

cheesecake

1977-AN Peacetime

This game ended last issue in a draw between Austria and Turkey. Here's the history.

- AUSTRIA: Peter Walker to F'04; Mike Carroll to the end.
- ENGLAND: Ralph Morton to S'03; Norm Dunbar to S'09; Eric Ozog to the end.
- FRANCE : Norman Weinstock to S'02; Ron Kelly to the end.
- GERMANY: Robert Haines to S'01; Margaret Gemignani to W'06.
- ITALY : Paul Rauterberg to W'12.
- RUSSIA : Mike Stiege to F'04; John D.Morgan to W'05.
- TURKEY : Bob Normand to S'10; Bob Kluge to the end.
- 'ZINES : RUNESTONE to F'07; CHEESECAKE to the end.
- GMs : John Leeder to F'07; Andy Lischett to the end.

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

Endgame statements from...

Paul Rauterberg (Italy);

This game was a horrible mess, but I really never considered dropping out. I persisted to the very end, making a nuisance of myself and writing obnoxious press releases. The game was, in the words of John Leeder, "curious, characterized by stabs and indecision."

Italy started the game in pursuit of an I-R-A alliance to contain and squelch Turkey. The Russian player, Mike Stiege, was unfortunately too conservative a player to commit himself to any positive action in 1901, and the Austrians stonewalled me with a stubborn silence. I fully expected Austria to attack me as a result, and he did (half-heartedly). I easily repulsed his strike, and took my first build from Tunis in Winter 1901. The Turks and Russians moved to surround the Austrian, while the French and English tried to do the same to the Germans. The first Kaiser, Robert Haines, NMR'd in Spring 1901 and then dropped out. What a waste of a gamefee. His successor, Margaret Gemignani, moved her units towards Russia, seemingly ignoring the advances of her westward neighbors. Her subsequent movements would be increasingly illogical and inept, and she was not destined to be a force to reckon with in the game.

1902 saw an Austrian NMR, some Russian advances as a result, and the Turks forming a solid line in the southern Balkans. Chaos reigned in the Fall, when the Russians found themselves in Budapest and the Austrians nabbed Warsaw. I convoyed an army to Albania, and slipped into Trieste in the Fall. In the north, England grabbed St.Petersburg while continuing to cooperate with France in annihilating the hapless Germans. Ron Kelly inherited the French throne in the Spring.

'77-AN Endgame statements (continued)

In 1903, Russia NMR'd in the Spring, Austria reciprocated in the Fall, thus maintaining the status quo. Ralph Morton of England stabbed Ron Kelly of France, and then resigned. The new English king, Norm Dunbar, renewed the Anglo-French anti-German alliance. I dispatched a fleet westward to support the French in case England caused any more trouble, and was thus caught shorthanded when Turkey snuck a lone fleet into Tunis in the Fall. In Winter 1903, the Turks forgot to build their two units, giving me a new lease on life. Austria was down to two units.

In 1904, I convinced Turkey that he must ally with Italy against the united Western powers. The Anglo-French crushed a dazed and confused Germany. Turkey declared war on Russia, and took Sevastopol. Russia and Austria both NMR'd in the Fall. Italy gave Trieste to Turkey in exchange for Greece, and recaptured Tunis.

1905 saw a new Austrian player, Mike Carroll, rise to power. The Turks, having finally gotten the two builds they had missed the year before, allied with Austria and stabbed me again ("fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on ME!). Rome fell to the infidel's lone western fleet. England stabbed France while taking Kiel and Munich. Russia was eliminated without a struggle, providing the year's obligatory NMR.

1906 witnessed two Austrian armies charging into northern Russia and taking St. Petersburg. England left Russia wide open in the Spring, moving his isolated eastern army westward to further engage the French in Germany. But the English invasion of France stalled, and an English NMR in the Fall resulted in the loss of the Mid, Eng, StP, and Moscow to vultures and assorted foes. The northern super-power lost his spirit and initiative in this debacle, and was doomed never to recover them. Italy fought gamely and nobly against the Turkish backstabbers, retaking Tunis and Rome.

A French NMR in Spring 1907 gave the Mid back to England, but the limey failed to capitalize in the Fall. England rushed numerous defenders to Scandinavia to engage the advancing Austro-Turks. Italy took Marseilles and the Ionian, but lost Venice to the Turks. My strategy was a simple one: annihilate isolated Turkish units (I wiped out 3 of 'em!) while waiting for France and England to ally and come to my rescue. I waited in vain.

At this point the game was transferred from John Leeder's RUNESTONE to Andy's CHEESECAKE. We were well rid of a distracted and overworked GM, whose errors had stalled and spoiled the game consistently.

In Spring 1908, Austrians took Munich while Italians stole Trieste. Austria lent a deaf ear to my pleas to join me against the Turks, and it paid off well for him. The Turks remained their loyal allies to the bitter end, and Austria profitted accordingly. Down to two units in 1904, Austria would be up to five by 1909! Italy's hopes for continued survival declined as Austria's fortunes soared. I kept the Ionian clear of Turks only until the Fall of 1907, when I was inundated by yellow fleets.

In 1909 Austria took Berlin from an NMRing England. Eric Ozog took over England in the Fall, but failed to persuade Kelly to forget the Anglo-French feud. Hatred for Eng was in Kelly's blood now, and could not be distilled by time or logical appeals. Turkey took the Tyrr Sea in Fall 1909, and Italy was surrounded.

'77-AN more endgame statements

It took Turkey two more years to finish the job, but Italy finally disappeared after 1912. The game was an enjoyable tactical exercise for me, anyway. I held out for a long time against a steady influx of Turkish fleets, and if the West had united behind me, this game could have been a four or five way draw.

The game was definitely affected, and spoiled, by the numerous NMRs and player changes. People still have not learned to submit final orders with resignations if they get sick of participating in a game. People don't care to finish out hopeless positions, and quit ahead of time. What are your excuses, Peter Walker, Margaret Gemignani, Mike Stiege, and Bob Normand? And how many NMRs are YOU guilty of, Ron Kelly? Potential allies, beware these names.

Bob Kluge (Turkey);

I took over the position as of F'10. Bob Normand NMRed in F'09 & S'10, leaving me playing 3 short. I added Naples that Fall. I negotiated with Austria as to the details of taking over the alliance and reached our agreement. With that settled I turned to eliminating Italy & forcing the Mid-Atlantic. Italy with English help proved to be very stubborn. Voice of Rome, Defiant was indeed very defiant. Finally with France keeping England tied up I eliminated Italy and was now in position to move into the Mid-Atlantic. However, at this point the game ended with Mike & I sharing the draw. My congratulations to Mike for staying with me 'though at times it looked as if I was not with him due to troop relocation to free my fleets.

Andy Lischett (GM);

From the sidelines, the draw between Austria and Turkey seems justified, and deserved.

England and France couldn't work together or apart, and Italy alone wasn't enough to hold off Turkey and Austria.

Anyway, congratulations to Bob and Mike. Mike took Austria from two centers in '04 to 50% of a win, and Bob gained his 50% by refusing to squander his adopted powerhouse on a chancey stab.

CICITRIX...a new game Pre-Spring 1901

Alas, no sooner does one war end, than another begins. Where have all the flowers gone?

AUSTRIA (Francois Cuerrier) Has As BUD, VIE, F TRI	ATRGIEF
ENGLAND (Tim Burton) Has A LPL, Fs EDI, LON	TEGAIRF
FRANCE (Ken Iverson) Has As MAR, PAR, F BRE	FETRGIA
GERMANY (Stan Casella) Has As BER, MUN, F KIE	
ITALY (Bruce Calder) Has As ROM, VEN, F NAP	
RUSSIA (Keith Mercer) Has As MOS, WAR, Fs STP(sc), SEV	RAGITEF
TURKEY (David Hicks) Has As CON, SMY, F ANK	TEAGFIR

So you don't get lost, here are your addresses;

Tim Burton...58 Oak Ave., Huntington Station, New York 11746
 Bruce Calder...805 49th Ave., Lachine, Quebec H8T 2T3
 Stan Casella...1627 N. Latrobe, Chicago, Illinois 60639
 Francois Cuerrier...Box 32, Station A, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 0T9
 David Hicks...5846 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45224
 Ken Iverson...52 Sawmill Rd., Gilbert, Minnesota 55741
 Keith Mercer...R.D.#6, Old Ash Road, Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137

Spring 1901 orders are due May 1st, but I'll give an extension if anyone asks.

1979-IH Winter 1906 & Spring 1907

ENGLAND (Doug Karnes) Build F LPL, A EDI, F LON; A Edi-BEL, F NTH C A Edi-BEL, F STP(nc) holds, F NWY S F STP(nc), A Ber-MUN, A RUH S A Ber-MUN, F Bal-BER, F KIE S F Bal-BER, F Swe-BAL, F Lpl-IRI, F Lon-ENG.

FRANCE (Keith Mercer) Build A PAR; A PAR holds, A Mun-BOH, A TYO-Vie, A TRI S A TYO-Vie, A VEN S A TRI, A UKR-Gal, F Apu-ADR, F ION S F Apu-ADR, F TYR S F ION, F TUN S F ION, F Nap-APU.

RUSSIA (Pete Fuchs) Remove F Lvn, A War; A MOS-Sev, A GAL-Rum, A VIE S FRENCH A TYO-Tri (NSO).

TURKEY (Bob Kluge) A SEV-Ukr, A RUM-Gal, A BUD S RUSSIAN A VIE, F Adr-Tri (dislodged, retreat to Alb or OTB), A SER S F Adr-Tri, F Aeg-GRE, A BUL S F Aeg-GRE, F Con-AEG, F EAS S F Con-AEG.

Again the F-E and F-E-T draws failed, and have been repropoed. Your vote, the Turkish retreat, and Fall 1907 orders are due May 1st.

1976-CJ Fall 1918

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

GERMANY (Randolph Smyth) A Bel holds, A Hol S A Bel, F Den-Swe, A Mar holds, A Pie S A Mar, A Tyo-Tri, A Ven S A Tyo-Tri (dislodged, may retreat to Tyo, Apu, or OTB), A Bud S A Tyo-Tri, A Vie S A Bud, A Gal S A Bud, A Sil S A Gal.

Turkey (Fred Winter) F Tus-Tyr, F Nap S F Tus-Tyr, F Ion-Tun, F Aeg-Ion, A Tri-Ven, F Adr S A Tri-Ven, A Apu-Rom, A Rum S A Ser, A Ser S A Rum, A Sev S A Rum, F Bla S A Sev.

SUPPLY CENTERS

ENGLAND (11): Home, Mos, StP, War, Nwy, Por, Bre, Spa, Tun - lost Swe - must remove one.

GERMANY (12): Home plus Austria, Den, Hol, Bel, Par, Mar, Swe - lost Ven; took Tri, Swe - may build one.

TURKEY (11): Home plus Italy, Bul, Ser, Rum, Gre, Sev - lost Tri; took Ven - even.

Thank you Ken Iverson, for unneeded standby orders.

A three way draw has been proposed. Your votes, plus Winter '18 and Spring '19 are due May 1st.

1977-AI Spring 1912

AUSTRIA (Pete Keltch) A Mos S RUSSIAN A StP, A Lvn S RUSSIAN A StP, A Pru S A Lvn, A Tyo holds, A Boh S A Tyo, A Vie S A Tyo, F Adr-Ion, A Gre holds, A Alb S A Gre, A Bul-Ser, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con, A Syr-Smy.

ENGLAND (Francois Cuerrier) A Gas holds, F Mid-Wes, A Lon-Bel, F Eng C A Lon-Bel, A Mun-Sil, A Ruh-Mun, F Ber-Pru, F Kie-Ber, F Bal-Lvn, F Bar-StP(nc), F Nwy S F Bar-StP(nc), F Fin S F Bar-StP(nc).

ITALY (Ron Kelly) A Bur S ENGLISH A Mun (moving), A Pie-Tyo, A Ven S A Pie-Tyo, A Rom S A Ven, A Apu-Nap, F Ion-Apu, F Tyr-Ion, F Aeg S F Tyr-Ion.

RUSSIA (Tom Kissner) A StP holds (annihilated).

1977-AI continued

PRESS VIENNA TO LONDON: By Imperial Decree we cede all Hapsburg claim to the throne of Spain and Spanish possessions to England.

VIENNA: Exhilaration gripped the city when news of the liberation of Greece was received. However, the plight of the pitiful refugees from Munich has aroused great emotion. But the greatest outrage is reserved for the base Italians who have stabbed Austria in the back. The Prince Regent and a glittering audience attended a performance of Giuseppe Verdi's "Attila" last evening. The performance was interrupted by repeated calls of "Encore!" during the aria "L'impone" by Ezio upon the line, "Roma nel vil cadavere chi cavvisare or pio?" (Who can now recognize Rome in this vile corpse?). Afterwards this reporter asked the Prince Regent why was Italian opera being performed, considering the current international situation? He replied, "Culture is international and knows no boundaries." Then, with a twinkle in his eye, he added, "Next year or so we must attend a performance at La Scala!"

Is this the end of an era, or will Russia pull off the comeback of the century? Tune in on May 1st to find out.

1979-CG At long last... Spring 1905!

ENGLAND (Mike Conner) A Hol-BEL, F Den-SKA, F Hel-DEN, F NTH S F Hel-DEN, F Nrg-BAR, F EDI-Nrg.

FRANCE (Clive Tonge) A Mar-Bur (NSU), A PIE holds, A Bur-RUH, A MUN S A Bur-RUH, A Par-PIC, A BRE holds, F Mid-IRI.

GERMANY (Al Rodriguez) A KIE S ENGLISH F Hel-DEN, A Ruh S A KIE (dislodged, may retreat to Hol or OTB).

ITALY (Francois Cuerrier) A Vie-TYO, A VEN S A Vie-TYO, A BUD S A SER, A SER S A BUD, A Alb-TRI, F Ion-AEG, F GRE S F Ion-AEG, F Adr-ION, F Rom-TUS.

RUSSIA (Trevor Baillie) F Nwy-Nrg, A STP-Nwy, F BAL-Den, F SWE S F BAL-Den, A War-GAL, A BUL holds, A RUM S A BUL, F SEV S A RUM.

TURKEY (Gary Coughlan) F EAS-Aeg, F BLA-Sev, A CON-Bul.

PRESS LON - CON: We may be in this thing alone. With one notable exception, yours are the only letters I've received in the last 3 months!

TEXAS - CANADA: I know the postal service is slow, but this is ridiculous!

LON - PAR: Silence is not golden. It tarnishes.

PARIS TO RUSSIA: Well, nows your chance to wipe out Germany.

PARIS (UPI SPECIAL): The President announced today that his government would support the oppressed British peoples.

TURKEY TO MY MOST FAITHFUL CORRESPONDENT: As you can clearly see, I have done as you asked. Now fulfill your part of the bargain.

CONSTANTINOPLE: In the months since winter, Turkey has seen the birth of 17 little sultans and sultanesses! All of the sultans shall bear the name of "Ontario Toronto" and all of the little sultanesses will be called "Ontario Ottawa" related a proud Francois Trevor, Sultan of Turkey. It is hoped that these births and names are noted in the proper foreign capitals.

THE SULTAN TO ITALY AND RUSSIA: Have I said yet how much I love Canada this turn? Some of my best friends are Canadians and I hope neither of you do anything that might change that impression!

WATER RAT TO KIEL: I seem to have lost your press. Sorry.

The German retreat and Fall 1905 orders are due on commie Francois' favorite day, May 1st.

1980-AR Fall 1904

AUSTRIA (Bob Osuch) A Bud S A Tri (annihilated), A Tri S A Bud (annihilated).

ENGLAND (Barry Hickey) F CLY S F Wal-Lpl (No Such Wal), F Edi-NRG.

FRANCE (Don Tinker) A TUN holds, F WES-Tyr, A Pie-TYO, A Mar-SPA, A Naf holds (NSU), A YOR S GERMAN F Nth-EDI, F Wal-LPL, F IRI S F Wal-LPL.

GERMANY (Mike Conner) F Nth-EDI, F Nwy-STP(nc), F BOT S F Nwy-STP(nc), A Ber-PRU, A Kie-MUN, A Boh-GAL, A Tyo-VIE.

ITALY (Mike Mills) F TYR-Wes, F Nap-ROM, A VEN holds, A APU S A VEN.

RUSSIA (Eric Verheiden) F StP(sc) holds (dislodged, retreat to Fin, Lvn, or OTB), A War-SIL, A Gal-BUD, A RUM S A Gal-BUD, F SEV S A RUM.

TURKEY (James Woodson) A Ser-TRI, F ADR S A Ser-TRI, F ALB S A Ser-TRI, A Bul-SER, F Gre-ION, F AEG S F Gre-ION.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (0): Lost Bud, Tri, Vie - out!

ENGLAND (0): Lost Edi, Lpl - out!

FRANCE (9): Home, Por, SPA, Bel, Lon, TUN, LPL - took TUN, LPL - may build two.

GERMANY (10): Home, Hol, Swe, Den, Nwy, VIE, STP, EDI - took VIE, STP, EDI - may build three, but only room for two.

ITALY (3): Home - lost Tun - must remove one.

RUSSIA (5): Mos, SEV, War, RUM, BUD - lost StP; took BUD - even.

TURKEY (7): Home, Bul, Gre, SER, TRI - took TRI - may build one.

PRESS CON - VIE: Love that Spring move, Bob. Eternal Thanks are yours.

TRIESTE: In his first tour of duty Crown Prince Ensign Amun participated in the bombardment of the coastal defenses at Trieste.

MOSCOW TO BERLIN: Gee, all those nice postcards and now you go and snatch StP. What's the world coming to?

THE ROME TRIBUNE: The French PM lies! Several times since the release calling for the French intervention in the Italian peninsula, The Royal House of Savoy has asked for the evacuation of French forces from Italy. And if the lowly DeClasse could read correctly, the original intervention order was dependent on Austrian occupation of Venice, which never occurred. This coupled with the French strike at Tunis cannot hide the blatant expansionist plans of France. DeClasse cannot use anything coming from Rome or DeSica as an excuse. Regardless of his rantings and wimpering excuses his attacks on Italian territory are nothing more than stabs.

CAESAR BULLETIN #4: So dis isa how da world gonna be? Da Sarr, da Hapsburger, me anda da English fella all gonna losa to da Frogman, da Black Kaiser anda da Turkman! Well I hopes youse fellas gonna settle fer da tree way draw, ora what littles left ina Italia is gonna slit all youse throats. What says you Sarr?

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY - CAESAR DeSICA: The lawyers, guns and money you have asked for are on the way!

CAESAR DeSICA - ALL FREEDOM LOVING GOVERNMENTS UNDER THE HEELS OF OPPRESSIVE REGIMES LIKE GERMANY, FRANCE AND TURKEY: Gentlemen, ina 1905 DeClasse willa be tossed fromda PMs seat, as it was ina real life! Italia unleashes OPERATION: SPARTICUS in Springa 1905 twoa free all da slaves of a da imperialist aggressors! Joinawidus! Anda we will drive da sloths backa twoa deir pools ofa da filth! Onawards.

DELCASSE: Elysses Palace released the news today that peace is almost attained in France's northern provinces. Aside from some New Hebridean pirates the Pax Franconia is upon the land.

more '80-AR press...

BUDAPEST DAILY BUGLE: From the desk of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs comes the Austrian farewell address. A bit premature perhaps, but only to be sure it is recorded:

"Goodbye, cruel world. As the city burns around me, I feel that, yes, this must indeed be Hades. Thus are the fortunes of a once-proud monarchy, thanks to our amicable neighbors. First, our southern ally must be congratulated for the large degree of paranoia he displayed by moving into a vacant Trieste in Fall of 1901. That's forgivable, General DeSica, because, in effect, it spelled your own doom. We are now, as the wise men are so apt to say, "... in a world of shit." To our eastern friend, the Yellow Scourge, at first we doubted your very existence due to the massive loads of communication that bombarded the palace doors. We can accept the impending collapse of our government at your hands, however, because our first objective was to clean your clock. Please feel free to reciprocate here. To the Russkies, no problem, we understand your plight. You should last to see fourth place. To Herr Conner, best of luck to my only true ally. Had you chosen an eastern campaign at first, we might have lived to see a bit further down the road, but such is life. The flames, no, getting closer, damn that Mr. Potato Head, gotta get outta here, no... too late, no place to go... damn... no, shirt's on fire... AAAAHHYEE... no way out... AAIIIIIIIEEE..."

ENGLAND - TINKER: Hope you choke on your dose of Newfie Screech.

ENGLAND - CONNER: I excrete on your dome.

ENGLAND - RUSSIA & TURKEY: Patch up your differences to be in position for the G-F internal stab.

ENGLAND - WORLD: Remember me in your memoirs.

Two down, five (or 4, or 3, or 2, or 1, or 0) to go.

The Russian retreat, Winter '04, and Spring '05 are due May 1.

1979-IA Winter 1904 only, by request

ENGLAND (Dave Carter) Build A LON, A LPL; has As KIE, LPL, LON, Fs DEN, HEL, HOL, MID.

FRANCE (Mark Lew) Has As GAS, BUR, PIC, RUH, Fs SPA(sc), MAR.

GERMANY (Paul Rauterberg) Has As BER, MUN.

ITALY (Doug Warfel) Has As BUD, VIE, TYO, VEN, Fs PIE, WES, NAF.

RUSSIA (Keith Sherwood) Retreat A Sev-MOS; remove F Swe; has As MOS, UKR, GAL, WAR.

TURKEY (Russ Pugh) Build F SMY, F CON; has As SEC, RUM, BUL, SER, Fs BLA, ION, SMY, CON.

PRESS ENGLAND: To whom it may concern - Bug off with your stupid I/T draw proposals.

I'm postponing most of the press until next time because it might spill a few Spring beans. Normally I print press ASAP unless requested otherwise, so please be careful.

As you may have guessed, the I-T draw proposal failed. Both Keith and Dave want it known that they voted 'no', and Dave will continue to do so. Also, Dave has proposed an E-F-I-R-T draw, and someone (not necessarily Dave) has proposed a G-R draw to be dedicated to John Kelley.

Since some of you voted on the matter of separate seasons, you should know that your votes are meaningless. Unless a rule change is proposed and accepted by all of you (and me), any request for a delay or separation will automatically be granted.

Spring 1905 orders and votes on both proposals are due May 1st.

1980-M Fall 1903

AUSTRIA (Jack Fleming) A Ukr-WAR, A GAL S A Ukr-WAR, A Rum-UKR, A Bud-RUM,
 A BUL S A Bud-RUM, F Alb-ION, F AEG S TURKISH F CON.
 ENGLAND (Garry Fairbairn) F Bar-STP(nc), F NWY holds, F Nth-ENG.
 FRANCE (Barry Hickey) F LPL holds, A Bel-Bur (annihilated), A MAR S A Bel-Bur,
 A PIC-Par, F Lyo-TUS, A SPA holds.
 GERMANY (Robert Goldberg) A BUR-Par, A Ruh-BEL, A HOL S A Ruh-BEL, F Den-SKA,
 F Kie-DEN.
 ITALY (John Davies) A PIE-Mar, A TUN-Spa, F WES C A TUN-Spa, F Tyr-LYO.
 RUSSIA (Randy Henn?) NMR; GM retreats A Ukr-OTB, F Nwy-OTB; F ANK holds,
 F BLA holds, A War holds (dislodged, retreat to Sil, Pru, Lvn, Mos, OTB),
 F SWE holds.
 TURKEY (John Shea) F CON holds. Whee.

SUPPLY CENTERS

AUSTRIA (8): Home, Ser, Gre, BUL, RUM, WAR - took WAR - may build one.
 ENGLAND (4): Edi, Lon, NWY, STP - lost Lpl; took NWY, STP - may build one.
 FRANCE (6): Home, Por, SPA, LPL - lost Bel; took LPL - even, but may build one.
 GERMANY (6): Home, DEN, HOL, BEL - took BEL - may build one.
 ITALY (4): Home, TUN - even.
 RUSSIA (4): Mos, Sev, SWE, ANK - lost Nwy, StP, War; took ANK - even.
 TURKEY (2): CON, Smy - lost Ank - but may build one.

PRESS CONSTANTINOPLE - WORLD: Was I Wazir?

SMYRNA - WORLD:

Yesterday
 Postage troubles seemed so far away
 Fifteen cents was all we had to pay
 Oh, I believe in yesterday

 Suddenly
 Eighteen cents to play Diplomacy
 A cloud of debt is hanging over me
 Soon I'll be in bankruptcy

 Why the rate went up
 I don't know, I just can't say
 We'll all soon be poor
 How I long for yesterday

 Yesterday
 This was such an easy game to play
 Now my hair is starting to turn gray
 A Bronx cheer for the U.S.A.

And stop that laughing, you Canadians.

CONSTANTINOPLE - WORLD: According to the BYZANTINE BLAB, Moslem Prelate Abdul
 Sh'em Alimcgraw has recently changed his name to Cassius Clay.

In further news, the sixth shiek's sixth sheep is sick.

LONDON - BERLIN: The taste is sweet.

LONDON - ROME: Is Marseilles burning?

Will Glenn Overby (23096 Tawas,, Hazel Park, Michigan 48030) please standby for
 Russia?

As of April 15, Garry Fairbairn will have a new address... 1309 Conn Avenue,,
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 3K9.

Spring '04 orders may be made contingent upon the Winter '03 orders, and both
 are due May 1st.

1979-KK Winter 1905 & Spring 1906

AUSTRIA (Pete Fuchs) F AEG-Smy, A BUL-Con, F Nap-TYR, F ION S F Nap-TYR, F ROM S F Nap-TYR, A PIE holds, A VEN S A PIE, A TYO S RUSSIAN A MUN, A GAL S RUSSIAN A Sil-WAR.

ENGLAND (Doug Karnes) Build A EDI, F LON; A STP-Mos, F BAR-StP(nc), F Swe-BAL, F NWY holds, A KIE S FRENCH A BUR-Mun, F DEN S A KIE, A Edi-BEL, F NTH C A Edi-BEL, F Lon-ENG.

FRANCE (Don Tinker) A NAF S ITALIAN F Tyr-TUN, F WES-Tyr, F Lyo-TUS, A MAR-Pie, A BUR-Mun, A HOL S ENGLISH A KIE.

GERMANY (Trevor Baillie) A War-Mos (dislodged, may retreat to Ukr, Pru, Lvn, OTB).

ITALY (Eric Verheiden) F Tyr-TUN.

RUSSIA (Dave Rue) Retreat A Kie-BER, F Den-HEL; remove F He1, F Ba1; F Con-ANK, F BLA S F Con-ANK, A Sil-WAR, A MOS holds, A MUN S A BER, A BER S A MUN.

TURKEY (Pete Ashley) A SMY-Con, F Ank S A SMY-Con (dislodged, retreat Arm or OTB).

PRESS FRANCE - FUCHS: Will you send in some press? All this silence broken only by the sound of cats breaking wind, is bad for the morale of the GM.

GM - FRANCE: Speak for yourself. All this silence is easy to type.

Thanks to Deane Sperdakos for unnecessary standby orders.

The retreats and Fall 1906 orders are due May 1st.

BATTLESHIP Mike Conner vs Ralph Morton

Mike's shots

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	1											1
2			5									
3	5		1		5						1	
4		5	5			2				2		
5			5	2	1		2	1				
6	5	5			2	1	1		2			
7				2		1	1	2				
8	4	4	2		2	2	2	4	2			
9			4	1	4	2	3	2	1	4		
10			4	4	2	3	3	3	3	5	4	
11		1		4	3	3		3		3	1	
12	1			5	3		3					1

Ralph's shots

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	3	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	3	3	1	3
2	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	3
3	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	3
4	4	4	4		1	2	2	1		4	4	4
5	5	4		5		1	1		5		4	5
6	5	4			5	2	2	5			4	5
7					2	3	3	2				
8						4	4					
9						4	4	5	5	5	5	5
10						4	4					
11												
12												

Ralph's ship status

Round	1	2	3	4	5
AC					
B					
C		1 hit		sunk	
D			1 hit		
S					
S					

Mike's ship status

Round	1	2	3	4	5
AC	3 hits	sunk			
B			1 hit	1 hit	SUNK!
C					
D					
S			sunk		
S					

For Round 6, Mike gets 6 shots, and Ralph gets 13.

BATTLESHIP James Woodson vs Tim Burton

James' shots

Tim's shots

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1				3				2				2
2				2				3				
3		2				2			3		2	
4				3			3		2			
5	1	1	1	1				3				
6	1	1	1	1		3		2		3		2
7	1	1	1	1		2						
8	1	1	1	1					2			3
9					3							
10		3			2		3					2
11		2					2				3	
12					3				2			

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1										1		
2			1								2	1
3						1				2		
4											1	2
5					1		3		1	2		
6											2	
7		1		3		3	1		2			2
8		3			3			2		1	2	
9	3		3	1		3	2	3	2			1
10				3		3		1		2	2	
11		3	1		3			2				2
12				3		1	3		2		1	

Tim's ship status

Round	1	2	3
AC		1 hit	2 hits
B			
C		1 hit	1 hit
D			
S		sunk	
S			

James' ship status

Round	1	2	3
AC			2 hits
B	1 hit		
C	1 hit		
D		sunk	
S			
S			

PRESS ROSEVILLE (MINNESOTA MARITIME PRESS): Chief advisor Bruce N. Torp has been given the title of Secretary of War by the President, after his skillful direction in the sinking of an enemy submarine. The entire population of the IRM is mourning the deaths of the crew of the IRS Hubert H. Humphrey, a destroyer that went down with all hands in a battle in Lake Huron. The Secretary also reported minor damage sustained during the battle by the carrier IRS Charles Lindbergh and guided missile cruiser IRS Walter F. Mondale.

NEW YORK NAVAL HEADQUARTERS: It is rumored here that there is great consternation among the Admirals concerning the recent strategic turnaround of the enemy. The adoption of the "Random Search and Destroy Approach" used with some success by our own forces, has been profitable for them as well. Jubilant crowds meanwhile celebrate the heroism of the valiant crew of the submarine 'Neptune I', who, although lost themselves, managed to destroy the destroyer that destroyed them.

For Round 4 Tim still gets 15, and James still gets 14.

THE CASE FOR PHONING NMR PLAYERS
by Francois Cuerrier

Phoning NMR players has rarely been favoured as a viable solution by GMs in this hobby. Yet, I don't see why this should be so: after all, NMRs can often be quite damaging to the game as a whole. A player may take undue advantage of a crucial season miss by another player to blow away all meaningful opposition and march on to win. Or yet - early in the game - a player may be advantaged by his opponent's NMR more than anyone else. Yet, this is supposedly a game where "Chance plays no part" (Rulebook, 1971, Preamble), where "nothing...(is)...left to luck alone". What is an NMR, if not a manifestation of a mild form of luck?

Reducing the impact of NMRs on the game (without trespassing the limits of the influence a GM should have on the game) would therefore appear to be a good idea. Phoning NMR players does just this. Still, some persons in this hobby frown on this practice. This will be a look at the major con arguments.

(1) "Phoning NMR players is an artificial way of maintaining player interest." This seems to make a lot of sense - after all, a player may have dropped out if the GM hadn't phoned him repeatedly, season after season, after... Yet, this isn't a major problem. The GM could easily avoid this if he imposes some limits on the system. For instance, he may say that he will not phone a player more than a certain number of times (e.g., for three NMRs per year, or, for two NMRs within three game-years, etc.). Or he may still label the player as being NMR for that season (while using his orders all the same) and call for a standby. If the original player NMRs again, the GM doesn't call him but rather replaces him.

(2) "This is a postal game, so GMs should not phone players for their missing orders." While I suppose this is in part true, I just can't go that far. Phoning a player for his orders does not eliminate the postal character of the game - after all, the game is about negotiating and not so much about submitting orders by mail. By calling players, the GM does not reduce the importance of postal negotiations.

And besides, GMs will - most of the time - readily accept phoned-in orders from the player. Why not do the reverse (viz, call the player for his missing orders)? To me, there seems to be little - if any - difference...! Also, players often negotiate by phone. And nothing can be done about this - all "this is a postal game" balderdash notwithstanding. It would seem to me that if phone negotiations are possible, then there hardly is any point in placing limits on the order submission process.

(3) "This practice favours richer players." So what, really? It could be just as easily be argued that we should somehow place a limit on the number of letters a player can send - after all, richer players can better afford sending lots of letters, which also gives them an advantage.

But is wealth really relevant here (especially if the GM sets a limit on the number of calls he will make...)? Anyone can afford the occasional collect call, unless you are a Zulu living in Lesotho (but then, he would be unlikely to play Diplomacy, wouldn't he...). If a \$3000-a-year University student such as I can afford \$30 phone bills, so does the bio-chemist earning \$22 K. a year... It's only a matter of resource allocation, quite parallel to deciding how many letters to write in a given game.

(4) "The GM should not be responsible for getting orders from his players." I agree 100%, but this argument is specious. Just the same as a GM takes the bother to open his mail box every morning (after all, he doesn't have to, he isn't responsible for getting orders...), I don't see why a GM should object to calling his NMR players collect if he has the time. Also, isn't it the GMs job to try and give everyone a better game? Calling NMR players collect does just that...

(5) "GMing demands quite a bit of work, and phoning players takes quite a bit of time - the GM does not have the time to deal with players so irresponsible and uncaring that they NMRed." This has proven to be rather false from my own GMing experience... and believe you me, I think I can speak with some authority when I say that I have plenty of time to call such players in spite of an already heavy publishing and GMing workload.

But anyhow... the GM doesn't so much promise to phone NMR players whenever they NMR than whenever he - the GM - has enough time to do so under this policy... which should resolve all time-related problems.

(As an aside, however, I might point out that a GM following this policy should be sure to phone all NMR players (who gave their permission to be called collect) when he calls any, for justice's sake.)

(6) "NMRs are good, because only the other players NMR... I like NMRs..." Well, I suppose there's an element of truth in this (somewhat egocentric) argument, but here again it is specious. Was Diplomacy intended to be a game where NMRs decide who does well and who doesn't? I hardly think so, and prefer to believe that the game really was intended to be "a game of skill and cunning negotiations...(testing) your ability to outwit your fellow players in diplomatic negotiations."

The defence rests its case.

A REPLY

Hogwash! I don't think my arguments are specious, and probably wouldn't even if I knew what it meant!

Actually, most of Francois' numbered arguments make sense, but none of them cover my main objection to phoning NMRing players. It's hard to express, but I see Diplomacy as a game of self-determination.

Although phoning soon-to-be-NMRed players is a legitimate option, I think it detracts from the game and infringes upon the players' responsibility, and therefore upon their rights. It is similar to a GM delaying a game due to an NMR, or a GM proposing a concession; the game may run more smoothly, but the GM is assuming that smooth is better, and imposing his opinions upon the players.

No matter how minor or how well intentioned it is, phoning players is interference, by the GM, which I don't like. Big Brother won't save you in CHEESECAKE.

OVERDUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Three new 'zines which I receive are; EUROPA EXPRESS (Gary Coughlan,,4614 Martha Cole Lane,,Memphis, Tennessee 38118), THE WHITE DUKE (Steve Shaddix,,5486 Butano Way,,Rocklin, California 95677), and THE CHAMBER (David Manuel,,10318 Oakgate St.,,Bellflower, California 90706). I like some better than others, but suggest you send for samples and make your own decisions.

Mike Mills' second annual 'ZINE DIRECTORY came out a few months ago, and contains valuable subscription type info on all known Diplomacy magazines. Send 50¢ to... 1585 Quaker Rd.,,Macedon, New York 14502.

Glenn Overby is conducting a census of North American players, and asks all publishers to send him a copy of their mailing lists. Glenn's address is... 23096 Tawas,,Hazel Park, Michigan 48030. Also ask for a sample of his 'zine JIHAD.

I'm supposed to do a CDO (Canadian Diplomacy Organization) census, but it now seems redundant.

Jack Masters (25711 North Vista Fairways Drive,,Valencia, California 91355), publisher of BLACK FROG, has openings in a game of Cosmic Encounter. There is no gamefee.