a man's political fortunes depended more on his abilities as a statesman and less on his church ties. A good marriage, even if unconsummated , was more important than a pair of red shoes.

Richelieu continued the family tradition of service to the monarchy, serving during the Restoration as Louis XVIII's first minister twice. His early career involved the fall of Louis XVI and his role in saving the Queen, Marie Antoinette. He served in various military and diplomatic posts and when things got bad at home he moved to the service of Catherine the Great of Russia.

His success as a general, diplomat and empire builder brought him much favor both at home and in Russia. As governor of a vast area of land seized from the Turks he greatly expanded Russia's influence in the Ukraine and Crimea. The locals in Odessa even built a statue to him.

He returned to France with the Restoration and his strong ties with the Tsar helped heal Franco-Russian relations in the post-Napoleonic period. He returned to Russia for a while, then back to France where he eventually succeeded Talleyrand as first minister. Eventually he resigned due to internal political bickering, only to return to power, and then resigned once again.

Description

The quintessential French diplomat the 5th Duc de Richelieu was an adventurer, a juggler and a great opportunist who had an ability to work for others while persuading them to do his will. His role in the rapprochement between France and Russia, the two most powerful countries of the day, was remarkable.

Factoids:

Name/Title: Armand-Emmanuel de Vignerot due Plessis, 5th Duc de Reichelieu, Duke of Fronsac

Monarchs Served: Louis XV, Louis XVI, Louis XVIII
Position held: 2nd and 5th Prime Minister of France
(1815 – 1818, 1820 – 1821)
Preceded by: Charles Maurice de Talleyrand
Succeeded by: Marquis Dessoles
Born (date, place): 1766, Paris
Died (date, place): 1822, Paris (aged 55)
Political party: none

Marie Odet Armand Aimable Chapelle de Jumilhac, 7th
Duc de Richelieu & Fronsac, married Alice Heine,
issue: Armand Chapelle de Jumilhac, 8th Duc de
Richelieu & Fronsac (1880 – 1952)m was born in 1875
and died in 1952)

Marie Odet Armand Aimable Chapelle de Jumilhac, 7th
Duc de Richelieu & Fronsac (1879 – 1880), nephew of
the former, was born in 1847 and died in 1880. He was
married to Alice Heine.

The 6th, 7th and 8th Duc de Richelieu were of no great
importance except the 7th was married to Alice Heine
and the 8th was of her issue.



Alice Heine
Ratings:
Strategic skills: 5

Tactical skills: 4
Diplomatic skills: 5
Human evaluation skills: 4
Character: 5
Career Highlights: 23

I include Alice Marie Heine here to illustrate the
important women played in the political and diplomatic
affairs of the times. Although she had no church or
military background, she did come from a wealthy
Jewish family (banking in both Berlin and Paris), she
was wealthy and she was beautiful. Her father was a
cousin of the poet Heinrich Heine.

Born in Louisiana, the American Civil War brought her
family back to France where her youth, beauty and
family wealth were the paving stones of the road to
success. Her father's banking firm helped finance
Napoleon III's war against Prussia.

She converted to Roman Catholicism, which paved the
way for a marriage to the Duc de Richelieu, by whom
she had two children. The story of Odette's "Richelieu's
sapphires" suggest there was no poverty in the final
years of the family line

In 1889 she married the Sovereign Prince of Monaco,
Albert I, who was an internationally known
oceanographer. While he sailed the seven seas; Alice
tended to artistic and financial matters at home, making
money using the famous Grimaldi fortune (derived from
a history of piracy and a monopoly on the Genoa to
Monaco trade) as her bank. The profits went to finance
Albert's travels and her own interests in the arts,
including the ballet and opera in Monte Carlo; which she
turned into a center of European culture.

Eventually she and Albert split up, although they never
formally divorced. Her discretion about his private life
kept her public title. Twenty years later on Albert's death
she became Dowager Empress of Monaco.

Perhaps I can best sum up her career simply by printing
her title. Read it closely:

Her Serene Highness Princess Alice, The Princess of
Monaco, Duchess of Richelieu, Fronsac, Valentinois,
Mazarin, Mayenne and Estouteville, Princess of
Château-Porcien, Marquise of Jumilhac, Baux-de-
Provence, Guiscard and Chilly, Countess of Carladès,
Thorigny, Longjumeau, Ferrette, Belfort, Thann and
Rosemont, Baronness of Buis, Saint-Lô, la Luthumière,
Hambye, Massy, le Calvinet and Altkirch, Lady of Saint-
Rémy, Maignon and Issenheim.

That's right, Duchess of Richelieu, Fronsac and Mazarin.
Yes, that Mazarin. Not bad for a girl from New Orleans.

Her life story is fascinating, but I'll leave it to you to look
it up in Wiki. Oh, you can a photo of the sapphires and

diamonds online. Wow, that's real bling!

Description

Young, beautiful, rich and smart she used the resources available to her to fashion her own route to the top and although Monaco is not France, she did well for herself and her family. One can only imagine how far her diplomatic skills would have taken her had she been born of royal blood to one of the major dynasties.

Factoids:

Name/Title: Alice Heine, Princess consort of Monaco
Reign: 1889 – 1922

Spouse(s): Marie Odet Armand Aimable Chapelle de Jumilhac, 7th Duke of Richelieu & Fronsac (m.1875)
Albert I, Prince of Monaco (m.1889, legally separated in 1902, but remained married)

Issue: Armand Chapelle de Jumilhac, 8th Duke of Richelieu & Fronsac

Odile Chapelle de Jumilhac (1879 – 1974) , Princess de La Rochefoucauld. She married Count Gabriel, Prince de La Rochefoucauld in 1905. One of her wedding gifts was a pair of blue sapphires (22 & 26 carats) & diamond ear rings that Sotheby's sold for CHF 7,669,000 in 2013. These were known as "The Richelieu Sapphires."

Full name: Marie Alice Heine

Born (date, place): 1858, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Died (date, place): 1925, Paris, France (aged 67)

FRANCOPHONE DIPPERS

Sevin or Clouet or Are There Better Ones to Come?

The Methodology

I had my first exposure to the postal French Diplomacy hobby some 45 years ago and my first exposure to their face-to-face hobby some 27 years ago. Looking at the list below I see the names of many old (well, older anyway) fellow Dippers that I've played with over the years and come to regard as friends, some names that I recognize but don't recall meeting and a few names that are new to me.

The names below are a representative, but by no means complete, list of French Diplomacy players of the highest level. If the above group wears the red hat of diplomacy then the group below carries the black dot of Diplomacy. I gathered these names from four primary sources:

- 1) My own files;
- 2) The Diplomacy database's list of WDC and EDC champions from France;

A review of the results of the top three positions at WDC and the top position at EDC to date show that: Cyrille Sevin has 7 places, Yann Clouet has 4, Bruno-Andre Giraudon has 3, Gwen Maggi has 3, Nicolas Sahuguet has 2, Xavier Blanchot has 2, and the following have 1: Pascal Montagna, Stephane Gentric, Antonio Ribeiro da Silva, Thomas Sebeyran, Vincent Carrey, Samy Malki, and Fabien Grellier.

The Diplomacy data base shows that Yann Clouet has 152 Tournaments with 4 WDC and EDC finishes , Edi Birsan has 116 Tournaments with 5 WDC and EDC finishes, Cyrille Sevin has 107 Tournaments with 6 WDC and EDC finishes, Toby Harris has 71 tournaments with 2 WDC and EDC finishes, Matt Shields has 66 Tournaments with 0 WDC and EDC finishes (Note: he plays almost exclusively in the USA and Canada), and Larry Peery has 33 Tournaments with 1 WDC finish.

3)The list of Francophone Diplomacy players I found on Facebook; and

4) The suggestions of current French Dippers.



However, all that said there is no way I am going to attempt to objectively, let alone subjectively, evaluate the performance of these players. Instead I'm going to leave it to you, gentle readers and I hope you'll email your evaluations to me. If I get a good response I'll publish them later. Anonymously, of course.

Again I repeat, "sometimes simple is better and this is definitely one of those times." To come up with a way of evaluating the performance of over 25 very different

Diplomates of the best from France was surprisingly simple. First I compiled a list of areas I wanted to evaluate and finally settled on this: Strategic Skills, Tactical Skills, Diplomatic Skills, Human Evaluation Skills and, of all things, Character. Then I devised a simple thermometer scale with values ranging from -5 (low) to 0 (neutral) to + 5 (high). Do the math and, voila!, you have a numerical evaluation of the subject's failure or success as a diplomate of the highest order.

As you can see, I copped out and simply used the same evaluation system I developed for the nine "red hat" dippers. And aren't you glad I did?



FRENCH & FRENCH-SPEAKING DIPLOMATS

Most of those people following are French by birth, but a few may be Francophones in Belgium (Considered by Frenchmen to be the 100th province of France.), Switzerland (The area around Geneva is heavily French influenced, although French diplomats serving at the UN headquarters in Geneva get extra pay for serving in a "hardship" location.), or Quebec , Canada (Montreal is the second largest metro center in the world after Paris.)

Albert, Charles
Almeida, Vincent Diaz de

Barot, Christophe
Blanchot, Xavier
Carry, Vincent
Clouet, Yann
Delattre, Jean-Louis (Bel)
Dumay, Philippe
Essner, Fabrice
Gentric, Stephane
Giraudon, Bruno-Andre
Grellier, Fabien
Joly, Laurent
Lecointre, Gabriel
Maggi, Gwen
Malki, Sami
Montagna, Pascal
Parmantier, Romain Castor
Pontavice, Emmanuel du
Pouilles-Duplaix, Benjamin
Prevot, Roland
Saarlainen, Lei
Sahuguet, Nicolas
Sanchez, Ruben
Sebeyran, Thomas
Sevin, Cyrille
Strauss, Jacque-Henri

CONCLUSION

Which one was/is better? Who will wear the red galero or the black dot?

The answer to those questions, for now, is in your hands. Perhaps in time to come we'll arrive at a different result?

If diplomatic history is your thing I hope you'll comment on my evaluations and comments of these French diplomats.

By the Numbers: The French Diplomates and All the Rest of the Best

Pending your input.

I leave it to you to decide who the best of the best are and who the rest are among French Dippers today. Your evaluation and your comments are welcome. Any comments published with be done anonymously.

More from The Archives, Con Reports, Facebook: There's a wealth of information out there about French diplomacy and Diplomacy. I urge you to seek it out and enlighten yourself before your next encounter with a real French diplomat or a French Dipper. You'll find either one a formidable ally or foe.

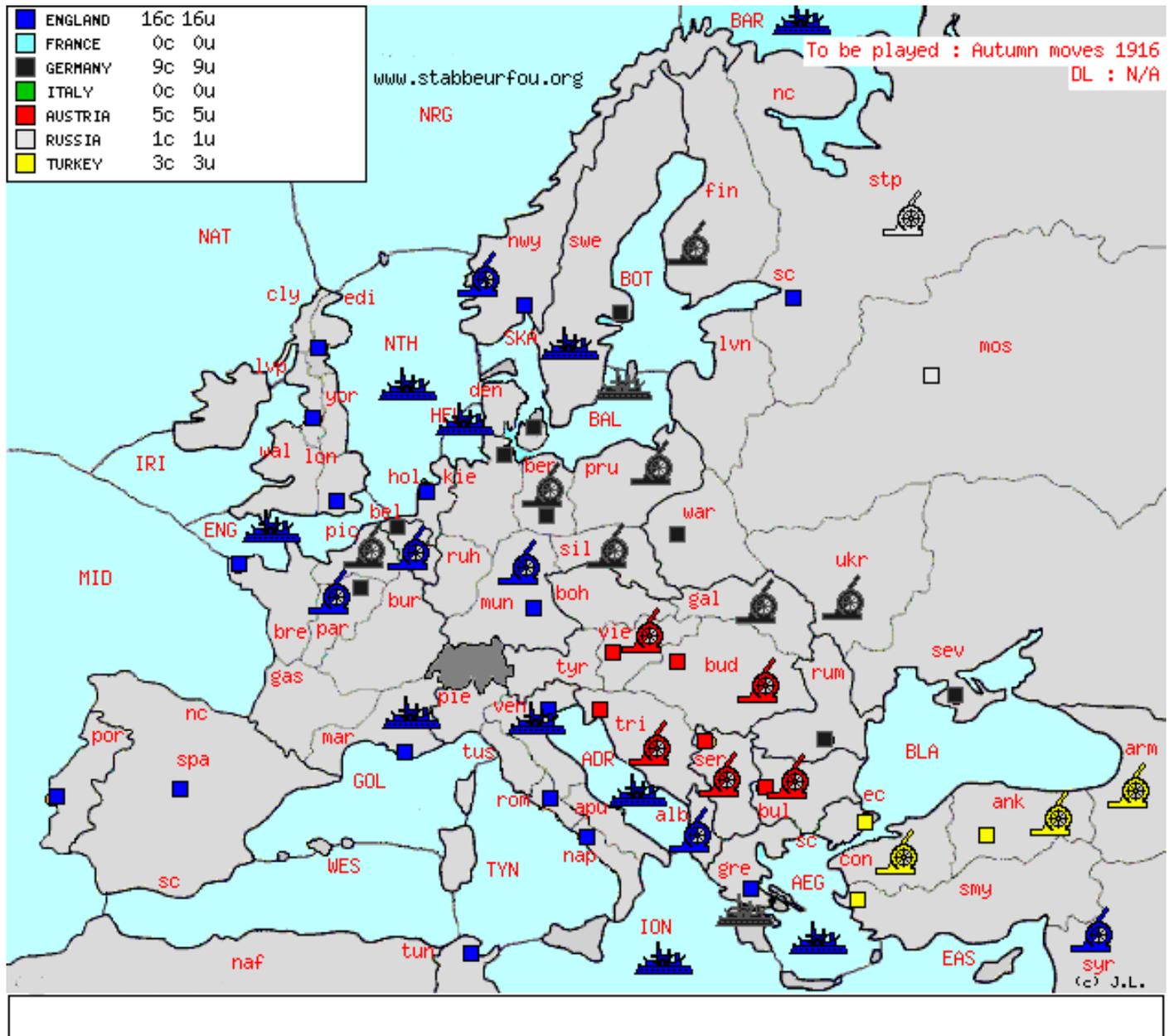
Problem: England to Mate in One

By Conor Kostick and Thaddeus Black

Suppose that you have England in the diagrammed endgame position. Write correct Fall orders for England to win the game regardless of what her opponents might do. For an extra challenge, write one set of orders in which F Sweden lacks an order to move, then write an

alternate set of orders in which F Sweden *has* an order to move.

Your solutions may extend through Fall retreats if necessary, but must win the game for England before the Spring season arrives.



(The position is taken from an actual game.)

The solution can be found later in the issue!

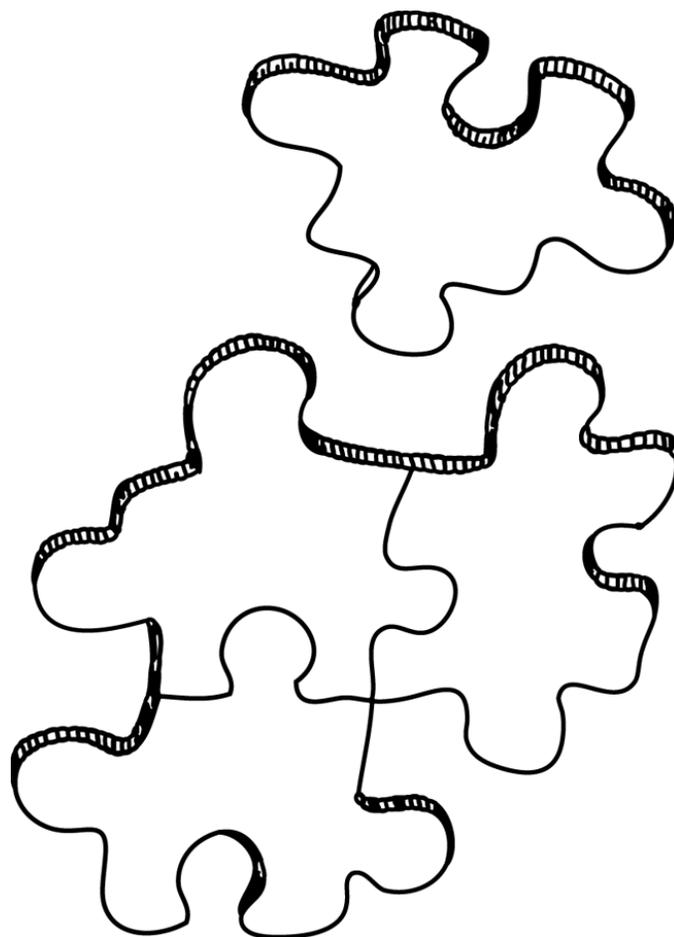
Solution to The Last Man Standing

by Mario Huys

In the previous issue you were given the task of solving 6 similar looking Last Man Standing games. With the Standard Diplomacy board in its usual starting position in Spring of 1901, the goal was to reduce the board to a single surviving unit, the English army Liverpool, ending up in each of the capitals of the other 6 Great Powers after a mere 4 game years using nothing but the standard Diplomacy rules. Furthermore no neutral centers were allowed to be captured, and after 2 game years (after the Winter 1902 adjustments) each power should have at least one unit still in the game. To help you on the way, you were shown the board at the start of the final year (after the Winter 1903 adjustments).

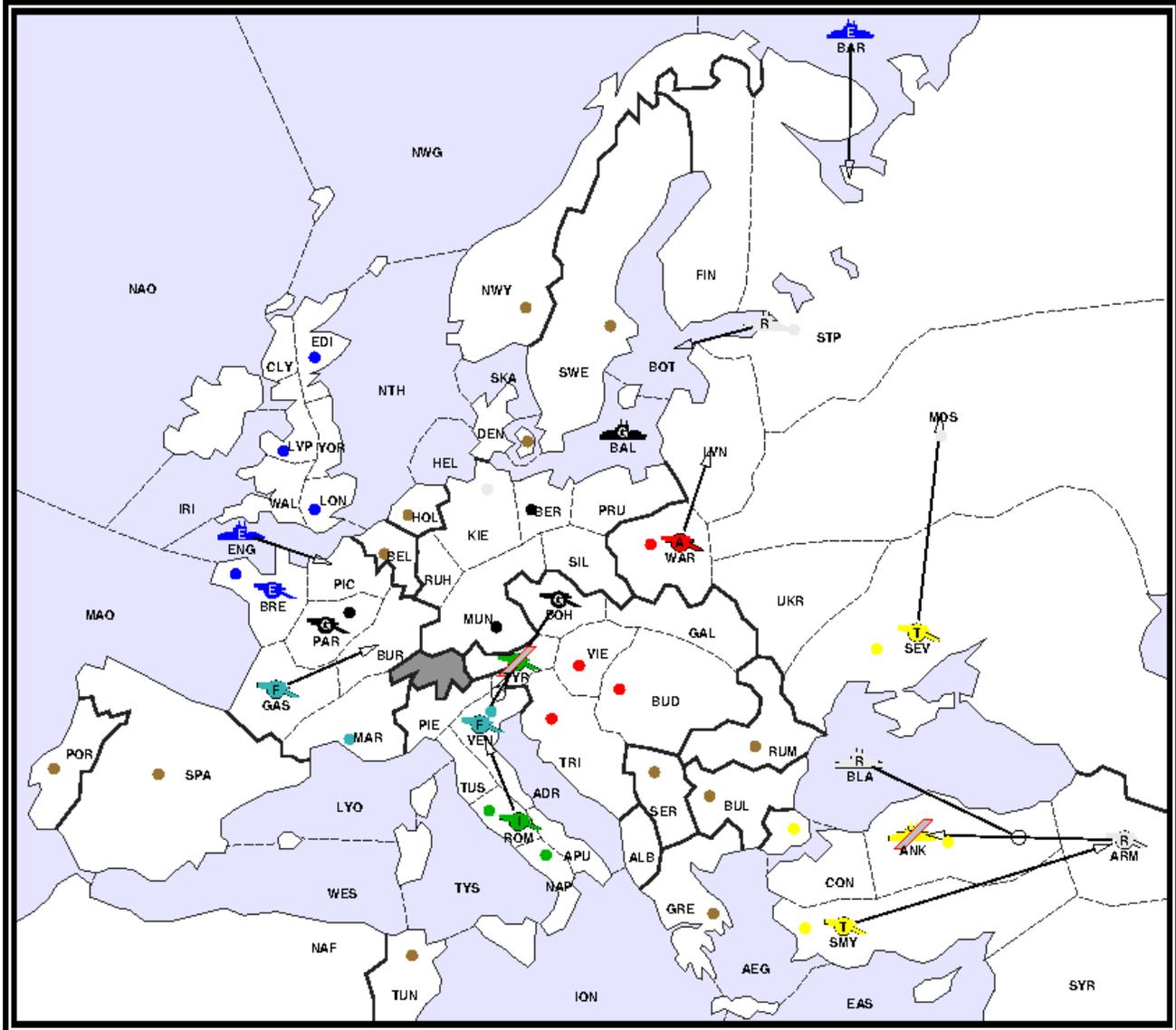


For each game I picked out one key season to demonstrate the main points in solving that particular puzzle. The whole game record is then presented in a series of images, one for each season, compressed to fit on 2 pages in this magazine. Be sure to zoom in to capture the details. The games are also available on UKDP, a.k.a. the DPlodge, (<http://uk.diplom.org>), where they can be downloaded as PDF files and where the game history can be consulted in written format. Search for the games starting with lms_lvp- and followed by the abbreviated name of the final destination (e.g. lms_lvp-ber).



I'm well aware that none of these solutions are strictly unique. Small variations on where units are in Spring or in Fall (typically those not on supply centers) are not unusual. It's even possible to come to a completely different final map, where some supply centers belong to different powers than those shown in the problem map. Rather than objecting against such solutions (provided that the base conditions as explained above are met), I must congratulate you on your creativity and intelligence.

But it doesn't need to end here. If you enjoyed these puzzles, you will be pleased to hear that the Diplomatic Pouch Zine (www.diplom.org/Zine) will feature a Last Man Standing column starting with the F2015R issue. As well as hosting completely new and tantalizing problems, the puzzles here will be reprised and analyzed in greater detail. Be sure to check it out.



Army Liverpool to Berlin, Spring 1902

Let's take this map to illustrate a couple of techniques pertinent in solving a Last Man Standing puzzle.

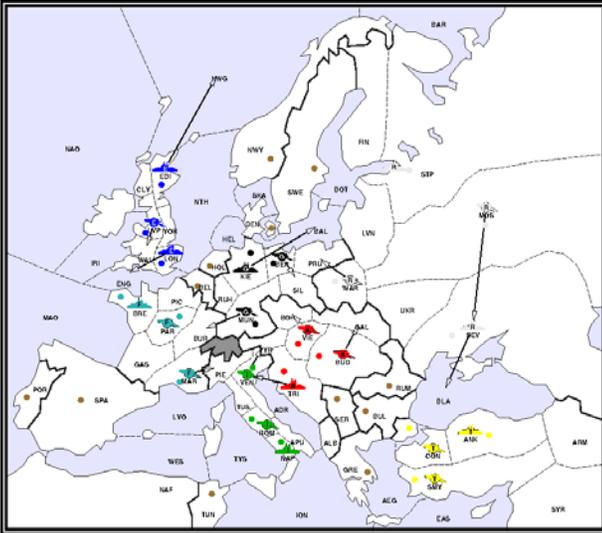
The line-up. A good example of this is the stretch of armies from Rome to Bohemia. If mixed well, you can in subsequent seasons continue to dislodge units until the line is reduced to two. Ideally by that time another unit may have come near to continue the destruction. Or, as in this game, one (or both) of the surviving units (the German army in Bohemia) has to disband because of a loss of centers.

The trap. It's fairly simple to trace units that took supply centers if you know the final map. Or to not bother much about the faith of units belonging to powers that eventually get eliminated, like Germany and Russia here. But what about all the other units? They need to be lured to a spot where they can easily be dislodged. This is what happens to the English fleets on this map, as well as the Turkish army in Smyrna. Note that the

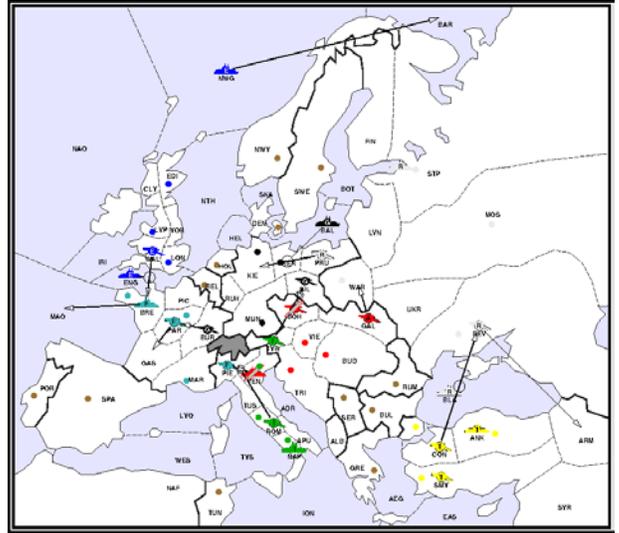
English fleet which is moving to Picardy, cannot be dislodged with the aid of his compatriot in Brest, but must be taken out by the French and German armies.

The sweep. This is a special case of the first technique, whereby both remaining units in the chain eventually get eliminated by a loss of supply centers. This is exemplified here by the Russian army and fleet in the Black Sea region, sweeping the Turkish home units before disbanding themselves in Winter 1902. Very powerful for eliminating units too far removed from the target center.

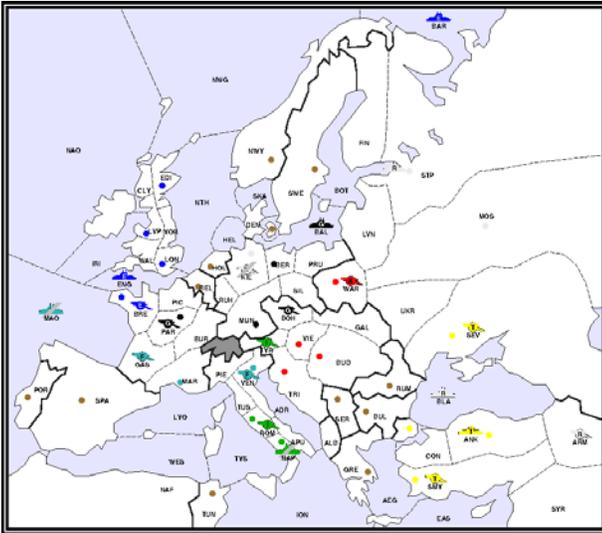
The forward base. Since sweepers need to lose centers at just the right moment, it's best to foresee additional supply centers closer to the target, like Kiel here (could also be Munich, but we never miss a chance of making an extra convoy). This in turn prompts Germany to roll into Paris, to keep their numbers up for another year.



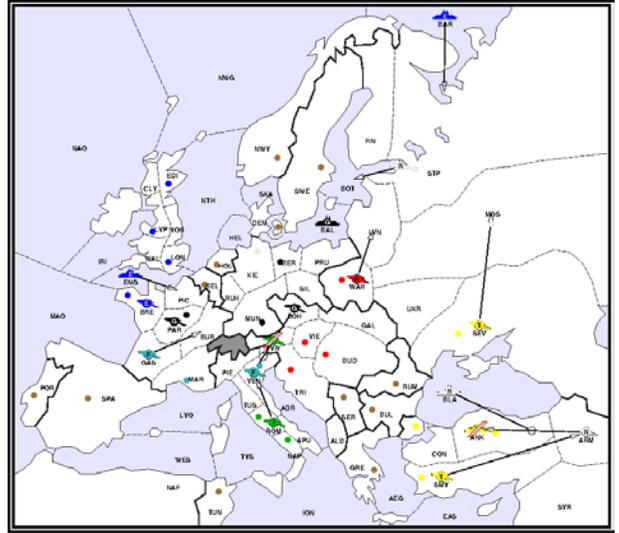
To Berlin, Spring 1901



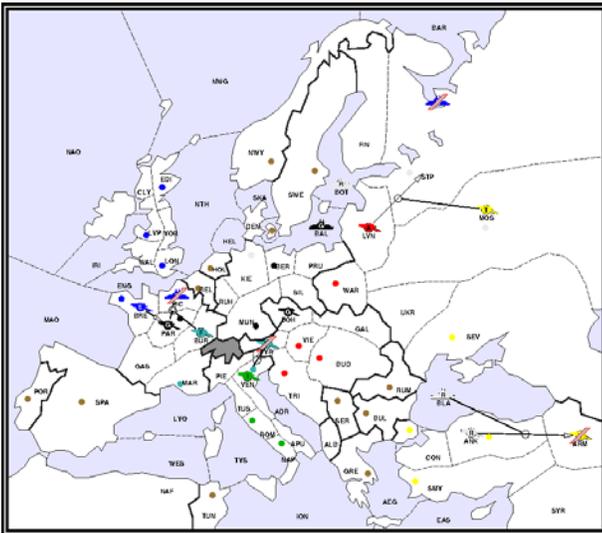
To Berlin, Fall 1901



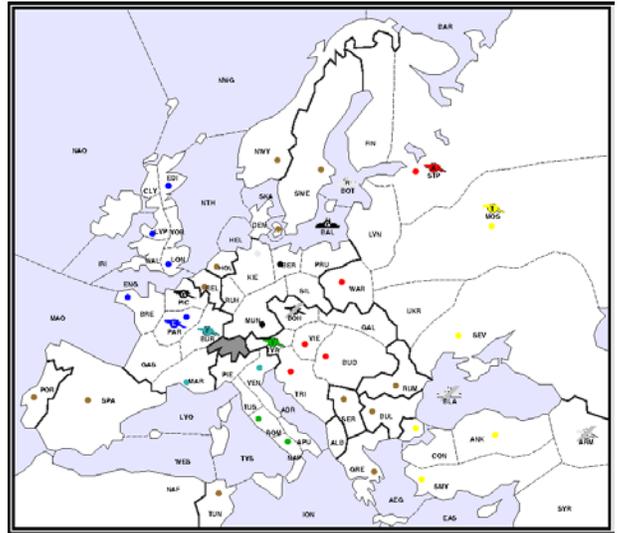
To Berlin, Winter 1901



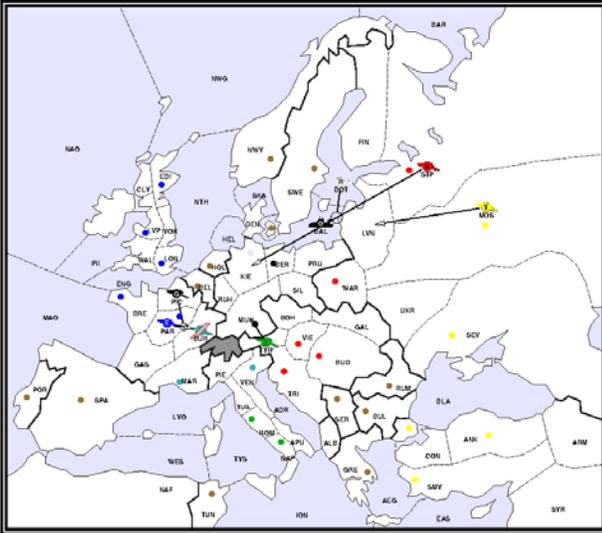
To Berlin, Spring 1902



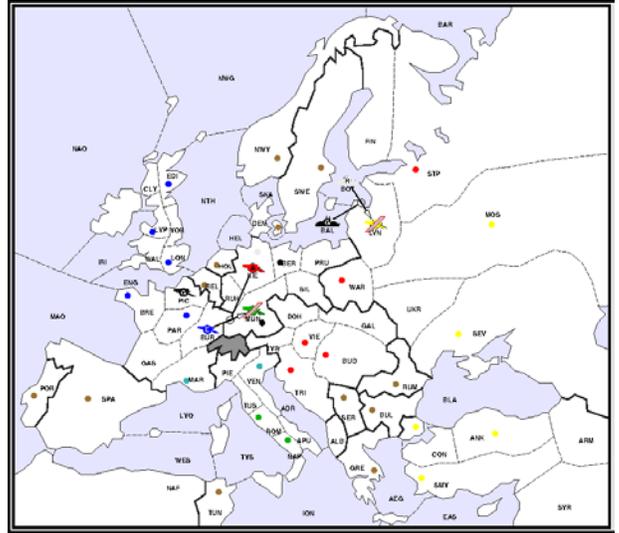
To Berlin, Fall 1902



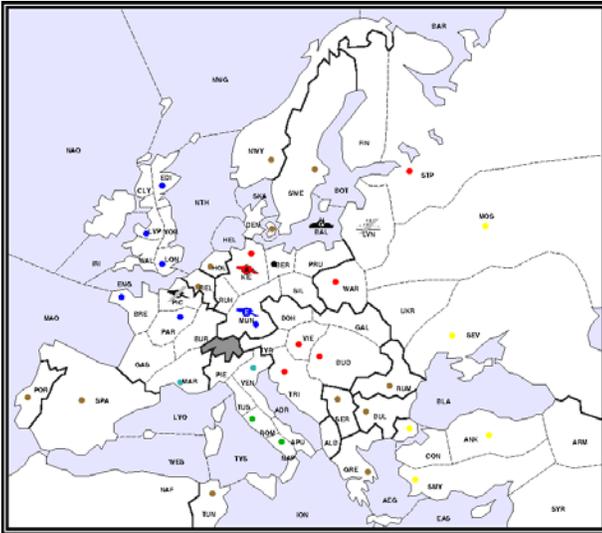
To Berlin, Winter 1902



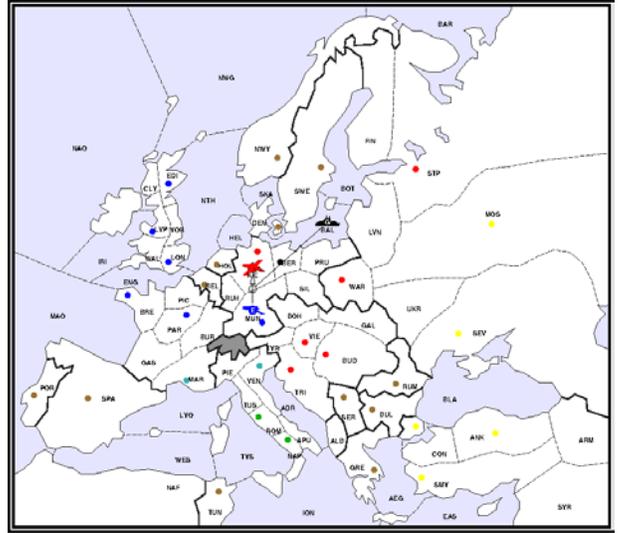
To Berlin, Spring 1903



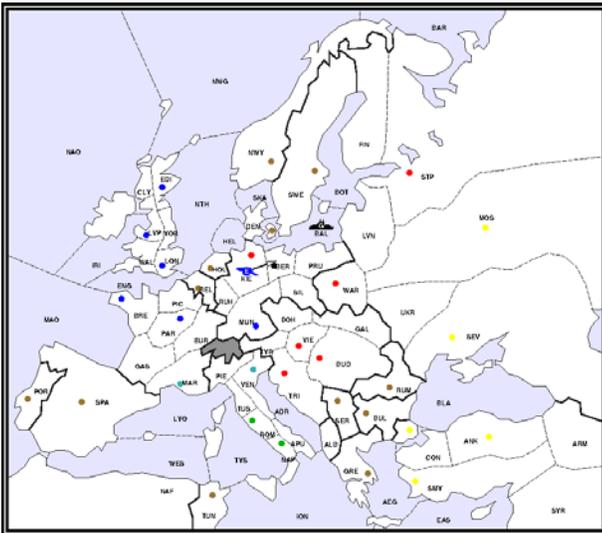
To Berlin, Fall 1903



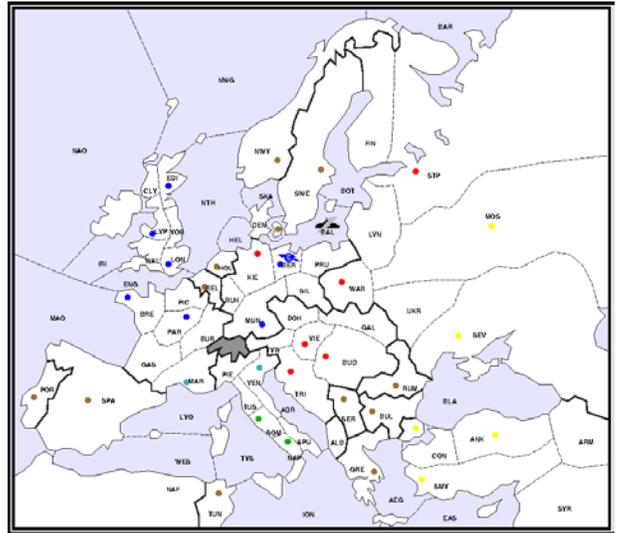
To Berlin, Winter 1903



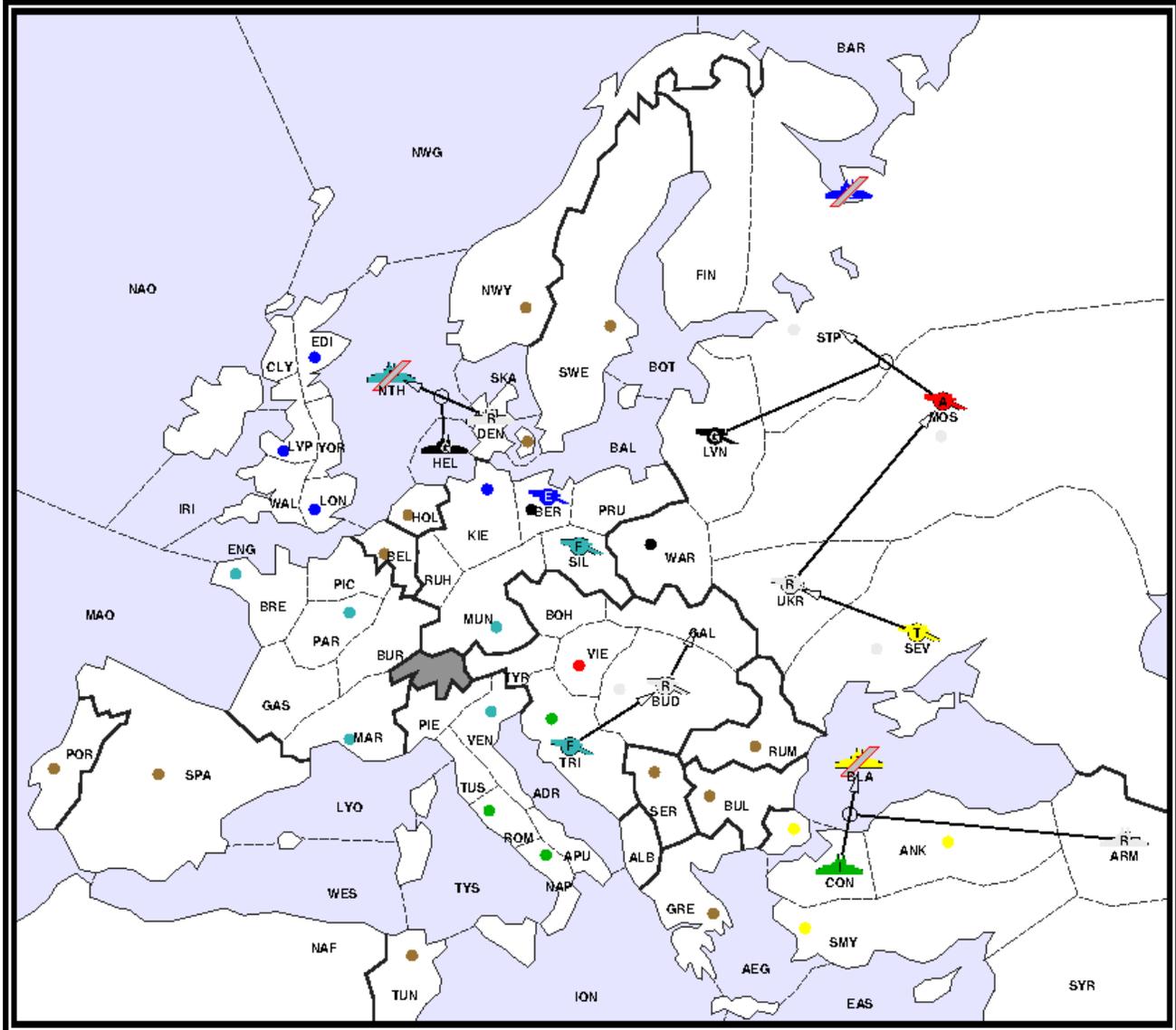
To Berlin, Spring 1904



To Berlin, Fall 1904



To Berlin, Winter 1904



Army Liverpool to Moscow, Fall 1902

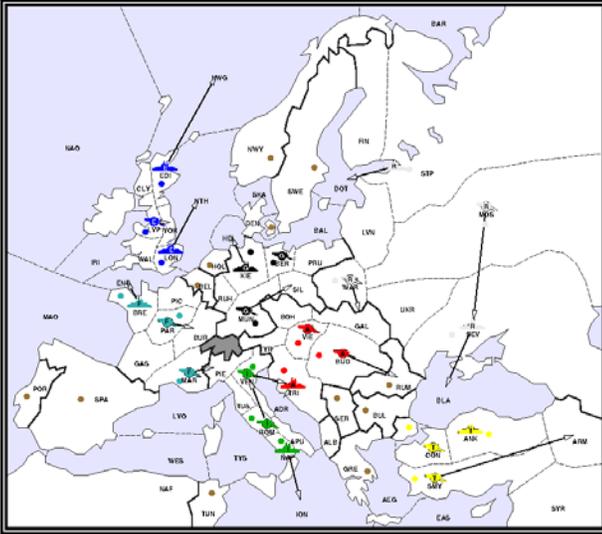
We continue by naming some of the actors in this drama, as various pieces take on different roles.

Peeping Tom. A prime example of a peeping Tom in this puzzle is the French army from Marseilles. Every Fall it moves into a supply center exactly 2 moves away from its previous Winter spot: Marseilles, Venice, Budapest and Sevastopol, where we see it on the problem map. The final survivor, army Liverpool, acts almost exactly like this in most puzzles, so be particularly mindful of the English supply centers.

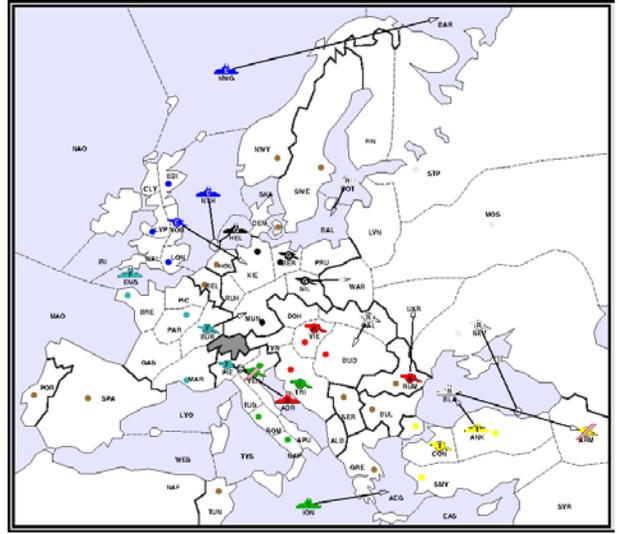
The Flying Dutchman. Some units remain completely under the radar. These represent the real challenges. Take for example the Italian fleet Naples. Even though it moves through Constantinople and crushes the Turkish fleet stationed in the Black Sea before landing in Sevastopol, the fact that it lands on these supply spots in Spring prevents it from taking the dot.

Snipers vs. raiders. There are only two ways to disband units, either by dislodgement and retreating off the board, or by loss of supply centers. Hardly any power will take on both roles at the same time, as the retreat off the board would offset a similar loss of supply centers. Let us call powers that disband units by a loss of supply centers the snipers, and those that get dislodged raiders. The snipers on this map are the Russian and German units, both eventually getting eliminated. The other powers are raiders for the better part of the game, even if Austria needs to disband its fleet during the first Winter.

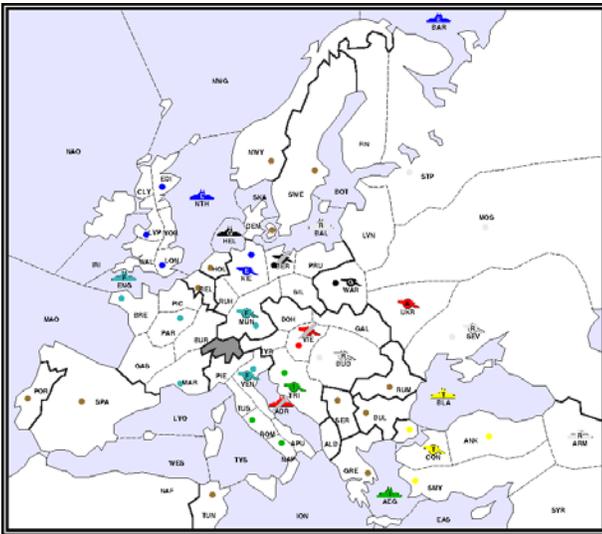
The flow. Or the tendency for units to move towards the final destination. The less units remain, the more this becomes obvious. Like water that gets inexorably drawn to a sinkhole, they close in on the target. The only units that can go against the flow are the snipers, so use them to take out those units that are too remote to reach the target in an acceptable time frame.



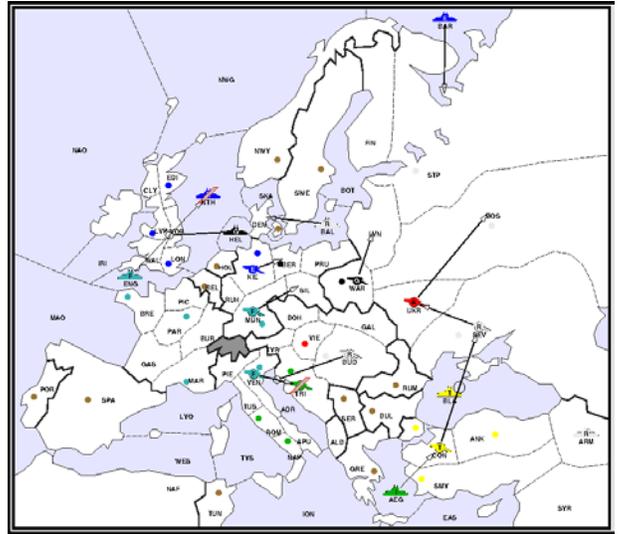
To Moscow, Spring 1901



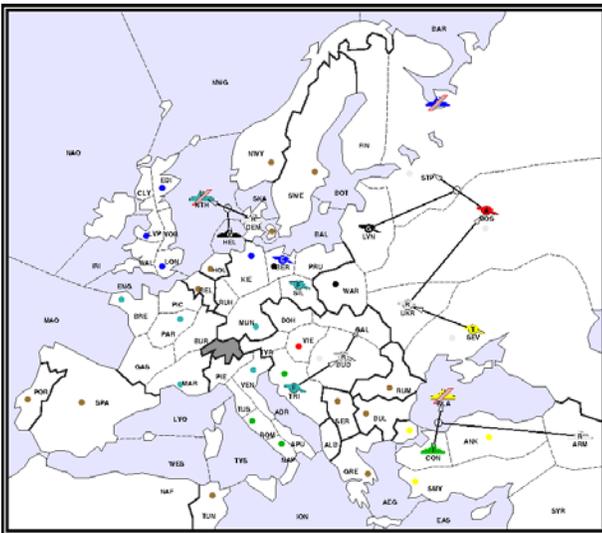
To Moscow, Fall 1901



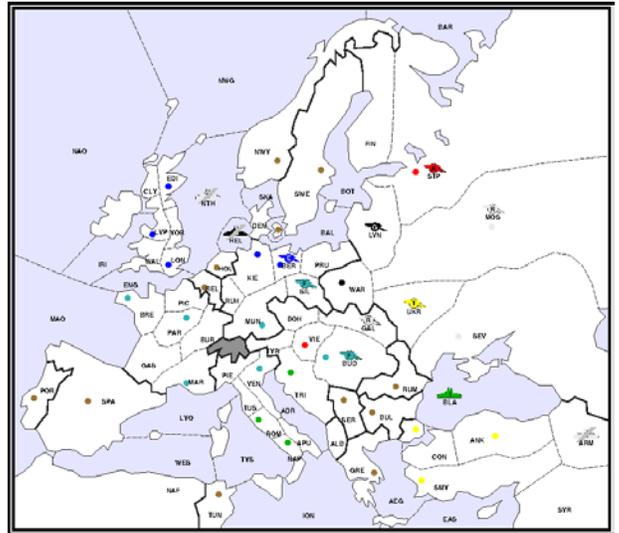
To Moscow, Winter 1901



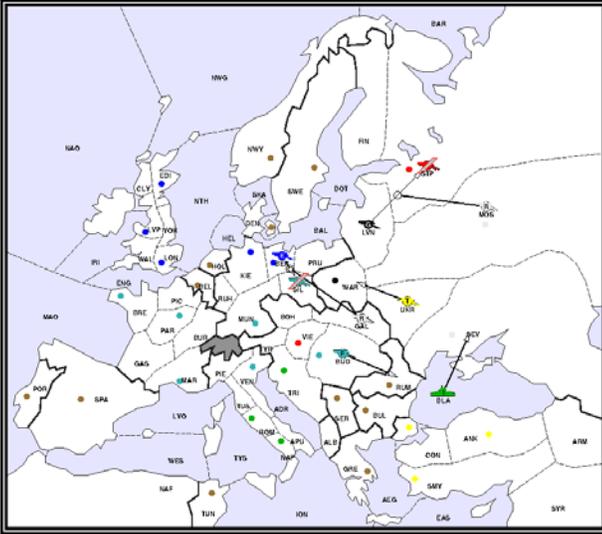
To Moscow, Spring 1902



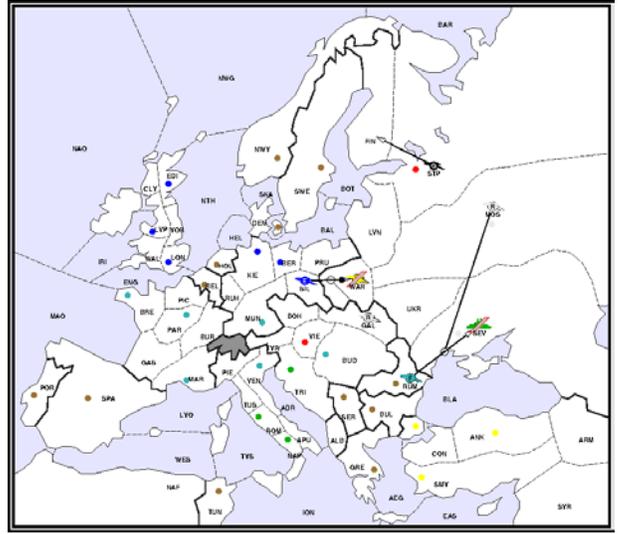
To Moscow, Fall 1902



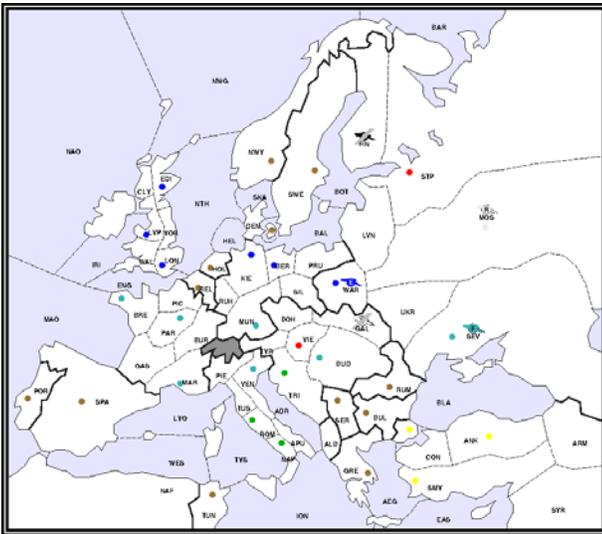
To Moscow, Winter 1902



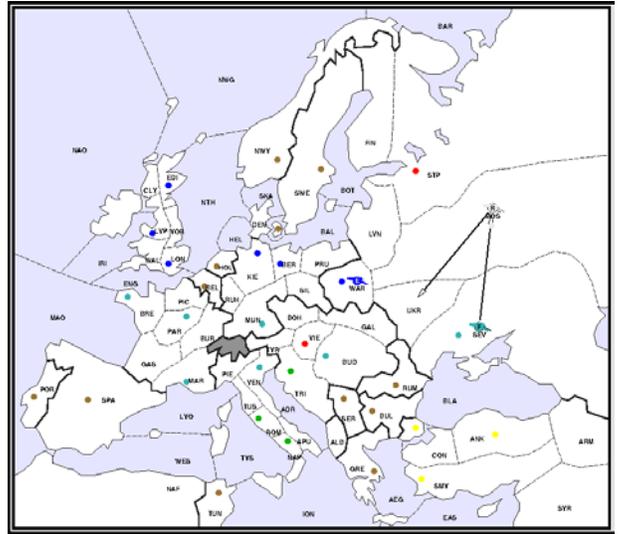
To Moscow, Spring 1903



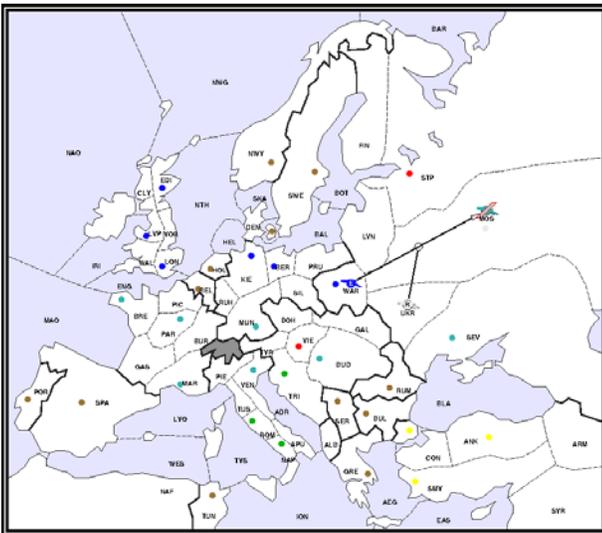
To Moscow, Fall 1903



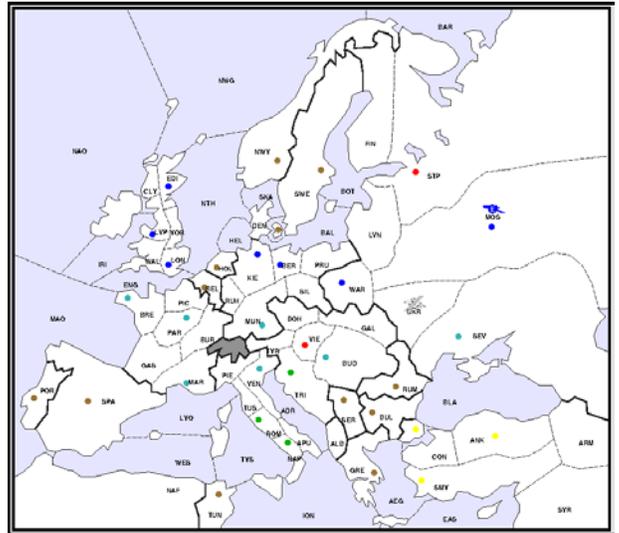
To Moscow, Winter 1903



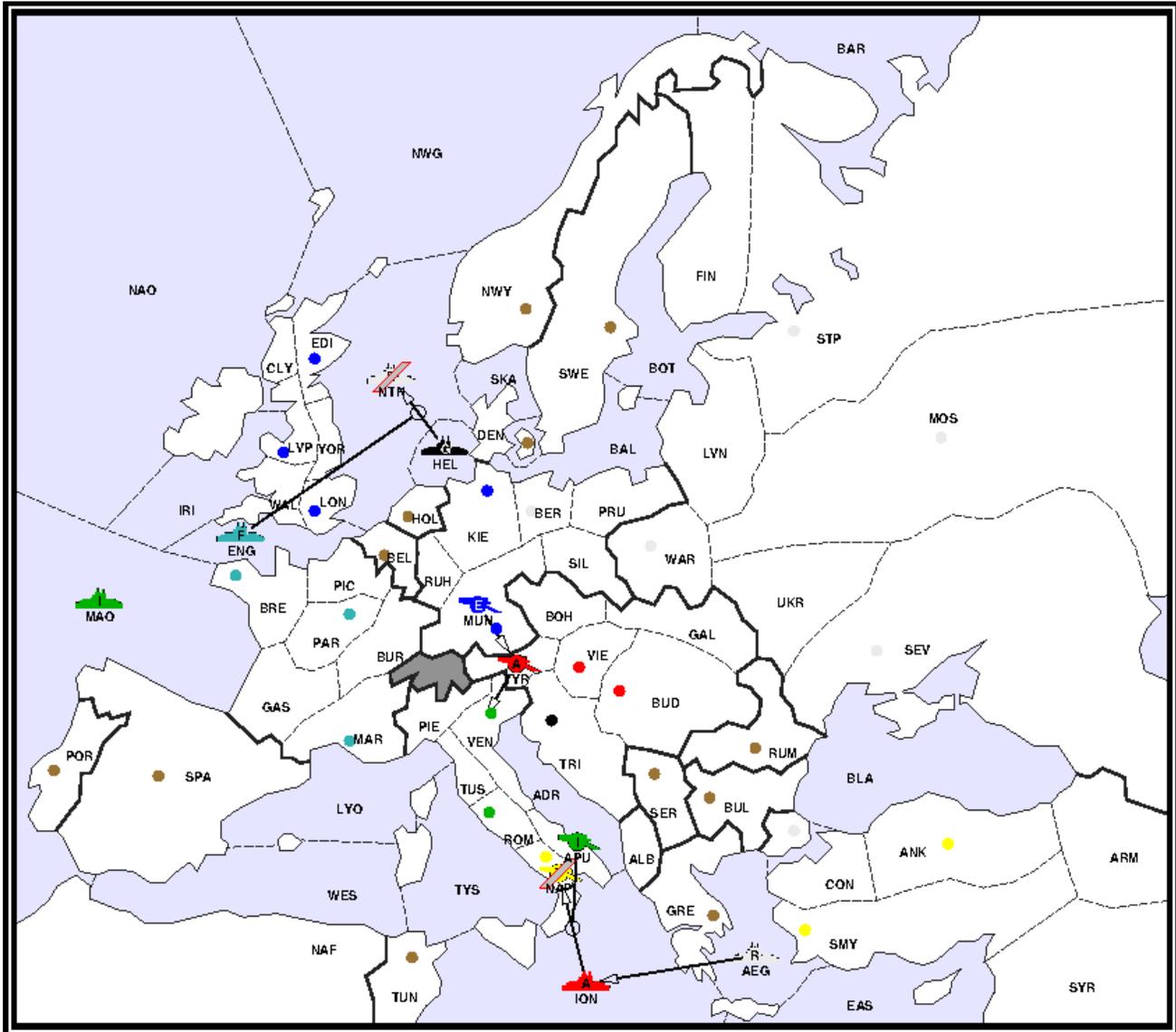
To Moscow, Spring 1904



To Moscow, Fall 1904



To Moscow, Winter 1904



Army Liverpool to Rome, Spring 1903

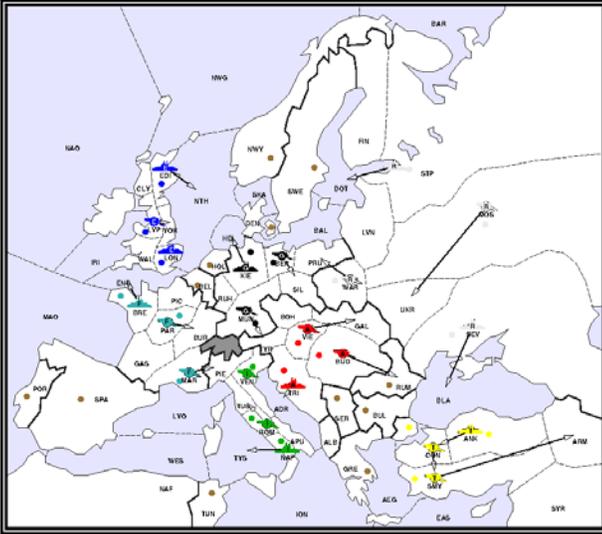
Let us study this map as it presents itself after two game years, at the halfway point.

The rainbow coalition. Having units in all different colors seems like an unnaturally tall order, coming on top of needing to finish with one unit in just four game years. And yet, as is shown in every one of the solutions on these pages, it can be done. After two game years there will generally be 8 to 11 units left. Having all powers still represented makes it easier to perform subsequent dislodgements, as all three units involved are likely to be of different colors and thus any can play the role of attacker, supporter or victim.

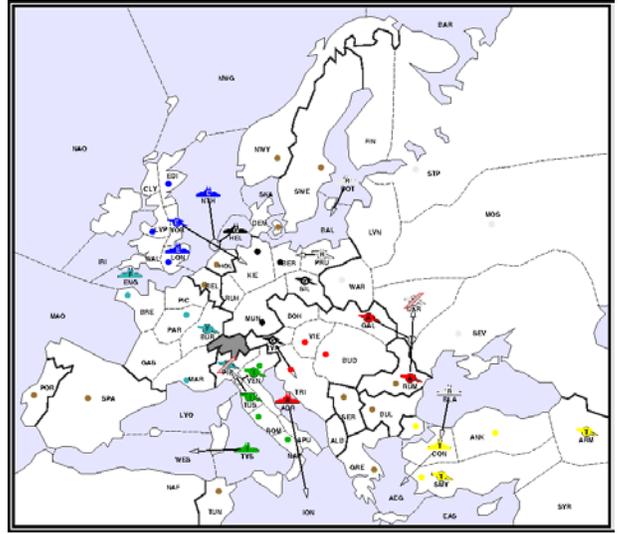
The culling. A more thorough application of the sweep. Instead of 2 years, this particular tactic covers 3 years and can therefore round up many more pieces. On this map the culling is done by the Italian and German fleets in and around the North Sea, who pull the French fleet, both English fleets and the Northern Russian fleet in

their nets. As this culling happens far from home, both need to be snipers, and both need to disband in Winter 1903 after losing their home centers. This implies that there are less snipers available for aiding around the target location. Even so this tactic will be employed in all the later puzzles.

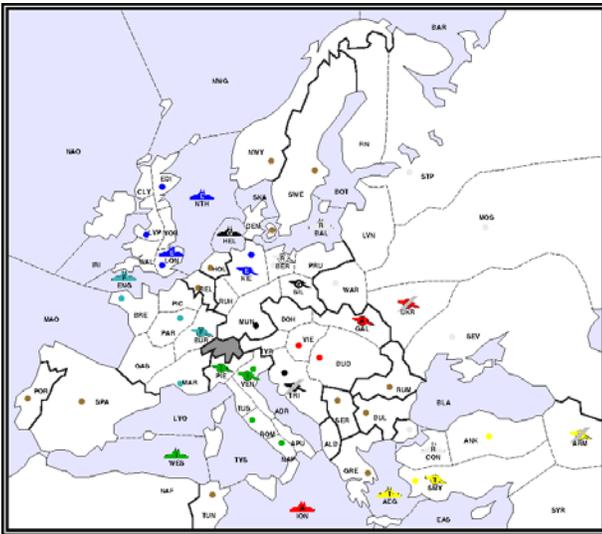
The crossing. Particular to the Italian and Austrian solutions is that England crosses the Alps from North to South and West to East respectively, from Germany to Italy and from France to Austria, perpendicular to each other. Why this peculiar approach makes it easier to come to a solution, can best be explained by considering the role of the assistant fleet in the culling, fleet Kiel on this map and fleet Brest on the Austrian map. Both fleets need to survive into 1903, and thus require a supply center close to the target location. Picking one that is next to, but not in the target country (Trieste here, Venice in the next game) is the most efficient way to deal with this challenge.



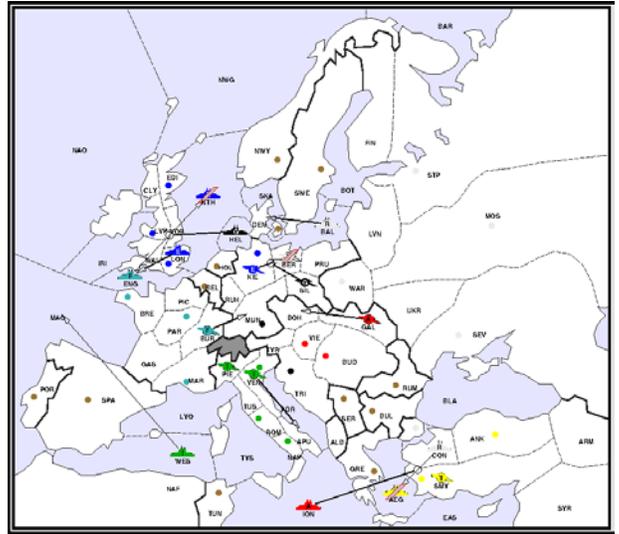
To Rome, Spring 1901



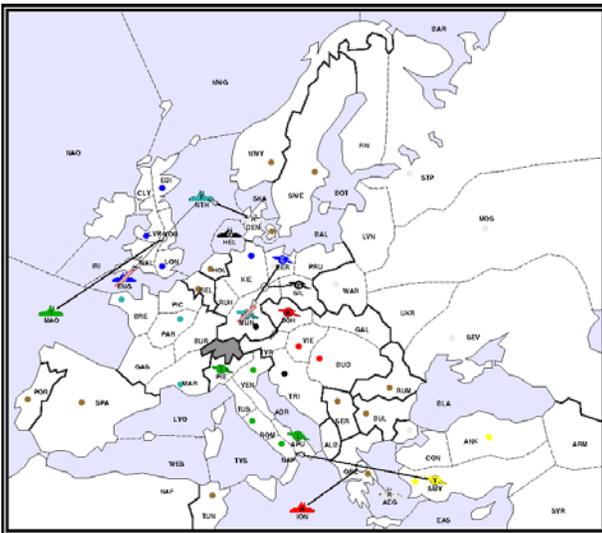
To Rome, Fall 1901



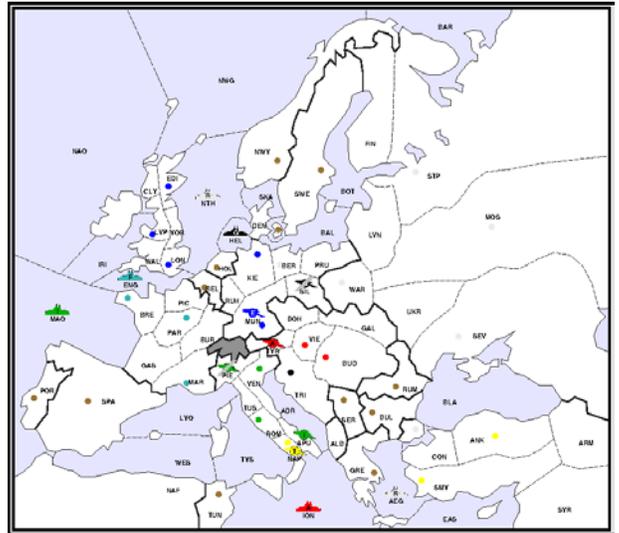
To Rome, Winter 1901



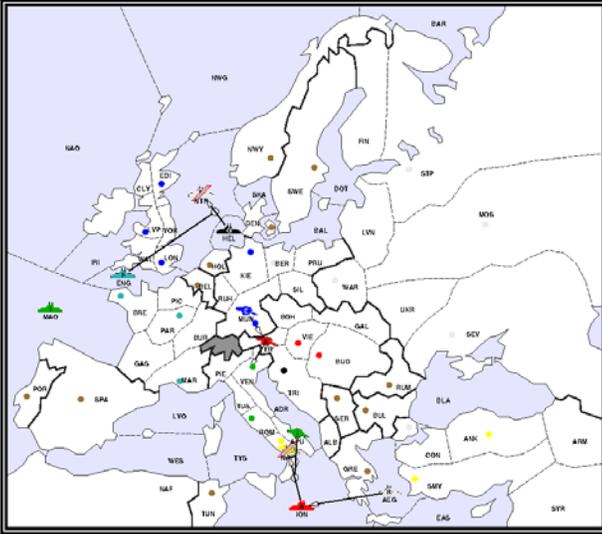
To Rome, Spring 1902



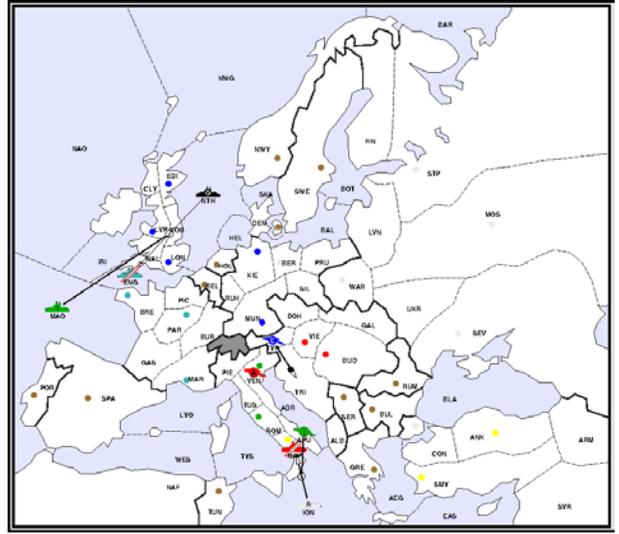
To Rome, Fall 1902



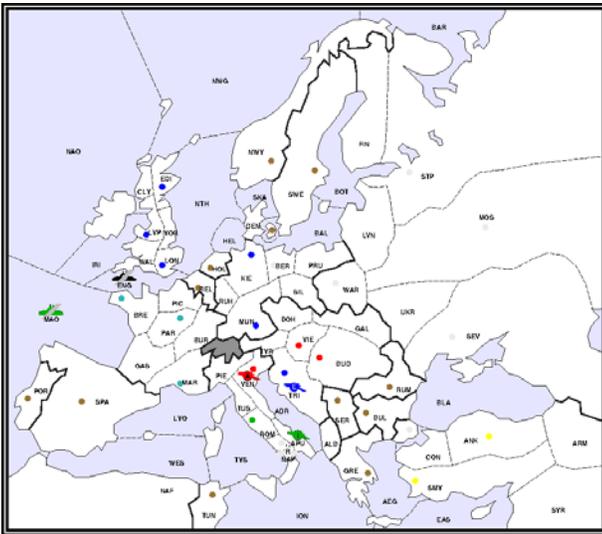
To Rome, Winter 1902



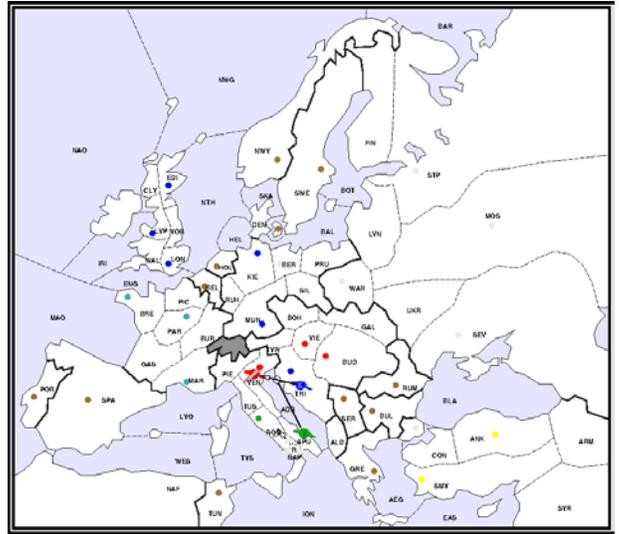
To Rome, Spring 1903



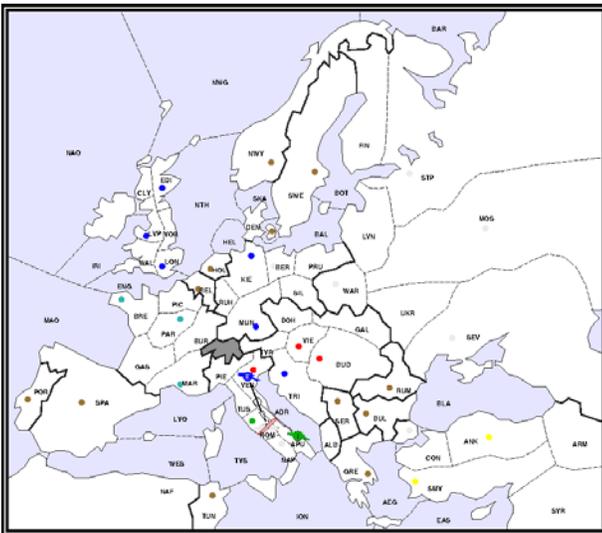
To Rome, Fall 1903



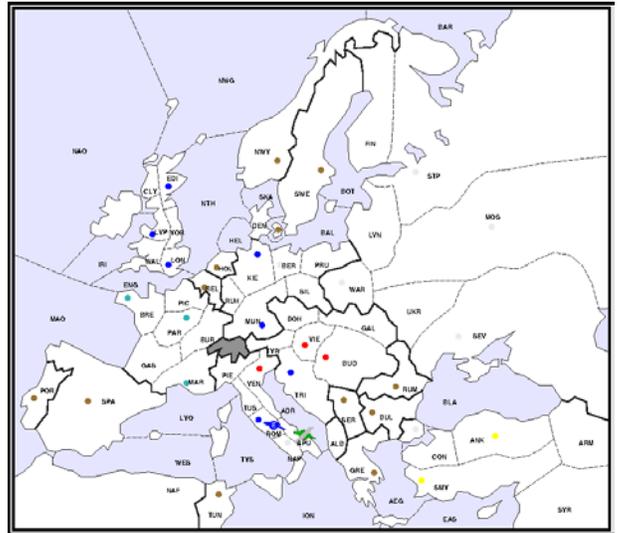
To Rome, Winter 1903



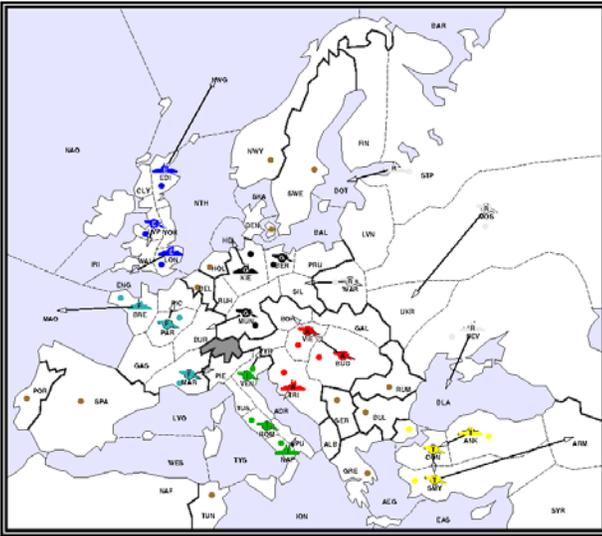
To Rome, Spring 1904



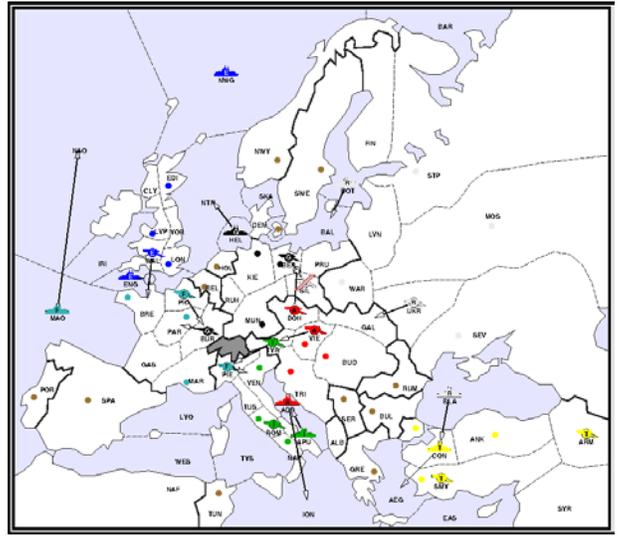
To Rome, Fall 1904



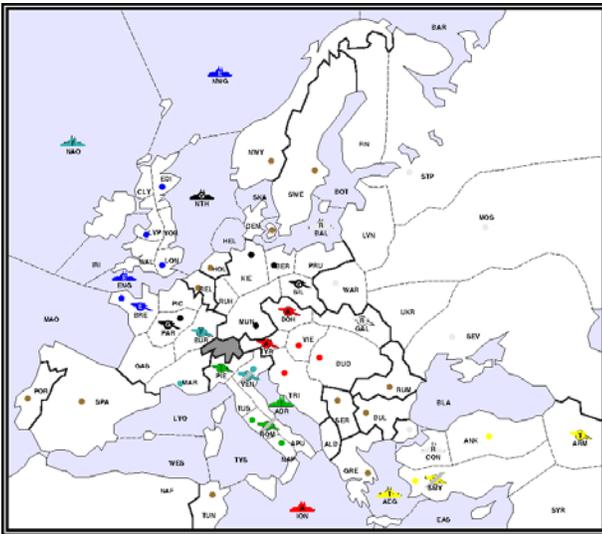
To Rome, Winter 1904



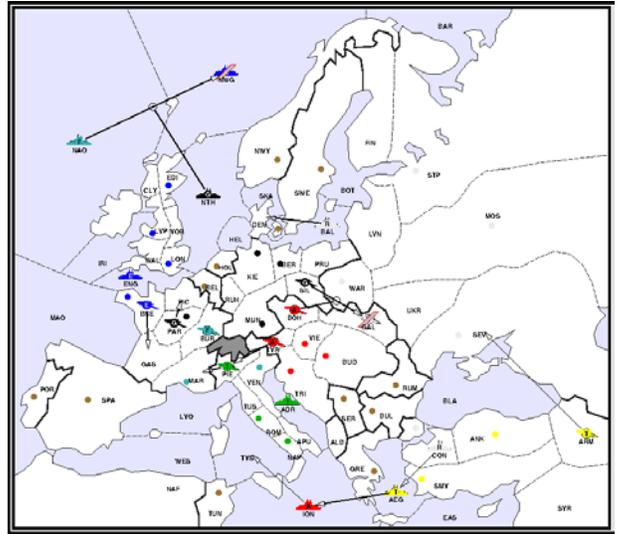
To Vienna, Spring 1901



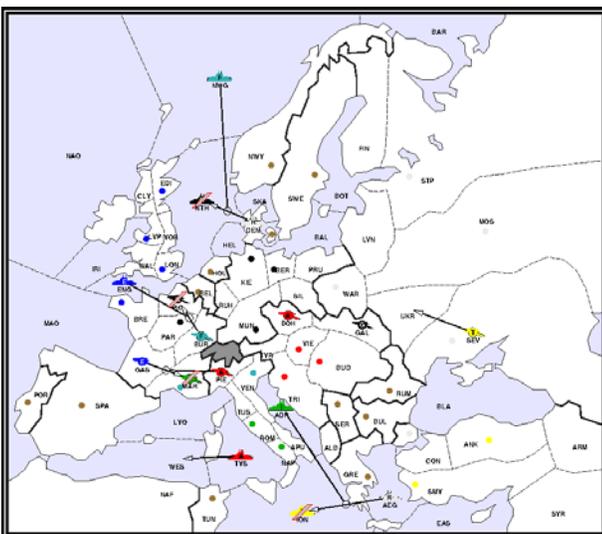
To Vienna, Fall 1901



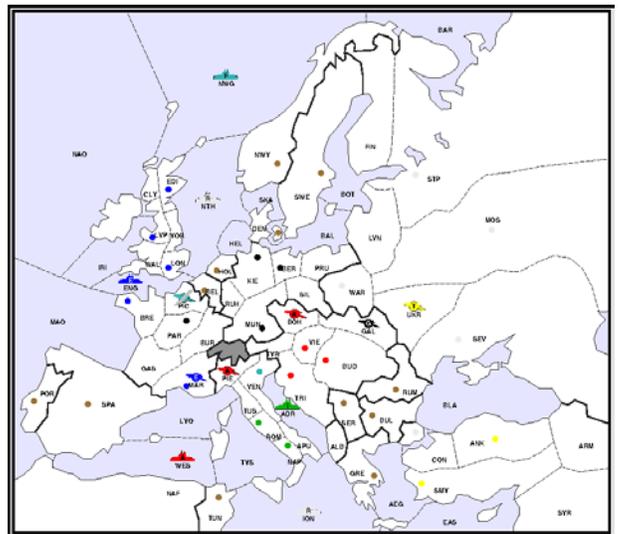
To Vienna, Winter 1901



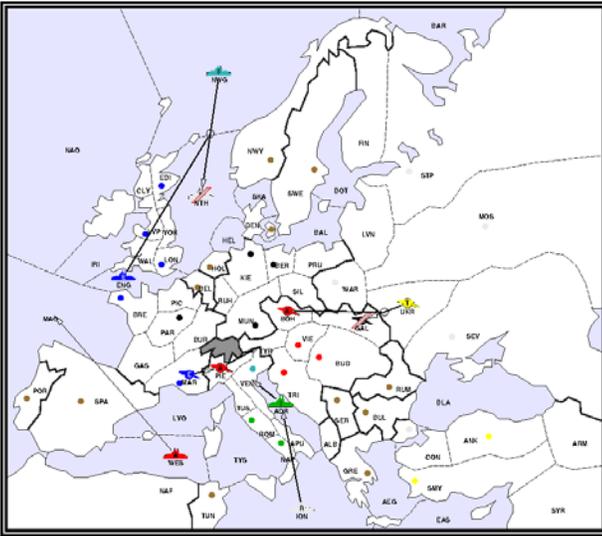
To Vienna, Spring 1902



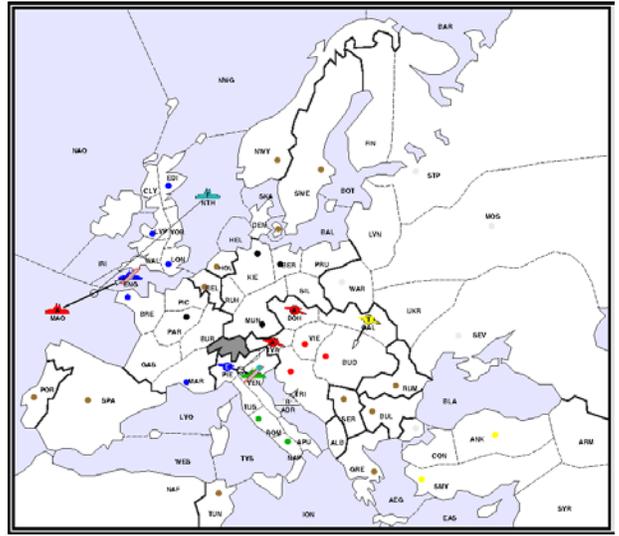
To Vienna, Fall 1902



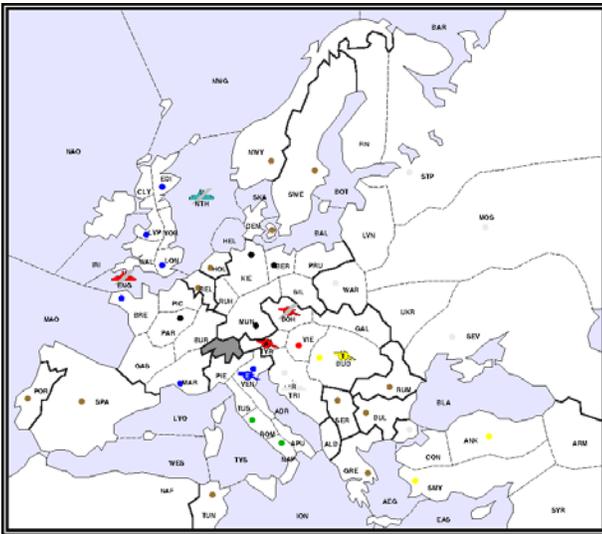
To Vienna, Winter 1902



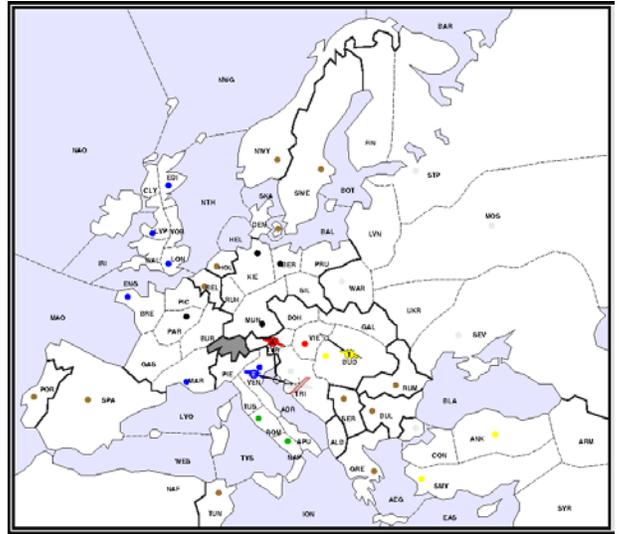
To Vienna, Spring 1903



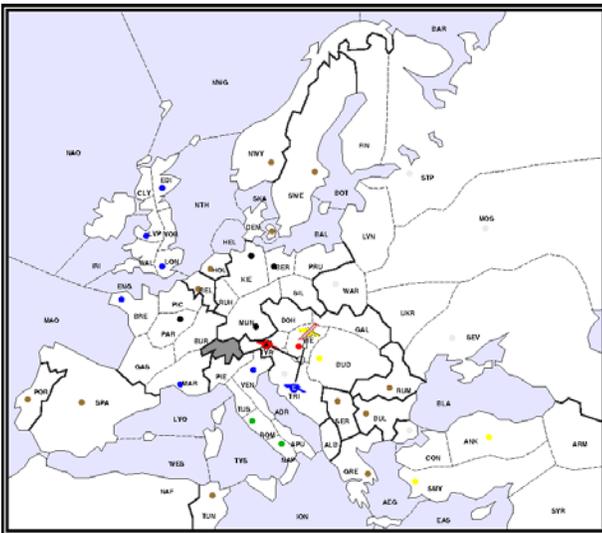
To Vienna, Fall 1903



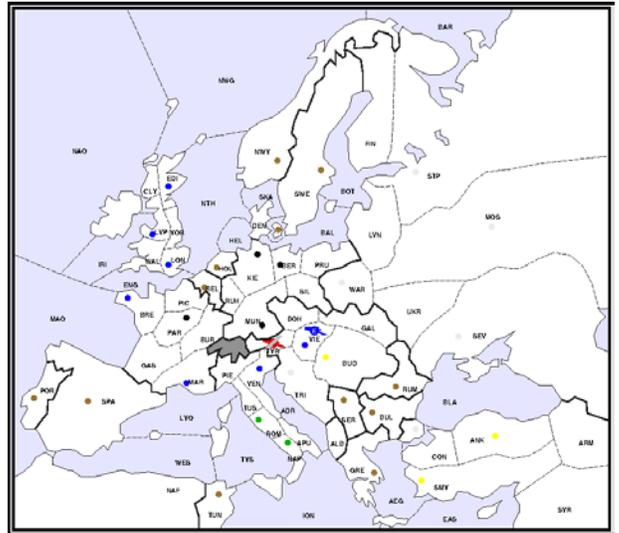
To Vienna, Winter 1903



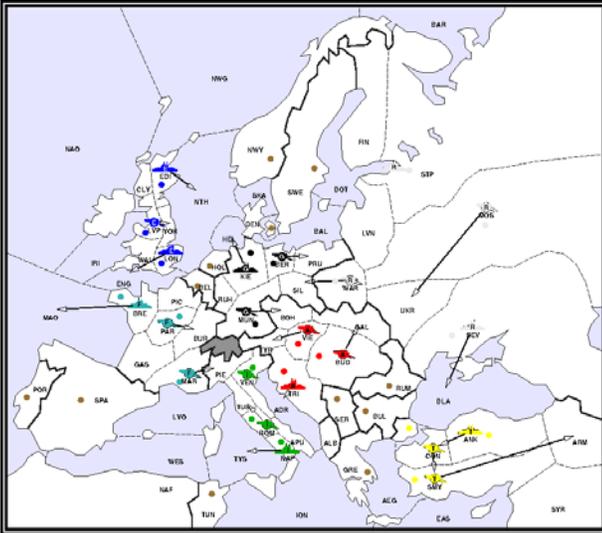
To Vienna, Spring 1904



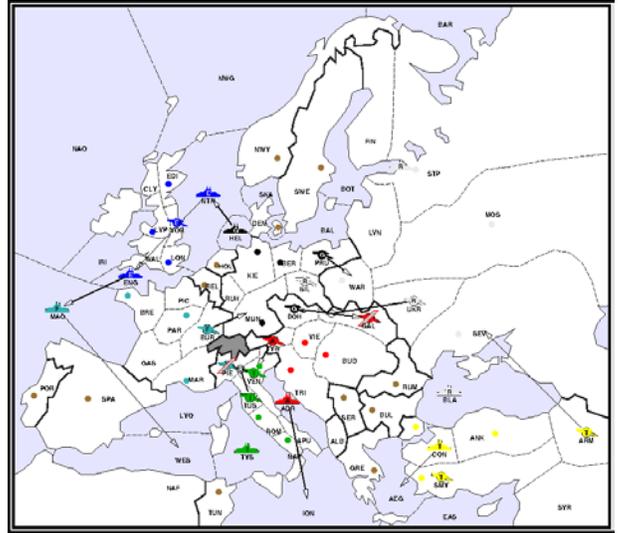
To Vienna, Fall 1904



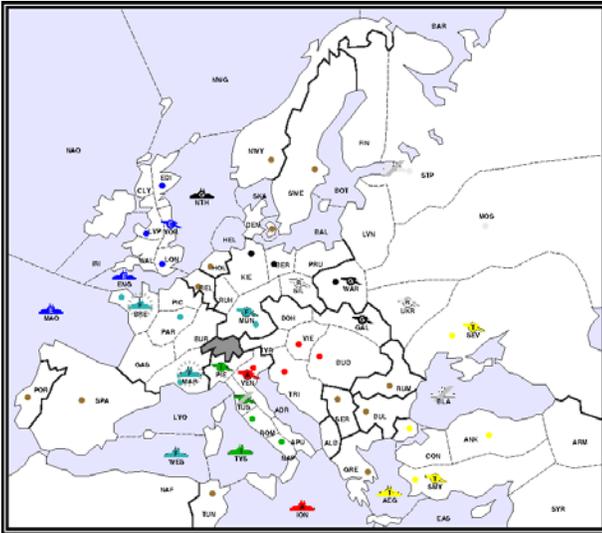
To Vienna, Winter 1904



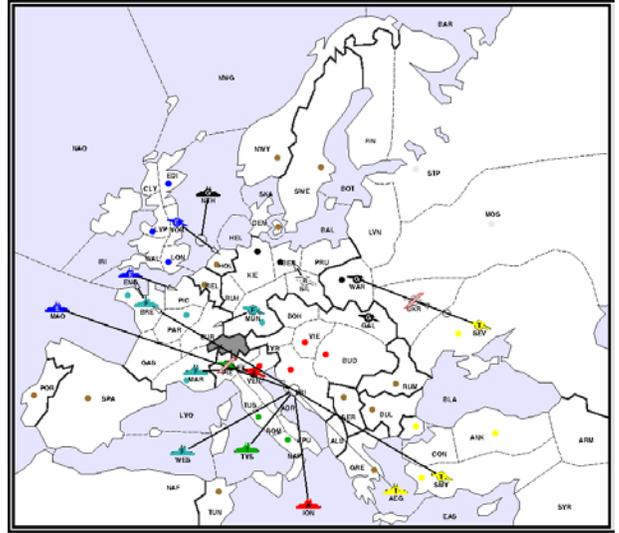
To Paris, Spring 1901



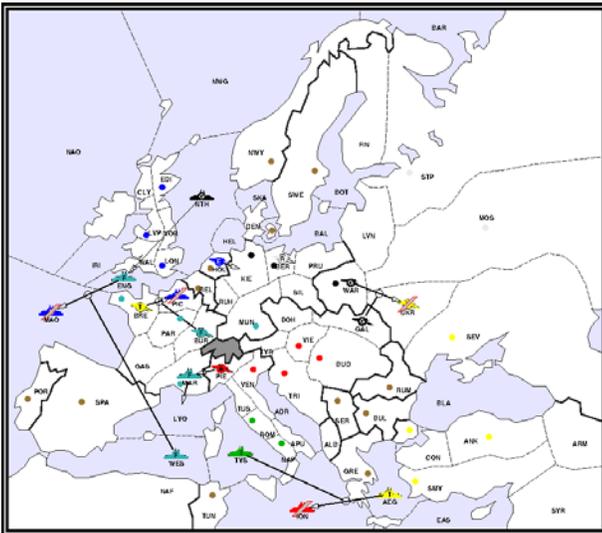
To Paris, Fall 1901



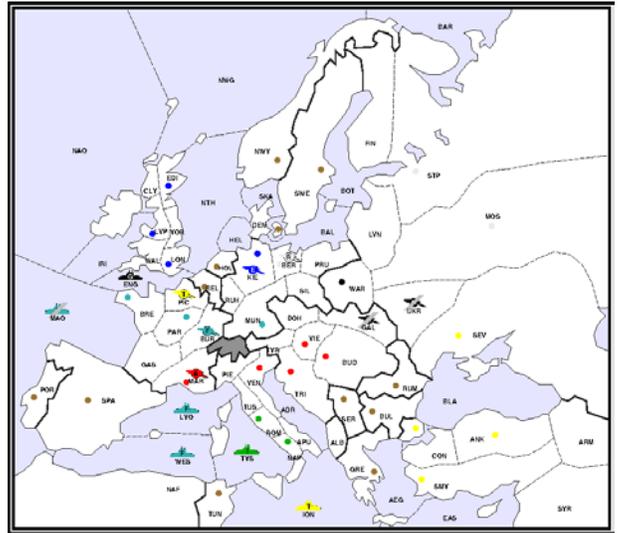
To Paris, Winter 1901



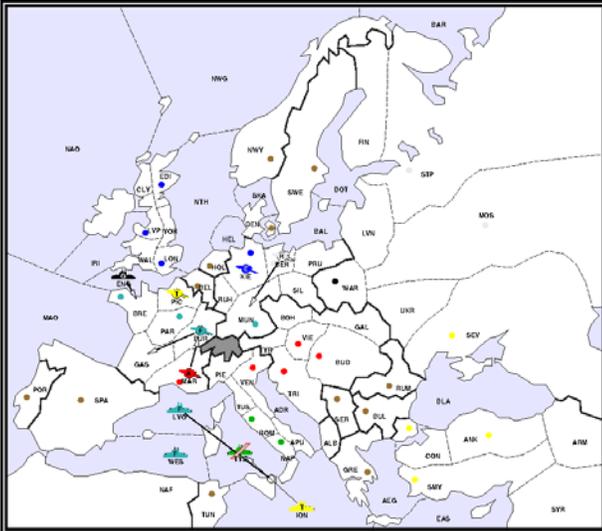
To Paris, Spring 1902



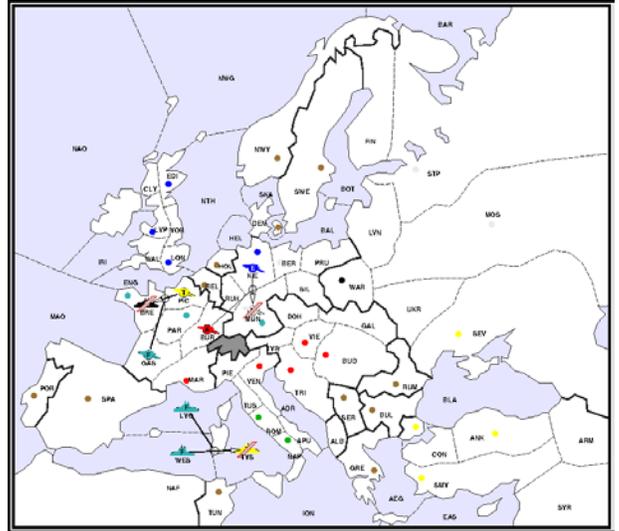
To Paris, Fall 1902



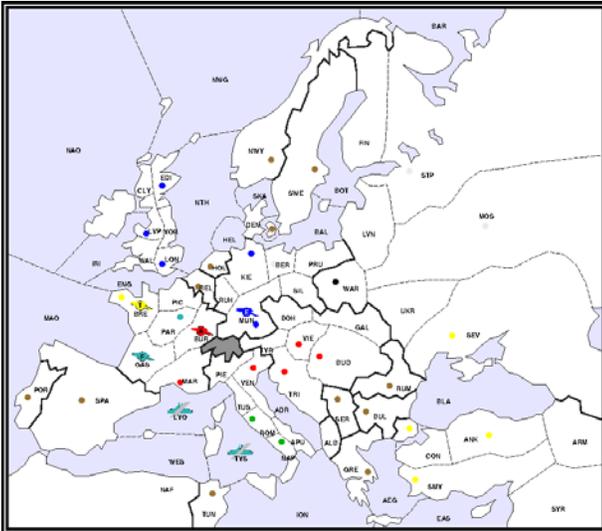
To Paris, Winter 1902



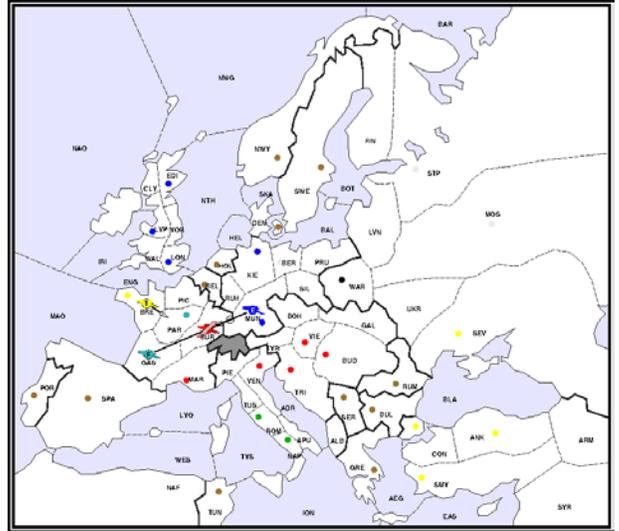
To Paris, Spring 1903



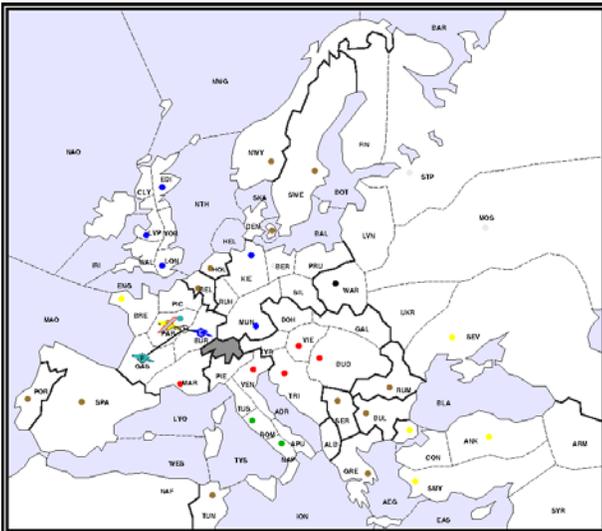
To Paris, Fall 1903



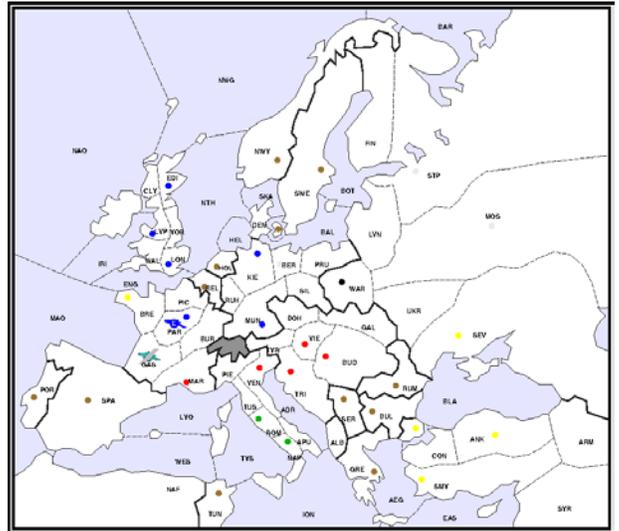
To Paris, Winter 1903



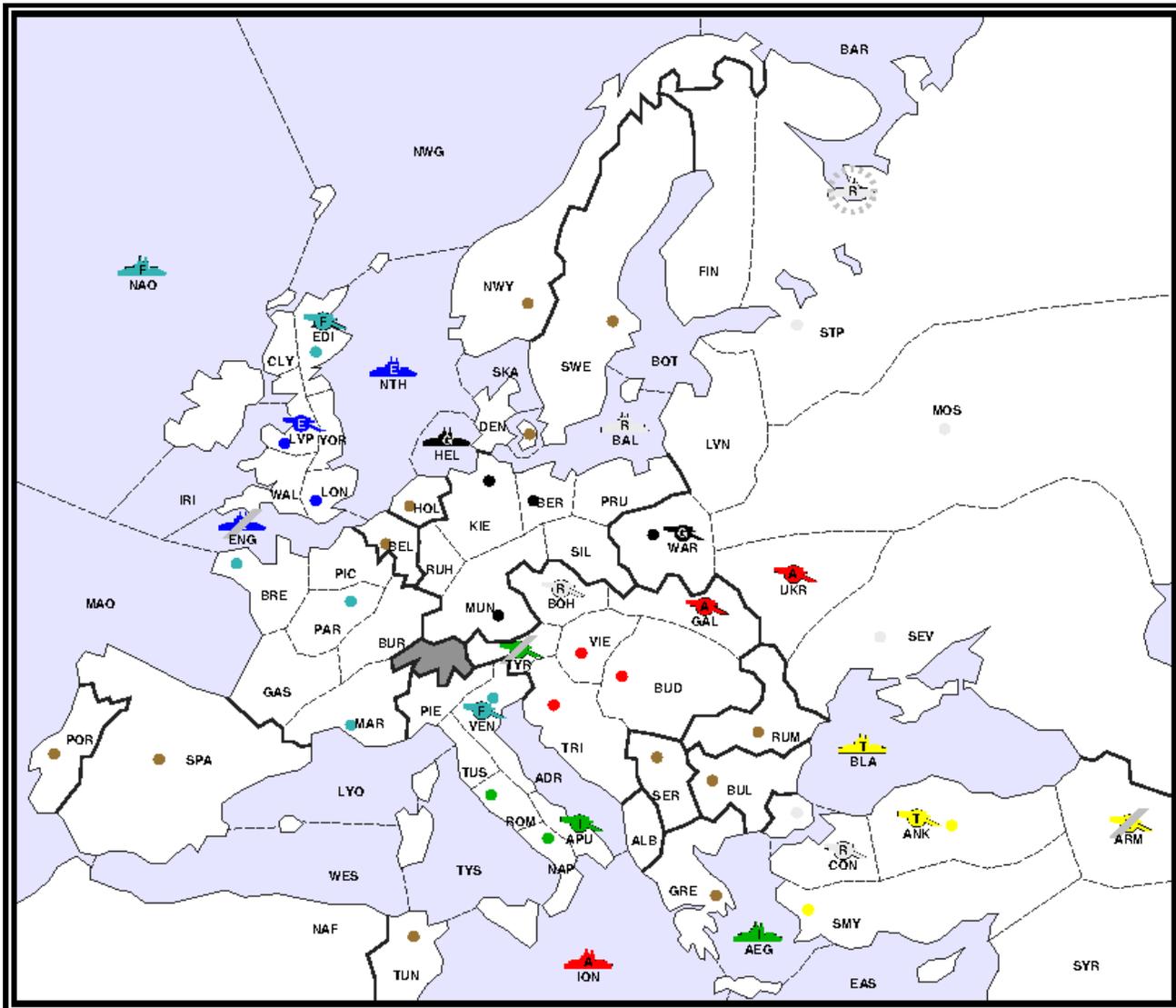
To Paris, Spring 1904



To Paris, Fall 1904



To Paris, Winter 1904



Army Liverpool to Ankara, Winter 1901

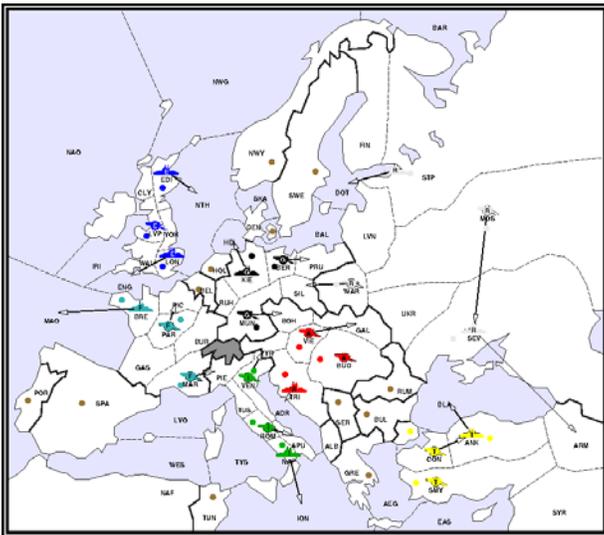
Even if Paris was surprisingly difficult, given the French favorable maritime location and its ease to reach 18 centers, the ultimate challenge is to send the English army to the other side of the map, to Turkey.

Disband and build. Turkey has no Atlantic presence whatsoever, and thus needs to rely on a neighbor, Russia, to perform the culling of the entire Northern armada. For this Russia needs a second fleet up North, but at the same time it should make sure that every home center will eventually be captured. A careful count of distances to Ankara will reveal that this requires the loss of either Warsaw or St. Petersburg in 1901. To balance this Constantinople gets captured to stay even and fleet Sevastopol gets dislodged to allow for the build of a new fleet on the North coast of St. Petersburg.

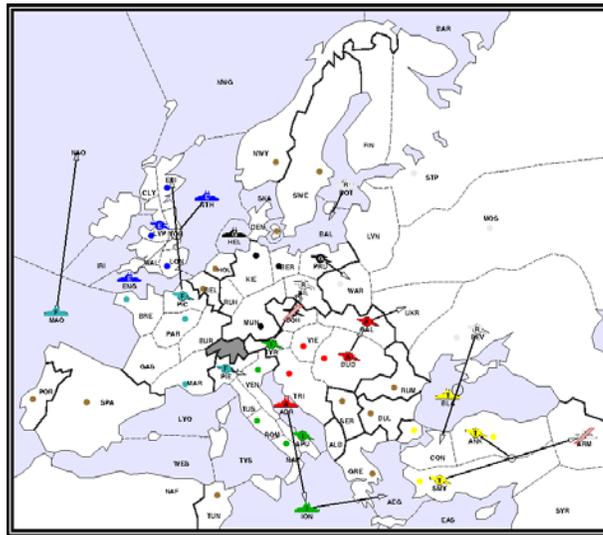
Timing is everything. The English army is usually the first to move out, what with its status as the Last Man Standing and the urge to get off the British islands and onto the continent. Ironically, to get to the opposite end

of the board it stays put in Liverpool for an entire year. It's perfectly logical though. Its first target on the continent is St. Petersburg, which it can only reach in Spring of 1902 (through a two fleet convoy, as a Fall landing in Norway in 1901 would break the neutrality pact). But since it's destined to capture the city, it may as well do the convoy in the Fall of 1902. This extra season creates the chance to eliminate the French army that had landed in Edinburgh, and to mix in the French and Russian fleets for convoy duty instead of the two English fleets, improving the line-up.

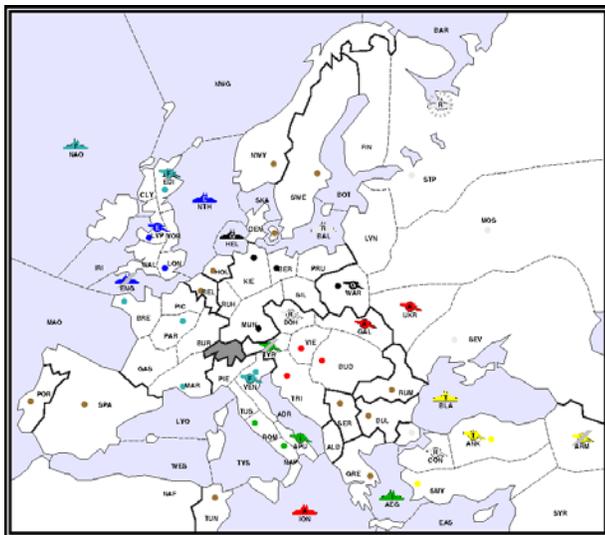
The new capital. Why Ankara and not Constantinople? After all, the Diplomacy board represents the map of Europe at the start of WWI, in 1914. Ankara became the capital of the new Turkish state only in 1923. The answer is feasibility. Mind you, Constantinople can be captured, just not by army Liverpool. Care to know by who? Start reading the LMS column in the Diplomatic Pouch Zine.



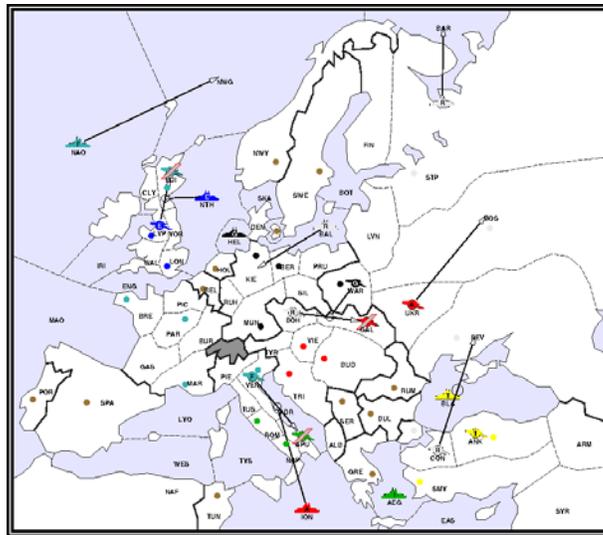
To Ankara, Spring 1901



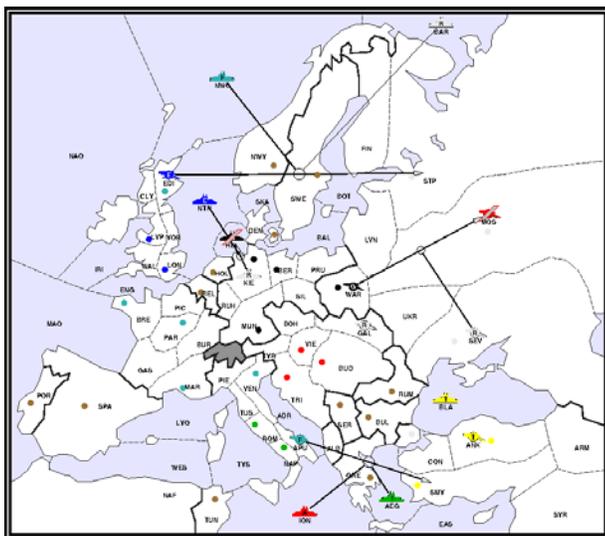
To Ankara, Fall 1901



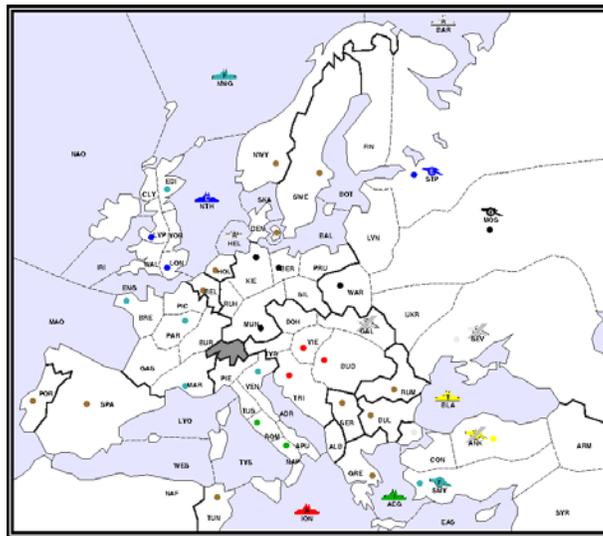
To Ankara, Winter 1901



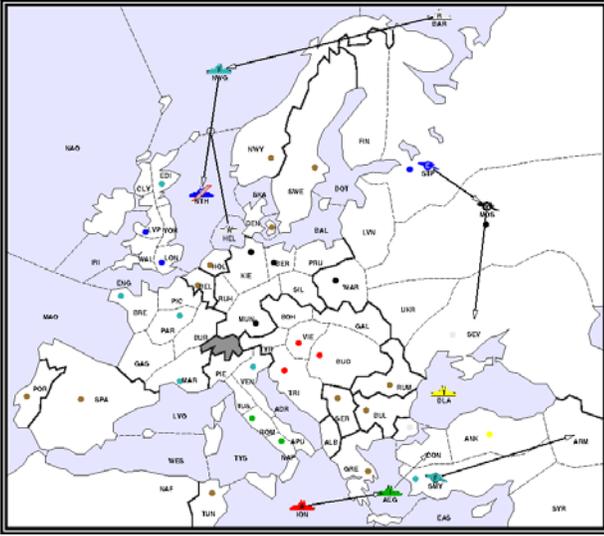
To Ankara, Spring 1902



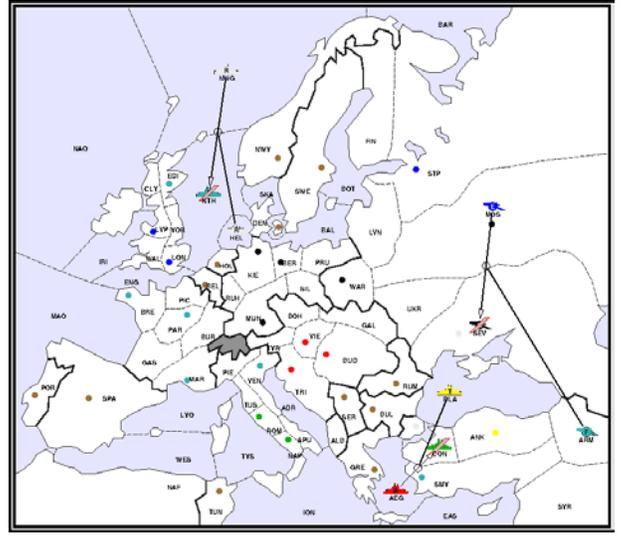
To Ankara, Fall 1902



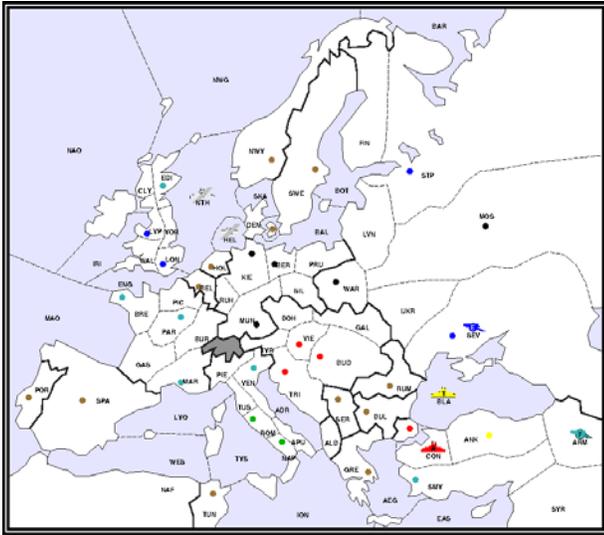
To Ankara, Winter 1902



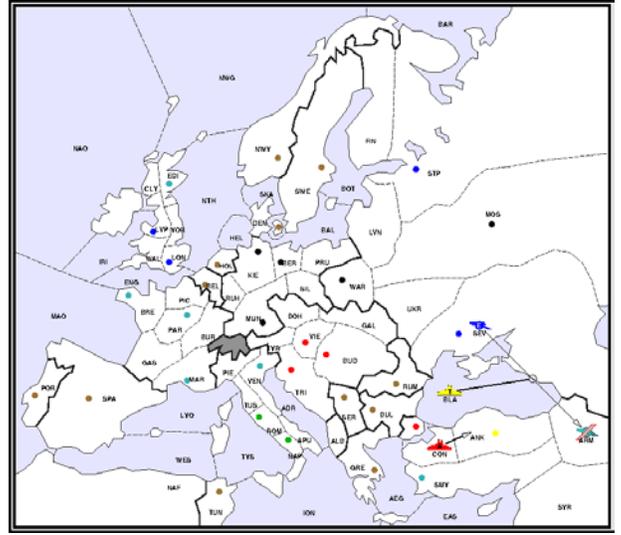
To Ankara, Spring 1903



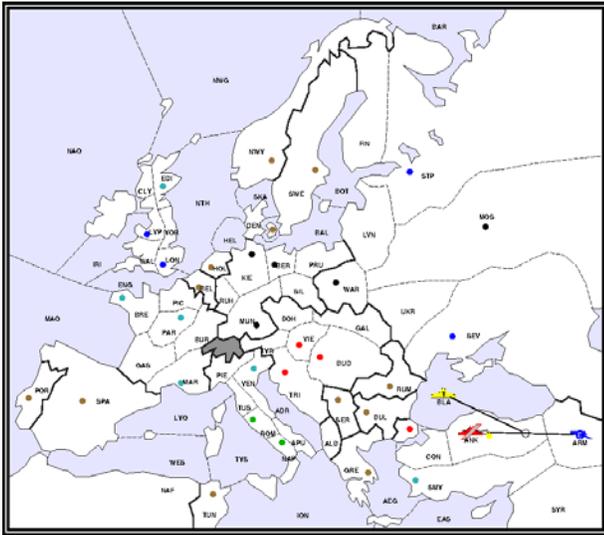
To Ankara, Fall 1903



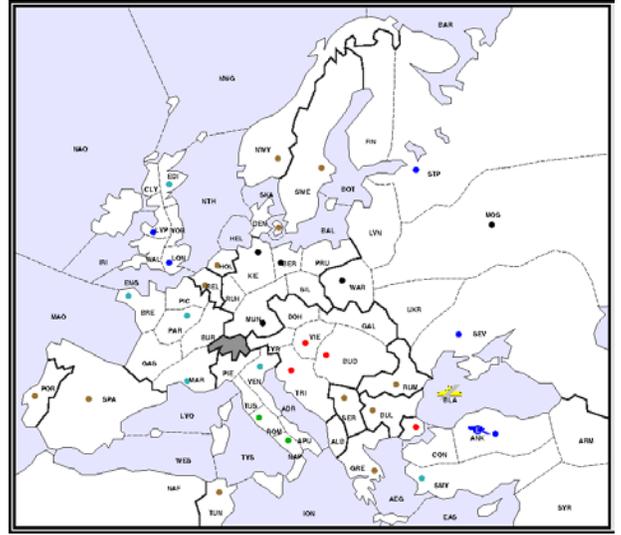
To Ankara, Winter 1903



To Ankara, Spring 1904



To Ankara, Fall 1904



To Ankara, Winter 1904

A Mouse in the Corner at the White House: “RAT-ing” the Xi State Dinner

By Larry Peery

Introduction

As I watched the US guests (apparently the Chinese group entered separately) arrive recently at the White House for President Obama's State Dinner for President Xi of the Peoples' Republic of China on C-SPAN it was interesting to see how many of them I recognized and remembered. It got me to remembering the past, thinking about the present and speculating about the future.

Who, what, where, when, why and how? Over the years I've written many stories devoted to answering those questions. In this article my focus will be on the Who, What and Where; but there's another question I've tended to neglect: "What if?" This story makes up for that neglect and, in the process takes us from diplomacy to Diplomacy.

First, dip at The White House: a lot of current events.

Second, Dip at The White House: a bit of speculation.

Although I've never attended a State Dinner at the White House I have attended one held by then President Nixon for President Diaz of Mexico at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego back in 1970. What made it unusual is that it was not held in the White House and two other past and future presidents, Johnson and Reagan, also attended. It was a very crowded head table. In fact, with over 600 guests it may have been the largest state dinner ever.

To paraphrase John Adams, one of this country's earliest diplomats, (He served as Commissioner to France and simultaneously as Minister Plenipotentiary and Ambassador to Holland; and later as Ambassador to Great Britain):

"Let us dare to read, write, listen, speak, think and play Diplomacy --- diplomatically"

-- John Adams, 1765

It was Adlai Stevenson, during his time as US ambassador to the United Nations, that infamously said,

"A diplomat's life is made up of three ingredients: protocol, Geritol and alcohol"

"A diplomat's life is made up of three ingredients: protocol, Geritol and alcohol" was a popular saying of at least two statesmen in the 1950s and 1960s. ([Geritol](#) is a

trademarked multivitamin dietary supplement that was first sold in 1950.) Howard Beale (1898-1983), the Australian Ambassador to the United States, in 1959 described diplomatic life in Washington as a mixture of "protocol, alcohol and Geritol."

The saying is most associated with Adlai Stevenson II (1900-1965), who served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 1961 until his death in 1965. The syndicated columnist Walter Winchell quoted Stevenson in September 1964:

"This is the social life of a diplomat: protocol, Geritol, and alcohol."

The State Dinner for Xi

Photo 1: The Guests of Honor and Their Hosts at The White House



I won't comment on the other events: such as the arrival ceremony, private one-on-one meeting in the Oval Office, press conference on the Rose Garden portico, for President Xi Jinping recently at the White House during his state visit. However, I do have a few comments about the culinary events that took place: Tuesday night VVIP banquet, Wednesday night private dinner with Bill Gates in Seattle, Thursday night "working dinner" at Blair House (with Obama, Kerry, Rice, the) Friday "light lunch" hosted by Kerry and Biden at the State Department, and the Friday night State Dinner at the White House.

NYT Jane Perlez blog on Xi's visit. Her comments on how the Chinese Communist Party & PRC Government control the media coverage of such visits differs from US "no holds barred" approach are priceless. <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/cp/reporters-notebook/xi-jinping-visit>

Xi brought a thousand people with him to Seattle, hopefully not all on the same plane. By the way, Xi and his party were traveling on an Air China 747-400, not his previous official Air Force One. Now therein lies an interesting tale:

A Boeing 767-300ER was purchased by the Chinese government for use by President [Jiang Zemin](#) in 2000. This Boeing 767 was originally ordered by [Delta Air Lines](#). An international incident occurred in 2001 when the government claimed it had discovered 27 [bugs](#) embedded in the aircraft's interior; the plane had been refitted in [San Antonio](#), Texas. It has since been converted back to a normal passenger airliner and transferred to Air China as B-2499.

Seattle (AFP) - Boeing announced on Wednesday a record order by a group of Chinese firms for the purchase of 300 aircraft worth some \$38 billion.

The order, announced to coincide with President Xi Jinping's visit to a Boeing plant near Seattle, comprises 240 planes for Chinese airlines and 60 aircraft destined for leasing companies, Boeing said in a news release.

The deal sets a new record for the aircraft industry, surpassing an order finalized in 2015 by Indian airline IndiGo for 250 Airbus planes worth some \$26.5 billion.

A word on Xi's thousand person entourage: in addition to his wife, but not his daughter (reportedly a student at Harvard), and the usual personal staff, diplomatic aides, communications people and security detail Xi brought with him a lot of provincial leaders, mayors of major cities, government bureaucrats and business leaders.

However, by the time it got to the "working dinner" at Blair house his thousand person entourage was down to four. Interestingly, each President had his Vice President, Secretary of State, National Security Advisor, and one other person with him; but no translators were in the room. Instead each seat had its own microphone and earphone. The other members of the Xi party were probably at the Mall at Tyson's Corner looking for bargains on "real" Bergamo shoes and Coach bags.

The Stage

Blair House, Dining Room (10-22 banquet)
<http://www.blairhouse.org/>

Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms,
Benjamin Franklin Dining Room (200+ banquet)

[Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room](#). The largest of the reception rooms, it measures 100 x 47 feet and is 21 feet tall, has 4,700 square feet and will hold 420-450 people. It was designed by John Blatteau and completed on March 8, 1985. It is used for the grandest of

occasions, such as State Dinners and swearing-in ceremonies.

Pluses: Better access, rest rooms, prep kitchen, chandeliers, other rooms, and more floor space room for a stage. Minuses: Only one elevator to the eighth-floor, less history (built in 1985 or so)
<https://diplomaticrooms.state.gov/home.aspx>
<https://diplomaticrooms.state.gov/Pages/rooms.aspx?rm=8>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/09/28/whats-it-like-to-attend-an-official-state-luncheon-for-a-visiting-head-of-state/>

White House State Dining Room (140 banquet)

State Dining Room is directly above the White House kitchen and has its own stairs, dumbwaiters, etc.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Dining_Room
<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/floor1/state-dining-room.htm>

Enter on the West Wing lower level, use stairs to State Level, down the hall to East Room

White House East Room (210 banquet)

The East Room is the largest room in the White House, about 80 by 37 feet (24 by 11 m) in size with a 22-foot (6.7 m) high ceiling. The middle window in the north wall was designed to provide access to a terrace that was never built. It is just under 3,000 square feet.

Pluses: lots of history. Minuses: no pantry, prep kitchen, built-in stage, or head table area. It will hold 21 rounds of 10 or 18 plus a rectangular head table and small stage
<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/floor1/east-room.htm>

White House Family Dining Room (2 rounds of 8 or one table of 12)
<http://www.whitehousemuseum.org/floor1/family-dining-room.htm>

For the most intimate affairs and best of friends

For over-sized crowds a tent on the lawn will hold 400-500 guests. It is less formal, but can handle a much larger crowd. And yes, they bring in porta-potties

People Behind the Scenes

President, First Lady, Vice President, Secretary of State, Social Secretary, Chief Usher, White House Chef.

Peter Selfridge, State Department Chief of Protocol since 5/14
<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/>

Deesha Dyer, who became White House social secretary in the spring, is likely examining everything that was done four years ago for the Hu Jintao state dinner — from cuisine to decor — to figure out what the White House can do this time around.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House_Social_Secretary
<http://www.whitehousehistory.org/questions/who-is-the-chief-usher>

White House staff, ushers, waiters, State Department protocol staff: everybody has been vetted and cleared by security. Immediately prior to dinner the Secret Service inspects each floral arrangement for “bugs” of one kind or another; and one plate is randomly selected for each course for the Presidents.

The Gates Private Dinner in Seattle

On Wednesday night at the big dinner for VVIP business men at the Westin in Seattle the menu included: salad; entrée choices of pan-seared Double R Ranch Washington beef and Northwest steelhead roulade, or chanterelle mushroom and roasted vegetables; and dessert of Theo Chocolate Marquise Dome on a brown butter pistachio cake, or nest of Valrhona chocolate and olive oil cake. Wine is Chateau Ste. Michelle 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon or 2014 Chardonnay.

On the following night it was rumored that Xi would be hosted by [Microsoft Corp.](#) founder [Bill Gates](#) at Mr. Gates' \$120M home in Medina, according to people familiar with the planning. Another scenario was that the “private” dinner would take place at the newly built Gates Foundation headquarters in Seattle for “security”. And yet a third story now has it that the private dinner was cancelled at the last minute and never took place --- certainly there's been no confirmation or details about it online since Xi left Seattle.

The Blair House “working dinner”

Photo 3: Blair House “working dinner”



While Presidents Xi Jinping and Obama were ensconced inside Blair House Thursday night for the most important

encounter of their summit, the Chinese Foreign Ministry did something quite revolutionary, if not entirely illuminating.

The director general of the Information Department, Lu Kang, held an on-the-record briefing for reporters from American and foreign news organizations based in Washington. During past visits of Chinese presidents, information from the Chinese has been sparse, and spokesmen were usually elusive. Any briefings were held for the benefit of Chinese reporters, and conducted in Chinese.

Mr. Lu, whose English is fluent and colloquial, spoke before Mr. Xi and Mr. Obama had finished their meeting — billed as an informal affair held in the more relaxed atmosphere of the president's guesthouse, across the street from the White House. (Though from the photos by the official Chinese agencies, the dinner table looked very formal with handsome silverware, fine china, a chandelier overhead, and microphones at each setting.)

The two men, accompanied by a handful of aides, would hold a free-ranging discussion over dinner like “two friends who know each other quite well,” Mr. Lu said.

A photo released by Xinhua, the state-run news agency, however, showed Mr. Obama at the entrance of Blair House with his arms folded, not the warmest posture. Mr. Xi was beaming.

Since the dinner was still underway when Mr. Lu spoke, and it is not the Chinese official style to talk candidly about disagreements, it was difficult for Mr. Lu to offer anything definitive on the important issues like cybercrime and China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Whether you call it doubletalk or diplomatic chit-chat; this will help you understand the press reports:

What it really means:

“We had a candid exchange of views,” equals “We fought like cats and dogs.”

“It was an unforgettable experience,” translates to “I made a list of everything you said or did wrong; and I won't forget it.”

“words of friendship,” means “I had to bite my tongue when I said that.”

“profound exchange of views” suggests “When in doubt, pontificate.”

“a most constructive engagement” signals “Nothing was accomplished.”

“a full plate of disputes were on the menu” hints “I really wanted to kick him in the nuts.”

“an understanding was reached” shows “We agreed to accept each other’s lies.”

“addressed touchy topics” is saying “My wife looks better than yours.”

The Xi State Department Light Lunch

Photo 4: Ben Franklin Dining Room “light lunch”



Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Kerry hosted “light lunch” for Xi at the State Dept.

The menu for the occasion was roasted corn and chili crab soup, followed by braised Angus short rib, followed by caramel pudding. No word on the wine(s), if any.

After the formalities of a White House 21 gun salute, a one-on-one meeting in the Oval Office and a news conference with American and Chinese reporters (the questions were not too difficult), Mr. Xi drove to the State Department for a lunch in the elegant Benjamin Franklin Dining Room with about 200 guests.

Mr. Xi had been there before: in 2012 when he was still vice president but on his way to becoming president. Many of the guests were familiar faces to Mr. Xi, including Henry Kissinger and Timothy D. Cook, the chief executive of Apple, who were both with him earlier this week in Seattle.

Just as in 2012, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. introduced Mr. Xi. Mr. Biden insisted relations between China and the United States were in good shape, and the disputes between the countries should not be overstated. After all, he said: “We have differences with our allies.” What no one mentioned was that Biden had roundly chastised China on Xi’s earlier visit.

Then Mr. Biden could not resist a joke involving Iowa as the first state in the presidential election cycle, a place to build political support.

Mr. Xi has traveled to Muscatine, Iowa, twice, Mr. Biden said. First as a young Communist Party official and then in 2012 as vice president.

Mr. Xi had invited Mr. Biden to join him on the 2012 trip. And in retrospect, he should have gone, Mr. Biden said. “He went and became president and I am still vice president.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/09/247326.htm>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/09/28/whats-it-like-to-attend-an-official-state-luncheon-for-a-visiting-head-of-state/>

Photo 5: The White House State Dining Room



The Xi White House State Dinner

“Rule : Never forget diplomacy is the main course.”

(No source)Photo 6: East Room “State Dinner”



For the Xi state dinner each side invited approximately 55 guests, each of whom was allowed to bring one other person. Not all did, and there were actually a few standbys available in case of no shows. It would never do to have an empty seat at a State Dinner. Second, the total cost was approximately \$500,000; and that comes out of the State Department’s budget. That’s about \$2,300 per guest. [Compared to the minor changes Obama made in the State Dining Room in the White House (e.g. changed carpets, drapes, chairs) that cost \$590,000, or the \$440,000 the Obamas spent on a set of new White

House china; which was paid for by the White House Historical Association, not taxpayers.]

The press releases described the East Room floral decorations and linens as being crimson, but they sure looked pink to me in the photos. Every party hostess knows that everything and everyone looks better in a soft pink light. It makes the wrinkles disappear!

The Obamas did not drag out their new set of Presidential china from W Va. The big change was the addition of a new piece, an individual covered soup tureen, for each place setting; which may explain the cost.

The Guests

Photo 6A: East Room "State Dinner"



Those who got invited were there because of who they were, because of the position they held, and/or because of who they knew.

For the guests, a White House State Dinner, etc. is a chance to see and to be seen and to show that you're on the "A List," as well as a chance for diplomatic chitchat and an opportunity to discuss matters of substance such as The Diplomatic Agenda: Cyber-security, Taiwan, and South China Sea.

The US guests list for this event was heavy in those who had power; while the Chinese party was heavy on those who have power. USA group included a lot of media, high-tech and business celebrity names. Entertainment celebrities and sports figures were mostly absent this time. Most of the Chinese were party and/or government bureaucrats, with a healthy dose of Chinese multi-billionaire tycoons. Many of the Chinese with the most important positions and impressive titles had no entries on Google or Wiki.

The complete guest list as provided by the White House for the state dinner honoring the Chinese President Xi Jinping is available online. This is my edited list of guests from the diplomatic or related fields at the higher levels.

Photo 6C: State Dinner Table



*The President and Mrs. Obama

*His Excellency Xi Jinping and Madame Peng Liyuan

***XThe Honorable Madeleine Albright, Former Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, and Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group
Ms. Alice Albright

Photo 8: Madeleine Albright & Daughter



***XThe Honorable Max Baucus, U.S. Ambassador to China, U.S. Department of State
Ms. Melodee Hanes

**The Honorable Joseph Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States
Dr. Jill Biden

***XMr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Former National Security Advisor, National Security Council, and Scholar, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Mrs. Emilie Anna Brzezinski

**The Honorable Ashton Carter, U.S. Secretary of Defense
Mrs. Stephanie D. Carter

****His Excellency Tung ChiHwa, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (China's equivalent to HK)

****The Honorable Thomas Donilon, Former National Security Advisor, National Security Council, and Partner, O'Melveny & Myers LLP

****Mr. John Ficklin, Chair, Senior Director for Records and Access, Records and Access Management, National Security Council
Mrs. Patrice Ficklin

****His Excellency Wang Huning, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Director, Central Policy Research Office

**His Excellency Yang Jiechi, State Councilor, for the People's Republic of China

****Ms. Fa Jun, Secretary of Madame Peng Liyuan

*XThe Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
Mrs. Theresa Heinz Kerry

*XThe Honorable Henry Kissinger, Former National Security Advisor, National Security Council, Former Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, and Founder and Chairman, Kissinger Associates
Mrs. Nancy Kissinger

Photo 6B: The Kissingers



****His Excellency Han Liping, Director General, Bureau of Secretaries, General Office of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

****Mr. Lyu Luhua, Secretary of President Xi Jinping

****Mr. Steven Mollenkopf, CEO, Qualcomm Incorporated

Mrs. Susan Mollenkopf

**XThe Honorable Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Mr. Cass Sunstein

***The Honorable Brent Scowcroft, Former National Security Advisor, National Security Council

**XThe Honorable Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Bruce Stokes

***XThe Honorable Richard Stengel, Under Secretary of State, Office of Diplomacy and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Mrs. Mary Stengel

***XMr. Strobe Talbott, Former Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, and President, The Brookings Institute
Ms. Barbara Ascher

**XHis Excellency Cui Tiankai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States of America

Madame Ni Peijun

**His Excellency Ding Xuexiang, Permanent Deputy Director, General Office of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

*His Excellency Wang Shaojun, Deputy Director, General Office of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Chief, Central Security Bureau

Perhaps the most intriguing and unexpected guest at the dinner, although only a couple of media outlets realized that.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Security_Bureau_of_the_Communist_Party_of_China
<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1734712/president-xi-reshuffles-elite-unit-guards-communist-party-leaders-safety>

*XHis Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

*His Excellency Li Zhanshu, Member of the Political Bureau of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Secretary, Secretariat of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Director, General Office of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

This is a sample of the way the Chinese described their side:



Tung Chee-hwa
Former Hong Kong chief executive 1997-2003

78-year old Tung played an important role in behind-the-scenes talks between China and the US. Not considered an "official member" of his entourage, Tung will only attend one or two events, a [source told the South China Morning Post](#) on September 11.



Lu Wei
China's Internet tsar

As the director of China's internet regulator the State Internet Information Office, Lu Wei oversees China's internet policies and cybersecurity. He will attend the US-China Internet Industry Forum in Seattle.



Wang Huning
Director of the Central Policy Research Office of the CPC Central Committee; Politburo member

The former academic Wang, 59, has headed the think tank for senior leaders for 13 years. He has been a top policy adviser and speechwriter to three successive presidents: Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and now Xi Jinping. As a key architect of China's domestic and foreign policy over the past decade, Wang has accompanied the three presidents on almost every domestic and foreign trip.



Li Zhanshu
Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee; Politburo member

The 65-year-old is a close confidant of Xi's. He serves as Xi's chief of staff, monitoring the operation of the decision-making circle.



Yang Jiechi
State Councilor

Yang, 65, is a lifelong professional diplomat. He was China's foreign minister from 2007 to 2013, before joining the State Council to serve as one of the most prominent architects of China's foreign policy. He was the Chinese Ambassador to the United States.

I only got 1 out of 5; which tells you how much I know about the Chinese power structure.

Official state dinner guest list: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/25/expected-attendees-tonights-china-state-dinner>

More state dinner coverage:

I narrowed the 210 names down to 28 potential Dippers and I divided them into four tables:

- 1 VVIP 7 (The Top Board)*
- 2 VIP 7 (The Wannabes and Might Have Beens)**
- 3 IP 7 (Close, but not too close)***
- 4 NSIP 7 (Not so important people, but interesting.)****

X indicates a real "diplomat."

All in all I found 11 diplomats, seven ladies, lots of old farts (Kissinger is 93 and Tung is 78), and a few newbies in the group.

It's easy to visualize a state dinner such as this as a game of musical chairs, by the numbers, or Russian roulette; but it's really more complicated, yet subtle, than that.

This took me about an hour. In comparison and contrast, it took a committee of a dozen people attending six day-long meetings spread over six months, and God-only-knows how many exchanged emails and lists, to come up with the official guest list and seating chart for the Xi dinner.

The Menu (Food)

I invited as my **commentator on the menu** the famous "French chef de la cuisine de la souris, Expert P. F. "Ratatouille" Chang, who served as a consultant to the consulting chef for the dinner.

[State-dinner statements: The menu and the chefs behind it can say a lot \(but do they?\)](#)

For the dinner, "Top Chef" competitor Anita Lo, who came in fourth on the show's first season, joined forces with White House Executive Chef Cris Comerford to serve a memorable menu: wild mushroom soup with black truffle, grilled Colorado lamb, and Maine lobster, an item that made an appearance at the Obamas' last State Dinner with China. For dessert, they'll have a poppyseed bread and butter pudding. Chinese touches include the Shaoxing wine served with the soup and the lychee sorbet that is part of the dessert course.

The menu: reading between the courses:

- Wild mushrooms (a favorite poison)
- Lamb (symbolizing the USA)
- Lobster (symbolizing the PRC)

Photo 9B: Entrée



Poppyseed bread (opium)

Lychee

Mooncakes platter, including pumpkin flavored ones because Obama likes pumpkin; which most younger Chinese look at in the same way most younger Americans look at traditional fruitcakes.

Photo 9: Dinner Table Mooncakes



The Wine List

Photo 10: The Toast



Some attendees and media commentators noted President Barack Obama and China's President Hu Jintao toast during a State Dinner in the State Dining Room at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011. Classier wines were served at that dinner than the one Friday night.

And the wines aren't even as exclusive as those [Obama served in 2011](#) to former Chinese President Hu Jintao, who was provided a \$115 Cabernet.

But at least the wines were revealed, though covered mostly by the [Chinese media](#). The administration had [corked the practice](#) of naming the wines after it was hit for serving expensive wines.

Shaoxing wine (made from rice, either as a cooking or drinking wine). It is widely used as both a beverage and a cooking wine in [Chinese cuisine](#). It is internationally well known and renowned throughout [mainland China](#), as well as in [Taiwan](#) and [Southeast Asia](#)

The East Wing's steady decline in promoting high-end American wines at presidential State Dinners has come to this: on Friday night President Obama served a \$30 screw top wine.

Among the four wines being poured were the [Penner-Ash 2014 viognier](#). The Wine Enthusiast gave the 2013 a 92 point rating. It comes with a screw cap instead of a cork.

The others were a rice wine, a \$80 [Pride Mountain Vineyards 2012 Vintner Select Merlot](#), and for dessert, a \$40 2011 [Schramsberg Cremant Demi-sec](#) sparkling wine.

While tasty, the wines are a step down from the far pricier choices picked for other heads of state when exclusive vineyards like [Peter Michael Winery](#) used to rule the roost.



Here's a sample of the hundreds of articles that appeared in the media about the Xi culinary diplomacy experience in Washington. Almost all of them were just

rehashes of the press releases and background info sheets put out by the White House, State Department or Chinese press office.

What's on the menu for the State Dinner with China's Xi Jinping?

Photo 2: Xi and Peng Arrival



Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady Peng Liyuan arrive at Paine Field in Everett, Washington, September 22, 2015.

China will have its second State Dinner Friday at the White House, and the Obamas can be expected to honor President Xi Jinping and Madame Peng Liyuan with both exquisite food and top-notch R&B entertainment.

For the dinner, "Top Chef" competitor Anita Lo, who came in fourth on the show's first season, will join forces with White House Executive Chef Cris Comerford to serve a memorable menu: wild mushroom soup with black truffle, grilled Colorado lamb, and Maine lobster, an item that made an appearance at the Obamas' last State Dinner with China. For dessert, they'll have a poppyseed bread and butter pudding. Chinese touches include the Shaoxing wine served with the soup and the lychee sorbet that is part of the dessert course.

President Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan will be in a dining room outfitted in crimson tones, reflecting a central theme of roses, which the White House says demonstrates "a deep respect for both Chinese and American architecture and landscapes."

Afterwards, guests will be entertained by one of R&B's luminaries: the White House chose Ne-Yo -- yes, [that Ne-Yo](#) -- to headline the entertainment for the evening, promoting the R&B artist as a "GRAMMY Award-winning singer, composer, producer, actor, and founder of a non-profit organization" in a preview of the dinner.

But a little pomp and circumstance will come first, with the Sphinx Organization String Quartet of Detroit, Michigan, as the evening's opening act.

Ne-Yo will perform a couple of selections from his six full-length records (of them, the White House notes, three topped the charts as #1 albums).

His best known hits, like 2005's "So Sick," remain R&B classics, but he's also a prolific collaborator, having written Beyoncé's hit, "Irreplaceable." He's also responsible for songs like 2009's summer jam "Because of You" and, from his third album, "Miss Independent." Ne-Yo, whose real name is Shaffer Chimere Smith, is also a quarter Chinese.

It's not the first time the White House has chosen contemporary musicians to feature in the State Dinner program. Beyoncé performed on the White House grounds following the 2010 State Dinner with Mexico, and John Legend and the folk rock band Mumford & Sons headlined the British State Dinner back in 2012.

President Obama and President Xi's discussions are expected to focus heavily on cybersecurity and threats during the Chinese leader's visit, according to White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest. They will also examine issues like the South China Sea, human rights, the economy, and climate change.

CBS reported the above online.

China state dinner: Extra helpings of business, diplomacy quotient, easy on Hollywood flair

by Darlene Superville And Nancy Benac, The Associated Press

Posted Sep 26, 2015 8:09 am PDT

Last Updated Sep 26, 2015 at 8:40 am PDT

WASHINGTON – Dinner is supposed to be a chance to unwind after a tough day at the office, but the extravagant dinner that President Barack Obama put on in honor of Chinese President Xi Jinping served up plenty of opportunities to keep the business talk going well into the night.

The head table where Obama and Xi sat was studded with top executives from many of America's leading corporations, including Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, Disney, DreamWorks and others eager to chat up the leader of the world's most populous country.

The 200-plus guest list for Friday's soiree in the East Room of the White House was a business-heavy mashup of Hollywood, diplomacy and corporate chieftains, seasoned with the addition of ballerina Misty Copeland and Mark Cuban, owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks.

Asked as he arrived whether the evening would be about business or pleasure, DreamWorks Animation CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg said: "Fun. I hope."

For more than a few guests, a night at the White House was a chance to score points with a parent or other family member brought along as the "plus one."

"Empire" creator Lee Daniels and R&B singer Ne-Yo, who entertained the guests after dinner, brought their mothers.

Clara Daniels, glowing in a coral gown, declared her date "my No. 1 son" — but didn't specify if that was because he's the oldest of her two sons or because he came up with the dinner invitation.

"I am the most proud mom," enthused Harriett Loraine Burts, mom to Ne-Yo. Then she looked for a way to escape the cameras, confessing, "I'm not good at this red carpet thing."

As for how he landed Friday's gig, Ne-Yo theorized it's because of the "Chinese in my heritage somewhere."

While a few female guests, including Copeland, seemed stumped when asked who designed their outfit, there were no unanswered questions about Michelle Obama's fashion statement. She wore a black, off-the-shoulder mermaid gown by Chinese-American designer Vera Wang.

Xi's wife, Peng Liyuan, another fashion-savvy first lady, went with an embellished silk gown in rich aquamarine with beading on the bodice and skirt.

The decor in the East Room featured roses superimposed on the ceiling and included a 16-foot (5-meter) silk scroll depicting two roses that the White House said was meant to symbolize "a complete meeting of the minds."

That may have been somewhat aspirational, given the sharp differences between the U.S. and China on a range of issues.

But all of that was largely glossed over in the dinner toasts. Obama said that while some differences were inevitable, he wished that the American and Chinese people may "work together like fingers on the same hand in friendship and in peace." Xi described his visit as an "unforgettable journey" and praised the good will he felt during his travels from West Coast to East. He called for a "new, historic chapter in U.S.-China relations."

Asian influences permeated the dinner plan, right down to the Meyer lemons in the lemon curd lychee sorbet. (The citrus fruit is thought to have originated in China.)

Guest chef Anita Lo, owner of Annisa in New York's Greenwich Village and a past "Top Chef" competitor, is a first-generation Chinese-American from Birmingham, Michigan, who helped create dishes that highlighted "American cuisine with nuances of Chinese flavor," according to the White House. Guests dined on wild mushroom soup, poached Maine lobster, grilled cannon of Colorado lamb and poppyseed bread and butter pudding.

The dinner marked the midpoint of a daunting trifecta for a White House team led by new social secretary Deesha Dyer. They played host to Pope Francis earlier in the week. Now comes events the Obamas will host next week in New York, where the president will attend the U.N. General Assembly.

Let's have a gay old time

One Washington wag commented that it was so nice to see so many same sex couples at the dinner. Unfortunately, she didn't do her homework. There were only two known gay guests at the dinner and both brought lady guests. Most of the same sex couples either involved father/son or mother/daughter combos (Albright for one). Some of them were obviously business associates.

There's a RAT in the White House.

It's no secret that there have been a lot of "rats" in the Oval Office and working in the White House over the years, but it has been a carefully guarded secret over the years that the White House has a serious problem with real rats and mice. There are three reasons for the problem that the White House hasn't been able to cure: 1) The age of the place; 2) The distance between the White House kitchen and the East Room; and 3) The need to use an outdoor basement level walk-way between the kitchen and East Room. One White House legend, revealed by a retired Chief Usher, told the story of one lady guest at a state dinner in the East Room who kicked off her shoes to be more comfortable during the dinner. When she slid her feet into them after the end of dinner she discovered one of them was occupied by a White House rat! When various cats, traps and poisons didn't work in the outside "holding area" where food was kept; the staff tried scattering goodies among the bushes on the other side of the walkway. All that did was bring out more rats.

The Play (Diplomacy As Theater)

As we've seen there's a lot that goes into a State Dinner at the White House: preparation, arrivals and departures, the receiving line, the seating, the welcome, the dinner, the toast(s), the entertainment, the departure, the clean-up and, yes, the counting of the silver or gold ware afterwards.

What if I had done this as a DipCon?

Over the years Diplomacy has had its share of "State Dinner" events at various World DipCons, North American DipCons, European DipCons, etc. Some of the ones I especially remember as being a cut above the average were:

DIPCON XVIII (1986), Fredericksburg, VA, at Mary Washington College is memorable for its lovely colonial-style site (actually a WPA project) and splendid gaming hall.

DIPCON XXII (1989), San Diego, CA, at the Town & Country Hotel (gaming and banquet) and Westgate Hotel (tet-a-tets).

<http://www.westgatehotel.com/meetings-gatherings/meeting-planner-kit>

EURO DIPCON I (1993), Paris, France, at the Foreign Ministry Conference Center (now the 6 star Peninsula Hotel) complete with crystal chandeliers, marble floors, Gobelin tapestries on the walls, and cheap gilded chairs (Much like the ones used in the White House).

Photo 11: Paris Peninsula Hotel



DIPCON III (2014), Seattle, WA, at the Washington Athletic Club with some of its major sessions in the Club ballroom, complete with crystal chandeliers and plenty of Chihuly class and crystal around.

All of these events shared much in common with their more elaborate White House state dinners: an open and a secret agenda, guest list, a menu, a beverage list, and plenty of time for socializing!

What if I were going to do a DipCon as a State Dinner?

Looking back at previous DipCons and White House State Dinners and looking ahead to the future I can only fantasize and speculate on what a future DipCon held at the White House might be like. I know it's just a dream or, perhaps, a vision; but perhaps the next generation of Dippers can make it so. Here's my idea of what it might be like:

The State DipCon & Dinner for H.E. Fang Zhang

The Stage: The traditional diplomatic reception and dining rooms are used.

People Behind the Scenes: There are none. It's all done by androids and robots.

The Agenda: WDC XL (2028), Washington, D.C., The White House; and featuring the unveiling of a 222 foot statue of Allan B. Calhamer in front of the Postal Square Building at 2 Massachusetts Ave. FYI: the building is not square at all. Nor is the parking lot in front of it.

The Guests: The President and Mrs. Edi Birsan, Jr., H.E. Zhang Fang, Madame Zhang Yanhong, and Master Zhang "Archie" Fang; various H.E.; and lots of The Honorables; for a total of 222 guests classified as VVVIPs, VVIPs, VIPs, IP, NSIP. (No, I am not going to list names, ages or positions. That's too much like work.) Sitting at the "Old Farts" table, just behind and one level higher than the head table were: Professor John Boardman (100+), Fred Davis, Jr. (100+), Professor Walter Buchanan (87), Capt. Rodney Walker (85), and others of equal antiquity.

The Tournament: All games are played using the latest laptops, Apple iPod Touch (12th Generation) – 144 GB – Pink; cellphones (ear-embedded); with the exception that "Old Farts" are allowed to use post-its and ball point pens. All game-related negotiation communications were limited to 140 characters; and turns were limited to 5 minutes.

The State Dinner

The Menu: Catered by Panda Express and Domino's Pizza

The Wine List: Donated by BevMo including recalled Chateau Gallo Rotgut '12 and Mao tai sparkling wine.

Entertainment: Yo Ur Ne & The Spice Boys

Conclusion

OK, enough of this foolishness. Will the last person leaving please shut off the Peeriblah?



WorldDipCon 2016 will be in Chicago!

Hosted By

The Windy City Weasels Diplomacy Club

<http://windycityweasels.org/wdc2016>

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Make Your Plans Now! Enjoy All That Chicago Has to Offer! See You There!



Doing Pro Bono

By Joshua Danker-Dake

I'd like to talk to you today about a low-commitment, low-effort way you can contribute to the Diplomacy community.

Quick, what's the worst thing about online Diplomacy?

It's people quitting mid-game, am I right? It's absolutely the worst. You're cranking along, you've finally got your friends and enemies halfway figured out, the tension is mounting because somebody's about to make a move... And then one-center Austria, who has mentally checked out turns ago, takes one too many NMRs and auto-surrenders.

Depending on the site you're playing on, you're looking at one of two outcomes. In some formats, your game comes to a screeching halt, bogging down for days, for weeks, for all eternity—that's the main reason I quit playing on the judges. In others, the surrendered country holds in perpetuity as the game continues, violently skewing the balance of power as its neighbors dash to gobble up its undefended centers.

Either way, it sucks completely.

You can help. How? Well, first of all, don't be a quitter. But second, you can go to the site you play on, find a game that's down a player, and join it. You'd be helping six people out. You'd want somebody to do that for you, right? It doesn't have to be a chore; you can pick and choose the game situation you're in the mood for.

If you're short on time and just looking for some good karma, you don't have to make a big commitment; some of these abandoned positions will only require a few minutes of your time, as often, it's just a matter of shepherding a small, besieged country to elimination, with little or no tactics or negotiation necessary.

For example, it never seems to be hard to find games with surrendered one-center Austrias who are all but certain to be eliminated in the next game year. In a case like that, the sum total of your due diligence might just be to ask, "Russia, do you want to support me into Vienna?" If he doesn't, then hey, you tried.

In these games, sometimes, the threat of your single unit moving can keep the other players on their toes; other times, it simply doesn't matter. In such completely hopeless cases, I might just give a support to the first country who didn't have any of my home centers and asked nicely. Die in the manner that seems best to you; that's what you're there for, after all.

Or, if you like, you can choose a game with a substantially more viable position available. This can be particularly fun when it allows you to jump right into an exciting mid- or late-game position—to take part in a Grand Alliance, for example, or to take over a third- or fourth-place country that's still got an outside shot. Find the underdog that's right for you.

In these cases, you're playing to win or, failing that, to share in a draw. Here are a couple of somewhat obvious tips for making the most of your chances when you join as a fill-in.

First (and most obvious), review the flow of the game up to the present with a focus on who has attacked and supported whom (and especially who has attacked *you*) and where these powers' momentum is taking them.

Second, if your site allows it, review your power's prior correspondence and see how it lines up with what's happened on the board.

Third, listen to what the other players are saying to you in the present, and remember that they are a lot more invested in the game than you are at this point.

Then, given all these considerations, you can make an informed decision on what course to take. You shouldn't feel obligated to maintain your country's past alliances by any means—this is Diplomacy, after all; you're free to do what you want.

When I join these sorts of games, when there are team-ups—and always when there's a Grand Alliance—I prefer to be open and honest up front. Typically, that means I'll tell my new allies my moves in advance, probably for two or three turns. Remember, these kids don't know you. If you want to be in a good position to make a move later, don't rock the boat now. A fresh breeze of trustworthiness and communicativeness in the mid-game can go along way with frustrated players who have been in the trenches the entire time.

When you join a game as a replacement, you're doing a service to the Diplomacy community and to the other six people in that particular game. Although you may—and probably should—be an irritation to some of them, what you're doing is better for that game than letting it languish in purgatory forever or allowing one power to swoop to victory because the front just unexpectedly caved in.

Filling in makes the hobby better. And a lot of times, it's just a nice way to get a good Diplomacy fix without the full time commitment.

A Journey Through Peeriblah:

From a quadruple coronary bypass artery graft and carotid endarterectomy procedure to the Goto Islands

By Larry Peery

In the Beginning

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, for want of a better name, what I call the Conservative Creationist Coalition seized control of K-12 local school boards and systems in many of the so-called "red states" in the United States. In 2010 the battle for control of local school boards and our educational system was rejoined when the Obama Administration attempted to "reform the 2001 NCLB.

Here are some background sources on this subject.

1. NCLB Law (No Child Left Behind Law) Passed in 2001 and took effect in 2002.
<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/no-child-left-behind/>
2. ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
<http://www2.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>
3. Overview
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_Child_Left_Behind_Act

These are obviously complicated issues. I want to focus on one.

NCLB's main focus is on skills in reading, writing and mathematics, which are areas related to economic success. Combined with the budget crises in the late-2000s recession, some schools have cut or eliminated classes and resources for many subject areas that are not part of NCLB's accountability standards. Since 2007, almost 71% of schools have reduced instruction time in subjects such as history, arts, language, and music to provide more time and resources to mathematics and English.

In some schools, the classes remain available, but individual students who are not proficient in basic skills are sent to remedial reading or mathematics classes rather than arts, sports, or other optional subjects.

According to Paul Reville, the author of "Stop Narrowing of the Curriculum By Right-Sizing School Time," teachers are learning that students need more time to excel in the "needed" subjects. The students need more time to achieve the basic goals that should come by somewhat relevant to a student.

Physical Education on the other hand is one of the subjects least affected. Some might find this confusing because like many electives and non-core classes, No Child Left Behind does not address Physical Education directly. Two reasons why Physical Education is not

adversely affected include the obesity crisis in the United States that the federal government is trying to reverse through programs like First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign, which among other things, looks to improve the quantity and quality of physical education.] Secondly there is research, including a 2005 study by Dr. Charles H. Hillmam of The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that concludes that fitness is globally related to academic achievement.

The opportunities, challenges, and risks that No Child Left Behind poses for science education in elementary and middle schools- Worldwide competition insists on rapidly improving science education. Adding science assessments to the NCLB requirements may ultimately result in science being taught in more elementary schools and by more teachers than ever before. 2/3 of elementary school teachers indicated that they were not familiar with national science standards. Most concern circulates around the result that, consuming too much time for language arts and mathematics may limit children's experience—and curiosity and interest—in sciences.

I recently read online where the amount of time available in grades K-12 in many school districts for the study of Social Studies had declined since the introduction of the NCLB from just under 10% to just over 7%.

Social studies is the "integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence," as defined by the U.S. American National Council for the Social Studies.

Social studies is most commonly recognized as the name of a course or set of courses taught in primary and secondary schools or elementary, middle, and secondary schools, but may also refer to the study of aspects of human society at certain post-secondary and tertiary schools around the globe. Many such courses are interdisciplinary and draw upon various fields, including sociology but also political science, history, economics, religious studies, geography, psychology, anthropology, and civics.

In addition many school districts have made "optional" or dropped entirely such cultural enrichment classes as music, or various types of sports and athletic programs. Specialized courses and programs, such as one I took in the early 1960s called "How to Study" have completely disappeared, although for me it proved to be one of the most valuable courses I ever took in school.

A brief review of what has happened in the last fourteen years or so convinces me that the intent of the NCLB was to increase the amount of time students would spend on reading, math, science and --- mostly importantly --- learning how to “pass” the various proficiency tests they would be required to take during their school years. The theory behind this was that this would improve their ability to function in today’s high-tech society when they entered the job market.

You may be wondering what this has to do with us as parents, students and Dippers. It’s simple. A sound knowledge of history and geography; and to a lesser extent sociology, political science, and psychology, is as vital to playing Diplomacy well today as it was over fifty years ago.

To show you how things have changed over the years I offer this example. If you look at Allan Calhamer’s or Henry Kissinger’s academic records at Harvard (Calhamer studied history, Kissinger studied government because Harvard had and has no political science department) in the 50s you won’t find a reading, math or science class in either of their records. By the time Rod Walker, Conrad Von Metzke and I were in college and university in the 60s we were all focused on studying the social sciences of one kind or another; and math and the sciences were something we struggled to get through with as little damage to our GPAs as possible. Today when I go to a FTF Diplomacy event one of the first things I do is ask the younger players what they studied in school or what kind of work they do. In most cases I can’t understand either when they respond, but I can’t recall meeting any player in recent years who was specializing in the social sciences. And the situation is the same or even worse overseas.

I attribute this to four causes: 1) Students are not motivated, although they may be frightened into their studies; 2) They are not getting proper support from their parents or siblings, who simply regard K-12 schooling as a form of baby-sitting; 3) Their teachers are not motivating them because they themselves are not motivated; 4) They think a yet-to-be-invented gadget of some kind will come along that will replace traditional academics and most importantly; 5) They haven’t properly learned “how to study” and learn for themselves.

I see the same thing happening with newbies and beginners in the Diplomacy hobby today. No longer, in most cases, do they read the hobby’s literature or history, study past games, watch the Dip Masters play, etc. Instead they want a crash 15-minute lesson in how to play by Adam Silverman, a crib sheet written by Edi Birsan, a multi-volume video from Steve at HistoryGamerDotcom or, God forbid, a pod cast on DiplomacyCast.com done by Nathan and Eric. Don’t get

me wrong, there is nothing wrong with any of these methods; however I have the impression that depending on them to launch a Diplomacy playing hobby doesn’t do much to prepare the newbie to play Diplomacy over the long-haul. Today, as in so many other things hobbyists want a short game (1907 max) played quickly and run by a BBAC (Big Brother Automated Clock) because, I suppose, “time is of the essence.” Gone are the leisure days of “The First and Second Golden Ages of Diplomacy” when games played out to their natural conclusion (e.g. hopefully a 18-center win) and often lasted all evening and well into the night, if not the next morning. We saw the same thing in postal Diplomacy where a postal game could last many, many game years (Most games rarely ended before 1914 or so (as I recall 1966A lasted into the next decade)) and usually went on for years of real time; which has now been pretty much replaced by computer-adjudicated games that barely last a few weeks and the players frequently don’t know the other players’ real names --- let alone anything about them.

Time passes, and things change --- even in Diplomacy. That’s life. However, when society begins to do away with subjects like history and geography it is removing the very bricks and mortar that this hobby is built of.

At the End

Moving from my concern about the state of our youthful hobby to the opposite end of the spectrum let’s consider the state of our senior players and Old Farts. The reality of demographics is upon us and after fifty years a lot of the original hobby members have left us and a lot are 25 pills-a-day away from doing so. I find it ironic that Fred Davis, who studied demographics and worked as an actuary for his entire career, is now, at eighty-two (I think.) still very much with us and, although a bit infirm is still sharp enough to be interested in the hobby. Walt Buchanan, the founder of DIPLOMACY WORLD over forty years ago is well into his seventies but still chairs a university department, teaches at a university and still keeps his eye on the hobby. On the other hand, Rod Walker, who is in his early seventies suffers from a variety of ailments that have pretty much ended his long and distinguished Diplomacy career.

This is a subject I didn’t think much about until I turned 62 in 2009. That was the year when I realized, after a seventeen-hour dual quadruple bypass and carotid endarterectomy procedure, that my insurance company had just theoretically paid my hospitals and doctors over a million dollars to do for me what a good plumber would have charged a few thousand dollars to do to my house. Fortunately I had good medical insurance, although I had no home owner’s insurance if I’d really had to face a major mechanical plumbing problem. I solved those problems by getting on Medicare Parts A, B, D, “Extra Help” and Medi-cal. That brought the cost of a forty

thousand dollar two day hospital stay down to \$560 and a thousand dollar prescription down to \$1.20, thanks to Obamacare. As for the plumber's costs that was easy, I just sold the house.

As some of you know in the past six years I've been in and out of the hospital six times, mostly due to various heart-related problems. Part of this I could not prevent . An examination of my family history revealed that both my parents and my aunt all had heart-related problems that were a major factor in their deaths. The other part of it was, simply put, I'm getting old and my body's systems are starting to wear out and break down. In 2009 the doctors told me that my heart was operating at about 40% of its optimum level. Today, after six trips to the hospital and some two million dollars in medical bills, I'm functioning at about 70% of capacity. I knew that getting old would cause slow-downs and limitations on what I could or could not do, but give me a break. Not being able to walk a block, climb a single flight of stairs, put on my shoes, or hold a fork properly were not what I expected.

Today I mostly do what the doctors tell me, get my tests, and take my meds; all the while repeating my mantra "the doctors are treating the symptoms, not curing the illness," and wait for the next hospital visit or new wonder drug to come along.

This has affected my Diplomacy hobby career in several ways. Certainly in 2009 I was in worse shape. I couldn't write orders. I couldn't even see a Diplomacy board except as a black and white blur and had to rely on my memory to remember what spaces Bohemia bordered on. But after that first major surgical experience and the return of a normal blood flow to my heart and brain I came back. By 2013 I was ready for a real Diplomacy come-back. In six months I attended three major DipCons in Paris, Silver Spring and Seattle; and played some of the best (and worse, to be honest) Diplomacy I've played in years. In Paris I played seven games in four days without once miss-writing an order. In one game playing France I found myself facing four Frenchmen and a Belgian, four of whom attacked me in Spring 1901 and I still managed to hold them off until 1904. Unheard of! Those of you who have read DIPLOMACY WORLD or THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH in the last year or so know that the stream of Peeriblah has resumed and grown from a trickle to a flood to a tidal wave ---even if the quality hasn't improved much.

Recently I've been working on three major Diplomacy-related projects: 1) Submarines, 2) Vienna, and 3) Peter Paul Rubens. Nearly two hundred pages were in the can and I figured I was about two-thirds done with these projects when disaster struck! Only this time it didn't strike me, it struck my computer. Saturday had been a relatively normal day; nearly 200 emails in and out and four to six hours pounding away at the keyboard working

on my Rubens piece. About 2200 I decided to call it a day. I closed the files, shut down the programs, turned off the computer and went to bed. Then, as is not unusual, I woke up around 0100 and got up to check the news and email online. Still half-asleep I staggered to the computer and turned it on. The computer seemed to be doing its thing but then I noticed a "Windows Is Loading" screen that wouldn't go away. I just sat there staring at it and waiting for something to happen. After about ten or fifteen minutes a blue screen covered with white letters flashed for a few seconds. I only had time to read a message that said something like "Your computer cannot..." and then it was gone. I didn't panic. I just turned it off and went back to bed, figuring it would heal itself and everything would be just fine in the morning.

Well, it wasn't. Again I got back to the "Windows is Loading" screen and then nothing. After waiting a while I called my computer guru, Mike Maston, and told him what had happened. He said it would be a few days before he could come up and check out the computer.

I sat there and pondered what to do without the computer or internet. Argh..... I realized that going back to a typewriter was no option since I no longer had my trusty IBM Selectric II electric typewriter and my 1933 Adler manual portable was buried somewhere in The Archives along with my B&W television and transistor radio. ARGH... And then it hit me that because my hands and fingers can't deal with a pen or pencil very well anymore pens, pencils, legal pads and handwriting were no longer an option either. ARGH!!! !

I looked around for a solution and it slowly dawned on me that I had no readily available computer, no internet, and no word processor. Literally, over-night as a wordsmith had retrogressed fifty years or more.

But Wait!

And then I had an epiphany moment, a renaissance or, if you will, a peerisance. I decided to put the computer, the internet, the word processing, the writing and Diplomacy aside for the moment. Instead I would look for something else to do with the resources at hand. Instead of trying to create something I would focus on re-creating and up-dating myself.

Once I made that decision the rest fell into place fairly simply, especially when I decided to do it "cold turkey." After the computer went it was easy to turn off the television and cable and ignore the telephone; so for the next two weeks; while I waited for the computer to be fixed; I was left to my own simple devices. Not having a cell phone, iPod, game player, CD player, DVD player etc. certainly helped.

While I was at it I decided to give up alcohol, junk food and fast food; and so the "rot gut," Doritos, Cheetos and fast food of any kind went by the way side which may

explain why McDonald's, Carl Jr.'s and Burger King's sales have fallen so far so fast recently although I confess the last time I ate at McDonald's was at the CDG airport in Paris in 2013. I even cut my Tab consumption from a six-pack a day to two cans. Surprisingly I didn't miss any of them and suffered no ill effects from my sudden life style change.

So what did I do with all that newly found time I had? First, I rediscovered my collection of some 800 LPs that I had acquired from the mid-60s to the late-80s. I made friends again with some of my favorite composers like Schubert, Sibelius, Vaughan Williams and performers like Maurice Andre and Alfred Brendel; the original cast recordings of musicals like From Palestrina to John Cage it was all mine again. I dug out my old original-cast recordings of South Pacific, The Sound of Music, Kismet and Hair and listened to them ---often for the first time in many years. When the LPs weren't going the VHS player was. I found videos that came mostly from the 80s including many old RKO classic movies in B&W from the 1930s, Disney classics from the 50s and 60s, Live from Lincoln Center performances I had taped from the 1980s including a video tape of Leontyne Price with the Houston Grand Opera in her farewell performance of Aida (And I couldn't help remembering I had heard and recorded on reel- to- reel tape her first 1961 radio broadcast of Aida from the Metropolitan Opera in NYC, complete with the 27 minute standing ovation she received.). I even came across the three six-hour video tapes I had recorded of the 1976 Bicentennial Celebrations in New York and Washington. It was as if the prime years of my life were again passing before my eyes and ears again.

And then there were the books I had acquired over the last six years or so with every intention of reading them, but somehow I never seemed to get around to it. Now I pulled them out of the bookcase, stacked them up (it was about a two foot tall stack) and weighed into them. Whereas in the last half-dozen years or so I could rarely read for more than ten pages or ten minutes at a time without jumping up to check my email, read the news, or replace my empty Tab can, I found my reading speed and concentration were almost what they were fifty years ago. I found I was reading a book a day, sometimes a book and a half. Books like:

The Borgia Chronicles by Mary Hollingsworth,
Master of Shadows: The Secret Diplomatic Career of the Painter Peter Paul Rubens by Mark Lamster,
Rubens: a Portrait by Paul Oppenheimer,
The Letters of Peter Paul Rubens translated and edited by Ruth Saunders Magnun,
A Night at the Majestic by Richard Davenport-Hines,

War Plan Orange: The U.S. Strategy to Defeat Japan, 1897-1945,
Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World by Evan Thomas,
Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth by Frederick Kempe,
Murder at the Watergate by Margaret Truman,
And, coming full circle, Inferno, by Dan Brown.

Finally, after two weeks of this "new" old regimen Mike called with the good news that the computer was fixed. It took \$170 and three hours for Fry's to fix a relatively minor problem that was preventing the computer from booting up. In other words it was an OS problem and not a hardware or software problem. Along the way a good cleaning and a flash-drive helped bring the computer up to speed.

I was back in business. It took me two days to wade through the 700 or so emails that had piled up in the In Box and Spam Box. Mostly it was a matter of hitting the Delete key over and over and over. In fact, thinking about it, there wasn't one really important email that came in during that two-week period. Nor could I find any earth-shaking news I had missed. I guesstimated that the \$250 spent fixing and upgrading the computer had been covered by the savings I made in not buying "rot gut," Tab or junk food.

The big challenge came when I turned on Earthlink and started opening the email files. I noticed that I had over 7,000 emails in my Sent Box and 11,000 in my In Box. It was the same story with Word, nearly 400 saved files with from 2 KB to 2.3 MB sizes; and mostly related to dip&Dip in one way or another. Interestingly, two of the three largest files were two of the three projects I was working on when the system crashed.

So I plunged in and within a few days the Rubens piece had grown to 64 KB of memory, 40 pages and 10,000 words in the Word file (without pictures), but it was done and on the way to TDP. Next up, the 2.3MB of memory, 139 pages and 37,000 words (and lots of pictures) or so (and counting) Vienna and dip&Dip piece destined for DW. The subs piece is still under water somewhere between Faslane and the Goto Islands, but it will eventually surface somewhere.

In the meantime what I can tell you is that from now on I plan to devote at least an hour a day to my LPs and books! And, if you have school-aged kids I suggest you encourage them to do the same, especially if it's related to history or geography. Allan, the Diplomacy hobby and I will thank you; and eventually your kids will too.

Solution to Problem: England to Mate in One

By Conor Kostick and Thaddeus Black

Solution to 'Mate in One'

F ADR-Tri
F AEG s A Alb-Gre
A Alb-Gre
F BAR s A Nwy-Stp
A Bel h
F ENG-Bre
F HEL s A Mun-Kie
F ION s A Alb-Gre
F Mar h
A Mun-Kie
F NTH-Den

A Nwy-Stp
A Par h
F Swe s F NTH-Den
A Syr-Smy
F Ven s F ADR-Tri

Alternatively, the same but:

F NTH-Nwy
F Swe-Fin
F HEL-Den
A Mun-Ber

Club and Tournament Report

By Will J. Abbott

As the deadline for this issue approached, I was deep in several things. The most interesting for you is surely the preparations for the Diplomacy tournament at Necronomicon. Necronomicon is a science fiction and gaming convention in Tampa, Florida, USA. The organizers are a local science fiction fan club. This is my first year putting on a tournament at the convention.



In setting up how this tournament will be, I was acutely aware of the fact that it was at a convention for other things. This setting must be taken into account when structuring the tournament. Unlike at a Diplomacy-only convention (like Tempest in a Teapot, with which it shares a date), there are other events happening, and some of the players may want to participate in them. As I set up this tournament, I wanted to keep this option open.

Thus I made certain decisions about the structure of the tournament. At a Diplomacy-only tournament, the structure is determined by the organizers' ideas of what makes a good or enjoyable tournament. Scoring systems, number and timing of rounds, whether or not to use drop rounds – what makes for the best tournament is certainly debated, but Diplomacy-only tournaments do their best to represent someone's opinion of this.

At a wider convention, however, the realities of this context need to be taken into account. Thus I selected C-Diplo for the scoring system for Diplomacy at Necronomicon. Although it is little used in the United States, it has the advantage of providing for a definite end, and thus the games can be scheduled for definite time periods. Players can join a game, knowing when it will end, and being able to plan the rest of their day, whether that includes playing a different game, going out with friends, or attending a panel.

A second reality to take into account is that not everyone who will want to play will be tournament going Diplomacy players. A typical Diplomacy tournament takes an entire weekend, and if you want to have a fair chance at it, you need to play most, if not all, rounds. Each round in some

tournaments can be six hours or more, and in a four round tournament that is 24 hours – an entire day spent playing Diplomacy. This is a large commitment for someone who remembers playing it a few years ago and feels like giving it a try in between games of Magic or Dominion.

Thus for Diplomacy at Necronomicon I have set it up so that anyone who plays one of the first three rounds is eligible for the top board and thus for the tournament win. I did this by counting only the best single result. The seven players who play in the final round with the highest single results will make up the top board. The top board in the final round will produce the top seven spots, but otherwise the best results will determine the placement.



Using this many drop rounds would be controversial at best in a Diplomacy-only tournament. After all, it would only encourage people to skip rounds and thus lower the

board counts. But at Necronomicon I am hoping that it will encourage people to play who would not otherwise play. I'm not asking them for all weekend. I'm only asking them for four hours. But I'm hoping that, if they give me four hours this time, that in the future they will want to give an afternoon for a house game. Then, after that, maybe they'll give a weekend for a tournament, or even travel to another part of the country for a weekend tournament! Even if they don't go that far, I hope to spread the game to new people, and give people an opportunity to experience it.

Because, in the end, that is probably the biggest difference in the context of a Diplomacy tournament at a wider convention: not everyone is there to play Diplomacy. Most of the people there are not. This simple fact can mean that the Diplomacy games get lost in the shuffle, being a relatively minor part of the wider event. It also is prime opportunity to spread the game to new people. Many people may never have played it. Others have not played it in person. Most of them have no idea that Diplomacy is played competitively, or that people will travel to play it! A Diplomacy game will get onlookers.

This last point need not be restricted to Diplomacy tournaments. A couple weeks ago, my wife hosted a party for Origami Owl. For those of you who have not heard of this company, it makes lockets with clear faces, as well as charms to be put inside the lockets, and it is sold by home businesses working with particular people who have incentives to invite friends to look at the products and place orders. Instead of having the party at our house, the party was at a local restaurant. Near the end of the party, a woman who was not one of my wife's guests came over to look at the lockets and charms. She may even have placed an order later! She would never have seen this stuff had we held the party at home.

The same can be true of Diplomacy. Diplomacy games in homes are good; but if you can, get out and play in public. The Windy City Weasels regularly play in bars. Restaurants, libraries, and parks can be other options. If you play the game in public, people will notice. Some will wonder what you are doing. Others will notice and remember playing themselves. Some will ask questions, and for this reason it can be good to have an extra person who is not involved in the game to give answers and explanations. Invite anyone who asks questions to join your group. Have something to collect names and email addresses. But let the game do the selling for you.

Vienna: City of dip&DIP - A Sneak Preview

By Larry Peery

1814 – 1815

First Congress of Vienna

From September 1814 to June 1815

They came by ones and twos. Then they came for tens and twenties. Finally they came by the hundreds.

They came from, The Four Great Powers and Bourbon France, Austria, England, Prussia and Russia; France; The Signatories of the Treaty of 1814: Spain, Sweden, and Portugal. Others included: Denmark, The Netherlands, each of the cantons of Switzerland, The Papal States, the Republic of Genoa, Sardinia, Parma, Lucca, Bavaria, Wurttemberg, Hanover, Brunswick-Luneburg, Mecklenburg-Schwerin

Emperors, kings, princes, dukes, counts, viscounts, barons, marquises, earls, and even a single secretary; all gathered to redefine the balance of power in Europe and redraw the maps of the world.

They all had common goals: The powerful and rich wanted to keep what they had; the weak and poor wanted something, anything that would improve their lives; and the growing middle-class wanted more power to go with their increasing wealth. Above all they wanted peace and a restoration of the status quo ante Napoleon.

Virtually every state in Europe had a delegation in Vienna – more than 200 states and princely houses were represented at the Congress. In addition, there were representatives of cities, corporations, religious organizations (for instance, abbeys) and special interest groups – e.g., a delegation representing German publishers, demanding a copyright law and freedom of the press. The Rothschilds were already established in London (where they did well loaning money to the participants in the Napoleonic Wars) and Paris; and within five years they would be solidly established in Vienna (loaning money to the Hapsburgs that were still struggling to pay off the loans that had financed the Congress).

The royalty and important nobility arrived in carriages with scores of aides, servants and escorts. The Emperor of Russia travelled with 40 carriages, a hundred wagons and 400 Cavalry escorts.

The lesser nobility arrived in a carriage with an outrider or two. One enterprising young businessman named Taxis rented out the same carriage to a score of arriving nobles, being careful to change the flags and regalia on the carriage for each; and to collect his fare in advance.

Years later his descendants would be among the richest people in Germany.

The bankers and merchants arrived in shared carriages (think mini-buses) followed by wagons carrying their wares.

Young nobles, hoping to find a place in one of the court establishments arrived on a horse, wearing a hat, cape and sword; and usually without a schilling in their pocket.

And finally the local girls, each carefully inspected by the Imperial doctors to make sure they were healthy and disease free. When the number of girls proved insufficient to satisfy the demands of the visitors, common prostitutes flocked to Vienna.

The Emperor of Austria had said that during the Congress of Vienna, the City would be the capital of Europe; and he did everything he could to make it so. He built a new wing on the Hofberg to house the Emperor of Russia and his retinue; and the seven kings who would attend. Later it would serve as the Imperial wine cellar and office of the President of the Republic of Austria. The newly rich merchant class was ordered to build impressive looking palaces on the city's main avenues and if anyone noticed that the fronts were built of stone but the sides and back were of wood no one commented. Temporary barracks were built to house the soldiers and horses who poured into the city by the hundreds, if not thousands. Bier gardens, like the Bierfreihof Napoleon on the Kagranner Platz and the Crown and Sword in the Leopoldstadt, which still exist, did a brisk business in cheap beer, wine, noodles and dumplings; and the new rage, goulash. All this the Emperor paid for out of his own funds, at the rate of 250,000 florins a day. It was commonly said that the combined wealth of all the other rulers present did not total that much; and it suggested that even the Emperor of Russia had borrowed the funds to finance his trip.

The Congress was noted for its lavish entertainment: according to a famous joke it did not move, but danced. Waltzes and polkas were all the rage, but the nobility and aristocracy found time to attend performances of oratorios by Haydn, operas by Handel, and symphonic music by Salieri and Beethoven. During the winter there was a giant sleigh ride through the streets of the City for the most important visitors. There was even one solemn high requiem mass performed for one of the delegates to reportedly died in a bierfreihof from over-drinking. But that was Wien in 1815.

1961

Second Congress of Vienna: On Diplomatic Immunity
From 2 March to 14 April 1961

They came by ones and twos, with a few exceptions, at the summons of the United Nations and the invitation of the City of Vienna to attend the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities.

They came from Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussia, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Columbia, Congo (Leopoldville), Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Germany, Federation of Malaysia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Vietnam, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of South Africa, USSR, United Arab Republic (at that time Egypt and Syria were united in one state), United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia --- in all eighty-one countries were represented.

They gathered at the Neue Hofburg, the same palace where the delegates to the First Congress of Vienna had gathered nearly a hundred and fifty years before.

Mostly the delegates stayed at their embassies or ambassadorial residences, although a few of the newly independent and poor African state delegates could be seen coming and going from a nearby hostel.

The agenda was supposed to consist of two major things: the protection of diplomats and the inviolability of their luggage and "diplomatic bags," but first the meeting had to deal with the "hot topic of the day" --- who would represent China, the Republic of China (Taiwan) or the Peoples' Republic of China (Beijing. Taiwan won that battle. It would be another ten years before Beijing took the Chinese seat at the UN.

The UN chairman pointed out a long list of violations against not only UN diplomats (little did anyone realize that a few months later the Secretary General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold, would die under mysterious circumstances in a plane crash in The Congo ((an event which prompted the current secretary of the United Nations, Ban Ke-Moon, to reopen the investigation of)), but against other diplomats as well. One incident involved a Nigerian diplomat (as some said) or a businessman (as others said) who was kidnapped by a team of US and Israeli agents, stuffed

into a shipping crate and then put on a plane outbound from London for Lagos --- only to be rescued when his cries for help were heard by a baggage handler on the plane just before take-off.

But mostly the discussion was of the security of diplomatic luggage and "diplomatic bags" --- terms which no one had ever attempted to define. The UN personnel with assistance from representatives of the Austrian government brought a Studebaker US6 (G63) 5 ton (4536 kg) 6x4 truck (made in the USA for export to the Soviet Union during WWII) into the meeting hall filled with one hundred one hundred pound crates which the Russian embassy was trying to drive across the border under the claim it was "diplomatic baggage." The Austrian customs and border police refused to allow it to pass; and eventually the Russians drove it back to Vienna. The delegates were shown photos and x-rays of diplomatic bags clearly filled with weapons (including some that were used in a political assassination carried out in Vienna), drugs and other contraband. One bag, still reeking of alcohol, had been seized at the Vienna airport the day before ; still bearing its diplomatic baggage tags written in Arabic. It was common knowledge among the delegates that many South American, African and Asian countries allowed their diplomats to send home "diplomatic bags" of goodies to be sold to supplement their meager salaries. It was rumored that Sukarno, the dictator of Indonesia took a 50% cut of all such items.

The Austrian and Viennese governments were upset not only over security issues but also over lost revenues and, once they threatened to post a list of those countries engaged in the illegal and undiplomatic practices, the delegates quickly caved in and a 32-page agreement was approved, albeit with pages of reservations and exceptions from a list of countries that read like a "who's who" of the worst offenders.

As the delegates left for home at the Flughafen Wien-Schwechat , the baggage handlers and customs inspectors noted how little luggage most of them were carrying.

1961

Third Congress of Vienna: The Vienna Summit
Kennedy-Khrushchev Meeting
From 3-4 June 1961

They came, the two of them, representing the hopes of the world for peace. The one talked. The other triumphed.

Kennedy arrived after a stop-over in Paris where Jackie captured the heart of French President Charles DE Gaulle and was loudly cheered by crowds. but her husband got little support from the French leader in his new Air Force One Boeing 707 jet and climbed into his

equally new Lincoln Continental limousine (The same jet that two years later would carry him from Dallas back to Washington; and the same car in which he would be assassinated.) Khrushchev arrived on board a whistle-stopper train that stopped along the way on the trip from Moscow to Vienna. At each stop large banners and crowds of school kids gathered to politely applaud.

The President's advance team had arrived days before and carefully prepared for his visit, even installing the famous "red phones" at the Arc de Triomphe and in a writing room at the Soviet embassy in Vienna in case the President found it necessary to launch an all-out attack against someone while he was traveling. (Remember this was before cell phones)

Kennedy was 44, youthful looking and in his prime in Vienna. Khrushchev was 67, looked it with his balding head and roly-poly, 5'3" stature. What few Americans knew, but apparently Khrushchev did, was that Kennedy suffered from Addison's Disease, chronic back pain and chronic venereal disease; and was being treated for all of those by a personal physician commonly known as "Dr. Feelgood" in Los Angeles, New York and Washington.

In the two days of tet-a-tet talks Khrushchev first bullied his own generals and advisors; and then the US president. Kennedy, on the other hand, appeared to defer to his generals and ignored his advisors; and responded to Khrushchev's harsh criticisms and attacks with lengthy paeans to the greatness of democratic forms of government.

By all accounts, including Kennedy's aides and Khrushchev's own memoirs, the Vienna summit between the two was a triumph for Khrushchev and when it was over Kennedy told British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan it was "the worst day of my life." Still, Khrushchev didn't get everything he wanted in Vienna. While Jackie was greeted everywhere she went by cheering, applauding crowds ten deep in the streets, Nina was barely acknowledged and official greeters with signs saying "applause" had to encourage the few people on the streets to greet her.

Kennedy went home to soberly brief the American people on his "frank and complete" discussions in Vienna; clean up the Bay of Pigs mess; try to keep the Laos mess from spreading into Cambodia and Vietnam; prepare for the next Soviet move in Berlin (the wall would go up months later); and gird himself to deal with the Cuban Missile Crisis a year or so away.

Khrushchev went home and gave a triumphant speech to a skeptical Russian leadership who had been mortified by his behavior and appearance in Vienna. The next time he was seen in public he was wearing an imported Italian suit and shoes. They didn't help much.

1979

Fourth Congress of Vienna: Signing the SALT II Agreement

Carter-Brezhnev Meeting

June 15 – 19, 1979

After years of talks and negotiations all over Europe and across the Atlantic filled with nit-picking over details; They gathered by the dozens (the US delegation numbered thirteen, the Soviet delegation numbered twelve) with each side headed by its leader, President Jimmy Carter for the Americans, and Party General Secretary and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (a title he had been given in 1977 so he could officially sign international agreements and treaties). Each was accompanied by his secretary of defense, secretary of state, senior military officials, the local ambassador, and political and substantive advisors. Hundreds of reporters followed Carter from the USA and Western Europe. Less than ten followed Brezhnev from Moscow.

The situation in Vienna was a reversal from the 1961 Kennedy-Khrushchev summit. This time Brezhnev was 73 and a physical wreck. CIA agents had tapped the toilets in his Moscow apartment to track his diabetic condition. His own doctors had given him special cigarette holders that had an hourly time lock to cut down on his pack-an-hour smoking habit. Brezhnev got around that by equipping all of his security guards with holders set for different times.

Carter on the other hand, was a youthful 55; and only a handful of top advisors and the president's doctors knew he suffered from painful hemorrhoids.

Still the two appeared to get along better than Kennedy and Khrushchev had done. Carter rarely stopped smiling, even when Brezhnev was scowling. After their summit Brezhnev complained that because Carter never stopped smiling he couldn't tell what he was thinking. He joked that "If I'd declared that we would launch an attack on the United States the next day, Carter would have kept right on smiling."

There was one touching moment, quite literally, between the two. On the last morning of their talks Carter changed the agenda and came to the Soviet embassy to say good bye to Brezhnev. As the Soviet leader walked him out to his car the two stopped at the top of the stairs to wave at the photographers gathered below. As Brezhnev waved he appeared to lose his balance and almost fell down the dozen steps. Carter quickly grabbed his arm and held him erect until Brezhnev's guards could assist him.

The key achievement in the Agreement was numerical parity between the two sides; which conservatives on

both sides denounced as a major defeat for the home team. Although the two men signed the Agreement in Vienna, when the Russians invaded Afghanistan later in the year Carter withdrew the Agreement, perhaps because he knew the Senate would never approve it anyway. Although both sides honored the provisions of the Agreement it was never officially ratified and thus failed to gain Treaty status.

Brezhnev died in 1982 at age 75 and is buried in the Kremlin Wall Necropolis. Jimmy Carter, at age 91, is still with us.

1989
Wiener Spielefest Austrian National Diplomacy
Championship
17 – 19 November 1989

On the first day they gathered by their hundreds or perhaps a few thousands in the Messenplatz Imperial Riding Stables where the Hapsburg kept their horses years before. By the last day they numbered 25,000 and filled all ten of the stable buildings.

The single top board consisted of seven players: three tournament winners from other events, the three top players from the combined tournament scores, and the previous year's champion. I commented to Erik Adenstedt, the half-Austrian/half-American about how young the Austrian players looked; and he grinned at me and said, "They're all older than I am and I'm only 25.)

I also noted that two of the players on the top board were named Wolfgang and he remarked that Wolfgang was a very common name among Austrians, especially in Vienna. I spent the rest of the afternoon wandering around asking any male I saw playing Diplomacy or watching the championship game what their name was. Whenever one of them said, "Wolfgang," I immediately asked if he was a composer or musician. I found one who admitted to playing the electric guitar.

For more information on this event check out the following:

DW #56, Fall 1989 pp. 45 (17 – 19 November)

<http://www.diplomacyworld.net/pdf/dw56.pdf>

DW #57, Winter 1990, pp. 41 – 47

<http://www.diplomacyworld.net/pdf/dw57.pdf>

2008
World Diplomacy Championship (Lockenhaus, Austria)
15 – 17 August, 2008

They came by ones, twos and car loads to the Burg Lockenhaus, a medieval fortress in the Guns Valley near Lockenhaus in the Burgenland State of Austria, some 95 miles east of Vienna and very close to the Hungarian border. The fortress was built in the 13th century to defend the area against Mongol invasion.

One American, one Australian, two Canadians and 59 Europeans gathered to compete for the XVIII World Diplomacy Championship.

When it was all over Germans had taken the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th places; including a victory for Julian Ziesing. A Frenchman, Cyrille Sevin came in 2nd. A Swede came in 4th and a Dutchman came in 6th. The highest ranked Austrian came in 12th, Canadians came in 8th and 33rd, the Australian came in 31st and the American came in 30th!

For more information see the Diplomacy Database and the Wikipedia International Prize List of Diplomacy articles.

2015
Fifth Congress of Vienna: Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety Adopted by Diplomatic Congress
9 February 2015

They came by the hundreds to sign off on the latest revisions to the Agreement on Nuclear Safety originally prompted by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

The United National International Atomic Energy Agency sponsored the meeting at the Vienna UN City

After the previous year's meeting had attracted over 800 delegates from 69 contracting parties and the previous year's disaster in Fukushima, representatives from 77 nations and organizations arrived to sign the 2015 Declaration.

The Declaration filled five pages, double-spaced. It really didn't say much but it let the nuclear powers know that the eyes of the world were on their four hundred nuclear power plants (there are one hundred or so in the United States), that one of the world's most advanced users of nuclear power (Germany) was shutting down its nuclear power plants; and that nobody really knew what North Korea or Iran were up to.

While the delegates gathered inside the Vienna International Center conference hall; two groups of young students from the Ukraine and Japan lined the steps outside the hall, each dressed in their national colors and carrying a white mum. After the issuing of the Declaration the UN Secretary General, the head of the IAEA, and the chief delegates from the Ukraine and Japan walked out to the top of the steps leading up to the hall, slowly walked down the steps and then turned and solemnly bowed to the students.

2015
Sixth Congress of Vienna; P5 + 1 Talks Between 5 UN Security Council Permanent Members, Germany, the EU

and Iran on The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
1986 – 15 July 2015

They came from the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, Germany, the European Union and Iran to once again discuss Iran's nuclear program as they had been doing for nearly ten years.

As to be expected the United States and Iran had the two largest delegations, each headed by their secretary of state or foreign minister and their secretary of energy or minister of energy. Each team was backed up by a variety of diplomatic and substantive experts. Surprisingly, neither delegation included any senior military officers. The British, French and German foreign ministers would come and go periodically to support the American team. The Chinese and Russian foreign ministers would do the same for Iran. The German foreign minister tried to keep nudging the two sides closer to an agreement; and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs tried to keep everybody on target.



For security and privacy reasons the meetings were held in the five-star hotel Palais Coburg (the only place available on short notice in peak tourist season) which reporters quickly claimed was because of the Palais's "bunker-like" meeting rooms and pundits claimed was because the hotel had the largest collection of Dom Perignon in Europe. The chief US delegate, Secretary of State John Kerry, stayed at the Imperial Hotel (the same hotel Hitler had used on his 1938 visit to The City. The chief Russian delegate, Sergei Lazrov, reportedly stayed at the Bristol Hotel while his team stayed at the Russian embassy.

Most delegates moved between their hotels and the meeting site in new Mercedes and Audi cars with chauffeurs and appropriate security provided by the Austrian government. John Kerry, however, moved

around in a heavy Cadillac limousine brought in from Seoul just for the meeting.

On the second day of the meetings one reported posted two photos in the press center: The first, from 1961, showed US President John Kennedy hobbling around on his crutches in Vienna. The second, from the previous day, showed US Secretary of State John Kerry hobbling around on his crutches, also in Vienna.

While hundreds of members of the press and supporting staff stood by; the delegations met privately and in small groups to negotiate and re-negotiate every article, paragraph, sentence and word of the draft agreement, almost going back daily to the same items over and over. At the end the final sessions went nineteen straight days before an Agreement was finally announced.

Lazrov stuck to the Russian Vienna summit tradition of rushing into the press room to be the first to announce an agreement had been reached; leaving a very miffed young Italian female European High Commissioner, who all had agreed would make the official announcement, in his wake.



At the press briefing afterwards one US delegate commented, "You all now know more about centrifuges than you ever wanted to learn."

On the way to the airport the next day the American delegates stopped at the local MacDonald's that had been feeding them for the last two weeks, posed for pictures with the staff and went on to the airport loaded down with Big Macs and French Fries. On board the Air Force transport taking them home, the crew broke out several cases of Dom Perignon provided by the Secretary of State for the delegates and staff. The air and security crews got one can of Austrian bier each.

And that was Wien in 2015.

For more, much more about this topic stay tuned.

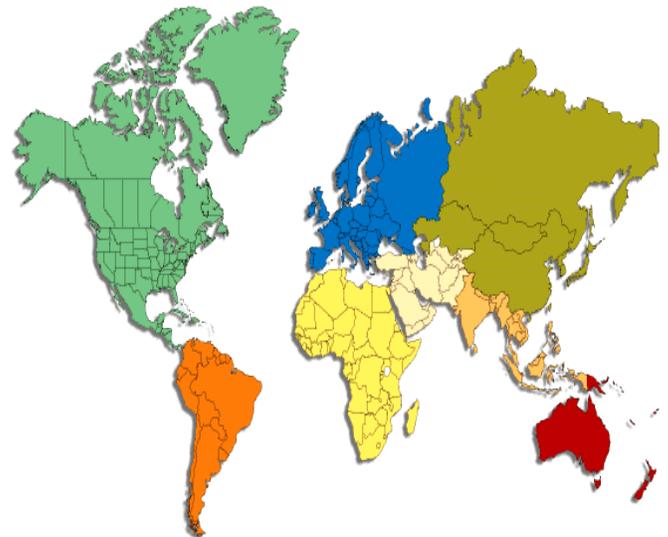
The Diplomacy World Cup: Is it gone forever? Heck, no...

By Jim Burgess

So, as you may recall from last year, the attempt to resurrect the Diplomacy World Cup III with an audacious win-only system just led to a set of unsatisfying solo tradeoffs in the first round. I was convinced that this really could not happen so easily in the finals (and I went on record in true punditry flameout fashion) since as some point a team had to generate a solo not matched by another team in order to win. Nevertheless, the Diplomacy World Cup III did crash in flames without a proper resolution. To those still harboring regrets or anger about that, I sincerely apologize and feel free to blame me for everything. Doug always does. However, it did resurrect the interest in the DWC Council and we did elect a stellar group of people (I do not include myself in the stellar part, though I am on the DWC Council, and will do my best to help us find a viable way forward) to set up and run DWC IV. But rather than rush into production with an ill-thought out system and scoring methodology, we are working on "getting it right" so that we can have a successful WDC IV. I know, I know, there are you skeptics out there that think the task is "impossible", you can't have a non-manipulable team scoring system that won't lead to too much cross-gaming. You may well be right, and certainly some cross-gaming is endemic to a team format, but I think we can design a "somewhat better mousetrap" that at least doesn't crash and burn in flames. While we are NOT ready to announce that system yet, I am most worried that WDC history will lead people to avoid WDC IV without giving it proper consideration. So, one of my main points today, hoping to have MUCH more to say in the DW Winter issue in January, is to see if I can whet some appetites so that at least some rumblings of excitement can build. The worst thing for this effort would be to open the doors and have no one show up to DW IV.



Of course, one might first ask, why should there be a Diplomacy World Cup at all? I'm not as wild eyed excited about this concept as say, Larry Peery, but it IS fun to represent your country and try to generate some bragging rights as the country with the best Diplomacy diplomats. We need to remember that The Hobby is The Hobby, and it's supposed to be fun. I've had fun with all three of the previous Diplomacy World Cups, even the ill-fated WDC III, but then again I'm pretty much an optimist, a joiner, and not inherently oriented toward complaining. As a result I like debating and interacting with ALL of you.... Well, except for Doug, who mostly is just annoying... just kidding, Doug!!! But, the format of having seven players represent a country means that the large countries don't have to win, and this is almost certainly going to be retained. And you need to have some kind of preliminary round with very open standards for allowing people to play, leading to a final round that probably has seven countries and 49 players. These are the basic elements that the WDC IV Council has started with.



What else can I tell you about our deliberations so far? Well, we have elected Pete Marinaro as our Chair, and in addition to me our deliberative DWC IV council includes Angelo Cervone, David Blom, Eric Hunter, Dorian Love, Zhang Fang, Jeremie LeFrancois and Jim Green. If you want to give any of us input, I'm sure we would be pleased to hear it, we want to develop a DWC IV that people want. Here are some things we are thinking about, with little decided for sure to date. If we can get lots of participation in the initial round (more than 22 teams) then we can ensure that no set of teams has more than two games in common from which to do planned cross-gaming. To me, the key is having LARGE

number of teams in the preliminary round, and then the 7x7 49 players in the final round where you can't really cross-game easily without handing the tournament to another team. The stakes increase on each of the seven games at that point and everyone shares seven games with each of the other teams. This is a big reason why I'm trying to drum up interest now, we will need LOTS of entrants to make it work. And once you begin with fewer players than desirable, the cross-gaming ramps up and the system collapses. We are thinking of the model with Team Captains who are monitoring their teams, and possible backup players, though this always is the fuzzy part of the DWC, getting the teams formed and not having them flame out and ruin first round games. There is some discussion about having a preliminary round before the "first round" with just free entry and no teams. The plus to this is that you have to demonstrate some skills and outcomes to get into the main first round, but it will take longer and even good players sometimes get eliminated quickly when ganged up on. Speaking just for myself, I'm more inclined to get over 22 teams in a first round and have a relatively open process for getting into the DWC and onto teams. That entails multiple national teams (especially in the more active countries like USA, France, and UK), but only one national team can get into the finals. Some of the other thorny problems include: how do you deal with NMRs? (do you allow them, and keep games moving, but ruin positions when they happen?), what are the individual and team substitution rules?, what is the speed of the games?, how long do the games go? (perhaps 1911 in first round and unlimited in the finals??), and perhaps most importantly, what is the scoring system in the first round and the finals (could be different)? That may seem like a daunting set of decisions, but to my mind many of them fall into place as soon as you get enough players and teams into the tournament in the first place. One of the problems with DWC III was trying to start games sequentially, it does solve another problem, how to have 200 or more players in the first round ready to go on the same day, but if you have 20-30 games all starting at the same time, it really ramps up the excitement, and the complexity of managing whatever cross-gaming happens. I think I speak for the Council that they liked the idea of promoting solos, but Chris Babcock's solo only approach was a bit too "high-powered". In incentive parlance, in these sorts of systems, low-powered incentives are needed that diffuse the power of cross-gaming trades. Anyway, as we go through the fall (the Council had a bit of retrenchment in the summer), we will be making all of these decisions, and hope to be able to

announce the new DWC soon. You can join the Diplomacy World Cup Yahoo group (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/DiplomacyWorldCup/info>) that currently has 264 members (plenty enough to run the tournament, but the more the merrier!) if you want to be sure to be involved and you can post your ideas there if you like.



If this sparks some ideas that you want to get directly in the hands of the Diplomacy World Cup IV Council, feel free to send them directly to me at ifburgess@gmail.com, or any member of the Council that you know. We really are open to input to get a DWC IV off the ground that reforms and reinvigorates the medium. Remember, ALL things except single FTF games are variants, so is DWC, but it can be a lot of fun.

Youngstown IV – Diplomacy World Demo Game – 2013Cxm03 – “Reasonland”

The Players:

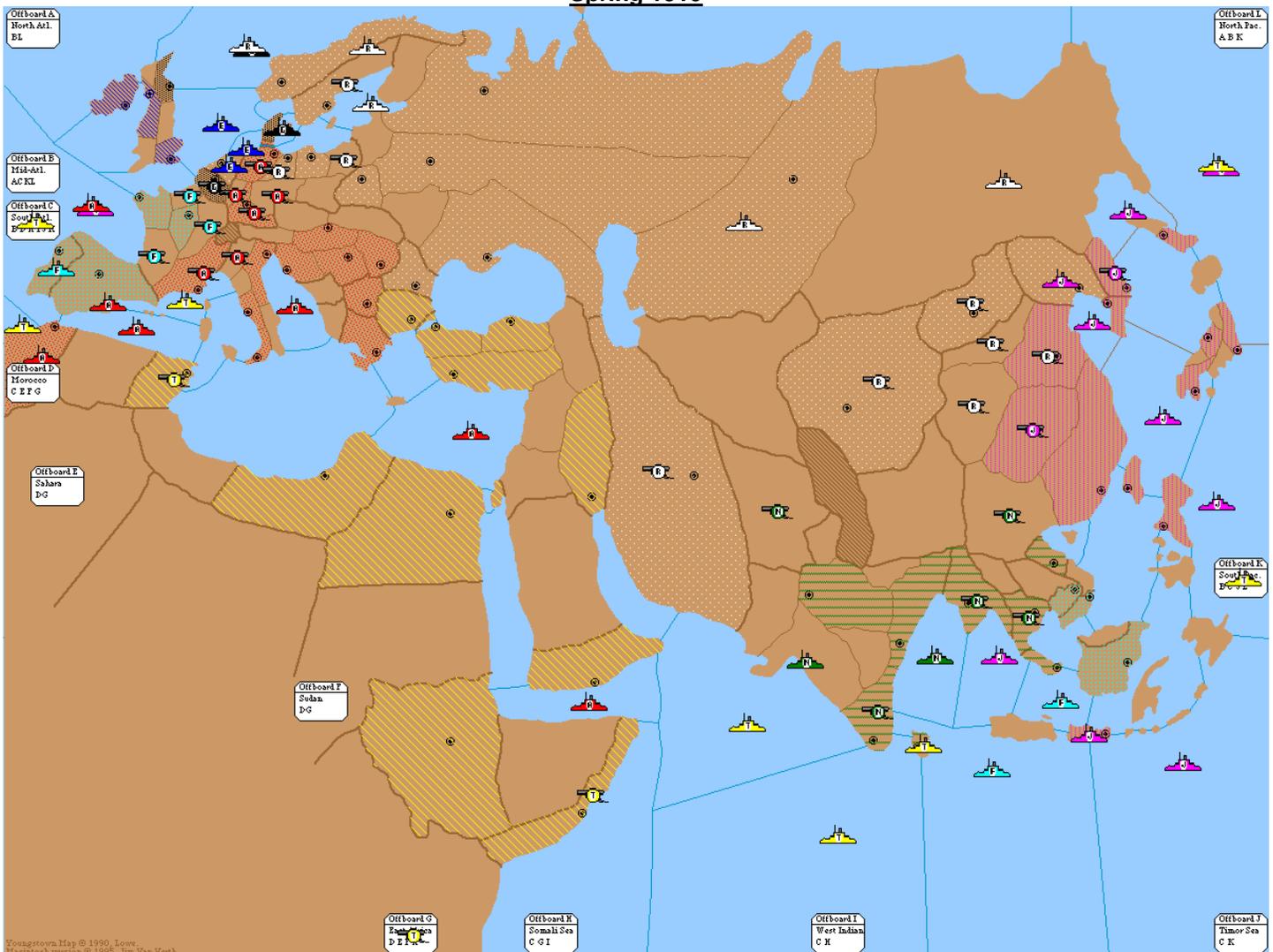
Austria: Andrew Leavey
 China: Tim Haffey
 England: Graham Wilson
 France: Larry Peery
 Germany: ~~Andy Bate~~/David Partridge
 India: ~~Heath Gardner~~/Harold Reynolds
 Italy: Brad Wilson
 Japan: Walt Buchanan
 Russia: Nathan Deily
 Turkey: Ernest Hakey III

GM: Douglas Kent

The Commentators:

Jim Burgess
 Rick Desper
 Jack McHugh

Spring 1910



Youngstown Map © 1990, Love
 Historycraft version © 1995, Tim Van Veen

Austria: F Ionian Sea - Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Kiel Supports F Holland (*Cut*), F Marseilles - Spain(sc), F Morocco Supports F Off Board B - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Munich - Burgundy (*Fails*), F Off Board B - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Piedmont – Marseilles, F Red Sea - Gulf of Aden, A Ruhr Supports A Munich - Burgundy (*Cut*), A Saxony - Munich (*Fails*), F Trieste - Adriatic Sea, A Tyrolia – Piedmont, F Western Mediterranean Sea Supports F Marseilles - Spain(sc).

England: F English Channel - North Sea, F Helgoland Bight Supports F North Sea – Holland, F North Sea – Holland.
France: A Brest – Picardy, A Burgundy Supports A Brest - Picardy (*Cut*), , A Gascony Supports A Burgundy, F Gulf of Siam - Malay Sea, F Portugal Supports F Spain(sc), ~~F Spain(sc) Supports F Mid-Atlantic Ocean~~ (*Disbanded*), F Sumatra - East Indian Ocean.
Germany: A Belgium - Ruhr (*Fails*), F Denmark - Kiel (*Fails*), ~~F Norwegian Sea Supports F English Channel – North Sea~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Clyde or Edinburgh or North Atlantic Ocean or OTB).
India: F Andamon Sea - Bay of Bengal, A Calcutta – Madras, ~~F Ceylon Supports F Sumatra – East Indian Ocean~~ (*Disbanded*), A Delhi – Afganistan, A Joharra – Thailand, F Madras – Rajastan, A Sikang - Tibet (*Bounce*), A Thailand – Burma.
Japan: F East China Sea Supports F Tokyo - South Pacific Ocean, A Hankow - Kansu (*Fails*), F Java Supports F Timor Sea, F Korea – Manchuria, F Malay Sea - Andamon Sea, ~~F Mid-Atlantic Ocean Supports F Spain(sc)~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Brest or English Channel or Irish Sea or North Atlantic Ocean or OTB), ~~North Pacific Ocean Supports F Tokyo – South Pacific Ocean~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Kar or Hokkaido or Sea of Japan or Tokyo or OTB), F Sea of Okhotsk Supports A Vladivostok, F Timor Sea Supports F Sumatra - East Indian Ocean, F Tokyo - South Pacific Ocean, A Vladivostok Supports F Korea – Manchuria, F Yellow Sea - Peking (*Fails*).
Russia: F Barents Sea - Norwegian Sea, A Berlin Supports A Kiel, ~~F Holland Supports A Kiel~~ (*Disbanded*), A Inner Mongolia Supports A Manchuria – Peking, A Kansu Supports A Sinkiang - Tibet (*Cut*), A Manchuria – Peking, F Norway Supports F Barents Sea - Norwegian Sea, A Outer Mongolia Supports F Siberia, F Omsk Supports F Siberia, A Posen – Prussia, A Sevastopol – Iran, F Siberia Supports F Off Board L - North Pacific Ocean, A Sinkiang - Tibet (*Bounce*), F St. Petersburg(sc) - Gulf of Bothnia, A Sweden Supports F Norway.
Turkey: A Algeria – Tunis, F East Indian Ocean – Ceylon, F Gulf of Lyon Supports F Marseilles - Spain(sc), F Off Board C - South Atlantic Ocean, A Off Board D - Off Board G, F Off Board J - Off Board C, F Off Board K - South Pacific Ocean (*Fails*), F Off Board L - North Pacific Ocean, F Persian Gulf - Arabian Sea, F West Indian Ocean Supports F East Indian Ocean – Ceylon, A Magudisco waves at Austrian sailors (Holds).

PRESS

Baghdad: In a surprise visit to the southern city which so proudly built so many fine Turkish warships, the Sultana praised shipyard workers, both men and women, for their superb efforts. The shipyards would continue to operate but primarily as a repair and refitting base, she informed the vast throng of hard-working Turks and Arabs who had come to see her speak, indicating that the recent betrayal by the Indian government would require additional land troops be raised, and hinting that Baghdad steel might soon be used for a new mobile weapon, though details on what that weapon would consist of were not provided.

Anon: “An, Mina, my favourite wife, there you are!” said Osman with a big welcoming smile.

“Your only wife, I hope!” she growled playfully, shaking off her umbrella out the door.

“That you know about,” added Bahbie, artfully sidestepping a blow that was cleverly disguised as gallantly removing her pale green overcoat. At five-foot-seven, Mina was an inch shorter than her husband, and her slender build accentuated her husband’s more stocky and muscular form. Bahbie took her umbrella and shook the excess water off of it out the open door. “Can I get you anything?”

“No, thank you,” she replied. “I came here for the show.” Puzzled, Bahbie made the verbal equivalent of a blank stare. “That show,” Mina said, gesturing behind him. Giana was still there in the entrance to the dining area, arms folded under her bosom, slipped right foot tapping, with an expression of what could only be described as amused malice on her face.

“An excellent effort at stalling, dear husband,” she said. “I believe you were supposed to be remembering something?”

“Of course, how silly of me!” exclaimed the chef, smacking his forehead in ill-feigned remembrance. He hustled past Giana into the dining area. “Malik!” he shouted down towards the kitchen area. After a moment, a tousle-haired young man with a chef’s hat on poked his head through the kitchen doors.

“Yes, boss?” he asked, a knowing and impish grin on his face.

“Bring me The Box.” Bahbie tried to look conspiratorially at his cook, but didn’t quite pull it off.

“Yes, boss!” replied Malik, disappearing briefly into the kitchen, and then pushing through the swinging doors holding an elaborately carved and polished box made of teak that was a bit larger than his outstretched hand and about two inches thick.

“Those are the words every master wants to hear,” said Mina.

“Yes, boss,” said Osman meekly, from outside smacking range. She wagged a finger at him.

“Thank you, Malik,” said Bahbie as the cook arrived, handed him the box and retreated a few steps. “For you, my love, on the occasion of our twentieth wedding anniversary,” he said, pivoting on his heel and presenting it to Giana. She took it and looked at it carefully from all angles.

“This is really nice,” she said, almost grudgingly, and admired the geometric pattern that had been carefully inlaid in the lid. “It has excellent workmanship. Thank you very much, Bahbie.”

"Press your fingers here and here," Bahbie said, putting his arms around her to demonstrate. There was a click and he used two other fingers to open the lid. "It's also very secure." The workmanship was such that the seam of the lid was all but invisible when it was closed.

"What are these?" asked Giana. Inside the box, on the dark velvet, were five orange diamond-shaped objects of varying sizes, with lighter-orange diamond-shaped centres. Osman and Mina crowded around for a look, while Bahbie stepped back to make room.

"I thought you might like quarter-carrot diamonds for our anniversary," said Bahbie innocently. Osman snickered and Mina giggled, and then hastily stepped away from the probable epicentre of an explosion. Holding the opened box in her right hand, Giana picked the largest of the "diamonds" from it with her left thumb and forefinger and, after inspecting it, popped it into her mouth and ate it.

"Again, excellent workmanship, and fresh too," she said after swallowing it. "What are you really up to?" She fixed him with the basilisk stare they all knew so well.

"I am innocent. Of all worldly knowledge!" Bahbie protested. Snorts and eye-rolling indicated that this was not a widely-held belief. Taking advantage of the planned distraction, Bahbie employed sleight-of-hand (which he'd been practising for a couple of weeks) to cause a much smaller box to appear from thin air in his right hand. This he opened and presented it on bended knee to Giana. "Maybe this is the quarter-carat diamond you were expecting?" Deftly, he removed the ring from its box and slid it onto her ring finger, where it fit perfectly. "After twenty years of putting up with me, you deserve far more than this. I love you, Giana! We've been married half our lives, and if I have any regret, it's that we couldn't have gotten married any sooner!"

All of the diners, joined by the kitchen and wait staff that had quietly sneaked into the dining area, burst into loud applause. "Are those – tears – in her eyes?" whispered Osman to Mina as Giana pulled her husband to his feet and gave him an obviously bone-crushing hug. Further speculation was cut short by an accurate blow to the gut from Mina's elbow.

"Let's get some cake," said Mina as a large "Happy Anniversary!" cake, lit with 20 sparklers, was wheeled out of the kitchen.

"Make a wish, everyone!" said Bahbie, with only a slight wheeze and creaking of ribs. "Mine came true twenty years ago!"

15 April 1910 (On the Kalanian'ole Highway, Southeast O'ahu) Walter had promised Esmeralda a special surprise for her birthday and so it was to be. Before dawn with the help of Yamamoto and a couple of his personal Marines staff, Walter had loaded up a sturdy carriage in front of the Commandant's House with enough supplies for a two, maybe three, day outing.

While it was still dark Buchanan had coaxed Esmeralda into the carriage and the foursome (Esmeralda, Walter, Yamamoto and a Marine driver) set off toward Honolulu.

Just before dawn they passed through the city after dropping off Yamamoto and the Marine, and headed east on the Kalanian'ole Highway, if a rutted dirt road could be called a "highway," out past Diamond Head in Southeast O'ahu. Yamamoto had discovered the Halona Cove and Blowhole on one of his explorations of the coastal area. He mentioned it to Buchanan and Walter decided it would be a great spot for a "surprise" birthday party for Esmeralda --- just the two of them.

Known as "The Peeryng Place", this cove is situated to the right of the Halona Blowhole. The rocky cove has a small sandy beach that is great for swimming when the surf is calm. This beach is probably best known as the site of the famous love scene between Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr in the 1953 movie, From Here to Eternity. It hasn't changed much from when Walter and Esmeralda, or Burt and Deborah, were there. There's still no lifeguard and no facilities --- just a sandy beach, rocky shoreline with good swimming when the water is calm, a bit of parking at the Halona Blowhole Overlook, and difficult, rocky, somewhat steep hike down to the beach.

Unfortunately, I can't offer you any pictures or videos of Walter and Esmeralda's visit, but I can offer you two clips from From Here to Eternity.

First, a bit of background on what I consider one of the best war movies of all time that was made in 1953.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/From_Here_to_Eternity

It's not easy to find the complete 1953 movie online but you can find the 1979 remake complete if you look for it. I suggest watching the original; which in 1953 won 8 Oscars and was a box office smash hit.

http://video.search.yahoo.com/video/play?p=from+here+to+eternity+full+movie+online+free&tnr=21&vid=CD5AEC7CB5A055D39AC3CD5AEC7CB5A055D39AC3&l=13239&url=http%3A%2F%2Fts1.mm.bing.net%2Fth%3Fid%3DUN.608042312935342640%26pid%3D15.1&rurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DBzNCQNFUqtc&sig=11bjv0se9&tt=b&tit=From+Here+to+Eternity+%281979%29+-+part+1&sig=115narc6j&back=http%3A%2F%2Fus.yhs4.search.yahoo.com%2Fyhs%2Fsearch%3Fp%3Dfrom%2Bhere%2Bto%2Beternity%2Bfull%2Bmovie%2Bonline%2Bfree%26type%3Dnldstr_14_13_ie%26param1%3D1%26param2%3Dcd%253D2XzuyEtN2Y1L1Qzu0DtDtByBzzzz0BtC0D0ByDyCtA0FzytN0D0Tzu0SzztCyEtN1L2XzutBtFtCzztFtBtFtDtN1L1CzutCyEtDtAtDyD1V1TtN1L1G1B1V1N2Y1L1Qzu2SyEtB0Azy0CzzyC0DtGtCzztAtAtGyBtBzy0FtGtC0EtCyBtGyDtC0ByB0EtD0D0Bzy0E

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 3Dus%2526a%253Ddnldstr_14_13_ie%2526f%253D4%
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 7.116%2526os%253DWindows%252B7%2526cc%253D
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 archdial%26hsimp%3Dyhs-

fullyhosted_003%26hspar%3Dironsource%26ei%3DUT
 F-8&sigb=1r5tgl9pt&hspar=ironsource&hsimp=yhs-
 fullyhosted_003

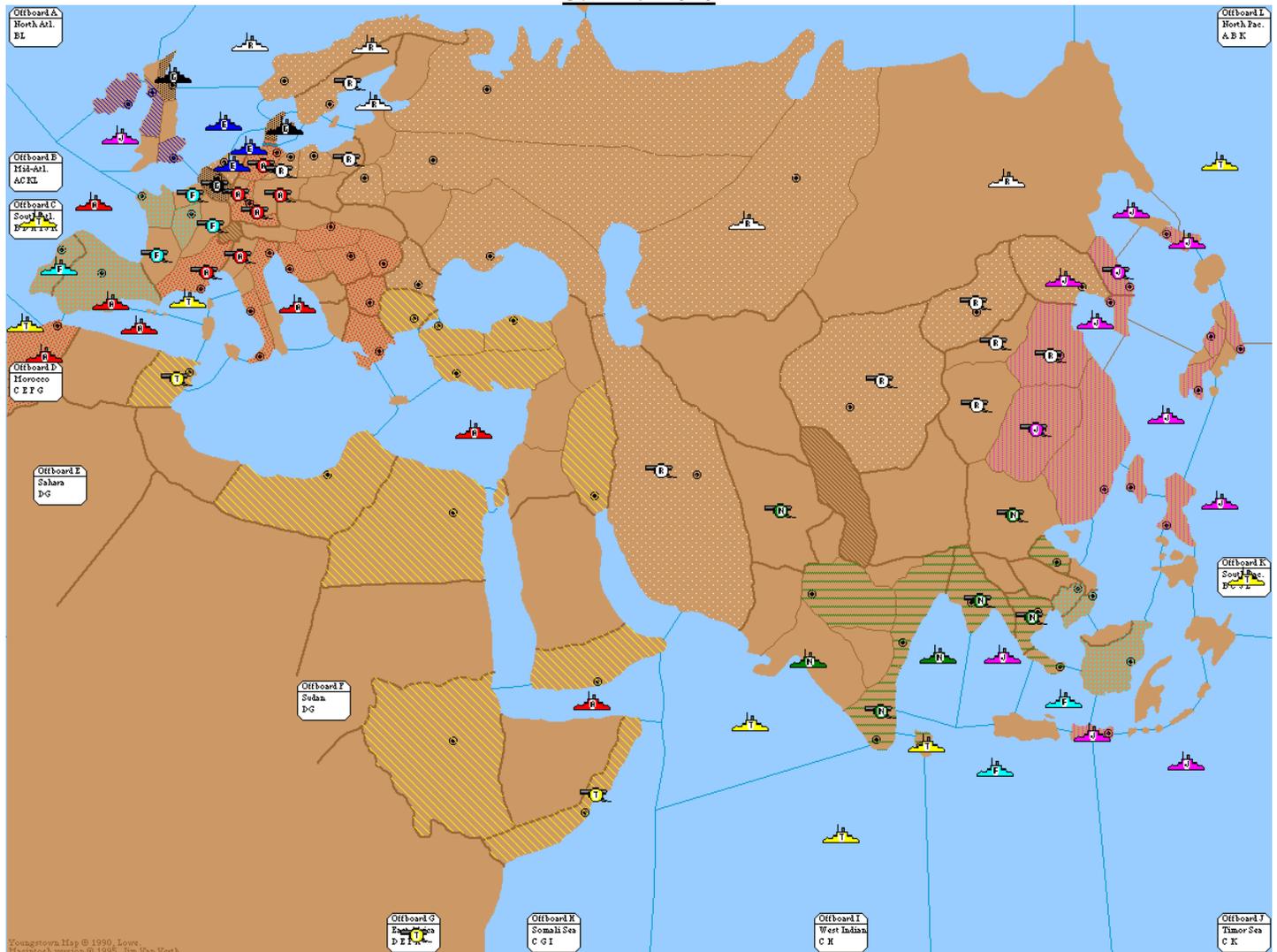
What I can offer you is a 44 second clip of one of the
 best kissing scenes ever filmed.

[tps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W6AGM-LxGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W6AGM-LxGY)

I'm sure Walter and Esmeralda, and Burt and Deborah
 enjoyed it on their visit; and perhaps you to will if you
 ever visit it.

Enjoy. Aloha.

Summer 1910



- Austria:** Has F Adriatic Sea, F Eastern Mediterranean Sea, F Gulf of Aden, A Kiel, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F Morocco, A Munich, A Piedmont, A Ruhr, A Saxony, F Spain(sc), F Western Mediterranean Sea.
- England:** Has F Helgoland Bight, F Holland, F North Sea.
- France:** Has A Burgundy, F East Indian Ocean, A Gascony, F Malay Sea, A Picardy, F Portugal.
- Germany:** Retreat F Norwegian Sea – Edinburgh..Has A Belgium, F Denmark, F Edinburgh.
- India:** Has A Afganistan, F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, A Madras, F Rajastan, A Sikang, A Thailand.
- Japan:** Retreat F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Irish Sea, F North Pacific Ocean – Kar.. Has F Andamon Sea, F East China Sea, A Hankow, F Irish Sea, F Java, F Manchuria, F South Pacific Ocean, F Kar, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Timor Sea,

A Vladivostok, F Yellow Sea.

Russia: Has A Berlin, F Gulf of Bothnia, A Inner Mongolia, A Iran, A Kansu, F Norwegian Sea, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Peking, A Prussia, F Siberia, A Sinkiang, A Sweden.

Turkey: Has F Arabian Sea, F Ceylon, F Gulf of Lyon, A Magudisco, F North Pacific Ocean, F Off Board C, A Off Board G, F Off Board K, F South Atlantic Ocean, A Tunis, F West Indian Ocean.

PRESS

4 July 2014 (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii): The USS Walter Buchanan (CG-74, the Navy's first new guided missile cruiser class in a generation) sailed into Pearl Harbor this morning under the command of Captain Walter Nicholas Romanov Buchanan IV, great-grandson of the man for whom the ship was named. The Buchanan was part of the task force surrounding the USS Ronald Reagan, which was under orders to WESTPAC after the USS George Washington, normally based in Yokosuka, Japan unexpectedly and unexplainedly developed problems with its propellers and was on its way to Pearl for emergency repairs.

(Later that evening.) The crew of the Buchanan were guests of honor at the local Regal Cinemas 18 Plex (on Fox Rd., of all places) for the world premier of a new film, The I-400: Japan's Submarine Aircraft Carriers.

It had been 73 years since the Japanese's second attack on Pearl Harbor (Walter IV vividly remembered family accounts of the role his great grandfather had played in the first Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor more than a century before.)and he thought back....

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor had been devastating - "A date that will live in infamy" - as President Franklin Roosevelt declared gravely at the time. Most people don't realize how close the U.S. came to suffering another such "day of infamy" during WWII. The Japanese planned to continue their strategy of taking the fight to American soil by developing a fleet of eighteen massive, aircraft-carrying submarines that could wreck death and destruction on the American west coast in surprise attacks. As the war turned against Japan, they reduced the scale of their ambitious plans and the number of submarines to four. Only two of these submarines, the I-400 and the I-401, ever entered service.

Even so, the Japanese had devious battle plans for those two remaining engineering marvels: the largest

submarines ever built until the 1960s. In a scheme that echoed the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese set in motion an operation using the I-400, the I-401 and two smaller submarines to launch their Aichi M6A Seiran aircraft in a surprise kamikaze attack against the locks on the Panama Canal. Had it worked, the attack could have heavily disrupted the flow of supplies and warships from the U.S. east coast to the Pacific. The Japanese named their plan "sen toku", or "secret submarine attack."

You can learn why that attack never happened and how the I-400 and I-401 ended up at the bottom of the sea in "The I-400: Japan's Submarine Aircraft Carriers", a 28 minute feature film on the AeroCinema channel. The film takes an in-depth look at the fearsome submarines and how close they came to fulfilling their deadly intent.

<http://www.aerocinema.com/product/the-i-400.html>

As he watched the ship's chief count heads as the sailors climbed back on the buses for a short ride back to the ship, Buchanan thought and the news stories he'd been reading online about today's Sub Wars in the Pacific; and how Japan was fighting to sell new subs to anybody who could afford them --- including its WWII foes Australia---, Russia was selling subs to anybody with the cash to buy them, China was trying to..., and even the South Koreans were getting into the sub building businesses; while every little country bordering on China or its Pacific areas of interest were looking for good deals on cheap subs.

Still, the story that caught his eye was on the back page of the day's Navy Times that began, "The NT has confirmed that the PLA(N) will soon launch it's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the Zheng He, now under construction in Dalian." Interesting, he thought, that they would name such a monumental ship after an admiral and not Mao or even Xi.

Spring and Summer 1910 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Nothing new here in terms of the alliances or over all strategies--nothing has changed at all.

Tactically the most interesting development was the Turks getting into the North Pacific Ocean. Thought the Japanese would put up more of a fight then that.

Meanwhile in Europe the French, British and Germans continue to lose ground to the Austrian, Russians and Turks.

Well, the first thing I noticed was that Japan had a stalemate line set up, but lost NPO in spite of that. Hmm. He wrote F SOO S A Vla instead of F SOO S F NPO. Could have held Vlad with support from Korea. Instead he's in Manchuria, which he cannot hold. Oh well, Japan's a mess and he's not writing good orders. Losing NPO is much worse than losing ground in China. Too many retreat possibilities there.

Yes, this is the big, big news. If you have a stalemate line, you MUST keep ordering the correct orders, once this starts frittering away, we may still end up with the three way draw.

Hmm...somehow India has lost Ceylon. Could have ordered the support cut but instead he blocked Rajasthan.

And similarly, Harold may have been in Mose Allison land, as he tries to put some pressure on Russia that is doomed to ultimate failure. It seems like India may start collapsing in the next couple of game years pretty completely.

It occurs to me that A/R could stab the bejesus out of Turkey right now. Austria could block the Ionian and take two Turkish SCs while Russia took Baghdad. It would be a just payment for putting all of his forces in off-board boxes. I'm not expecting it, but if people were really playing to win and not just to have shared victories, this would really need to be considered.

And see my comments on the Turkish press below, but I really agree.... will Baghdad still be Turkish to build that army? If we are to get a stab, NOW is the time to do it. But I'm not expecting it either. Someone really should solo this thing, but that might take fifteen more game years. I hate "three way draw" thinking in the regular game, and it doesn't feel any more palatable here.

If A/R/T stick together, the capture of Ceylon and the penetration into NPO should be enough to make sure this doesn't last much longer. The fighting in the North Sea area is fun and all, but it's really not all that important.

Agreed, that is the issue...

I really don't want to see the Austrians and the Japanese fighting over Ireland.

Let's also comment on the press. Diplomacy World founder Walt Buchanan continues to carry the VERY

heavy water in this game showing the style, spirit, and substance of true Golden Age Diplomatic press. I really haven't been saying enough about it, so let's look at this turn (Spring and Summer) with a bit more effort. Before turning to Walt's postings, I think Anon and Baghdad are written by Ernest Hakey, also in Golden Age style. Ernest is trying to say that India is the "bad guy" in turning on the alliance, which is complete nonsense, and signalling that Turkey may build an A Iraq/Baghdad in the upcoming Winter to contain him. I'm not exactly sure what the "marriage with Mina" thing is supposed to be about, some reference to the alliance with Russia holding, I think? And then we have Walt, with one post in Spring, and two in Summer. So Walt has an interesting new twist on Golden Age press with a HOST of links focusing primarily on movies (From Here to Eternity --- how long WILL this game go???), and keeping in the "Off Board Unreality" of Hawaii and Pearl Harbor. I found the links fun and interesting, but we don't have much to say about Walt's intentions, except to keep battling.

And then a few words about each country's situation:

Austria: As noted, it isn't THE most important tactical place on the board, but Austria finally takes the Mid-Atlantic, surrounding France and France is doomed to a quick death now. Austria could stab Turkey now, either RIGHT now, or with the centers picked up from France.

England: Graham actually moves forward into Holland and pushes behind into the North Sea, but as Rick notes, this really is more or less irrelevant in the big picture.

France: Annihilated from Spain, and pressed on all sides, big losses this game year are in store, not much Larry can do. For the two Eastern fleets, Larry sort of moves forward as Turkey focuses on nailing India, but again, where does this go? Nowhere...

Germany: Germany, presumably with permission, backs into Edinburgh, but is losing ground steadily, also unfortunately not long for this world. I was wrong in hinting that the stab of Germany came too soon, it looks like it will play out to the end for Dave.

India: I suppose Harold can attack Russia, but what does he gain? Again, not much and this stab seems like it is going to work as well.

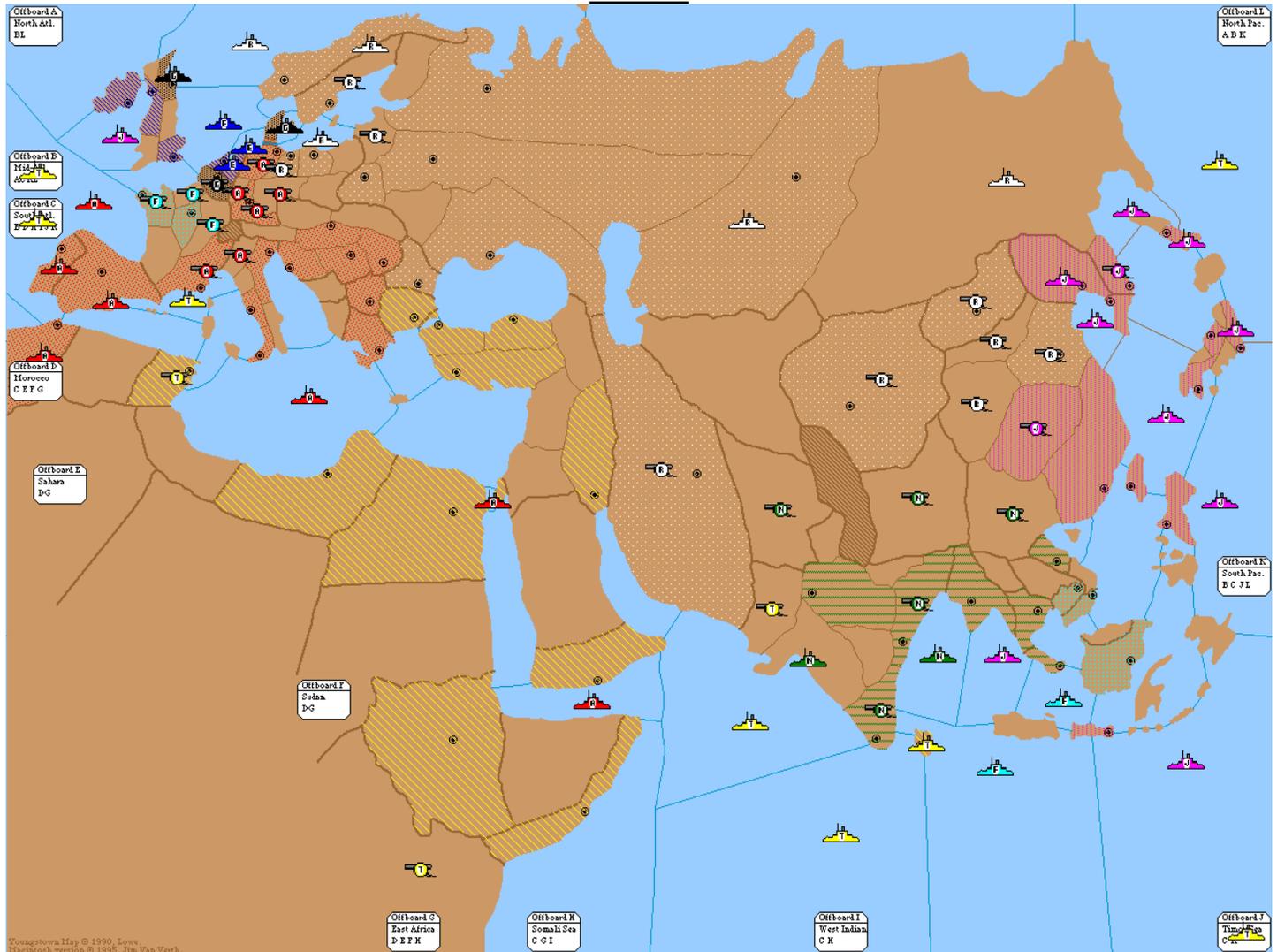
Japan: As noted, you can't lose the stalemate line!!! And you also are pushed back in the Atlantic. This turn for Japan could mean the end for the game, it

isn't clear how Walt comes back, and he doesn't have any useful allies.

Russia: Russia is a bit pressed in Asia, but with the breakthrough in the Northern Pacific, I don't think he minds. While he could stab Turkey productively now, that could lead to Harold walking into Iran, and he probably will stick with the three way.... I hope it isn't THAT boring though.

Turkey: After no off-board box use earlier, Ernest is now perhaps OVER-using them. It does put him at risk for a stab. What if everyone else gets builds and he doesn't? Well, with India's collapse there definitely are some gains, and I think the three way is safe.

Fall 1910



Austria: F Adriatic Sea - Ionian Sea, F Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Suez, F Gulf of Aden Convoys A Magudisco – Sind, A Kiel Supports A Ruhr - Holland (*Cut*), A Marseilles - Burgundy (*Fails*), F Mid-Atlantic Ocean – Portugal, F Morocco Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Munich Supports A Marseilles – Burgundy, A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Fails*), A Ruhr - Holland (*Fails*), A Saxony Supports A Kiel, F Spain(sc) Supports F Mid-Atlantic Ocean – Portugal, F Western Mediterranean Sea - Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

England: F Helgoland Bight - Kiel (*Fails*), F Holland Supports F Helgoland Bight - Kiel (*Cut*), F North Sea - English Channel (*Bounce*).

France: A Burgundy Supports A Belgium - Ruhr (*Cut*), F East Indian Ocean Supports F Java - Timor Sea, A Gascony – Brest, F Malay Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean, A Picardy Supports A Burgundy, F Portugal – Mid-Atlantic Ocean (*Disbanded*).

Germany: A Belgium - Ruhr (*Fails*), F Denmark Supports F Helgoland Bight - Denmark (*Fails*), F Edinburgh - Norwegian Sea (*Fails*).

India: A Afganistan - Iran (*Fails*), F Bay of Bengal Convoys A Thailand – Calcutta, A Burma – Tibet,

A Madras farts in the general direction of Turkish units (Holds), F Rajastan Supports A Madras, A Sikang Supports A Burma – Tibet, A Thailand – Calcutta.

Japan: F Andamon Sea Convoys A Thailand – Calcutta, F East China Sea Supports F Timor Sea - South Pacific Ocean, A Hankow - Peking (*Fails*), F Irish Sea - English Channel (*Bounce*), F Java - Timor Sea, F Manchuria Supports A Hankow - Peking (*Cut*), F South Pacific Ocean – Tokyo, F Kar Supports F Sea of Okhotsk, F Sea of Okhotsk Hold, F Timor Sea - South Pacific Ocean, A Vladivostok Supports F Manchuria, F Yellow Sea Supports F Manchuria.

Russia: A Berlin Supports A Kiel, F Gulf of Bothnia - Baltic Sea, A Inner Mongolia Supports A Peking, A Iran Supports A Magudisco - Sind (*Cut*), A Kansu Supports A Peking, F Norwegian Sea Supports F Norway - North Sea (*Cut*), F Norway - North Sea (*Fails*), A Outer Mongolia - Manchuria (*Fails*), F Omsk - Siberia (*Fails*), A Peking Supports A Outer Mongolia - Manchuria (*Cut*), A Prussia – Livonia, F Siberia - Sea of Okhotsk (*Fails*), A Sinkiang - Tibet (*Fails*), A Sweden - Denmark (*Fails*).

Turkey: F Arabian Sea Convoys A Magudisco – Sind, F Ceylon Supports F Andamon Sea - East Indian Ocean (*Void*), F Gulf of Lyon Supports F Spain(sc), A Magudisco – Sind, F North Pacific Ocean Supports F Siberia - Sea of Okhotsk, F Off Board C - Off Board B, A Off Board G - East Africa, F Off Board K - Off Board J, F South Atlantic Ocean - Off Board C, A Tunis settles into winter garrison (Holds), F West Indian Ocean - Madras (*Fails*).

The following draws are proposed: E/G, E/G/R, A/E/G, E/G/T, A/E/G/R, E/G/R/T, A/E/G/T, A/E/G/R/T, E/G/F, F/G, F/N, F/N/R, A/F/N, F/N/T, A/F/N/R, F/N/R/T, A/F/N/T, F/J/N, A/F/N/R/T, F/G/R, A/F/G, F/G/T, A/F/G/R, F/G/R/T, A/F/G/T, A/F/G/R/T, F/G/N, E/J, E/J/R, A/E/J, E/J/T, A/E/J/R, E/J/R/T, A/E/J/T.

Please vote with Winter orders. NVR=No.

Supply Center Chart

Austria: Budapest, Greece, Kiel, Klug, Marseilles, Morocco, Munich, Naples, Portugal, Rome, Serbia, Spain, Trieste, Venice, Vienna=15, Build 2
England: Holland, Ireland, Liverpool, London=4, Build 1
France: Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Paris, Saigon=5, Even
Germany: Belgium, Denmark, Edinburgh=3, Even
India: Burma, Calcutta, Delhi, Joharra, Madras, Thailand, Viet Nam=7, Even
Japan: Canton, Formosa, Hankow, Java, Korea, Kyoto, Manchuria, Osaka, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=12, Even
Russia: Berlin, Iran, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Peking, Posen, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Warsaw=14, Even
Turkey: Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Magudisco, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Tunis, Yemen=12, Build 1

PRESS

GEFNJ will gladly accept the surrender of RAT, with extremely generous terms (to be discussed)! Think of the weeks of headaches and second-guessing that can be avoided by bringing the game to a gracious conclusion now! (I am not a crackpot!)

Anon: More of the story. I have no feedback, so I hope that people are enjoying it.

A week later, Bahbie was in the corner of the Shangri-La's kitchen he set aside for himself for when he was working on some new culinary ideas. The lunch rush was long past and, after the required cleanup, most of the kitchen staff had gone off for their two-hour break before dinner prep. The two large fans at either end of

the 30-foot length of the room, one blowing in and one blowing out, were spinning at about a quarter speed and blowing a stream of relatively cool air through it. He had brought a piece of chicken out from the large, walk-in cold room that was chilled by a new refrigeration machine and was cutting it up when he got the feeling something was not quite right with it. He walked to the screen door next to the fan blowing air out, which opened into an alley beside the restaurant, and called

"Moto! Here, boy!" A small, short-haired black and white dog ran out from a large, covered kennel ten feet from the door yapping excitedly and wagging its little nub tail. "There you are! What a good boy you are!" Bahbie scratched the dog behind the right ear and between the

shoulders, where he liked it most, and Moto wurfed ecstatically. Malik, the line cook who also showed promise as a chef in his own right and was learning what he could as Bahbie's apprentice, joined them outside. Moto, whose care was primarily Malik's, greeted him just as enthusiastically. The monsoon rains had let up for a while, so nobody was getting wet.

"Want a treat, Moto?" asked Bahbie, offering the dog a piece of the chicken. The dog sniffed the chicken, whuffed, backed away and sneezed. "I thought so. Malik, when was the chicken delivered?"

"This morning, Chef Bahbie, when you were out," replied Malik, taking an experimental sniff of his own. "It's bad, isn't it? We used the last of yesterday's, because this batch hadn't been tested yet."

"Now you see why. It doesn't smell too suspicious to us, but little Moto here can smell far, far better than we can. Someone could have gotten very sick from this, and it would not have been good for us either." Bahbie straightened up and dropped the offending meat into the garbage can on the other side of the door. "Get him a special treat. I'll isolate the shipment and start disinfecting. I'll let Giana and Abdul handle the butcher and get a refund." Abdul was a very large Pashto from Afghanistan. He and his "associates" handled security at the door on Friday and Saturday nights, especially when the good folks from the local Army and Navy bases were out on leave. There were very few problems.

Captain of the TIN Battlecruiser Aliyah to Grand

Admiral of the Turkish Imperial Navy: The fleet has settled into its new port in Ceylon, which had fallen into some disrepair during its occupation by the Indian Navy. Dredges have cleared channels for our deeper draft vessels, and supplies have arrived to fortify the port against naval assault. Meanwhile, arrangements have been made with the Indian Navy for an exchange of prisoners -- our personnel left behind in Joharra will soon be exchanged for the Indian personnel captured with our assumption of control over Ceylon. This exchange was only possible through the tireless efforts of the American ambassador to Australia, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. Our erstwhile allies in India have been gracious as well, and while hostilities are in effect, nonetheless the diplomatic efforts between us have remained cordial. And while the Americans seem to favor the Japanese for some reason, they do appear to have some reservations about the expansion of IJN power with respect to their own burgeoning interests in the Pacific. It was through information gathered, in part, from American agents, that our capture of Ceylon proceeded so smoothly, and soon material will begin to flow back to Baghdad so that we can replace our lost naval squadron, should that be the will of the Sultana, may she continue to rule with the wisdom and foresight she has shown thus far in this terrible world war.

East Africa: The local authorities were surprised recently by the return of a Turkish army which had disappeared into the heart of Africa years earlier. As the army reached the coastal forts from which they had long ago departed, officers of the army toured the various towns and villages to ensure that the will of the Sultana was being carried out and the people were being treated properly and fairly. Similar inspections had been carried out by units of the army stationed in Magudisco up the coast, but in that province, some irregularities had been found, and several seagoing vessels had been seized as a result. According to the most recent results to come from that region, the Austrian fleet recently arrived in the Gulf of Aden had offered to assist the Turkish army in determining how seaworthy those vessels actually were, offering to escort them in trials at sea.

Somewhere in the South Atlantic off the coast of

West Africa: A merchant vessel reported seeing a 'ghost fleet' bearing the Turkish flag which sailed past it in almost complete silence during a fairly heavy fog, sailing north and west at high speed despite the conditions of low visibility. The merchantman's captain reported strange construction located near the bow of the warships he saw, which he described as a 'rotating umbrella-like contraption'. But the captain, a Dutchman, had apparently been partaking of rum when the incident occurred, and local authorities dismissed his report as an alcohol-induced hallucination.

THE BUCHANAN STORIES 1214

29 July 1910 (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii): Walter, Esmeralda and Ernie were sitting on the front deck of the Commandant's House over-looking the new naval base the United States Navy was building ten miles from central Honolulu. The base was intended to do three things: 1) protect the west coast of the United States from an attack from across the Pacific; 2) remind the world that the United States was now a world power; and 3) serve as a forward base for protecting United States interests in the Far East.

In the short time he'd been in charge at the base Buchanan had already achieved several of the goals in his orders from the President and the Secretary of the Navy. The entrance to the harbor was being widened and deepened every day and by the end of the year the Navy's largest battleships, now and in the future, would be able to enter the harbor. Awaiting them would be new quays, docks, piers, a refueling station (coal now and soon oil he expected). Already the Navy had shifted some of its first submarines to a new base in Pearl and the war kites were flying over Ford Island almost daily. Perhaps most importantly Buchanan had been busy buying real estate next to, nearby, and in other strategic parts of Oahu. Equally important he had done this with the support of the locals and thanks to Esmeralda's

efforts the base, Honolulu and Oahu seemed to have grasped the importance of the new base to all their future.

Still, Buchanan thought to himself as he watched Ernie crawl across the deck toward the grinning Yamamoto, something was missing. Although he had a wonderful family and a great job he was, in a word, "bored." He was just about to suggest they go in to lunch when he saw a Marine orderly pedaling his bike up the newly paved road that linked the base with Honolulu. He thought it strange that the biker was going as fast as he could on a Sunday afternoon so he waited to see what was so important. When a huffing and puffing orderly trotted up the stairs, saluted and passed him a telegram envelope Buchanan knew something important was up. Esmeralda motioned for the orderly to take a seat and offered him a glass of lemonade as Buchanan ripped open the twice-sealed envelope. The message inside was simple: FALA MISSES YOU. ORDERS TO FOLLOW. /s/ ROOSEVELT. Esmeralda looked at him quizzically but he just grinned and took another swig of lemonade.

29 July 1910 (Honolulu, Hawaii): About the same time another Marine orderly on a bike pedaled up to the USS Kentucky, BB-6, at its berth in the Navy's portion of Honolulu port. He waved his twice-sealed telegram envelope at the officer of the deck and made for the bridge where he handed it over to the officer of the watch. Within minutes the envelope was on the desk of the Kentucky's captain. Again, the message was simple: TAKE BUCHANAN ASAP TO BALBOA. /s/ ROOSEVELT. It took the captain a few seconds to realize that Balboa referred to the port on the Pacific coast of Panama/Columbia that was to be the west coast terminus of the new Panama Canal. Why would Buchanan be going to Panama, he wondered, as he gave orders to make it happen. Without a few hours the ship was ready to go. Just to be safe, he dispatched one of his crew that Buchanan knew with a message to the Commandant's House.

30 July 1910 (Pearl Harbor/Honolulu, Hawaii): After a few instructions to his staff, some hasty packing, a few hours' sleep, and a tender goodbye to Esmeralda and Ernie, Buchanan and Yamamoto were on their way by carriage to the Kentucky. No sooner were they aboard than the captain ordered the ship to sail and it moved out of the port, moving in a southeasterly direction, picking up speed as it moved away from the island. During the quick crossing to Balboa Buchanan poured over the ship's charts of the area and talked with the few crewmen who had actually been there. He knew that the Army Corps of Engineers was basically in charge of finishing the Canal project after years of French dithering. The President had ordered that no expense be spared to get the project, already considered one of "the seven modern wonders of the world" done ASAP.

He also knew that the Army and Navy were building defensive positions around the ports of Balboa and Colon to protect this new national asset. He also knew that Roosevelt considered the Canal and Pearl Harbor to be the linchpins for the future defense of the west coast of the United States. Still, why was he being ordered there he wondered as he felt the Kentucky's engines throbbing beneath him.

15 August 1910 (Balboa, Panama/Columbia): The Kentucky made good time crossing the Pacific and no sooner was the battleship moored outside the new protective quay wall being constructed around the entrance to the Canal, then he saw a launch approaching alongside. Launches are not usually known for high speeds but this one and its single passenger seemed to be in a hurry. Buchanan watched as the tall soldierly figure in an Army uniform climbed the ladder two rungs at a time. Within minutes Buchanan, the captain of the Kentucky, and Lt. Colonel George Goethals, who would later be compared favorably with Gen. Leslie Groves, were huddled in the captain's cabin pouring over maps of the construction project. Goethals told Buchanan that when completed in the next four years the canal, locks, dam, lake, and harbors would cost \$375 million (about \$8.7 billion today), by far the largest public works construction project in US history to that time.

Goethals told Buchanan his orders were two-fold: 1) Get him to Colon, the eastern terminus of the canal as quickly as possible; and 2) give him an in-depth tour of the new project. He intended to do both by escorting Buchanan across the Isthmus on the canal's railroad with all other traffic cleared; and having the three engineers in charge of the various sub-parts of the project join them along the way for a briefing and visual tour of the project. Goethals knew of Buchanan's close ties with the President and he hoped Buchanan's eventual report would let the President know he was going to get his money's worth out of this project.

20 August 1910 (Colon, Panama/Columbia): Four days later a tired, but impressed Buchanan and Goethals arrived in Colon. Buchanan realized there was still much to do to finish the project but he was impressed with the three chief engineers and the 25,000 workers toiling away under some very difficult conditions. Still, he thought, the efforts being made to eradicate the dreaded malaria and other diseases convinced him it could and would be done on time. He congratulated Goethals on his work and wondered, "What next?" Goethals looked at him and grinned and pointed out into the new Colon harbor. "Recognize her?" he asked. Buchanan's eyes lit up as he saw the USS Connecticut steaming into port.

21 August 1910 (Colon, Panama/Columbia): After a delightful late dinner with Goethals and the captains of

the Kentucky (who had insisted on accompanying Buchanan on his cross-isthmus tour) and Connecticut, Buchanan had bid his adieus to Goethals and the Kentucky captain, and boarded the Connecticut with its captain in preparation for an early departure. Sure enough, the sun was barely rising in the east when he felt the Connecticut beginning to move out of the harbor and head toward the open sea. By the time he got on the bridge the captain was waiting for him and Buchanan could see yet another twice-sealed envelope in the captain's hand. He wasted no time opening it and read: FOLLOW CAPTAIN'S ORDERS TO QUEENSTOWN, COBH, COUNTY CORK, IRELAND , INSTRUCTIONS AWAIT. /S/ ROOSEVELT. Buchanan looked at the captain with a puzzled face and the captain gestured at the large chart on the table in front of him. He could see part of Ireland , some of the Irish Sea and a portion of the Hebrides, but why the Hebrides he wondered?

5 September 1910 (Queenstown, Cobh, County Cork, Ireland): Queenstown was one of the Treaty Ports created by Britain and Ireland to satisfy the demands of both. Its purpose, for the British, was to provide a forward naval base to protect its Atlantic approaches in case of war. And war was certainly what was happening, Buchanan knew, although even he was surprised to hear that a Japanese fleet was at sea somewhere in the Irish Sea on the lookout for naval forces of the RAT. What, in God's name, he wondered were the Japanese doing embroiled in the Atlantic when the Turkish fleets were off the coasts of Japan? What a crazy war it was turning out to be. Something had to be done to end it soon.

As if reading his mind, the captain of the Connecticut placed a large, triple-sealed envelope in front of Buchanan and then excused himself. This time Buchanan took his time opening the envelope and noted the three seals of the White House, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Navy's senior line officer. Hmmm, he thought. I've never seen one of these before. It looks like war orders. He read:

ADMIRAL:

1. PROCEED TO ISLE OF HALL WITH THE CONNECTICUT TO REPRESENT THE USA AT THE NAVAL REVIEW BEING HELD THERE.
2. WHILE THERE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE FOREIGN FLEET COMMANDERS TO SUPPORT A SPEEDY END TO THE WAR.
3. IF PERSUASION FAILS, SUBTLY USE THE THREAT OF FURTHER USA INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR WITHOUT SPECIFYING DETAILS, TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO THE SAME END.
4. AT END OF REVIEW, WORK WITH BRITISH AND JAPANESE NAVAL FORCES TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT OF CERTAIN VITAL MATERIALS TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATION. THIS IS MOST SECRET.
5. RETURN TO PEARL HARBOR ON COMPLETION OF MISSION.

/S/ ROOSEVELT

5 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland). RNS Jolly Roger, under the command of Captain James T. Hook, RN VC, arrives at the site of the royal naval review to begin marking the mooring positions for the various fleets and ships expected for the event. According to plans the 40 mile long by 20 mile wide deep loch will accommodate two rows of battleships: on the port side will be the hosting English fleet, the French fleet, the German fleet and the Japanese fleet; on the starboard side will be Russian, Austria, and Turkish fleets --- all positioned bow to stern down the length of the loch. Lesser vessels will be moored out in the Minch. The positions of the Indian and USA representatives remains undetermined.

9 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland): The USS Connecticut sails into the Loch and takes up its position at the head of the Loch to the starboard side. Two unmarked mooring buoys indicate positions for other ships.

9 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland): Later that afternoon the battleships of the English, French, and German fleets take their positions. Finally, all eyes are on The Minch as the Japanese fleet begins to enter the Loch. One by one the Toyota, Honda, Daihatsu, Nissan, Suzuki, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Isuzu, Kawasaki, Yamaha and Mitsuoka move to their assigned positions. From the bridge of the Connecticut, Buchanan and Yamamoto watch the impressive display of Japanese naval power as the sailors on the English, French and German battleships cheer the arrival of their wartime allies.

10 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland): As the early morning mist clears the ships of the Russian, Austrian and Turkish fleets sail proudly up the Loch and take their positions. Again, from the bridge of the Connecticut, Buchanan and Yamamoto watch as the RAT fleet, showing the battle scars of its recent battles in the Atlantic and Mediterranean sail into the Loch.

11 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland): Again, with the sun behind it, the RMS Empress of India, draped in black mourning, sails up the Loch to take its position across from the Connecticut. Now, the ships of the review representing the nations to be reviewed, as well as all the major protagonists of the current war, are in position.

11 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland): As the sun passes to the west, out of the east the HMY Victoria & Albert enters the Loch carrying His Majesty George V, England's newest king (since May) in his first international appearance. Members of his family and government line

the rails as the 4,700 ton, 380 foot long, 40 foot wide, crew of 336 yacht sails to its position between the Empress of India and Connecticut. Pundits would note later that the new yacht cost 572,000 pounds (about 5/7th of the cost of a new battleship) and had only been approved by Parliament after it was revealed that both Germany and Russia had larger imperial yachts. Left unsaid was the fact that delays meant that the late Queen had never seen her new yacht.

The program for the review called for several days of ship visits, games, shore leave, a review, a formal dining in, and an informal kegger for the crews before the departure of the Victoria & Albert, the Empress of India, the Connecticut and the remainder of the fleets in the following order: U, R, A, T, F, G, J, and E. All pretty much went as planned and on the last night of the review; while the crews were on shore sampling plonk and rot gut from some of Scotland's whisky distilleries; the admirals of the various fleets and captains of the battleships were attending a formal dining in aboard the USS Connecticut hosted by Vice Admiral (three stars, remember?) Walter Buchanan, USN. After a generous meal consisting of the finest local foods and way too many toasts (countries, rulers, fleets, and ships....) and the consumption of far too much Scot whisky (Buchanan had learned to cut his with water.), Buchanan, wearing his decorations from Japan, Russia, Britain and France rose to his feet and addressed the assembled admirals:

"This has been a great event as we all know. We also know it is our duty as loyal patriots and naval officers of our various countries to find a way to end this war as quickly as possible. Our failure to do so now will reflect badly on us now and in the future. I am asking you to join with the United States in finding a way to make peace amongst yourselves. The President has asked me to tell you that it is our intention to find a way to peace, peacefully if we can but by whatever means are necessary --- we will have peace in our time; and our time is now."

As Buchanan sat down the officers from England, France, Germany, India, and Japan applauded warmly; while the officers from Russia, Austria, and Turkey did all but sit on their hands. Buchanan thought to himself, "This isn't going to be easy."

At that moment the doors to the small dining hall opened and the admirals collectively dropped their jaws as the new young King of England, George V, walked in supporting the Emperor Meiji, who had ruled Japan since 1867 and would only live a short time longer. The two walked to the head of the table and took their places as the admirals collectively bowed. The two emperors looked long and hard at the admirals. Finally, George said, "I speak for him," and Meiji said as he nodded, "And I speak for him. We want peace in our lifetime. Make it so. This is our wish. This is our command."

With the formal part of the evening over, Buchanan began to work the crowd, speaking to the admirals representing Russia and Turkey, but devoting most of his charms to the Admiral Baron Georg Johannes Ritter von Trapp. The other admirals from the Cinque amici alleati also began to work their counterparts from the RAT and soon the excellent Scot whisky that flowed freely began to have its effect, although who would remember what on the morrow only time could tell.

11 September 1910 (Between the East and West Lochs, Talbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland: In the bar of the Harris Hotel at about the same time as the dining in on the Connecticut a small group of men had gathered for a quiet discussion. Outside a hand-picked group of American, British and Japanese marines patrolled the grounds of the Hotel and the approaches to the ferry landing below it where a group of launches and trawlers waited. Across the Loch the sounds of revelry from the Connecticut could be heard, but on the shore it was very quiet.

Present from the United Kingdom were: James Buchanan, representing the Scot whisky distilleries, the Earl of Dunmore, Lord Leverhulme and Lord Brockett representing the British government, merchandising and banking interests. Present from Japan were Torii Shinjiro, representing Suntory Holdings Ltd., the Japanese whisky company; Nobutada Saji, Torao Yamaha, and Komanosuke Uchiyama representing Japanese industrialists. Looking strangely out of place, Yamamoto rose and spoke: "Gentlemen, I represent the Admiral (No need to mention which admiral.) who is occupied elsewhere this evening; and he represents the highest levels of the American government. We believe it is in all our best interests to make sure your discussions this evening come to a successful conclusion. Therefore, we stand ready to help you in this important mission."

With a parting toast, the group walked down to the ferry pier and watched as the various launches and trawlers began to head out toward the various Japanese battleships.

On the rain-slick path Yamamoto offered his arm to Mr. Buchanan, although he had no idea who he was. The elderly gentleman looked at him and said, "Please tell my nephew that I hope he and his heirs enjoy our efforts at Buchanan's Distillery."

As one observer noted later, "It was the largest technology transfer between two countries prior to the Great War." Aboard the small boats were cases of the finest Scot whiskies and a complete, prototype state-of-the-art distillery; all destined for Osaka to make sure that Britain's whisky making techniques were not captured by the RATS.

As Yamamoto boarded his boat to take him back to the Connecticut, the Earl of Dunmore approached with a crew carrying three largest chests. Dunmore spoke, "You have done a great service to us. The first chest is for the President. The second is for the Admiral. And the third is for the Admiral's heirs. You carry a king's, no an empire's ransom, with you. And this is for you." With that the Earl nodded his head and turned away, as Yamamoto stuffed the small box the Earl had given him into his pocket.

Aftermath:

Captain James Hook was created by J. M. Barrie in 1904 in his book Peter Pan. In 1912 Barrie was a guest at the Harris Hotel and carved his initials over the entrance.

James Buchanan, from Canada, received a royal warrant to make whisky from Queen Victoria in 1899. Today Buchanan's is part of Diageo's, one of the world's largest makers of fine whisky. It's 18 year-old, mid-priced single malt whisky is a perennial award winner and Walter Buchanan swears a shot a day is what keeps him full of vim, vigor and love for Diplomacy.

The Earl of Dunmore was an early owner of the Harris Hotel, but eventually lost it to his bankers.

Lord Leverhulme, of Lever Brothers fame and fortune, although a Conservative, was known for his caring

attitude for his workers, and later owned the Harris Hotel.

Torii Shinjio founded Suntory, also one of the world's largest makers of fine whisky, in 1899 in Osaka, Japan. Today Japanese whiskies are ranked the best in the world.

Toraō Yamaha, in 1904 produced the first domestically manufactured bus, which was powered by a steam engine, in Japan.

Komanosuke Uchiyama, in 1907 produced Japan's first auto, the Takuri.

The RMS Empress of India was built as an ocean liner in 1890 in Barrow, England for Canadian Pacific Steamships. It regularly transversed the trans-Pacific route between the west coast of Canada and the Far East until she was sold to the Maharajah of Gwalior in 1914 and renamed in 1915. Thereafter it served as a hospital ship for the Indian Army.

The Hotel Harris today is run by the fourth generation of the Cameron family which has owned the Hotel since 1903. If you visit, tell them Walter and Esmeralda sent you, they'll know who you mean.

To Be Continued.

Fall 1910 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

So, all the directions things were going in last turn continued. Turkey was NOT stabbed (not that we expected this), but Turkey remains behind by a couple of centers from Austria and Russia with a bit less obvious ways to grab the centers being lost and catch up. Japan defended better this time, and so no additional progress was made yet in the Pacific, but this is only a matter of time.

The big thing is that people are getting tired of the inevitability, but the attempt (probably by Larry Peery) to propose EVERY possible draw that does not include all three of RAT is doomed to failure. And we hope they have fun with it! Lots more press appears too, with Walt going crazy wild, Ernest continuing his stories, and Larry's draw proposals.

Oh yes, and Larry is a crackpot....

This game is a four way draw waiting to happen. It should be R/A/T plus Japan but assuming the alliance

structure holds up--and there is no reason to assume it won't--then it will be R/A/T plus India but India will have to get bigger to be viable. India should have plenty of time if Triple Alliance wants to take out Walt as that will take some time.

Otherwise, I've nothing really to add as there has been no diplomatic movement in this game in several years.

Right, the real disappointment is that there seems to be no or almost no cross alliance negotiation going on. People decide to drop others out of the alliance (like Germany awhile back), but there isn't any real negotiation going on. We will see if that changes as the movement accelerates in the next couple of turns.

Tactically not all that much interesting is going on, given the overwhelming amount of force that R/A/T can bring

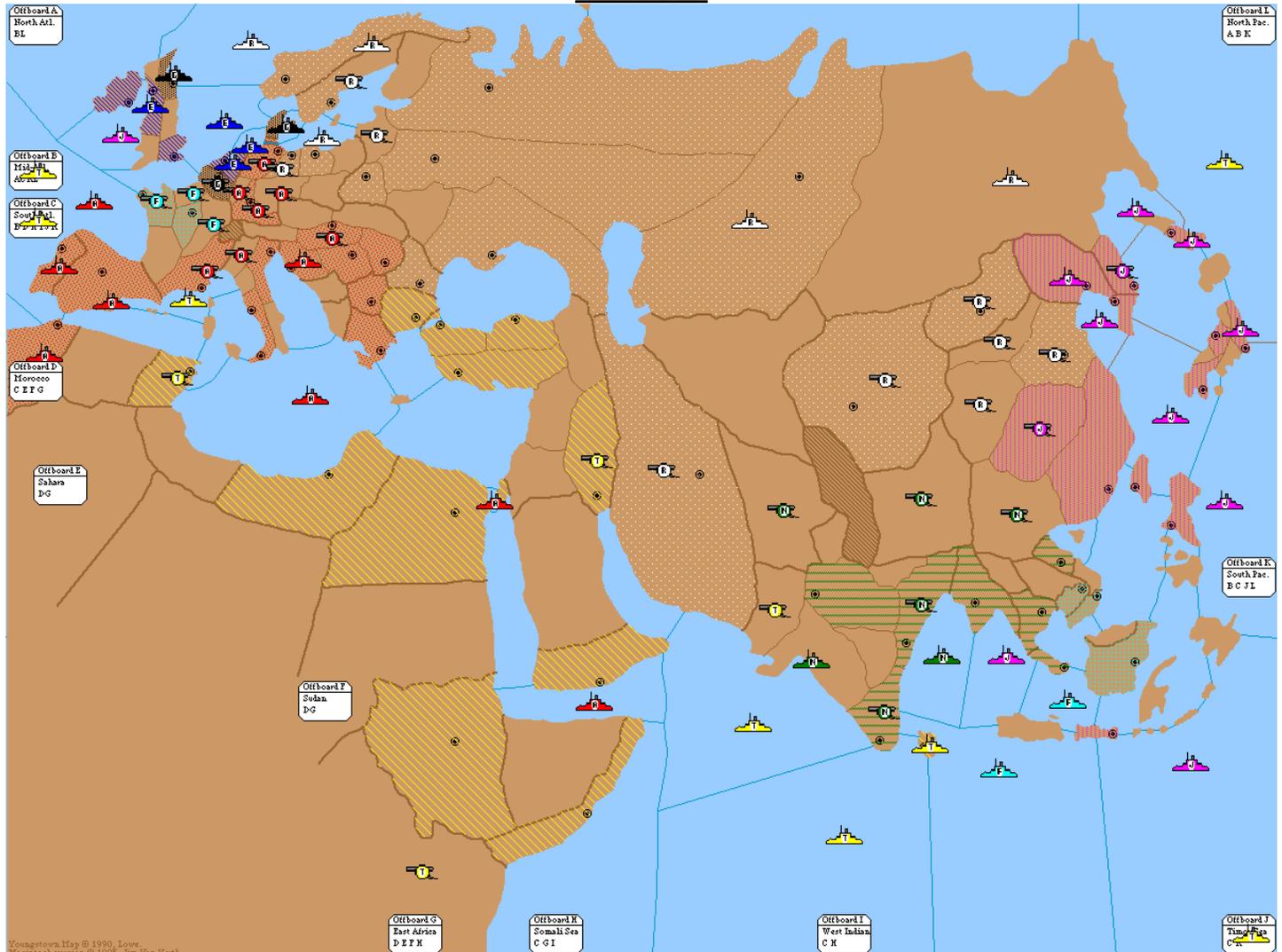
to bear. India's put a fleet in Rajastan that will shortly be sunk, opening up his front to R/T incursions. SE Asia will take longer to fall, as will mainland Japan. England and France are only of middling difficulty, presuming continued R/A/T cooperation.

Part of the problem is that the numbers are not amenable to stabbing. Not yet at least. R/A/T have 42/72 SCs - enough to dominate the other 30 units, but not enough for any one of them to strike out on his own. And the distribution of the forces across the map make it hard for the minor powers on opposite ends of the board to serve as a unified, useless force. There's a group of 11 non-allied forces around England that cannot cooperate with the other 11 Japanese forces, 6 Indian forces, and 2 French pirates in the East. Not at all.

I would like to see some creative re-alignment of alliances here. Certainly that would please the bloodthirsty observers. For example, Austria and Russia could quickly take Turkey out of the alliance, and at little strategic loss. The Turkish forces are strung out across a large number of peripheral provinces that are useful for breaking stalemate lines but completely useless in terms of home defense.

I would like to think that players would understand that the "Object of the Game" is to be a single power in charge of a majority of the SCs. 3-way draws are stable, but ultimately not very interesting.

Winter 1910



Austria: Build F Trieste, A Vienna ..Has F Gulf of Aden, F Ionian Sea, A Kiel, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F Morocco, A Munich, A Piedmont, F Portugal, A Ruhr, A Saxony, F Spain(sc), F Suez, F Trieste, A Vienna.

England: Build F Liverpool..Has F Helgoland Bight, F Holland, F Liverpool, F North Sea.

France: Has A Brest, A Burgundy, F East Indian Ocean, F Malay Sea, A Picardy.

Germany: Has A Belgium, F Denmark, F Edinburgh.

India: Has A Afganistan, F Bay of Bengal, A Calcutta, A Madras, F Rajastan, A Sikang, A Tibet.

Japan: Has F Andaman Sea, F East China Sea, A Hankow, F Irish Sea, F Manchuria, F South Pacific Ocean, F Kar, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Timor Sea, F Tokyo, A Vladivostok, F Yellow Sea.

Russia: Has F Baltic Sea, A Berlin, A Inner Mongolia, A Iran, A Kansu, A Livonia, F Norwegian Sea, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Peking, F Siberia, A Sinkiang, A Sweden.

Turkey: Build A Baghdad..Has F Arabian Sea, A Baghdad, F Ceylon, A East Africa, F Gulf of Lyon, F North Pacific Ocean, F Off Board B, F Off Board C, F Off Board J, A Sind, A Tunis, F West Indian Ocean.

All Draw Proposals Fail

PRESS

Baghdad: For the first time in many years, the Turkish Imperial Army has increased the number of units it has in the field. The recent strife with India has caused the port of Baghdad to be used as the recruiting center for a new Eastern Field Army, containing volunteers from all around the Empire, including Muslim fighters from contested lands along the border, thanks to Indian suppression of their faith. The new army is apparently training with a variety of mobile internal combustion engine vehicles, some armored, others not, some on tractor treads and others on multiple large extra thick rubber tires. The Grand Admiral of the Navy has indicated that the Baghdad shipyards have for months been engaged in salvage of old scrap metal and reforging that metal for new overland use. The Grand Marshal of the Army has neither confirmed nor denied those rumors, but documents accidentally leaked to the new media reference a "Project Cataphract" which sounds interesting indeed...

France: When holding a naval review,
There are some things not to do.
Like p*ss on Kentucky,
Which, if you're lucky,
Will get Buchanan to spew.

France: We're having a naval review -
The only one missing is you!
But your battleship sank
While the Captain was tranqued,
And the bosun was piping kazoos..

India to World: I knew the attack was coming, either to Sind or Madras. I chose Madras, so of course it was in

Winter 1910 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

So, the Winter is most notable for the press and growing frustration from different corners. Harold Reynolds is building ghost units for India and seemingly getting excited about how the Patriots push to the Super Bowl in early 2015 was going to somehow save him? Larry Peery is similarly frustrated, while Walt Buchanan has fallen silent, but

Sind. Now you know why my football pool rankings are so low. 8-([Cue the sad violins] Turkish Leader, you're going to Hell, for you have Sind!

New Delhi (November 10, 1910): The Indian Armed Forces is pleased to announce the construction of a new army in Yemen, another army in Ethiopia and a fleet in Magadusco. These units, part of a division called "The Invisibles", will cause mayhem behind the Turkish lines by misdirecting mail, rewiring telephone switchboards, throwing wild parties, randomly reorganizing bureaucracies and bringing despair by making the Jacksonville Jaguars the Turkish Empire's pre-eminent football team while bringing the New England Patriots to tour Vienna.

October 31, 1910: All across Rumania and Bulgaria, clothes hung out to dry on clothes lines on the 30th were mysteriously replaced with fresh new Austrian army and navy uniforms. Many residents of Bucharest and Sofia reported having their homes broken into and all adults' clothing replaced with these uniforms as well, forcing the puzzled residents to wear the uniforms on this Halloween day as they went about their normal business. This, coupled with mysterious explosions at munitions depots and army barracks had the occupying garrisons panicking, convinced that the Austrians had betrayed them and invaded. Word from Vienna later said that the uniforms were from a shipment that had been hijacked by unknown pirates on August 22nd. Missing clothing was soon found hidden on the properties of those who'd lost it and the uniforms were returned to Austrian authorities. The search for the perpetrators continues.

is invited by Larry to "spew" some more. As Rick said for last season, these three way arrangements can be stable, but boring. This year looks like another crunching year for the alliance, with a lot of action around India. Will Harold guess wrong again?

Hmm...Austria builds Yet Another Fleet. Stabbing Turkey is going to be really easy. More realistically, Austria probably wants to get an army into Gascony.

England _builds_ F Lvp. Gonna make taking the island just that bit harder.

I think this is the turn Germany loses Denmark.

Without any build, the Indian front is likely to collapse to Turks and Russians.

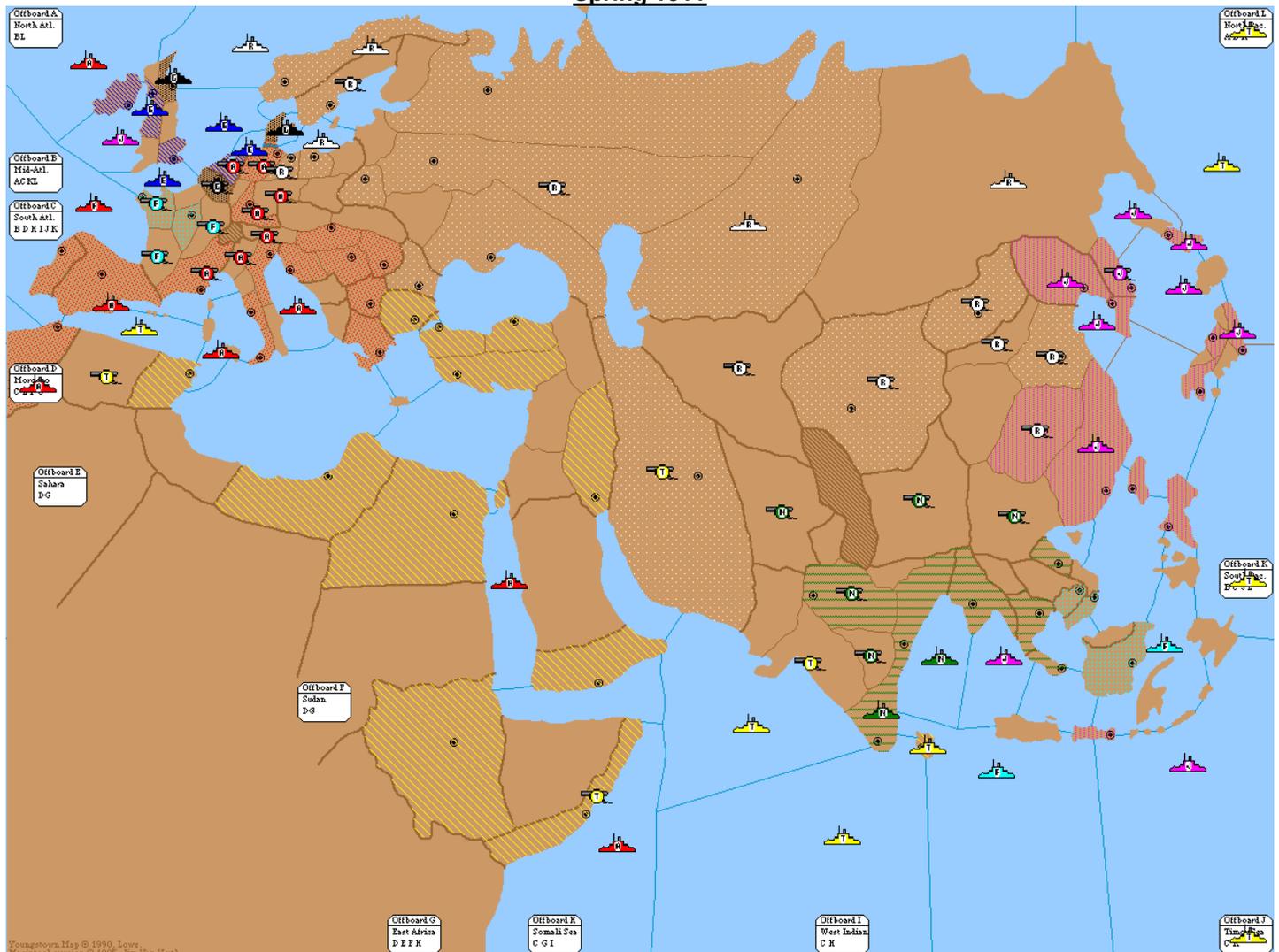
I think Japan can kick Turkey out of the NPO if he wants.

Aside from that, not much going on here.

The British gamely build another fleet and the northern front shows signs of firming up, the question is will it matter?

The Turkish build of another army is mildly surprising. That tells me he either doesn't trust Austria or India or both completely although its too early to say if this is any real crack in the R/A/T/I.

Spring 1911



Austria: F Gulf of Aden - Somali Sea, F Ionian Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Kiel Supports A Ruhr – Holland, A Marseilles - Burgundy (*Fails*), F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - North Atlantic Ocean, F Morocco - Off Board D, A Munich Supports A Kiel, A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Portugal - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Ruhr – Holland, A Saxony Supports A Munich, F Spain(sc) Supports F Portugal - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F Suez - Red Sea, F Trieste - Adriatic Sea, A Vienna – Tyrolia.

England: F Helgoland Bight Supports F Denmark, F Holland - North Sea, F Liverpool - North Atlantic Ocean (*Fails*), F North Sea - English Channel.

France: A Brest – Gascony, A Burgundy Supports A Brest - Gascony (*Cut*),
F East Indian Ocean Supports F Rajastan - Madras (*Cut*), F Malay Sea - Celebes Sea, A Picardy – Brest.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Burgundy, F Denmark Supports F Holland - North Sea (*Cut*),
F Edinburgh Supports F Holland - North Sea.

India: A Afganistan Supports A Calcutta – Delhi, F Bay of Bengal Supports F Rajastan – Madras, A Calcutta – Delhi,
A Madras – Deccan, F Rajastan – Madras, A Sikang - Kansu (*Bounce*), A Tibet Supports A Sikang – Kansu.

Japan: F Andamon Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean, F East China Sea – Canton, A Hankow – Peking (*Disbanded*),
F Irish Sea Supports F North Sea - English Channel, F Manchuria Supports A Hankow - Peking (*Cut*),
F South Pacific Ocean – Tokyo, F Kar Supports F Sea of Okhotsk, F Sea of Okhotsk Hold,
F Timor Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean, F Tokyo - Sea of Japan, A Vladivostok Supports F Manchuria,
F Yellow Sea Supports F Manchuria.

Russia: F Baltic Sea - Denmark (*Fails*), A Berlin Supports A Kiel, A Inner Mongolia - Kansu (*Bounce*),
A Iran – Turkistan, A Kansu – Hankow, A Livonia – Moscow,
F Norwegian Sea Supports F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - North Atlantic Ocean, F Norway Supports F Norwegian Sea,
A Outer Mongolia - Manchuria (*Fails*), F Omsk Supports F Siberia, A Peking Supports A Kansu – Hankow,
F Siberia Supports F North Pacific Ocean - Sea of Okhotsk, A Sinkiang Supports A Inner Mongolia – Kansu,
A Sweden Supports F Baltic Sea – Denmark.

Turkey: F Arabian Sea Supports A Sind – Rajastan, A Baghdad – Iran, F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*),
A East Africa – Magudisco, F Gulf of Lyon - Western Mediterranean Sea,
F North Pacific Ocean - Sea of Okhotsk (*Fails*), F Off Board B - Off Board L, F Off Board C - Off Board K,
F Off Board J Supports F Off Board C - Off Board K, A Sind – Rajastan, A Tunis – Algeria,
F West Indian Ocean - Madras (*Fails*).

PRESS

Austria:



Kiel

I don't see what's so great about Kiel.
It's less sexy than Jessica Biel.
But strategic location
In the German nation
Makes the SC most worthwhile to steal.

Munich

What can I say about Munich?
It wasn't involved in Wars Punic.
But when Italians invade,

They're not there for the shade,
They claim all they want are new tunics.

Berlin

If you want to be taking Berlin,
You don't need to be magic Merlin.
Just move in your army
And say something smarmy
And dodge what the German's hurlin'.

Teheran Tattler: People here were rejoicing that the Russian army was leaving -- assuming the Indian army did not force them to remain in place -- and that Turkish forces were moving in from Baghdad to keep the peace. The vodka-drinking Russian troops had been rather a sore point with the locals, while the Turks seemed to be on decent terms with them, despite the Sultana's liberal policies within the Turkish Empire. But would the Turks remain in control of Iran, assuming their troops made it across the border? Speculation spread throughout the tea houses and across the land as to various possibilities, but one thing seemed certain, the population would not be bowing down to rajahs from the south!

Turkish Imperial Navy Bulletin: Reports of Turkish naval units sailing from the Atlantic to the Pacific have been confirmed -- several units of the Turkish fleet were observed by American officers on both coast of North

America, as the Turkish Imperial Navy conducted exercises off the shores of the United States, in response to various reports of American activities around the world, showing the Americans that, should they wish to become involved in the war at sea, they should be careful just whom they chose as allies...

Anon: "Here you go, boy," said Malik, bringing out a bowl of leftover fish chowder for the ecstatic Moto, who made it disappear with remarkable speed. Malik leaned his tall, rangy frame against the wall and smiled with loving pride at the gobbling dog. Five years ago, when he was a 17-year-old busboy just starting with the Shangri-La, he had been putting out some trash when he saw a half-starved, filthy, pathetic puppy lying in the alley. Stray dogs were a dime a dozen on the streets of Kolkata, and because of the leftover food in the garbage (which had to be placed in secure wire cages to keep the dogs and other critters out), the staff regularly had to chase them away. Something about this one had made the boy take pity on it, and he had gone into the kitchen, retrieved a scrap of waste meat from the can and brought it out. "Here, have this," he'd said. The little tail wagged weakly as the dog struggled to its feet, but it had sniffed the meat, sneezed and backed off.

"What are you doing, Malik?" Bahbie had stuck his head out the door.

"The dog wouldn't take the meat," Malik had replied. "It's starving, but won't eat it."

"Let me see." He took the scrap and gave it a sniff. "I think it's gone bad!"

"Have you served any of it yet?"

"No, I just started working on it for the chicken curry!" He swore and ran for the screen door. "Keep that dog! Clean it up, take it to the vet's, do whatever! Spare no expense!"

"What do you mean, spare no expense?" That was Giana, who was never in favour of sparing no expense. As Malik had hustled to get a bucket of warm water and some soap, as well as some definitely not spoiled pork for the pup, Bahbie had explained what had happened, and Giana had gone pale and quickly pitched in, along with the other alarmed kitchen staff, liberally spreading disinfectant over every surface and tool that was in use. They'd been able to keep the near-disaster from the customers, who were mildly inconvenienced by delays, but mollified by extra drinks on the house.

At the end of the day, Giana herself had pressed a 100 rupee note into Malik's trembling hand and Bahbie had said "We'll build a shelter for the pup out there and keep him as our official meat tester. You take care of him, and we'll cover the cost." Keeping meat fresh in a hot climate was a constant problem, and it was often difficult to tell if it had turned, but a simple act of kindness of a busboy had inadvertently led to a tester who had so far not failed them. After the refrigeration unit had been installed in the cold room, it hadn't been as much of a problem, but everything that came in the morning was checked, and the suppliers quickly learned not to try to fob off the iffy stuff on the Shangri-La.

Spring 1911 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Big map. A few advances on the various fronts

- a) Austria reaches NAO
- b) Russia takes Hankow
- c) Austria takes Holland
- d) Turkey takes Rajastan

Harold can hold Madras for a little while.

Walt ought to have retaken NPO. He could this turn but he's lost so much already.
Austria could take Burgundy if he wants.

What's to say? R/A/T have more than enough force to keep making progress. And we see no signs of alliance shifting.

AUSTRIA: Andrew continues to tighten his fleet noose around the European continent. Now that Austria has fleets in both the North and Mid-Atlantic, and has cut off the solo helping Japanese fleet, eventually the holdouts in Europe will be gone. And then, Austria can help invade Japan from behind.

This does not look promising, as it hasn't for a while. Austria also gets into Holland as the next center to fall. Elsewhere, Austria continues to support Turkey in the war on India, with the Somali Sea fleet ready to convoy the Turkish army in Somalia into India in the fall.

ENGLAND: Knowing that Holland was likely the target and doomed, England retreated fleets into English Channel and North Sea, but now with Austria behind the homeland, the English will fall quickly.

FRANCE: Larry will stay around longer than England, but there isn't any hope there either. Soon Austrian armies will overrun France; however, that attack isn't being conducted with peak efficiency. They should be convoying armies in behind to maximize forces, but they aren't. Maybe they like Larry's press and plan on eliminating him last. The centers Larry has in the Pacific also should be last to get taken.

GERMANY: Should lose Denmark in the fall, but nothing to do here to expand either.

INDIA: Unlike last turn when Harold claimed he blew it, this turn he seems to have aligned his forces the way he wanted to do, but I'm not sure it will help. As noted above, Austria is ready to help convoy the Turkish army across into India, and then he will start collapsing more. This attack will be slow, though.

JAPAN: Well, not such a good turn for Walt, he could have taken North Pacific Ocean back and lost Hankow. He has a lost fleet in Europe, and makes no progress in breaking up the alliance.

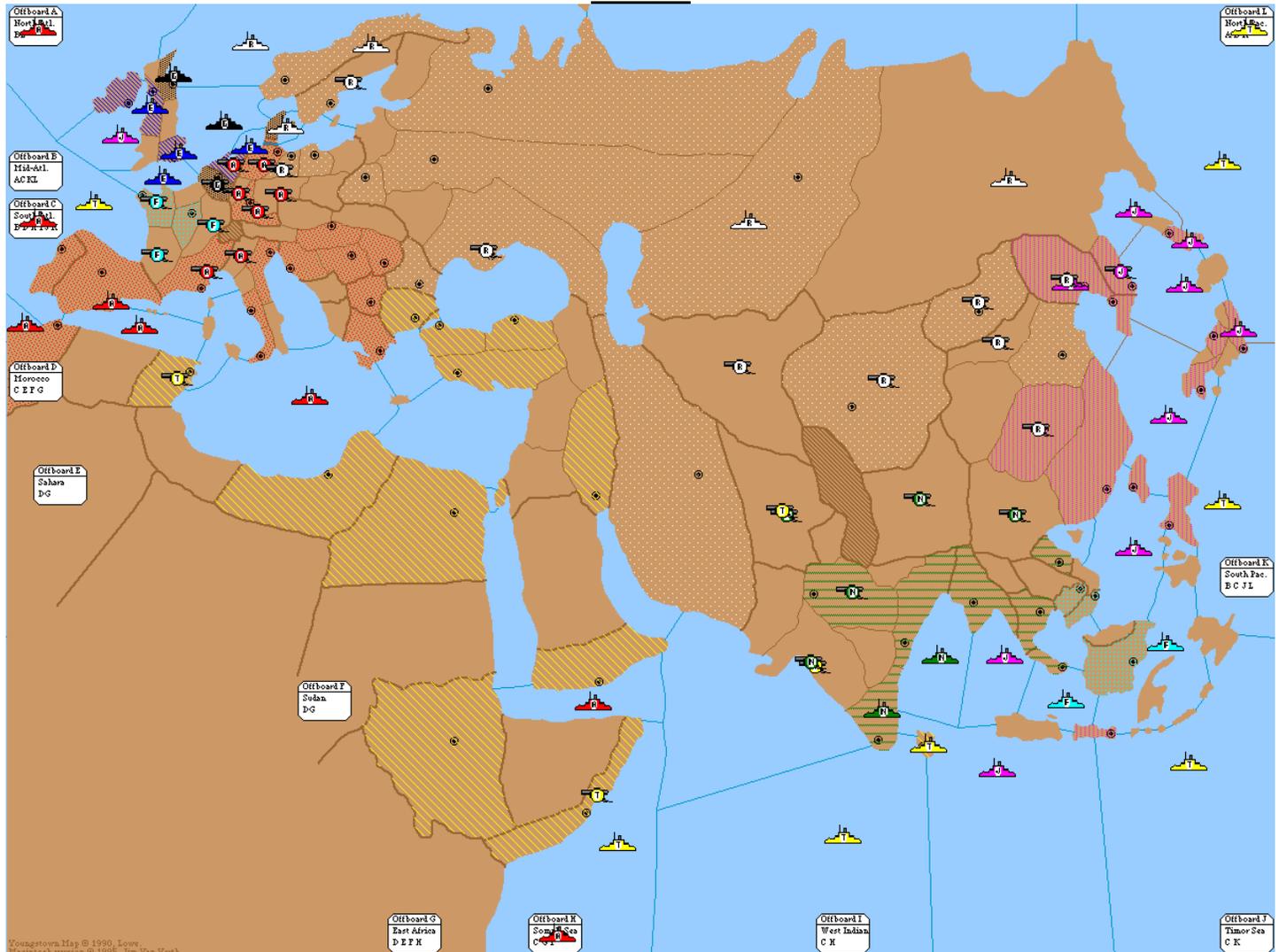
RUSSIA: Gets into Hankow and begins knocking the Japanese centers down, though India protected the follow-up into Kansu that would have pushed things faster. It won't last long.

TURKEY: Our Turk still is supporting the alliance, but looks to gain the fewest centers this year. These things don't seem to matter since the three allies don't seem to be focused on trying to manipulate each other to try to gain a solo opportunity.

PRESS and GENERAL ISSUES: So, nothing much is different yet, and the press illustrates the general frustration. We even have a poet operating in Germany. Is it the German or someone else? But the Jessica Biel mention made me laugh.

I agree with Rick and Jim...I really have nothing to add as there really isn't much to say at this point. Kind of like being asked to be a commentator on World War II during the last 18 months of the war. At this point this game is just three larger powers grinding down several smaller powers and one larger power.

Fall 1911



Austria: F Adriatic Sea - Ionian Sea, A Holland Supports A Munich – Ruhr, A Kiel Supports A Holland,

A Marseilles Supports F Spain(sc), F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - South Atlantic Ocean, A Munich – Ruhr, F North Atlantic Ocean - Off Board A, F Off Board D - Off Board C, A Piedmont Supports A Marseilles, F Red Sea - Gulf of Aden, A Saxony Hold, F Somali Sea - Off Board H, F Spain(sc) Supports A Marseilles, F Tyrrhenian Sea - Western Mediterranean Sea, A Tyrolia – Munich.

England: F English Channel Supports F Irish Sea, F Helgoland Bight Supports F Denmark - North Sea, F Liverpool Supports F Irish Sea, F North Sea – London.

France: A Brest Supports A Gascony, A Burgundy Supports A Gascony, F Celebes Sea Hold, F East Indian Ocean - Malay Sea, A Gascony Supports A Burgundy.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Burgundy, F Denmark - North Sea, F Edinburgh Supports F Denmark - North Sea.

India: ~~A Afghanistan – Iran~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Sind or Kashmir or OTB), F Bay of Bengal Supports F Madras, A Deccan – Rajastan, A Delhi Supports A Deccan – Rajastan, F Madras Supports A Deccan – Rajastan, A Sikang Supports A Tibet (*Ordered to Move*), A Tibet - Sinkiang (*Fails*).

Japan: F Andamon Sea Hold, F Canton - South China Sea, F Irish Sea Hold, ~~F Manchuria Hold~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Yellow Sea or Korea or OTB), F Kar Supports F Sea of Okhotsk, F Sea of Japan Hold, F Sea of Okhotsk Supports A Vladivostok, F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean, F Tokyo Hold, A Vladivostok Supports F Manchuria, F Yellow Sea - East China Sea.

Russia: F Baltic Sea – Denmark, A Berlin Supports A Kiel, A Hankow Hold, A Inner Mongolia Supports A Peking – Manchuria, A Moscow – Sevastopol, F Norwegian Sea - North Sea (*Fails*), F Norway - Norwegian Sea (*Fails*), A Outer Mongolia Supports A Peking – Manchuria, F Omsk Supports F Siberia, A Peking – Manchuria, F Siberia Supports F North Pacific Ocean, A Sinkiang Hold, A Sweden Supports F Baltic Sea – Denmark, A Turkistan Supports A Iran – Afghanistan.

Turkey: A Magudisco waves goodbye to one Austrian fleet, hello to another (Holds), A Algeria – Tunis, F Arabian Sea - Somali Sea, F Ceylon Supports F West Indian Ocean, A Iran – Afghanistan, F North Pacific Ocean Supports F Omsk - Siberia (*Void*), F Off Board J - Timor Sea, F Off Board K - South Pacific Ocean, F Off Board L Supports F North Pacific Ocean, ~~A Rajastan – Delhi~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Sind or OTB), F West Indian Ocean Supports F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean, F Western Mediterranean Sea - Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

Now Proposed – A/R/T Draw. Please vote with your WINTER Orders. NVR=No.

PRESS

Anon: The Diplomacy God Larry Peery
Works for The Game 'til he's weary.
Everyone knows
That his output of prose
Keeps a game from getting too dreary.

India - Turkey: You can keep Sind. We don't want it.
They didn't want us, and they probably don't want you
either, but it's your problem now. 8-)

Istanbul -- Palace Coup fails! The Sultan made an attempt to seize power back from the Sultana, and for a brief period, several ministers of state were inconvenienced, being held under house arrest by hard-line old-school conservatives, disrupting orders to the Turkish Imperial Army and Navy and interrupting the flow of trade. However, a massive show of support for the Sultana by the common folk, men and women alike, persuaded several units of security personnel and loyal units of both armed forces to rescue the Sultana and her

ministers, arrest the perpetrators of the coup attempt, and restore order to the Empire. After the fuss was over, the Sultana, who had remained calm and collected during her ordeal, thanked the enlightened people of the Empire for their support and personally thanked those who liberated her and her ministers. In a surprise move, she then pardoned those who had made the attempt, at least from the crime of treason, saying she understood their grievances if not their manner of expressing them. The Sultan himself she exiled to an estate in the Crimea, provided by the Russian ambassador, and several other ring-leaders she exiled to the island of Cyprus, currently under joint rule by Turkey and Austria, the latter having dominion over the Greek population of the island where the leaders soon found themselves living in, if not the manner they wished, at least with their heads still attached to their bodies and their needs provided for.

Anon: "What's going on?" Giana asked when she came into the kitchen and saw Bahbie and Malik quickly

bustling around the kitchen, putting the five offending whole chickens (including the one that Bahbie had been working on) into the box from which they had come. They wiped disinfectant on the shelves in the cold room and on the board and kitchen tools on which Bahbie had been working to make sure there would be no problems.

"The chickens were bad, Giana," said Bahbie, looking puzzled and annoyed. "All of them. I had Moto check them all, and he rejected them."

"That's strange," said Giana, pitching in with the disinfectant, regardless of her bright yellow sari. "Ole Jonsen hasn't given us anything bad in the four years we've been buying from him."

"The delivery guy was new," added Malik. "I asked him what happened to Bahwan, and he said he was sick." Malik paused, the cleaning rag in his left hand, and added thoughtfully "But now that I think about it, he wouldn't look me in the eye at all." They looked at each other.

"That doesn't sound right at all," said Bahbie. "We should go to Ole and check this out."

"I'll go," said Giana. "I was going to the bank with the receipts anyway, and Ole's is just a couple of blocks further. I'll use Ravi's wagon to carry the chicken back."

"Are the kids back from school yet? Ravi can pull the wagon for you," said Bahbie. "It won't be right for you to pull it, and Abdul is way too big."

"Yes, they're upstairs with Nana, supposedly doing homework." She dropped her rag in the large laundry hamper under the vent that was on the wall opposite the door to outside. "Abdul should be here by now. I'll get the receipts, the wagon and the offspring and we'll go see what's going on." She left the kitchen, went into the small office, retrieved the cash from the safe, put it in the transport briefcase, and walked through the dining area and to the foyer, in which was the hulking form of Abdul.

"Mrs Phlay," he rumbled in greeting. He was impeccably dressed in a beige suit that didn't quite conceal a holster-sized bulge under the left arm, black leather dress shoes, a clean white shirt with a green-striped tie, and a grey fedora. Given that he was six-foot-seven and close to 300 pounds, little of which was fat, his presence made the relatively large foyer seem smaller.

"Hello, Abdul," she replied with a smile. "We have to pay a visit to our chicken supplier after we go to the bank," she said. "We got five spoiled birds and would like to find out what's going on."

"You haven't had problems with him before, have you?" he replied, scratching his beard, which was short enough to appear villainous, but long enough to not be scruffy, pensively. He also had an excellent memory.

"Problems with what?" inquired a new voice. Through the open door strode Constable Finn O'Meara, the local beat cop. Every police force in the world seems to have an Irishman on it, and he was Kolkata's. His

perfectly stereotypical looks, including the red hair, blue eye, sun-reddened skin and freckles, made him stand out among the local Bengalis. "Mrs Phlay," he added with a courtly bow. As Giana explained the situation, Bahbie arrived quietly on the scene.

"We suspect fowl play," Bahbie smirked after Giana had finished. "In fact, I think it's foul fowl play," he added, hefting the box of suspect chickens. He was not cowed by the quelling stare she directed at him, which got a snicker from the Constable and an almost impassive expression from Abdul. "We should get Ravi and his wagon down here so you can get these back to Ole's." At one end of the foyer was the street entrance to the Shangri-La. At the other end, on the left, was the entrance to the dining area, and facing the street was a heavy, elaborately carved teak door on a sturdy teak frame that led to the stairs to the apartment where they lived. From behind this door they heard a giggle, hastily stifled. Bahbie turned to the Constable and winked.

"Constable O'Meara," he said loudly. "I can't remember which station you work from."

"Why Mr. Phlay, you know I come from Dum-Dum station," he replied equally loudly. (Note: Dum-Dum is a suburb a few kilometres northwest of Kolkata.)

"How many Dum-Dums have to go to jail every day?" Giana asked. More giggles, loudly shushed.

"Not the Dum-Dums in City Hall, I'm afraid," said Constable O'Meara sadly.

"If there are any children listening behind the door," said Giana severely, "they will have to taste-test Daddy's new hot curry!" The door popped open and eight-year-old Kamala and ten-year-old Sanjay ran out and hugged their mother, then their father.

"Uncle Abdul!" they squealed happily and attached themselves to his legs. That got the rarest of rarities, a smile, from the giant, as he ruffled their hair with his oversized hands. Ravi, a tall and slender fourteen-year-old with the faint mustache of the early adolescent, walked through the door, attempting to maintain some dignity.

"I, um, heard that you need my wagon," he said, eyeing the box, now on the floor. "I'll go get it." He then saw the Constable and said, surprised, "Constable, what brings you here?"

"Ah, the first one to think to ask," said O'Meara with a smile. "I heard some great news on the wireless. The peace talks in New Delhi have apparently succeeded! The War is almost over!"

"Did we win?" asked Kamala, releasing Abdul's right leg.

"Technically, no," said Abdul, looking down into her bright brown eyes. "But practically, yes, since we won't have to endure the country being torn apart, like China was."

"What wonderful news!" said Bahbie. "We'll get the kitchen fired up. It'll be one big party tonight!" Indeed, the noise from the outside seemed to be getting louder. Ravi, unobserved, had slipped back upstairs and came

back down lugging his red wooden wagon, which he placed on the foyer floor.

"We should get to the bank and Ole's before things get too crazy," said Giana. Ravi placed the box in the wagon, just as Bahbie returned carrying a take-out box with two vegetable samosas in it.

"The bearer of glad tidings gets the Policeman's Special!" he said, handing it to O'Meara. Thunder rumbled in the distance, and Ravi, Giana and Abdul got umbrellas from a nearby stand, made from an old artillery shell case. As they made their exit, Bahbie put his hands on Sanjay's and Kamala's shoulders and felt thankful that it was an approaching storm, and not artillery, they were hearing.

The Buchanan Stories 0115

THE BATTLE OF SUNTORY SHOTS

12 September 1910 (East Loch, off Tarbert, Isle of Harris, Hebrides, Scotland) As he stood on the bridge of the USS Connecticut with the ship's captain, John Daniels, on one side of him and Yamamoto on the other, VAdm. Walter Buchanan watched as the final preparations for the closing "pass in review" of the World's Fleets Review, as reporters had taken to calling it, took place.

The conditions were as they had hoped for: the early part of the day would be reasonably clear with little wind, but later in the day a squall line and storm was expected over the area to bring fog, wind, clouds and some rain. The tides and currents would be favorable, especially in the small channels off The Minch that were so important to their plan.

As a sailor Buchanan was impressed with the way the event had gone. There had been no accidents to speak of. The competitions, gaming events and social activities had all been a success; and the locals seemed to have enjoyed the visit of the various fleets even during wartime.

And that, Buchanan thought to himself, was the problem. The war was now entering its eleventh year; and it had been a disaster. China and Italy were totally defeated, although that was no big loss. However, England, France, and Germany were struggling; and even the Japanese were hard pressed fighting three navies in Asia. Only the Indians, among the nations of the Cinque amici alleati, were doing reasonably well. But the tide was definitely against the coalition and the RAT was gaining strength. Something had to be done, but what?

The what he anticipated was not pleasant to think about and after the fiasco at last night's diplomatic discussions after dinner he had sent an urgent wire to The President telling him so. This morning he had received a cryptic two word response, "Bottoms up." Officially still not at

war the United States was determined to stay out of it unless directly attacked. That's why the Connecticut was under orders to clear the area as quickly as possible and head for home with its precious cargo. But for now all he could do was watch and wait and wonder who the young man was that had boarded the ship last night with that cargo.

On the other participating ships, including nearly a hundred dreadnoughts, predreadnoughts, postdreadnoughts, battleships and battle cruisers of one kind or another, nearly two score admirals watched their own navies, their allies' navies and their foes navies prepare to move out on command of the Review captain. It was ironic that the man in charge of the entire assembly was standing on the bridge of the smallest ship involved, RNS Jolly Roger. The temporary captain of the Jolly Roger, Capt. James T. Hook, RN, VC, was a living legend among the officers and sailors of the assembled fleet for his heroism in battle and skills as a Navy officer. There wasn't one admiral present who hadn't made it a point to pay their respects to him during the Review. And now he would be telling them all where and when to go; and he was doing it the old-fashioned way with a ship's whistle and semaphore flags --- a fact which caused considerable laughter among the younger officers on the ships.

According to protocol and the plan the ships of the Review would leave the Loch in the reverse order in which they had arrived. The Jolly Roger would lead the procession and then move to one side of the Loch to supervise activities. Following it would be the Victoria and Albert, carrying King George V, the RMS Empress of India, the USS Connecticut (leaving first although it was also the first to arrive among the warships), and then the fleets of England, France, Germany, and Japan; followed by the Russian, Austrian and Turkish fleets.

The Minch was filled with hundreds of small boats, trawlers, and yachts that had come to see the greatest collection of naval power ever gathered in one place at one time. Many of the boats were flying the Stars and Stripes in addition to their own national ensigns, perhaps as a sign that they wished the Americans would get into the war.

After some carefully staged delays that moved the start of the review back by a few crucial hours, a blast from the Jolly Roger's horn, a toot on the whistle, and the raising of a single flag, the procession got under way.

With the crews of the various fleets lining the rails, the Jolly Roger followed by the Victoria and Albert, with the King in his Admiral of the Fleet uniform and wearing enough gold braid to reach from where he stood to the bridge of the last Turkish galley; and the USS Connecticut following with VAdm. Buchanan in his full

dress uniform on the bridge; the ships began their stately procession down the Loch and into The Minch.

As the Victoria and Albert passed by each ship in the Review fired a 21 gun salute with the King returning its salute. Few noticed that as the Victoria and Albert passed the last of the English battleships, surrounded by a cloud of smoke, the King took the opportunity to depart the bridge for a trip to the loo; and no one noticed that when he returned a few minutes later for the French fleet salute, his beard and mustache seemed a slightly different color and shape. It wasn't until years later that it became known that the King had been replaced by a double for the rest of the Review; while The King retired to his cabinet with a bottle of MacCallan's.

Some observers noted that the Japanese Emperor Meiji was not at the side of the King on the Victoria and Albert, but in the excitement of the day no one thought much about it. Next came the Empress of India, with the Maharajah of Gwalior, reputed to be the richest man in the world, standing on the bridge wearing a turban with the famed "Star of Bollywood" pink diamond attached. The diamond is roughly the size of an ostrich egg, is six inches long and weighs approximately four pounds.

With the passing of the Empress of India, the Review Captain gave another signal and the ships of the English fleet began to fall into line behind her. As the sun moved overhead to the west and the day wore on the English fleet was followed by the French, and then the German and finally the Japanese fleets. Timekeepers noticed that the procession seemed to be slowing down and it was almost sunset before the last of the dozen Japanese ships cleared the Loch.

Inexplicably the Review Captain did not give the signal for the next group, the RAT Pack of the Russian, Austrian and Turkish fleets to follow. A signal from the Jolly Roger sent the simple message, "Delay in Progress." Aboard the ships of the Russian and Turkish fleets the crews continued to man their stations while the officers toasted each other with various libations of which The Prophet probably would not have approved. On board the Austrian flagship, the SMS Viribus Unitis, Admiral von Trapp watched the goings on carefully as the last the Japanese fleet moved out of the Loch and into The Minch, the smoke and the increasing clouds. As it grew darker, he looked at the ship's captain and said, "Something is not right. I don't know if something is wrong yet, but something is definitely not right."

Suddenly, a horn blast (Author's Note: We have it on the best authority that the horn on board the Jolly Roger was manned by a 12-year-old English naval cadet named C. S. Forester who later created the Hornblower naval stories.), a whistle, a flag, and even a few flares issued the signal "Ship out."

Von Trapp looked at the captain and said, "It's dark. We shouldn't be moving. But the Russians are going and there is no way to contact the Jolly Roger." The Captain replied, "Roger that." And gave the orders to get under way.

First the Russians, then the Austrians and finally the Turks began to move down the Loch into the Minch, still according to plan at fifteen knots instead of a slower prudent speed.

Up ahead and out of sight of The RAT Pack the Jolly Roger and the flagships of the English, French, German and Japanese fleets were issuing their own orders.

The plan called for the Victoria and Albert, and the Empress of India to leave the area as quickly as possible but The King issued his first direct order of The Review, "There will be casualties. We must stay to render whatever assistance we can." And so the two ships made for the Dunevagen Loch to wait.

According to plan the USS Connecticut was steaming full blast and had already passed through the Sound of Harris and was south of St. Kilda Island heading west as fast as it could go. The English, French and German fleets were heading back to their wartime stations.

At the Jolly Roger's direction a carefully orchestrated ballet began to take place on The Minch south of the Loch Tarbert. From one side scores of local fishing boats carrying fifty gallon barrels of Lever soap moved out into The Minch. From the other side and slightly up current from them more fishing boats, trawlers and small ferry boats carrying fifty gallon barrels of napalm moved out into The Minch. When all was done two lines crossed The Minch. Closest to the Loch were the soap carriers. Next were the napalm carriers. Finally, and just out of sight, were the Japanese capital ships arranged in a fertile crescent that spanned The Minch.

On board the Connecticut Buchanan was thinking to himself as he repeatedly glanced at his watch, "Thank God, I read my Lepanto history." Yamamoto, at his side, toyed with the box in his pocket that the Earl had given him the night before. He told himself he wouldn't open it until the battle was done.

By now it was dark, cloudy, foggy, rainy and windy --- the kind of weather Scottish fisherman and Scotch drinkers love. All was ready.

According to plan the Russian fleet, headed by Admiral Ivan Ivanovich Smirnoff aboard the new battleship Gangut, turned south, down The Minch, still moving at fifteen knots into the growing storm front.

Next out of Loch was the Austrian fleet. As von Trapp watched the Russian fleet disappear into the fog and

rain ahead, he looked at the captain of the Veribus Unitis and said, "This is what they pay me the big bucks for. Turn port and make full speed to the north. We're going the long way home." "But, but, but....," the Veribus Unitis captain sputtered. Von Trapp looked at him cooley and said, "Captain, today either you will be an admiral and I will be a hero, or you will be dead and I will be a traitor. Make port. Now!" "Aye, aye." Came the response.

As the Austrian fleet sailed off to the north the Turkish fleet began to exit the Loch already heading toward the south. "Something is fishy here," said the Turkish fleet commander, Pasha Hak'ei, to the captain of the Hayreddin Barbarossa, his flagship. "Why are the Austrians not following the plan? That's a grave breach of protocol." Hak'ei thought for a moment and issued his orders, "Follow the Russians. The Sultan will never forget us if we break ranks or protocol."

As the Austrians continued north at high speed, the Russians and Turks continued south at a steady fifteen knots. By now the currents, fog, clouds, rain, and winds were whipping The Minch into a tempest in a teapot, or so the locals would have aid. In contrast, the faces of some of the Turkish sailors had a decidedly green cast.

The sailors manning the crows' nest saw it first but they thought it was of the fog and clouds and failed to sound the alarm. Ahead of them, from one side of The Minch to the other, was a wall of white perhaps fifty meters high; and they were moving directly into it. As they entered it they realized it was merely soap bubbles. Some of the Russian sailors and then the Turkish sailors began to strip down and take advantage of this free soap bath. No one bothered to look down into the dark waters around them.

In the meantime, the Austrians continued moving north as Von Trapp called for faster and faster speeds. He didn't know what was happening behind him but he sensed it wasn't good.

Still the Russians and Turks had failed to see the gray-painted barrels bobbing on the surface around them.

By now it was too late, although they didn't know it. The Japanese sailors and marines had been busy for the last few hours pushing nearly a thousand fifty gallon barrels, each one filled with more explosive power than one of those new-fangled torpedoes, filled with the best Scotch whisky overboard from the line of predreadnoughts and battleships across The Minch. Each barrel had been painted in the RAT colors and inscribed, in Japanese, "From your friends at Suntory." And the barrels of whisky had mixed with the barrels of napalm dropped earlier by the fishing boats as they bobbed among the Russian and Turkish ships. Not reading Japanese but recognizing the colors the barrels were painted, the Russian and Turkish sailors assumed the barrels were

parting gifts from their generous hosts of the night before; and struggled to capture and then drag some of the barrels on board their ships.

Observing this from afar through his Nikon binoculars which were far better than the Zeiss ones used by most navies, Admiral Ikebana Sushi ordered his ships to execute Plan Hitachi Beni-hana. Like a beautiful ballet each of the Japanese ships turned to the starboard, fired three salvos from all of its guns, and then made a graceful 360 degree turn before repeating the barrage. Instead of their usual shells the large guns were firing a special high-phosphorus shell with generous amounts of soy sauce, hot red chili pepper sauce and nitrates, --- a BBQ delight for sure. As the first 189 shells landed amidst the Russian and Turkish ships coming toward them a blazing inferno erupted across The Minch from the deadly combination of napalm, whisky, and HE shells.

Within a few hours the "Suntory Shot" cocktail, as it would forever be known, mix had spread across The Minch, through the portholes and onto the decks and magazines of the Russian and Turkish fleets. Explosion after explosion rocked the ships as they began to sink. The Russian and Turkish sailors struggled to save their ships and some even fired off shells at the enemy they couldn't see.

When it was over twenty-four Russian and Turkish capital ships were sunk and some eighteen thousand sailors and 12 admirals were dead. The Victoria and Albert and Empress of India moved slowly amidst the debris looking for survivors. There were none.

The Japanese fleet, at the orders of Admiral Sushi, dipped its flags and then turned south, exiting The Minch into The Hebrides and then turned west into the North Atlantic moving at full speed. Seated in his cabin later the Admiral first poured a cup of sake to the gods to thank them for the victory and sparring his sailors from harm and then another to the Emperor to thank him for his guidance to the victory. He then reached into his desk drawer and pulled out a bottle of 50 year old MacCallan whisky given to him by The King. He poured himself a generous glass, drank to The King's health and then another to his comrade Admiral Buchanan. As he continued to drink he contemplated the future for his fleet, his country and the war.

The Jolly Roger, still bobbing in The Minch, had flashed to the Victoria and Albert the results of the battle and the King was well pleased. He to broke out a bottle of MacCallan's, but his first toast was "To mother." And he proceeded to get royally drunk as only royals can do.

Aboard the Connecticut, when word of the victory came, Buchanan and Yamamoto broke out another bottle of MacCallan's and offered a shot to Jack Daniels, who

politely declined saying he was on duty. As Buchanan wondered what Esmeralda was doing in Pearl Harbor and Daniels wondered if whisky and not bourbon was the drink of the future, Yamamoto remembered the small box in his pocket. He reached in and pulled it out. Inside was a note in Japanese that he couldn't read and two small round objects about the size of plover eggs. Each one was of solid gold and encrusted in diamonds. Later he learned the note said, "These are whisky stones from a grateful country."

On the Enomoto, the nominal Japanese flagship, Torii Shinjiro raised a cup of sake to the Emperor to toast their victory; while Joseph P. Kennedy looked on. Next, Kennedy raised a shot glass of MacCallan's whisky he'd been given by Lord Leverhulme, and toasted "our future success in war and peace."

Through the night the Austrian fleet continued to move around the Isle of Lewis and then south toward St. Kilda as the Japanese fleet moved into the North Atlantic.

TO BE CONTINUED

10 September 1910 (Near St. Kilda, Island): During the night the Austrian Fleet passed St. Kilda headed south toward the Mid Atlantic. Admiral von Trapp continued to wonder why he had heard nothing from the Russian or Turkish fleets.

10 September 1910 (On The Minch): As the sun began to rise the Jolly Roger and the Victoria and Alberta cruised slowly back and forth across the calm waters of The Minch. Even the weather cooperated as the two vessels looked for survivors from the night's carnage. The calm waters were still covered with a film of oil slicks from the sunken warships and bits of debris floated here and there, and even the occasional sailor's body could be seen

Aboard the Jolly Roger cadet C. S. Forester was manning the crow's nest when he spotted a body floating not far from the boat. What caught his eye was the shining gold on the body reflecting the morning light. Within moments the boat was alongside the body and pulled it aboard. To the amazement of Captain James T. Hook, RN VC, and the crew the body, once on deck, began to wiggle and sputter. Gradually, as the sailors pumped water out of the body the sputters turned to words. It took a while since the Russian sailor spoke no English and the English sailors spoke no Russian, but Hook quickly realized from all the gold braid on the sailor that this was no ordinary sailor. In fact, they had hooked or rescued none other than Admiral Ivan Ivanovich Smirnoff, who had managed to survive the sinking of the Russian flagship. Captain Hook ordered him carried to his cabin and the ship's doctor poured them both a shot of McCallans.

Not far away at about the same time a similar incident was taking place on the Victoria and Albert where the Turkish Admiral Pasha Hak'ei was being hauled aboard. This time he was carried to the King's cabin where the King poured him a shot of McCallans, after the Pasha turned down an offer of some tea.

10 September 1910 (The Celtic Sea): During the night the Japanese Fleet passed out of the Celtic Sea into the Atlantic.

10 September 1910 (The North Atlantic): The USS Connecticut headed west across the Atlantic.

17 September 1910 (Verrazano Narrows): After an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic the USS Connecticut entered New York harbor, sailed past the New York Ship Yard (where the Connecticut had been built only four years earlier) as Buchanan and Daniels saluted the flag and gun salute coming from the navy yard. The ship proceeded slowly up the Long Island Sound and dropped anchor off a small island just across from the mouth of Connecticut River and down from the near-by Coast Guard Station. The island appeared uninhabited but Buchanan noticed a small grove of plum trees on it, which perhaps explained the name of the Island. The Connecticut dropped anchor off the island and began a wait for nightfall.

Under cover of darkness a small flotilla of boats from the battleship began moving back and forth between the ship and the Island, each one carrying a small crew and an assortment of barrels, large wooden crates, and some bulky circular items wrapped in heavy canvas. The procession of boats landed in a small inlet on the southwest side of the Island which could not be seen from either the Long Island or Connecticut shore. As quickly as the boats were unloaded a burly looking group of Irish men began loading them onto various wagons and carting them off. No one from the ship saw exactly where they went.

Meanwhile, on the north side of the Island a reception crew waited in front of a large, plain looking warehouse with a big sign that said PLUM ISLAND PLUM WINE DISTILLERY. As each wagon arrived the contents were unloaded and moved into the factory under the watchful eyes of an Irish foreman. Inside, standing to one side and watching what was happening was a group of Scottish workers from the Isle of Islay's malt whisky distilleries waiting to begin their task of assembling the distillery pieces and storing the barrels of whisky arriving. No one noticed the two Japanese naval officers in civilian clothes carefully observing the going-ons from the shadows.

By morning the unloading was done and the Connecticut reversed course, but instead of heading for the Naval Yard as the crew expected the ship again passed

through the Narrows and headed south. In the meantime, Buchanan had dispatched an "Eyes Only POTUS" message to The President. It simply said, "Mission accomplished."

A few hours later a pleased President opened a drawer in his desk, pulled out a bottle of McCallans and poured himself a shot.

19 September 1910 (Washington, DC): "Welcome home, Walter," the President said. "I can't wait to hear what happened, but first let me pour you a shot of McCallan." During his brief stop in Washington Buchanan reported on the details of the Battle of Suntory Shots, advised the President that it appeared the efforts of King George and the Emperor of Meiji had paid off, that an acceptable end to the War might be at hand now that the enemy's fleets had been ravaged and that everyone seemed to want the War over.

19 September 1910 (Cape Verde Islands): By prior arrangement the Japanese fleet under Admiral Ikebana Sushi had arrived for a fueling stop. While the battleships refueled; on board the Enomotom Torii Shinjiro gave two very different guests a tour below decks explaining to them what was in the various crates, canvas covered shapes and barrels. Both the Emperor Meiji and Joseph P. Kennedy were impressed by his knowledge of the hardware and the product it produced. When the tour was completed the trio returned to the captain's cabin and broke open a bottle of McCallan.

29 September 1910 (Port Stanley, Falkland Islands): After long voyage down the Atlantic the Japanese fleet arrived at this remote bastion of the British Empire for another refueling stop and quickly continued on.

13 October 1910 (Auckland, New Zealand): After the longest leg of its voyage the Japanese fleet arrived in Auckland for a week- long port call. While fueling, making needed repairs and re-supplying the ships went on the Emperor Meiji was feted by the British Governor and other dignitaries. No one seemed to notice that the Enomotom was moored away from the Japanese warships and that its crew remained on the ship during the port stop. Nor did anyone notice that the Emperor returned from a last farewell party to the IJN Toyota, but Kennedy and Shinjiro remained on the Enomotom.

15 October 1910 (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii): After his brief visit in Washington to debrief the President, Buchanan again took the train to San Francisco where he boarded the USS Kentucky for the voyage to Pearl Harbor. Only Buchanan and The President knew that the President had ordered him to return to Pearl Harbor to make sure the construction of the new Navy base was proceeding as planned; and that the base would be ready in case

another war broke out in the Pacific. Then, when all was well there, he had told Walter to return to Washington for a new assignment in a new position that the President had created --- that of Chief of Naval Operations; which would make him a four star admiral in charge of the entire Navy.

27 October 1910 (Cavite Bay, Philippines): As the sailors of the ships (all three of them) of the US Asiatic Fleet manned the rails and a shipboard 21-gun salute was fired in greeting, the Japanese fleet headed by the Toyota with the Japanese Emperor Meiji aboard sailed into Cavite Bay. By now the well trained Japanese sailors knew the drill and the ships refueled and re-supplied as the Emperor was entertained by the American Governor William Cameron Forbes. Again the Enomotom kept to itself.

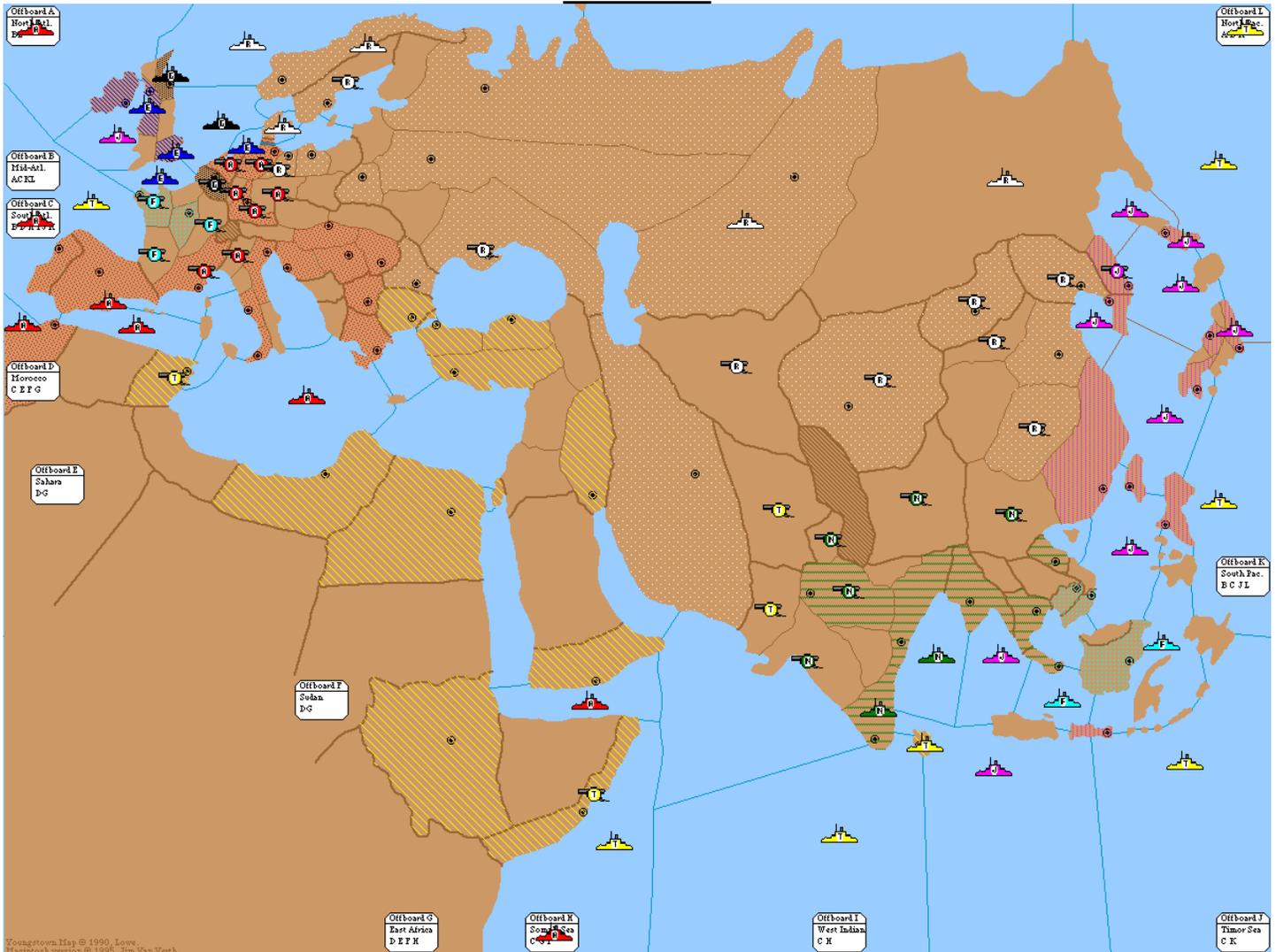
14 November 1910 (Yokohama, Japan): Greeted by tens of thousands of cheering Japanese the Japanese Fleet arrived home after a 2 month, 20,000 mile voyage that began in a remote Loch in The Hebrides, Scotland. As the Emperor took the salute from the Toyota and the ships of the Fleet passed in review, few eyes were on the Enomotom as it docked nearby. Almost immediately waiting dock workers joined the crew and began unloading the crates, canvas covered pieces of equipment and barrels labelled McCallans and other names in English. Shinjiro and Kennedy waited until the ship was unloaded before climbing into a car to follow the line of wagons and trucks headed for Osaka.

21 November 1910 (Osaka, Japan): After the long, slow trip to Osaka, so as to not disturb their precious cargo, the fleet of wagons and trucks arrived at their new home, a large warehouse with a sign in Japanese and English that said SUNTORY PLUM WINE AND SPIRITS DISTILLERY. As each piece of equipment and barrel was unloaded and rolled into the warehouse Shinto priests blessed it while Shinjiro, Kennedy and the British ambassador watched. When all was done Shinjiro invited the others into his small office and broke out a bottle of McCallans and a bottle of Suntory plum wine and proposed a toast.

21 November 1910 (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii): At about the same time Buchanan, Esmeralda, their son and Yamamoto were sitting on the porch of the Commandant's House overlooking the base. Already Buchanan could see the changes where the dockyard was under construction, including a big dry dock. In the distance the Kentucky was moored just off of Ford's Island with several man-carrying war kites sailing over the Island like some kind of giant birds.

Buchanan looked at Esmeralda and said, "Are you ready to go home, dear?"

Autumn 1911



Austria: Has F Gulf of Aden, A Holland, F Ionian Sea, A Kiel, A Marseilles, A Munich, F Off Board A, F Off Board C, F Off Board H, A Piedmont, A Ruhr, F South Atlantic Ocean, A Saxony, F Spain(sc), F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Has F English Channel, F Helgoland Bight, F Liverpool, F London.

France: Has A Brest, A Burgundy, F Celebes Sea, A Gascony, F Malay Sea.

Germany: Has A Belgium, F Edinburgh, F North Sea.

India: Retreat A Afganistan - Kashmir.. Has F Bay of Bengal, A Delhi, A Kashmir, F Madras, A Rajastan, A Sikang, A Tibet.

Japan: Retreat F Manchuria - Yellow Sea.. Has F Andamon Sea, F Irish Sea, F East Indian Ocean, F East China Sea, F South China Sea, F Kar, F Sea of Japan, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Tokyo, A Vladivostok, F Yellow Sea.

Russia: Has A Berlin, F Denmark, A Hankow, A Inner Mongolia, A Manchuria, F Norwegian Sea, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Sevastopol, F Siberia, A Sinkiang, A Sweden, A Turkistan.

Turkey: Retreat A Rajastan - Sind.. A Afganistan, F Ceylon, A Magudisco, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F North Pacific Ocean, F Off Board L, F South Pacific Ocean, A Sind, F Somali Sea, F Timor Sea, A Tunis, F West Indian Ocean.

Now Proposed – A/R/T Draw. Please vote with your WINTER Orders. NVR=No.

Supply Center Chart

Austria:	Budapest, Greece, Holland, Kiel, Klug, Marseilles, Morocco, Munich, Naples, Portugal, Rome, Serbia, Spain, Trieste, Venice, Vienna=16, Build 1
England:	Ireland, Liverpool, London=3, Remove 1
France:	Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Paris, Saigon=5, Even
Germany:	Belgium, Edinburgh=2, Remove 1
India:	Burma, Calcutta, Delhi, Joharra, Madras, Thailand, Viet Nam=7, Even
Japan:	Canton, Formosa, Java, Korea, Kyoto, Osaka, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=10, Remove 1
Russia:	Berlin, Denmark, Hankow, Iran, Manchuria, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Peking, Posen, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Warsaw=17, Build 3
Turkey:	Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Magudisco, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Tunis, Yemen=12, Even

PRESS

Anon: In Diplomacy it's no big deal
To lie and to cheat and to steal.
But a man without honour,
Like the family Donner,
Will wind up as somebody's meal.

Anon: I'm getting The Look from my wife -
The prelude to marital strife.
"Too much playing That Game
Is causing me shame!
Why don't you go get a life!"

Anon: To be a good player of China,

You really cannot be a whina.
Although it depends
On which neighbours are friends
And which ones will give you angina.

Anon: An odious man is The Snatcher
Who always is looking to catch yer.
He'll promise you lots
Then snatch all your dots
And then you'll be put out to pasture.

Anon: M is for Mendicant, you know his whine:
"Can you spare a dot, buddy? I've lost all of mine."

Fall and Autumn 1911 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

There are three things to say clearly at this
Fall/Autumn turn point.

First: Turkey remains "behind" in centers, but has taken the lead in possessing the hold on the three seas on the eastern side of the board, penning in Japan. Turkey also is taking the lead in the slow-going battle against India. But it should be noted, he is the easiest player to cut out, especially with only 12 centers and no builds while Russia gets three builds at 17 and Austria gets one build at 16. Given the Austrian presence in the Ionian Sea as well, if RA stabbed T this next year, they could take all of his home centers and more.

Second, the press is incredible for such a lame game, with "Anon.'s" poetry and the return in spades of the Walt Buchanan press dominating. But in Fall, Walt ends with: "Are you ready to go home, dear?" And that's the real question, do they fight on, or just end it. And that comes to the final,

Third, the ARTists of the ART draw propose that ending. They may take it, and we may be done, but cycle back to the first point... is that possible?

Poor India, we hardly knew ye....looks like R/T don't want India in the draw....still India should have seen this coming and made more of an effort to work with Japan and his toadies....

I agree with JB...just a question of time here and how much resistance Walt/Japan wants to offer the big three R/A/T.....

I kind of hope this is over.

Apparently Walt is now trying the famed "Stationary" defense. Not quite as effective as the "Stationery" defense, which consists of smothering one's enemies with envelopes and writing pads, I'm afraid. (*shrug*)

Let's see...England is down to 3, France is down to 5, of which 3 are in SE Asia, Japan has 10, and India has 7.

That comes to 25. Oh, right, Germany has 2, too. Make it 27. A/R/T have 45. Not really much point in plotting tactics when the numbers are like that.

Nothing new for now.

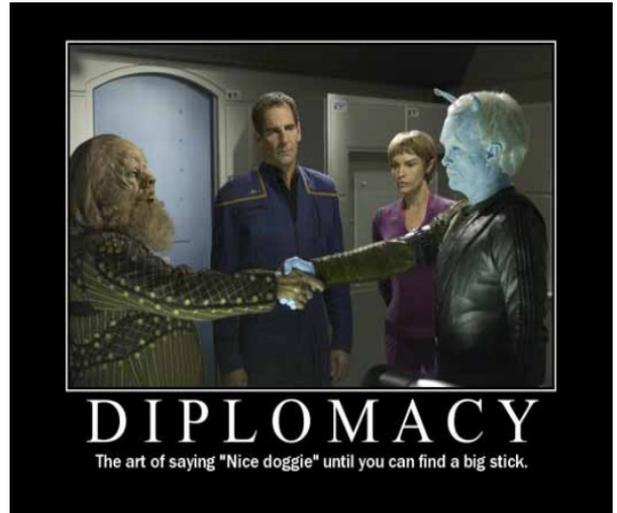
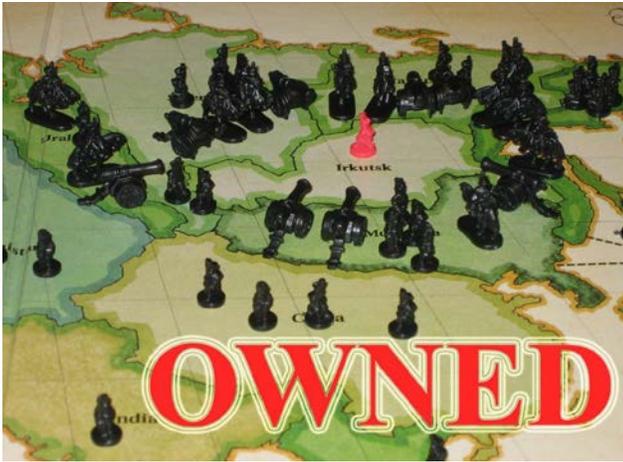
Winter 1911

A/R/T Draw Passes!

PRESS

Anon: I think it's important to know
That I'm getting fed up with snow.
A storm every week
Is making me shriek
And the piles continue to grow.

Austria: Because pictures say 1000 words:



End of Game Report, End of Game Statements, and End of Game Commentary will be published in Diplomacy World #132. Stay tuned!