



BORIS THE SPIDER



"OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE
WHEN FIRST WE PRACTICE TO DECEIVE!"
--- SIR WALTER SCOTT ---

3 May 92

Vol 4, #2

NMR PLAGUE GROWS!

Last month's epidemic of NMRs has doubled and now challenges the stability of the 'zine. Both DIP games would've been seriously crippled and the 1830 and DUNE games stalled had not your intrepid GM started making collect phone calls. But then what else is new? "It has always been thus."

Yes, the new format is still in the future, but not very far. Last issue it took about 7.5 hours to print the twenty copies on my trusty old Epson. That's too bloody long. So this is the first issue of BORIS to be photoduped (at a nickel a side). If I'd've wanted to be creative, I could've cut and pasted the logos into the new format, but I was rather busy chasing down our NMR colleagues so as to prevent complete game paralysis.

BORIS'S BBB

Thought for the Season: Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill.

BOOS & KUDOS

This month's Madame Bolduc Press Excellence Award goes to the author of the "Runway Repairs" classified in BORIS V.

This month's Ms Nar Super-Suds Bomb this month goes to all players he had to gag into sending their moves. Come on!! Next time you may be NMR!

BORIS IV

WORMTONGUE THWARTS INVASION!

The Turks came out the winner as a Russo-Italo-Turkish Alliance aimed at Austria tripped all over itself trying to grab the western Austrian centers. Had Count Devoni and the Tsar cooperated in attacking VIE, it might have been quite different. The Tsar, it seems, was too greedy in trying for three builds this year. Meanwhile in the West, German and British rivalry have left DEN as one of two unclaimed centers on the board. All in all, Italy was the big loser this year as it sacrificed its sure build for an unnecessary support.

AUS (Fryling): [A Bud-Vie], A Ser S F Alb-Tri, [F Alb-Tri];
ENG (Shacklett): A Edi-Nwy, F Nrg C A Edi-Nwy, [F Nth-Den];
FRA (Rezzarday): [A Bur-Bel], A Spa H, F Mid-Por;
GER (J. Fisher): [A Kie-Den], A Ruh-Bel, F Hol S A Ruh-Bel;
ITA (Klausutis): [A Ven-Tri], A Trl S A Ven-Tri, F Ion S TUR A Bul-Gre;
RUS (Saunders): [A Gal-Vie], [A Ukr-Gal], F Bot-Swe, F Rum H;
TUR (Patrick): A Bul-Gre, A Smy-Con, F Con-Bul (sc).

Orders in brackets fail.



SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUS:	Bud, Tri, Vie, +Ser	(4) Build 1
ENG:	Edi, Lon, Lpl, +Nwy	(4) Build 1
FRA:	Bre, Mar, Par, +Por, +Spa	(5) Build 2
GER:	Ber, Kie, Mun, +Bel, +Hol	(5) Build 2
ITA:	Nap, Rom, Ven	(3) Even
RUS:	Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Rum, +Swe	(6) Build 2
TUR:	Ank, Con, Smy, +Bul, +Gre	(5) Build 2

NOTE ANOTHER ADDRESS CHANGE FOR ITALY!

Due next time will be the Winter 1901/02 builds only.

Embassy Beat

BERLIN--In a brilliant display of colors and precision, the High Seas Fleet toured the Low Countries, gaining support from BEL and HOL re-emphasizing the common bonds between the Dutch speaking peoples. This tactical masterpiece represents a strong start for Germany's new Foreign Minister, Jason von Fischer. Maneuvers have also been staged in KIE and DEN to show Germany's continuing support for the Scandinavian countries in these times of particularly troubled waters.

BRUSSELS--After hearing of the ease in which HOL was taken Belgium mobilizes. All men between the ages of 19 and 40 are to report to the nearest military base for instruction and training. Factories will be refitted to produce war materiel and martial law is in effect. The King is reported as saying, "I only hope it is not too late."

Boris World Press Review

LA LIBERTE (Paris)--The country is up in arms at seeing one of its allies invaded. SPA and POR vow to mobilize and send help to their devastated ally, HOL. *Le Tote* reports to the country, "Although this is quite a shock to all of us and we are unprepared, our immediate concern is to not let another small, defenceless country be put to the torch. I have ordered the French 1st Army to help defend BEL. I only hope it is not too late."

LONDON TIMES--Today Whitehall announced that the maneuvers in the Scandinavian countries is going well with the transport of the Coldstream Guards and Black Watch to Norway support by the Royal Navy. Russia has participated in the simulated defense of the Northern allies by simulating a securing of the Eastern flank in Sweden.

The Foreign Minister published a request to the French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch governments for admittance to the Treaty of Brotherhood. The minister relayed that Parliament feels that a bonding of free people will stabilize the Continent and ensure future posterity and peace.

OSLO OMBUDSMAN--The peoples of SWE have joined with their Norwegian and Danish neighbors in their concern regarding the

recent increase in northern naval activity. In light of a possible Russian invasion eyewitnesses were reported saying, "I'd rather be German or, help me, even Turkish!"

WASHINGTON POST--"Holland Invaded--Country Plundered, Citizens Killed for No Reason" Holland Underground Radio reported that thousands of German soldiers rampaged over the border without reason or warning. Any organized resistance was crushed within hours. City militia and private citizens with guns were slaughtered. Towns and villages sacked and burned. The last report out of The Hague was a message repeated over and over: "Where are our allies? Where are our allies? Where are our-----"

Classifieds

NAVAL DISPATCH: M.I. Dropship Tours / Temporary Third Lieutenant Juan Rico / Personal Log: "I always get the shakes before a drop."

VIENNA: He can't help it; he's just a priest.

A Fact of Nature: The swarming jackals don't wait for the animal to be dead before they devour it.

ROME: Columns! Columns! Columns!
Get your columns!
DORIC, IONIC, CORINTHIAN...
You name it!
All hand-crafted!
Personalized Nameplates available
See : Masons-R-Us
15 Ides of March Lane
Rome, Italy

BORIS V

FRENCH PRESIDENT RESIGNS!

Citing confusion due to being the same person in two places, President Rezzarday is resigning in favor of Vice-President Jon Langbert. Unnamed officials are rumored to have said the real reason is that he couldn't possibly top this year's success. Indeed, A MUN will be difficult to maintain after Germany's probable build of two armies. Meanwhile in the East, Pope Brad seems to have been distracted from his Austrian Campaign--or is he just positioning himself for a push on VIE? The Russian builds are the key here. F STP(nc) would indicate a Northern Campaign against perfidious Albion rather than the classic Russian steamroller against Austria then Germany.

AUS (R. Fisher): [A Bud-Viel], A Ser S F Alb-Gre, F Alb-Gre;
ENG (Morrison): [A Edi-Bel], F Nrg-Nwy, F Nth C A Edi-Bel;
FRA (Rezzarday): A Bur-Mun, A Spa H, F Mid-Por;
GER (Ford): A Kie-Den, A Ruh-Bel, F Hal S A Ruh-Bel;
ITA (Wilson): A Ven-Trl, A Tri S A Ven-Trl, F Ion-Tun;
RUS (Shacklett): [A Gal-Viel], A Ukr S F Rum, F Bot-Swe, F Rum H;
TUR (Patrick): [A Bul-Gre], [A Smy-Con], [F Con-Bul (sc)].

NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE FOR GERMANY!

Orders in brackets fail.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

AUS:	Bud, -Tri, Vie, +Gre, +Ser	(4) Build 1
ENG:	Edi, Lon, Lpl, +Nwy	(4) Build 1
FRA:	Bre, Mar, Par, +Mun, +Por, +Spa	(6) Build 3
GER:	Ber, Kie, -Mun, +Bel, +Den, +Hol	(5) Build 1
ITA:	Nap, Rom, Ven, +Tri, +Tun	(5) Build 2
RUS:	Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Rum, +Swe	(6) Build 2
TUR:	Ank, Con, Smy, +Bul	(4) Build 1

Jon Langbert will be the new President of France.

Due next time will be the Winter 1901/02 builds only.

Embassy Beat

LONDON--The Northern Fleet is enjoying Norwegian hospitality while conducting joint maneuvers with the Norwegian Navy.

VENICE--Oops! We said WEST! not EAST! But while we're here...

Boris World Press Review

BUDAPEST DAILY TIMES--Emperor Franz-Josef surprised the guests at a charity dinner party last night with a disjointed and slurred speech at the head table before being hustled away by aides. The following transcript was reconstructed from interviewing the closer guests: "A madness, they're all gripped with madness. Our poor continent. Only England and Germany still acting civilly. The French are tramping all over the Iberian people, Russia is a white avalanche over our heads. The refugees from RUM and BUL overwhelm our efforts in SER. The Greeks are crying about Italian warships...and the Italians are all over TRI, reeking of garlic. Any wine they can't drink they ship home, the poor goats...I'm just...it totally freaks me out...massive bummer...!"

Aides refused all comment on the Emperor's speech or condition and public speculation is rampant with many rumors.

BUENOS AIRES HERALD--The French, not wanting to spend the money, time, and manhours on a wall between France and Germany, have decided to take care of the Hun problem the old-fashioned way.

EDINBURGH TIMES--The Army is conducting a series of amphibious maneuvers along the European coast. The serious lack of adequate landing craft increases the need to have port facilities. With so many armies on the move serious diplomatic discussions are ongoing for use of small country port facilities at the invitation of those governments. BEL and DEN appear to be the most promising. However potential conflict may occur over these areas. May our readers pray for peace but be prepared for War.

RUSSIAN BUSINESSWEEK--Stock prices have taken a sharp nose dive in the wake of reports of knock-off Cossack paraphernalia being illegally shipped from Rumania. The main producer of the Cossack items for civilian resale, Igornavitch Bothnian Manufacturing (IBM) has demanded the government put an immediate halt to this breach of international patent and copyright agreements. The Tsar has personally sent a note to Sultan Ali Don advising him that such production in Bulgaria should be halted immediately by the Sultan's government if previous international agreements are to honored in the future.

The Tsar opened the new MIG production plant by flying the first aircraft off the assembly line. The Russian High Command was pleased to see that the Tsar was able to perform several acrobatic maneuvers. However many experts privately confided that the undercarriage would need a few repairs after the Tsar's landings. However, the Tsar was definitely able to walk away after the flight.

Classifieds

WANTED--Able Seamen to join His Majesty's Navy. See Europe at government expense. Training will be provided.

The machine pistol has been a tremendous success in Europe. Now Abdul's Enterprises announces that due to bulk orders from many European powers, the weapons can be offered at extremely low prices because of high volume production. The very low price of 300 shekels will make you the proud owner of these marvelous invention. Again, contact Abdul's Enterprises, Ltd. The Casbah

WANTED--Construction firm specializing in aircraft runway repairs. Must be able to perform construction in cold climates. New technology to prevent cracking by heavy landings would be a definite plus. Contact Ministry of the Interior, Aviation Department, Warsaw.

1830

STOCK ROUND 1 (continued):

Anchors buys Prez share of NYNH&H, setting par at \$67.

(\$600-134 = \$466)

Hanna buys 1 NYNH&H. (\$370-67 = \$303)

Morrison buys Prez share of C&O, setting par at \$2.

(\$400-164= \$236)

Klausutis buys 1 NYNH&H. (\$370-67 = \$303)

Anchors buys 1 NYNH&H. (\$466-67 = \$399)

Hanna passes.

Morrison buys 1 B&O. (\$236-90 = \$146)

Klausutis buys 1 NYNH&H. (\$303 = \$236)--NYNH&H floats!

Anchors buys 1 NYNH&H. (\$399-67 = \$332)

Hanna passes.

Morrison buys 1 C&O. (\$146-\$2 = \$64)

Klausutis buys 1 B&O. (\$236-90 = \$146)

Anchors buy 1 of NYNH&H. (\$332-67 = \$265)

Hanna buys 1 B&O. (\$303-90 = \$213)

Morrison passes.

Klausutis buys 1 B&O. (\$146-90 = \$56) --B&O floats!

Anchors buys 1 NYNH&H. (\$265-67 = \$198)

Hanna buys 1 B&O. (\$213-90 = \$123)

Morrison & Klausutis pass.

Anchors buys share of B&O. (\$198-90 = \$108)

Hanna buys share of B&O. (\$123-90 = \$33)

Anchors buys share of B&O. (\$108-90 = \$18)

All pass.

Hanna has the priority for the 2nd stock round. B&O is sold out, so its price token floats upward to A100.

PLAYER STATUS:

Morrison: \$64, SVN&R, D&H, M&H, 3 C&O(Prez), 1 B&O

Klausutis: \$56, C&SL, C&A, 1 PA, 2 B&O, 2 NYNH&H

Anchors: \$18, 6 NYNH&H(Prez), 2 B&O

Hanna: \$33, B&Opc, 5 B&O(Prez), 1 NYNH&H <Priority>

CORPORATION STATUS:

B&O (10 owned)	-----	price A100	Treasury: \$900
NYNH&H (9 owned)	par \$67	price F67	Treasury: \$670
C&O (3 owned)	par \$82	price C82	-----
PA (1 owned)	no par		

TRAINs AVAILABLE: 222222333334444555666DDDDDD

Due next time is Operating Round 1 and Stock Round 2. Alternate orders from the VPs are invited in case of NMR by the respective presidents. Remember to figure in your private company income for the Stock Round.

1830

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Paul Zieske <Priority> | 4. Greg Kuntz |
| 2. Wayne Morrison | 5. Mike Puffenburger |
| 3. James Bliss | 6. Don Chinnery |

We've a bit of a mystery story to tell here. We got 2/3 of a postcard seeming to ask to join this game. Both the return address and signature were in the missing shard, but by inferences on the intact side, its postmarked zipcode, and a single digit from the return-address sticker, I've deduced it was Paul Zieske. Checking the handwriting against authentic samples confirmed it--I hope!

By luck of the draw Paul Zieske will start off the bidding. You each start with \$400. We'll only do the private company bidding this time. I need your vote on the optional "6" train, your private company bids and the par value of the B&O should you acquire it. Should I get all your orders in early enough, I'll get the results back to you quickly, and hopefully we can conclude STOCK ROUND 1 in the next issue. The House Rules are enclosed (except for Wayne, Mike and Paul who already have a copy of the FAST TRAX rules).

KREMLIN

Dan Farrow: Committee of Modern Marxists into Expanding Socialism (COMMIES)
Mike Anchors: Old Red Farts (ORF)
Mark Frueh: Marginal Mechanics Faction (MMF)
Paul Saunders: Party of Cartographic Socialists (PCS)

Year 1

GAMESTART!

COMMIES declare 4 IP on "A", 10 IP on "N", and 9 IP on "P".
ORF declares 10 IP on "N". PCS declares 2 IP on "M" and 3 IP on "D". ORF wins the die roll tie break for "N".

CURE PHASE:

MMF declares 5 IP on "A". MMF plays card #21, "Miracle Drug", and heals "A". "A" must stay at work so ages 1 SP to 81. "X" is weak at his position so ages 1 SP to 54.

PURGE PHASE:

COMMIES play card 26, "German Teenager lands plane in Red Square." "N" fails purge attempt on "Y" (roll: 7+3=10) and ages 3 SP to 66.

SPY INVESTIGATION PHASE:

"Y" is uncontrolled, so "P" opens investigations on "A", "E", and "M". Investigation on "E" is disallowed since "E" is not in Politburo. "P" ages 2 SP to 63.

HEALTH:

"A" rolls 7 @ 81 = +	"D" rolls 17 @ 73 =
"N" rolls 13 @ 66 =	"M" rolls 11 @ 64 =
"P" rolls 17 @ 63 =	"X" rolls 10 @ 53 =
"Y" rolls 13 @ 52 =	"I" rolls 19 @ 68 = (-)

PRESS:

MMF looks forward to another year of glorious leadership from Nestor "the jester", hopefully this years of economic return won't be a joke.

GM to all: I just transcribe what you send. Don't expect me to correct your spelling and grammar!

Party Chief:	A+, 81	5 IP (MMF*), 4 IP (COMMIES)
KGB Head:	N, 66	10 IP (ORF*), 10 IP (COMMIES)
Foreign Min:	P, 6	9 IP (COMMIES*)
Defense Min:	Y, 52	
Ideology Chf:	D, 73	4 IP (PCS*)
Industry Min:	M?, 64	2 IP (PCS*)
Economy Min:	X(w), 54	
Sports Min:	I, 68	
Candidates:	E, K, O, Q, S	
People:	B, C, F, G, H, J, L, R, T, U, V, W, Z	

LEGEND: * controlling faction, + sick(ens), ++ ill, ? under investigation, (w) weak in job, (s) strong in job, (-) health would have improved if sick or ill

Due next time are orders for Replacement, Rehabilitation, and Parade Phases. If you don't want a die roll to break ties, arrange with your "allies" to lend you support as per the Advanced Rules.

MAGIC REALM

DAY 1

Monster Roll = 6

WIZARD: (Farrow) Begins at Guard House with staff from Soldiers, and is using Optional Character abilities (p 54). T, T, T, T
BERSERKER S: (Shacklett) Begins at Inn with great axe from Order and helmet from Guard. H(42, Hides), T(63, No Deal), HR(54, x4, Hire R7, alias Ralph), HR(61, No Deal)

WITCH KING: "Scitch" (Chinnery) Begins at Ghosts. M PW2, M PW4, M EV4, H(31, Hides)

BERSERKER C: (Cameron) Begins at Inn with great axe from Order and helmet from Patrol. T, T, T, T

Everyone is Friendly with the natives they are with, so no Evening Meeting Roll (Rule 30.3) is necessary.

The group you traded with have _____ & _____.

By the way, since Jack is but a local call away and went before Scott, we executed his whole move this time. Scott and Dan will decide if and what they want to trade for, and we'll execute it retroactively during the Evening portion as per our House Rules (enclosed).

Since we have two Berserkers, how about they and the Wiz submitting character names so I can condense the report some?

Due next time: Day 1 spell casting and combat. Day 2 orders.

PRESS:

BERSERKER C: Something tells me I'm not in Norway any more.

DUNE

ATREIDES: (Saunders), 1 card, 10 Spice.

FREMEN: (Morrison), 1 card, 3 Spice.

GUILDE: (R. Fisher), 1 card, 5 Spice.

HARKONNEN: (Mikolaj), 2 cards, 10 Spice.

1. Your possible Traitors are _____, _____, _____.

2. The Fremen begin with 4 tokens in Sietch Tabr, 3 tokens in False Wall South, and 3 tokens in False Wall West.

3. The Storm is in Sector 1 (honest, we dialed 19!). It will move to Sector _____ next turn.

4. Spice locations are Funeral Plain (6) and Oh Gap (6). The next Spice Card is _____.

5. Your card(s) are _____ & _____
6. Atreides sees that _____, _____, _____
and _____ are available for bid next time.

We are playing the Advanced game with all the Optional Rules except for Section XVIII (Longer Game). Due next time, are your traitor selection, Turn 1 card bids, shipping and movement orders and any appropriate non-combat Treachery Card plays.

The Hunt

Having just read James Lipton's "An Exaltation of Larks: The Ultimate Edition", I've decided to hold a "Hunt". This is how it will work. We'll propose ten common nouns; y'all will provide collective nouns that you think should apply to each. For example, if the common noun was "lion", then the collective noun could be "pride", as in "a pride of lions". So also we have "a flock of sheep", a "herd of buffalo", a "gaggle of geese", a "bevy of beauties", and, my favorite, a "branle of Diplomats". By the way, "branle" (pronounced "brawl") is a Court Dance.

So here's the deal. Below you'll find ten nouns. Propose collective nouns for each. Boris and Ms Nar will judge all entries for aptness, originality, poetic quality, and "perfect fit" and award one point per common noun. Mr Lipton's terms will not necessarily prevail. Whosoever scores 10 points first will win 6 issues. This should take several issues to resolve.

SET 1

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. DIPpers | 2. Chemists | 3. Postmen | 4. Lawyers |
| 5. Dragons | 6. Pinballers | 7. Hobbits | 8. Sandworms |
| 9. Congressman | | 10. Bikers | |

On Deck

1830: Farrow and Chinnery interested in variant. Alternate Frueh. Need 6 for normal, 4 for variant.

1835: Signed up are Hanna, Egtvedt & Chinnery; 1-4 more needed. Farrow signed up for variant. Alternate Frueh.

DIPLOMACY: Signed up is Langbert; need 6 more. Alternates Frueh, Langbert, Morrison, Tran.

GUNSLINGER: Morrison and Cameron signed up; Anderson possible. Need 2-5 more.

THE PLAYERS

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Boldface denotes address change.

DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES IS 1200 NOON CDT 6 JUN 92

The Bottom Line

This is *BORIS THE SPIDER*, a 'zine dedicated to the play of multiplayer games. *BORIS* is published around the first Sunday of the month by Paul & Meg Bolduc, 203 Devon Ct, FWB, FL 32547-3110 and currently has a subscription price of \$6.00 for 12 issues in hardcopy or \$1 by E-mail via GEnie or INET. *BORIS* can be reached at (904) 863-9081, GEnie P.BOLDUCCI, or INET BOLDUC@UL1.EGLIN.AF.MIL.