



BUSHWACKER

VOL. 19, No. 6

(Pre-DipCon Issue)

JUNE 1990

This is the 220th consecutive issue of this Postal Diplomacy* zine, which is devoted to the play and reporting of Variant games, hobby news, and whatever else I care to write about. This 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, but players are urged to submit their orders by mail, except in emergencies. After 18½ years of non-stop publishing, we are running down to a fold in August 1990. However, all remaining games will be finished by me by flyer.

*Diplomacy is a registered Trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhauer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md. "Bushwacker" is the name of a comic strip character I created 50 years ago this August. That's his picture on the masthead. As the American Army continued to wear World War I helmets until 1942, this drawing is suitable for Diplomacy, which centers around the events of The Great War, also known as The War to End Wars. "Bush" continued to wear the old helmet all the way up to 1951, when I drew my last strips.

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All current Trades will continue through August 1990 unless I specifically notify you otherwise. There will be a form included in copies of this issue going to most Traders to see what is going to happen after August. While I'll be subbing to some zines after August, this obviously cannot include all of the 50-odd zines I'm now receiving. A similar form was sent to most of my Subbers with the May issue, but only a few of you replied. Most subbers will receive either a refund of the balance of their sub, or a SUB to DIPLOMAG, the bimonthly newsletter of the Mensa Diplomacy SIG.

This issue contains reports on our last two games, ANCIENT EMPIRES III (1989IR ac10) and FIVE ITALIES (1990B ug12).

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WE WORK AS A CENSUS TAKER

For the first time in four years, we went back to work for pay in April as a Census Enumerator. Congress changed the law in 1989, to permit Civil Service retirees to keep the salaries earned, in addition to their Federal pensions. I took the entrance test back in November, and was told that we'd work from about April 1st to May 15th. However, there was a great deal of slippage (and incompetence) in getting set up, so our classes didn't begin until April 27th. My last day of work was May 31st, which was the end of "Stage I." They asked me if I wouldn't stay on for "Stage II," which is a sort of last ditch mop-up of recalcitrant citizens, but I said "No, I've had enough."

My interviewing skills, which I had learned while working in the Chicago Loop Social Security office years ago, came in handy on the Census job. In Chicago, we had every ethnic group and socio-economic class in the world coming into our office to file claims. You might get a Lake Shore Drive millionaire followed by a Skid Row bum. After a while, nothing shocked you. So, I was able to shift gears to talk to the various groups living in and around Old Ellicott City.

My particular Census Tract went from one extreme to the other, covering dwellings in the Historic Area, where nothing can be altered without special permission, some apt. houses, and a very nice area of new homes south of the Historic Area. It did not include our own development, Normandy Woods, but began just south of the County Office Bldgs. about 1.5 miles south of here.

The people living in houses were mostly cooperative, except for one very wealthy conservative who threatened to sue me if I didn't stop bothering him. Didn't believe the government had the right to ask him certain questions. He seemed disappointed when I informed him that the only party he could sue would be the Secretary of Commerce.

The apartments were another matter. I found one of those subsidized rent projects just two miles from my door, which I hadn't known about. Took one case after another of the unwed mothers and their illegitimate children. The one thing that shocked me was how old these people looked, both white and black, compared to the people I've known at work and socially. Many who looked 40 or older were only in their late 20's. I guess it's a combination of poor diet, poor health, low I.Q. and constant smoking. My grandmother had said that in her day, a woman was old at 40. This is apparently still true among the poverty-stricken.

Many blacks now classify themselves as "African-Americans," or "Moorish Americans." There is apparently no understanding that the term "African" includes the Arabs of North Africa and Egypt, or that the "Moors" are not black. Shakespeare made the same mistake, of course, but merely because one has adopted the Islamic religion does not automatically make one a "Moor."

There were no illegal immigrants among the people in my area who had failed to send in their Census forms. They are the largest problem group nationally, but not in Ellicott City. Most of our non-returns were from people who were simply too lazy or too uneducated to complete them.* Some people swore that they had mailed in their returns, but some were either lost in the mail or never properly filed in the correct Census Tract file in the office. (We know all about lost mail!) We were instructed to complete a second form in all such cases. In two or three cases, the original forms were later found and reported to me on a print-out, but too late to be of any help to me. Ah, bureaucracy. *Also, many of the non-returns turned out to be from non-existent addresses.

The Census operations in my area were poorly conducted. The bosses were constantly changing their instructions to us. I'd expected to be turning in my complete work to my supervisor in some sort of an office environment about twice a week. Instead, my crew chief operated out of her home. There were so many people and dogs coming and going, with the phone constantly ringing, I thought I might be on some sort of sitcom. At the beginning, they told us to bring in our work every night. When this caused several people to resign, they changed the rules and allowed us to come in only every third day. It would take one hour to get in 15 minutes of post-interview work around her dining room table. The worst part was that on several occasions I drove the 7 miles to her house, to find nobody home. While I was paid mileage for these useless trips, it was no way to run a railroad.

Anyway, I'm glad to be finished with the job. It took up far too much of my waking time in the month of May. I now know my neighborhood far better than I really wanted to! I've always been very strong in urging people to always lock the doors to their homes and autos, but now I'm going to be fanatic about it. Now, to get back to more important things, like Diplomacy.

* * * * *

BIG GUNS

With all the fuss created by the disclosure that Iraq was planning to build the world's largest cannon, with a potential range of about 150 miles, I'm surprised that no one has mentioned the "Charlie Chaplin Cannon" used in his film, "The Great Dictator." Appearing in the opening scene of the movie, this cannon was the largest moveable prop ever created up to that time in Hollywood. When it was towed from its place of construction to the Hollywood back lot where it was set up, everyone who saw it was overawed by its size. The Iraqi cannon was apparently destined to be about the same dimensions, only made for real.

There has been a confusion in the public mind about the two famous German cannon of WW I, "Big Bertha" and "the Paris Gun." These were two separate pieces of artillery. Big Bertha, named after the wife of munitions magnate Krupp, was a mortar of monstrous dimensions, able to hurl a heavy shell a short range. I believe she was built to demolish the Belgian concrete fortifications, which would have otherwise held up the German advance through Belgium under the Schlieffen Plan. In this effort, the gun was very successful. I don't believe that Bertha had any other big accomplishments during the war. In WW II, the Wehrmacht built a similar cannon, called the "Sevastopol Gun," for use in demolishing the Russian fortifications at Sevastopol. But, that gun was too bulky to use as a mobile artillery piece.

(1917-18)

The Paris Gun[^] was an entirely different animal. Rigidly emplaced, it had an extremely long barrel, but fired a projectile only about 9" in diameter. (It's dimensions were in metric, of course). It was built around 90 miles from Paris, well behind the front lines, with the sole purpose of being able to shell Paris, which lay beyond the reach of conventional artillery. The gun was extremely expensive to build and maintain. After every 20 or 30 rounds, the gun's linings were burned out, and had to be replaced. (A conventional 14 to 16-inch gun can be fired around 300 times before the barrels have to be relined). So, it did not fire many shots at Paris, and the damage inflicted did not match the cost of the gun, counting the number of men required to man and maintain it. I was told its greatest accomplishment was to hit a church filled to capacity on a religious holiday. In the Chaplin movie, the gun's success was to demolish a French outhouse with a direct hit. The Paris Gun was very inaccurate at extreme range. I believe it was destroyed in the Fall of 1918 when the Germans had to retreat, as it was too big to move. The 9" shells were too small to be militarily effective. As a footnote to history, they did set a world's record for the distance any object was hurled by man, which was not broken until the flight of the first V-2, which went 200 miles, in 1943/44.

If you want to get a good look at a surviving monster gun, you can see the German railway gun "Anzio Annie" at the Army museum in the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, in Aberdeen, Maryland. This piece is of about 11-12" in diameter, mounted on a railway carriage. At the Anzio Beachhead, Annie was hidden in a railroad tunnel covered by a steel door. She was rolled out at night to fire a few rounds, and then would disappear back into the tunnel before Allied aircraft could spot her. She therefore survived intact, until, with the railroad tracks behind her destroyed, the Germans had to abandon her when the Allied advance rescued the Anzio Beachhead. She was probably the biggest prize of war, except for some captured warships, ever brought to the U.S.

The largest gun ever fired from a warship[^] was the 18" gun mounted on Lord Fisher's battle-cruiser HMS Furious in 1917. ^{Prior to 1941} There were originally to be two 18" guns, but as initially completed, a flight deck covered half of the ship. The 18-incher was fired only once. A great number of bolts and other pieces of hardware were snapped or twisted by the shock. The Admiralty decided the guns were too big for the ship. Furious was finally outfitted as one of the first British aircraft carriers, and the guns were shipped off to Singapore as part of the port's defenses.

* Yamato * Mochas! Also mounted 18" guns in WW II

(over)

They were pointed out to sea, of course, as were all of the other big guns at Singapore, so they were useless in defending the base from the Japanese invasion from the land side. Presumably, they were scrapped in 1945. Two other huge British naval guns of 14 or 15" diameter may be seen outside of the Imperial War Museum in South London. The capital ships on which they were mounted are identified on their pedestals, and in at least one case the ship's coat of arms is also displayed. Since you can walk right up to these pieces, you can see how huge they really are. Half the length of the gun barrel is hidden inside the turret.

(Material on HMS Furious is taken from Lew Pulsipher's unpublished doctoral thesis on British Naval Aviation in World War I).

It's strange to see interest in giant artillery coming back into the news today. Everyone had assumed that the development of missiles had made the big guns obsolete. However, the Iraqis have shown that under certain specialized situations, there may still be a place for Big Berthas in the military arsenal. Thankyou, Customs inspectors of various nations, for spotting this one before she got built!

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DIPCON NOTES

Some extra copies of this BUSHWACKER will be left on the freebie table at DipCon, for the benefit of newcomers. In prior years, this was done in hopes of picking up some new subscribers, but since BUSH is folding with the August issue, this is no longer our goal. We do want people to know that there are many, many Diplomacy variants being played by mail these days. We will be only too happy to plug other zines, and mention some variant games being offered in them. Most variants play better by mail than FTF, as some have very large boards and special rules, which are difficult to remember when you're playing FTF.

Next month, we plan to print a report on DipCon XXIII, held in Chapel Hill, N.C., and let you know where DipCon XXIV will be held in 1991.

I'm also putting out a few sample copies of DIPLOMAG, the bimonthly newsltr. of the Mensa Diplomacy SIG. You have to be a Mensa member to join the Diplomacy SIG, but others may subscribe to it. I will be glad to advise you on how to join Mensa. In a nutshell, all you need is an I.Q. of 130 or an SAT score of 1250 or higher. Half of the people in the Postal hobby are probably eligible.

* * * * *

THE PASSING PARADE

IN PASSING, I see that Francois Guerrier is folding PASSCHENDAELE, one of the more controversial Dipzines, for the second time. This time, he promises to refund outstanding sub money to his readers. PASS was the winner of the most recent "Most Eagerly Anticipated Fold Award" in the Rusty Bolts Poll, so it would appear that those who voted for PASS are having their wishes come true. You may recall that when PASS resumed publication some two years ago, a couple of old-timers had predicted another fold similar to this one, with lots of games left in the lurch. Although Francois had denounced the Canadian Dip Org, and said he was not part of it, I understand that CDO will make efforts to rehouse his games.

Runner-up KAISSA in the Most Awaited Fold category has announced that its newest Dip game will be its last, so it will also be leaving the Diplomacy field shortly.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS for BNC Don Williams, to: 43504 N. Gadsden Ave., #227, Lancaster, CA. 93534. Send your requests for Boardman Nos. to the new address.

ITALY E, "EMBROGLIO," IS BACK IN GAME. VENICE "B" IS FIRST HOME CENTER TO CHANGE HANDS AS RUFFY-ANS DESCEND ON GONDOLAS. DELI CLEARED. CICERONI SANDWICHES BOLOGNA.

Note: Ed Green (EMBROGLIO) informs me that his brother died on April 20th, after being severely injured in an auto accident. Ed had to return to New York to make final arrangements, so he had no time for Diplomacy. Our sympathies go out to Ed. This is truly a star-crossed game. Ed is now back home in California, and plans to continue playing his position, so the rest of you may resume your negotiations. Ed has changed the name of his country to start with an "E," so it will fit in with the planned naming scheme.

"A" RUFFY (Kendter): F Tunis A-Ionian Sea B. F TYS A (S) F Tunis A-Ionian Sea B.
(5) A Piedmont A-Venice B. A Switz. and F Adriatic B (S) A Piedmont A-Venice B.

"B" BOLOGNA (York): A Venice B-Piedmont A /d/, may (R) to Apulia B or OTB.
(4) A Tuscany B (S) A Venice B (Illegal order). F Tunis B-Ionian Sea B. F TYS B (S) F Tunis B-Ionian B.

"C" CICERONI (Overby): F Ionian Sea C-Tunis B. F TYS C-Ionian C.. A Tunis C (H).
(4) A Venice C-Piedmont B.

"D" DELI (B. Wilson): A Venice D-Piedmont D. F Adriatic E (S) A Ven D-Pied D.
(4) F Ionian E-TYS E. F Ionian D-Tunis D.

"E" EMBROGLIO (Green): F Tunis E-Ionian E. F TYS E-Naples E. A Venice E-Apulia E.
(4) A Piedmont D-Rome E (Impossible) /d/, may (R) to Venice E,
Tuscany D, or OTB.

SUPPLY CENTER COUNT, FIVE ITALIES, WINTER 1902: GAINS, ~~LOSSES~~

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| RUFFY: | 3 Home, Switz., Tunis A, VENICE B | 6 (+1), Build 1 |
| BOLOGNA: | Rome B, Naples B, Tunis B, VENICE/A | 3 (-1), Remove 1 |
| CICERONI: | 3 Home, Tunis C | 4 (-), No change |
| DELI: | 3 Home, Tunis D | 4 (-), No change |
| EMBROGLIO: | 3 Home, Tunis E | 4 (-), No change, unless /d/ unit is removed from Board. |

It seems that WINTER 1902 can be combined with SPRING 1903, since there are so few adjustments to be made. The only unusual event would be if Embroglio chooses to remove dislodged A Piedmont and build a new unit in Rome. So, everyone should submit orders for both seasons, and I will accept a separation of seasons only if at least two players so request. You may submit Spring orders contingent on the directions of the two Retreats and the Builds/Removals.

I'm glad to report that I've heard from Glenn Overby. Those of you in any of his MONDOJ games should be receiving copies of the next issue of that zine about the same time that you receive BUSH. The games will be continued by Glenn.

PRESS:

DELI to Ciceroni: Oops! Wrong way fleet! Sorry!

DELI to Ruffy: Let's have an Imbroglia, shall we?

RUFFY: Maybe I should rename to Anchovies or Artichokes or Apples or something like that. That way, the whole game could be a collection of food. What do you think, folks?

BUSHWACKER: I saw a type of fish referred to as "Ruffy" on a restaurant menu the other day, so maybe we are already a food collection!

(more)

EMBROGLIO: Sorry folks, we thought this was 1948, and started practicing Italy's favorite home sport, anarchy! The old government has been thrown out, and a cleaning service has been hired to clean out the Capital buildings. It has been discovered that the old administration used all the formal letter heads as coasters for the numerous cocktail parties, so the first thing we did was ring up a printing shop in Italy "D" to print up a new batch.

In keeping with the Italy D tradition of being unable to do anything correctly (Except a killer corned beef sandwich) (You were expecting something different from "Deli") all the letter heads came back with our country named spelled "E"mbroglio. Since we haven't got spit in the national treasury right now, we're stuck with 20 tons or so of the stuff. So, effective right now, please address all surrender documents to the Kingdom of Embroglio. Maybe we can try to get the trains running on time...

DEADLINE for FALL 1902 orders is MONDAY, July 2, 1990. The telephone deadline will be Sunday, July 1st, at 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Remember, I'll be out of town most of the time until June 25th, so please mail in your orders.

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ANCIENT EMPIRES III - 1989IR ac10

SPRING 262 B.C.

CARTHAGE GETS HIT BY DOUBLE WHAMMY. SOME PLAYERS FORGET ABOUT RETREAT RULE (RULE #11). EGYPTIAN CHARIOTS ROLL. ROMAN FLEET WINS BATTLE OF MYLAE, SICILY.

Note: Only one player changed his Retreat order. Two of you tried to move your Retreated units, which is a no-no.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| ANTIGONES (Pankowsky): | F Syria-Levantine Sea. A Armenia-Media. A Mysia-Antioch. |
| (4) | F Euxine Sea-Mysia. |
| CARTHAGE (B. Wilson): | A Fez-Icosium (Illegal order) /d/, Annihilated. F Numidia (S) |
| (4) (3 units) | A Fez-Icosium. F Sicily-TYS /d/, Annihilated. |
| EGYPT (Baty): | A Assyria-Oman. A Judea-Assyria. A Alexandria-Libya. F |
| (5) | Egyptian Sea-G of Syrtis. F Persian G (H) (Per Rule 11). |
| MACEDONIA (Bargender): | F Crete (H). A Thrace (H). A Epirus (H). A Moesia (S) A |
| (5) | Thrace. F Athens-Aegean (Illegal order. Must (H) per #11). |
| NEW CARTHAGE (Cheek): | A Mauretania-Fez. A N.W. Africa (S) A Mauretania-Fez. F |
| (5) | Aiolian Sea-Icosium. F Iberian Sea (S) F Aiolian-Icosium. |
| ROME (Nash): | A Masilia-Saguntum (Impossible - they don't touch). |
| (5) | A Sirmium (H). A Illyria (S) A Sirmium. F Ionian-Sicily. |
| SELEUCUS (Perlmutter): | F TYS (S) F Ionian-Sicily. F Sardinia (H). |
| (3) | A Media (S) A Babylon. A Parthia (S) A Babylon. A Babylon |
| | (S) A Media. |

PRESS:

NEW CARTHAGE to Rome: Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what is right.

CARTHAGE to Rome: Not a dot of wine shall you get! Have fun working with New Carthage. I'd say "good luck," but I don't mean it.

CARTHAGE to New Carthage: Take your pithy patterings and stick them in your Gades.

CARTHAGE to Seleucus: Wanna play chess?

(more)

BUSHWACKER: Is there a race on between Carthage and Seleucus for "first out"?

DEADLINE for FALL 262 orders will be **MONDAY, July 2, 1990**. Telephone deadline is Sunday, July 1, 1990, but I won't be home until June 25th, so please try to send your orders by mail.

I suggest that everyone reread Rules 6 and 11.

My thanks to Bo Johnson for back-up orders for Carthage, which weren't needed.

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GETTING NEW POSTAL HOBBY MEMBERS

I've received three different letters in the past month on this topic. Two were in response to my comments in the May BUSHWACKER, and one came out of the blue from a Mensan interested in joining the Diplomacy SIG.

Dave McCrumb, pubber of THE APPALACHIAN GENERAL, proposes that a group of 4 or 5 Dip-zines jointly advertise in the "Opponents Wanted" section of THE GENERAL, since there must be many Diplomacy players who read THE GENERAL but who are not aware of the existence of the Postal hobby. This would have to be done on a monthly basis, to keep up the campaign. Perhaps Dave will bring this up at DipCon, and see how many publishers would like to join in this project.

The Mensan made a similar proposal, without being aware that the idea was being tossed around by others. Just goes to show that when an idea is being born, it may be separately conceived by several different people.

Andy York, 2125 U.C. Blvd., #1407, Universal City, Texas 78148, who will be GM for Mensa Diplomacy Game #35, sent me the following suggestions:

- 1) "Crown" an international champion (specifically in Dip). Remember all of the press and hoopla that went on in chess when Spatski (sp?) and Fisher had their tournament.
- 2) Recognized and respected rankings ala chess (again, tied into the above suggestion).
- 3) Local gaming groups doing charity. This would have only local impact, but it would bring the hobby into a 'kinder' light. For instance, on a local newscast, the human interest blurb has to do with a 'D&D' group helping an elderly couple repaint their house (etc.).
- 4) National challenges. Again, with charities, but this could be something like during a blood shortage, a call for all 'gamers to give a pint; or during a national telethon, a challenge for all 'gamers (Dip players?) to match a \$25.00 contribution. Enough responses would bring some interest and exposure.

Well, these are just a couple of ideas that jumped off the top of my head. I know that it would take some doing to get any of them off of the ground.

Andy concurs that the current illiteracy levels in America, especially in the fields of history and geography, have something to do with the dropoff in the number of younger hobby members. When high school graduates don't even know the dates of the American Civil War, or of WW I, how can they be interested in games based on these events?

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And so, we reach the end of this issue a bit sooner than usual. As I've said, I was very busy in May, so I didn't have a chance to write any more articles. Also, I haven't received the results of any of the Polls yet. I believe the deadline for the Marco Poll has already passed. The deadline for voting in the Hobby Awards is Monday, June 11th. And, the Runestone Poll (Best zines, subzines and GM's) is not due till June 30th.

The Hobby Award winners will be announced at DipCon. No one except Ron Cameron will know their names. We will use the sealed envelope method, a la Oscar, to keep this a surprise even from the announcers. I will have the individual plaques with me, so if any of the winners are present, they'll receive these on the spot. Two of the four perpetual plaques will also be present. The winners' names will be added afterwards. For those who are not present at DipCon, I'll bring the plaques back to Baltimore and have the names added by the same firm which prepared them. Winners have the option of displaying the big, perpetual plaques in their homes for the next nine months, if they wish. If they do not wish to have them, they'll be kept in my den until next year. The Walker Literary Award perpetual plaque hung on the walls of the Avalon Hill Game Company on Harford Road in Baltimore over the winter of 1989-90. Hopefully, it was seen by many people passing through.

I will be in West Germany from Monday, June 11th, through Monday, June 18th, visiting my in-laws. We will fly out of BWI on a Condor charter flight. Condor is a subsidiary of Lufthansa, with the same high quality of food and safety. We land in Frankfurt. The subway is in the basement of the airport, as at O'Hare Field. It is three stations to the Hauptbahnhof. From there, we take an express train for the 2½ hour trip to Inge's home town of Goeppingen. Goeppingen is 25 miles/40 km. from Stuttgart, on the main railway line Stuttgart-Augsburg. It's current claim to fame is the Märklin toy train factory. However, the ruined schloss of Kaiser Friedrich Barbarossa is only a short distance away, in the tiny village of Hohenstaufen. This was the capital of Germany back in the 11th and 12th centuries. There is a gasthaus up there now. We will pay our usual visit and hoist one in honor of the gentleman who may have been Inge's great-grandfather 30 times removed.

I will return in time to fly into Raleigh-Durham Airport around 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 21st. Be seeing some of you at DipCon.

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BUSHWACKER MAILING CODE: (P) = Player or Standby. (T) = Trade. (C) = Complimentary Copy. (SUB) = Subscription. (S) = Sample Copy.

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