

Eternal Sunshine #121

February 2017

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On the web at <http://www.whiningkentpigs.com/DW/>. Also be sure to visit the official Diplomacy World website which can be found at <http://www.diplomacyworld.net>.

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My book "It's Their House; I'm Just a Guest" is available in softcover and Kindle from Amazon at

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1501090968/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?ie=UTF8&psc=1&smid=ATVPDKIKXODER

Welcome to the latest issue of Eternal Sunshine, as we continue to run down to a fold. I wrote up a little thing on online dating which I'll likely include to buffer all the Peeriblah in this issue. Larry seems to want to get as much as he can in these pages before the zine ends. See you in March.

A Vague and Confused Essay About Online Dating

I know this essay will be a bit rambling. More rambling than most of the stuff I put in here. That's okay. I just wanted to vent.

The point of this essay is just to try and explain that I don't understand the rules of the game so I don't see how I can play. I don't pretend to be anyone else; I'm myself. I am open and honest. I disclose fully the major objections someone might have to a relationship with me (at the top of the list would be I haven't filed for divorce yet, and I spent time in Federal prison over 10 years ago for a non-violent crime).

I am very introspective. I understand my feelings and my experiences and my fears. I express them well. I listen and pay attention to what the other person says. And I REMEMBER what they say. I'm not into one night stands or hook-ups.

In response, I get a lot of positive reaction from some women. They love having a man who will talk about feelings, and understands how important it is to avoid invalidating the feelings of someone else. They express great happiness in venting to someone who doesn't think every complaint or story or problem is an invitation for me to fix it; I know the difference. I know listening and understanding and showing that I truly DO understand is crucial. And I ask questions, so I can understand better. I am engaged in the conversations.

Most of the women I talk to on these sites have been through painful relationships. Men cheated on them. Men lied to them. Sometimes men hurt them physically. They were taken for granted, ignored, stolen from...or they have simply never found someone who makes them feel treasured and special. I try to be that person, not just because they want it but because that's the kind of person I am. When I can afford to be I am generous: with my time, my emotions, my love, and if possible with money or small gifts.

Quite often I listen to a woman tell me about a previous relationship, and she explains to me some of the things she is especially sensitive to because of those experiences. Perhaps they need special treatment because of a lack of trust. Maybe they don't want to be asked questions about where they have been or what they are doing. Certain words that otherwise seem innocent might have a great deal of negative weight in their mind or heart. I accept that. I don't pick and choose the parts of someone to leave and try to change the rest. I accept someone in whole, or I move on.

But I don't understand why I express my own insecurities, which are a product of MY past relationships, I so often am told "sorry, insecurity is a turn off." It's as if they want me to be myself, show myself, make myself vulnerable in every way, EXCEPT when it comes to the fact that I don't ever feel like the most desirable or eye-catching or interesting person in a room. Sometimes I need a woman to be a little obvious about her attraction to me; otherwise I might mistake it for just being friendly (which seems to be the opposite of many men, who think if you don't stab them with a pen knife you want to have sex with them).

Yes, I don't have the greatest self-image. But I remain a work in progress, and this is just about the MOST positive I have been about myself in 30 years. It still isn't good enough.

...which is why I feel like I don't understand the rules of the game. And that's why I believe I'm simply going to quit trying to play. If something magical falls in my lap one day, I hope I notice and grab hold. But I don't think I can spend time and energy and emotion looking any longer. The pain and the disappointment FAR outweigh the rest.

I suppose I've had more than my share of love in one lifetime. Just because it always blows up in my face doesn't mean it was a failure all along...even if the last year or two of each were nothing but lies and deceit. My turn is over; time to let other people have theirs.

And as a quick postscript, I've decided it is better not to be understood than it is to be misunderstood. By that I mean I find it much easier to deal with a person who simply doesn't "get" me (yet) than someone who THINKS they do. The latter takes their misunderstanding and then uses that perception to explain my words and actions, read between the lines when nothing is written there, and basically try to tell me what I'm thinking and feeling but be completely off the mark. And then, when I to counter their statements with my actual position I am accused of pushing away or not being ready or any of a long list of self-fulfilling prophecies. It becomes tiresome quickly, and all I'm left with is the response of "see, I knew this was coming."

XENOGOGIC Winter 2017

By Larry Peery

WORLD WAR III: YES, IT CAN HAPPEN HERE AND YES, IT CAN HAPPEN NOW. FIVE HOT SPOTS IN A WORLD OF GLOBAL WARMING

OK, it's time to bite the bullet and consider where and when WWII might happen.

For months and in at least one case over a year I've been studying what I consider to be the most probable and possible locations for the beginning of the next World War. Note that I'm not talking about the Cold War II that some think is going on right now but a real fighting war. As for when it might start, dare I suggest it already has?

I've picked five hot spots where such a conflict could happen and, in at least some cases, it has already started.

KOREA

BLACK SEA, TURKEY, SYRIA AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

SOUTH CHINA SEA

THE SUWALKI GAP

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WASHINGTON, DC

In thinking about this I've looked at geographical factors, demographics, historical events, economic situations, as well as current and projected military capabilities among other things. I've considered but avoided making judgments on domestic political, international diplomatic and ideological elements because they are so susceptible to subjective analysis. I've also tried to avoid type-casting either individual leaders or stereo-typing entire national populations. One thing I've learned is that you can't predict or anticipate how the "crazy factor" will effect a leader or how "mob psychology" will effect crowds gathered in public places, whether they are Tiananmen Square, the Washington Mall or the internet.

KOREA

I believe Korea is the most probable starting place for WWIII. It has been a battleground since the beginning of time as it sought to become a single nation. Today it is surrounded by three large neighbors who all have, at one time or another, tried to control, if not outright annex, it. Today, the peninsula is divided in two parts, North and South, with the North controlling two-thirds of the land and one-third of the population, and the South controlling one-third of the land and two-thirds of the population. These two sides, one poor and one prosperous, sit on either side of a two hundred-plus mile armistice line with a million men and tens of thousands of weapons just a few miles apart. It is tinder box waiting to explode.

Unfortunately, there are many lit matches close to that tinder. The North is quantitatively and qualitatively improving its nuclear force regardless of external pressures. The South is deploying a THAAD defense system that might work against the Northern missiles but which is surely upsetting the Chinese and Russians. Not as well-known is a major expansion at Camp Humphreys in central South Korea which will move an entire US Army division and the joint USA/ROK command structure to a single, convenient target site for those missiles. Ironically, this sitting duck target will cost in the area of USD 13.4B paid for by South Korea. At the same time, the US is finally finishing construction of a new aircraft carrier, the Gerald R. Ford, this time a moving duck, which will also cost about USD 13.4B paid for by the USA.

BLACK SEA, SYRIA, TURKEY, AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

For several months I've been watching the comings and goings of the US and Russian navies in the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean and the domestic turmoil within Syria and Turkey as autocratic rulers (MDS or Modern Day Sultans as I like to call them.) duke it out. The war, because that is what it is, in Syria and the war, because that is also what it is, in Turkey have been well-covered in the international media. Syria is in ruins. Turkey is in chaos. Both are also tinder boxes waiting to explode beyond their borders.

Less attention has been paid in the media to what's going on in the Black Sea but military professionals have watched with growing alarm the increasingly tense and close confrontations between US and Russian naval forces. NATO, with the US Navy at the forefront, has pretty much decided to establish a permanent presence in the Black Sea as part of its effort to support Ukraine. That concerns the Russians but even more concerning to them is a little noted recent event in which Turkey, the treaty-given guardian of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Strait (a treaty of which Russia is a signatory by the way), shut down the passage to Russian naval forces. Even more disturbing would be a closing of that passage to Russian commercial shipping. The reason for that is simple. Novorossiysk is a major commercial port on the east side of the Black Sea from which most of Russia's grain and oil are exported to foreign markets through, you guessed it, the Bosphorus. To protect themselves the Russian navy has added new surface warships and has announced it will be building six new advanced conventional -powered subs to its Black Sea fleet.

The international media gave considerable publicity to the recent cruise of a Russian aircraft carrier battle group to the Eastern Mediterranean from its home base on the Barents Sea. The western press laughed at the

smoking, old Russian carrier and the fact that it lost two of its planes in the first two weeks it participated in the Syrian conflict. Now the Russian fleet is heading home and, as I write this, is preparing to re-enter the English Channel with an honor guard of NATO warships. It might have seemed like a futile gesture on the part of the Russians to undertake this adventurous cruise which, at first, reminded me of the Russian's Baltic Fleet dashing (over a period months) to take part in the Russo-Japanese War which ended in a disastrous defeat in just thirty minutes at the Battle of Tsushima Strait. However, the Russians, for their loss of two planes, gained much from their effort: a "showing the flag" cruise of considerable propaganda value; training of personnel and testing of equipment under real combat conditions; a new major base for their naval forces in Syria; and, perhaps most importantly, a boost in their effort to gain more of the pie in the division of the shrinking Russian military budget. Not bad.

So, in summary, the situation in this area is bad and the trends are getting worse. Not good.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

It's hard not to see the continuous press reports coming out of China, the USA, and the various countries that border on the SCS. As much as anything I think it's a fascination that the Chinese could and did build all those little coral island aircraft carriers that individually don't amount to much but collectively which fulfill multiple purposes: they show they will have a permanent presence in the area; they put themselves in the middle of one of the world's most important trade routes, they tweak the nose of the US Navy; and, most importantly, they secure the southern approaches to their new SLBM base at Sanya Bay on Hainan Island. How important is that last one? Imagine if one morning the US Navy woke up to find four Russian bases on four little islets in the Strait of Juan de Fuca or Salish Sea? Could it happen? With the history of USA-Canadian disputes over the boundary and the local Indians to stir the pot it just might happen. Not likely, but to the US Navy SLBM base at Kitsap, the mere possibility of such a threat must rank right up there with the high tides that virtually shut down the operations at the base.

The situation is bad enough that even the small countries in the area are starting to take an interest in it and beef up their naval forces. Almost every one of them has ordered new submarines and patrol aircraft for use in the area. Billions of dollars that could better be used at home are pouring into the coffers of sub builders in Korea, Japan, Sweden, Germany and France. Oh, did I mention the Russians?

SUWALKI GAP

It took me years of effort to finally get people to pay attention to the importance of Hainan Island and Sanya Bay. Now with that battle won I'm turning to a new priority target, the Suwalki Gap. If you're not familiar with it check it out on wiki, Google maps and YouTube videos. As you can see it's a small strip of land measuring about 30-35 miles wide and 70-200 miles long (depending on how much of the border you include) in northeast Poland that connects the Russian territory of Kaliningrad and Byelorussia. To the south is Poland and to the north is Lithuania. Suwalki and Augustow are the two main towns and all the roads in the area go through one or the other of them. There are no railroads, I think, and it's mostly a flat land of pine tree forests and small lakes.

Historically it has been a pathway for German, Russian and Polish armies advancing and retreating in turn. Today the area has regained the strategic importance it lost with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989. Without the buffer zone provided by the WTO and USSR Russia feels insecure and, frankly, I probably would too if I were a Russian. And that little enclave of Kaliningrad, how a formal part of Russia, is surrounded by the three Baltic Republics and Poland. Always a strong Soviet base the Russians have

continued to pour their latest and best equipment and personnel into Kaliningrad, making its weaker neighbors more and more insecure.

In an effort to prop them up NATO shifted more of its multi-national forces into the area creating some weird basing situations. Today the entire region is dotted with bits and pieces of NATO units scattered about: a company or battalion here, a few fighters there, an AWACS patrol plane here, and a destroyer or frigate there. Most recently the USA army has moved an entire brigade to the area via Germany and Poland. It will be split up into various battalion size pieces scattered throughout NATO Eastern Europe. The idea is that their presence will deter the Russians from attacking their neighbors because that trip-wire would draw the USA into the conflict in a big way. Frankly, I don't think that's going to work.

SIXTEEN HUNDRED PENNSYLVANIA AVE., WASHINGTON, DC

For years I thought if a major war happened involving the USA it would start in the Pentagon, probably by accident. Since the last election I've come to the conclusion that a major war involving the USA is more likely to start in the White House, probably not by design or accident, but through bad decision-making or sheer stupidity. The same kind of bad decision-making that caused WW II, the Vietnam War and any number of wars in the Near and Middle East. The same kind of stupidity that started WWI and some of the Arab-Israeli Wars.

In my view the root cause of all this probable potential possibility for a WWIII in near time lies with one simple trend that is prevalent in all these areas and all their players. I'm referring to the breakdown in the separation of powers between the diplomats and the military and the decline of strong leadership able to use both wisely. Both the peacekeepers and the warfighters have become mercenaries fighting for their own gain. As Madeleine Albright so infamously asked Clinton Powell during the 1990s Bosnian conflict, "What's the point of having this superb military that you're always talking about if we can't use it?" Today the question is not what but where and when?

A Response from Baron Powell....

Larry,

A disclaimer up front... I was a commissioned officer in the US Army for twenty years. I served as a logistician with primary responsibilities in supply, services, maintenance, and planning. After ten years away from the Army, I came back as a Department of the Army civilian. I still hold this position today. My experience with the service tells me that it has many of the problems you would expect to find in a large, in this case extremely large, government agency. One really does not have to dig very hard to find instances of stifling bureaucracy, waste, fraud, cronyism, incompetence, corruption, and a host of ills with which critics associate the military. At the same time, it is obvious that the military has its share of absolutely brilliant people, genuine patriots, innovators, problem solvers, reformers, and efficient organizations. In short, if you are looking for problems, you can find them in the military and if you are looking for something to rally behind, you find that in the military too.

My own attitude towards the military shows my ambivalence. I often find myself highly critical of military culture, trends, decisions, and practices. At the same time, I find my first reaction is to bristle when someone starts blasting the military, particularly someone who has no real experience with it. Please know that I understand that you do have experience and that I do not believe you are "blasting the military" at all. In fact, I appreciated your mention of the conversation between Madeleine Albright and Colin [sic] Powell, as it paints the latter in a favorable light, at least in my mind. I do, however, detect your cynicism. It is no doubt well justified. Certainly the current world situation is precarious enough to give us all pause.

Now that I have given you my preamble, I will get to the bottom line: trying to predict where WWII will start is an exercise in pessimism. "This could lead to this could lead to this..." scenarios almost always sound alarmist to me. If I am honest, however, I will confess my pessimism when it comes to human nature. I do not believe in Gene Roddenberry's ideas of human evolution and utopia. I tend to view humanity as more of a cancer which will someday consume Terra. Humans being humans, I feel we can count on another great war occurring. Given the nature of today's weapons, we can almost certainly guarantee that the next great war will be destructive to a magnitude that will make all the horrors of the world's past conflicts pale in comparison.

Any one of the scenarios you came up with could be the match that lights the fuse. I tend to view the area surrounding the Black Sea as the most dangerous currently with the area that used to be the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as number two, but with so many "good" choices, it is hard to narrow the selection down to only one. The key in my mind is looking at those nations that want to change the status quo the most. It is this aspect that makes me believe North Korea is not the number one hot spot, though we certainly cannot dismiss it as long as the mercurial Kim Jong-un pulls the strings. Instead, it seems to me that Russia is the most dangerous nation at this time. Russia most certainly wants the status quo to change. For all of its saber rattling, I am less sanguine about China.

Curiously, I think Trump's election "might" mitigate the risk of a conflict between Russia and the United States. For as long as Trump remains a fan of Putin and his leadership style, I think he is unlikely to favor involving the US in a war with Russia should the Russians strive to "take back that which was once ours." Sadly, Trump too often displays the temperament and judgement of an adolescent. Indeed, Trump himself seems to embrace the role of provocateur. Should Putin misplay his hand so that Trump feels personally slighted, then who knows if Trump will show restraint. His seeming willingness to use our nuclear arsenal as a first resort genuinely alarms me.

I know little about Trump's selection for Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson. I will have to learn more quickly. My initial impressions of Trump's selection for National Security Advisor, Michael Flynn, are not favorable at all. I am putting considerable faith in James Mattis, the new Secretary of Defense. My hope is that he is the next George Marshall, not the next Robert McNamara.

We do indeed live in interesting times. My hope, as grim as it sounds, is that I am not longer around when the Dooms Day Clock hits midnight.

THE POLTAVA OPENING: A WALK THROUGH dip&DIP

By Larry Peery

The legendary "Poltava Opening" came about in one of my first postal Diplomacy games back in 1966. I was playing France. For some reason Russia upset me in the Winter 1900 negotiations and press, so I announced in a press release to all the players that it was my intention to attack Russia.

Gales of laughter greeted that announcement.

Then, in the Fall of 1901, I picked up three supply centers: Spain, Portugal and Belgium. Suddenly I was the biggest power on the board. Still no one was overly concerned at first, until in Winter 1901 I built three armies.

That got some attention, especially from Germany

I immediately wrote long (yes, even in those days peeriblah tended to be overly verbose) letters (real letters, we had no internet, email or computers, etc. in those days) to England, Germany, Italy and Austria that carefully laid out my plan to attack Russia!

God knows what they said to each other but the replies I got were agreeable, although it took a bit of persuading to get Germany and Austria to go along with my plan.

I proposed to them that they allow me to move through Munich, in the spring of course, and then Silesia, at the same time I would be moving via Tyrolia and Bohemia into Galicia. From there I would attack the Ukraine. Along the way I would be supporting them (Germany and Austria) in their attacks on Warsaw and Rumania. More importantly I would guarantee the peace between them. All I asked for was a clear shot at Moscow.

So how did it go?

Swimmingly. While England and Turkey watched in horror, my armies moved east until I had a string of armies that occupied Munich, Tyrolia, Bohemia, Galicia and the Ukraine. It was time for Operation Poltava. I don't know if it was Germany or Austria that got cold feet but they couldn't accept the idea that I would do as I had said in my press (A very novel concept in 1960s Diplomacy.) and, as my orders showed afterwards, that's precisely what I did.

Simultaneously I was attacked on three sides by Italy, Austria, Russia and Germany. I had three units, or was it four, annihilated in one turn.

I was dead meat.

Still, it wasn't a total loss, just a peericratic defeat. Within a year France was gone as I made no effort to prevent England from picking up my centers as best she could.

When the game ended a few years later, England was the winner and the Poltava Opening was a hobby legend and my reputation as "the worst player in hobby history" was born.

THE ABYSSINIAN PRINCE #380

January 30, 2017

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2017 remains a wild ride so far, doesn't it???

E-MAIL/WEB ONLY ISSUE! PDF will be available on the website when diplom.org is back up. Yes, you are NOT dreaming, the whole site unfortunately presently is unavailable, but we WILL get it back up. We also are being reproduced in *Eternal Sunshine* which is running down to a fold.

Web Page Address: <http://www.diplom.org/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html> (still disabled)

YOU can still join Kendo Nagasaki, hop in!!! But it's ALMOST over...

This issue continues the szine/subszine inversion. As most of you know, this thing began as a "subszine" to Terry Tallman's *North Sealth, West George* in NSWG #16, then became its own szine with a host of subszines. Since Terry's passing, we lose our thirty year fervent hope that someday NSWG would have been resurrected and I could go back and swear my fealty to the Toadfather. The subszines remaining will appear as sub-subszines to our flipfopped home in Doug Kent's *Eternal Sunshine*. I'm set on continuing my GMing, and I'm starting to write a bit, hope there might be more, especially when I feel better. Feel free to communicate with me about how you want to help or what you want to play, or if anyone else wants TAP subszine status.

For production, in addition to the HTML's of each separate product on the web page, I also have a PDF that you can print of the entire subszine (including my famous handdrawn maps!). You can just print the maps if you like, but remember maps are for pikers anyway, you don't need no steenkin' maps, keep them up in your head where they belong. I'm having trouble with the upload interfaces, part of the diplom.org site move consequences. I'll get it fixed as soon as I can. I need to stay within the security of the site (which is very important!!!!) while getting access to change the web site's index and files for the szine. It shouldn't be that hard, but my first, second, and third attempts didn't work.

The website address is still: <http://diplom.org/>. I had a glitch in the webpage update process, but I hope that will be fixed when the site as a whole comes back. I was hoping to provide an update today, but as I write, I STILL don't really have one.

There are currently 77 members of the official TAP subscriber list, which is starting to come back up, I hope. <http://lists.asciiking.com/mailman/listinfo/tap> is the current list website. YOU need to make sure you're on this list. I'm trying to add some of the newer subscribers who aren't there. It's really easy, just click on that link or copy and paste it into your browser. If you have questions or problems, PLEASE ask. There you can check your subscribing options and whether you're registered. Register if you want to get TAPE-Mailed regularly. Some people have had trouble with the attachments, so I have switched to sending the link in the announcements, I see that does help. Please let me know about other issues, but it puts priority on getting the link up again. Apologies for the recent confusions.

THE ABYSSINIAN PRINCE FEATURES SECTION (CONS/LETTERS/MUSIC)

((For upcoming cons around the world: <http://www.diplom.org/Face/cons/index.php>, success, we have badgered all the Con directors to post their Cons, so it is reasonably up to date now. And there remains lots of interest in the FTF community, and linking E-Mail/Web players to FTF. Also, the Facebook page for European Tournament Diplomacy, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1500292310187264/>, Diplomacy in Europe, has been really active and the place to be in the hobby these days. If you're on Facebook, hook up there! The Nor'Easter sequence of four tournaments will be continuing next year, culminating in North American DipCon this next year at Carnage in Vermont!

Remember that I'm leading TotalCon again, which has MOVED! TotalCon will be February 24-26, 2017 at Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA. For those following

closely, this is basically where the Boston tournament was last year, before Randy and Alan Levin moved it to Cambridge.

TotalCon is New England's largest general gaming convention and is one of the places that we as a hobby reach out and make the Diplomacy tournament circuit known to other gamers. We picked up quite a host of brand new players last year, and expect to do more of that this year. Thanks to the entire TotalCon staff for their hospitality and helpfulness. The Rounds will be: Round 1 on Friday night at 7PM, Round 2 at 10AM on Saturday morning, Round 3 at 7PM on Saturday, and Round 4 at 1PM on Sunday, with an ending by 5PM. The first three rounds are unlimited in length. Please think about making plans to come. Pre-registration for the whole weekend is 65 dollars or 75 dollars at the door. But we do have a special 50 dollar deal for this convention! Check with me if you're coming to make sure you get this great deal, which includes a 15 dollar voucher!!! I will be having two crash rooms with pay what you can, feel free to start reserving your spot now! Brad Blitstein was first to claim a spot. Commitments are slow, any of you interested in coming???)

FEATURE: ROCK AND ROLL BANDS AND MOMENTS THAT MATTER

((If anyone from TAP or ES has ideas for more things to talk about here let me know. I do have four or five ideas lined up here already that I just have to write. I have been nudged... comments from any of you also are welcome.))

THE ABYSSINIAN PRINCE LETTERS SECTION

Brendan Whyte (Sun, Jan 8, 2017 at 10:16 PM)

Su and I attended a nice mass on Christmas Eve at a Catholic church near where we were staying in NZ. Had a tourist French family standing next to us, and a few Asians and Pacific Islanders in the congregation too.

BWHYTE of nla.gov.au

((Thanks, Brendan, and congratulations on coming from behind to win the Breaking Away game!!! I'm sure you're in for the next one. Brendan has an "everybody plays" idea for this with a 15 replenishment limit. What do people think of that???) It seems crazed for the GM, i.e. me....))

THE ABYSSINIAN PRINCE GAMES SECTION

Standby lists: Brad Wilson, Jack McHugh, Drew James, Paul Rauterberg, Doug Kent, Paul Kenny, and Hugh Polley stand by for regular Diplomacy. Just let me know if you want on or off these lists. I would like a few more interested parties, once we get back on the web.

GAME OPENING INFORMATION

I'd love to do another game of Spy Diplomacy, but it requires commitment that seems in short supply. Especially with Doug Kent bowing out, is there some other Variant in which there is interest? Please ask!!!

REGULAR DIPLOMACY: Two games continue. Is there something else we want to start? I have some ideas on how to do "By Popular Demand" differently... Let's see if there is interest in a new regular game. Signups please?

BREAKING AWAY: I will start a new game after next issue, Andy Bate was first to sign up. There also is interest from others, can we get that nailed down for next issue? I was warned about a game with seven players, but I liked the way this one came off, so we will be looking for six or seven, and I'm inclined to do another game with seven if we can find enough of you interested.

KENDO NAGASAKI: Send in your guesses!!!

THE TERRY TALLMAN MEMORIAL: 2016A, Regular Diplomacy

THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1904 IS FEBRUARY 18TH, 2017

Winter 1903

AUSTRIA (Black): Misprint last time, a BUD S a boh-gal was written; has a VIE, a BUD, f TRI, f GRE, a GAL, a BUL.

ENGLAND (Cohen): has f WAL, f NTH, f NWG.

FRANCE (Rauterberg): RAUTERBERG TAKES OVER; rem f eng; has f POR, f BRE, a MAR, a GAS.

GERMANY (Polley): has a BER, f BAL, a MUN, f HOL, a DEN, a BEL.
ITALY (Ellinger): bld f nap; has f NAP, f WES, f SPA(SC), a PIE, a VEN.
RUSSIA (Zarr): has a WAR, f NWY, a FIN, f SWE, a SEV, a UKR, f RUM.
TURKEY (Wiedemeyer): has f CON, f BLA, a SMY.

E-Mail Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Thaddeus Black, thaddeus.h.black of gmail.com
ENGLAND: David Cohen, zendip18 of optonline.net
FRANCE: Paul Rauterberg, paul.rauterberg of att.net
GERMANY: Hugh Polley, hapolley of yahoo.ca
ITALY: Marc Ellinger, mellinger of blitzbardgett.com
RUSSIA: Harold Zarr, skip1955 of hotmail.com
TURKEY: Fred Wiedemeyer, wiedem of telus.net

Game Notes:

1) Gavin resigned, so Paul takes over.
2) Note that I mistyped one of the Austrian orders last time, so there were two supports for the successful move to Galicia.

Press:

None to be spotted...

THE DON WILLIAMS 57 MEMORIAL: 2014A, Regular Diplomacy
THE DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1908 IS FEBRUARY 18TH, 2017

Autumn and Winter 1907

AUSTRIA (Ozog): bld a bud, a tri; has a BUD, a TRI, a TYO, f NAP, a ROM, f WES, a PIC, a VEN, a RUM, a MUN, f NAF.
FRANCE (Ellinger): R a mar otb; rem a bur, a par; has f SPA(SC), f ENG, f MID.
GERMANY (Abbott): has a LVP, a BRE.
ITALY (Wilson): rem f tyh; has f GOL, a MAR.
RUSSIA (Rauterberg): bld a war, f stp(nc); has a WAR, f STP(NC), a YOR, f BLA, a BOH, a NWY, f IRI, f EDI, f LON, f WAL, a BEL, f CLY, f NTH, f ION, a RUH, a CON.

E-Mail Addresses of the Participants

AUSTRIA: Eric Ozog, elferic of junos.com
ENGLAND: Fred Wiedemeyer, wiedem of telus.net
FRANCE: Marc Ellinger, mellinger of blitzbardgett.com
GERMANY: Will Abbott, wjja9 of yahoo.com
ITALY: Brad Wilson, fullfathomfive675 of gmail.com
RUSSIA: Paul Rauterberg, paul.rauterberg of att.net
TURKEY: David Burgess, burgessed of roadrunner.com

Game Notes:

1) All the proposals are rejected.

Press:

(HERR ORCZOG-El CAPITANO): Her ladyship told me she does not wish for your survival but I will offer you a hand up if you will continue to assist versus the derelict French!

THE DIPLOMACY GAME: Breaking Away, Designer's Rules
BRENDAN WHYTE EDGES OUT RICK DESPER AND JIM READER – "A" RIDER TAKES IT!! END GAME COMMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 18TH, 2017

Turn 12

Already Finished:	Heart of Oak (1st), Angst (2nd)
132 (no replenishment)	Constipated (12 points)
131 (no replenishment)	Empty
130 (no replenishment)	Empty
129 (no replenishment)	Empty
128 (no replenishment)	Leonardo
127 (no replenishment)	Lafayette, Jefferson
126 (no replenishment)	White Cliffs (10 points)
125 (no replenishment)	Anastasia (8 points), Alexis de Tocqueville,
124 (no replenishment)	Empty
123 (no replenishment)	Smirky (6 points), Charlie (4 points), Alpha (2 points), Donatello, Michelangelo, Terrorised
122 (no replenishment)	Empty
121 (no replenishment)	Empty
-F-I-N-A-L- -F-I-N-I-S-H- -L-I-N-E-	
120 (no replenishment)	Empty
119 (no replenishment)	Empty
118 (no replenishment)	Empty
117 (no replenishment)	Empty
116 (no replenishment)	Christian Doppler
115 (no replenishment)	Empty
114 (no replenishment)	Empty
113 (no replenishment)	Alexandra
112 (no replenishment)	Empty
111 (no replenishment)	Jerusalem, Hope and Glory
110 (no replenishment)	Empty
109 (no replenishment)	Raphael
108 (no replenishment)	Empty
107 (no replenishment)	Rousseau
106 (no replenishment)	Baker, Nicholas II
105 (no replenishment)	Empty
104 (no replenishment)	Empty
103 (no replenishment)	Empty
102 (no replenishment)	Empty
101 (no replenishment)	Empty
100 (no replenishment)	Empty
99 (no replenishment)	Empty
98 (no replenishment)	Empty
97 (no replenishment)	Empty
96 (no replenishment)	Empty
95 (no replenishment)	Empty
94 (no replenishment)	Arnold Schwarzenegger
93 (no replenishment)	Empty
92 (no replenishment)	Empty
91 (no replenishment)	Daniel Swarovski
90 (no replenishment)	Empty
89 (no replenishment)	Empty
88 (no replenishment)	Empty
87 (no replenishment)	Empty
86 (no replenishment)	Empty
85 (no replenishment)	Empty
84 (no replenishment)	Empty

83 (no replenishment)	Empty
82 (no replenishment)	Empty
81 (no replenishment)	Empty
S-P-R-I-N-T-F-I-N-I-S-H-L-I-N-E	
80 (no replenishment)	Empty
79 (no replenishment)	Empty
78 (no replenishment)	Empty
77 (no replenishment)	Empty
76 (no replenishment)	Empty
75 (no replenishment)	Empty
74 (no replenishment)	Empty
73 (no replenishment)	Empty
72 (no replenishment)	Empty
71 (no replenishment)	Empty
70 (no replenishment)	Empty
69 (no replenishment)	Empty
68 (no replenishment)	Empty
67 (no replenishment)	Empty
66 (no replenishment)	Empty
65 (no replenishment)	Empty
64 (no replenishment)	Empty
63 (no replenishment)	Empty
62 (no replenishment)	Empty
61 (no replenishment)	Empty
60 (no replenishment)	Billy Wilder
59 (no replenishment)	Empty
58 (no replenishment)	Empty
57 (no replenishment)	Empty
56 (no replenishment)	Empty
55 (no replenishment)	Delta
54 (no replenishment)	Empty
53 (no replenishment)	Alexei

Addresses of the Participants - Their Teams and Their Cards

AUSTRIAN TEAM (Andy Bate): andydbate of gmail.com (0 points)
A: Arnold Schwarzenegger 4, 4, 3 (3)
B: Billy Wilder 3, 3 (3)
C: Christian Doppler 3, 14 (3)
D: Daniel Swarovski 3, 3 (3)
Total Replenishments: $21 + 28 + 55 + 23 + 36 + 53 + 27 + 14 + 14 + 16 + 23 = 310$

ENGLISH TEAM (Jim Reader): jim_reader of hotmail.com (42 points)
A: Jerusalem 3, 3, 4 (3)
B: Hope and Glory 3, 3 (3)
C: White Cliffs 3, 4 (8)
D: Heart of Oak WON!
Total Replenishments: $16 + 91 + 29 + 30 + 27 + 16 + 79 + 35 + 52 + 18 + 10 = 403$

FRENCH TEAM (Hank Alme): almejh of alumni.rice.edu (5 points)
A: Marquis de Lafayette (Captain): 4, 10, 10 (13)
B: Alexis de Tocqueville: 5, 8 (10)
C: Jean-Jacques Rousseau: 3, 3 (4)
D: Thomas Jefferson: 9, 14 (14)
Total Replenishments: $22 + 62 = 29 + 38 + 26 + 49 + 86 + 32 + 46 + 33 + 38 = 461$

GERMAN TEAM (Marc Ellinger): mellinger of blitzbardgett.com (14 points)

A: Player Alpha 6, 6, 3 (8)
 B: Player Baker 3, 3 (4)
 C: Player Charlie 3, 3 (7)
 D: Player Delta 3, 3 (3)
 Total Replenishments: 17 + 50 + 26 + 32 + 31 + 45 + 30 + 40 + 23 + 33 + 22 = 349

ITALIAN TEAM (Rick Desper): rick_desper of yahoo.com (43 points)

Team Name: Artists in a Half-Shell?

Coach: Master Splinter

Team Leader A: Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci 3, 4, 3 (16)
 Team Mechanic B: Donato di Niccol di Betto Bardi 7, 3 (8)
 Team Navigator C: Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino 3, 3 (3)
 Team Sprint Specialist D: Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroto Simoni 3, 3 (8)

Referred to by common appellations in the report: Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo.

Total Replenishments: 17 + 96 + 12 + 22 + 67 + 61 + 25 + 15 + 51 + 23 + 35 = 424

RUSSIAN TEAM (Andy York): wandrew88 of gmail.com (8 points)

Team Royal

A: Anastasia 3, 5 (8)
 B: Nicholas II 3, 3 (4)
 C: Alexandra 3, 3 (3)
 D: Alexei 3, 3 (3)

Total Replenishments: 14 + 30 + 32 + 40 + 43 + 29 + 22 + 26 + 34 + 18 + 15 = 303

TURKISH TEAM (Brendan Whyte): BWHYTE of nla.gov.au (44 points)

The Turkeys

A: Angst of Ankara FINISHED SECOND
 B: Constipated of Constantinople 8,3 (13)
 C: Smirky of Smyrna 4,5 (6)
 D: Terrorised of Syria 4,7 (8)

Total Replenishments: 16 + 49 + 38 + 57 + 53 + 53 + 45 + 51 + 29 + 16 = 407

Press:

None this time...

Game Notes:

1) The rules are on the TAP website in the *Tinamou* section. Ask if you have any questions. Rules at: <http://www.diplom.org/Postal/Zines/TAP/Tinamou/rules/BreakingAway.htm>

Up above in parentheses is the card you played to get to where you are in the field. The replenishment card is the last card in your list. Be careful to note that the card you played (the one in parentheses) is not available for you, for next turn. Just for fun, I keep track of total replenishment, by turn, which is a rough measure of how the teams are doing. Of course, it is lining up to get across the sprint and final lines in the right places that really counts. We can calculate an "efficiency score" later, which will be the ratio of scoring points per replenishment.

2) I moved everyone, but we're done, so I didn't do any replenishment. Brendan Whyte kicked butt in placement so he was most efficient in his replenishments. Note that Rick also was pretty efficient with his replenishments leading to points. Hank Alme was least efficient. And some of you (not naming you) really had some pretty shocking numbers of your riders getting dropped.

3) Lots of you signed up for the next game, I'll do some checking for next time and see if we can get started again quickly. Other TAP players who want to play also should let me know by February's deadline!!!

4) Official order of finish is: **Brendan Whyte, Rick Desper, Jim Reader** (each of these three **JUST a POINT** apart!!!), Marc Ellinger, Andy York, Hank Alme, and Andy Bate.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS KENDO NAGASAKI
DEADLINE FOR TURN 8 OF THIS GAME IS FEBRUARY 18TH, 2017

Kendo Nagasaki for me comes from the series in *Eternal Sunshine...* The full rules for Where in the World is Kendo Nagasaki are in: <http://www.whiningkentpigs.com/DW/es58.pdf>. Send a guess!!!

TURN 1

Brendan Whyte:

Bernie Sanders, on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean No Guess Received

Hank Alme:

Hank Alme in Ellicott City, MD

Rick Desper:

Wavy Gravy in West Hartford, CT

Andy York:

Jim Burgess in Portland, ME

Tom Howell:

No Guess Received

Marc Ellinger:

Christian De Castries in Caracas, Venezuela

Doug Kent:

Robert E. Lee in Lhasa, Tibet

Peter Sullivan:

Joan Collins in Dallas, TX

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: You have my gender correct, but I did most of the things I'm famed for a decade or two before your active period.

TURN 2

Brendan Whyte:

Eleanor Roosevelt in Baton Rouge, LA

Hank Alme:

Boris Johnson in Moscow, Russia

Rick Desper:

Eleanor Roosevelt in Belize City, Belize

Andy York:

Al Capone in Rio, Brazil

Jim Reader:

Nelson Mandela in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Tom Howell:

No Guess Received

Marc Ellinger:

F.D.R. in Lagos, Nigeria

Doug Kent:

Eisenhower in Gettysburg, PA

Peter Sullivan:

Dwight D. Eisenhower in Culzean Castle, Ayrshire, Scotland

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: I had a somewhat more formal leadership position than you.

TURN 3

Brendan Whyte:

Huey Long in Baton Rouge, LA

Hank Alme:

Eleanor Roosevelt in Los Angeles, CA

Rick Desper:

Simon Bolivar in La Paz, Bolivia

Andy York:

Kenesaw Mountain Landis in Sao Paulo, Brazil

Jim Reader:

Donald Trump in the White House

Tom Howell:

No Guess This Time

Marc Ellinger:

Herbert Hoover in Santiago, Chile

Doug Kent:

Rommel in La Paz, Bolivia

Peter Sullivan:

Dwight D. Eisenhower in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mark Firth:

Lyndon B. Johnson in Salonika, Greece

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: We knew each other and interacted with each other in our professional lives, but there was a famous meeting I once helped to orchestrate that you were not invited to.

TURN 4

Brendan Whyte:
No Guess This Time

Hank Alme:
FDR in Valparaiso, Chile

Rick Desper:
Teddy Roosevelt in Brasilia, Brazil.

Andy York:
George Marshall at Asuncion, Paraguay

Jim Reader:
Che Guevara Nazca Desert of Peru looking at lines

Tom Howell:
No Guess This Time

Marc Ellinger:
Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov in Asuncion, Paraguay

Doug Kent:
No Guess This Time

Peter Sullivan:
No Guess This Time

Mark Firth:
Winston Churchill in Beverly Hills

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: You were dead before the famous meeting I alluded to last time, but of course I did work with you closely across our careers.

TURN 5

Brendan Whyte:
Fidel Castro in Santiago, Cuba

Hank Alme:
Harry Truman in Concepcion, Chile

Rick Desper:
No Guess This Time

Andy York:
Harry Hopkins in Concepcion, Chile

Jim Reader:
Harry S Truman in Mendoza, Argentina

Tom Howell:
No Guess This Time

Marc Ellinger:
Harry Truman in Cordoba, Argentina

Doug Kent:
Winston Churchill in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Peter Sullivan:
FDR in Santiago, Chile

Mark Firth:
FDR in New York City, US

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: Well, you were at that famous meeting... or maybe you weren't. How could it be both? That is a VERY interesting story, certainly you were instrumental in the "orchestration" in multiple ways!

TURN 6

Brendan Whyte:
Rudolf Hess in Caracas, Venezuela

Hank Alme:
George Marshall in Los Angeles, Chile

Rick Desper:
No Guess This Time

Andy York:
Joseph Stalin in Port Darwin

Jim Reader:
Winston Churchill in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Tom Howell:
No Guess This Time

Marc Ellinger:
Alger Hiss in Punto Arenas, Chile

Doug Kent:
No Guess This Time

Peter Sullivan:
Harry S Truman in Brasilia, Brazil

Mark Firth:
Robert Oppenheimer in Iquique, Chile

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: Your guess of my identity is moving in the wrong direction, but someone else has identified me.

TURN 7

Brendan Whyte:
Alger Hiss at Goose Green, Falkland Islands

Tom Howell:
No Guess This Time

Hank Alme:
George Marshall in Puerto Williams, Chile

Rick Desper:
No Guess This Time

Andy York:
Joseph Stalin in Tierra del Fuego

Jim Reader:
Alger Hiss in Antofagasta, Chile

Marc Ellinger:
Clement Attlee in Port Stanley Falkland Islands

Doug Kent:
Joseph Stalin on Easter Island

Peter Sullivan:
Harry S Truman in Asuncin, Paraguay

Mark Firth:
Erwin Rommel, in the Galapagos

HINT to the Person with the Closest Geographic Guess: You need to cross the water to find me, and you are not correct in identifying who I am.

LAST WORD: So, cancer treatment remains just as much fun as you think it would be. My back pain remains bad only just before I take medication, which works. I'm also completely off the opioid medication – like everyone who does this, I sort of just figured out taking myself off it on my own. This is a problem in our field – I study this stuff partly for my work, and I still was not feeling comfortable with the process. What happens to people less knowledgeable?

My treatment also is causing lots of skin problems, I'm not good with fixing that, but with great help from Charlotte, I'm really staying ahead of that. The worst remains the digestive problems which cause me difficulty in gaining weight. I try and try, but you only can eat so much, and I don't think my body processes it all. Well anyway, you keep fighting forward and this is probably too stark in black and white. My attitude remains good and my oncologist thinks I'm a dream patient. I'd like to be a dream patient who survives... ;-)

I'm trying to push this out the door to get into Doug Kent's szine.... so I didn't draw maps this time. Go back to last issue and I'll try to be better about maps for next time. I'm just going to leave half a page blank and get this out so Doug has it...

Game Openings

No openings at present.

Eternal Sunshine Game Section

Diplomacy, "Milk and Trash", 2015A, F 10



Austria (Jack McHugh – jwmchughjr "of" gmail.com): A Armenia Hold, A Bohemia - Munich (*Fails*), F Eastern Mediterranean Supports F Ionian Sea, A Rumania – Bulgaria, A Sevastopol - Galicia (*Fails*), A Silesia Supports A Bohemia – Munich, A Smyrna Hold, A Trieste Supports A Venice, A Tyrolia Supports A Bohemia - Munich.

England (Mark Firth – mogcate "of" me.com): Retreat A Armenia - Syria... F Denmark Hold, F Holland Hold, A Norway Hold, F Rome Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea, A Syria - Smyrna (*Fails*), F Tunis - Ionian Sea (*Fails*), F Tuscany Supports F Rome, F Tyrrhenian Sea Supports F Tunis - Ionian Sea, F Western Mediterranean - Spain(sc).

Germany (Jim Burgess – jfburgess "of" gmail.com): A Burgundy Supports A Munich, F Gulf of Bothnia - St Petersburg(sc) (*Bounce*), A Kiel – Berlin, A Marseilles - Piedmont (*Fails*), A Munich Supports A Kiel - Berlin (*Cut*), A Piedmont - Venice (*Fails*), A Prussia – Livonia, A Ruhr Supports A Munich.

Italy (John Biehl – jerbil “of” shaw.ca): NMR! F Apulia Hold, F Ionian Sea Hold, F Naples Hold, A Venice Hold.
Russia (Kevin Wilson – ckevinw “of” comcast.net): A Moscow - St Petersburg (*Bounce*),
 A Warsaw - Prussia.

Deadline for W 10/S 11 is February 27th at 7am my time

Supply Center Chart

Austria: Ankara, Budapest, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Rumania, Serbia,
 Sevastopol, Smyrna, Trieste, Vienna=10, Build 1
 England: Brest, Denmark, Edinburgh, Holland, Liverpool, London, Norway, Rome,
 Spain, Tunis=10, Build 1
 Germany: Belgium, Berlin, Kiel, Marseilles, Munich, Paris, Portugal, St Petersburg, Sweden=9, Build 1
 Italy: Greece, Naples, Venice=3, Remove 1
 Russia: Moscow, Warsaw=2, Even

PRESS

BERLIN to ROME: You have to send orders in, or we just think it is Flap Jack writing press....

BOOB to FLAP JACK: Maybe you should write your ally instead of writing useless press, but we know Doug prefers press and NMRs.

BOOB to FLAP JACK'S BLACK PRESS: You really were entertaining, I think even John will have to admit that Pope Fluvius resembles that remark!

GERMANY to ENGLAND: I'm not sure whether I hope there are more NMRs or not. It's pretty pathetic when Flap Jack is the one paying attention!!

Black Press Gunboat, “Noah’s Titanic”, 2015Arb32, End Game A/F/G/I Draw in F 1910

"Noah's Titanic", Black Press Gunboat, 2015Arb32, Eternal Sunshine, GM: Douglas Kent											
A/F/G/I Draw in Fall 1910											
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09		
Austria	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	8	9	David Latimer	DRAW F10
England	4	5	4	4	3	2	2	1	0	Jack McHugh	OUT F09
France	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	Steve Cooley	DRAW F10
Germany	5	6	8	8	9	10	10	11	11	Harold Zarr	DRAW F10
Italy	4	5	6	7	8	9	9	9	9	Mark Firth	DRAW F10
Russia	5	5	2	1	0					John Biehl	OUT F05
Turkey	4	4	4	3	2	1	1	0		Andy York	OUT F08
Unowned	5										

David Latimer (Austria): An odd game but rather pleased to draw as Austria. Especially having fought with all 4 of my neighbours! Did make up with Italy to our mutual benefit (had to ignore a lot of ignorant sniping!). Thanks to Doug for running Dip games in ES. Cheerio...

Harold Zarr (Germany): Beginning a “gunboat” game is always a matter of guessing and hoping that your initial strategy plays out. To be honest, I think that I prefer them to regular Diplomacy games. In beginning this game, I decided to try a strategy that I had never used previously, going after Russia. My hope that either Austria or Turkey (or both) would see my moves as an opportunity to attack Russia, and that they could do the “heavy

lifting" of tying down Russian units while I picked up the easy supply centers and positioned my units for the next few turns.

I got lucky in that France moved completely away from my border and headed to the south, and England moved into the English Channel, signaling to me that I might just get very lucky and England and France would go to war. I immediately decided to do nothing against France, as that would tie English units down as they headed south, and that France would (hopefully) see me as an ally. It would also give me a prime opportunity to take both Belgium and Holland, and possibly Norway as well.

Italy moved to Tyrolia, but I hoped for a war between Italy and Austria, giving me a nearly completely free hand. But that was not to be, as Italy tried to take Munich, which I successfully bounced. An understandable move on his part as he no doubt expected me to try for Warsaw.

Turkey moved against Russia and England moved into Belgium and against France. Good so far, but I made the mistake of leaving Silesia and heading south into Bohemia. That was a very poor move on my part. My move to Silesia really upset Russia and he decided to go after me with all guns blazing. In the next year I grabbed Sweden from Russia while he lost Romania to Turkey. Italy took Trieste and appeared to go to war with Austria while England and France focused their attention on each other. So far, luck was with me as Russia lost all his builds, and I had no threats from the west or south.

Turkey overplayed his hand against Russia and left his southern flank wide open for an assault from Italy Austria. He should have easily seen that coming giving that Italy was moving all his fleets to the east. As a result, he was unable to hold them off and his home territories began to fall to Italy. A timely NMR by Russia did nothing to help his cause, and while he screamed for help against me, Turkey continued to attack him from the south, along with an opportunistic England stealing St. Petersburg as well. To be honest, Russia was absolutely correct to be worried about me, but I was merely using him (as he correctly pointed out) to position myself for a subsequent assault on England.

Still, looking at the situation from the perspective of Turkey and England, it made sense for them to take Russia's supply centers as they needed builds to fight their own wars. These wars, merely helped me as they prevented any of the other powers from concentrating on me when I was in no position to resist them had they combined their forces against me. But with England and France at war, and Italy and Austria focusing on Turkey, and Turkey focused on Russia, I was sitting pretty in pretty good shape. If nothing else, reading the press from Russia was quite entertaining!

Russia fell completely apart by the end of 1903 and I was in position to attack England with three fleets bordering the North Sea. France had driven England out of Brest, and I picked up Belgium as well, giving me another build of a fleet.

I had hoped that France would see me as an ally, not a threat and would cooperate in the destruction of England and attack Italy as well, who was in no position to resist an attack from the west, but it was not to be. France decided to attack both Germany and Italy at the same time, leaving his west coast wide-open to England. An unbelievable blunder that almost upset my plans. France was able to take Munich in the spring (which did him no good), and was pushed out by me in the fall so that I did not lose any supply centers. Italy built armies to hold him off and began moving fleets to the west.

I started my assault on England and with four fleets to his three (one of which had to stay in the west to protect Liverpool), I had both position and numbers on my side. Now, it was just a matter of time before England fell. I kept hoping that Italy and Austria would go to war, but despite many times when Italy took supply centers from Austria he never seemed to get upset about it. I tried on numerous occasions to get Austria to attack Italy and indicated that I would ally with him, all to no avail. That was one of the great mysteries of the game to me. With Russia, Turkey, Austria and Italy still fighting each other, it gave me the time I needed to take on England to obtain new supply centers for armies.

If France has focused his attention on either (or both) England and Italy, he could have grown at their expense. I was willing to support France into Liverpool, but he never seemed to understand what I was trying to do to support him. France never seemed to have any kind of coherent policy that I could follow. I tried, both through the press and by my actions, to demonstrate that I would not attack him, but he never seemed to get the hint. That was as big a puzzle to me as the relationship between Italy and Austria.

Italy meanwhile, took up Russia's chant against me, and did all that he could to get Austria to attack me. Italy was out of position to attack me, so he did all he could to goad Austria or France into doing it for him. Fortunately

for me, until Austria could eliminate Turkey in Russia, I had some time to complete my conquest of England. If only France would have moved his armies away from my border, I could have transferred units to the east to attack Austria and go after Warsaw and/or Vienna.

As England fell, I tried to get France to attack Italy, but he would not do it. I probably could have, and should have looking back, launched a preemptive attack against Austria in 1907 and it probably would have succeeded, particularly with Italy taking Bulgaria from Austria, but I hoped that this assault by Italy would finally get Austria to attack Italy. But it never happened and to this day, I can't understand why. I should have pressed home my assault on Austria in 1907, but my failure to do so probably cost me the win in the game.

France, as feckless as ever, even began to help England a little bit, but it was too little, too late to save England and over the next couple of years I eliminated England from the game. That was even more satisfying than seeing Russia get carved up and eliminated years earlier. My greatest hope at this point was that Austria and Italy would finally go to war, at which point I would be in position to both hold off Austria in the east, and launch a full scale assault on France in the west. Getting to eighteen centers would have been difficult, but I thought that I could get all five of Frances centers with the units that I had, and with a little luck could pick up one more from either Austria or Italy.

The only problem was that Italy had moved enough units into the west that if I did launch the attack, Italy would benefit almost as much as I would, and I could expect France to throw whatever centers he could to Italy. Not a good outcome so far as I could see.

Austria still refused to attack Italy, and was now finally moving sufficient units to the west that at best, I could construct only a stalemate line. This would have been the prime time for Italy to hit France, yet now he refused to do so, even though he would have easily gained Spain and Marseilles, and possibly even broken out into the Atlantic. Yet he never did, which was another inexplicable thing to me.

At the end, I voted for the draw but did not expect it to pass, so I was completely surprised when it did. All in all, surviving as the "first among equals" is not so bad, although it is not quite as sweet as a win. I am pretty sure that Jack Garret played as Italy (his favorite country) and think he figured out that I played Germany (my favorite). For some reason that I do not know, Jack has had in for me in every game we have played for quite a few years. Perhaps now, with this game (and I fear this hobby) seeming to close down, I will find out why. If not, well, it really won't matter I guess.

The one thing that I really enjoyed in this game was the press. I spent a fair amount of time writing up the press that I submitted, and I tried to let my "creative juices" flow as much as I could. I also tried to use it to send messages to other countries, but in that, I was not as successful as I had hoped. Press from Austria was virtually non-existent and only Italy tried to match me in the press communications, but he fell quite a bit short. I do hope that the other players (including Russia) appreciated the time I spent putting my press reports together.

Looking back, luck definitely played a factor in the game, and for a long time Italy, France and England were my best allies all due to their moves in the game. I was able to profit by their actions at little risk to myself, and that is as fortunate set of circumstances that a player often hopes for, but so seldom receives. Many thanks to Doug for performing as GM for the game. It is a true loss to the hobby that he will be closing down Eternal Sunshine. I will miss it greatly.

By Almost Popular Demand

The goal is to pick something that fits the category and will be the "second most popular" answer. You score points based on the number of entries that match yours. For example, if the category is "Cats" and the responses were 7 for Persian, 3 for Calico and 1 for Siamese, everyone who said Persian would get 7 points, Calico 3 and the lone Siamese would score 1 point. **However, the most popular answer in each category scores zero points!** The cumulative total over 10 rounds will determine the overall winner. Anyone may enter at any point, starting with an equivalent point total of the lowest cumulative score from the previous round. If a person misses a round, they'll receive the minimum score from the round added to their cumulative total. **In each round you may specify one of your answers as your Joker answer. Your score for this answer will be doubled.** In other words, if you apply your Joker to category 3 on a given turn, and 4 other people give the same answer as you, you get 10 points instead of 5. **Players who fail to submit a Joker for any specific turn will have their Joker automatically applied to the first category.** And, if you want to submit some commentary with your answers, feel free to. The

game will consist of 10 rounds, with the 10th round being worth double points. A prize will be awarded to the winner. **Research is permitted, but cooperation or collusion between players is not!**

Round 9 Categories

1. A "spaghetti" Western.
2. A member of U2.
3. Something associated with camping.
4. Another term for testicle.
5. A book by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Spaghetti Western</u>	<u>U2</u>	<u>Camping</u>	<u>Testicle</u>	<u>Vonnegut</u>	<u>Turn</u>	<u>Total</u>
Andy Lischett	A Fistful of Dollars	Adam Clayton	Campfire	Gonads	Slaughterhouse-Five	6	102
Allison Kent	The Great Silence	The Edge	Campfire	Nut	Breakfast of Champions	18	101
Brad Wilson	Once Upon a Time in the West	Slash	Canteen	Family Jewels	Cat's Cradle	11	92
Mark Firth	The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	Adam Clayton	Tent Peg	Bollock	Cat's Cradle	7	91
Steve Cooley	For a Few Dollars More	Larry Mullen	Ticks	Dirigible	Breakfast of Champions	14	87
Jack McHugh	A Fistful of Dollars	Adam Clayton	Tent	Sack	Cat's Cradle	5	84
Melinda Holley	For a Few Dollars More	The Edge	Roasting Marshmallows	Mr. Happy	Slapstick	15	83
Carol Kay	A Fistful of Dollars	Bono	Sleeping Bag	Nut	Slaughterhouse-Five	6	82
Dane Maslen	The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	Bono	Tent	Balls	Slaughterhouse-Five	0	81
W. Andrew York	For a Few Dollars More	Adam Clayton	Tent	Gonads	Breakfast of Champions	13	81
Jim Burgess	For a Few Dollars More	The Edge	Tent	Balls	Sirens of Titan	11	76
Martin Burgdorf	The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	Bono	Tent	Balls	Slaughterhouse-Five	0	75
Kevin Wilson	The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	Bono	Campfire	Cajone	Sirens of Titan	11	74
Don Del Grande	The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	The Edge	Campfire	Cajone	Slaughterhouse-Five	10	72
Brendan Whyte	Buffalo Bill, Hero of the Far West	Bono	Rain	Oeuf	Cat's Cradle	8	70
Dick Martin	Once Upon a Time in the West	Bono	Tent	Balls	Slaughterhouse-Five	4	66
Hank Alme	A Fistful of Dollars	Adam Clayton	Sleeping Bag	Huevo	Sirens of Titan	6	63
John David Galt	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	0	55
Rick Desper	A Fistful of Dollars	Adam Clayton	S'mores	Bollock	Slaughterhouse-Five	3	52
Geoff Kemp	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	0	23
Richard Weiss	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	0	20
Roger Cox	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	NMR	0	19
<u>MOST POPULAR</u>	Good Bad/Fistful	Clayton/Bono	Tent	Balls	Slaughterhouse-Five		

Allison Kent kicks butt with a high score of 18 (out of a possible score of 20). Dane Maslen strikes out and gets 0, which also kills the NMRing players.

Comments By Category

Spaghetti Western – Richard Martin “one of my all time favorites.” Andy Lischett “After picking my own answers I asked Carol, so this doesn't bode well for being second favorite.” Mark Firth “Fiddled around with loads but just went with my favourite.”

U2 – Richard Martin “going counter-counter-intuitive on this one and picking the most likely answer.” Rick Desper “Bassist - because I didn't want to pick Bono (too obvious) or The Edge (obvious alternative).” Andy Lischett “The only one I've heard of is Bono, so I had to look up another. I don't like looking up answers but since I may still have a chance to win I've got to try.” Mark Firth “Bah! Picked as also the name of an ex-Leeds soccer player.”

Camping – Brendan Whyte “Rain. (tempted to say Kenneth Williams (ooh, Matron!)).” Richard Martin “did you hear about the fire at the campground? the heat was in tents.” Mark Firth “First thought, bizarrely.”

Testicle – Melinda Holley “Mr. Happy (seriously, I HAVE heard this reference *facepalm*).” Richard Martin “again with the counter-counter-intuitive.” Mark Firth “Yorkshire.”

Vonnegut – Richard Martin “three times with the most popular likely guess. maybe it’s a charm.” Mark Firth “Researched - Hugo nominee.”

Round 10 Categories – DOUBLE POINTS

For this round you may NOT use the same answer in more than one category. Each answer must be different.

1. A vowel.
2. A different vowel.
3. A different vowel.
4. A different vowel.
5. A different vowel.

Deadline for Round 10 of By Almost Popular Demand is February 27th 2017 at 7am my time.

General Deadline for the Next Issue of Eternal Sunshine: February 27th, 2017 at 7:00am my time. That’s a Monday!! Hope to See You Then!



In 1972 Joe Miller was on holiday in Kenya after graduating from Tulsa Junior College.

On a hike through the brush, he came across a young bull elephant standing with one leg raised in the air. The elephant seemed distressed, so Joe approached it very carefully. He got down on one knee, inspected the elephant’s foot, and found a large piece of wood deeply embedded in it. As carefully and as gently as he could, Joe worked the wood out with his knife, after which the elephant gingerly put down its foot.

The Elephant turned to Joe, and with a rather curious look on its face, stared at him for several tense moments. Joe stood frozen thinking of nothing else but being trampled.

Eventually the elephant trumpeted loudly, turned, and walked away. Joe never forgot that elephant or the events of the day.

Thirty years later, Joe was walking through the Tulsa Zoo with his family. As they approached the elephant enclosure, one of the creatures turned and walked over to where Joe and his family were standing. The large bull elephant stared at Joe, lifted its front foot off the ground, and then put it down. The elephant did that several times then trumpeted loudly, all the while staring at Joe.

Remembering the encounter in 1972, Joe couldn’t help but wonder if this was the same elephant... Joe summoned up his courage, climbed over the railing, and made his way into the enclosure. He walked right up to the elephant and stared back in wonder. The elephant trumpeted again, wrapped its trunk around one of Joe’s legs and slammed him against the railing killing him instantly.

Probably wasn’t the same elephant.