

November 22, 1975

Quiet up there in the peanut gallery! I bring you Black Hole, a zine published every third Saturday or so by Douglas Reif, 67 Grosvenor Rd., Kenmore, New York 14223. Subs currently rate at 7/\$1.00 and trades are welcome. All games are protected by DNYMIPA.

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Now that we've gotten ourselves straightened out, let me inform all of you interested parties that I finally sorted thru all my back issues. Those currently available are 1-8, 10-12, and 14-present. Also available is Etacoin Shrdlu 1, the official organ of the Marxist Party of America, founded by Robert Brvan Lipton. All can be had for the postage it takes to mail them to you.

Probably the best way to describe this issue is a nothing issue. School is dragging, my interests are dragging, there are letters I've meant to write for three weeks... Well, you get the picture. I'll be lucky even to fill three pages let alone four, but we'll see. The best way to start is the way I always seem to start, so now...

1971 I

Fall 1917

# DEADLOCK

GERMANY (Kelly): F Bal-Bot, A Swe-Fin, F Hrg-Nat, F Kie-Bal, A Pru-Sil, A Ber & A Mun S A Pru-Sil, A Ruh & A Bur S A Mun, F Wes S Italian F Tun, F Mid-Naf, F Stp(no) H, F Lvo-Tyr, A Mar-Pie, F Spa(sc)-Lvo, A Gas-Spa Owns Bel, Ber, Bre, Den, Edi, Hol, Kie, Liv, Lon, Mar, Mun, Nwy, Par, Por, Spa, Stp, Swe (17) Build 1

ITALY (Smith): F Tun S German F Lvo-Tyr Owns Tun (1) Even

TURKEY (Phillips): A Mos S A Liv, A Liv & A War S A Sil-Pru, A Sil-Pru, A Boh-Sil, A Gal S A Boh-Sil, A Tyr-Bok, A Ven-Tyr, A Tus S A Pie, A Pie S A Ven-Tyr, F Nap-Rom, F Apu-Nap, F Ion S F Tyr, F Tyr H, A Bul-Rum, F Aeg-Gre, 007½ Snavelv-Stp (no such unit), 007½ Snavelv (unordered) H Owns Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Mos, Nap, Rom, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri, Ven, Vie, War (16) Even

Underlined moves fail. The Winter 1917 German build is due posthaste. The deadline for Spring 1913 moves is 7:30 PM, Thursday, December 11, 1975, and they may be made conditional on the German build.

Guess what? I'm now a member of IDA, in case anybody should ask. I am what you might call a charter member of TDA, joining during its first year (1971). 1971? That means I've been around four years in this hobby. Sigh. I have not yet voted in the current IDA elections, which I've been meaning to do, and I'm probably the only IDA publisher around who will not list the candidates and give you my opinions on who is best.

1975 GH

Winter 1982

## EASTERN POWERS GAIN

No retreat was received for the dislodged German F Den, so it is removed.

AUSTRIA (Zimmermann): Build A Vie Has A Vie, A Tyr, F Ven,  
F Gre, A Gal, A Ser  
ENGLAND (Barents): Has F Den, F Hel, A Yor, F Nth  
FRANCE (Kovalok): Has F Mid, A Bel, A Pic, A Bur, A Pie, A War  
GERMANY (Boniface): Has A Kie, A Ruh, A Mun  
ITALY (Rubins): Remove A Alb Has A Rom, F Apu, F Ion  
RUSSIA (Schleicher): No build received! Has A Mos, A War,  
A Ukr, F Nwy  
TURKEY (Smith): Build F Con, F Smy Has F Con, F Smy, A Sev,  
F Bla, A Arm, A Rum

The deadline for Spring 1903 moves is 7:30 PM, Thursday, December 11, 1975. The Russian miss is sort of understandable when you consider there wouldn't have been the build if F Den had retreated to Swe. But just to be safe, a few standbys would not hurt. For Germany--Ron Kelly, 225 Virginia Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20061, and for Russia--Bob Lipton, Box 1962, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. 18042. Many thanks in advance.

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1975 CZ

Summer 1904

## YAWN

AUSTRIA (Birsan): Has A War, A Gal, A Bud  
ENGLAND (Rubins): Has A Stp  
FRANCE (McDonough): Has A Bur, A War, A Par, A Pic, A Wal, F Lon,  
F Bre, F Cly  
GERMANY (Zimmermann): Has A Gas, A Yor, F Nth, A Ruh, A Vie,  
A Bel, F Hol  
ITALY (Papandrea): Has F Tyr, F Fun, F Ion, F Gre, A Pie, A Tri  
RUSSIA (McMullin): Has A Mos, A Ukr, F Nwy, A Fin  
TURKEY (McLendon): Has A Ser, F Aeg, A Con, A Sev, F Bla

Moves are currently on file for Birsan, Rubins, McDonough, Zimmermann, Papandrea and McLendon. I've got some good news and some bad news for you. The good news is that some Canadian postal workers have returned to their jobs in a few areas. The bad news is that the Canadian Postmaster General said he expects the strike to last at least until Easter. Oh well.

Has anyone out there besides me noticed a strong correlation between quality of a zine and the quality of the staples used to keep the thing together. Graustark and Impassable are almost impossible to open, while some of the others--you know who you are. Of course, Black Hole has no staples at all. Fun.

## My Toothpaste Tis of These Dept.

A Greek and Communist Chinese exhibition soccer match saw more laughs than play when each side mistook a toothpaste advertisement for the other's national anthem. The incident occurred when the all-star squads of Athens and Canton lined up before an estimated 10,000 fans and suddenly froze to attention as music began blaring from loud speakers. The Greek fans followed suit and rose to their feet in the customary show of respect as a silence fell over the stadium. It all broke into roars of laughter as a female voice appealed for the daily use of her brand of toothpaste which gave her added freshness and confidence.

Greek sports officials said later that both the fans and Greek players mistook the toothpaste tune as the Chinese national anthem, because they had never heard it before. Chinese players said they too stood to attention when they saw the Greeks, believing it was the local anthem. Buffalo Courier-Express  
October 30

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## Plugs

I just recently began receiving Impassable and I see that I've been missing one hell of a lot. John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, Pa. 17013 puts out this extremely well printed zine. Featured are lots of games, a wealth of hobby news, and anything else he feels like putting in to it. He has no games open, but subs are a steal at 12/\$2.00. This zine is very highly recommended.

A new zine to recently come out is Michael Muchnik's Valinor. It is done in readable ditto (in other words just like I hope this will come out) features letters, an article or two, some plugs, and babble each issue. Subs are 10/\$1.50 (cheap) and Mike has games open for \$1 plus sub maintenance. Watch for this zine in a couple of months. Mike resides at 2520 Hyacinth Court, Westbury, NY 11590.

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With this statement, I declare my independence from that organization known as the Sinister, Monolithic, New York Conspiracy. This group has vowed to gain control of the hobby through whatever means are necessary. Once they have succeeded in this venture, they plan to systematically eliminate all those hobbyists who have opposed them by sadistic and cruel means. One victim that I know of was forced to listen to a recording of a meeting of this group 100 times without a break. Fortunately, the fates intervened and the tape broke. He is now recovering nicely, and should be released from the sanitarium he is now confined to in a short 10-12 years. Members of the conspiracy may be identified by their frequent use of the word d-d to describe anything that anti-conspiratorial. Remember, forewarned is forarmed.

In the most recent issue of Dynasty, Adam Gruen took a pot shot at publishers who use space-filler and needless babble to fill out their zines (the words are his). C'mon now! My own view on the situation is that those are the things that keep zines interesting. Without it, you get a very dry Diplomacy World type zine; like, who really cares. This is not to knock article people, but when I read a zine, I like to know something about who is publishing it and that I glean from said babble. Graustark and The Mixumaru Gazette are very often mostly filler and commentary, and unsurprisingly I consider two of the finest zines in the hobby. Adam then says that this technique is used "to impress their subscribers with twelve pages of garbage." Well, consider me impressed.

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### Diplomatic Privilege Dept.

The ambassador from Barbados to the United Nations says his dog has diplomatic immunity and has written Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Atty. Gen. Edward Levi and other officials warning of "possible international consequences" if his dog is shot for biting residents of the village of Pelham. "I do not agree that diplomatic immunity covers a police dog who runs around, unleashed, biting people," replied Pelham mayor John Johnson. "He has a police record of at least eight incidents in the past three years. That dog just likes to bite people."

Ambassador W. E. Waldron-Ramsey, referring to the dog's alleged diplomatic immunity said "I do not intend to discuss the matter further." Saul Kuttner, an advisor to the U. S. mission to the United Nations has written Mr. Johnson asking for a transcript of a village council meeting where the matter was debated.

The mayor of this New York City suburb in Westchester County said he had written the ambassador, a village resident, warning him that if the dog appeared without a leash and without a capable adult in charge of him, the dog would be shot. "Diplomatic immunity does not cover a threat to the public safety," he said, "and that dog is a threat to the public safety. As far as I'm concerned, my order stands." Mr. Johnson said "the issue has created quite a stir" in the village of 7000 and said he understood the U. S. mission "would try to fix it up."

The ambassador declined to give the dog's name or breed, saying "I don't consider that relevant." Mr. Johnson said "It's a police dog, but we're not sure if it's a German shepherd." Buffalo Evening News October 23

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Now with some judicious use of needless babble, I will proceed to fill out this issue to four pages. Speaking of needless babble, how about a little press from some of you out there? It won't be necessary to write a ream or two, but just enough to keep me from having to fill out issues like this. Coming attractions in future Black Holes: games, filler, babble, and maybe even some more installments of American Pie. Not to mention some plugs. Hey, I reached the bottom of the ditto! Now take that, all you scoundrels!