

# Cheesecake

1977-AN Fall 1911

AUSTRIA (Mike Carroll) A Mun-Kie, A Ber S A Mun-Kie, A Bud-Tri, A Vie S A Bud-Tri, A Ser S A Bud-Tri.  
ENGLAND (Eric Ozog) A Tri-Ven, F Lvn-Bal, A Nwy-StP, F Bot S A Nwy-StP, A Lon-Nwy, F Nth C A Lon-Nwy, A Wal-Yor, A Kie holds, A Hol S A Kie, F Wes S ITALIAN F Ion-Tun, F Mid-Bre, F Eng S F Mid-Bre.  
FRANCE (Ron Kelly?) NMR; F Spa(sc) holds, A Mar holds, A Bre holds (dislodged, may retreat to Pic, Par, Gas, or OTB).  
ITALY (Paul Rauterberg) F Ion-Tun, F Adr S ENGLISH A Tri-Ven.  
TURKEY (Bob Kluge) Retreat F Ion-Nap; F Lyo-Spa(sc), F Tyr-Tun, F Rom holds, F Nap-Ion, F Aeg S F Nap-Ion, A Gre holds, A Bul-Rum, A Con-Bul, A Ven S AUSTRIAN A Ser-Tri (dislodged, retreat to Tyo, Pie, Tus, OTB), A Sil-Pru, A War S A Sil-Pru, A Mos-StP.

## SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (6): Home, Mun, Ber, Ser - took Tri - may build one.  
ENGLAND (12): Home, Nwy, Swe, Den, Kie, Hol, Bre, Bel, StP, Ven - lost Tri; took Ven - even.  
FRANCE (4): Par, Spa, Por, Mar - took Mar - may build one.  
ITALY (1): Tun - lost Rom, Mar; took Tun - must remove one.  
TURKEY (11): Home, Bul, Gre, Rum, Sev, Mos, War, Nap, Rom - lost Ven, Tun; took Rom - must remove one.

PRESS VOICE OF ROME, DEFIANT: We shit on the world. Our oppressors will share unwholesome fates.

TURKEY TO VOICE OF ROME, DEFIANT: Tough luck sucker.

Bob Kluge has a new address. 8513 Valdes, St. Louis, Missouri 63123.

Pete Keltch (P.O. Box 186, Cherokee, Oklahoma 73728 (in case you don't remember)), will you please submit French standby orders?

Retreats, Winter '11, and Spring '12 orders are due October 29th. Remember The Maine and contingencies.

1979-CG Spring 1903

AUSTRIA (Nick Russon) A Ser-Tri (annihilated), A BUD S A Ser-Tri.  
ENGLAND (Gerry van Alkemade) F Edi-NRG, F Den-KIE, F HEL S F Den-KIE, F Nth-DEN, F Bel-NTH, A HOL S FRENCH A BUR-Ruh (NSO).  
FRANCE (Clive Tonge?) NMR; F BRE holds, A GAS holds, A BUR holds, A PAR holds, A MAR holds.  
GERMANY (Al Rodriguez) A Sil-BER, A Kie-RUH, A MUN S A Kie-RUH.  
ITALY (Francois Cuerrier) F NAP-Ion, F GRE-Bul(sc), A Tri-SER, A ALB S A Tri-SER, A Ven-TRI, F ADR S A Ven-TRI, A VIE-Bud.  
RUSSIA (Trevor Baillie) A War-GAL, A Ukr-RUM, F SEV-Bla, A MOS-Sev, F Swe-BAL, F Nwy-SWE, F StP(nc)-NWY.  
TURKEY (Bob Albrecht) A BUL-Gre, F AEG-Ion, F BLA-Sev, F Smy-EAS.

Your orders may be contingent upon who the French player is, Clive or his standby, Eric Ozog (1526 N. Lawler Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60651). Note that if neither submit orders, Clive is still in command.

Fall 1903 is due October 29. Oh yeah, thanks to Al Rodriguez.

1980-AR Delayed by player request. Fall 1902 orders are now due October 29th.

1976-CJ Winter 1915 & Spring 1916

ENGLAND (Robert Acheson) F Wes-Tyr, F Lyo S F Wes-Tyr, F Spa(sc) S F Lyo, F Mid-Wes, F NAf S F Mid-Wes, F Nth holds, F Eng holds, A Mos-Sev, A Ukr S A Mos-Sev, A War S A Ukr, A StP-Mos.

GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) A Bel-Hol, A Kie-Hol, F Den-Nth, A Pie-Ven, A Tyo S A Pie-Ven, A Mar-Pie, A Gal-Bud, A Vie S A Gal-Bud, A Boh S A Vie.

ITALY (Tom Kissner) Remove A Ven; F Tyr-Ion, F Tun S F Tyr-Ion, A Rom-Nap.

TURKEY (Fred Winter) Build F Smy; F Smy-Eas, F Bla-Con, F Adr-Ion, F Nap-Tyr, F Tus holds, A Tri-Vie, A Bud S A Tri-Vie, A Ser-Tri, A Rum-Ukr, A Sev S A Rum-Ukr, A Arm S A Sev, A Bul-Rum (NSU).

PRESS LONDON: Proposes a two-way draw - E/G.

*Like it says, there's a proposal for an E-G draw. Your votes plus Fall 1916 are due October 29.*

1977-AI Fall 1910

AUSTRIA (Pete Keltch) A Tri holds, A Ser holds, F Gre holds (annihilated), A Smy holds, A Syr S A Smy, A Rum-Bul, A Con S A Rum-Bul, A Boh-Mun, A Tyo S A Boh-Mun, A Sil S A Boh-Mun, A Mos S RUSSIAN A StP, A Lvn S RUSSIAN A StP, A Bud-Vie.

ENGLAND (Francois Cuerrier) F Nwy-StP(nc), F Bar S F Nwy-StP(nc), F Swe-Fin, F Ber S F Kie, F Kie S F Ber, A Bel holds, F Eng S A Bel, F Hol S A Bel, A Bre S ITALIAN A Par, F Mid S A Bre.

FRANCE (Doug Karnes) A Pic-Bel, A Bur S A Pic-Bel.

GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) A Ruh-Hol.

ITALY (Ron Kelly) F Alb-Gre, F Ion S F Alb-Gre, F Aeg S F Alb-Gre, A Ven S A Pie, A Pie S A Ven, F Mar-Tri (impossible), A Par S ENGLISH A Bre.

RUSSIA (Tom Kissner) A StP holds.

#### SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (13): Home plus Turkey, Ser, War, Sev, Bul, Mos, Rum, Mun - lost Gre; took Mun - even, but may build one.

ENGLAND (11): Home, Nwy, Swe, Den, Hol, Bel, Kie, Ber, Bre - took Bre - may build one.

FRANCE (0): lost Par, Bre - out.

GERMANY (0): lost Mun - out.

ITALY (9): Home, Spa, Tun, Mar, Por, Par, Gre - took Par, Gre - may build two.

RUSSIA (1): StP - even.

PRESS AUSTRIA: Reactionary Tribunals have restored proper order in the Tyrol and the Prince Regent has travelled to the province to encourage the troops. "Remember, my children, that our Italian enemies are led by officers who regard the army as a convenient, highly polished, and well-carpeted staircase, upon whose steps medals and badges of rank are handed out! They are about to slip on the steps! As Andreas Hofer, the liberation fighter against Napoleon said, 'Mannder, es isch zeit! (Men, the time has come!) Ret-weiss-ret bis in den tod! (red-white-red to the death!)"

FRANCE TO THE WORLD: It's been a slice! Maybe next time.

Le France est Finis, und Deutschland ist Kaput, but don't worry, Randolph. I'll see if I can find you a couple more German standby positions.

Winter 1910 and Spring 1911 orders are due October 29.

1979-IA Fall 1902

AUSTRIA (Denver McLeod?) NMR; A VIE holds, F Gre holds (dislodged, may retreat to Alb or OTB), A Ser holds (dislodged, may retreat to Alb or OTB).

ENGLAND (Dave Carter) F DEN holds, F NTH S F DEN, F Lon-ENG, A YOR holds.

FRANCE (Bob Albrecht) A Pic-BEL, A BUR S A Pic-BEL, A Par-PIC, F SPA(sc)-Mid, A GAS-Spa.

GERMANY (Nick Russon?) NMR; A KIE holds, F HEL holds, A Bel holds (dislodged, may retreat to Hol or OTB), A RUH holds.

ITALY (Doug Warfel) A TYO-Vie, A BUD S TURKISH A Bul-SER, A Ven-TRI, F WES-Mid, F ION S TURKISH F Aeg-GRE.

RUSSIA (Dave Weatherhead?) NMR; F RUM holds, A SEV holds, A GAL holds, A SIL holds, A WAR holds, F SWE holds.

TURKEY (Russ Pugh) A Bul-SER, A Con-BUL, F BLA S A Con-BUL, F Aeg-GRE.

## SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (1): VIE - lost Bud, Ser - must remove two.

ENGLAND (5): Home, Nwy, DEN - took DEN - may build one.

FRANCE (6): Home, Por, SPA, BEL - took BEL - may build one.

GERMANY (4): Home, Hol - even.

ITALY (6): Home, Tun, TRI, BUD - took BUD - may build one.

RUSSIA (6): Home, RUM, SWE - even.

TURKEY (6): Home, BUL, GRE, SER - took GRE, SER - may build two.

PRESS LONDON DAILY MAIL: FRICTION SEEN Rumors abound that the government is contemplating a break with France and Russia due to their failure to share the spoils of war.

HAMBURG NEW ERA: PANIC ERUPTS With the prospect of either a French or Russian occupation of this country, panic broke out as thousands sought visas to the U.S., Canada, and Italy.

MILAN TRIBUNE: SECRET REVEALED Foreign Minister Visconti-Venosta revealed today that Crown Prince Umberto would lead the final attack against the armed forces of Franz Josef, the late emperor of Austria-Hungary.

KLICKITAT GAZETTE: That's Geneva not Gelena.

SMYRNA SUN-TIMES: In his hall? No!, on his ball.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE WATER RAT: Sorry about that, Ross.

ALEPPO GLOBE AND MAIL: In the spirit of Ramadan, the Sublime Porte announced today that a general amnesty has been declared for all Austrian prisoners captured in the recent fighting in Serbia. Their ears will be sewn back on before they are dispatched next Tuesday. Humanitarians throughout the Moslem world praise this noble gesture.

MESSYPIECE THEATRE (sic) IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

The End

Dramatis Personae (or "people in da play")

The narrator

Act I, Scene 1: a blank page

Narrator; The end. (cheers from the crowd)

The End

The standbys are Dave Rue (3101 S.Wabash, #705, Chicago, Illinois 60616) for Austria; Paul Rauterberg (4922 W.Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208) for Germany; Paul Wakefield (Box 188, West Branch, IA 52358) for Russia. Please don't make their orders necessary.

Winter 1902 may be made contingent upon the retreats, and Spring may be contingent upon Winter, and the deadline is October 29th.

1980-M Spring 1902

AUSTRIA (Jack Fleming) A SER S TURKISH A Bu1-RUM, A BUD S TURKISH A Bu1-RUM,  
A TRI S ITALIAN A Ven (Ven is moving (earthquakes?)), F GRE holds, A Vie-GAL.  
ENGLAND (Garry Fairbairn) F Nth-HOL, A BEL S F Nth-HOL, F Lon-NTH, F Nwy S F Lon-  
NTH (dislodged, retreat to Ska, Bar, OTB), F Edi-NRG.  
FRANCE (Barry Hickey) A Par-PIC, A BUR S A Par-PIC, F Por-MID, A Spa-GAS, F Mar-LYO.  
GERMANY (Robert Goldberg) A Kie-RUH, A MUN S A Kie-RUH, A Ber-KIE, F DEN holds.  
ITALY (John Davies) A Ven-PIE, A Apu-TUN, F ION C A Apu-TUN.  
RUSSIA (Randy Henn) F StP(nc)-NWY, F SWE S F StP(nc)-NWY, A Lvn-STP, F Rum-BLA,  
F SEV S F Rum-BLA, A UKR-Rum.  
TURKEY (Bob Albrecht) A Bu1-RUM, F Bla S A Bu1-RUM (dislodged, retreat to Arm, Ank,  
Con, OTB), A Con-BUL, F Smy-AEG.

PRESS LONDON - MOSCOW: You're going to be in enough trouble without adding more in  
the north. Keep your nc fleet at home.

LONDON - PARIS: En avant, mon ami! Les boches meurent de la peur.

LONDON - VIENNA: It's a deal.

BERLIN - PARIS: I'm glad we could come to some agreement. I feel our continued  
friendship will overshadow all those who dare oppose such a coalition. I expect to  
hear from you this fall to collaborate on future plans.

MUNICH - BUDAPEST: It always pays to be humble. Remember, a lion of a mouse is  
more desirable than a mouse of a lion.

ROB - JACK: The future if Italy is in our hands. We must preserve her and carry  
her upon our shoulders.

BERLIN - ANKARA: How are the women?

Thanks to Pete Ashley for unneeded standby orders.

Robert Goldberg has a new address. Pitzer College,, Mead Hall, Box 424,, Claremont,  
California 91711. Robert, tell me if I misread that.

Retreats and Fall 1902 orders are due October 29th. The Fall orders may be made  
contingent upon the retreats.

1979-IH Winter 1904 & Spring 1905

ENGLAND (Doug Karnes) A RUH S FRENCH A Bur-MUN, A KIE S FRENCH A Bur-MUN,  
F DEN S A KIE, F HEL S A KIE, F Nth-NWY, F SKA S F Nth-NWY, F NRG S F Nth-NWY.  
FRANCE (Gerry van Alkemade) A Bur-MUN, A GAL S TURKISH A RUM-Bud (NSO), A Tus-VEN,  
A PIE S A Tus-VEN, F APU S A Tus-VEN, F Rom-NAP, F Wes-TYR, F TUN S F Wes-TYR.  
GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) Build A BER; A Mun-Kie (dislodged, retreat Boh or OTB),  
A BER S A Mun-Kie.  
ITALY (Bob Albrecht) A Ven S RUSSIAN A Tri (dislodged, retreat Rom or OTB).  
RUSSIA (Pete Fuchs) Build A WAR; F Bot-SWE, F BAL S F Bot-SWE, F Nwy S F Bot-SWE  
(dislodged, retreat Bar or OTB), F STP(nc) S F Nwy, A WAR-Gal, A SIL-Mun,  
A Boh-TYO, A Tri S ITALIAN A Ven (dislodged, retreat to Vie or OTB), F SEV holds.  
TURKEY (Bob Kluge) Build F ANK; F Ank-BLA, A Ser-BUD, A Bul-SER, A RUM S A Ser-BUD,  
F Alb-TRI, F ADR S F Alb-TRI, F ION holds.

PRESS LONDON - MOSCOW: Do you really think you're a match for His Majesty's Navy?  
Get back to where you belong Red dog!

LONDON - PARIS & ANKARA: Meet you in Livonia!

If Russia hadn't moved there, we would have had three countries able to retreat  
to Tyo.

Thanks to Mike Connors for the unused Italian orders.

Fall 1905 orders are due Oct. 29.

1979-KK Fall 1903

AUSTRIA (Pete Fuchs) F Adr-ION, F GRE S F Adr-ION, A BUL-Con, A Vie-TYO, A BUD-Vie,  
 A VEN-Pie, A ROM holds.  
 ENGLAND (Bob Albrecht) A Nwy-STP, F Bar-NWY, F SKA-Den, F NTH S F SKA-Den,  
 A BEL S FRENCH A RUH-Hol (NSO).  
 FRANCE (Dave Weatherhead?) NMR; F WES holds, A MAR holds, A BUR holds, A RUH holds,  
 A PIC holds.  
 GERMANY (Trevor Baillie) Retreat A Ruh-KIE, A Mun-BOH; F DEN-Nth, A KIE-Ruh,  
 A HOL-Bel, A BOH-Vie.  
 ITALY (Robert Acheson?) NMR; F AEG holds, F TYR holds, A PIE holds.  
 RUSSIA (Dave Rue) F BAL-Den, F SWE S F BAL-Den, A MUN holds, A BER S A MUN,  
 F Arm-ANK, F BLA S F Arm-ANK, A RUM-Bud.  
 TURKEY (Pete Ashley) F CON S F Ank, F Ank S F CON (annihilated), A SMY S F CON.

## SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (8): Home, Ser, GRE, BUL, VEN, ROM - took ROM - may build one.  
 ENGLAND (6): Home, BEL, NWY, STP - took STP - may build one.  
 FRANCE (5): Home, Por, Spa - even.  
 GERMANY (3): KIE, DEN, HOL - lost Mun - must remove one.  
 ITALY (2): Nap, Tun - lost Rom - must remove one.  
 RUSSIA (8): Mos, Sev, War, RUM, SWE, BER, MUN, ANK - lost StP; took MUN, ANK -  
 may build one.  
 TURKEY (2): CON, SMY - lost Ank - even.

Will Don Tinker (247A Portugal Cove Rd., St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 2N7) please  
 submit standby orders for France, and Eric Verheiden (200 S. Azusa Ave., #2,,  
 Azusa, California 91702) for Italy?

Winter '03 and Spring '04 orders are due October 29.

MISC.

Chuck Doehrer supplied the title for this issue, which is 36 pt Arnold Bocklin.  
 Thank you, Chuck.

Below are the top 12 (for obvious reasons) finishers in John Leeder's North American  
 'Zine Poll. Congrats to all.

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. FOL-SI-FIE      | 7. WHY ME?                 |
| 2. THE NATIONAL    | 8. BRUTUS BULLETIN         |
| 2. VOLKERWANDERUNG | 9. THE DRAGON AND THE LAMB |
| 4. DIPLOMACY WORLD | 10. THE VOICE OF DOOM      |
| 5. EMHAIN MACHA    | 11. EVERYTHING             |
| 5. POLITICIAN      | 12. CHEESECAKE             |

I'd like to thank you all for a pretty good showing out of 52 'zines. The top ten  
 would have been nice, but I'll have to work harder.

If anyone wants an address for any of the above 'zines, just ask.

John (leeder that is) has openings in a regular Diplomacy game; a "new-blood" (not  
 yet subscribers) game; a French-language game; and Gesta Danorum (whatever that is).  
 Inquire at 121 19th Ave. NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 1N9.

THE LONE STAR DIPLOMAT is a new magazine from Mike Conner (3214 Beverly Road,,  
 Austin, Texas 78703), which I predict will soon be one of my favcrites (even if he  
 hadn't plugged CHEESECAKE). Ask for a sample.

MORE MISC.

If any of you are interested, I will start a 7 day deadline game for Chicago area players, similar to the Austin game Mike is running in the above mentioned LSD.

The game would be run by flyer (not in CHEESECAKE) and will use standard houserules, except that standbys most likely won't be used.

Non-Chicagoans are welcome, but depending upon how far non-Chicagoan you are, it could be rough. Also, (and I'll check it out for next issue) there may be regularity problems with six players living on the same block and the seventh in Fuji.

Any takers? (send a pref list if you have any)

No Battleship this time due to NMRs. I sort of appreciate the breather, as those things are torture to type.

For next issue I also plan to consider the possibility of phoning soon-to-be-NMRed players. I'm not wild about the idea, but will think about it.

In a recent letter to another 'zine (brand F-S-F) Don Tinker pointed out the sparcity of female subbers to CHEESECAKE (and others). According to who's figures you use, this 'zine should have either 1.4 or 3.5 girls subscribing.

I too have noticed this deficiency, and once sent samples to four or five women (girls, females, whatever) who played in other 'zines. My effort was a dismal failure. Not only did I receive no positive replies, but one lady sent me a fat packet of ERA propoganda and a venomous letter demanding that I change the name of the 'zine.

But, never say die say I, so I'll give it another shot, with Don doing the work. I hereby appoint Don Tinker to the post of CROW (CHEESECAKE Recruiting Officer - Women).

The duties of Don's new office are to recruit female subscribers for CHEESECAKE. He may make any promises he wishes of me, the 'zine, or himself, and of course is not required or expected to live up to any of them. Don, your quota is 3 women subscribers by Christmas.

1975-AR

This game finished last December, and Richard Kovalcik has supplied the complete history, so here it is. If anyone can supply the history for '76-CJ before it ends, I'd appreciate it.

AUSTRIA: Hans Asselbergs to F'01, Steve Peluso to S'04, Pete Walker to W'05.

ENGLAND: Scott Rosenberg to S'03, Richard Greenwell to S'07, Gary Stratten to W'09, Francois Cuerrier to end.

FRANCE : Don B. Stewart to S'01, Walter Blank to W'03.

GERMANY: Matt Diller to S'03, Doug Hollingsworth to the end.

ITALY : Charles Schandl to F'02, Greg Warden to F'03, Ron Kelly to the end.

RUSSIA : Jack Baldwin to S'03, Edi Birsan to S'04, David Mueth to S'10, CD to end.

TURKEY : Peggy Gemignani to W'01, John Baker to F'02, Richard Kovalcik, Jr to F'10.

'ZINES : TURNABOUT to F'04, DIMAN to F'09, CHEESECAKE to the end.

GMs : Peter A. Berggren to F'04, Brad Hessel to F'09, Andy Lischett to the end.

	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	
AUSTRIA:	2	2	1	1	0						
ENGLAND:	5	4	8	8	7	6	6	6	3	0	
FRANCE :	2	1	0								
GERMANY:	5	8	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	17	Draw W'10
ITALY :	5	5	5	6	7	10	11	11	15	17	Draw W'10
RUSSIA :	7	6	4	5	7	5	4	3	2	0	
TURKEY :	4	5	5	6	4	3	2	2	1	0	

LETTERS TO THE WATER RAT

Here are two letters (from John Michalski and Francois Cuerrier) in response to my houserules (etc.) from last issue. My disparaging remarks (a time honored publishing tradition) will be interspersed, but before we get to the hoopla; a couple of points.

First, besides their necessity for a few common questions (such as use of code-words, anonymous neutrals, and black press) I see my houserules more as an indication of GMing philosophy than as a set of constrictions upon myself or the subbers. Also, I will swipe improvements from anywhere, but none of the houserules or any other policies are copied unthinkingly from anyone. On with the show!

From John Michalski:

*I see in the latest CHEESECAKE ((#16)) that you endorse the Smyth heresy of denying the players the right to know what happened the previous winter on combined winter/spring seasons. I presume you have a good reason for doing so, since you not only deny them the right of knowing who NRR/NBRed, but also deny the player the option of trying to trick his enemies by submitting a written NRR or NBR, just to try and "trigger" someone else's builds/moves. (I've tried it myself, and have had others do so in my games). If you have a reason (other than just following Smyth, that is), I'd appreciate hearing it. All I've heard from him is snide remarks and arrogant bullshit. I'd appreciate some logic for a change. Keep up the good work.*

I allow Spring orders contingent upon Winter builds, removals, or lack of either. However, I don't allow Spring contingencies based on a Winter NBR (or NRR).

If you compare the two methods (allowing NBR contingencies, or not) against the options available to players if the seasons were played seperately, they are in effect the same; orders contingent on no build or on an NBR do the same thing. But allowing NBR contingencies also imposes a penalty on the NBRing player which he would not have with seperate seasons, since a seperate Winter NBR would rarely mean a Spring NMR.

Another factor is that although the players have a right to know what happened in the previous season, that doesn't mean they have a right to know why it happened. They are entitled to know that a player didn't build, but not why he didn't build.

The rulebook covers this. It says unordered units hold, so not ordering a unit is a valid way of ordering it to hold. Similarly, if you don't want to build, or want to make the same removal as the GM would, to not send an order *is a valid order*.

So I say that players have no right to know whether another did or didn't send in a sheet of paper saying "No build".

This does create a problem (but doesn't invalidate its...uh...validity). Even before this came up, I'd planned on dropping the "unordered" notation from unordered units (which I've done), but in the event of a seperate Winter I should not call a standby if someone fails to submit a build or removal.

What a mess. Do I go against years of tradition and allow the possibility of two missed seasons in a row before calling a standby (which, come to think of it, is what combined seasons do), or do I go against what I interpret the rules to be? I'm leaning toward not calling the standbys in the Winter, but will ask the opinions of a few hobby notable types before deciding. Anyone's views are welcome.

The next letter is from Francois Cuerrier for whom I'm taking up a collection to buy a new typewriter ribbon.

I read your August 19 edition of your houserules with interest, and find myself in agreement with most of your rules. However, I disagree with the following:

(1) "any NMRed countries units which are dislodged will be disbanded." Of course, it is your privilege as a GM to use this rule. However, allow me to quote from Randolph Smyth (RUNESTONE #185, December 12, 1977):

"I presume you've based your rule on the infamous XIV 3.3 of the 1971 Rulebook: 'If (civil-disorder) units are dislodged, they are disbanded,' I suppose you regard this as superseding XI 1: 'any (my emphasis) dislodged unit makes its retreat'. I won't question that, but will concentrate on the definition of civil-disorder.

"References scattered throughout the Rulebook make it clear that it's intended for face-to-face games. To some extent, the rules must be modified for postal play. A unit which is NMR face-to-face is usually leaderless and in 'civil-disorder' - no problem there. But surely accepted practice and terminology in postal play is not to label units in civil-disorder except by GM decree....I've never seen you refer to a position which was NMR last season as being in 'civil-disorder'.

"The idea behind the civil-disorder disbandment rule appears to be the setting out of a reproducible, predictable way of handling such situations in face-to-face play. In my opinion, it has little relevance postally, when standbys are available to make their own decisions on new positions. I doubt that the civil-disorder rule was intended to punish either the NMRing player or the standby - which is, in effect, what is being done with enforced disbandment - but I'm getting back into practical play rather than theory.

"I still think it boils down to your definition of civil-disorder. Even if you accept the notion of 'short-term disorder' lasting a single season for the duration of the NMR (which sounds shaky to me), how can you rationalize 'reverberations of disorder' into subsequent phases of the game, when a player of record is again willing to submit orders?"

I might add that disbanding dislodged NMRing units is unnecessarily harsh. Indeed, the player is punished once for NMRing as all his units hold (which is already severe enough...!), and then is punished again whenever one of his units is dislodged. And the standby is less likely to get a decent position. I don't feel that emphasizing the effect of NMRs is of any help to the game. Indeed, it is harmful to the game as a whole.

My understanding of hobby tradition is that people have been trying to reduce the effects of NMRs on the game all along (by introducing the concept of standbys, as a for instance). I feel this is a fine tradition, worth preserving.

I also believe that, whenever the Rulebook allows for more than one interpretation, it is best for the GM to follow the most esthetic interpretation. If one is to assume that XI 1 and XIV 3.3 contradict each other, then this is the case here. And, offhand, I'd say that allowing NMRed units to retreat is the most esthetic course, but then, who am I to say...

I may be the most wishy-washy GM around, but I kind of agree with some of that.

When this rule was amended in issue #9, I explained that I didn't really like it, but rules is rules. However, I've never been comfortable with it and will now allow the retreats in future games as well as those which already allow them (all but 1980-AR). Also, since the situation has not yet come up in '80-AR, I'll ask all players in that game to vote either 'YES' for allowing disbanded units which were NMRed to retreat in the next season, or 'NO'. A non-vote is a 'YES'.



(2) "If a player with the deciding vote NMRs but still retains control of his country, the next season due will be delayed one deadline period during which only he may vote."

I don't feel this is a good idea, assuming that you want the individual votes to be secret. (That's one thing missing in your HRs: will individual votes be made public, or kept secret, with only a tally or the outcome being published? ((only the outcome)) ) So, OK, what you have is exactly one NMR -- and the game is delayed because he has the "deciding vote". This means, in effect, that you're telling the players: "OK. Everybody voted 'yes', except for that guy who NMRed." And then, suppose the proposal fails? Every player will then know that this particular guy voted 'no', and will possibly retaliate on the board. Is this what you want?

I also disagree that only the NMRed player should get to vote. I think that his standby -- and the other players -- should be allowed to vote or revise their position.

I seem to remember that we already argued about this, your argument being that a position should not be given the opportunity to vote twice (i.e. 1 vote for the standby, 1 vote for the original player.). To reiterate, I don't think this argument can hold water, as the standby is not allowed to vote after all if the original player does. On the other hand, if the original player drops out, then he hasn't voted and his standby should get the vote. In all cases, the position gets only 1 vote (assuming "abstain" is not counted as a vote). I think it all boils down to your perceptions of the chronology: you seem to think that players vote first, then NMR and are replaced (thus, the original player abstained before dropping out.). But I don't think this can be valuable in this case, as the original player -- by NMRing twice in a row -- has signalled to the GM that he has lost interest in the game. I feel the standby should be allowed to vote.

However, I don't think I'll get anywhere with the above discussion. Therefore, I'd like to submit the following practical consideration: suppose that, in game X, Mr#1 is a 17-center Germany and is guaranteed to take on at least 3 other centers next season -- but he NMRs. The season preceding the NMR, a 3-way I-T-E draw was proposed. Since Mr#1 NMRed and that he has the "deciding" vote (all other players having voted "yes"), the next season due is delayed as Mr#1 is asked to vote, in accordance with your rules. Of course, the standby, Mr#2, is not allowed to vote, still in accordance with your rules. Here's the problem: Mr#1 NMRs again, and does not vote. The draw proposal becomes law. You might argue that if Mr#1 was that disinterested he deserved getting fourth position (behind E-I-T) even though he had 17 centers and was assured of victory, and that indeed the standby shouldn't be allowed to vote (especially in this situation) because he is not entitled to a 17-center power and the possibility of an "easy" win. Nevertheless, do you think it is fair of E-I-T to get a piece of the draw they so obviously did not deserve?

This is another example of how you emphasize the effect of NMRs and dropouts on the game. By preventing the standby from voting, you are depriving him of much of his diplomatic manoeuvrability, with possibly devastating effects on the game as a whole.

Isn't manoeuver a terrific word?

Delaying the deadline (etc.) does disclose a 'NO' vote, which is unfortunate, but that's a minor evil compared to shooting the game out from under a player due to 1 NMR (and Francois accuses me of emphasizing the effects of NMRs!). But I just realized that allowing the other players to re-vote will often eliminate the disclosure problem, and since my 'no revote' rule was only based on a fuzzy idea that they shouldn't be allowed to chicken out, I'll dump it. From now on, in that situation, any player may change his vote.

Next, Francois is correct that my reasoning for not allowing a new standby to vote boils down to chronology. As the houserules say, votes have priority over the season with which they're called. Since "abstain" *is* counted as a vote (in this and most other 'zines (including (I think) Francois' own PASSCHENDAELE)), I can only repeat that no vote received is a 'YES', and the voting is finished before anyone can NMR.

To get around this in order to give a win to someone who hasn't submitted a single order would require tabulating votes after adjudicating the season, which I won't do.

*Other matters are much less important.*

(3) *Do you mean to say by, "Orders must (emphasis mine) include the game ID, season(s), and year(s), country, submission date and signature" that you will throw away any set of orders not containing all these components?*

This was a mistake. In writing up the houserules I took a copy of the last set printed, and pencilled in corrections and changes. I changed "must" to "should", and then ignored my own correction. Sorry Hawkeye.

(4) *How would you adjudicate, F: A Bel-Hol, E: F Nth C A Bel-Hol, R: F Nwy-Nth, S by F Ska?*

I'd leave the Frenchman in Belgium and pat the Englishman on the back. Do I see another argument coming?

(5) *Do you disallow players that have no unit left (but do have centers, and the capability to build) from voting? It would seem to me that this would be harmful in cases where a vote is called for the Fall. (Before the player had a chance to build)*

No, I don't disallow that. Lame ducks are birds with no units, no home centers, and no hope.

(6) *Do you reserve the right to impose a draw? I mean, there are such things as hopeless stalemates. I would like to think that you won't allow one particular player to filibuster the others until he can take advantage of his opponents' NMRs... Or do you like GMing games until everyone has died of old age?*

As you've noticed, I don't have a rule either way. I try to keep the houserules slim and trim, by not devoting space to the obvious or bizarre. This particular omission, however, is part of a conscious effort I make to be non-cynical.

I chose not to insult my subbers by suggesting that they would "filibuster", because I have no reason to think they would. Similar to this (and similar to a recent change in THE VOIVE OF DOOM), I don't require secret passwords with phoned orders, and don't require explanations for delay requests. I won't assume the worst until it happens.

Of course, if it becomes necessary, I'm not adverse to being tricky myself. If a "filibuster"er cited the lack of a rule forbidding it, I could find a sympathetic GM with an anti-filibuster rule, and - since there is no rule forbidding it - transfer the game to him. I'd even guess that with a clear stalemate, the game would be declared regular.

Thanks a heap to John and Francois for the letters. Make that three heaps.

All of the changes mentioned go into effect immediately (except for the disbandment thing in '80-AR), and while you're at it, under REPLACEMENTS, delete "...or four times in five game years..."

Good bye.