

Now, from the market place of Tarzana, let's have a...

CENTURION #11

issue # eleven

Tarzana, California

10 October 1975

CENTURION GAME OPENINGS...YOUNGESTOWN NUMBER TWO (2): We have openings in a YV game for \$1 gamefee + 50% deposit + sub (or trade). We have two interested so far. HURRY. LAST VARIANT OF THE YEAR TO OPEN IN CENTURION. Map provided if you need it. And rules.

CENTURION's game C5G opens with this issue. We have 5 openings in C5H, probably the last reg. Diplomacy game this year. Well.....Why not try your luck

THE RUSSIAN BEAR AFLOAT:

A History of Russians At Sea AD 940-1975 (or 1976...)

by Michael George Homeier

...Unbeknownst to him, this time Tsar Nikolai I Romanov had bitten off far more than he could chew. For it seems that Britain and France, alarmed at the prospect of a powerful Russia upsetting the delicate European balance of power, and recognizing that the crumbling Ottoman Empire, the "Sick Man of Europe", would be Russia's next imperialistic target, signed a military alliance with the Turks and planned to carry the war, when it came, to the Russians.

But this was all in the future, and the Russian Tsar knew nothing of it. Needless to say, the Turkish Navy fared no better against its Russian counterpart in this conflict than it had in all the numerous previous Russo-Turkish wars, with the Turkish Fleet annihilated at the Battle of Sinope on 30 November 1853.

Russian control of the Black Sea was quickly usurped with the entry of the Anglo-French battle fleet into those waters in 1854, as the old-fashioned muzzle-loading sail-driven Russian fleet was clearly no match for her enemies' modern breech-loading-rifled steam-driven vessels. The Russian Black Sea Fleet retired to safety in the Sea of Azov, and was stripped of its guns as artillery was needed to reduce the Allies' bridgehead in the Crimea.

The next tsar, Aleksandr II, recognized Russia's defeat in the Crimea, and was forced to sign a severe and humiliating armistice at Paris in 1856 which, together with negating all Russian claims as protector of Christians in Moslem lands, dictated that Russia was to be prohibited to maintain a fleet on the Black Sea. Thus, centuries-old Russian naval presence in the Black Sea was ended. But only temporarily.

The Russians worked earnestly to get the Treaty of Paris nullified, and, in the interest of improved Anglo-Russian relations, the British agreed to sign the Treaty of London on 13 March 1871, whereby Russia was allowed to reconstruct her Black Sea Fleet. Understandably, the Turks, who opposed the London agreement strenuously, were furious, and from that point on the Turks, ~~whom the British~~ and British didn't get along so well, especially when Turkish fears were proven accurate by the inconclusive Russo-Turkish war of 1875-1878, when the revitalized Russian Black Sea Fleet rerrorized the Turkish coast at will.

Although for the next twenty-six years the Russian Navy on paper came to be one of the strongest in the world, there were serious deficiencies in the Fleet not included in Jane's Fighting Ships. The most important of many, and the one which was to prove fatal for the Romanov dynasty in another twelve years, was the fact that the vast majority of all Russian sailors were city-bred. It is important to note that while the uneducated, usually docile peasant was the mainstay of the Russian Army, the literate, well-read city (and revolutionary) dwellers crewed the the Navy's warships.

Russian arms remained quiet for a quarter of a century (excluding the Chinese interventions following the "Boxer Rebellion") until suddenly the peace erupted into direct conflict with Japanese expansion westwards into Siberia, the Amur River Basin, and Manchuria (the Russian's move into these areas from the west.) And the situation favored the Japanese over the Russian's drastically.

Tsar Nikolai II's naval deployments had waived Russia's considerable preponderance in modern iron-clad battleships to Japan. It is, however, true that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE #2

THIS IS CENTURION, a magazine of postal Diplomacy and related and unrelated matters. Subscriptions are 8/\$2, and that includes playing in a game of regular Diplomacy. Extra games are \$1. Back issues (##2-6, 8-10) sell for a mere 30¢. Sub rate goes up NOVEMBER THIRD to TEN FOR THREE DOLLARS (10/\$3). Sorry. CENTURION solicits articles and pays 4 free issues for those over 1 page and 2 for those less than that. For permission to reprint articles, write me. Diplomacy is a registered trademark by Games Research Incorporated (Box 18 N, Boston, MA 02118) for a game invented by Allan Calhamer. So...

RUSSIAN BEAR AFLOAT, CONTINUED

seven battleships stationed at Russia's main naval base in the Far East, Port Arthur, (namely, Tservich, Petropavlovsk, Peresviet, Poltava, Sevastapol, Retvizan, and Pobieda) were the cream of the Russian Navy, moderately old ships, but crewed with the best Russia had to offer--thus, crewed very well.

Still, the Russians were at a disadvantage. Port Arthur was connected to Russia's shipyards and repair works by a treacherous, single-tracked spur of railroad known as the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Because the Trans-Siberian was constantly breaking down, parts and equipment, and supplies for Russia's Manchurian Army took many weeks to make the crossing, when they succeeded in crossing at all. The Japanese had no such problem, their excellent yards and bases being within easy sailing distance of the scene of battle. To compound all their other problems, the Russian 1st Pacific Squadron suffered from not only a grave lacking of preparedness but also a crippling lack of ability and initiative in senior officers.

The Japanese, true to an oft-repeated form, moved quickly once war was inevitable, and prior to any declaration of war, Japanese torpedo boats made a surprise sortie into Port Arthur on 8 February 1904, covering the transport of Japanese troops to China. Although presented with the incredible targets of battleships at anchor without torpedo nets, and engaging in no anti-torpedo activity whatsoever, the Japanese failed to do worse damage than putting the Tsesarevich and Retvizan out of action for a few days.

The remaining five Russian battleships sortied from Port Arthur the following day and engaged the numerically superior Japanese Fleet. Although the Russian fire was described by the Japanese as "always on target", most of the Russian shells fell over or short. The Japanese, on the other hand, with superior weapons, range, and optical equipment, scored worse than their enemy, and after a few hours of this inconclusive action, the Russian admiral Makharov steered back to Arthur, while the Japanese admiral Togo took up blockade station outside the port.

By now the Russian Manchurian Army, outnumbered, outgunned, and in constant state of unsupply, was driven down the Liaotung Peninsula and into Port Arthur, whereupon long-range Japanese Howitzers commenced a deadly bombardment of the interior of the Russian naval base. Prodded by this withering rain of death, Makharov sortied against the Japanese on 13 April 1904. Things were going spectacularly well for the Russians when suddenly Makharov's flagship Petropavlovsk struck a mine and sank, and in the ensuing confusion the Russians were herded back into Arthur.

Admiral Wiren, Makharov's successor, sortied one last time with the Arthur squadron on 10 August 1904 in an attempt to break out from the doomed Port and join up with the cruisers in Vladivostok. The Russian ships, ill-repaired and with numerous guns removed by the Army for the port's defense, were kicked back into Arthur by the accurate scoring of Togo's ships, and only Tsesarevich escaped to internment for the rest of the war in China. The Russian fleet was now totally disarmed, and when the Russian Army surrendered Port Arthur to the besieging Japanese forces, the 1st Pacific Squadron blew itself up.

Although public opinion was dead-set against the war, and although the revolutionaries were gaining in strength due to Russia's reverses in the Far East, Tsar Nikolai II calmly decided to carry the war to the enemy, and ordered the Baltic Sea Fleet to sail to Japan, crush the Japanese fleet, relieve the siege of Port Arthur, and carry on the war to a successful conclusion. But the Baltic Sea

I just recieved GASSED #2 12. GASSED is done by David Truman, of 50 Stephanie St, Apt 1510, Tronto, ONTARIO CANADA M5T 1B3. Subs are \$2/year's worth of GASSED, or apx. 13 issues/year. OOPS, \$2.50 year in the USA (includes airmail). Gamefee is \$5 for a regular game, or \$12 for a prize game. Gamefee includes airmail sub to the U. S. of A. Computer Printout.

LIBERTERREAN, an OFFSET (!) zine published by Jim Bumpas, 948 Lorraine Ave, Ios Altos, CA 94022. Has game openings in regular Diplomacy for a \$2 refundable deposit + sub. Subs are 8/\$2, well worth it. I've played in one of Jim's games and can certify that this is published bi-weekly, on time (since I've been receiving it) and is always reedable. Highly reccomended.

THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE #39, is a usual good diplomacy zine done by Robert Lipton (box 1962, Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042) and HAS game openings at... \$7.00 for most of you all, \$6 if you Play in TMG, and \$3.50 if you trade with him. Has DNYMPA Xprotection. Mimeo, 12 pages, reccomended.

THE MASTER MACHIAVELLIAN #13, their anniversery (1st) issue, and it si, is done by Mike Homeier (238 N. Bowling Green Way, Los Angeles, CA 90049) and sells for 10/\$2. Has openings in reg. Dip for \$1 plus sub, and Colonia for \$1.50 =sub.Ditto.
=====+

SUB RATE JUSTIFIED:

Here's how the sub rate worsk (works) out: mainly the increase:

old price	25¢	per issue (8/\$2)
	+ 3¢	first raise-USPS rate hike
	<u>28¢</u>	SUBTOTAL
	+ 2¢	fund for DipCon X, 20¢ per 10 issue sub goes to it
	<u>30¢</u>	TOTAL

So, I don't make any more money off the new rate. I don't make any money as is, or do I...

-----XX

THE VILLAIN OF BELGRADE:
an anonymous press release

BLEGRADE (Game---you figure it out):His ex-royal highness, Senor Jaun Valdez, prince of Montenegro, Leader of the Slavs, and holder of other 'unimportant' offices, was weeping. His small, 400,000 man army destroyed by 77 jesters of the Austrian Armed Forces. "X" the mark of the ryal unjester, Sir Anthony la Marcos, holder of the NEWDA award for non-existancy, had spread the word...he challanged Senor Juan Valdez, prince of Montenegro..., to a duel.

Three weeks later, at the Belgrad Gym, Senor Juan Valdez, and Sir Anthony la Marcos stepped in the square. The referee, Bernie Goldstien, sat on top of his elevated seat on top of the "Forum". They stepped into the square, and Mr. Goldstien started the music..."!" ((?)) some old Kentucky square dance musci was played; so the square began to dance...it changed into a ring, 500' by 2.91" It widened a little...

TO BE CONTINUED

((decent press, people))

XX

Why not subscribe to THE POCKET ARMENIAN, a 12 page mimeo (very readable) tri-weekly magazine??? It sells for 8/\$2, 8/\$2 again. Write Scott Rosenberg, 182-31 Radnor Road, Jamaica, New York 11432 for more on this fabulous gamezine. Its' contents include:A demonstration game with anaylisis (1974CL); a couple press-release series; a few games, esjpecially 1974GU &1974ID...Watch me lose... and of course lost space is never (?), but lots of articles, enough to make you mad. One of the best gamezines in the hobby. Definatly write behind CENTURION in the top 10. Unfortunately, one of that zine's editors, seems to hate me... write Scott? By the way, it's not Scott...

THAT FILLED UP SPACE, no space-filler...

