



BUSHWACKER

VOL. 19, No. 1

JANUARY 1990

This is the 215th consecutive issue of BUSHWACKER, a Postal Diplomacy* zine dedicated to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and whatever else comes to mind. This item lacking any redeeming social value is brought to you by: Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, Md. 21043. Phone: (301) 461-1885. Phone calls accepted daily between 12 Noon and 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time. However, players are urged to send your orders by mail, except in dire emergencies. There's no guarantee that anyone will be home to accept phone orders, and I don't have an answering machine. Adjudication errors should be reported promptly by phone.

*Diplomacy is a registered Trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md. The zine is named for my comic strip character, "Bushwacker," whose picture is on the masthead, in his World War II combat outfit. (The U.S. still used W.W. I helmets until around November 1942).

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GAME FEES: \$9.00 Flat Fee for newcomers, or \$8.00 for the rest of you. Similarly, the STANDBY FEE is \$5.00 for newcomers or \$4.00 for current readers. Players and Standbys do NOT have to maintain subs. For your money, you receive copies of the rules/maps for your game(s), plus BUSH, for the duration of your game, unless you drop out. Note that a Standby signs up for a specific game of his choice. Mensa Diplomacy SIG members receive an additional \$1.00 discount on these fees. OVERSEAS Fees higher.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for non-players are 12 issues for \$6.00. OVERSEAS SUBS re \$8.00 for 12 issues, by sea mail. SAMPLE copies are 50¢. We also TRADE with many other zines on an all-for-all basis. Traders may enter a game for a considerable discount, which can be arranged on an individual basis.

This issue contains reports on CHARACTER DIP (1987AF rg06), ATLANTICA III (1988ARea01) and ANCIENT EMPIRES III (1989IR ac10). There are also two more End-game statements for VACATION DIP III, and a report on FIVE ITALIES (ug12), which starts next month.

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I'm happy to report that my eye surgery was a complete success. The eye is healing faster than expected. I was able to resume reading two days later, and to start driving three days after surgery. I am still wearing a very heavy pair of sunglasses when I go outdoors in sunlight, which I call my "Robocop" glasses, as they fold around the sides of my head. Otherwise, things are back to normal. The vision in the right eye is much better than it was before the operation. In about four weeks, I'll be getting a new prescription for my glasses, which should give me completely normal vision.

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FAREWELL TO 1989. In the January 1, 1990 issue of NEWSWEEK, George Will states: "In 1989 history cleared its throat and said: Sic transit just about everything." It was certainly a watershed year, not just in Eastern Europe, but nearly everywhere. Will points out that one of the few places where the impossible failed to become possible was in baseball, where the Chicago Cubs completed their 44th consecutive season without winning a pennant - a major league record.

THE COLD WAR IS OVER.

The era from 1945 to 1989 could be called "From Yalta to Malta." One thing which should be made clear is that there was nothing immoral in the agreements reached at Yalta, per se. It was Stalin's breaking of these agreements, which called for free elections in Poland and the Balkans, which brought on the Cold War. Albeit, FDR may have been a bit naive about Stalin's intentions, but being a master politician at home, he thought he had come to some pretty solid agreements with Old Joe. Indeed, there are some historians who say that if Roosevelt had lived, the Soviets might not have been so daring in their running roughshod over human rights in Eastern Europe. Stalin thought he could get away with things against Truman. He continued to think so until June 25, 1950, when he pushed Harry once too often by invading South Korea.

In any case, virtually everything which Stalin gained in the period 1945-1949 has now been lost. It appears that most of the world's First and Second World governments now realize that the real enemy is the ecological damage being done by overpopulation and industry. This is going to be the major world struggle of the 90's and the first part of the 21st Century. As Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and they is us."

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AN ANSWER TO "THE GERMAN PROBLEM"

Many people seem to be afraid of a reunited Germany. Even with no changes in its boundaries, it would be the largest and most powerful country in Europe, except for Russia. While I personally see no possibility of today's Germans putting on uniforms and going marching again, I realize that this image does bother some.

However, history shows that the only time there was a unified Germany was from 1870 to 1945. The "normal" situation in Europe was to have a flock of "Germanies" around. A look at a pre-1870 map shows over two dozen little kingdoms, duchys, bishoprics, city-states, and the like. Even today, in the BRD, the south Germans in Bavaria, the Schwartzwald and Swabia have little in common with the Rhinelanders and the Saxons. So, I propose the re-establishment of the Holy Roman Empire, consisting of a confederation of the various German-speaking states (including Austria if they wished to belong). Yes, there would be an Emperor. However, I propose that said Emperor be given exactly as much power as the old emperors had! That would be enough to keep any future Schinkelgrubers in place, but not enough to scare any outsiders.

And think of the opportunity for diplomacy, intrigue and the writing of comic operas and adventure stories!

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A COUPLE OF REASONS WHY THE U.S. IS BEHIND JAPAN, ETC.

A recent report declared that 25% of the American population over 18 is functionally illiterate! It's hard for these of us in our protected middle-class environments to believe this. However, I saw a taste of this problem when I worked an interviewing desk in a Chicago Social Security Office in the period 1955-1961. But, I thought the problem was limited to the older people whom I interviewed, most of whom had been raised Down South or in the Old Country. We blithely assumed that when that generation died off, we'd have no more problem with illiteracy. Apparently, there's been little improvement in the past 30 years, except for a recognition now that some people who can't read are suffering from dyslexia rather than retardation. We can help dyslexics, but we can't help people who don't want to be helped. (A recent sporting news story stated that a

member of the Washington Redskins team was found to be functionally illiterate after he had graduated from a college in Oklahoma on an athletic scholarship. How the hell did he graduate if he couldn't read? (Dexter Hanley)

Also, the Maryland Science Center has recently reported that a survey found that 25% of the American population still believes that the Sun revolves around the Earth! Ptolemy lives! At a recent Mensa meeting, a schoolteacher described how she tried to explain something about the space program to her Inner City 4th or 5th grade class. She was stopped by cries of "Oh, No!" as she mentioned the Earth's orbit around the Sun. To her horror, she found that 100% of her students were firmly convinced that the Sun went around the Earth. How did they know? Well, they said, that's what it says in the Bible.

Small wonder that Henry Luce's "American Century" only lasted from 1945 to 1974.

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POSTAL QUIRK

We had two of our Overseas sea mail copies of BUSH returned by the Postal service for additional postage. I brought them back to the P.O. and pointed out to the clerk that they had the proper sea mail postage (40¢) on them. "Oh, but you've marked them 'First Class'" the clerk replied.

"Well, of course, so they'll be handled as letters overseas." "Oh, no," he said, "Sea mail isn't First Class any more!" So, he took a black pen and crossed out the offending "First Class" words and the request for extra postage, and put them back in the pipeline.

Rather peculiar, isn't it. It means that from now on, I'm faced with the choice of blacking out the "First Class" on all of my Overseas sea mail copies, or of not having that printed at all on my mailing page, and entering it separately with a rubber stamp on each domestic copy. The first method seems easier. Has anyone else experienced the same problem? It's always been my understanding that all letters with the proper postage are treated as First Class Mail regardless of whether they're marked for sea or air travel. Apparently, the Post awful has come up with a new definition. Incidentally, it's become very difficult to find any 40¢ stamps on sale, so I'm going to have to use two 20's from now on.

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INTERNATIONAL NOTE. After a three-month hiatus, Jef Bryant's DIP-SOMANIA has once more appeared. Jef is the Boardman No. Custodian for Francophone games in Europe. He also runs the Belgian Variant Bank. I had been worried by its non-appearance. However, it seems that bimonthly or quarterly appearances will be the rule from now on with this zine. Jeff actually produces a double zine, in that every word in DIP-somania is printed in both the English and French versions. That's a lot of words when you print 44 pages! Keep up the good work, Jef. If you're interested in the Variant scene on the Continent, and info. on his game openings, write to: G.A. Bryant, 121 Rue Jean Pauly, B-4300, Ans, BELGIUM.

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A HOME FOR GENERAL NORIEGA? I think the Vatican embassy in Panama City is a perfect place for our friend. No girls, no booze, no drugs, no voodoo. No girls, no bucket of blood, no porno books, no TV. No girls... just a lot of clergymen praying 12 hours a day all around you. Yes, General, I think that's a marvelous place for you to stay for the next 5 or 10 years.

VACATION DIP III - MORE END-GAME STATEMENTS

BILL YOUNG (GERMANY): Contrary to Joe Paterno, I'd rather be lucky than good. Having acquired a beleaguered Germany in 1902, I benefitted from English NMR's. Then, the game gained a new English commander ((Chang)), who was steadfast and skillful, and became my dependable ally.

FRED CHANG (ENGLAND, 1907-on): This was an enjoyable game. I started with no clear goals until Bill Young (Germany), offered to convoy one of my continental armies back to Edi. This successful move strengthened my position regarding the pesky Italian fleets. Bill proved to be a master correspondent, often sending moves seasons in advance. He was also extremely diligent with providing changes of address. When he went to England, I was sending in moves for him as well (signed blank forms).

Paul Kenny (Turkey) proved also to be an admirable correspondent. But, I had no reason to stab Germany. Italy (Hoffman) proved to be a disappointment. His correspondence (on unbelievably crude stationery) summed up his attitude to the game (i.e., he didn't care).

At one point, the card allowing you to write moves for another player set the E/G/A alliance back. All of Bill's units retreated. I kept hoping to get a card like this.

With luck and persistence I hoped to return an Austrian unit (played cooperatively by Rice and Reges) to its homeland. And, we did get a unit back into Bohemia before it was wiped out. I also hoped to make inroads into the Western Med. The game could have continued, but I think the draw was satisfactory to all.

Thanks for the great GM'ing, and for the great certificate. ((Winners and players involved in two-way and three-way draws in BUSH games receive a certificate - F.C.D.))

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FIVE ITALIES UPDATE

1. There have been no negative votes on the Optional Rule to place a standing army in Switzerland, and at least 3 "Yes" votes, so that rule will be in effect.
2. One of the players suggested that people might want to name their Italies, instead of just using letters. I like this, with one proviso. The names should start with the assigned letter for your country, and should have at least a vague connection with Italian-sounding words. For example, Italy "C" could be called "Ciceroni." Cicero was a great Roman, and the town of Cicero, Ill. was also Al Capone's headquarters, so it has a double meaning. So, any of you who wish to do so may submit a name for your country with your orders, or later.
3. I'm going to use the following colors for the various Italies on my map. Italy "A" - Green, B - Blue, C - Red, D - Yellow, E - Black.
4. Deadline for Spring 1901 is WEDNESDAY, January 31, 1990. I still need payment of the Game Fee from Brad Wilson.

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PLUG: ZEPHYR, a new zine to be devoted to the play of Diplomacy and its variants. Subs will be on a cost per issue basis, in \$5.00 increments. Game Fee: A sub and a \$5.00 NMR deposit (which can be refunded at the game's end). Intimate (2-man) and Woolworth (5 players) are among the variants being offered. He'll also accept suggestions on new games to run. Write to: Jim Bragg, 6058 Andover Blvd., Garfield Hts., Ohio 44125, to sign up. First issue should be out shortly.

CHARACTER DIP - 1987AF rg06 (Formerly 1987AF rm49)

FALL 1909

ENGLISH BREAK THROUGH AUSTRIAN GOAL-LINE STAND TO CLINCH VICTORY. HEAVENLY MIX-UP IN DENMARK SAVES 18th CENTER. FRENCH SEIZE PORTUGAL, GO TO BURGUNDY, BUT FIND BOOBY TRAP THERE. RUSS MOVE TO BULGARIA IS KEY MOVE, BLOCKING RETREAT FROM SERBIA.

ENGLAND (Baty): 7F NAO-Liverpool. 8F Clyde-Liverpool. 11A Edi-Holland. 5F North Sea (C) 11A Edi-Holland. 10A York-London. 4F Norway-London (jumps North Sea per Card #5). 9A Belgium-Ruhr. 1F Kiel (H). 5A St. Pete-Moscow. 6A Budapest-Serbia (Double-strength move, per Card #1). 3A Rumania-Budapest. 7A Sev-Rum-Bulgaria (double move per Card #4). 8A Ukraine (S) 7A Sev-Rum. 3F Black Sea-Con. 1A Galicia-Vienna. 4A Warsaw-Galicia.

FRANCE (Acheson): 3A Venice-Tyrol. 3F Ionian-Aegean. 2F Apulia-Ionian. 4A Naples-Rome. 5A Marseille-Burgundy (but steps on Mine and blows up). 6A Spain-Portugal. 4F Western Med-MAO. 2A Heaven-Denmark.

AUSTRIA (Suchard): 12A Tyrol-Munich. 10A Heaven-Denmark (two angels can't dance on the same pia). 2A Trieste-Vienna (becomes visible upon meeting English 1A Galicia). 3F Albania-Trieste. 2 Amp Serbia (S) 3F Albania-Trieste /d/, may (R) to Greece or OTB.

RUSSIA (Bargender): 2F Con-Bulgaria(ec) (Double-strength move per Card #2). (1)

TURKEY (Cheek) (1): 1F Armenia-Ankara.

PRESS:

FRANCE to England: Can't let you win running away, now, can we?

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, CHARACTER Dip: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~ (FINAL)

ENGLAND:	3 Home, Belg, Berlin, Den, Hel, Kiel, Moscow, Norway, Rumania, Sev, St. Pete, Sweden, Warsaw, BUDAPEST, CON, SERBIA, MUNICH	18 (+2), Build 2, WINS!
FRANCE:	3 Home, Greece, Naples, Rome, Spain, Tunis, PORTUGAL	9 (+1), Build 2 (1 annihilated)
AUSTRIA:	Vienna, Trieste, Smyrna, Venice, MUNICH, BUD, CON, PORTUGAL, SERBIA	5 (-3), No change (3 units annihilated)*
RUSSIA:	Bulgaria	1 (—), No change
TURKEY:	Ankara	1 (—), No change

* Yes, the dislodged Austrian unit Ser could have Retreated to Greece, in an attempt to stay at 6 Centers. However, since the game is over, I can tell you that Greece is mined, and an attempt to move there would have resulted in its annihilation. So, Austria would actually be one short, and able to build in Vienna in Winter '09, if the game were to continue.

A strange thing happened. I made a partial adjudication without the Russian orders on New Year's Day. Al Bargender's orders were held up by the Post Awful, and didn't arrive until Jan. 2nd. Without them, the English 7A would have been in Bulgaria, and Rumania would have been open for an Austrian Retreat. That would have kept England down to 17 Centers, and caused the game to go another year. So, I was very glad when the Russian orders arrived. End-game statements are requested for next month, preferably no later than Monday, January 29th.

Supply Center Chart and GM's Comments follow.

SUPPLY CENTER CHART, CHARACTER DIP, 1987AF rz06

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	
AUSTRIA (Jeff Suchard):	6	7	7	10	13*	10	10**	8	5	Third
ENGLAND (Ralph Baty):	4	5	8	11	11	13	13	16	18	Won
FRANCE (Doug Acheson):	5	5	6*	5	7	9	8	8	9	Second
GERMANY (Jack McHugh):1. (Lane Hess)	5	4	2	0	-					
ITALY (Brad Wilson):	4	4	3	2	0	-				
RUSSIA (David Rice): 2. (Bob Gossage):3. (Al Bargender):	5	6	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	Survived
TURKEY (Robert Cheek):	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	Survived

1. McHugh NMR'd out, Sp. 1904. Replaced by Hess, Sp. 1904.

2. Rice NMR'd out, Sp. 1903. Replaced by Gossage, Sp. 1903.

3. Gossage NMR'd out, Sp. 1904. Replaced by Bargender, Spring 1904.

Note: Jeff Zarse was supposed to play Russia, but NMR'd, and was replaced by David Rice in Winter 1901. Neutral orders were used for Fall 1901.

GM's Comments: I think this is a better game than Vacation Dip III, because the special powers allowed here are not as spectacular as in Vacation. Actually, I was surprised that the "Big 3" powers, Annihilator, Gasser and Hypnotist, were so seldom used. One reason for this is that after 1901, only three Powers consistently gained new units. No Power could have more than one of these units on the board at one time, so they were rather scarce. Both Annihilators, one French and one Austrian, were used. There was only one Gasser in the game, the venerable English 1A, but it used its special power only once. There were two Hypnotists, 1F England and 2A Turkey, but I think each used its abilities only once. The English unit was never identified.

Far more use was made of the Heavenly units, of which there were a total of four, and of the Minelayers, of which there were also four. The English and French minelayers were frequently used, while the Italian and Russian ones used their powers just once before they died. Some of the more esoteric powers were never used, but a couple of players made good use of the ability to convert from an A to a F, or to be Amphibious. Overall, I'd say that the Heavenly units (Card #8) caused the most significant effects in the game, since it meant that no SC was safe, no matter how far behind the lines it was located. It also allowed players to get into action on the other side of the board.

I would like the players to send me their opinions on the various "characteristics" here. Should some be abolished, or increased in number? Any suggestions for adding other types of cards? Should these special powers be usable in 1901?

Did any of you tell tall stories about the characters of your units? Can you provide any anecdotes about how the special powers helped you, or perhaps backfired? As this game started I asked you to keep track of how the use of secret powers affected your game, so I hope you've made a few notes for posterity.

I was very disappointed with the constant turnovers in Russian rulers, as well as the NMR's from Germany. By the time Al Bargender took over the Russian helm, he had only two Centers left, and wasn't able to do very much. Austria started off like a house afire, but his NMR's in 1906 and 1907 ruined his position. England and France never NMR'd, which is one reason for their success in this game.

Congratulations to Ralph Baty for his consistent play and his win as England. I also wish to thank all of the other players for sticking to their positions, especially when they were reduced to one or two units.

THE ASSYRIAN CAME DOWN LIKE A WOLF, WITH SOME HELP FROM JUDAEA. NEW CARTHAGE HELPS ROME WHILE PICKING UP TWO CENTERS. MORE AGONY FOR SELEUCUS. GREEKS BEAR GIFTS.

ANTIGONUS (Pankasky): F Pontus-Armenia. A Antioch-Syria. A Mysia-Thrace.
(3)
CARTHAGE (B.Wilson) F Aiolian Sea-Sardinia. F Gulf of Syrtis-Ionian Sea.
(3)
EGYPT (Baty): A Icosium-Fez. A Sinai-Arabia. F Red Sea-Persian Gulf. A Judea (S) ANTIGONUS
(3) A Antioch-Syria.
MACEDONIA (Bargender): F Aegean-Crete. A Chalcydice-Thrace. A Moesia (S) A Chal-
(3) Thrace.
NEW CARTHAGE (Cheek): A Narbonensis-Massilia. A Gabes-Mauretania. F Ligurian Sea
(3) (S) ROME F Tyrr. Sea-Sardinia.
ROME (Nash): A Illyria-Sirmium. A Genua-Aquileia. F Tyrr. Sea-
(3) Sardinia.
SELEUCUS (Perlmutter): A Assyria-Syria. A Media-Armenia. A Parthia-Babylon.
(3)

PRESS:

EGYPT to Seleucus: I realize that my support of Antigenus is not consistent with my letters to you. However, in studying the map carefully after the first moves, it did see, most consistent with the long-term security of Egypt. Sorry about misleading you.

EGYPT to Antigenus: I think Seleucus is quite irate with me, with reason. I hope you are willing to help me in keeping his ire bottled up in his Aladdin's lamp.

CARTHAGE: No hearum, no likum.

CARTHAGE to Seleucus: Poor thing! Shoulda built the fleet.

BUSHWACKER to Carthage: Shoulda gone for the sure thing in Sicily.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, ANCIENT EMPIRES, WINTER 264: GAINS, ~~LOSERS~~

ANTIGONUS:	3 Home, SYRIA	4 (+1), Build 1
CARTHAGE:	3 Home	3 (-), No change
EGYPT:	3 Home, ARABIA, JUDEA	5 (+2), Build 2
MACEDONIA:	3 Home, CRETE, THRACE	5 (+2), Build 2
NEW CARTH:	3 Home, MAURETANIA, MASSILIA	5 (+2), Build 2
ROME:	3 Home, SARDINIA, SIRMUM	5 (+2), Build 2
SELEUCUS:	3 Home	3 (-), No change

NEUTRAL: Charex, Sicily

DEADLINE for WINTER 264 Builds will be WEDNESDAY, January 31, 1990. Telephone deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Since this is the first Winter season, we will just play Winter, but if you wish to submit orders for Spring 263, you may do so.

By the way, I am very glad to see that Al Bargender's orders got through. They had been bounced around in the mail system, and only arrived on deadline day. Never underestimate the P.O.'s ability to mess up your letters!

ATLANTICA III - 1988AR 0001

MARCH 1871

GERMANY GAINS AN ADDITIONAL UNIT.

We had forgotten that Germany was already playing two short in February 1871, so when its F Spain was annihilated, it was down to 8 units, and therefore had a new Build coming.

		CURRENT STRENGTH
ENGLAND (Wilson):	No change.	4 (-)
FRANCE (Galt?):	Not heard from. Goes into Civil Disorder.	1 (-1) (1 annihilated)
GERMANY (Cheek):	Build A Berlin. F London (R) Wales.	9 (-2) (2 annihilated)
ITALY (Kendter):	Build A Venice	11 (+1)
CANADA (Acheson):	Build A Toronto	8 (+1)
U.S.A. (R.Brown):	Build F Boston, F Philadelphia	13 (+2)
C.S.A. (Palter):	F Bahamas (R) Cuba. Remove F G of Mexico.	2 (-1)

APRIL 1871

ITALIANS SCREW UP THEIR ORDERS BY OVERLOOKING THEIR FLEET IN SPAIN. EVERYBODY TRIES TO MOVE TO NORTH SEA. GERMANS TAKE LIVERPOOL. YANKS & CANUCKS CROSS SIBERIA. AMERICANS LAND IN NORTH AFRICA. RACE FOR CASABLANCA IS ON.

ENGLAND (Wilson):	F NAO-Irish Sea. F Iceland-Hebrides Sea. F Skag-North Sea.
(4)	F Norwegian Sea (S) F Skag-North Sea.
FRANCE (C.D.):	NMR. A Brest (H).
(1)	
GERMANY (Cheek):	A Burgundy-Picardy. A Paris-Brest. F Wales-Liverpool. A Switz
(9)	(H). F Denmark-North Sea. F Norway (S) F Den-North Sea. F Swe-
	den (S) F Norway. A Kiel-Denmark. A Berlin (H).
ITALY (Kendter):	F Spain(sc) Unordered (H). A Mauretania (H) /d/, (R) to Morocco
(11)	(per Right-Hand Rule). A Morocco board F Western Med, A/F Western
	Med-Gulf of Lions. F Gulf of Lions-Spain(sc). F Portugal (S) F
	G of Lions-Spain(sc). A Marseilles-Burgundy. A Gascony (S) A
	Marseilles-Burgundy. A Venice-Tyrol. A Piedmont-Switz. F Gulf of
	Cadiz-MAO.
CANADA (Acheson):	A Alaska/Yukon Box-Siberia Box. A Toronto-Ontario. A/F Grand
(8)	Banks-MAO. F Atlantis and F Bay of Biscay (S) A/F Grand Banks-MAO.
	F Eng. Channel-North Sea. F London (S) F Eng Channel-North Sea.
U.S.A. (R.Brown):	F Canary Is-Mauretania. F SAO (S) F Canary Is-Mauretania. F Azores-
(13)	Canary Is. F Boston-West Atlantic. F Phila.-Chesapeake Bay. A
	Alaska/Yukon Box-Siberia. F Panama/Pacific-Suez/Indian Box. A Ia.-
	Missouri. F Bahamas-Hisp. F Jacksonville-Bahamas. A Co-Jaxville.
	F Bermuda (S) F Azores-Canary Is. A Minn-Alaska/Yukon Box.
C.S.A. (Palter):	F Cuba (H). F Caribbean-Hisp.
(2)	

As you will all have guessed, the proposal for a USA-Italy Draw was defeated. More than one player opposed the Draw. We now once more have a proposal for a four-way Draw between USA, Canada, Germany and Italy. We will vote on this with the May 1871 orders. To the gentleman who proposed the same issues that we've already voted upon, my House Rules do not permit repeat propositions immediately. There is no point in flogging a dead horse. (See HR's 22 and 22a).

PRESS:

ITALY to Canada: You really don't expect me to let you land that army, do you?
 ITALY to France: Looks like you may hold in Brest for quite a while, even if you don't make any more moves.

(more)

ITALY to Germany: Hello, is anyone out there? I am getting quite nervous, as my moves show.

ITALY to USA: You could have written this turn.

ITALY to GM: I agree that the USA needs to be cut down in initial size. Of course, I don't know what to do about the imbalance problem. Europe creates a two-on-two, and America a two-on-one. Gives that side a strong advantage.

GM's Comments: Some years ago, someone suggested to me that an 8th Power be added, on the American side, called either ~~Mexico~~ or Brazil, to provide a balance. At that time, before we had photocopy machines with reduction capabilities, there was no room to shrink the American side of the map to fit another Power in. Now, I could make the maps any size I wanted. This might be a solution, providing that we cheated a bit to bring Canada and ~~Mexico~~ closer together, the way that Italy and Germany have a "back door" connection via Tyrol. Also, with an 8th Power, the U.S.A. would not need the Wild West SC to keep CSA and Canada from ganging up against him.

As I've said before, in previous Atlantica games, USA had been played by weak or incompetent players who let the CSA-Canada alliance wipe him out. This is why the Wild West SC was created. However, the current game shows that Wild West is not needed when USA is played by a good player. In any case, I plan to drop the West West SC from future Atlantica III games. I'd like to hear other opinions on the advisability of adding another Great Power on the American side of the board. Normally, I prefer to have an odd number of players, but we already seem to have a built-in two-on-two situation in Europe. Players do not seem to develop a desire to cross the Atlantic or use the round-the-world Boxes until at least one Power has been knocked out on their side. I thought that with the addition of the High Seas Fleets, they'd start doing so right from the start.

On another matter, I was very flattered to receive a letter from Doug Acheson advising me that he'd stay in his BUSHWACKER games to the end, although he is dropping from most of his Postal games for a period of time. Thankyou, Doug, for staying on board. I believe you may be correct in saying that this Atlantica game doesn't have far to go. So, if any of you have heard that Doug has dropped from all of his games, this is not entirely correct. He will continue to play Canada here.

DEADLINE for MAY 1871 orders and Votes will be WEDNESDAY, January 31, 1990. Telephone deadline is Tuesday, January 30th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

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The CANADIAN DIPLOMACY ORGANIZATION CENSUS has finally been made public. This was the work of Randy Grigsby. I gather that there was some difficulty in getting the names of readers from one or two publishers. There are 119 Canadians, 101 Americans and 39 Overseas people on the list. Most of the Canadian membership lives in either Ontario (59) or Quebec (30). Anyone who plays in, or subs to, a Canadian Dipzine is on the list. If you want a copy of this list, and you don't live in Canada, I suggest sending \$1.00 to Randy at: 93 St. Vincent St., R.R. #3, Barrie, Ont., CANADA L4M 4S5. I'm sure he can make use of U.S. dollars. If you're Canadian, I suppose a SASE would be sufficient.

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VACATION DIP III GAME OPENINGS

Paul Kenny reports he's had some drop-outs in the Vacation Dip game he's running in his STANDARD DEVIATION zine, so he can use standbys, with almost immediate chances of getting
(over)

into the game. So, if you didn't get enough Vacation Dip here in BUSHWACKER, just write directly to: Paul Kenny, 75 Maple Ave., #A, Collingswood, N.J. 08108.

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If we had known we'd have all this space left over, we'd have looked for an old piece, or a cartoon, to print here, or written another article. Too late now. I'll just close with a couple of short takes:

Lots of publicity is coming out on DipCon XXIII / World DipCon II, to be held in Chapel Hill, N.C. over the weekend of June 22-24, 1990. Perhaps next month I'll be able to print a Registration form here. The Registration Fee is \$20, and air-conditioned on-campus housing is available @ \$15 a night Double, or \$30 a night for a Single room. For more information, or to send payment, contact: David Hood, 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, N.C. 27510. Makes checks out to "David Hood."

Has anybody heard from Steve Doubleday since he moved to America? I keep hoping that one of the British zines I get will print his address, but they've said nothing. Steve was supposed to have moved to either West Virginia or Pennsylvania sometime in the late Fall. Hope he hasn't been ambushed by the Indians.

As an alumnus of Illinois, we were very happy to see the Fighting Illini win the Fiesta Bowl over Virginia 31-21. We feel that Notre Dame should have been ranked as No. 1, over Miami, instead of #2, and that Illinois should have been ranked somewhere around #6 instead of 10th for the whole country. Prediction: Illinois will win the Big Ten next year, and go to the Rose Bowl.

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