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ATLANTIS

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This is ATLANTIS, a journal of postal Diplomacy edited and published every so often by Christopher Schleicher, 1535 Dartmouth Lane, Deerfield, Illinois 60015. It is affiliated with the International Federation of Wargaming Diplomacy Society, and the National Fantasy Fan Federation Games Bureau (Diplomacy Division).

I have just returned from my combination study and vacation stay in Europe. I would like to apologize to everyone for the delay between the last issue and this one, hopefully no one was seriously inconvenienced. I would also like to publically thank John Beshara, who was kind enough to adjudicate the two regular games (1970 C and 1970 AJ) while I was gone so that those games would not be delayed.

COMMENTARY: 1970C - 1901 AND 1902

by

John J. Beshara

Strangely so, nothing in the way of a fighting alliance between any two powers is evident. Nor have any two powers even unilaterally assaulted the same enemy, notwithstanding Russia's incursion into Vienna. For these reasons there is only a moderate degree of progress.

England established a bulkhead against massive German sea strength, but is unable to effectually-proceed against either Germany or Russia without the help of one of the powers against the other. While in the short-term England could gain Sweden, there is the threat of three German fleets which effectively-preclude a long-term entente. There is the more interesting possibility of Russian support into Denmark but it would additionally require guessing right and/or risking the loss of Norway to Russia. Both courses, whether to attack Germany or Russia, are fraught with danger, arduous and the initial rewards slight.

Germany, positioned with five units without a scintilla of offensive power surely presumes this is a game of Spite and Malice. He allows Russia gratis entry into Sweden, slaps England with fleets, then hopelessly plummets Sweden while risking Denmark, Holland and Munich. If Germany is ever to become powerful, it must be accomplished within two years, for by then he will be vulnerable to both Russia and France, if not Italy. Without drastic regrouping, his position is hopeless. The choices: (1) An

accord with England for support into Sweden in exchange for giving support into St. Petersburg by moving the Baltic to Bothnia, Kiel to the Baltic and Ruhr to Kiel;
(2) support from Russia to annihilate F Skagerrak while rotating his units in Kiel, Holland and the Ruhr.

France, fortunate for non-aggression pacts in the West, is admirably meeting the Italian threat and should succeed in capturing North Africa and the Western Med. From there I foresee Italy caught in a French-Russian squeeze with simultaneous plundering of Germany. Whether France can stop a Russian victory will largely depend upon whom Italy chooses to pit the bulk of his forces against and the success of England's maneuvers.

Russia the colossus in spite of himself, moving with deliberate caution obtusely chose two fleets as non-weapons for his Crimean lunge and unexplainably struck Ankara. Undoubtedly masterful negotiation preceded, which is also reflected throughout the board. There is yet the kindling to be gathered in the Balkans, a pro forma engagement. The test comes in being able to dominate the Slavs without prematurely incurring Italy's wrath, and in maintaining the status quo in the West.

Italy took too big a bite into the pie and came up with indigestion. He is blocked from progressing West and is in danger of losing that present frontier. Thus far he erred only in the abrupt but persistent promenade on the Riviera. At best he can stick with Russia and hope Russia doesn't stick him, too. Alternatively he could attempt a grande coup in the Balkans, but it's a one-shot gamble with his survival on the block.

Austria and Turkey I've savored for last and combined -- they deserve each other. Who can explain the early sauntering to Albania and the latter bumping back, oops there went Trieste and Serbia. In my articles I said to be bold in the early stages, not frivolous. And Turkey, ick, it's sick. Puke friend, that's all you've left.

A word about John's article is in order right now -- he wrote it several weeks ago, long before the "Winter 1902" moves, and it is interesting to compare his commentary to what occurred later. following is the 23 July "Spring 1903" 1970 C action:

"Spring 1903" 1970 C R-1

TO SLEEP, PERCHANCE TO DREAM,
AH, THERE'S THE RUB RUSSIA

ENGLAND (Becker): F Norwegian Sea--Bar, A Norway (S) F Ska--Swe, F Ska--Swe, F North Sea (S) A Norway.

FRANCE (Comber): A Mar--Tus, F Lyo (C) A Mar--Tus, A Bur--Mar, A Bel--Bur, F Spa (sc) -Wes, F Por--Mid

GERMANY (Lakofka): F Den (S) ENGLISH F Ska--Swe, F Bal--Bot, F Bal--Bot, F Kie--Bal, A Hol--Kie, A Ruh--Mun.

ITALY (White): No moves received. A Pie, A Ven, A Ser, F Adr, F Tun, F Tyr hold.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Kimmel): A Rum--Ser, A Bud (S) A Rum--Ser, A Alb--Tri.

RUSSIA (Peery): A Vie--Bud, A Sev--Rum, A Gal (S) A Sev--Rum, F Ank--Con, F Bla (S)
F Ank--Con, F Swe and A StP hold.

TURKEY (Welsh): No moves received. F Con, F Aeg and A Bul hold.

Underlined moves do not succeed. Austria retreats A Rum--Ukr and Russia retreats F Swe--Fin; if either country prefers those units annihilated they must so advise the Gamesmaster immediately. The Turkish F Con is annihilated.

The deadline for "Fall 1903" moves, which will be made conditional on the retreats or annihilations of F Fin and A Ukr, is 7 August, to Chris Schleicher.

Gary Gygax, 330 Center Street, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147, is asked to submit substitute moves for Italy.

Ricky Thompson, 1206 Claiborne, Johnson City, Tenn., 37601 is asked to submit substitute moves for Turkey.

"Fall 1901"

1970 AJ

R-2

GERMAN AND TURKISH GUNS SILENT

RUSSIA (Gaylord): F Bot--Swe, A War--Gal, A Ukr--Rum, F Sev (S) A Ukr--Rum.

TURKEY (Garland): No moves received. A Bul, A Arm, and F Bla hold.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Thompson): F Alb--Gre, A Tri--Ser, A Bud--Rum.

ITALY (Gygax): A Pie--Mar, A Ven--Pie, F Ion--Tun.

FRANCE (Inzer): A Pic--Bel, A Mar--Bur, F Mid--Spa (sc).

GERMANY (Patton): No moves received. A Mun, A Kie and F Hol hold.

ENGLAND (Lakofka): F Norwegian Sea--Norway, E North Sea--Den, A Edi--Yor.

The underlined move does not succeed. The High Combatant Powers own the following supply centers:

RUSSIA (Gaylord): Mos, War, StP, Sev, Rum, Swe. (6) Build 2.

TURKEY (Garland): Ank, Con, Smy, Bul. (4) Build 1.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Thompson): Bud, Vie, Tri, Gre, Ser. (5) Build 2.

ITALY (Gygax): Nap, Rom, Ven, Mar, Tun. (5) Build 2.

FRANCE (Inzer): Bre, Par, Mar, Bel, Spa. (4) Build 1.

GERMANY (Patton): Ber, Kie, Mun, Hol. (4) Build 1.

ENGLAND (Lakofka): Edi, Liv, Lon, Den, Nor. (5) Build 2.

Gain -- ~~Loss~~. Deadline for "Winter 1901" builds is 7 August to Chris Schleicher.

Sam Nierenberg, 117 W. 197th St., Bronx, New York 10468 is asked to submit a "Winter 1901" build for Germany.

Dick Miller, 350 Central Park West, New York, New York 10025 is asked to submit a "Winter 1901" build for Turkey.

PRESS RELEASES

(1970 AJ)

Neufchateau, Burgandy; 17 May 1901:

The Germans have raided the French border. What began as a routine patrol for the 2nd French Army at Marseilles has ended in tragedy. Evidently the German army slipped quietly across the Alsace border from Munich. The French met the barbarians at the Meurthe River and routed them. A body count shows that 1500 Germans were killed compared with 15 French lost. The remaining French have been recalled to Marseilles. The President has sent a nasty note to Kaiser Patton. Patton slapped the courier around some.

Marseilles, France; 31 May 1901:

PARIS MATCH in an editorial today has called the Italian army in the Piedmont "intolerable." The Government declined to comment.

Madrid; 6 June 1901:

The government of King Alfonso XII has fallen to rebels described as being agents of international Prussianism. The Prussianists (not exactly the Germans but similar) have been suspected of building secret bases in the Pyrenees just across the French border.

Lisbon; 21 June 1901:

The Prussianists have seized the northern Portuguese city of Braga, and are marching on the coastal city of Oporto. King Carlos has appealed to the French fleet for aid if the Prussies take Oporto.

Paris; 4 July 1901:

President Georges Loubet and King Leopold II of Belgium have denounced the German invasion of the Netherlands and signed a Mutual Protection Pact. King Leopold said, "If we allow the Germans to take over one country, it is only a matter of time before they take over another one." The First French Army stationed in Armentieres is expected to enter Belgium as advisors on the northern frontiers.

Paris; 2 September 1901:

President Georges Loubet has just addressed the National Assembly asking for extraordinary powers in these days of crises. His voice trembling with emotion, the President said, "My fellow Frenchmen, I come to you with a heavy heart. When I was elected your leader I swore to hold up the constitution. Recently the Prussianists have been raiding our borders from sanctuaries in Spain. So I have taken the liberty of sending French forces across the Spanish borders to wipe them out. I do not consider this an escalation of the war. Let me make one thing perfectly clear, I am the President. If I have made the correct decision, I'm a hero. If I blow it, I'm the goat. Already French forces have destroyed 18,000 tons of rice and 1600 trucks, tanks and bicycles. I can hardly wait until they leave Toulouse. Remember, I wasn't elected to create disorder but to preserve disorder.

Toulouse; 2 September 1901:

The University of Languedoc was ordered closed today as the 2nd French Army passed through on its way to Spain.

ADDRESS LIST

The following is a list of subscribers to, and players in, ATLANTIS. If a number follows the name, that is the issue with which their subscription ends. If a Boardman number follows, that indicates the game in which that person is playing. If a "T" follows the name, that indicates an active trade agreement.

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1 August 1970
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"Fall 1005"

1967 Mab

Princeps

HISPANIA (Linden): F BBis-Ldn, A Nar (S) F BBis-Ldn /dislodged (Ger)(Aqt) or ann./.

PONTUS (Comber): A Cst-Art, A Trs-Lyc, A Jer-Ale, A Moe (S) A UpD /dislodged (IoD)
or ann./, A UpD (S) A Moe, F Mac (S) F Thr (sc)-Age, F Thr (S) F Thr (sc)-Age,
A Ale-LoL, A Nab (S) A Jer-Ale, F Age-Pis, F Pis-Trs, F Thr (sc)-Age, A Her-Con.

AFRICA (Gygax): F MATO-Ldn, F Lgo (S) F GVal-Ten (sc), A Tcn-Nar, F GLyO (S) A Tcn-
-Nar, F GVal-Ten (sc), F Cir-Mau, A Mil-Terra-Alps /see rule #6/, F Tyr-Ion,
F Ion-Epi, A Epi-Moe, F Sal (S) A Epi-Moe, A Aql (S) A Pan, A Pan (S) A Aql,
F Adr (S) A Epi-Moe.

EGYPT (White): F Ach (S) F Cre-Age, F Syr-Myr, F Mar-EMar, F Cre-Age, F SRho (S)
F Cre-Age.

BARBARIANS (Scarface): Units in Bos, Tin, UpL, Bri, Bat, Art, Ass, and the normal
Barbarian areas.

Underlined moves do not succeed. The retreats of A Nar and A Moe will be due
with the "Winter 1005" builds and removals on 14 August 1970.

SUPPLY CENTERS

HISPANIA (Linden): Ldn, Nar, Tcn. (1) Remove 1.

PONTUS (Comber): Her, Tra, Asi, Pis, Con, Ant, Mes, Thr, UpD, Mac, Trs, Jer, Nab,
Ale. (14) Build 1.

AFRICA (Gygax): Car, Cir, Tha, Luc, Sar, Sic, Rom, Aql, Mil, Sal, Bal, New, Lut,
Lgo, Nar, Tcn. (16) Build 2.

EGYPT (White): Her, Cyr, The, Cre, Cyp, Ach. (5) No change.

BARBARIANS (Scarface): Tin, Bri, Art.

Gain -- Loss. The builds and removal are due 22 September 1970.

"Fall 1914"

1966 AIac

ITALY (Turner): F NATO-Greenland, F SMag (S) ENGLISH A Arg, F NatS-InO, F Mad (S)
F NatS-InO, F SZan (S) F NatS-InO, F Som (S) F SZen, F AraS (S) ENGLISH F Ida,
A Sud holds, F Syr (wc)-Egy, A Bul-Rum, F Arm holds, F Con-Aeg, F Bla (S) A Bul-Rum,
F Alb-Ion, A Ser (S) A Tri-Bud, A Vie (S) A Tri-Bud, A Tyr (S) A Vie, A Tri-Bud,
F TyrS-Wied, F Ion-Tun, F MidAtO-WAtO, A Bel-Hol, A Bur-Bel, A Par-Bur, A Mun-Boh,
A Ruh-Kie, A Sil (S) A Mun-Boh, F Hol-NorthS, F Edi-Cly, F NorwegianS-NAtO, F Liv
(S) F NorwegianS-NAtO, F Iris (S) F NorwegianS-NAtO.

JAPAN (Comber): A ESib-Buk, F BerS holds, F EPac (S) F Chi, F Chi (S) F SMag-Arg
/no such unit/, F SNic-Pan, A Sin(S) A ESib-Buk, F Aus (S) USA F InO, F BBen-Ida,
F Tim (S) USA F InO, F Ant-SMag, F Mex (wc)-SFr, A Bma (S) F BBen-Ida, F Mal (S)
F Ins-BBen, F Ins-BBen, F TasS (S) USA F InO, F SPac-Ant, F BakS-AleS, A Mon-ESib.

ENGLAND (Bailey): A Prg-Bol, A Uru (S) A Arg, A Bol (S) A Prg-Bol /? no such unit/,
A SFr-Can /no such unit/, F Mex-Tex, F CarS holds, F WAtO-Jam, F CAtO (S) F CarS,
F SAtO (S) ITALIAN F SMag, F SCS (S) ITALIAN F NatS-InO, F EAtO holds, A Ivo holds,
A Arg (S) A Prg-Bol, F Den holds, A Buk holds, A Mos-War, A Sev (S) ITALIAN A Bul-Rum,
A WSib (S) A Buk, F Ina holds, A Bra /unordered/.

GERMANY (Payne): A Bud holds /dislodged/.

USA (Linden): A Col-Vnz, F Pan-Col (nc), F Gua (ec) (S) JAPANESE F SNic-Pan, F InO
holds, A Bol holds /dislodged - (Peru) or annihilation/, A Tex (S) A Atl, A Cgo-Qbc,
F NYor (S) A Cgo-Qbc, A Atl holds.

TURKEY (White): A Rum-Ukr.

Underlined moves do not succeed. The retreat of ABol is due with the "Winter" builds.

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"Winter 1914"

1966 AIac

ENGLAND (Bailey): Jam, Nig, Ken, Ida, Ivo, Cub, Tan, Prs, StP, Gab, Cng, Ang, Swe,
Kam, Buk, Bra, Arg, Mos, Tra, Nwy, Sev, Den, War. (23) Build 2.

TURKEY (White): ~~Wit.~~ (0) Remove A Ukr.

ITALY (Turner): Nap, Rom, Ven, Som, Iya, Tun, Eth, NAfr, Mar, Spa, Egy, Por, Sud,
Par, Bre, Mad, Edi, Lon, Moz, Gre, Mun, Ber, Ara, Syr, Tri, Con, Bul, Kie, Ser, ~~Say,~~
Bel, Ank, Rum, Bud, Hol, Liv, Vie. (37) Build 4.

USA (Linden): Ala, Atl, Cgo, NYor, ~~SFr,~~ Can, Qbc, Peru, ~~Lat,~~ Gua. (8) Remove 1.

JAPAN (Comber): Nag, Tai, Tok, Kor, Man, SChi, Phi, InC, Squ, Haw, Tah, Vla, Cta,
Ins, Sol, Aus, Mal, SFr, NChi. (19) Build 1.

GERMANY (Payne): Vie, Bud, Wit. (0) Remove A Bud.

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Gain - ~~Lat~~

Builds and removals are due: 22 September 1970.

"Spring 1911"

1967 Vat

FRENCH, AMERICAN FORCES SILENT....TURKEY FIGHTS ON!

ITALY (Payne): F SAtO (S) FRENCH F AfrS-SOS /not so ordered/, F IriS (S) FRENCH F MATO-NAtO /not so ordered/, A Syr holds, A Sil (S) A Mun-Ber, A Mun-Ber, A Gal holds, A Tri-Ser, F EMed(S) A Syr, A Bud(S) A Gal, F EAtO-CAtO, A Ken (S) A Tan, A Sud-Egy, A Tan (S) A Ken, F AraS-BBng, A Rum-Bul, F Egy-RedS, A Boh (S) A Sil, F Ion-Aeg, F SZan (S) FRENCH F Nat-Mad /dislodged, (Moz) or annihil./, F Tun-Lya, A Gre (S) A Rum-Bul, F Som (S) F SZan, F Nap-Ion,

JAPAN (Comber): F Tai-Pal, F Peru-SNic, F EPac (S) F Peru-SNic, A Afg (S) RUSSIAN A Prs, F AleS (S) A SFr, F Mad-SZan, A Ida (S) RUSSIAN A Prs, F Mex (wc) (S) F Gua (wc), F Gua (wc) (S) F Peru-SNic, A Tok-Haw, F TimS (S) F InO, F Arg (S) F AntS-SMag, F BBng (S) F Mad-SZan, F InO (S) F Mad-SZan, F Aus (S) F InO, F AntS-SMag, F NPac (C) A Tok-Haw, F SPac-Bak, A SFr (S) F Mex (wc), F YelS (C) A Kor-Tok, A Kor-Tok, A Nag holds.

TURKEY (Gygax): A Smy-Con /dislodged, (Arm) or annihil./.

RUSSIA (LINDEN): A Mos (S) A Ukr, A Pru (S) F Ber, A War holds, A Ukr (S) F Sev-Rum, A Bul (S) A Sev-Ukr /no such unit & dislodged, (Con) or annihil./, A Ank (S) F Con-Smy, F Con-Smy, A Livon (S) A War, F Kie(S) F Ber, F Ber (S) F Kie, A Prs (S) ENGLISH A Iraq-Syr, F BerS holds, A Can-Dak, A Ala-Can, F Bal-Den, F BarS-Norway, F Sev-Rum.

USA (Turner): No moves received; A Qbc, A Tex, A Dak hold. F SNic dislodged & annihilated.

ENGLAND (White): F Lon-NorthS, F Cly-Liv, F Liv-Wal, A Iraq-Syr, F Edi (S) F Lon-North S, F Bra-CAtO.

FRANCE (Haggart): No moves received; F MATO, A Bur, F Yor, A Hol, A Ruh, F Tra, F NatS, A Spa, A Kam, F AfrS, A Ang, F Car, F Eng, A Bel, A Bol hold. F NorthS dislodged and annihilated.

Underlined moves do not succeed. Retreats for F SZan, A Smy, and A Bul are due on 22 September 1970 to Christopher Schleicher, 1535 Dartmouth Lane, Deerfield, Illinois 60015.

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There may be an address change in store for ATLANTIS in the near future...watch for an announcement around issue #29.

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GAME OPENINGS

- V-1 Princeps. Tom Webster, Lawrence St. Cyr, Jr. 5 openings left.
- V-2 Imperialism VIII. Lawrence St. Cyr, Jr. 8 openings left.
- V-3 Imperialism XV. Lawrence St. Cyr, Jr., William Linden. 9 openings left.
- V-4 Diplomacy. Anonymous game. All correspondence through the GM. 6 openings left.

- R-3 Diplomacy. Regular game. 7 openings.

PRESS RELEASES (1970 AJ)

London, England; 7 August 1901:

/From the translations of Patrick Albermarion. ((Ed. note: connection with THE LORD OF THE RINGS by J.R.R. Tolkien is purely convenience--the following history loosely relates to the Chronology of "Middle Earth" as supplied in the Appendices of RETURN OF THE KING, and may or may not supplant or verify them in ages to come./

Thangorodrim; 1037 F.A. ((as recorded in the annals of Kenny Boriccy))

As the power of Morgoth grew in Mordor his realm produced its finest jewel, the tower city of Sanas A Diegø. ((located, according to ancient maps found in the Cote Valley, 130 degrees south-east of the Barad Dûr of the Third Age)) Here Morgoth gathered peoples of high intellect, and a deeply engendered amorality, from all over the lands of Middle Earth. Elves and men, dwarves and orcs were among the outcasts of the world that built, maintained and prospered in Sanas A Diegø. Morgoth supplied his tinkers in evil with those secrets of the diabolical, the sinister, and the supernatural that could best suit his interests. It was early in the building of Sanas A Diegø that Morgoth positioned a huge iron crown on the uppermost pinnacle of the tower of Baraf Hawley, his castle in the jewel city.

In this crown one gigantic opal-like stone, the SILMARIL was set. On its border, on each of the seven spires of the crown, a position for one jewel was created. These jewels were to produce a shield of power around the SILMARIL to protect it from those forces which might covet it. The spell cast by the eight stones, with the SILMARIL at their center, would give the lord of the tower of Barad Hawley untold power in the realm of Middle Earth. Each of the clear glass-like orbs took many years to cast and perfect, requiring siliconite from deep in the mountain caverns of Moria, and Acheronite from the treasured mines of the dwarves in northern Mirkwood (in the far north of Rhovanion). ((Ed. note: the curious, almost parallel powers of these stones--the "Lendur of Moria"--and those of the PALANIR of Gondor is both striking and remarkable. Further translation, it is hoped, will show an actual connection.))

The first two stones placed in the great crown pointed north to Mirkwood. The other stones, each of which had to be cast separately, now awaited more Acheronite. This rare mineral, due to the rise of Beren, son of Baralur, and Lúthien Tánviel, Dol Guldur, no longer passed the domination of Mirkwood and moved south to Samas A Diegø. It was at this time in the reign of Morgoth that the "struggle for order" began. First with the rise of Morgoth's evil henchmen, Ian Lumberman, Dum Moeller and Roddy Wacker, and later with the challenges of Prince Budding Tretavon of Rohan, Willie von Fluffy of Thangorodrim, and the noble wizzard, Gyax the Blue.

London, England; 7 December 1901:

Thangorodrim; 1037 F.A. ((as recorded by Scottie Dunk Hand))

When the city of Sanas A Diegô was in its earliest stages of inception, about 1002 F.A., Morgoth realized that a lord of the city would be needed to rule in his stead when he continued on to create the second city of Mordor, Barad Morgul, in the Ephel Duath range. A lord both bold and terrible, sinister and courageous, but loyal and not so greedy as to challenge Morgoth himself would be needed. Of the peoples of Middle Earth, no such creature could be found. So Morgoth plotted to create that which he desired. From the race of Arachoids ((a beast from which Shelob of Cirith Ungol was descended)) he chose a strong creature whose very image struck brave men with terror and paralyzed them with fear; from the orcs an especially crafty and wicked captain was selected; from the trolls of the Southern Ithilien, two grimy creatures who delighted in the gloom and blackness of the deep underground world of the Southern Ithilien range were picked; and from his own seed the TOUCH OF STALINESE was added. The blending of this life into a single creature, begat by the Arachoid, took all of Morgoth's power and drained the SILMARIL for many years. The product of this union was the viscious Balrog of Sanas A Diegô. In the Black Speech, later layed down as the one wood creature---Ian Lumberman. ((This name was given it because of its war with the ents in 1020, in which it defeated and slew many in battle, but lost its power over them (with the subsequent rise of Treebeard of Fangorn))) . With Lumberman's creation the first of the great histories of Mordor was begun in the GREAT GRAY BOOK. ((or, Das starke graue Buch))

When the SILMARIL had again gained its full power the completion of the CROWN OF BARAD HAWLEY began anew. The SILMARIL was safe from attack from the north, since the first two "Lendor's of Moria" were affixed in that direction. With all seven in place the crown would be unassaultable and anyone in the tower of Barad Hawley could project both his thoughts, his will and even his own person for many leagues over the lands of Middle Earth. As the lord of Barad Hawley would grow in power, his range of projection and subjugation would also grow. Morgoth knew of this power and he also knew that the dwarves of northern Mirkwood had cast great jewels of pure Acheronite. He hoped that, using the SILMARIL and the two stones already in place, he could contact the lord of the dwarves of Mirkwood, Roddy Wacker.

Roddy Wacker was both the Master Bâter of Mirkwood ((Bâting being the ancient name for the art of casting jewels from the mineral deposits of the northern hills)) and also the possessor of the unique distinction of being the shortest dwarf in Mirkwood! His insane desire to be a giant was both his bane and the subject of much mirth in all of the forest of Mirkwood. The latest product of Roddy's Master Bâting was a huge milk white jewel of pure Acheronite cast in the shape of a giant rain drop. Through this jewel Morgoth hoped to project his thought and will to Roddy's mind and to mold his insane desires to his behalf.

The projections and search of Morgoth, using the SILMARIL, took many days, but due to the emmissions of the huge Acheronite gem his search found a natural homing beacon. Subjecting Wacker to his will required little effort and soon Roddy prepared to steal away from the Dwarf camp with the giant milk-white gem, of which he was so proud.

The journey of the Seman of Roddy Wacker ((Seman being the elfish name for a raindrop-shaped jewel)) to Barad Hawley is the first important chapter in the completion of the crown of the Dark Lord and of the later capture of the SILMARIL and breaking of Thangorodrim.