



BUSHWACKER

VOL. 20, No. 3

November 24, 1990

This is the 225th consecutive issue of the warehouse version of BUSHWACKER, bringing you the last remaining Diplomacy Variant games to run herein. This is being 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 requested to submit their orders by mail.

*Diplomacy is a registered Trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhamer, and Copyright by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Md.

This issue is mainly going to the remaining players and standbys in our games, ANCIENT EMPIRES III (1989IR ac10) and FIVE ITALIES (1990B ug12), plus copies going to a few special people. There are no more subscriptions, but if someone really needs to see copies, send me \$1.00 in bills or stamps.

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DIPLOMACY WORLD #60 has been produced by David Hood. My copies did not arrive until the day after I'd mailed the last issue of BUSH. David has sent me some extra copies for distribution to non-subbers. If you'd like to see an issue of this redesigned D.W., please send me 45¢ in stamps or coin, and I'll send you one, as long as supplies last. To subscribe, send \$10. to: David Hood, 104-F Terrace Dr., Cary, N.C. 27511. (\$15.00 in Canada). This is a quarterly publication.

The new D.W. has gone back to almost full-size, with 8" x 10½" pages. My only criticism is the inferior quality of the paper. The older DW's may have been expensive, but the paper was certain to last for the next 50 years in the files. However, unless you're an archivist, this may not matter. There is the usual mix of hobby news and articles on strategy and tactics, the Demo game, and a new variant is presented. Not everything will be of interest to everyone, but you will certainly find something of interest to you if you're into the Diplomacy hobby.

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NEW WORLD is the name of a new Avalon Hill multi-player game covering the colonial era in the Americas, ca. 1492-1763. It sounds from the brochure very much like a combination of the Diplomacy variants "Conquest of the New World" and various Economic Dip games, especially when played in the 5 or 6-player modes. If anyone plays this game and cares to report on it, I'd be glad to print a review here and in DIPLOMAG. Or, if you decide to have it printed elsewhere to get a wider audience, I'd appreciate seeing an advance copy of your review. The list price of NEW WORLD is \$25.00. You can order it direct from the Company by calling 1-800-999-3222. (Credit cards only).

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MY BASEBALL WARZ SUMMARY will appear this year in EXCELSIOR, where I now have a new column. I only got two teams correct; Oakland first and Atlanta last. To sub to XL, write to: Bruce McIntyre, 6636 Dow Ave., #203, Burnaby, B.C., CANADA V5H 3C9. Sub rate is U.S. 94¢ an issue.

FIVE ITALIES - 1990B ug12THE END

This game is being terminated as of Spring 1904, in a 4-way Draw. Two of the players agreed with the pronouncement in the last issue that the game had gotten into such a mess that it was best to end it. A third has been demanding its end for quite some time. A fourth initially said it would be best to end it, and then later said that maybe it could be saved. However, I'm going by his initial opinion.

This game was star-crossed from the very beginning. After just three game years, Lee Kendter and Brad Wilson are the only surviving starting players. Malc Smith played Bologna in Spring 1901. Then, his father died, and Malc virtually dropped out of the hobby. Ed Green's brother died, so he missed two moves, and then he returned to the board in Fall 1902. Glenn Overby NMR'd out of this game (and the hobby) in Winter '02. Brad Wilson NMR'd in Fall '03, damaging Deli's position, but he did return in Spring '04. Then, Ed Green was apparently ordered to the Middle East, so Embroglio was left leaderless. And, I screwed up the Retreats and Removals in Winter '03, causing one player to want to resign.

This was the last game to start in BUSH. At the time I announced its opening, I had already decided that BUSH would fold in August 1990, so I wanted a short, simple game for my last variant. I thought this would be such a game. With a low VC of 11 SC's, I figured it wouldn't last very long. I didn't expect it to end this quickly! I don't know whether the game had ever been played postally before. I thought it might be fun. Perhaps if we'd kept the same cast of characters, it would have worked, but the constant turnover ruined any chances for consistency.

If anyone has any suggestions for improvements in either the map or the rules, to make this a better game, I'd like to hear them. One proposal has been to add more Supply Centers in Sardinia. Another might be to break up Switzerland into, say, three different provinces. Let me hear from you if you have any ideas.

Any players wishing to make End Game Statements may do so, although it's a bit difficult to do so in such a short game. Please, no more polemics. Just stick to the game. It seems to me that Italy A (Applesauce/Ruffy), had a good chance to win the game. This was the only country which had never NMR'd. He led the pack with 7 Centers, and could have had as many as 9 by Fall 1904. Except for Embroglio, which had captured Naples D, no one else seemed to having much luck. Here's a Supply Center Chart, for what it's worth:

| | 1901 | 1902 | 1903 | Game Ended in a 4-way Draw as of Spring 1904. The Sp. '04 orders were not used. |
|---|------|------|------|---|
| A (Ruffy/Applesauce) Lee Kendter, Jr. | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| B (Bologna): Malcolm Smith ¹ . | 4 | 3 | 2 | |
| Andrew York | | | | |
| C (Ciceroni): Glenn Overby ² . | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| Tom Nash | | | | |
| D (Deli): Brad Wilson | 4 | 4 | 3 | |
| E (Embroglio): Ed Green ³ . | 4 | 4 | 5 | |
| Civil Disorder | | | | |

1. Smith dropped for 2 consecutive NMR's, W. '01. York took over w/ W. '01
2. Overby dropped for 2 consecutive NMR's, Sp. '03. Nash took over w/ Sp. '03.
3. Green dropped for 2 consecutive NMR's, Sp. '04. C.D. as of Sp. '04.

DEADLINE for End Game Statements is MONDAY, December 24, 1990. I would prefer to have any lengthy statements typed and ready for print. My thanks to Bo Johnson and David Anderson for serving as Standbys.

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Giving Iraq time

PRESIDENT BUSH sent his secretary of state to inform our allies that a military strike at Saddam Hussein has been postponed until a period "between Christmas and Ramadan" — late January is now the best guess, when the U.S. military's last kitchen sink is in place in Saudi Arabia.

William Safire

As the moment of decision approaches, however, the Iraqi leader is likely to launch a peace offensive. He may offer to meet the visiting President Bush in Cairo late this month, for example, or to dispatch his Jordanian puppet to Paris with an offer to discuss withdrawal from Kuwait (which President Mitterrand would leap at). This would be a rebuke of the phony Iraqi proposal that everyone withdraw from everywhere.

Why does Saddam Hussein play for time this way? Bringing in a parade of political palookas and has-beens from Jesse Jackson and Kurt Waldheim to Ted Heath and assorted German and Japanese rejects — trickling out some hostages as he rounds up replacements?

The reason is that every month Iraq goes unbombarded brings it a step closer to production of nuclear weapons. Once he gets his Saddam bomb, no land force no matter how powerful would dare invade; and as his Tammuz missile is perfected, he can impose nuclear blackmail on the superpowers.

Oh, but that's years away, says the burgeoning appeasement movement. Maybe he'll get religion, or get overthrown, or die of natural causes between now and then; besides, Arabs are not scientists — the West will refuse to help and he'll never build the bomb.

Let's throw a couple of unrevealed facts at that racist notion.

At the airport in Frankfurt just three weeks before the invasion of Kuwait, German Customs inspected a curious shipment of a thousand metal parts on its way from Switzerland to Iraq. German technicians were called in and tested the metal: it was a strategic material known as "350-grade maraging steel," its exportation controlled because the high tensile strength alloy is used in high-speed gas centrifuges.

Swiss authorities realized that their Customs inspectors had been either incredibly naive or had been corrupted. Three weeks later, just after Iraqi forces swept into Kuwait, Swiss police raided a production facility a half-hour's drive from Bern.

Five computer-controlled lathes were found there, being readied for shipment to Iraq under the guise of optical machinery, along with 30 centrifuge parts similar to those seized in Frankfurt.

What's the big deal about high-tech parts? Ask any atomic scientist: this means that Iraq is now, today, in the business of producing gas centrifuges on its own. With the first few thousand off the line, a "cascade" can be set up to separate U-235 from uranium in a gaseous state. Each cascade can turn out 30 pounds of weapons-grade uranium — enough for a city-destroying atom bomb — every three months.

The point is all this technical stuff is that Saddam Hussein has achieved the ability to make his own arsenal without more outside help. We could keep on an airtight embargo, or we could cut a deal that includes his heartfelt promise to let us inspect civilian reactors; neither strategy would stop him from building bombs at secret sites.

Under a sense of urgency even greater than at our World War II "Manhattan Project," Iraqis working by themselves will produce deliverable bombs much sooner than our complacent analysts predict.

Look: It's always possible that my information is all wet. Or perhaps another Al Qaeda explosion, the investigation of which cost the reporter Farzad Bazoff his life, will set back bomb production. Or maybe a coup or heart attack or mid-life crisis will remove the Saddam threat. All are long-shot possibilities — but are we willing to bet the world on them?

We face a dictator who has caused a million casualties, created a million refugees, re-introduced the horror of poison gas and kidnaps civilians for use as human shields. He has demonstrated he will stop at nothing to extend his rule.

All he needs is time. And with each passing month, with each escalation of preparation, with each excuse for diplomatic delay — time is exactly what we're giving him.

EGYPT BECOMES SUPERPOWER.

| | | Current Strength |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| ANTIGONUS (Pankowsky): | No change. | 5 (—) |
| CARTHAGE (B. Wilson): | No units left. | 0 (—1), OUT |
| EGYPT (Baty): | Build F Alexandria, F Sinai, A Thebes | 9 (+3) |
| MACEDONIA (Bargender): | No change. | 5 (—) |
| NEW CARTHAGE (Cheek): | No change. | 7 (—) |
| ROME (Nash): | No change. | 6 (—) |
| SELEUCUS (Perlmutter): | Remove A Persia. (1 annihilated) | 0 (—2), OUT |

SPRING 260 B.C.

NEW CARTHAGE SENDS ELEPHANTS INTO ALPS. ROMAN TRIREMES TAKE LIGURIAN SEA, FORCE STANDOFF IN IONIAN. EGYPTIAN HOMECOMING FROM MIDDLE EAST FACES LOG-JAM IN SINAI. CRETE CRUNCHED BY ANTIGONUS. MACEDONIANS MISSING.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ANTIGONUS (Pankowsky): (5) | A Antioche-Mysia. F Euxine Sea (S) A Antioch-Mysia. F Aegean Sea-Crete. F Levantine Sea (S) F Aegean-Crete. A Media-Caucasus. |
| EGYPT (Baty): (9) | F Egyptian Sea-Ionian. F Alexandria-Cyrene. F Sinai-Egyptian Sea. A Judea-Sinai. A Thebes-Libya. F Parthia-Persian Gulf. A Babylon-Assyria. F Utica (H). A Sabretha (S) F Utica. |
| NEW CARTHAGE (Cheek): (7) | F Numidia-Aiolian Sea. F Iberian Sea (S) F Numidia-Aiolian. A Narbonensis-Alps. A Genua (S) A Narb-Alps. F Ligurian Sea-(S) A Genua/d/, (R) to Massilia (per R.H.R.). A Northwest Africa-Numidia. A Icosium (H). |
| ROME (Nash): (6) | A Aquileia-Rome. (This unit actually made this move last turn!). A Ilyria-Aquileia. F TYS-Ligurian Sea. F Sardinia (S) F TYS-Ligurian Sea. F Sicily-Ionian Sea. F Aiolian-Gulf of Syrtis. |
| MACEDONIA (Bargender): (5) | NMR! A's Chalcydice, Dacia and Thrace all (H). F Athens (H). F Crete (H) /d/, Annihilated. |

NO PRESS

DEADLINE for FALL 260 will be THURSDAY, December 27, 1990. Telephone deadline is Wed., Dec. 26th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. I think this will allow time for your orders to get to me after the main mass of Christmas cards. (We always get a big batch on Dec. 26th!). Please take care to mail your orders early, so they'll arrive by the 27th. I think 4½ weeks is long enough for a deadline.

I'm going to ask Andy York, P.O. Box 2307, Universal City, Texas 78148, to submit back-up orders for MACEDONIA for Fall 260. Alan, please let me hear from you!

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MIDDLE EAST COMMENTS

I am enclosing a copy of William Safire's recent column, "Giving Iraq Time," with this issue. This piece points out that the U.S. should point out the real danger Iraq presents to the world; namely, that it's within three years of being able to produce its own A-Bomb. Saddam already has missiles with a 500-mile range. All he needs now is The Bomb to become the complete master of the Middle East. Does anyone doubt that he will blackmail both Israel and Saudi Arabia once he has his warheads mounted and aimed?

(more)

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I keep hearing rumors that war will begin in the Persian Gulf soon after December 1st. Others say no, that for political reasons the war won't start until a few days after Christmas. No one is saying there will be no war. You just can't keep 400,000 troops sitting in the middle of the desert doing nothing forever. Oh, but we had nearly that many in Germany for 45 years, you say. Ah, yes, but in Germany, right outside the camp gates you had fraulines and plenty of beer, plus a delightful climate. And most GI's could get a pass to town nearly every night. In Arabia, there are no girls, no beer, no passes.

(One of my suggestions for improving troop morale would be to have Baltimore's Block and similar institutions elsewhere charter an ocean liner and "bring booze and breads" to the Persian Gulf. As long as the ship stayed three miles off shore, how could the Saudis object? The only alternative is to institute some sort of R & R program, such as they ran in Viet Nam, but it's a long way from Dhahran to any fun city.)

As if it wasn't already obvious to everyone that there's going to be a war, they called up three M.P. units from the Maryland National Guard and Reserves last week. It was openly announced that these particular MP units specialized in "the handling of POW's." I think everything has been made perfectly clear.

Hey, maybe Iraq wants to lose a war to the U.S. so it could become eligible for foreign aid! Do you suppose Saddam read "The Mouse That Roared"?

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A Merry Christmas to all of you. We will be exchanging Christmas cards and letters with some of you a bit later. If not, let this be our seasons greetings.

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