

Command

ISSUE #8

AUGUST 1976

As you can see, COMMAND has gone to ditto. Offset printing was nice, but expensive; in Virginia I was able to get 100 pages printed for a price that was only losing me a few dollars an issue. After a frantic two-week search, issue #7 was printed at a 54% increase. Rather than raise my sub rates (they are already higher than most) I decided to invest in a ditto machine. This new format will allow me to publish every three weeks; issue #10 will come out three weeks after #9. Those games with Canadian players will probably still be run on monthly deadlines. More about this later.

The postcard notification of Winter builds has been a huge flop. 1975IV was the only game in which it worked. The biggest problem, apparently, is the slower mail service between the United States and Canada. In 1976F, I decided to extend the deadline when the Canadian player missed his builds. In 1976G, I had to replace one of the players whose sub had run out (he later resubscribed and is still in the game) and felt that more time was needed for negotiations. In 1976V a post office mix-up and a player's request for an extension were the reasons for the mix-up in the deadlines. Also in that game I incorrectly accepted two builds from Turkey who was only entitled to one. Finally, in 1976BT, both the Canadian players in the game missed the turn, leading me to believe the fault lay with the postal service and not the players.

I have had a request to run a section of Gibraltar II, the Diplomacy variant that was published in the latest issue of Diplomacy World (Vol. 3 No. 2). If interested let me know - send no money at this time. Diplomacy World is available from Walt Buchanan, RR #3, Box 324, Lebanon, Indiana 46052 for \$4.00/year (4 issues). I will not reprint the rules and map here. (DW is highly recommended even if you are not interested in the variant).

I have had eight responses to my request for stand-by players for Diplomacy; I can always use more. At present the stand-by list is: Grabar, Cook, Blank, Luchs, Acheson, Mitchell, Fabry, and Johnston. As of 7/19/76 there are 49 subscribers to COMMAND. I also trade with 15 other zines: Everything, Impassable, Diplomacy World, Libertarian, Centurion, Dynasty, St. George and the Dragon, Speculum, Runestone, Erehwon, Stab, Ruritania, The Diplomatic Journal, Tetracuspid, and Quendi Khazad Dum.

The U.S. Postal Service has announced the possibility of another postage increase, probably 16¢ or 17¢ for first class postage by the beginning of 1977. I would like to issue a request to the officers of the IDA to appoint a committee to look into the possibility of lobbying against the increase and for return of government subsidy to our mail services. I would also like to urge all other publishers to band together in this effort. Another increase is a very serious threat to our postal hobby. It is

...the idea of us to put aside
 policy differences and unite behind
 a common cause. Petitions and
 letter-writing campaigns to our
 congressmen may not do the job, but
 we'll never know until we try. If
 such an effort is to have any chance
 of success, it must be organized,
 and I can think of no one in a
 better position to organize such a
 movement than the IDA.

This issue is a little late
 because I wanted to wait until I
 returned from OriginsII and the
 annual DipCon so that I could
 announce the winner. A partial
 report appears after the games.
 Next month I hope to have a full
 report on the convention as well as
 a full list of all the players in
 the DipCon and their scores.

Finally, I'd like to announce
 a contest to be run here. The con-
 test is based on the game Mastermind
 which is rapidly growing in pop-
 ularity. The rules are very simple;
 the purpose of the game is to dis-
 cover a hidden five-digit number.
 This is done by submitting test
 numbers (that is guesses); for
 every digit that corresponds di-
 rectly, you score 10 points. For
 every digit that appears in the
 hidden number, but is in the wrong
 place you score 1 point. The game
 continues until someone deduces the
 correct number (50 points). For
 example, suppose the hidden number
 is 63530 and you submit 13855 as
 your first guess. I would tell you
 that your score is 11 (10 points
 for the 3 and one point for a 5).
 You may submit one guess each month
 (three weeks when the deadlines
 change). First prize will be 3
 issues of COMMAND added to your sub
 plus one free game entry. Second
 prize (highest score at any time
 during the game) is a free issue.
 Traders are welcome to play. Any
 questions?

 NEWS

Adam Gruen's DYNASTY has merged
 with Robert Goldman's THE MORAVIAN
 GAZETTE. The new zine will be called
 MORAVIAN DYNASTY. Each issue will
 be published by one editor on an
 alternating basis, and will be 12
 pages long. Subs will go for

1975/1976... For more information
 contact Adam Gruen, 377 North 35th,
 Harrison, New York 10428.

 1975IV COM1

Winter 1904

England build A Edin, A London

France build A Marseilles

Austria remove A Greece

Turkey build F Con, F Ank, F Smy

Spring 1905

England F Denmark to Baltic
 (Kinsfather) F Seden S F Den to Bal
 F St. Petersburg (NC) holds
 A Kiel S FRENCH A Bur to
 Munich
 A London to Denmark
 F North Sea C & Lon to Den
 F Irish to North Atlantic
 A Edinburgh holds
 A Holland S A Kiel

France F West Med to Mid-Atl
 (Granville) F Tunis holds
 A Gascony holds
 A Picardy to Belgium
 A Burgandy to Munich
 A Ruhr S A Bur to Mun
 A Marseilles to Piedmont

Italy A Munich to Silesia
 (Mathias) A Albania to Trieste
 A Tyrolia S A Alb to Tri
 F Tyrrhenian to Ionian
 F Naples S F Tyrr to Ion

Austria F Apulia to Venice
 (Marino)

Russia F Baltic hold* NMR
 (Hunter) F Berlin holds
 A Budapest holds
 F Black Sea holds
 * retreat OTB

Turkey A Tri S Rus A Bud to Vie
 (Happel) A Serbia S A Trieste
 F Ionian to Adriatic
 A Sevastopol to Moscow
 F Rumania holds
 F Con to Bulgaria (SC)
 F Smyrna to Aegean
 F Ankara to Constantin

PRESS

(Paris) Let the fate of Germany be a warning to those contemplating actions that would incur our Emperor's wrath.

(London to Apulia) In answer to your request, the King had these words of wisdom to offer, "who... where... when?"

(Smyrna AP) Sultan Pascha has vanished. Details of this occurrence are whimsically portrayed in a newsreel which follows a quadruple feature at the Red Lion Cinema. The second film, "The ~~XXXXXX~~ Velvet Vampire of Trstnk" has drawn passable reviews.

(Smyrna Reuters) Sultana Myrna has quietly assumed control of the Ottoman Empire and has declared a new social order. The nation has been renamed the People's Empirical Democracy of Turkey, and it is truly a classless society judging from Myrna's newly appointed second-in-power, Anjar Kratiles, who picks his teeth with a scimitar.

Incidentally, Mr. Kratiles has persuaded Myrna to place her naval resources at his disposal in order for him to make advances in the Mediterranean Sea. The happy couple sets sail tomorrow.

Phil moves due 8/20/76

1975IW COM2

Autumn 1903

Germany A Warsaw retreats to Prussia

Spring 1904 has been postponed to
8/20/76

1976F COM4

Winter 1902

England build A London
(Kerins)

Germany remove A Gascony
(Bumpas) A Burgundy

Italy no builds received
(Lagimoniere) will play 2 short

Turkey GM removes F Aegean
(~~XXXXXX~~)
(C.D.)

Austria build A Vienna (1 short)
(Anderson)

Russia build F Sevastopol
(Young)

Will: Rolf Luchs please submit stand-by orders for Italy

PRESS

ENGLAND AT PEACE WITH FRANCE

(London) The new French government was warmly welcomed in London today. It is hoped that within the year our fighting forces can be withdrawn and used elsewhere against our foes.

England further believes that it is in the national interest if the French give aid to Austria against Italy in return for that wonderful city of Munich.

(Yorkshire) It was reported today that the French have finally been able to form a strong, stable government. The 1st announcement was that payment would be exacted from the German nation for its' invasion of French soil.

The British government responded immediately by offering a disengagement of forces and strong financial and material aid in the war against Germany. Further, England recognizes the French right to German territory and warns others that movement to prevent French occupation could result in war.

Spring 1903 due 8/20/76

XIX 1975G COM5

In a separate announcement I replaced the English player in this game. He has since written to me and announced his intentions to continue in the game. Therefore, England is still being played by Larry VandenBos. Will Bob Fabry please continue to submit standy-by orders for England.

... the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), about the resumption of diplomatic relations. Information from high circles tends to confirm rumors that the Soviets are receptive to the moves of the Americans.

(London) As a further economy move, Her Majesty has decided to close down all overseas bases except for Gibraltar. However, there is no truth to the rumor of any further devaluation of the pound.

(Peking) After granting the gamemaster a two week period in which to instate the People's Republic of China into the game in her rightful place as a major power, we are now making our final demand. This is to be considered an ultimatum.

(Buenos Aires) In a ceremony held here today a high official (un-named) of the American city of Newark, N.J. signed an agreement to designate Newark as the world's dumping grounds for unwanted hydrogen bombs. The entire city is being floated on an enormous barge off the coast of Greenland in order to protect the rest of the nation. It has been rumored that the city official was granted diplomatic immunity shortly after the signing.

(Paris)
Reprinted from the Paris Tribune
In an interview with Monsieur Le President, we have been extremely fortunate to obtain the following information.
"Monsieur, what is our present state of relation with Germany?"
"~~xxxxx~~ It is with remorseful shagrin that I report our present relations with Germany are non-existent. We had hoped, by requesting the presence of the German foreign minister in Paris, that we could formally greet the Republic of Germany, and begin meaningful negotiations. But we have heard nothing from him."
"Have you tried to contact the German government directly?"

... they could be... could not... represent the German government. The best we could do was to talk to a Rhineland peasant, who didn't even realize that the German lands had been united in one government. Our spies suspect that the German President is hiding somewhere in the Swill Alps, but that is mere heresay."

"But you failed in contacting him?"

"Is it my fault that that stupid Flemish farmer shot down my carrier pigeon?"

"You used carrier pigeons!!!!"

"In these economically troubled times, can you expect us to employ a pony and rider??!!!"

"What are your plans for the future then?"

"Until such time as another communique seeps across the Ruhr, we will continue to negotiate with our friends across the sea."

(Tel Aviv) Left defenseless by our American friends, and shunned by the Gamemaster, we now have no choice except to burn down three more Lebanese villages.

(Cairo) Faced with imminent Zionist aggression, the Arab world must carry on with its scientific efforts to borrow an H-bomb from somebody.

Turn 4 due 7/31/76

1976V COM10

Winter 1901

Germany build A Munich
(Beyma) F Kiel

Italy build F Rome
(Schultz)

Austria build A Vienna
(Spiegel) A Trieste

Russia build F Sevastopol
(Watson) F St. Petersburg(NC)

Turkey build A Smyrna*
(DeCook) F Ankara*

... some of these builds must be rejected

The Turkish re-adjustment is due as soon as possible. As soon as I have it I will notify all by postcard. Spring 1902 will then be due on 8/20/76. Let's get this game back on the track! (Spring moves are on file for all countries; Turkey's moves are defective due to the extra builds.)

Note: all non-trader players in 1976V will have their subs extended one issue further due to the large number of delays; this is in addition to the extension mentioned in the postcard builds.

1976BT COM12

Winter 1901

England build F London
(Mathias)

France build F Marseilles
(Acheson) A Paris

Germany build F Kiel
(Blanch) A Berlin
A Munich

Italy build F Naples
(Grabar) F Rome

Austria build A Budapest
(Cook)

Russia no builds received
(Lagimaniere) will play 1 short

Turkey build A Ankara
(Edmonds) F Smyrna

Russian F Rumania ret to Sevast

Will: BoB Fabry
8034 N. Ozark
Niles, Ill. 60648
please submit stand-by orders
for Russia.

Spring 1902 due 8/20/76

COA COM12

David Grabar
1080 Mc Laughlin St.
Richmond, CA 94805

1976DD COM13

Spring 1901

England A Liverpool to Yorkshire
(Lebens) F Edinburgh to North Sea
F London to English Channel

France F Brest to Mid-Atlantic
(Fabry) A Paris to Burgundy
~~A Marseilles to~~
to Piedmont

Germany A Berlin to Kiel
(DeCook) A Munich to Ruhr
F Kiel to Denmark

Italy A Venice to Piedmont
(Luchs) A Rome to Venice
F Naples to Ionian

Austria F Trieste to Albania
(Bowman) A Budapest to Serbia
A Vienna to Trieste

Russia F St. Petersburg(SC) TO Both
(Johnston) A Warsaw to Ukraina
F Sevastopol to Rumania
A Moscow to Ukraina

Turkey F Ankara to Black Sea
(Silko) A Constantineple to Bulg
A Smyrna to Constantinople

PREXX underlined moves fail

PRESS

(Paris) TO Rome, move to Piedmont simply to keep peace.

(Rome) The Great Italian Republic declares war upon barbaric Germany. All other countries that produce or consume large amounts of beer will be considered enemies of Italy.

(Naples) The Italian fishing fleet set sail today, heading far south. A rich catch is expected on the African coast.

(London) I, Stephen II, King of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and all her colonies and possessions, Emperor of India, Lord Chancellor of Parliament, Protector of the Faith, Duke of York and Gochester, publically denounce the German kingdom,

accuse the Italian King of pronounced indifference to my pleas for recognition, and proclaim the sovereign alliance of England-France and Russia to be as sound as ever.

Fall 1901 due 8/20/76

NEW GAME COM16 1976??

England Tom Johnston
330 North Elmer
Griffith, Indiana 46319

France Andy Cook
807 Crescent Dr.
Alexandria, Va. 22302

Germany Arnold J. Trembly
6460 Hancock
St. Louis, Mo. 63139

Italy Russel VieBrooks, Jr.
824 Franklin St.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

Austria Rolf Luchs
635 Gunderson dr.
Apt. 107
Carol Stream, Ill. 60187

Russia ~~Richard Marcell~~
Bill Stone
302 Neil St.
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

Turkey Bob Fabry
8034 N. Ozark
Niles, Illinois 60648

Spring 1901 due ~~after~~ 8/20/76
unless someone asks for an extension

The following people have either entered a Diplomacy game or expressed interest in entering my next game. Please send me your preference list for country and your game fee (those who have already paid are followed by a *). I will start the game as soon as I have heard from seven people. The ~~xxxxxx~~ the others will be put in the next section. Those paid in advance are guaranteed a spot.

M. Edmonds*, V. Gale*, R. Acheson,
B. Farrell*, D. Ditter, F. McIlvaine,
S. Johnson, M.Sarch,

There were at least three other people at Origins II who asked for a position, but I don't have their names.

GAME OPENINGS

Diplomacy I always have openings in regular Diplomacy.

Nuclear Destruction 4 definitely entered; I am going to run this game for \$1.00 plus postage (Mr. K. - I owe you \$1.50)

Blitzkrieg entered: Grabar, Kinsfather. Need at least two more to play.

Origins + Bourse entered: Vie Brooks, Blank, Trembly. Need 2 more to start. Preference lists for countries accepted. This game will use the "Blind" rules. Bourse is open to all subscribers whether players or not for \$1.00.

Wooden Ships & Iron Men entered Blank, Kinsfather, Luchs, Brooks(?), Vie Brooks(?).

COMMAND POST by Bill Stone

This issue marks the semi-official debut of my semi-popular column, COMMAND POST. As often as two out of three issues, I'll be taking a look at various aspects of wargaming as industry and as a hobby, bringing you my personal opinions and viewpoints..... many of which have little or no basis in reality (see below). From games to personalities to conventions and tournaments, I'll be commenting on the 'soft' side of gaming as opposed to the "hard" nitty gritty of strategy and tactics of play (!!)). In the interests of broadening the scope of COMMAND to cover the full spectrum of "strategic gaming" as we had originally planned, Dennis and I have agreed that CP will concentrate on matters other than Diplomacy, which is already thoroughly covered in these pages (!!)). Now that I am aggin in a position to devote some time and energy to COMMAND, I am looking forward to a re-newed association with those of you I have previously known, and to meeting more of you.

Doing right along, let's jump in to this month's topic...

For some time Dennis and I have considered the formation of a game publishing company to complement COMMAND. Unfortunately, most of the game-able battles have been snaped up by the larger, more established companies. That leaves us in the position of innovators, of "daring to be great" by approaching old battles with new techniques and tackling battles that no one else has had the courage to cover. Thus, Bottom of the Barrel Game Publishers proudly present an introduction to some games that are currently in preparation.

For WWI buffs, Bottom of the Barrel will be releasing several sequels to Avalon Hill's 1914 game. Titled 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918, each game features the same units in the same positions on the same mapboard.

The ultimate for the East Front gamers will be ALLZUVIEL ("Too Much") featuring the entire front from Murmansk to the Caspian Sea and Trans-Caucasus at company/platoon level. With several square miles of maps and hundreds of thousands of unit counters, the selling price will be rivaled only by the shipping charges. If "Too Much" meets with success, BOTB has plans for an ultimate follow-up, VIEL ALLZUVIEL ("Much Too Much") This will recreate the entire Russian campaign at man-to-man level. Preliminary negotiations are underway for purchase of the entire USSR west of the Urals as the playing board.

One of the heavies at the local gaming club, Carl (Mr. Management) Weiss, has suggested an idea for an introductory game, STRIKE FORCE ZERO. Designed for the beginner, all the rules are optional. Game components include one unit counter, a one-hex mapboard, and one randomizer chit. We have promised Carl a suitable share of the royalties.

NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST will be BOTB's game of the atomic age, also designed for the novice. Each player rolls one die once to determine the number of people in his country who survive simultaneous pre-emptive nuclear strikes. The person with the higher roll wins.

Science-fiction fans will enjoy T_RIP. This involves US Army units which are transported from WW II to a pre-historic age through a time-warp. The game is very similar in play to PanzerBlitz/PanzerLeader, with each type of dinosaur having its own characteristic "Z" read-out. Special weapons effects include Brontosaurus farts, air support bt Pterodactyls and minefields of dinosaur meadow muffins.

Please send checks for advance orders to me rather than Dennis.

So much for that. Upcoming features include more from BOTB, another Russian defense for Stalinograd, and I'll be reporting (along with everyone else, I suppose) from Origins II/DipCon IX in Baltimore. I welcome comments and suggestions on this and future columns. Those of you who wish to berate me, etc., may do so by writing to 302 Neil St., Blacksburg, Va. 24060.

Thomas Reape Wins DipCon

Finishing strong with a 14 center Turkey, Thomas Reape won the annual DipCon with 56 tournament points. Bill Stone was second with 55 tournament points.

Trophies were also given for the best play with each country. In the event of a tie the player with the most tournament points was awarded the trophy. (Each board played to the end of 1908 or to a pre-designated time deadline; 1 point was awarded for each center held at the end of the game, plus 1 pt. for each player who did not do as well in the round playing the same country (for a tie) there was also a five point penalty for allowing a player on your beard to win.)

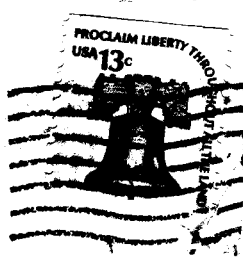
BEST COUNTRY AWARDS:

- England ~~Matthias~~ Maskaleris (16)
- France E. Gross (11) also Power, Simmons, Yorkey
- Germany Sergeant (13)
- Italy B. Stone (16)
- Austria Matthews (17)
- Russia Rieftte (13) also W. Blank
- Turkey Mathias (14) also Reape

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Game fees are \$2.50 plus sub unless otherwise indicated
See page 8 for game openings



From: D. AGOSTA
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Newark, N.J. 07106

TO: Rod Walker
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your sub ends with
issue # T?

SEE PAGE(S) _____

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE