

Making Love In A Canoe

Number 50

A triumph of hope over good sense

June 30, 2000



One Reason Why I Won't Be Flying Air Canada In The Near Future

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MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE is an amateur publication dedicated to the play of **Diplomacy**, which was invented by Alan Calhamer and is not (yet) published in North America by **The Avalon Hill Game Company** (a subsidiary of **Hasbro Toys**). Subscriptions to **MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE** are available for 3 1/2 cents per page plus postage (and GST on the postage). The game fee for openings in **MAKING LOVE IN A CANOE** is \$4.00 with a discount for your first game in the zine. Thanks to Canada Post this issue will cost \$1.33 in Canada, and \$1.42 to the USA, or about \$10 per year. Cost anywhere else in the world is \$1.50 per issue. All prices are in Canadian funds.

Deadline for money, letters or anything else is **AUGUST 18, 2000**

About the Cover

The cartoon on the cover is an exaggeration, but not by much. Air Canada's take-over of Canadian Airlines International has meant reduced numbers of flights for most communities, and higher prices. By way of example, when I first searched for fares between Saskatoon and Baltimore for the period of DipCon two options appeared; Northwest and Air Canada. Northwest's price was about \$825 Canadian (Saskatoon-Minneapolis on a 737, Minneapolis-Baltimore on a 757). The comparable fare on Air Canada was over \$1,000 (now down to \$839 but then the pilots are going on strike). This included Saskatoon-Toronto on a 737, and Toronto-Baltimore on a DASH-8. For those of you who don't know, a DASH-8 is a Canadian built turbo-prop aircraft with a capacity of under 50. Service in a competition-free world!

Standby List

Here is the current list. If you want on or off the list let me know:

Bob Acheson, Andy York, Glenn McMaster, Christopher Gesell, Graham Wilson, Richard Goranson, Sara Reichert, Andy Lischett (one game at a time), Eric Young, Tim Snyder.

My Hand

In the Editorial I mention some of the problems that contributed to the delays in this issue. To that you can add a problem that I had with my right hand. I managed to splash hot oil on my right hand while cooking several weeks ago. I gave myself second degree burns on my thumb, on the back of my hand, and the web between my thumb and fingers. The latter two injuries made it hard (and painful) to type or use the mouse for several weeks. at least it got me out of doing dishes!

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Your current balance is: \$ *Trade*

Are We Alone?

This is the fiftieth issue of *Making Love In A Canoe* – our semi-century (but not our semi-centennial as the -ennial suffix means years). I wonder how many of the original subscribers and traders (many of whom still get it) thought the zine would last this long. There've been some rough patches when I thought very sincerely about packing it in, but those were early in the zine's existence not later. Okay, enough of this sentimental clap-trap let's get on with it!

The SETI@Home project is designed to improve the analysis of raw data being received from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico. As the facility scans the skies it generates a lot of data. If this was left to institutional computers there would be a huge backlog of data even if it were possible to use those computers constantly, which it is not. How could they increase the amount of computing power deployed for the project and shorten the time lag between receiving the data interpreting it without increasing costs or tying up institutional mainframes?

The solution that the people at Berkley came up with was to use the power of personal computers (such as mine since I downloaded the software a few months ago). They created a program that analyses small (340 kBytes) packets of data that you download from their website. Best of all SETI@Home operates as a screensaver, doing its work while the computer is idle, although if you click on the SETI@Home icon on the Windows 9x taskbar you can turn the program on and see the data being analyzed. The program shows data on a Cartesian coordinated space (x, y, and z axes) with x being Frequency, y being Power, and z being time. It is quite elegant, with Frequency being depicted by colour; the lowest frequencies are deep red, the highest are a very light blue. But have we found anything?

As far as I know we haven't. I'm not sure whether this is because there isn't anything out there to find or whether the project isn't looking at the right place in space and in the radio spectrum – or if indeed it is looking for the right thing. Always assuming that we'd

know what the right thing was if we saw it, which is by no means, guaranteed.

I don't know anything about the areas of space that SETI is examining – it is expressed in terms like "from 12 hr 51' 32" RA, +8 deg 50' 24" Dec" which is meaningless except perhaps to professional astronomers. On the other hand the area of the radio spectrum that they're looking at is something I do know a bit about. Commercial radio broadcasting is primarily done between 540 kHz and 1700 kHz (Medium Wave) and between 86 MHz and 108 MHz (FM), with some other broadcasting done in the Long Wave band. Shortwave broadcasters (Hams, Government external broadcasts and various private companies) operate between about 2000 kHz and 30,000 kHz. Television operates on frequencies between 45 and 855 MHz, depending on the country. Add in frequencies used by various other types of communications, including Ultra Low Frequency (used by some countries for military communication with submarines), and as a planet we emit a lot of radio signals. If there are other intelligent life forms at about our stage of technological development, they are presumably doing the same thing.

SETI isn't looking in those frequency areas. The base frequency that they're looking at is in the range of 1.420732422 GIGAherztz. ors 1420732.422 Kilohertz; well above normally used. The SETI@Home website says that they are looking for a message that has been *deliberately* sent rather than normal communications that escape out into space. So far as I am aware, the Earth has not sent out a message in those high reaches of the radio spectrum, so why should we expect others to have done so?

Then too would we know what to look for? The first trans-Atlantic radio transmission, between England and St. John's Newfoundland almost 100 years ago, consisted of the letter "S" in Morse Code (●●●) repeated over and over. Would that be recognizable as the product of an intelligence? On Christmas 1906, Reginald A. Fessenden made the first voice transmission from Bermuda, however before the development of the audion tube which amplifies sound this could only be

heard by people wearing headphones and it was both brief and not a regular transmission. Would this even be detected by SETI? In 1912, perhaps the most famous radio message ever sent was transmitted in Morse Code: "SOS TITANIC" (●●● --- ●●● / - ●● - ●● ●● -●-●). Again, is it recognizable as more than noise to someone who doesn't know Morse Code? After 1920, when schedule broadcasting really began, there has been such a saturation of the spectrum with numerous stations transmitting on the same frequency that it might well be impossible to differentiate what is being sent. And that doesn't even take into account that an alien society might use radio broadcasting in, well, alien ways. SETI is expecting an alien society to use radio as we do, using the same frequencies that we do *and* effectively to be "reaching out to touch someone" with a simple brief message in the section of the spectrum that we would use for that purpose. It just might be a bit of a long shot, especially when you remember that Arecibo only covers a relatively small portion of the skies.

Of course it may not matter. According to a recently published book, we may in fact be alone in the galaxy. I haven't read the book (and probably wouldn't understand it if I did) but apparently the authors conclude that the likelihood of a viable intelligent life-form emerging at all is, well, astronomical. They claim that as you go closer to the center to the galaxy the stars are too closely packed making high radiation, comets and other phenomena too common to allow life forms to survive long. Planets too far from the galactic core would be unable to support life since the heavier elements such as iron would not be sufficiently prevalent to develop planets with a significant gravity. Thus, the authors say, life can only exist in a narrow band that is neither too near nor too far from the center. They then suggest that the "likelihood" of viable, intelligent life on such worlds as exist around the stars in this band is just too high to be comprehended. Thus, we may be alone.

I'm not sure what to make of this theory, except that it is based entirely on circumstantial evidence and unsupported hypotheses. Previously there was a theory that claimed that

planets of any kind were rare and suggested the sort of stars would be capable of having planets. The recent "planet finding" observations have detected "evidence" (the stars wobble in a way that indicates the presence of another gravitational mass) of planets around stars that the previous theory claimed could not have planets. A new type of orbital telescope will apparently be capable of actually seeing planets orbiting other stars, if and when it is ever launched. Current theories also suggest that the ice-covered moons of planets in our own solar system may support basic forms of life. The late Carl Sagan suggested that a form of life could exist on (or rather above) a planet like Jupiter. Of course this would not be "life as we know it" which seems to be a major sticking point for most such discussions. The trouble may be that our conception of life is extremely limited. If we should ever encounter an alien life form its form might well be as incomprehensible to us as, for example, the giant Moa was to the first Maori see one. To accept the notion that life is limited to only what we know and thereby limiting the places where it can exist is unimaginative at best. To further assume from this that we are the only intelligent species in the galaxy smacks of the notion of being "chosen": that a capricious deity effectively said "tag you're it". I prefer to look at the stars and say "maybe" rather than accept "no".

On March 23 *Leader L*, a Panamanian registered bulk carrier two weeks out of Piraeus Greece bound for New York with a load of salt was about 360 nautical miles northeast of Bermuda and in trouble. At approximately 3:47 pm (all times are local for the area) the ship radioed the US Coast Guard Rescue Centre at Norfolk Virginia indicating that the ship was taking on water. They in turn contacted their Canadian counterparts at Halifax, which dispatched a Hercules aircraft to the scene.

About 130 nautical miles southeast of the stricken ship a group of five Canadian warships (destroyer *Iroquois*, frigates *Halifax* *Charlottetown* and *Toronto*, supply ship *Preserver*) was heading into the Caribbean for exercises. At 4:15 pm group commander, Commodore Jamie Fraser, was ordered to divert and offer assistance. It would take the

ships six hours at 30 knots through 5 to 6 meter high waves to be able to launch their Sea King helicopters.

Leader L didn't have six hours. At 7:49 pm the ship broke apart and sank within 45 seconds as the crew of the Hercules aircraft watched. Some of her 31 crewmembers were in the water; others were seen trying to launch one of the ship's wooden lifeboats, which was sucked under by the sinking ship. As Commodore Fraser said later, "What had been a urgent situation was now desperate."

The helicopter from *Halifax* was launched at 10:15 pm; the aircraft from *Iroquois* at 10:30. Each would have an hour on the scene before they had to return. No one knew exactly what they'd find. Early on there had been a brief radio contact between a man in the water and the Hercules had dropped rafts and life jackets equipped with lights into the water. The only thing left for the Hercules, later supplemented by an Aurora patrol plane from Greenwood, was to drop flares to illuminate the scene until the helicopters arrived.

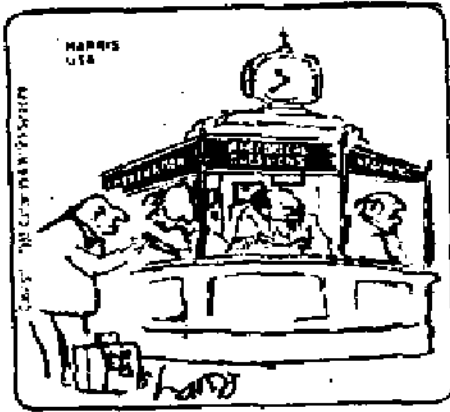
The first helicopter arrived at 11:15. Fighting high winds the helicopters used their searchlights to illuminate the area and lowering personnel to recover survivors — and bodies. Sergeant Tony Thomas was injured in an attempt to recover what turned out to be a dead body. *Iroquois*'s helicopter rescued four people before returning to the ship with only ten minutes of fuel remaining. The helicopter from *Halifax* pulled three men from one raft, and then spotted a second raft from which they pulled three more men before deciding to return to their ship. Then, as they were about to leave the scene they saw and rescued two more men from the water. The helicopters returned with a total of twelve survivors.

The ships arrived at 2 am. They lowered their Zodiac boats (rigid hulls with inflatable pontoons and an outboard motor) for the grim task of recovering bodies. At approximately 3:45 am searchers got a surprise as they reached to grab a body: the man opened his eyes. According the doctor aboard *Halifax* the man would have died had he stayed in the water five or ten minutes longer. He was the thirteenth and last survivor of the *Leader L*. Six bodies were also recovered.

Halifax's Aircraft Commander, Captain Bill Fielding (flying personnel aboard Canadian ships are Air Force members) said of the rescue "It was very, very difficult — harder than anything we'd ever done. It's something we practice all the time but not in those conditions. We don't do it when it's basically black outside, no moonlight and in such a heavy sea state." That the rescue could be conducted at all is a tribute to the naval and air personnel involved, including the people back in Halifax who are responsible for maintenance of the aging and failure-prone Sea King helicopters. The Sea King aboard one frigate during a recent deployment to the Aegean was out of service more than half the time. Records show that Sea Kings average thirty hours of maintenance for every hour flown. In the years after a newly elected federal Liberal government torpedoed a deal that would have bought EH-101 helicopters very little has been done to replacing the aircraft aboard Canadian ships. Perhaps a recent letter in the *National Post* suggests a way to get new aircraft: make the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet fly in them.

A couple of months ago the Reform Party "amalgamated" itself into a new party designed to "united the right". At the founding convention the new party gave itself a name — and then changed it name days later. The original party name was the *Canadian Conservative Reform Alliance Party*, while the new name is the *Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance Party*. Party officials claim that the change was made because as an adjective "Reform" modifies "Conservative" better than "Conservative" modifies "Reform". The real reason is that "CRCAP" is less likely to spawn jokes (some of which follow) than "CCRAP". Had they retained the old name people might point at their policies and say "See? CRAP". A guide for candidates might be dubbed "Reading for the CCRAP-er". Any proposal one of their MPs might make would be dubbed "CCRAP-y". There are others, but I'll spare you.

Supplementary to the review of *The Lost Recordings*, the second volume *More Lost Recordings* has just arrived. Hopefully I'll have a review for next issue.



THE NUT HUTCH

Mark Stretch, Didcot Oxfordshire England: Thanks for the zine. Of course the arguments over when the millennium ends give us twice the opportunity to celebrate it & get drunk...

((BM: True, but why do I get the feeling that the parties won't be as big for 2001 as they were for 2000?))

Rob Lesco, Brampton Ontario: Certainly people wish to believe Seattle was the result of a "handful" but the boasts of how well-organized by fax and modem the whole thing was indicate otherwise. You read the Post -- how about that environmental group leader citing Seattle as the century's high-point for her movement.

((BM: Well it is always good to hear from Rob, who has the honour of having written the first letter to the editor to be published in this zine, way back in issue #0! It is good to see that his politics haven't changed since then.

((While I don't doubt that the demonstrations in Seattle were reasonably well organized, I would also suggest that the organizing did not include the violence. Contrast Seattle with the recent protests in Washington DC surrounding the meetings of the World Trade Organization. In DC, while the protesters did their best to disrupt traffic and the normal business of the city, they did so in so peaceful a manner that organizers of demonstrations actually negotiated with the police with regards to who would be arrested. Every mass demonstration sets out to disrupt, for a time, the everyday workings of society. Martin Luther King's activities in Montgomery Alabama used the economic power of Blacks, and incidentally disrupted the local

economy, by withdrawing that purchasing power until their message was heard. The Freedom Marches of the 1960s undoubtedly disrupted traffic which was precisely what they were meant to do. Inevitably use of violence is regarded negatively. The National Guard troops who opened fire at Kent State gave greater attention and greater sympathy to the protesters and their cause than they would otherwise have warranted. Thus, I sincerely doubt that the organizers of the Seattle protests really meant for people to trash every Starbuck's in downtown Seattle even if Starbuck's (in their minds) represents everything they hate: globalization, exploitation of the third world, and environment degradation. Mobilizing their supporters and establishing common cause with other groups may well be what the environmental group leader was referring to as a high point for her movement. I would hate to think that she was referring to the violent actions that some of those supporters took.))

Back on that BCE/CE kick again are we? I am reminded of that fool demanding to know what Christ had to do with the millennium.

((BM: I've never been off of that BCE/CE kick. My training as a historian you see. Bear in mind after all that every religion and society has its own method of dating things. The ancient Romans dated things from the founding of Rome, but they also counted things by the year of the Emperor's reign or by who was Consul at the time. Most modern societies use the system that Dionysius Exiguus created, so why not call it Common Era. Besides, Exiguus got his sums wrong, or miscalculated his Herods. As a result modern scholarship generally acknowledges that Christ was born in the either 5 or 6 Before Christ. (Which in turn means that if you take Revelations literally, the world should have ended in 994, not 1000). As such, I think that BCE and CE are just as valid, if not more valid than BC and AD. And besides, I've really come to hate that comic strip!))

I must have missed your comment re. Germany vs Poland in 1939 so maybe if you didn't mention it you could comment on this -- wasn't Poland over-committed to the Polish corridor region expecting that this was all

Germany was after or is this a myth.

((BM: I didn't comment on it, since my original editorial piece was simply a rebuttal of some of Pat Buchanan's statements about World War II. Still... The Poles did in fact deploy about 1/3 of their army to the corridor region. Their thinking was that if all that the Germans wanted was the corridor and they had won it, then a continuation of the war by the Poles would have changed them from the victim to the aggressor (this is according to Len Deighton's non-fiction book Blitzkrieg). However to blame Poland's defeat on this one factor is a mistake. The Poles were only partially mobilized when the attack came and they had a long border with Germany (including East Prussia) all of which served to spread them thin. They were also technologically behind and tactically less enlightened than the Germans (but so were the British and French), and they had very little in the way of either fixed or natural defenses. Reducing the number of troops in the corridor might have bolstered the Polish defenses elsewhere, and starting the war behind more defensible positions might have bought them some time but would only have slowed not stopped the inevitable.))

In case you print some more recipes perhaps you might come up with something to do with all that leftover cranberry/lingonberry sauce from Christmas [or is that Common Era-mas] and Thanksgiving etc. It's not her heritage but my wife puts up with the idea that you need cranberry sauce with turkey, but there's always too much left over so your help would be appreciated.

((BM: We use the canned sauce rather than make our own since the only one in my family who really likes it is my mother. She likes it on cold turkey sandwiches, and I imagine that the tartness of the berry would work al right as a topping for vanilla ice cream. Barber has two recipes using cranberry's but one uses juice. The other is an aperitif using jellied cranberry sauce: 3/4 cup soda water, 1 - 8 oz jellied cranberry sauce, 1 tsp sugar. Blend all ingredients in a blender and pour into two glasses. Add ice and top up with soda water if necessary. Garnish with lemon slices.))

You know, I've written a full-page article

on martinis for my zine but I haven't had the space to run it. The theory is that shaking "bruises" the gin. It certainly makes for a colder drink. Where I part company with 007 is that I use gin not vodka, although if you must do so, do like Bond and go for the harder to find brands. As I recall he goes for the Smirnoff Red Label or Black Label. I wouldn't though.

((BM: As far as I can tell the researchers in this study were using gin but as a bit of a lark compared the properties of shaken versus the stirred drink, hence their surprise at the results. The other night a show on The Food Network included a martini variant made using Sake. It boggles the mind.))

Both you and Bob came out with issues after my last one. No one is slower than me, no one!

((BM: Weird title to try to claim my friend.))

What is insidious about a labour union's political spending is that workers are forced as a condition of employment to contribute and further, they have no say in how their money is spent. I'm not sure that giving to only one party excuses this, but it does show that you can't buy elections because if you could Canada's NDP parties, not to mention the PC party of late, would be much more successful.

((BM: Well to turn around your first point (just because I can) if I have to buy a medicine made by Glaxo-Wellcome, or deal with some other company that makes contributions to a particular political party, aren't I being forced to contribute to the political party and agenda that they support as a condition of doing business with them? And, since that political agenda often involves getting more power for them and fewer options or higher prices for me as the consumer, how is this any less insidious? That said, there is a basic difference between Canada where we have stricter limits on fund-raising and campaign spending as well as a constituency system, and the USA where the limits aren't as diligent and the electoral system is much different. I would agree that it is probably hard to buy an election in Canada, but I don't think I could say the same about some races in the USA.))

Robert Paquin, Mont St. Hilaire, Quebec:

It's actually the fourth year now since I first contacted you and joined back the hobby. Though I enjoy diplomacy quite a bit I really must say that it's the zines and all the gaming correspondence that I mostly go for. Unfortunately nowadays it all seems that writing is a thing of the past. And I'm not just talking about Post Canada mail, I'm talking about *communicating in general*. Did you know that apart from Pete Duxon no one else even bothers to call to work out plans for the games I'm involved in? This is especially true with my NF games, I just can't believe it. So thank you very much for another fine number of MALOC, it's simply better appreciated when you realise the effort that goes into producing it when put in relation with the fact that nobody else bothers to do more than just send in their moves.

((BM: I must confess that when I was actively playing I was not a particularly good correspondent. Of course when I inevitably paid the price of not writing by, well, losing. I don't play by e-mail, so I don't know if the "Judge" games and other online activities produce more communications. Can someone answer that for me? One of my former subscribers liked "No Press" Gunboat which he saw as a purer tactical exercise. On the whole I'd disagree with this, since communication is or should be the essential component. I don't know how to remedy the lack of communications, anymore than I know how to solve the problem of the lack of press in the games that I run. Maybe the answer is for those who write to consistently ally against those who don't. Maybe they'll get the message.))

Being so busy myself maybe would explain that lack of communication. My life has changed so much since I first wrote you it's just incredible: a new wife, 3 kids to add to the 5 we already had and not to mention one more house to take care of in addition to the 3 apartment buildings my brothers and I own all make up for a very hectic life! I'm presently trying to change my job as all of this just highlighted the fact that I don't like what I now do for a living (card dealer at the casino de Mtl). I can't believe it's been 6 years since I first started working there but I now find myself in a position where I just can't forget that all what I value and think that is worth

living for I just can't find or see at the casino. So it is that I find myself in a transition period with lots to do and very little time for hobbies like dip... Hope this all changes soon. By the way, William will all likely be our last child...

((BM: I seem to recall that you said that last time too! <grin> Being stuck in a job that doesn't satisfy you makes everything around you seem worse and it isn't helped by the demands of modern life (incidentally, check out Chaplin's brilliant film Modern Times for a truly horrendous example of such demands). Actually I sometimes wonder if our society truly appreciates the need for relaxation. Computers and the like were supposed to mean increased leisure time, shorter work weeks, and the paperless society. It seems to me that what we have in fact is less leisure time, a result of shorter work weeks at the office but more work expected to be done than can possibly be fitted into office hours. Result: "home" work. As for the paperless society well it seems that the only things that's becoming paperless are our hobbies.

Sorry for not elaborating on any of the headlines in the news but I find myself hard pressed by time... Amongst other things I'll just mention the crazy fact that I have 3 kids aged two or less still all wearing diapers at the same time!!!

((BM: I am overawed at your endurance (take that however you will!))

This about sums it up. I know my current balance is running low and I will send you a cheque before you come up with the next issue of MALOC. Until then please take care and enjoy what ever little pleasure life has to offer you.

N.B.: It doesn't take much sometimes when you're in a bad mood to change your perception of things; a little attention, a few kind words... and voila! it all falls back into place. Robert Lesco wrote me this week to notify me of a change of address by John Schultz and he ended his text by saying: Here's hoping you find the time for an exceptionally good glass of beer. At the time it was the best I had to do and it just made my day!!

((BM: Sometimes all it takes is a moment to stop and smell the roses (or in this case the hops!))

Converging Motives

Once Canada had entered the war the major question became what Canada's role in the war would be. Surprisingly the man who commanded the Navy and had been a part of it since its creation agreed with the man who had come very close to destroying it during his first term as Prime Minister. Both Percy Nelles and Mackenzie King wanted a large Canadian Navy albeit for different reasons.

Nelles's reasons are perhaps the easiest to understand. Like his predecessors Sir Charles Kingsmill and Walter Hose, Nelles was painfully aware of the weakness of his force. Six destroyers (plus the destroyer flotilla leader *Kempenfelt* to be renamed *HMCS Assiniboine*, purchased from the British on the eve of the war) and an assortment of auxiliaries was hardly enough to adequately protect one navigable seacoast. Canada had two with powerful potential enemies on both. Nelles's 1939 proposals would eventually have given him a sizeable peacetime force, the sort of navy that in time of war could play a role alongside the Royal Navy, but of course the war had thrown those plans were thrown into disarray. It did not deter Nelles however. Most of the proposals coming from the navy were aimed at establishing a firm foundation for a significantly larger post-war fleet. To do this he needed modern ships and, just as important, to make the public aware that the Navy was an active and successful participant in the war, something that had never been made clear during World War I.

King's motivation was more convoluted. King had been personally appalled by the blood-letting of World War I even though he had spent the war working as a labour consultant in the United States for John D. Rockefeller. Like many people he expected the coming war to be a repeat of the earlier event with deadlier weapons and it frightened him; not merely for the humanitarian consequences but also the political aspect. He had seen support for the Conservative Party in Quebec fall away with the declaration of war, which was seen as just another Imperialist cause with no "real" relationship or threat to Canada. He had also seen his own beloved political mentor, Wilfrid Laurier, literally destroyed by the 1917 campaign over conscription, which had been necessitated by the huge casualty figures. In September 1939, King was well aware that most of English Canada wanted to go to war in support of Britain. He was also aware of the simmering opposition in Quebec. What King set out to do was to reconcile the two positions and, not incidentally, to use the war to bring the economy out of the economic depression.

Marc Milner relates a possibly apocryphal story about King. Shortly after taking office King is supposed to have asked his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie, what his defence policy should be. The old man boomed out a single word "Preparedness". The fact that the old rebel had been dead for over 70 years and had never met his grandson mattered not a whit to King. However, what "preparedness" actually meant to King was an entirely different question. King's government had increased the estimates for the three branches of the military but in particular the Navy and the Air Force. With Canada entering the war "in co-operation" with England and France this policy continued. It is clear that King wanted the benefits of being at war, increased employment and greater industrialization without exposing Canadians to the cost of fighting a war. In his vision, Canada would make guns, ammunition and vehicles for the British but would send only a token expeditionary force — one division — to Europe. The Air Force would be expanded with contracts going to Canadian factories, but Canada would mainly offer a safe place for training. As for the Navy, it too would be built up, providing Canadians with jobs building and repairing ships, but those ships would be exposed to the enemy as little as possible. They would defend Canada's coasts and escort the merchant ships carrying equipment and food to Britain, but only a certain distance out to sea, after which they would be turned over to the British. Certainly it was not the role that the British or Nelles wanted for his little fleet, but at least it would lead to a larger navy.

Nationalism and Realism

If King and Nelles agreed on the need for a larger navy, it may well have been all that they agreed on. For King, the nationalist, the need to hold the nation together was uppermost which meant in turn not been seen as in the pocket of the British. For Nelles, a realist, the effective conduct of the war (and not incidentally building his post-war navy) meant far closer cooperation with the British than the Prime Minister or his government were comfortable with.

The first issue came almost immediately after Canada's declaration of war. The Admiralty suggested turning over control of the destroyers to Admiral Meyrick, commander of the Royal Navy's America and West Indies Squadron. This was what Nelles had expected and he was more than ready to comply. King balked at the idea. This would have meant that the British would control where the Canadian ships would fight something that King, as always suspicious of the British, would not accept. Canada would decide where Canadian ships would be employed, and for almost a year that would mean the east coast of Canada and Newfoundland.

Historians have applauded King's decision as a step in founding a Canadian national policy independent of others. Certain points supporting transfer of control must be considered in light of subsequent events, which tend to be ignored by historians such as Marc Milner who writes that Nelles "fumed and chafed at the bit..." over the decision. There was the fact, acknowledged by Milner, that the big danger in the western Atlantic during the early stage of the war came not from submarines but from both regular and merchant cruisers. The British argument was that the seas could best be cleared by the Canadian destroyers working together with British cruisers. Beyond that the Canadian ships would receive full logistical support from the British. When Canada was primarily six or seven destroyers and a motley collection of auxiliaries this wasn't a great problem. As the size of the fleet increased, the problem of logistic support, particularly overseas, became grater and the British with their own problems would be under no obligation to offer assistance. It was not the last time that the government's determination to maintain the Canadian-ness of the RCN would have dangerous long term implications.

In January 1940 the Minister of Defence, Norman Rogers, made another proposal that showed that the government did not fully comprehend the limits that the Navy was operating under. Rogers demanded that Nelles get more RCNVR personnel to sea. Rogers particularly wanted men who were "prominent members of yacht clubs" on active duty. Nelles responded that yachting had "as much to do with modern naval warfare as kite flying has to do with the air force." Instead Nelles told the minister that these men would be offered to the Royal Navy, and would later state that all RCNVR personnel in excess of 4,500 would serve with the British.

Milner, in *Canada's Navy: The First Century* points to this decision as evidence of the Navy's institutional objective of securing the future of the post-war fleet. It is probably an accurate assessment but it fails to note a major factor in the Canadian situation. Simply put, the nature of most RCNVR members — eager but untrained — meant they were at best dead weight. After all in the almost 20 years since the closure of the Royal Naval College of Canada, Canadians had been sent to Britain for training both as officers and enlisted specialists. Now with the war and the resultant influx of men becoming available for active service, pre-war RCNVR members and new enlistees alike, the Navy had a glut of untrained officers and enlisted men with no place in Canada to get the training that they would need to fight a modern war. Those facilities would be built or acquired but it would take time and in the meantime the men, especially officers, currently awaiting assignment could only get the training they needed in Britain.

That course had its own dangers. The British, once they had the Canadians in their service, were not inclined to release them. Some, such as a few men who entered submarines would remain Canadians in the British service for the entire war. A more typical case was that of Jeffrey Brock. A pre-war RCNVR officer in Vancouver, he was called to active service in October 1939, mostly dealing with mobilization in Vancouver. In 1940 he was sent to Britain for training and not returned to Canadian service until 1943.

The Lost Recordings – A Review

Most Canadians don't associate the Big Band Era with their country (if they think of it at all). The bands most Canadians know of are American – Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Benny Goodman, and of course Glenn Miller. The assumption is that there were no "good" Canadian big bands because they weren't commercially recorded. The simple fact is that except for a single commercial studio in the back of a garage in Montreal there was no recording industry in Canada. There were big bands in Canada. Perhaps the most interesting is the *Canadian Band of the Allied Expeditionary Forces*, but until recently none of the band's recordings was known to exist. The diligent work of a Toronto area broadcaster, Glenn Woodcock has assembled two CDs of the band's material.

In spring 1944 Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces preparing to invade Europe, ordered the creation of a news and entertainment radio network (programme to the British) for the forces under his command with the cooperation of the BBC. The Allied Expeditionary Forces Programme, as it was called, would share air time between the three nations that would provide the bulk of manpower for the invasion, in proportion to the number of troops each would provide: 50% for the Americans, 35% for the British, and 15% for the Canadians. Each country would supply a dance band: the US band was the Army Air Corps Training Command band led by Glenn Miller, the British band was led by Sergeant George Melachrino and the Canadian band was headed by Captain Bob Farnon.

Born in 1917 Robert Farnon was a Toronto based musician and arranger who had played with various dance bands. In 1937 he became musical director of *The Happy Gang* radio show on CBC a position that he held until 1943 when he enlisted in the Army. During that time he also completed two symphonies; the first was performed by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1941 while the second or *Ottawa Symphony* was performed by the TSO the next year. Upon joining the Army Farnon

was chosen to lead the band for *The Army Show*. The show featured soldier-entertainers, including Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster, in a variety revue that was used to entertain soldiers and civilians and as a recruiting device (the Navy had a similar operation). Once the orders to establish the Canadian Band of the AEF came down, Farnon had a mere six weeks to assemble his musicians before sailing for England as part of a larger troupe that would provide the Canadian contribution to the AEF Programme.

It was a pretty big contribution. The week started on Monday as the house band on *The Canada Show*. On Wednesday the band played on the *Canada Guest Show* on which a variety of guest performers, including Beatrice Lillie and George Shearing would appear. As well piano players Dick Misener and later Denny Vaughan appeared on *Piano Parade* the same night. The band's jazz octet and two vocalists from the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) were featured on the *Canada Swing Show* on Thursday. The band's full chorus was heard on Friday's *Canada Sing Show*. Finally the whole band was heard on Saturday on *Canada Dance Band*. In addition the various combinations of the group were doing live shows at hospitals and army camps for troops of all the allied nations. In fact, while some of the recordings were done in BBC studios a large number were done on location at places like the Queensbury All Services Club in Soho. Needless to say it was a full schedule.

The band was in Britain until December 1945. When the AEF Programme was finally discontinued at the end of July 1945 they were reincarnated as the Canadian Army Radio Orchestra on the BBC's Light Programme (the forerunner of BBC's Radio 2). During this period the band was being reduced in size as its members, like the Canadians they were playing for, were being returned home for demobilization. After a final BBC broadcast, just before Christmas 1945, the band faded into history. Or rather, into obscurity. Farnon stayed in Britain where he became a noted composer, conductor and arranger who

worked with legends including Joe Williams, Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra. Several others stayed in the music industry, but many found "day jobs" after trying unsuccessfully to make a living in the Canadian music business.

This obscurity ended, to a degree in 1997 with the release of *The Lost Recordings* and its follow-up *More Lost Recordings*. Produced privately by Toronto area broadcaster and Big Band enthusiast Glenn Woodcock, the CDs were in part an answer to the frustration the Woodcock has felt over the years. Woodcock, the host of two CJRT-FM radio programs, *The Big Bands* and *Swing Shift*, had become acquainted with a number of members of Canadian bands from the 1940s including Fred Davis, the lead trumpet player for the Farnon band, and was frustrated by the lack of Canadian material. He was particularly irritated by the release of *Glenn Miller: The Lost Recording*, which were propaganda recordings made for broadcast into from Britain into Germany. The Miller recordings were much hyped when they were released, while very existence of the Farnon band was unknown to most Canadians.

The trouble was finding the material. While the BBC recorded hundreds of hours of the Band's shows, at the time that Farnon began his search none of the masters was known to have survived the war. After all they were done on acetate transcription disks - 12-inch, 33-RPM disks made before the development of high fidelity commercial LPs in 1948. Acetate transcription disks are easily damaged and take up a lot of space, so presumably at some point the BBC threw them out. Fortunately for Woodcock he was able to locate some recordings, often third and fourth generation dubs from the original disks. Before his death Fred Davis, who has a number of trumpet solos on the CD, provided Woodcock with some of his personal recordings of the band. With the assistance of James Whopole, who handled the initial digital editing, and Graham Newton who handled the CEDAR restoration process, Woodcock has managed to remove as much of the noise from these recordings as is possible without affecting the fidelity of the music.

So how does the music stack up? Pretty

well I think. The band, in its various incarnations, is not simply a Canadian curiosity but very entertaining in its own right. Some experts suggest that in some areas, particularly in the area of small combos like the jazz octet, the Canadian band is superior to the Miller band. The recordings on the CD are all from 1945 with most coming after the end of the war in Europe (although not the end of the war with Japan).

The Dance or "Big" Band leads off with Victor Herbert's "March of the Toys", which sets the tone for much of the disk. While keeping to the melody line of the original there is no doubt that this is a very swinging rendition of the old classic, which was one of the band's favorite arrangements. "C Jam Blues" (probably better known by the title of Ella Fitzgerald's vocal version "Duke's Place") is an earlier recording and probably the noisiest cut on the disk. It is also one of the few times when Farnon himself plays an instrument. He takes the piano lead, while Fred Davis has the trumpet chorus. "I'm Confessin'" features Davis's trumpet as well as the band's strong trombone section. The piece starts off in a calm mood and then takes on a new energy with an abrupt tempo shift. The band brings a modern sophistication to the Dixieland classic "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans", again with the trombone section taking the lead. Following this is "My Blue Heaven", features clarinet soloist Jack Wachter and Norm Baker on tenor sax.

Related to the Dance Band is what is labeled on the CD as the "Small Band". Whether this was an official designation or one that Woodcock adopted is unclear. What I can say is that the last material by the Dance Band on the CD is dated August 27, 1945 while all but one of the Small Band recordings are vaguely listed as autumn 1945. This dating would coincide with the period when the members of the band were slowly being demobilized. The Small Band is noted for a reduced horn section and a greater emphasis on the string section, which seems to be at full strength. Piano player Denny Vaughan is feature on a very pleasant version of "Embraceable You" with a rather interesting effect created by forcing a metal

sheet up against the strings inside the upright piano that he was playing. A combination of "As Time Goes By", "Shoo-Shoo Baby" and "I'll Be Seeing You" is a wartime reminiscence and one of the band's rare medleys. This one is a showcase for the string section, particularly the first and third parts, but also shows the growing weakness of the band's horn section.

The Farnon organization's great strength, according to critics, was the octet, made up of the featured players on trumpet, trombone, clarinet, tenor sax, piano guitar base and drums. Personnel in these roles varied throughout the war, although Fred Davis (trumpet), Denny Vaughan (piano), and Norm Barber (tenor sax) seem to have been there throughout. They give a very swinging feel to "Play Fiddle Play". "When You And I Were Young Maggie" starts out with a more conventional feel, but there are some rather nice solos, particularly from the sax and trombone players, which really lift it above the ordinary. "I Found A New Baby", misidentified by the announcer as the last number from the last broadcast, has what might almost be described as a Dixieland sound when the band plays together, but when the players take their solos the sound definitely takes off in a different direction. The final number on the CD is also the final number from the actual last broadcast is "Between The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea". Each player of the octet is introduced in turn by Paul Carpenter and takes a solo before the music is faded out.

Vocals don't play a big role on the CD -- there are only three. Paul Carpenter, serving as announcer, introduces "Saturday Night (is the Loneliest Night of the Week) with the Small Band and vocalist... Paul Carpenter! Carpenter has a very pleasant voice, and the song also features (almost inevitably) a Fred Davis solo. CWAC Private Joanne Dallas (later Mrs. Bob Farnon) from the chorus sings "I'm Beginning to See the Light" with the Big Band supplemented by an enlarged string section. In my opinion the song isn't really suited to her voice, or maybe I'm just used to hearing this song with a male vocalist. Paul Carpenter returns with the Big Band with the haunting "Out of this World" which may be the best of

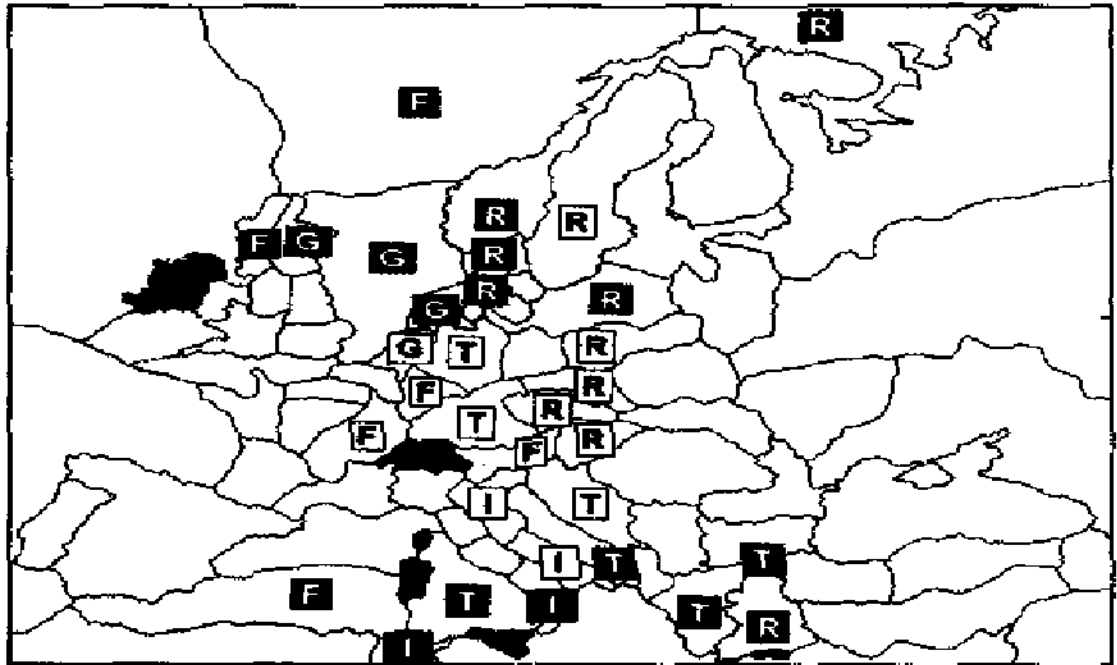
the three.

Inevitably there will be comparisons between the Farnon Band and the more famous Miller Band. These are very difficult to evaluate based on *The Lost Recordings* of either band. There is no overlap in terms of music played. There are two pieces that I've found on recordings of Miller's pre-war band to which I have access: "Jingle Bells" and "Song of the Volga Boatmen". For the most part "Jingle Bells" is a fairly pedestrian presentation by both bands, but then what can you *really* do with "Jingle Bells". The Miller Band featured a vocal by "Tex" Beneke (who died recently). The Farnon Small Band's otherwise conventional December 1945 arrangement featured an all too brief "hot" violin solo by Bill Richards (who had been with the "Navy Show") in the style of Stephane Grappelli, albeit without his panache. The difference between the two bands is brought into greater contrast on "Volga Boatmen". While the Miller band starts out very conventionally and controlled, gradually ratcheting up the tempo, the Canadian Dance Band starts out swinging and just gets hotter, with the seemingly requisite Davis trumpet solo. *I'm not going to choose between the two!*

Lost Recordings and its companion volume More Lost Recordings as well as the three Swing Canada CDs produced by Glen Woodcock are available online from CD Plus (www.cdplus.com) for \$17.99 (Canadian) plus taxes, shipping and handling. The website includes approximate prices in \$US although your credit card company does the actual conversion. Shipping outside of Canada is higher than to Canada, and while non-Canadians presumably do not pay GST, they will have to pay duty. This was my first experience in buying online and on the whole I would have to give a mixed evaluation to it. I ordered both The Lost Recordings and More Lost Recordings, but while Lost Recordings was shipped within two weeks, More Lost Recordings was delivered almost two months after the original order. One the whole however I will order from them again.

East Meets West

Aurora
1997Q
 Regular Diplomacy
 Fall 1907



France: Fred Weidemeyer, Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton Alberta, T6B 2H7, Canada

A BUR s A Ruh, A RUH s German A Hol, A TYR-Tri, F CLY s F Nwg, F MaO-WMED, F NWG s German F NTH.

Germany: Andy Lischett, 2402 Ridgeland Avenue, Berwyn Illinois, 60402
 F NTH H, A HOL s French A Ruh, F EDI s F Nth, F HEL s F Nth.

Italy: Tim Snyder, 1525 Palm Valley Blvd., #908, Round Rock, TX 78664
E TUN-Ion, A Rom-APU, A VEN s A Rom-Apu, F NAP s A Rom-Apu.

Russia: Pete Duxon, 3 Bentley Drive, Kiln Lane, Church Langley, Harlow Essex, CM17 9PA, England

E SKA-Nth, F NWY s F Bar-Nwg, F BAL s Turkish A Kie, A BER s Turkish A Kie, F BAR-Nwg, F DEN s F Ska-Nth, F Con-AEG, A SIL s Turkish A Mun, A SWE s F Den, A BOH s Turkish A Mun, A Bud-VIE.

Turkey: Robert Paquin, 426 Forest, Mont St-Hilaire, Quebec, J3H 4R3, Canada
 A KIE s A Mun, A MUN s A Kie, F Aeg-BUL sc, F Ion-TYN, F GRE-Ion, F Alb-ADR, A Apu-Ven (D, Annihilated), A TRI s A Apu-Ven.

Supply Centers

France: Mar, Par, Bre, Lpl, Por, Spa 6 Even.

Germany: Hol, Edi, Lon, Bel -kie 4, Even due to Annihilation.

Italy: Ven, Nap, Rom, Tun 4, Even due to Annihilation.

Russia: War, Sev, Mos, StP, Nwy, Den, Swe, Vie, Bud, Rum, +BER, -bul 11, Even.

Turkey: Con, Ank, Smy, Mun, Gre, Tri, Ser, +KIE, +BUL, -ber 9, Build 1.

Draw Proposal: Concession to Russia is defeated; Yes: 1, No: 2, NVR: 2.

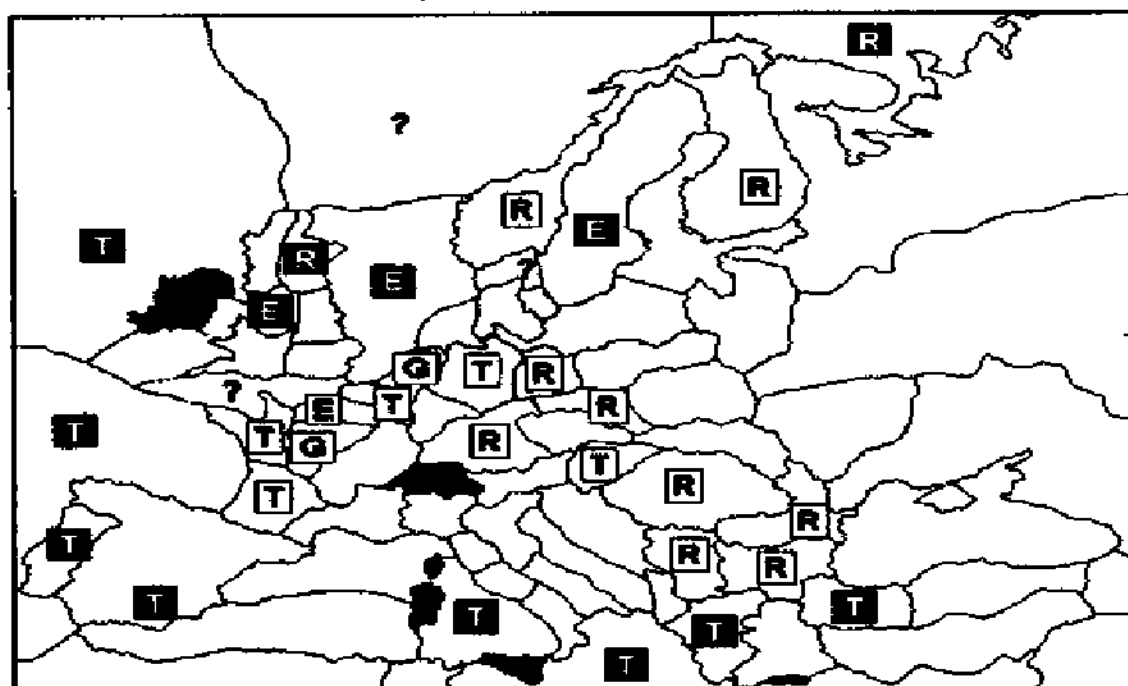
Press:

Turkey-Italy: Nice try but it doesn't work with me. Pity France retreated F Ion OTB isn't it?

Deadline for Winter/Spring 1908 is: August 18, 2000

War Goes Into Extra Innings

Niobe
1993CB
Regular Diplomacy
Fall 1918



England: Vance Copeland, 52 Steeles Avenue, Hornby Ontario, L0P 1E0

A PIC s F Bre, F Bre s F Por-MaO (D, Retreat Eng, OtB), F Wal-LPL, F Por-MaO (D, Annihilated), F Den-NTH, F Nwy s F Den-Nth (D, Retreat Nwg, Ska, OtB), F SWE s F Nwy.

Germany: Sara Reichert, 20805 Margaret Street, Carson California, 90745-1224

A Bur-PAR, A HOL s Turkish A Kie.

Russia: Fred Wiedemeyer, Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton Alberta, T6T 1N1

A BER s Turkish A Kie, A BUL s A Ser, A FIN-Swe, A Gal-BUD, A MUN s Turkish A Kie, A SER s A Bul, A SIL s A Mun, A StP-NWY, A Ukr-RUM, F BAR s A StP-Nwy, F Nwg-EDI.

Turkey: Chris Gesell, 628 Furby Street, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3B 2W2

F NAO s F Naf-MaO, F Naf-MAO, F WMed-TYN, F ION s F Aeg-Gre, F CON-Bul (cc).

F SPA (sc) s F MaO-Por, A Tyr-VIE, F Aeg-GRE, F MaO-POR, A GAS s A Par-Bre, A BEL-Pic, A KIE H, A Par-BRE.

Supply Centers

England Lon, Lpl, -edi, Swe, Den, -bel, -bre, -por 4 Remove 0, 1, or 2, Depends on Retreats

Germany Par, Hol 2 Even

Russia Mos, Sev, StP, War, Ber, Bul, Bud, Mun, Ser, Nwy, Rum, +EDI 12 Build 1.

Turkey Con, Ank, Smy, Spa, Vie, Gre, Kie, Tun, Mar, Nap, Rom, Tri, Ven, +POR, +BEL, +BRE 16 Build 3 (1 Short).

Draw Proposal: R/T Draw Yes: 3, No: 1. The proposal is defeated. R/T Draw is repropoed.

Press:

Sara-GM: I am starting to get strapped as far as spare time goes, so please remove my name from the proposed new game start. My apologies to Pete Duxon.

GM-Sara: I too am sorry to hear this -- and not just because it reduces the number of people signed up for that game to THREE! (Not so subtle hint to others -- Please Sign Up!!)

England: I will support either Turkey or Russia for a 1-way win, or else for a 2-way draw will be needed my extinction! We will never agree to T/R unity.

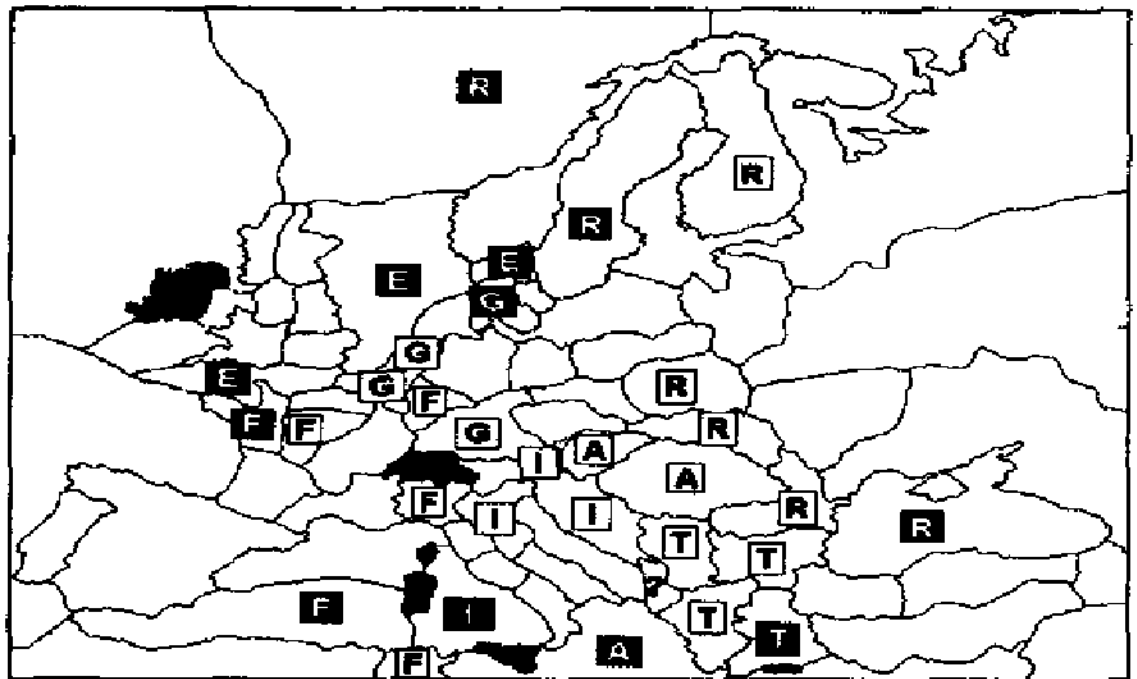
Deadline for Winter/Spring 1919 orders is: AUGUST 18, 2000

Lots Of Full-Sized Chatter

1998Hrb32

Patrician

Gunboat with Press
Spring 1903



Retreats

Austria retreats F Gre-Ion

France retreats A Bur-Mar

Austria: () A BUD s A Tri, A Ser s A Tri (D, Retreat Alb, O/B), A Tri s A Ser (D, Annihilated), A VIE s A Bud, F ION-Nap.

England: () F ENG s F Nth, F SKA-Nwy, F NTH s F Ska-Nwy

France: () F MaO-BRE, F WMED s A NAF-Tun, A Pic-PAR, A RUH-Kie, A Mar-PIE, A NAF-TUN.

Germany: () A Bur-BEL, A Kie-HOL, A MUN-Kie, F DEN-Kie.

Italy: () A Alb-TRI, A VEN s A Alb-Tri, A TYR s A Alb-Tri, F TYN-Nap.

Russia: () A FIN-Nwy, F Nwy-NWG, F SWE s A Fin-Nwy, A WAR-Gal, A GAL-Bud, A RUM s A Gal-Bud, F BLA s A Rum.

Turkey: () F AEG-Ion, A Bul-SER, A Con-BUL, A GRE s A Bul-Ser.

Supply Centers

Austria: Bud, Vie, -tri, -gre, -ser 2 Remove 1 or 2 Depending on retreats.

England: Edi, Lon, Lpl 3 Even.

France: Bre, Par, Mar, Por, Spa +TUN, -bel 6 Even.

Germany: Mun, Ber, Kle, Hol, +BEL, +DEN 6 Build 2.

Italy: Ven, Nap, Rom, +TRI, -tun 4 Even.

Russia: War, Sev, StP, Mos, Swe, Rum, Nwy 7 Even.

Turkey: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, +SER, +GRE 6 Build 2.

Press:

England-Germany: Historically, England became free to pursue an aggressive anti-German policy in 1901 with the death of the pro-German Queen Victoria. I haven't got that predisposition, like Victoria I consider Russia to be the main concern. Also, as a suggestion, as Germany it isn't a good thing to pursue a war with England if Russia is attacking Austria. Russia will finish Austria before you finish me, and when (he?) does, your far more open to attack than Turkey will be. Letting Russia attack Austria is a formula for German disaster (of course if you can trust a diplomacy player in a gunboat game, who can you trust!) As for the limerick thing;

let me take a stab here on behalf of myself and France:

To the Kaiser:

Russia is comin to cream us
Unless fate can conspire to team us
Oh Romulas
You've missed the bus
On account of you surge to Remus.

England-GM: I have already quit my day job to take limericking up full time! Ream us, Remus. It just works on so many levels. How many free zines do I get for it?

Toon Town - England: None. Not only did you mis-spell Romulus, but you committed the unpardonable faux-pas of having all five lines rhyme. Get thee to a writing school!

Germany-England:

I hope you wrote some friendly notes
About your need for English boats
And what you'll do when you got'em.

Too bad your one pronoun is "me"
It takes two to help you see
They'll all wind up on the bottom.

Toon Town-Germany: That's not a Limerick (pout).

Italy to Germany & England: Read what I said to France. I cannot and won't support actions by any of you against the other as long as R/T remain the greater threat. All your fighting amongst yourselves does is give them the game.

Mun-Rom/Vic: The world would be a simpler, safer place if you two could cooperate with each other.

Italy to Austria: Nothing personal, just business.

Toon Town: Well that answers that.

France-Italy: Sorry fella couldn't facilitate your request to abort mission even with R/I alliance. Like u said the quicker Germany dead the quicker to deal with this alliance. I'd been in MUN with a shot at KIE next if you'd support.

Italy to France: OK, I can threaten too. If you are in TUN, get out. If you are not in TUN, don't go there. As long as R/T are allied I will NEVER attack you unless you are in or go into TUN. Attacking you would only guarantee my own death, and that is something I would prefer to avoid. However, if you are in TUN and don't get out or go into TUN after this season, I'll do all I can to ensure you get NOTHING of the rest of my centers and that R/T roll through the Med. I may go before you, but you won't be far behind. I'll encourage you and the other two western powers to find some agreement that let's you look east before R/T are too big to stop. I cannot do it alone.

Mun-Par: Any strategic proposals from your side of the trench?

Germany-Russia: Alas, I needed Den to cover KIEL this time. If the advantage in numbers is still there in S'04, I will support Russian f Swe-Ska otherwise f Nwy-Nth ... unless you sly dag are already in the Norwegian Sea.

Italy to Russia & Turkey: I cannot stop you alone. You won't let Austria live, so I'm going to try to get my share too and hope that E/F/G can get their acts together quick enough to save my butt. I doubt it will happen, but I'll try to slow you as much as I can.

Turkey-Italy: Don't worry, by attacking Trieste you are definitely helping me. May I return the favor by offering my fleet's services vs France?

France-England: Hope RUH helped u in DEN, will support u to HOL next turn. Russia must be stopped to the north in R/T alliance.

Turkey-Russia: Westward bound hum? With every unit holding it's position, impossible. An R/T alliance is a strong partnership, think about it and act! Like Italy put it last spring, Austria

won't be around for long so you really should join in and get your piece of the cake.

Deadline for Fall 1903 orders is **AUGUST 18, 2000**

Colonial (MALOC) 1996Zea04 "the little man in the boat" game

Well the votes are all in and it is unanimous ...

We have agreement to a 4 way draw: Russia, Holland, China, and Japan, with Britain and France given the nod as survivors. Congratulations to everyone!

I think everyone would like to hear your comments - especially the followers in Brent's zine, so send any comments to me and I'll amalgamate them into a final publication. (I'll put a deadline on of May 26, for those of you who need one to work with).

You've all kept in it for the long haul and I hope you had fun (at least before some of you were begging for release when we reached "deadlock" situation). It was a good game and will stay in the diplomacy archives forever... Unless you pay me to take it out, of course...

p.s. since none of you ever figured it out (or maybe you did, but never mentioned it), the phrase "the little man in the boat" is the literal translation of the oriental phrase for a small and very sensitive part of the female anatomy. And Brent thought I was keeping with his Naval theme...

hch beh heb... I'm so bad.

Morry.

((BM: Be fair, I actually offered you quite a bit of leeway as far as your game name, and just about everything else concerned with running your game. I kind of figured it didn't have anything to do with a naval theme, but to be honest, I didn't care! Your explanation was in a similar vein, but far less elaborate than the one offered in a recent issue of John Boardman's zine Graustark. Of course he thought that I was running the game. If I had been my name would have been far more prosaic, sad to say.))

Game Opening — Announcing a new one

Patriot

Regular Diplomacy with British (International) Seasons to be called Patriot. British Seasons combine Spring Moves and Summer retreats (retreats provisional Spring moves) followed by Fall moves combined with Winter retreats and builds/removals. I'll show some sample moves before the game starts and will let you know what you have to send in each issue. Powers will be randomly selected by the GM. Perhaps a new, larger location will encourage some sign-ups for this game.

Signed up: Fred Wiedemeyer

Pete Duxon

Robert Paquin

Champlain

Gunboat Diplomacy without Press to be called Champlain. Much as I dislike this particular variant, it does seem to be popular with some people. While some people feel that the game becomes more of a tactical exercise played this way, my reasons for disliking No Press Gunboat is that it removes the most important quality from the game — the interaction between players that gives the game its unique flavour. Even Gunboat with Press has that. But if you sign up for a No-Press Gunboat game I *will* run it. Price will be \$3, with the usual \$1 off for first timers.

WORLD DIPCON NEWS

World DipCon 'X' is scheduled to run August 4-6 within the longer running World Boardgaming Championship August 1-6 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA (www.boardgamers.org).

Allan B. Calhmer, the inventor of Diplomacy and thus the creator of our hobby will be making a rare appearance to both play and talk to the hobby.

If there is only one convention that you can attend this summer, then this is the one to go to.

The following are just some of the hobby's World Class stars that are planning on attending:

Christian Dryer (Sweden- Current World Champion)	Gunnar Brading (Swedish Player)
Chris Martin (USA-ADR Current Champion and former World Champion)	Vince Mous (Danish-Top Board WDC 99)
JeanLouis DeLattre (Belgium- Top Board WDC 97, Director WDC 99)	Craig Sedgewick (Australia DAANZ leader)
Leif Bergman (Sweden- Top Board WDC 99, Director WDC 97)	Andrew Geoff (Australia Top Board)
Simon Bouton (UK -current European Champion)	Yann Coulet (France- Player)
Brandon Clarke (NZ- Australia-New Zealand Champion)	Stephane Degrement (France -Player)
Gihan Gbandaranake (UK-Euro-DipCon 99 Top Board)	John Smythe (USA- former Dipcon champion)
David Norman (UK Player)	Tom Pasko (USA- current BPA Champion)
Gordon Aikern (UK Player)	Tom Kobrin (USA-former AvalonCon Champion)
Vic Hail (UK Tournament Director)	Bruce Reiff (USA- former AvalonCon Champion)
Chetan Radia (UK Player)	Edi Birsan (USA- former DipCon Champion)
Emeric Miztsi (UK- Email Masters Tournament organizer)	Mike Rocamora (USA- former Dipcon Champion)
Nicklas Perez (Swedish Player)	David Hood (USA- former DipCon Champion, Director WDC 98)
	Larry Peery (USA- Team Champion WDC 97)
	Dan Mathias (USA- Director WDC 96)
	Cal White (Canada- former Canadian Champion)
	Robert Vollman (Canada- current Canadian Champion)

For more information see the web sites:

www.boardgamers.org

www.DiplomaticCorps.org

CAN-CON 2000

Consider it done! The dates for CAN-CON 2000 are August 18th to 20th at the familiar surrounds of U. of T. Scarberia located north of that straight line across the continent known as a border, nestled on the shores of Lake Ontario(Well sort of, by 20km inland), in that pink area on most maps - known as Ontario which is a suburb of *TORONTO* that despised centre of corporate capitalism - *Hallelujah!!* Good, now we're on the topic of money - let's to it.

Pre-registration is \$10 bucks for the week-end or \$5 bucks per Diplomacy round you end up in for not pre-registering. (Show me the money). Other scraps or games that very well may be going on will be charged at the drinking rate of the competitors. For those that need sleep, townhouse rooms will be charged at \$40/night. Available for Friday night and Saturday night after that you're out on the street or in my van. Will need some sort of idea how may might be needed as I've only booked 20 rooms.

Schedule of Events: Hey this is CAN-CON, what schedule of events? No. Hang on here. There will be a game scheduled for Friday night, 3 for Saturday and possibly one for Sunday morning. The tiddlely winks tournament will be played under supervised conditions on the local tennis court and hide 'n' seek will NOT be allowed this year as the rules were misunderstood - the beer is not to be hidden.

Send pre-registration info and/or money to — Doug Acheson at 80 Bradford St., Suite 231, Barrie, Ontario L4N 6S7 CANADA or E-mail at — nithgrove@on.aibn.com. Land line link (fax) at 705 730-0510.

2000 HOBBY AWARDS BALLOT

Don Miller Award (Meritorious Service)

Stephen Agar (Diplomatic Archives/Postal Section of the Diplomatic Pouch)
Edi Birsan (Starting the Diplomatic Corps web page & organization)
Manus Hand (Running the Diplomatic Pouch as Overall Editor)
Doug Massey (Designing & Running the JDPR Diplomatic Rating System)
Conrad von Metzke (BNC & Publisher of Costaguana)

Rod Walker Award (Literature)

David Cohen (Diplomacy & the Way of the Warrior, A Book of 5 Rings: The Teachings of Miyamoto Shinman Musashi from The Diplomatic Pouch Fall 1999)
Eric Grenoux (A Call to Arms from Flat Earth Society Issue #10)
Brent McKee (Canadian Naval History from Making Love In A Canoe)
Tom Potocki (Are You Man Enough? The Virtues that Make A True General The Diplomatic Pouch Spring 1999 Movement Issue)
Paul Windsor (Geography is Destiny: How the Standard Map Dictates Fortunes & Strategies from The Diplomatic Pouch Fall 1999 Retreat Issue)

John Koning Award (Player Performance)

Jamie Dreier
Mark Fassio
Robert Paquin
Sara Reichert
Cal White

Fred Hyatt Award (GM Performance)

Michael Lowrey (Carolina Command & Commentary)
Brent McKee (Making Love in a Canoe)
Tim Miller (Email GM)
Tim Richardson (Email GM)
Conrad von Metzke (Costaguana)

VOTERS, PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF PROMINENTLY IF YOU RESPOND BY E-MAIL OR SIGN YOUR BALLOT IF YOU RETURN BY POSTAL MAIL

Again, the Committee is soliciting a \$1.00 donation per vote to defray costs of the awards themselves. This is a voluntary donation and does not affect your vote in any way. We plan on continuing to send the winners plaques. The Committee currently consists of Melinda Holley (Chairperson), Fred Davis (Treasurer), Gary Behnen, Jim Burgess, Paul Kenny, and Robert Lesco. The voting deadline is Sept. 2, 2000. Please send votes, contributions, and comments to:

**Melinda Holley, 1823 Enslow Blvd., Huntington WV 25701
(Rebel8954@aol.com).**

Thank you for your participation.