

Dtc #76 NIGERIAN CON ISSUE MARCH '98
DR. MUMUNI KABIRU

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DEAR SIR

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE URGENTLY REQUIRED

I AM CONTACTING YOU ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE "TENDERS COMMITTEE" FOR CONTRACT AWARDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR THE NIGERIAN LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (NLNG), APPOINTED BY THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, OUR DUTIES INCLUDE EVALUATION, VETTING AND APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FOR CONTRACT JOBS DONE FOR THE NIGERIAN LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (NLNG) SCHEME PROJECT ETC.

THIS COMMITTEE AWARDED CONTRACTS TO THE TUNE OF US\$306 BILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS TO THE CONSORTIUM OF TSKJ WHICH COMPRISES OF TECHNIP OF FRANCE, SNAMPROGETTI OF ITALY, KELLOGG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPANESE GASOLINE CORPORATION (JGC) OF JAPAN FOR THE DESIGN, ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS LNG PLANT AT BONNY ISLAND IN RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA. BUT WORK FOR THIS PROJECT TOOK-OFF THE GROUND IN DECEMBER OF 1996.

MY COLLEAGUES AND I DECIDED TO OVER-INFLATE THE CONTRACT SUM AND TACTFULLY RAISE THE VALUE OF US\$385 MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS WITH THE INTENTION OF SHARING THIS AMOUNT (US\$385 MILLION) AMONG OURSELVES. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA HAS SINCE APPROVED THE US\$306 BILLION AND SOME AMOUNT HAS BEEN DISBURSED TO THE COMPANIES CONCERNED AS MOBILIZATION FEES FOR THE CONTRACT. WE THEREFORE INTEND TO TRANSFER THE US\$385 MILLION ABROAD AND WOULD KINDLY REQUEST YOU TO PROVIDE US WITH A BANKING ACCOUNT THAT CAN SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMMODATE THIS FUNDS FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFITS.

WE HAVE AGREED TO GIVE YOU 30% OF THE TOTAL VALUE WHEN REMITTED, WHILE OUR SHARE WILL BE 60%. THE BALANCE OF 10% FROM THE TOTAL FUNDS WHEN FINALLY REMITTED TO YOU, WILL BE USED TO PAY BACK ALL FINANCIAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE COURSE OF THIS TRANSFER BY BOTH PARTIES. NOTE THAT, WE CAN BUY INDUSTRIAL GOODS FOR RE-SALE IN NIGERIA, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO DISBURSE OUR SHARE IN CASH.

PERHAPS IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT, TWO YEARS AGO A SIMILAR TRANSACTION WAS CARRIED OUT WITH ONE MR. PATRICE MILLER, THE PRESIDENT OF GRAINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION AT NUMBER 135 EAST 57TH STREET, 28TH FLOOR, NEW YORK 10022 WITH TELEPHONE NUMBER (212) 308-7788 AND TELEX NUMBER 6731689. AFTER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH PARTNERS IN WHICH HE WAS TO TAKE 20% OF THE MONEY WHILE REMAINING 80% FOR US, WITH ALL THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SIGNED, THE MONEY WAS DULY TRANSFERRED INTO HIS ACCOUNT ONLY TO BE DISAPPOINTED ON OUR ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK WHERE WE WERE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT MR. PATRICE MILLER WAS NO LONGER ON THAT ADDRESS AND HIS TELEPHONE AND TELEX NUMBERS HAS BEEN REALLOCATED TO SOMEBODY ELSE. THAT WAS HOW WE LOST US\$275 MILLION TO MR. PATRICE MILLER.

THIS TIME AROUND WE NEED A REPUTABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY PERSON WITH A RELIABLE COMPANY'S ACCOUNT TO TRANSFER THIS MONEY US\$385 MILLION INTO. HENCE THIS LETTER TO YOU WHICH WOULD BE SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWED WITH A GENTLE-MAN'S AGREEMENT BASED ON YOUR FAVOURABLE RESPONSE. PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT, THERE ARE TWO HIGHLY PLACED AND INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THIS TRANSACTION WHO WOULD NOT WANT ANY FORM OF EXPOSURE. YOU ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO KEEP THIS TRANSACTION CONFIDENTIAL. MEANWHILE, BE REST ASSURED THAT THIS TRANSACTION IS 100% RISK FREE AND COVERED FROM ANY KIND OF PROBE.

FINALLY, THE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST WE ARE REPOSING ON YOU CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASIZED THEREFORE, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO KEEP THIS DEAL A TOP SECRET. YOU CAN CONTACT ME THROUGH MY TELEFAX NUMBERS ABOVE.

YOUR ANTICIPATED CO-OPERATION WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

YOURS SINCERELY,

DR. MUMUNI KABIRU.

Here again from the old country. I'm back with email at home

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So why am I back so early and why is this issue late? Well let's start at where we left off last time. I said I hadn't been sick. Well in Thailand over Christmas I was. Horribly. A teacher was heading into town on 23/12 so I asked to be taken to a pharmacy to get medicine. Instead I ended up at a pub where he assured me Thai whisky fixed all manner of ills. He was wrong. I didn't drink much, just enough to be sociable, but a late night did not help my condition and I was too ill to teach on 24th. I managed to stagger into town that afternoon and resting all day helped me. I had Christmas Eve dinner with the other 3 NZ teachers but went to bed early. I was still woozy next day, Christmas, but a phone call home followed by a visit to the doctor was good medicine. The clinic amazed me. I entered, to see a huge waiting room full of morbid Thais. A nurse approached and they took me to the head of the queue, filled out a form (Mr Brendan 96 Waiaatarua New Zealand, age 27) and then to the doctor who spoke English. He prescribed me 4 lots of pills and I picked them up from the inhouse pharmacy, all for a cost of 100Baht, which was about US\$2. I was impressed with the speed and the cost, and paying a little more at museums is worth it for service like that, while the rest of the waiting room looked on. Racism has its advantages!

At New Year I headed to Chiang Mai and climbed Thailand's highest peak, Doi Inthanon. It is set in a national park, but in the 1970s the military wanted a radar station at the top, so they built a road, which is now jammed with Thais in cars on any holiday. There is little parking at the top, so police were directing traffic above and below, as the road is very steep and many cars with AC going full blast overheated. I hitched up in the back of somebody's ute, which gave a great view. Tribes people have made inroads on the park too, and are protected as part of it, but can't fell any more forest. Police also search cars for poachers, as the roads have eased the logistics of getting into the bush to hunt things. No photos are allowed atop the mountain, because of the radar station, but it is not rigidly enforced on holidays, due to the crowds. There are only a couple of trails to walk, neither very long, and no good maps available. Yet in Chiang Mai itself, 1:50,000 topo sheets are for sale at one large bookchain. This is strange as the national park officers said maps were military secrets, as did the Royal Thai Survey in Bangkok, yet here is quite a range of sheets of the Chiangmai/Hilltribe areas on sale, a typical bureaucracy not knowing what is going on.

I was sick again on the weekend I was due to leave, which made my farewell dinner not so pleasant. But the teachers all came to town to see me onto the train at midnight, which was very sweet. I flew out to Sri Lanka as planned, but arriving at 1am, there was no one to meet me! I managed to sleep over in the airport (an advantage of being white - locals are not allowed to loiter due to the security problem) and phoned my contact next day. He'd gone to the US for several years! My second contact was home, and sent someone to collect me. I spent a week in Colombo, a city of 1 million. The country has no highways. Roads are 1.5 lanes wide, sealed but very rough, and oncoming buses or trucks have to pull off to let another one pass. Driving is horrendous, matched only by the condition of vehicles and roads for unbelievability. As all traffic down the coast has to pass through downtown Colombo, traffic is very heavy. Lanka desperately needs planning, but the war makes things difficult. My NGO was a single university professor, wanting to install a microhydroelectric generator in a remote village, and wanting a social impact assessment of electrification carried out. Unfortunately, it was all behind schedule, so I had some time on my hands. Why don't you visit some working projects to get some ideas and information he suggested. So he took me to another NGO which had similar projects up and running. I assumed he'd know these people from the way he spoke. No. In fact they initially said 'no visitors' when we asked them. I was quite stunned. Eventually we persuaded them to let me see a village or two. My NGO said to pack for a week, as transport was difficult, and I would need to stay at least a couple of days at the village to understand it anyway. So I did. When I was driven to the village, an hour north of Galle near Akuressa,

Galle is 100km and 2.5hrs south of Colombo on the best road in the country. I was suddenly told to remain there a month until my own village would be ready for me. I only had a week's stuff with me, so I was rather stunned. I met the man I'd stay with, and 5 minutes later he headed off for Galle for the night, so I was taken to stay his house, without him, which felt most odd. 3 local boys (14yr olds) spent the night with me for company, and watched Predator 2 or his video! This was one delirious effect of electrification already! I enjoyed this village, Maliduwa, as the family that cooked for me were lovely, and the man I lived with (Mr seneviratna, a divorcee, very unusual) was the chap who set up the hydro scheme in 1992. 3.5kW supplied 36 houses, so about 100W each, 7pm-7am daily. During the rainy season, or important festivals (weddings, cricket matches) power would be on 24hrs a day, but in the dry season usually only 12 hours, and sometimes not at all, depending how much water was in the dam 100m up the hillside. Water for cooking etc was taken from the stream, or some houses had pipes from the dam, but if someone above you opened his tap, it took all the flow, so the running water from the pipe was intermittent at best. Bathing and laundry was done in the stream. 2 very pleasant waterholes made for lovely afternoons, with the fish nibbling my legs as I washed. Rice was farmed on the flats, while the village was located on the hillside, covered in tea bushes and shaded by rubber, coconut, banana, kapok, kikui, papaya etc. Neighbours gave me fresh pineapple and papaya, and I usually had a fresh papaya every meal. Bread and riceflour pancakes called hoppers were the staple, along with rice and curry. Tea, while a local product was poor quality, the best being exported. It was often mixed with NZ Anchor milk powder and too much sugar. In fact, the local sweet tooth was such that adults and kids alike spooned out palmfuls of sugar to chew on while sipping tea! Houses were mud wattle, or concrete. Even the mud ones had electrical wiring, the wires being embedded in the walls, and cement filling revealing their location. Seeing a socket outlet in a mud wall is very strange! For 100W, my home had a 20W fluoro tube light in the ceiling, a TV(65W) and a video(9W), as well as a table fan, a radio and an immersion element to make tea in the morning. It was a 3 room house: a lounge/living room, with one bed, a sofa and 3 lounge chairs, and the TV, a bedroom with bed and desk, and a larder/store. The kitchen was an outhouse, with a tub and tap, and an open hearth stove. An outhouse squat toilet completed my home. The toilet was VERY clean, but relied on the tap water being available to flush it. Cooking used coconut husks, palms and trunks. No deforestation as a result was evident, which surprised me. Richer families had more rooms and more lights, but still cooked on a wood fire. Kerosene lanterns remained in case of power failure. The ventilation holes necessary in a hot country meant that lights at night attracted hordes of insects. A local craft was making lanterns out of lightbulbs. The empty glass bulb was inverted and held in a holder made from fish-tins, filled with kero and a wick placed in the mouth. Quite fragile, but effective and cheap.

I visited the local tea factory. Two shift of 26 women operated the machines, weighing, withering, rolling, and sifting the leaves. They are paid 83Rp a day, (US\$1=60Rp). A national strike of plantation workers while I was there was holding out for 105Rp, but ended in agreement for 100. It costs 5Rp to go to Akuressa (8km) by bus, 10-15 from there to Galle, and 50 to Colombo from Galle by an express bus. Coke was 10-15 Rp for a 300ml or so bottle greater for 'cool'. There is no MacDonalds, but Pizza Hut and KFC did exist in Colombo only.

In the area, working elephants were fairly common, and it was amazing to round a corner in the village and run into one. They have huge tusks to handle tree trunks, which also surprised me. Monitor lizards scuttled around, up to 2m long, and one invaded my house in Colombo. Snakes are dangerous, but I only saw one, a 2m job cross the road in front of me, scaring me out of my skin. For foreigners, there are no snakes in NZ, one of few snakeless areas. In fact they are illegal, even in zoos. So snakes are fascinating but very scary for me.

Two bombs went off while I was in the village, one in Kandy, taking out the front of the holy Tooth Temple, with its casket supposedly containing one of Buddha's teeth (it hasn't been seen let alone examined in living memory). Many were surprised that this didn't trigger race riots. Later, a 24yr old girl blew herself up in Colombo, taking several policemen and 2 guys

stopped at a checkpoint. She ran at the guardpost when asked to stop. Next day the Sinhala newspaper has a full colour front cover photo of her head and arm, all that was left, posed neatly on the pavement in front of the guardpost. Sick sick sick. Colombo, especially Fort, is covered in police and army checkpoints. All strategic sites are heavily defended with sandbagged emplacement and 18yr olds with heavy weaponry. Roadblocks at other cities require all bus passengers to disembark and be searched. Another advantage to a white skin is that we are not checked, but tuktuks and vans and trucks in Colombo are heavily watched. All Lankans must carry id cards, with ethnicity (Tamil/Sinhala) on them, although the peoples are physically the same, locals can tell each other apart from dress, walk, speech etc. I wanted to visit the Seaman's mission in Colombo, but the port is almost sealed off, and the fact that I wasn't a sailor made access suspicious. The Fort is an island, so the access roads are easily sealed off. It was the commercial heart of the city, but has lost that because of the security problems. Government offices, the GPO (open 24hours) and banks etc are still there. The lovely colonial architecture is unable to be photographed because of the problems. Shame. The World Trade Centre, 2 huge twin towers, still have half their windows boarded up from the October truck bombing. The problem with glass-encased towers!

The Tamil troubles are not just occasional bombings. There is a full-on war in the North still. Every day the papers report a couple of dozen LTTE or police/army deaths. Even the national parks are used as firebases. No one seems to care much, I guess it has been going on so long.

I returned to Colombo after a month to renew my visa, fighting the uncomputerised immigration bureaucracy, and then as my village was still not ready for me, I decided to pull out of the project. I had been awarded a scholarship to Melbourne Uni that I had to take up by 1 June, so I needed some time to pack up in NZ, and the remaining 2 months was not really long enough for my study, given that the village wasn't ready yet. So I spent a week in the hill country, going as far north as Anuradapura. There is a Cultural Triangle of ancient cities to visit. They are 50Rp for locals, less than US\$1, but foreigners pay US\$12 to US\$15 each! You pay in Rupees, but the fee is a flat US\$ price to eliminate exchange fluctuations. Even a resident visa does not make you a local. Considering that several places within the sites demand additional fees, that bicycle hire is necessary to see the spreadout Anuradapura, and that no visible result of the fees is apparent (ie decent museum, pamphlets, maps, visitor centre etc), this is just racist extortion. The Horton Plains national park also charges US\$12 entry. Again there is nothing to account for this: litter is quite bad, park HQ is a shack with no displays, and no maps. There is a nice view from World's End, but I've seen better views in NZ for free. The terrain and plants are very like NZ, being over 1000m, and even the Grand Canyon costs US\$5, with great facilities. US\$12 is plain robbery. Better views can be had for free in other places in Lanka. Many temples charge fees for foreigners too. They say locals visit and give donations, so the fee is in lieu of that, but the boys at the donation boxes mean if you don't lighten your wallet there anyway, ticket or no. No church I've visited anywhere, even Lankan historic ones, charged, and only one rudely insisted on a donation. And despite paying admission, the shoe minder, the guide you didn't want but who refused to go away, and countless beggars (besides nearly all children) demand money and get huffy if you don't give to them. Most tourists I met, like me, were annoyed at the constant hassles, and fees. Yes, the average wage there is low, but that means wages and costs for maintaining sites are low. Yes, foreigners maybe should pay a little more to see places, but the difference of up to 60 times is ridiculous. Thailand charged 25-50 Baht per ancient city (50c-US\$1). Lanka charges US\$12-15. And Thailand had the better museums and facilities.

Another hassle was the locals. People come up to you and ask what country you are from. New Zealand illicit a listing of cricketers from them, if they have heard of it. Then they demand money, school pen, or your address. Many get rude if you do not give them. It was impossible to visit a temple even without such interruptions. After paying entry, and being

SOPWITH Game Breguet Turn 5

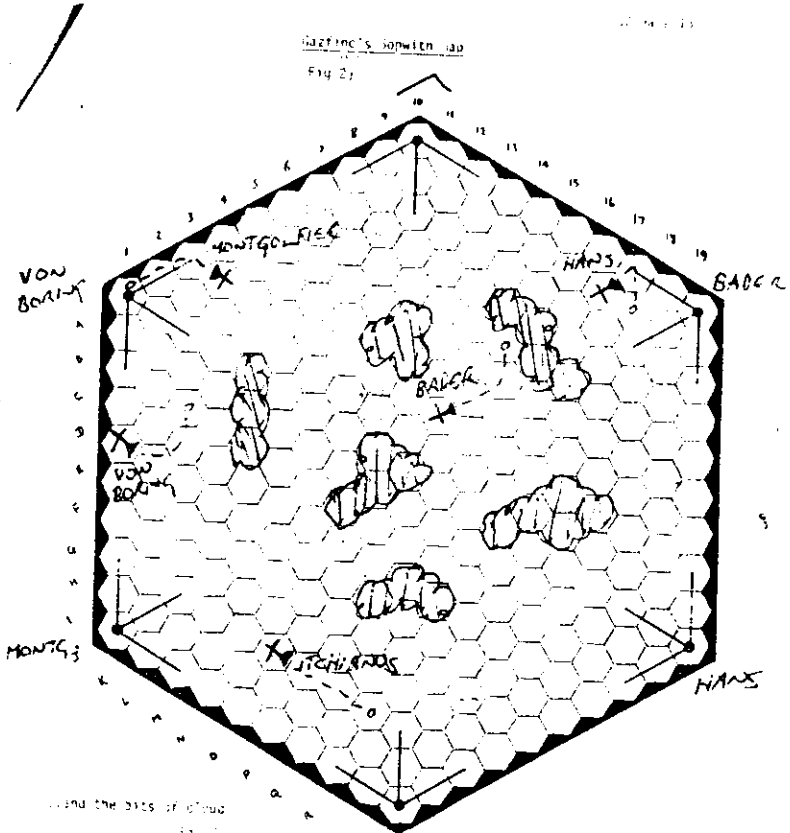
				end	face	ammo	hp	vp
Dougie Bader(White)	RT	RT	A	i11	i10	14	11	0
Hans Offermierplane(Clarke)	RS	fl	LT	fA	—	fl		
Ivan Itchianus(A.Hood)	A	A	A	M6	L5	16	12	0
Montgolfier(Petrie)	RT	A	RT	b4	c5	15	4	0
Baron von Boring(Martin)	RT	RT	RT	d1	(otb)	8	12	2

Montgolfier seems out of trouble for the moment as von Boring pirouettes French-style. Itchianus tries to find a friend to fire upon, while Bader escapes the evil machinations of Hans' cleverly constructed corkscrew, by putting a cloud on his horizon. Talking of which, clouds move SE. No damage.

Press: Hans: Ich see zer poopendoggiepickenuppenbagger hass kom to play with me? Well die leetle man' Die!! Montgolfier - might ich suggest you protekt your areseholen before you find you have shittenfullenderliederhosen?

Ivan-von Boring: If we work together we can sort this Montgolfier out. Combined we would make a formidable enemy (I have recently got engaged to an English girl and she has been helping me with my pronunciation).

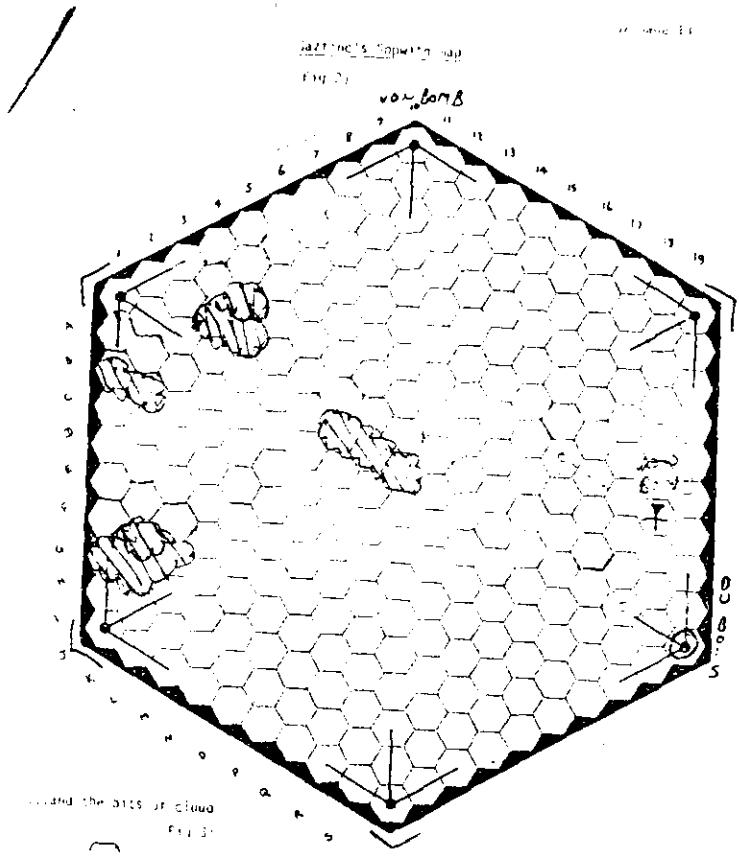
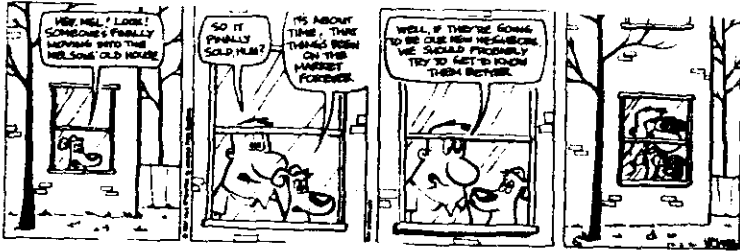
Boring-Frog: Gotterdammerung! Yu viudy coward! Mein gott! Vight like man instead of running away, like a yellow cur...



Game Albatross Round 48

				end	face	ammo	hp	vp
Col du Bois (Craig)	A	A	— (landed)	S19	—	16	02	09
Capt von Bomb (B Quiding)	LS	LS	A	O18	P18	12	12	01

Clouds move south as Du Bois lands, with Von Bomb closing in...



MACHIAVELLI Game Bergamo Summer 1515

I forgot plagues, which affect Pisa, Pisto, Perugia, Messis, Daima and Carno, killing no one Boo!

MIL (Hutton) EMF Marse-WGL A Prove H A Turin-Savoy F Genoa-EGL A Lucca-Pisa
A Mantu-Parma A Pavia-Piave

VEN (M Hood) F LAGOO-UA A Trevis B AUS G Trevis A Flore B IG Flore F Romag-Ancon
A Padua-Ferra F UA-Dalma EPF Ancon-LA A Alban-Duraz A Fruil-Carno

TUR (L Quiding) G Ancon-A Ancon F Duraz-LA

AUS (B Quiding) F Corse-WGL F Sardi S F Corse-WGL G Trevi disbands F Tivol-Capua
A Spole S TUR G Ancon-A Ancon F Bari S TUR F Duraz-LA

Retreats none

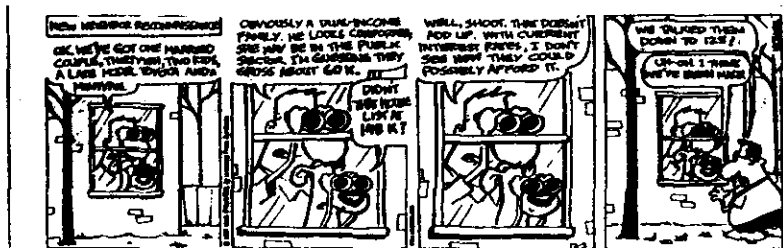
Disbands: IG Flore

Money:

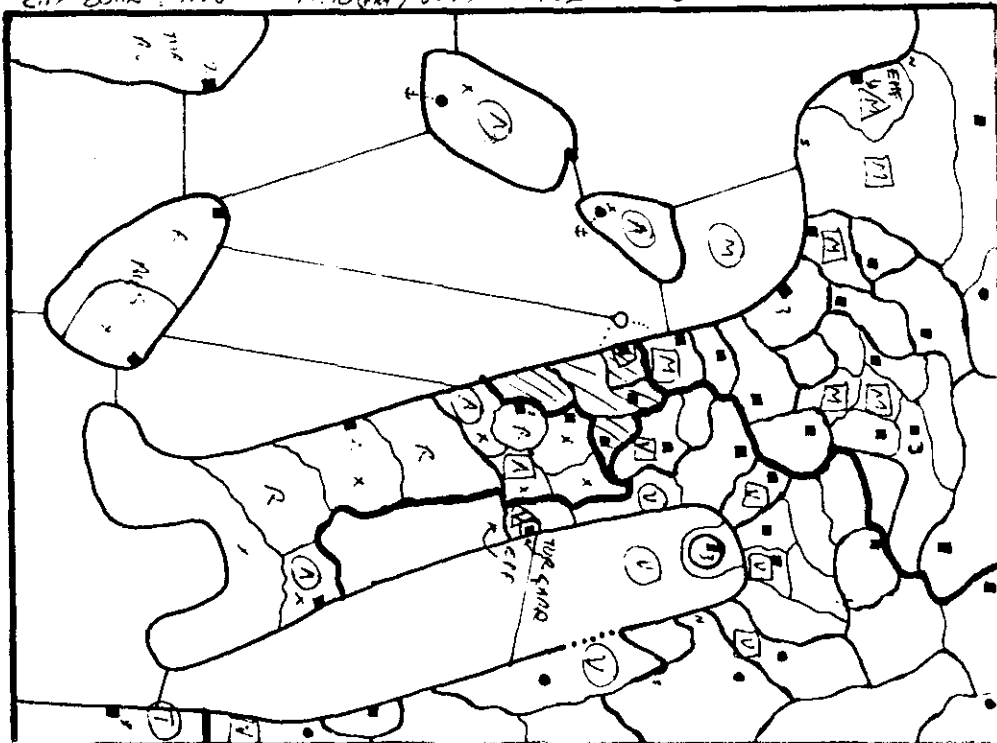
Loans out:

Press: Venice: Unemployed and turncoat English politician Winston Churchill, in Venice to write its history and paint its canals, has suggested that the Venetians should fight on the beaches and never surrender - at least until the crafty (but at least Italian) Sforze have actually gained the required 18 cities, while remaining anachronistically true to the greater Italian cause.

GM-all: it seems we will continue to the 18 cities(+1 home country). fight on boys!



CITY COUNT: A:6 M:16 (INC 151) J:14 T:2 IND:3 RES:3 //49



DIPLOMACY Gal - Burgundy Sp. 10/10

ENG (White) A Lpl S A Yor-Edi A Yor-Edi F Lon-ENC A Par H F Hol-NTH A Kie-Ruh
A Mun-Sil F Ber-BAL

FRA (Gill) NMR A Edi H F Bre H A Gas H

ITA (M Hood) A Vie S A Bud-Gal A Bud-Gal A Ser MS A Gre F Apu-Nap A Nap-Alb
F ION C A Nap-Alb A Ven-Tri

RUS (Martin) A StP-Nwy

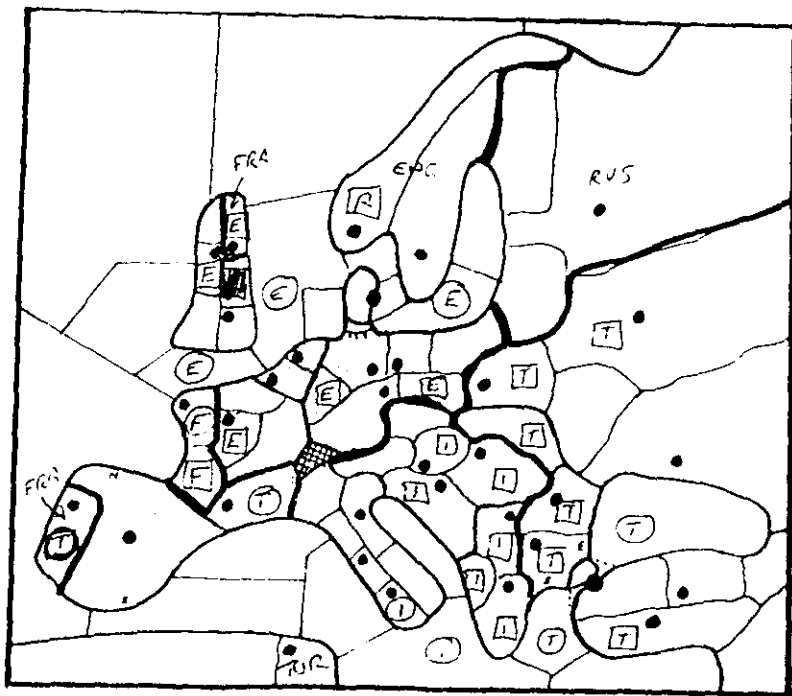
TUR (Addison) A Ank-Smy A Mos-War A Sev-Mos A Gal S A Rum H A Rum S A Gal H
F BLA S A Bul H F AEG-ION F Spa(sc)-Por F Mar H (nmr) A Bul H

Retreats none

Disbands FRA A Edi (nro)

Press Ita-Eng: I know you are obsessed with retrieving your mistakes against France, now that he has abdicated, perhaps we should begin talks, otherwise I will be overrun by the Turks. It's only his mistakes that have saved me thus far - short builds and so on!

CITIZEN DOG By Mark O'Hare



DIPLOMACY Game 'Brest' Autumn 1907

ENG (Gonsalves) A Nwy-Edi F NTH G A Nwy-Edi F Cly S A Nwy-Edi F ENC-Bel
 FRA (B Quiding) no units on the board
 GER (L Quiding) A Edi-Lpl A Mun S A Kie H A Kie S A Mun H
 ITA (Ward) F ION-ADR F EMS-ION A Bre-Pic F MAO-Bre A Par S F MAO-Bre
 F Por-MAO A Tyr-Ven A Pie S A Tyr-Ven
 AUS (Hutton) A Vie-Tyr A Tri S A Vie-Tyr A Bud-Vie A Alb H F Gre-ION
 RUS (M.Hood) A Smy-Arm F Rum-BLA F SKA-Den F Pru-Ber F Lvn-BAL A Ukr-Gal
 A Sev-Ukr A War-Sil
 TUR (A.Hood) A Bul-Ser A Con-Smy F BLA-Con

Retreats: none

Disbands: none

Builds: ENG(4) as is FRA(0) out! GER(4) one short, nbo/nbp ITA(9) +F Nap

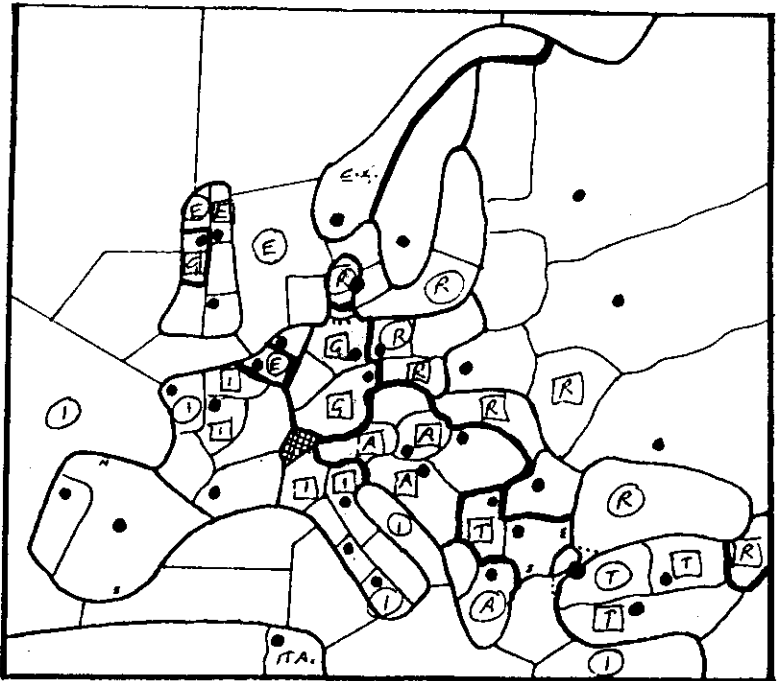
AUS(4) -A Alb (ndo: GM removes via furthest-from-home) RUS(8) as is

TUR(5) +A Ank. 1 short: Bul is NOT a build centre!

Press: Rus-Tur. Breakout!

Rus-Aus: I suggest a dignified retreat, followed by lengthy negotiations as befits two historians.

Rus-Ita: if you don't do something stupid like NMR, we have Austria in the Caudine Forks.



WINTER 1898 Diplo: Game Bulgaria Spring 1906

ENG (B. Quong) F Edi-NTH F Lon S+ F Edi-NTH
 FRA (Addison) A Spa-Mar A Mar-Bur A Bur-Ruh A Bre-Pic F MAO-ENC
F ION S AUS F AEG-Gre
 GER (Kent) F ENC-IRI A Fin-StP F BAR S A Fin-StP A Nwy S A Fin-StP F Yor-NTH
 A Kie-Ber A Mun S A Kie-Ber A Tyr-Ven
 AUS (White) A Tr-Tyr A Bud S RUS A Sev-Rum A Gal S RUS A Sev-Rum A Sil-Ber
A Ser-Bul F AEG-Gre
 RUS (M. Hood) A StP-Lvn A Mos-Ukr A Sev-Rum
 TUR (Craig) F Gre-ION F EMS S F Gre-ION F BLA S A Rum-Sev A Rum-Sev
A Bul-Rum F Con-AEG

Retreats: none

Disbands: FRA F ION(nro) TUR A Bul(nrp)

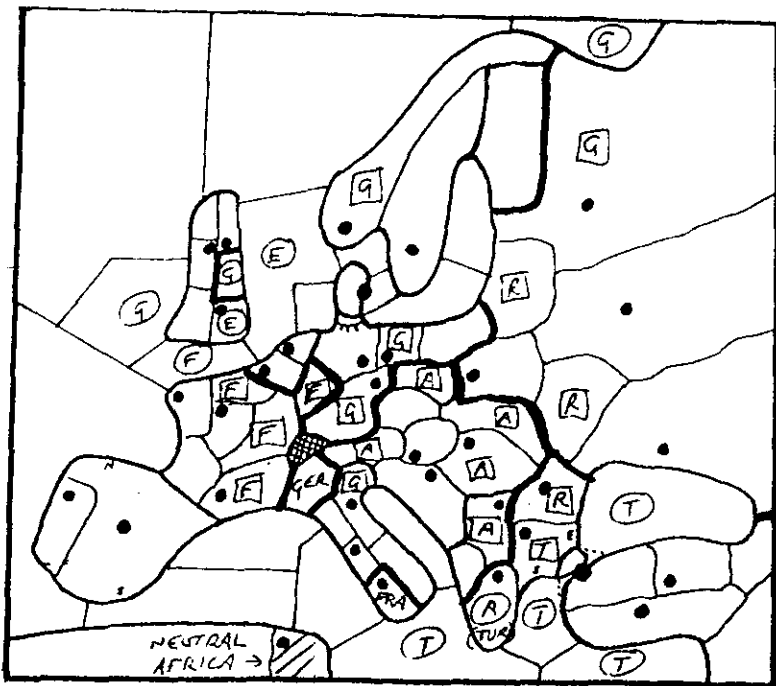
Supply Centre info:

Neutral still(1): Tun

Home centres: ENG(Lon, Lpl, Edi) FRA(Bre, Mar, Spa) GER(Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe) [ITA(Rom, Nap)]
 AUS(Ven Tr, Vie) RUS(Nwy, StP, Mos, Sev) TUR(Bul, Con, Ank, Smy) [underlined = conquered]

New conquests: ENG(none) FRA(Par, Por, Nap) GER(Bel, Ber, Den, Nwy)
 AUS(Bud, Rom, Ser) RUS(War) TUR(Rum, Gre) [underlined = someone else's home centre]

Press: GM-all: forget not retreats, and next turn, builds.



RAILWAY RIVALS Game 'Ashburton' 1483CB, Canterbury, Economic rules, Round 9

Format is: WINNERS/Losers Bid\$(Profit\$)

heldover from round 8	33-46	ICH 48(7)	SIR 52(29)	Kiwi no bid
round 9:	11-34	KIWI 20(4)	SIR 23(3)	Ich 27(9)
	14-66	KIWI 45(10)	ICH 48(13)	Sir no bid
	23-55	SIR 26(5)	ICH 29(5)	Kiwi 31(5)
	24-36	ICH 28(6)	KIWI 30(7)	Sir 36(13)
	43-Sp1	ICH 27(12)	KIWI 28(17)	Sir no bid
	45-54	SIR 16(8)	ICH 17(5)	Kiwi no bid
	65-Sp5	ICH 21(5)	KIWI 24(17)	Sir no bid

builds: Sir: h18-e16-Kaiapoi. Kiwi and Ich: no builds.

NOTE: Maximum bid is 2X+10, where X is the shortest distance in legal hexes between the cities. I have had to adjust down 2 of KIWI's bids for this rule. SIR: Again your build was way over the given \$8, counting payments to rivals, so I have moved it slightly to give you the same result for the legal \$ amount, rather than just disallow it.

Monies:		Payments	Tender	Builds		Balance
Name	Start	in	profits	out	in	
ICH	206	+1	53	--	--	260
KIWI	130	+6	60	--	+1	197
SIR	95	+14	45	-7	--	147

Round 10 Contracts: 11/Timaru-25/Ashburton ; 12/Timaru-Sp4(Port) ; 24/Hinds-42/Dunsandel ; 35/Acheron-56/Lyttelton ; 32/Mt Somers-62/Sheffield ; 44/Lincoln-61/Darfield ; 53/Christchurch-Sp3(South)
Enter any or all, then build up to \$6 including all payments to rivals.

RAILWAY RIVALS Game 'Aliwal North' 1482SA, South Africa, Racing rules, Round 10

Notes: Race 1 last time had Boer winning \$5. It should have been \$9, & the money table is correct.

ZEX was listed as building F18 but maps shows F19. As I'm not sure which he ordered, and he hasn't complained, F19 will stand.

BOERING NMR'd, so GM enters him in sensible runs, but no builds.

RACES: Held over from Round 9 32-61: 1)CONTS \$20 2)ZEX/Skokian JR \$5 ea
16-Sp6: held over. Minimum run length is 6 hexes, David. 31-63: 1)Bore \$30
14-23: 1)Skokian/CONTS JR \$10 ea 2)ZEX \$10 25-33: 1)ZEX \$20 2)Skokian \$10
46-Sp3: 1)Bore \$20 2)BOERING \$10 56-64: 1)Bore \$30
44-53: 1) BOERING \$13 2)Skokian \$8 3)Bore \$5 4)CONTS \$4

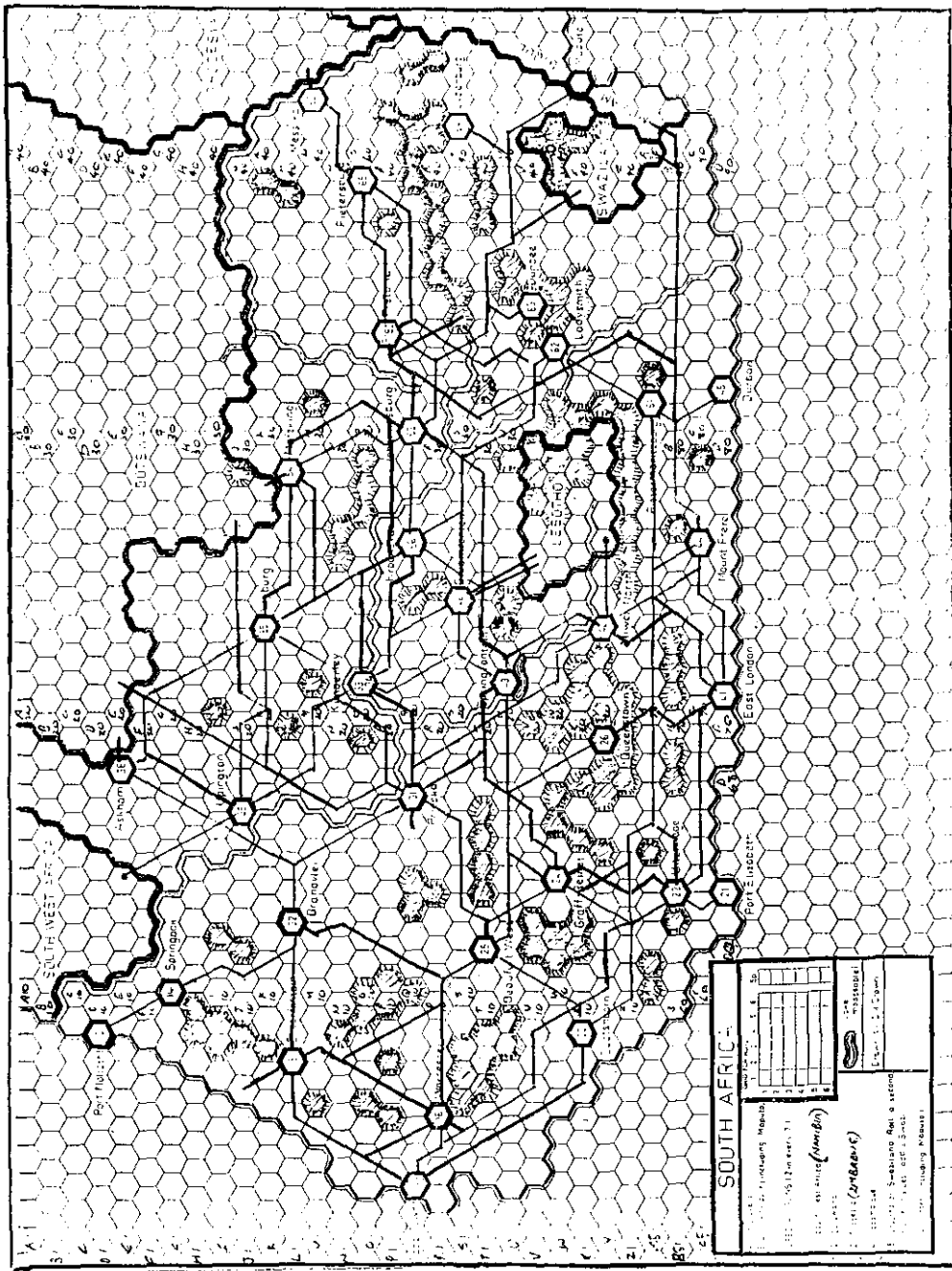
BUILDS: BOERING(Von Metzke),red: No builds made.
BORE (Martin), blue: Z14-A64-Uitenhage ; Aliwal North-Z23-B74.
Skokian (Stimmel), purple: K18-E21
CONTS (Charlton), green: M24-M28-Mafeking.
Zulu EXpress(Crandlemire),black P33-S34.

Monies:		Rivals/races			Race	Builds		Balance
Name	Start	in	out	wins	out	in		
BOERING	125	+15	-7	23	--	+2	158	
BORE	213	+8	-5	85	-7	+2	296	
Skokian	98	+1	-7	33	-8	--	117	
CONTS	143	+8	-9	34	-5	+2	173	
ZEX	161	+3	-7	35	-7	--	185	

RACES (Round 11): 11/Capetown-32/Brandvlei ; 15/Bitterfontein-55/Ryburg ; 24/Graff-Reinet-61/Pietermaritzburg ; 26/Queenstown-43/Springfontein ; 36/Askham-42/Aliwal North
52/Pretoria-Sp2/Botswana ; 66/Messina-Sp4/Mozambique

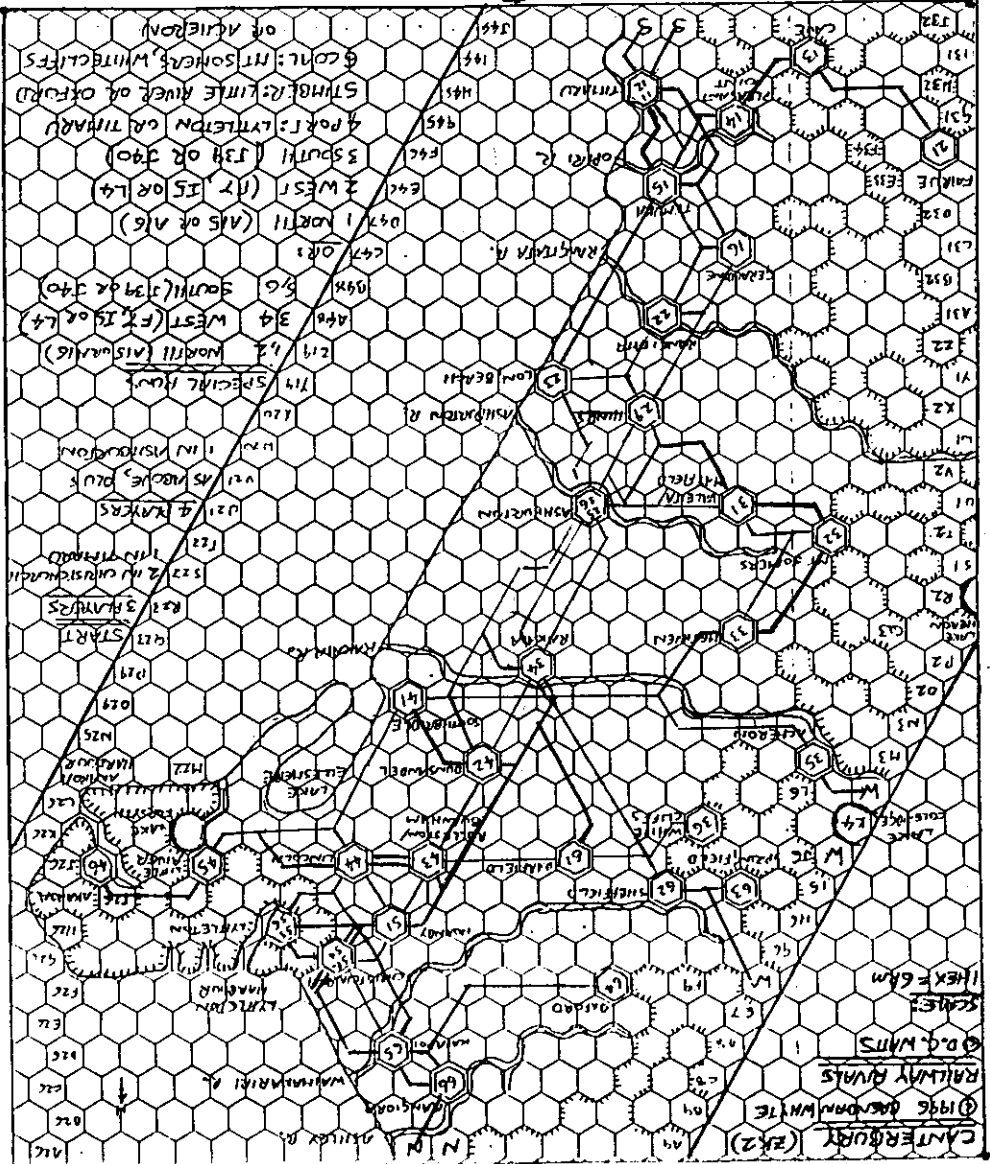
Held over from last round: 16/Worcester-Sp6/Port(minimum 6 hexes)

Enter any 4 races, & the one held-over. Build up to \$6 inclusive of all payments to rivals, after the races.



10

13
N



BANBURY MERTON STREET Final Round 10 (lowest unduplicated integer >0)

Crandlemire 1 A Hood Stimmel, Natrass, Charlton, Addison 2 Martin 3, Clarke 4

Name	Pts (system A)	Pts (system B)
Clarke	2	0.5678
B Quiding	2	0.5454
Crandlemire	2	0.2353+9/34=0.5
Hutton	2	0.3529

So, after the prescribed 10 rounds, 4 players emerge triumphant under system A, a point for the win while Clarke appears best under B (proportional point relative to number of players each round). Congratulations to our 4 winners, and winner of winners. If more subbers had played, the results would have spread out more. As usual, a zine-wide game only attracts a few dedicated players.

BRIGHTON AVENUE Round 9 (closest to median of integer entries >0)

Charlton 6 ; White 9 ; Crandlemire 10 ; A.Hood, Stimmel, Natrass 11 ; Addison, Martin 12 ; Clarke 14.

Hood, Stimmel and Natrass get 1/3 each under A, 0.0882 each under B and 1 each under C.

Name	A	B	C
A.Hood	1.333	0.3719	3(!!)
B. Quiding	1.125	0.2863	4
Natrass	1.0	0.2892(!!)	3(!!)
Addison	0.9167	0.2415	4
Petrie	0.9167	0.2843(!!)	3
Charlton	0.875	0.2295(!!)	3
Stimmel	0.833	0.2303	3
Martin	0.75	0.1691	2
Crandlemire	0.625	0.1355	2
Hutton	0.375	0.0809	2
White	0.25	0.0588	1

One round to go!

BONNIE BRAE Round 9 (closest to mean of integer entries 0<x<1000)

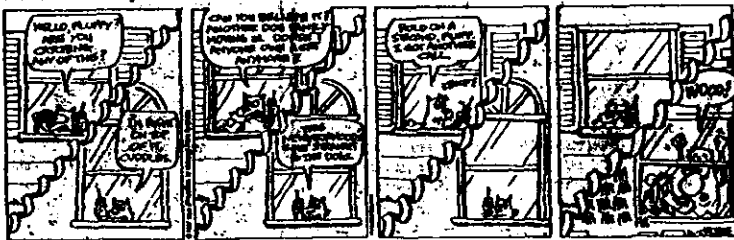
Clarke 223 ; A.Hood 251 ; Charlton 330 ; Addison 333 ; Crandlemire 401 ; White 410 ; Natrass 433 ; Stimmel 575 ; Martin 998.

Mean = 439.2. Natrass makes the board!

Name	A	B	C
Stimmel	2	0.5588	2
Charlton	1.333	0.4019	2
White	1.333	0.2807	2
Crandlemire	1	0.2973	1
Clarke	1	0.2703	1
Natrass	1	0.2647	1
B. Quiding	1	0.2352	1
Petrie	0.333	0.0686	1

One round to go!

CITIZEN DOG By Mark O'Hare



WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN Game 'Ile d'Aix' Round 5

FRENCH:	Crandlemire	Neptune: 3	<u>Duke de Bologogne:</u> 3	Conquerant: 3	Provence: 3
	Martin:	Ardent: L1	Jason: L1	Eveille: L1	Romulus: L1
ENGLISH:	White:	America: 1	Befford: 1	Adamant: 1	<u>London:</u> 1
	M.Hood:	Royal Oak: 1	Prudent: 1	Europe: L	Robust: L

Michael: if you start facing the wind you can only turn 1. Because your speed in irons is 0, you cannot 'pick up speed' after the turn into a better attitude. Hence no moving off until next turn.

Battle: *America* fires again at *Romulus'* hull, causing a single G damage. *Romulus* and *Eveille* return fire at the hull, missing, and causing H & C respectively. Brad needs to specify whether he will take the G hit on his carronades or guns. Both English players should also make notes to that regard in future, as all English ships have carronades, but only *Romulus* in the French fleet. Also note that unless specified, all fire will be directed against the hull at ranges <6, and rigging at longer ranges. If you want to fire at the rigging at close range, specify so.

Results: *America's* hull down to 10, crew section 1 down to 3. *Romulus'* hull down to 5 (from last turn), and awaiting decision on whether it loses a port gun or port carronade.

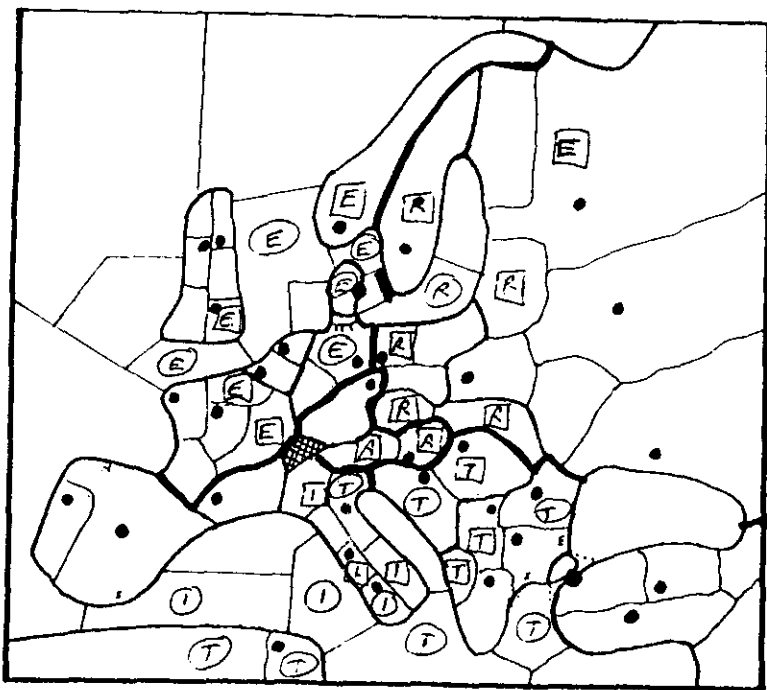
GUNBOAT Diplomacy Game "Bohemia" Spring 1917

I made a big boob last time. The TUR A Bud supported RUS A Boh-Vie, not RUS A Gal. RUS ordered A Gal-Vie, so the TUR support is wasted, and the RUS support from Boh is balanced by AUS A Tyr S A Vie H. Thus AUS A Vie is NOT dislodged, and therefore neither disbanded due to NRP. As this affects RUS, TUR and AUS & probably ITA, I decree a replay of this last turn.

Further I didn't show ITA A Ven which was dislodged and retreated to Rom.

Please send in your orders for Autumn/Winter 1917 again, taking account of this corrected situation, shown on the map below.

Both draw proposals fail; the first, 1Y, 2N, 2NVR; the second 2Y, 1N, 2NVR



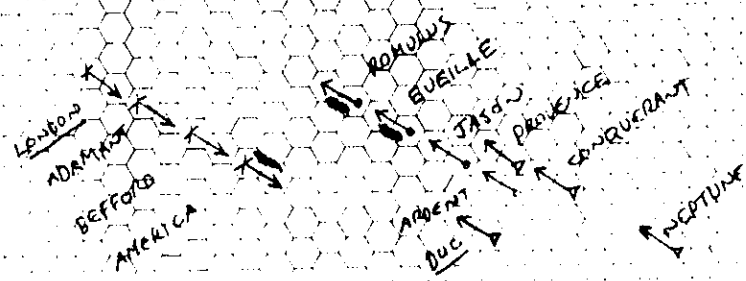
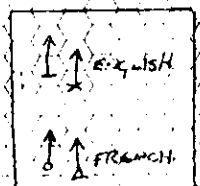
ROBUST ↑↑ EUROPE

↑ ROYAL BARK

WIND	
6	1
5	2
4	3

WIND CHANGES = 5

PROJECT →



"AIX D'ILE" TURN 5 END

↑ = STARBOARD INITIAL
↓ = BROADSIDE FIRED



BRITANNIA Game "Alban" Turn 4 A 20-355

ROMANS (Natrass) Builds: A ENC to make minimum 10 armies

Moves: A Dal-Sky, A Dal-Alb, A Str-Dun-Alb, 2A Ber-Lot-Dun-Alb, A Mch-Yor, A Che H
A Wes-Sus-Ess-Suf, A Ava-Wes-Sus-Ess, A ENC-Wes.

Battles: 4Rom vs 2 Pic in Alb Deaths: 1R,1R,1R,1P,1R&1P Alb now vacant
Build Forts: Sky

BELGAE(M Hood) Dead

WELSH(A.Hood) Pop: 1½pt +4½ on board=2A +0pt. Build A Dyf, A Gwy No moves.

BRIGANTES (Martin) Pop: ½pt held over, no increase allowed by Romans

Moves: A Dun-Mar.

PICTS(M.Hood) Dead

CALEDONIANS(A.Hood) Pop: 1½ pt + 1½ on board = A+0pt. Build A Cai. No moves

IRISH (Martin) Raid: 2A ATL-IRI-Cum.

Battle: 2 Iri vs 1RF in Cum. Deaths: 1RF, 1 Iri stays, 1 Iri returns to ATL
Combat vp lost due to settler.

SCOTS(Natrass) 1 Scot raider holds in IRI

JUTES(A.Hood) Raids: A ENG-Ken, A ENC-FRI-Ess

Battle: 1 Jut vs 1RF in Kent. Deaths: 1RF, Jute remains, Combat vp lost.
1 Jut vs 1 Rom & 1 RF in Ess. Deaths: 1 Rom & 1 Jut, 1 RF remains.

SAXONS(Martin) NMR, 3 Saxon raiders hold in ENG

ANGLES(M.Hood) Raids: A FRI-Nor, A FRI-Ess, A FRI-NOR-Lot

Battle: 1 Ang vs 1 RF in Nor. Death: 1 RF, 1 Ang returns to FRI
1 Ang vs 1 RF in Ess. Death: 1 Ang.
1 Ang vs 1 RF in Lot. Death: 1 RF, 1 Ang returns to FRI.

Victory Points:

Romans(N): 28+0=28

Irish(M): 0+2=2(areas, lost combat vp)

Belgae(MH): 2 (dead)

Scots(N): 0

Brigantes(M): 9 (submitted)

Jutes(AH): 4(areas, lost combat vp)

Welsh(AH): 0+8=8(areas)

Saxons(M): 0

Picts(MH): 5+4=9(killing Romans; now dead)

Angles(MH): 6(killing Romans)

Caled's(AH): 0+6=6(areas)

Totals: Natrass:28+0=28 A.Hood:8+6+4=18 M.Hood:2+9+6=17 Martin:9+2+0=11

Next turn: Roman minimum 10. Raiders: 1 Iri ATL, 1 Scot IRI, 2 Jut ENG, 3 Sax ENG, 3 Ang FRI.

Brigantes leader. Romans count Limes. Boats: Cai, Iri, Sco, Jut, Sax, Ang.

Press: GM-all: thanks for tips on Pict raiders. But I have the AH version and there is no paragraph 6.1 or 6.11! It is 7.1 instead.

Picts-Brigantes: I did not attack you, you invaded me under the pretext of fleeing from the Romans. Get a life!

GM-Picts: That's good coming from the dead!

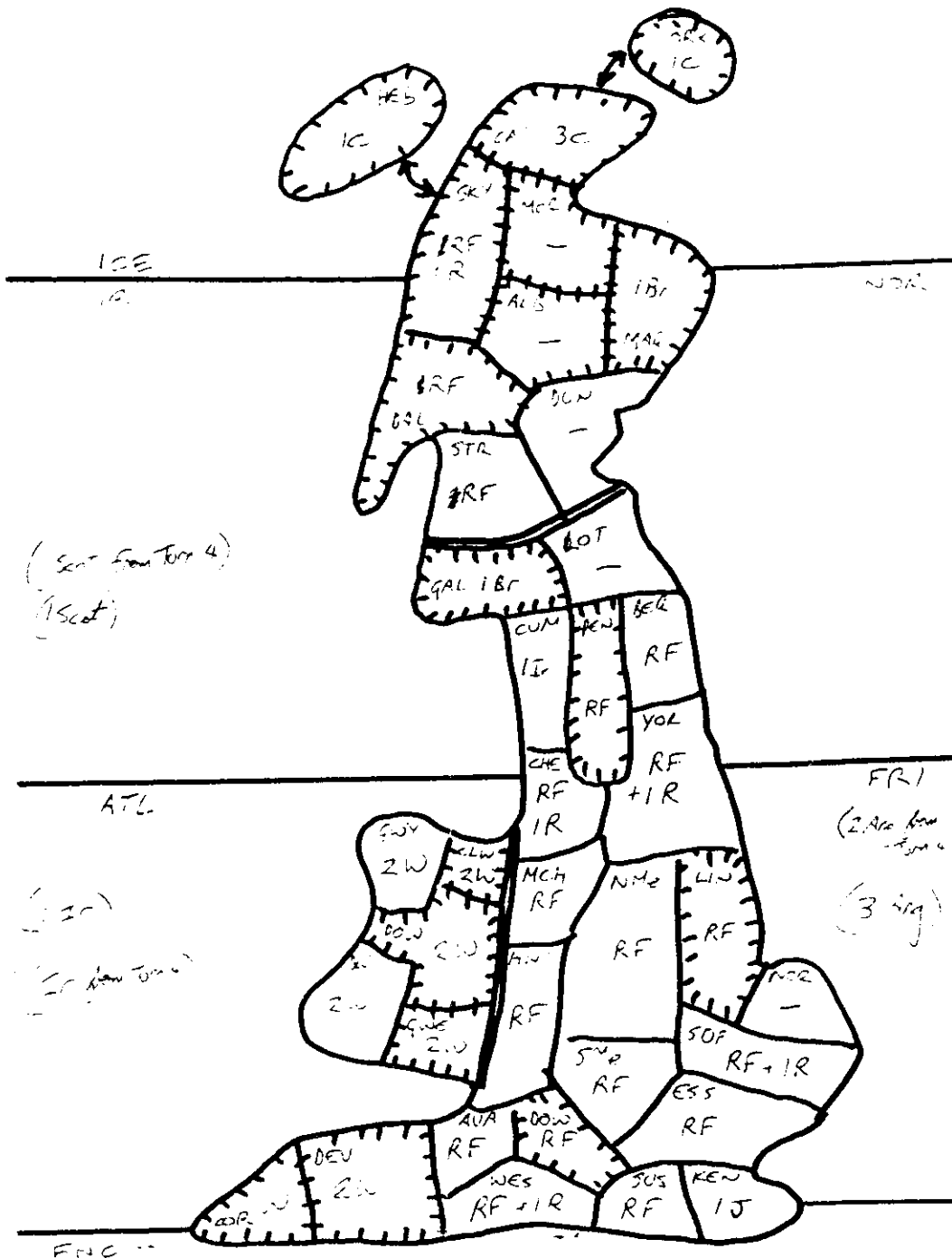
Picts-Romans: If you read the limes rules on your card carefully, you will see that you get no points for anywhere north of the Antonine Wall from now on, so I suggest you withdraw you and your subject nation's forces south of that wall to protect your forts from the growing number of raiders.

Picts-Caledonians: The Scots are arriving, we must maintain a united front otherwise they will take this country over!

Romans-Brigantes: No, the Brigantes need to be kept in check, fierce and warlike people that they are. As to the Irish, I doubt your influence as they have always exercised freewill.

Romans-Welsh: Aye! Wales for the Welsh, a brave and valourous people whom I respect enough to bear one of their names.

GM-Raiders: Your VP are scored for combat and for occupation of areas at the end of the turn. If you raid and go back to sea, you may get combat vp for killing things. If you stay, you forfeit those, but may get occupational vp. Check you cards and decide which is the best to do each turn.



(Scot from Tom 4)
 (Scot)

(20)
 (200 from Tom 4)

(2 Jet) (3 dex)
 (3 Sax from Tom 4)
 18

ENC

GAME STARTS:

RAILWAY RIVALS Game Southland map Racing rules

Players Charton, Martin, Von Metzke, Irving, Crandlemire, Bien Map enclosed

Please specify start city, colour and company name.

As I have found the 4 player start (Invercargill(2), Dunedin Oamaru) unbalanced (Invercargill romps away), we will not start 2 each at the 3 cities, but 3 at Invercargill and 1 or 2 at Dunedin and Oamaru

RAILWAY RIVALS Game Waikato map Racing rules

Players Charton, Martin, Von Metzke, Crandlemire, Irving, Bien Map enclosed

Please specify start city, colour and company name.

Start cities: Auckland (2), Thames, Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga

RAILWAY RIVALS Game Hannover-Leipzig map Racing rules

Players Charton, Martin, Crandlemire, Irving, Bien. Map enclosed

Please specify start city, colour and company name.

Start cities: Hannover(2), Halle(2), Kassel.

WAITING LISTS:

RoboRally: Petrie, Crandlemire, Natrass, Clarke, Martin 3 more(ownership useful but unnecessary)

Diplomacy: Addison, White, Natrass, Clarke, L. Quiding 2 more needed

Youngstown Diplomacy: White, Martin, Addison, Craig 5 more needed

Vain Rats Diplomacy: Petrie, Addison, White, L. Quiding 3 more needed. Rules sent when full.

Fog Of War Diplomacy: White, Clarke, L. Quiding 4 more needed. Rules Dtc71.

St Paul's Journeys: Craig, Charton, Crandlemire, Natrass, Martin, L. Quiding. FULL

This will not start until I get to Australia, due to space. Rules sent later.

Maharaja. Martin(A), Crandlemire(C), Petrie(D, needs rules), Natrass(B, needs rules). FULL

This will not start until I get to Australia, due to space. Rules sent later.

Sopwith: Crandlemire, Addison, Clarke 3 more needed

Bonnie Brae/Banbury Merton St : last round: jump right in and play!!!

Bnghton Ave. let me know if you'd like another game of this.

Quiz: send in your answers!!!

STANDBYS: Wooden Ships: Natrass, Clarke. Sopwith: Crandlemire Dip: Lurz
I need RR standbys. Please let me know if you will be one!

FOR SALE:

I will sell the following to any interested parties, to make space in my room before I leave NZ.

Cosmic Encounters: The West End Games boxed set, including Eon Games expansions 1,2,5,6,7,8,9.

Psychologiser, sort of like scruples. Parker Bros

Crown Red 2-4player abstract capture game. Very interesting movement system. Parker Bros

How to Host a Murder: Hoo Hung Wop (9th Century China) Ventura Unplayed.

Flashing Blades module An Ambassador's Tale (3 Musketeers-type RPG) FGU

Victory in the Pacific AH advanced 'war at sea' in the Pacific.

War At Sea AH/Jedko Simple WW2 european naval game

Breakscore NZ-invented dice game, like Yahtzee, but using your score to move along a track.

Air Strike GDW. Air/ground module for "Air Superiority" game. Unpunched

Includes Eagles of the Gulf module from Battleplan mag 9 (which I may sell separately)

221B Baker St. Cluedo-style detective game set in London. 20 cases to solve. Includes 3 expansions.

Erection Set wooden building block stacking game. Great with drinks!

Tirreme AH. 2 sets of counters (1 punched). Includes article from Scientific American on triremes.

Generic AH box. Simple alternating move game and more complex si-move game.

Battlewagon. Folio WW1 and WW2 naval combat. Task force Games. Punched, never played.

- S&T 70 Crusades, rules, but no counters or map.

General mags: vol 18/3 Guns of August; vol 24/3 Diplomacy(inc a game GM'd by Larry Peery!);
vol 25/1 Kremlin, and the 1988 'Special Issue'.

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warned that it was a holy place so photography shoes and hats were forbidden one then ran a gauntlet of beggars and curious/rude locals. So much for places of reflection and meditation. Whole families would berate me for my address name age if I was married my father's income etc. Yet they got annoyed if I asked the same questions back. It was sad to see so many children begging often cheekily but still begging foreigners for pens or money ever from their middle class homes as I passed in the street. Gem salesmen and other touts also plied their trade the bane of any tourist. Gem salesmen wanted me to come to their new shop and help them translate their sign into the language of my country. As they asked me to do this in perfect English, I assured them they didn't need my help to write English. They then get angry that I lie, as they want the language of my country not English. Telling them I am from NZ doesn't help. They expect German and French to be my mother tongue. It is all a con to get you into the shop anyway. And prices in all shops rocket for tourists. I got very frustrated with shop owners who swore blind that a bottle of drink cost 50Rp when the label said maximum price 11. I paid 11 and walked out, and they didn't call the police, but the barefaced lying is very aggravating.

Despite the hassles as a tourist, the people in the villages, and my friends in the cities are lovely, helpful, and hospitable to a fault. I was fed and housed in Maliduwa for a month, and they refused payment. I was embarrassed, as I was originally only to be there a couple of days. Village life should not be idealised, but it was calm and fun, with a stream to swim in, great food and cool shade. The cities are hot, crowded and polluted, and more likely to have malaria. The buses are packed until people are hanging onto the outside. Accidents are fewer than India, but the trial of being packed like a sardine in a bus too small to stand upright in, hemmed in by undeodorised, sweaty locals, and often groped (women have real hassles with this), unable to see out, and so unable to see one's stop, is terrible. Even the airport buses don't leave until full, my one nearly causing me to miss my flight (which luckily was delayed 5 hours).

I recommend:

Galle fort, a world heritage site, a preserved Dutch fort with historic homes and buildings inside, calm, with real atmosphere. Galle city outside is the usual ugly town.

Kandy, much less hassle than Colombo, and the Pink house guest house is great.

Adam's Peak, a 100m climb up a steep trail, worth hundreds of pilgrims to see Adam's/Buddha's footprint on top, but better, the sunrise, the view and the famous shadow. Locals climb and descend in the night. Staying for sunrise is grand, and the cold is fabulous after the heat of the plains. I got up in 2¼hrs.

Haputale/Horton Plains. Bring a student card for US\$6 admission. Better yet, stay several days in Haputale, walking the area, and come into the park from below World's End, exiting at park HQ to avoid paying. As you only pay for the part of the park at world's End, enjoy walking the plains and forest in the park elsewhere. The guest houses in Haputale have great visitor's books with ideas.

Train Colombo-Galle is a shocker, very rough. My seat wasn't even screwed down, so at one bump, the whole seat fell over! The bus here is better. But the Kandy line through to Badulla is fantastic, slow (20-25km/h) but beautiful views, and possibly more direct than the roads (you don't want to be in a packed bus on those hairpins!). There's even a spiral near Ella. Ride first-class in the observation car, to escape the crowds of classes 2 and 3, and the pestering school kids and hawkers. Windows that open allow good views (a/c coaches are always hard to see out of), and you can often buy 2nd class tickets, but upgrade on the train as the first class seats are only sold in Kandy and Colombo, but are often vacant (uncomputerised system).

Sigiriya. A rock fortress, almost sheer sides, with iron catwalks and stairs to get to the ruins on top. 12th century frescos, still bright, adorn a cave on one cliff, reachable by spiral stairs now, but goodness knows how then. Very impressive, and the only site worth the US\$12 entrance. Having had my fill of carved rock ruins in Thailand, the 2 ancient cities were not worth another US\$12 each.

After returning to Colombo I flew to the Maldives for a couple of days. 1200 atoll islands 200 inhabited with 300 000 people. This country limits tourism to expensive resort islands with permits to visit the real Maldivians hard to get. Package tours from Germany UK and Scandinavia are popular and the diving is meant to be great. I arrived and had my passport held by immigration while I chose a hotel. They were suspicious of my not wanting to stay at a resort despite there being 20 odd guesthouses in the capital Male. I had to book one before I could leave the airport, then was given a thorough search by customs. Any religious idols are banned as is alcohol, pork, porn etc. So Buddhists visitors from Lanka must have a hard time. The airport is on one island, 2km from the capital island. Outside the terminal resort touts wait for anyone who has flown in independently but 90% of visitors have a package booked in advance. I took a boat to Male and found my guesthouse US\$20. Damp and a separate bathroom, no meals. Again an extortionate price. But as my guidebook had said \$25 minimum I wasn't too displeased. Male houses 65-100 000 people on its 1x2km. Much of it is reclaimed. A limit of 15 stories to buildings raised from 5 a few years ago, means a building boom downtown. But the narrow streets mean corners are all built as curves, to allow cars to turn. Yes despite the small size there is 1 car per 16m of road. There is a taxi fleet (no bargaining: 15Rf per trip anywhere. 1Rufiyaa=10c US) and many construction vehicles, as well as trucks. Bicycles are common, and most roads have bike parking on one side. Roads have footpaths, and are mainly sealed with paving stones. It is litter free, and the traffic is calm and slow. In short, it is a world away from Colombo. The people are Indian, and Muslim, but not too fanatic. There was a coup attempt in 1988, so soldiers in camo guard the president's house, but there were no guns visible at the airport, and only the National Security Service building is out of bounds to photographers. The NSS runs the coast guard/navy, with 4 or 5 patrol boats in the harbour. Fish, bonito, is the main industry after tourism. The fish market was amazingly clean, tiled floors and fragrant. There is even a public toilet at the port for fishermen, with showers. This too is the cleanest public loo I have seen. Incredible. No fee, either. The produce market (bananas, coconuts etc) had screened windows to keep out flies. Malaria has been eradicated. I saw no beggars. It was an amazing place. The small island meant a sea breeze kept it cool, and the streets had enough shade from the house walls. There is a soccer/cricket stadium, and a couple of large parks, several blocks in size. Cadets and scouts parade here in the evenings, and the waterfront fills up by sunset with volleyball and joggers. Electricity is from a huge diesel generator plant. Water from bores.

To the west is another small island, originally a resort, but now being built as Male is pretty much full. Boats cost Rf3 each way, and are full at weekends (Fri & Sat) as families go to the lovely beaches there. Male has reclaimed on all sides, so it has no beaches, only seawalls. Alcohol is available on resort islands and at departing duty free. But expats etc catch a boat to resorts near Male which make a killing on Thursday nights and Friday, while Male has closed for the Muslim sabbath.

I flew back to NZ on March 1, 36 hours from Male, including 12 hours in Bangkok. I shared a dayroom with a NZ Buddhist monk, and we discussed Buddhism. At last someone explained it to me so I could understand! Most books are so full of jargon, or are poor translations, so are almost gibberish. Monks can only eat between sunrise and noon. They cannot pick up food but must have it handed to them. Thus, the monk had problems flying as the meals were served at strange times. It all seems a little unrealistic to me. One thing I like about Christianity, is it has no weird rules, no special clothing requirements, it's about people, not rules. Buddhism seems too ethereal in concept, although I met some very holy and practical monks. I guess it comes down to interpretation.

I know have 2 months in NZ to pack up and move to Melbourne by late May. Congratulations to John Hutton on his scholarship to ANU in Canberra. He moves in mid-April. Note the many changes to the address list since last time. Andrew Ward is in England. Alex Hood back in Dunedin. I have some tutoring and marking work at Auckland Uni and have just scored some analysis work for Northern Health, so I will be busy until I go.

LETTERS

Robert Stimmel, Tuscon, Az

Sudan is 966 499 sq miles. Algeria 919 595. What country is 40% atheist and 40% R Catholic? Czech Republic. But Poland is 95% Catholic.
[[And Zaire is 905 568]]

Ulrich Schlobinski, Germany

I heard you run a RR zine too. could you send me an issue. On which email can I reach you? I'm interested to play a little bit of RR in NZ.

[[My old stats email has been closed down, as my job there finished in November. I've been overseas, hence the late reply. You emailed me last week, but every time I tried to reply the mail bounced, saying your address did not exist. So I have tried to reply, but couldn't. Here is a sample of DiC anyway. I am just starting 3 new RR games. Maybe you'd like to be a standby, as I suspect at least one player won't want to be in 3 new games.]]

Mark Petrie, Ponsonby

Amy says [4 Chinese characters] and welcome to the year of the tiger. I pronounce it gong hay faa choi, not being a Chinese scholar. We found our coin collection not long ago. We'd gratefully receive any spare change you bring back from overseas. At the end of DiC 75 you talked about our boys leaving a colony and coming back to a nation. I presume this means that when the ANZACS laid down their lives by the thousand fighting for the British Empire that all debts to the mother country were paid. Fair enough. I might respond with the following: "By the toll of a billion deaths man has bought his birthright of the earth. For men neither live nor die in vain." H.G. Wells, "War of the Worlds"

Amy reminded me to tell you to be careful with my property. Your body belongs to me. I have proof, and I don't want it damaged. Only the abolition of slavery has prevented me from subjecting it to a number of highly uncomfortable and anatomically improbable practices. All in the cause of science of course. You're probably relieved to be overseas just now.

[[Year of living dangerously more like I hate bombs. Luckily theones in Lanka didn't affect me, although the recent one, a week after my return was a lot worse. 30 dead, 300 injured. Idiomatic people. I'm sorry, but most of my change got changed into NZ\$, and I only kept enough foreign dosh for my own collection. I may have a spare banknote or 2 of you like though. As to the ANZACs, as much as anything, all those men going to Europe found that they were different from Brits and Aussies, so we were no longer a colony, but a separate people in our own right, with a developing language and culture. But you are right, we bought our nationhood on the beaches.

One thing I don't get with the Lankans, is that it was never a single country. The Portuguese and Dutch never controlled the Kandy kingdom, it took the Brits to bring unified rule to the place. Then the peoples decided they didn't want the Brits. Surely this eliminates the *raison d'être* for a unitary state. Therefore the Tamils have a right to be independent if they want. To eliminate colonialism means the Sinhalese surley can't take up the mantle themselves. I think the Tamils should be given their own state. It would collapse pretty quickly and they'd want to be part of a federal if not unitary Lanka again, and the problem would be over. Of course, the problem is where to draw the line, as there is no 100% divide between Tamils and Sinhalese. Which is what my PhD thesis is on, the "need" for a linear boundary, as opposed to a boundary including exclaves and enclaves, as proposed for Bosnia. Fuzzy-set-state theory if you like. Of course, terrorist bombing and not talking makes the LTTE evil anarchists, not freedom fighters. I am ashamed that Canada and the UK still allow LTTE offices to fundraise, arguing they can't police whether the funds go to house building or bomb building. At least the US has outlawed the Tigers... finally. No wonder Lanka has such problems when two large nations support the terrorists.]]

QUIZ Round 5:

1 Rama VIII (king 1935-1946) was found mysteriously shot in bed in his palace on 9/6/1946. It was never ascertained whether it was murder (highly likely) or suicide (the official version). Nevertheless it is such a sensitive issue that it is never discussed in Thai society and at least western one text with a chapter on the incident had it removed for Thai distribution!

White, Crandlemire, Charlton & Clarke 1/4pt each

2 Rama V (king 1868-1910) is highly venerated for his long and enlightened reign. He travelled to Europe (Grand Tour sort of thing) and modernised the Thai monarchy and society, as well as keeping Thailand free from colonisation. He abolished slavery & obscenities in front of the king, as well as building railways, a modern army, navy, civil service, etc etc. He was also the first monarch to travel widely in the kingdom meeting the common people, often travelling incognito. Thus he gained the respect of the commoners, as he sought the betterment of Thailand, not his own aggrandisement. He has gained demigod status, with women praying in front of his statue and leaving flowers every Tuesday. There is a national holiday on his birthday, as well as the current king's.

Clarke, White 1 pt each

3) On 22/7/1917 Thailand declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary, sending over 1000 soldiers to Europe, but they arrived too late to see combat. The gesture gained Thailand prestige (Britain and France gave up extraterritorial rights), and she was a founding member of the League of Nations.

White, Crandlemire, Charlton, Clarke 1/4pt each.

4&5) The Democracy Monument, commemorating the conversion to a constitutional monarchy in 1932 and the Victory Monument, which I thought commemorated WW1 Victory, but others tell me was for the 'victory' of the army over a popular uprising in the 30s or 40s.

Crandlemire 2pts for the Democracy monument.

Standings: Charlton 10.25, Clarke 9.5, Crandlemire 8.25, White 7.25, Martin 4.25
Howell & Addison 4, M Hood 2.5, Petrie 1.5, A Hood 1, Stimmel 0.5

Round 6 Questions: The British Commonwealth

Pakistan and South Africa have rejoined the Commonwealth, Fiji's rejoining awaits its ratification of a non-racial constitution, Eritrea decided to apply, and then withdrew. Palestine has thought about joining, but application will have to wait until it is fully sovereign. So:

1&2) What is strange about the admittance of the 2 countries who joined in 1995?

3&4) What other 2 'strange' countries have applied for membership? Why isn't one so 'strange'?

5&6) What 2 formerly British countries remain outside the Commonwealth? The USA does not count.

2pts for a sole correct answer, 1pt each for 2 people sharing the answer, 1/2 pt each for >2 people.

DEADLINE:

FRI 24 APRIL '98