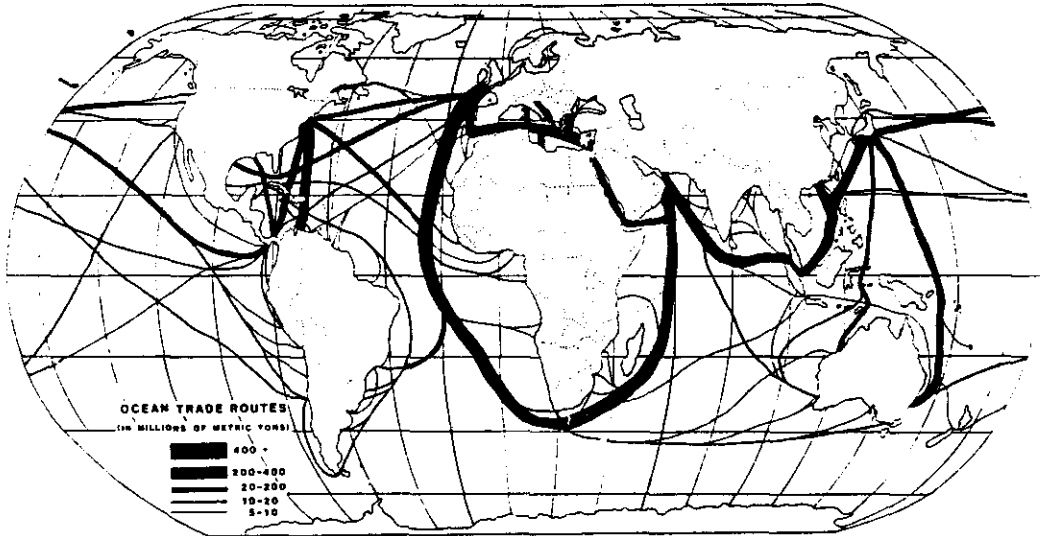


# DAMN<sup>TH</sup>E CONSEQUENCES #77

MAY '98

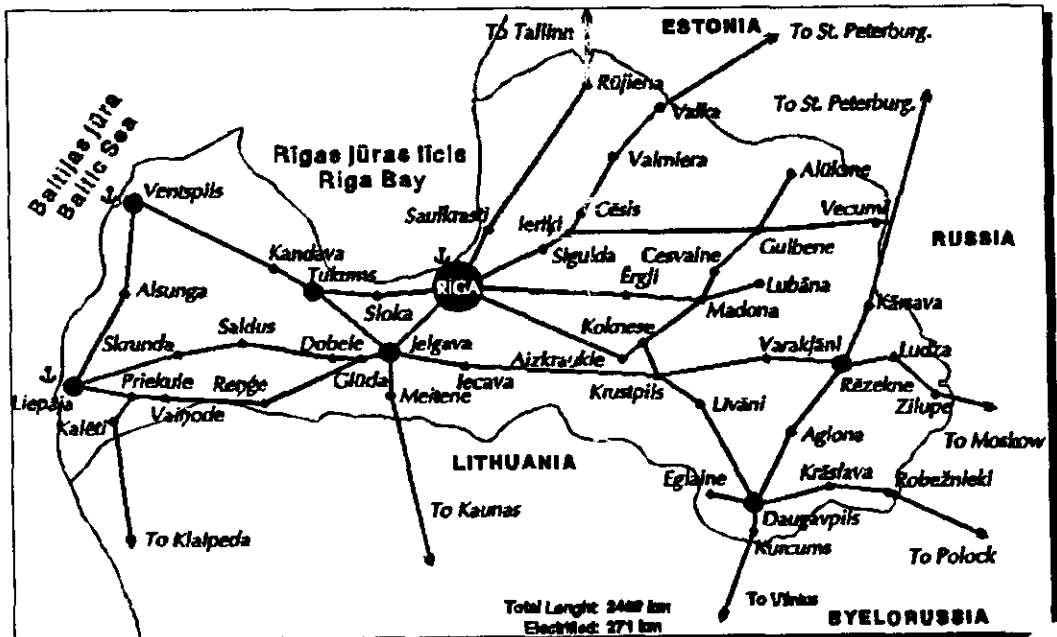
NZ\$2 / \$1.50 + POST

CROSSING THE DITCH ISSUE



*Principal ocean trade routes.* Note the huge volume of traffic between the Persian Gulf and Western Europe: this consists nearly entirely of petroleum and petroleum products. Elsewhere, trade among the industrialized countries is much greater than any trade involving the developing countries.

## RAILWAY PLAN OF LATVIA



Welcome to the last issue of DiC from New Zealand... at least for the next 3 years. As of 24 May 1998, I will be located in Melbourne, Australia, paid for by the Aussie government. Yes, they like me so much, they are paying to fly me over, and if I ever want to leave, I have to fund myself.

Until 24 May, I am  
Brendan Whyte, of

**96 Waiaetara Rd, Remuera, Auckland 5, New Zealand ph 64-9-5244307 email: whytehouse@clear.net.nz**

After 24 May, I am Brendan Whyte still, but temporarily addressed at

**Graduate Student, c/- Geography Dept, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic 3052, Australia.**

Next issue I should have a permanent address, where you can come to pay me the due respects, and your sub fees (MR QUIDDING!!!). Until then, you can email here in NZ, and email will be forwarded once I am set up.

Brandon Clarke is wanting to run a face to face NZ Dip champs later this year, and info is located further in.

### Easter trip report.

While in Asia, I had wanted to climb Hikurangi, the North Island's 5th highest peak, and the highest non-volcanic one. It is located just inland from Ruatoria in Eastland, and is 1700m high. The climb is made from near sea-level, and is basically an overnight one, 5 hours each way, with a hut near the top. Unfortunately, people who were thought to be available ended up overseas as Easter drew nigh, so with only Erik and I left, we decided to flag the mountain climb, as the hut would be full on a public holiday anyway, and just cruise the Cape. Eastland is the most isolated part of the North Island. It gets few foreign tourists, although the road is sealed all the way around. It is a strongly Maori area, somewhat depressed, and no longer supported by government subsidies. Even the much vaunted Codenco tomato processors closed up and moved to Australia a year or 2 back after being proud to be a NZ company based in Gisborne in 1994. They were a Massey Uni case study for ag students. Well, bugger them now.

Erik and I hired a car and headed south on Thursday night. We took 5 hours to get to Whakatane, via Rotorua, making the traditional stop in Matamata for a takeaway dinner, and admiring the main street shops. After all, despite its diversity, Auckland doesn't have milking machines on display in Queen St shops.

We got to Whakatane at 11pm. Warning: book accommodation if you are arriving late. The camping ground was all dark, and so was the backpackers, so we tried the hotel, which was only still open because a local principal was retiring and there was a function for him there. The Whakatane hotel is a nice old pub hotel (the first I've ever stayed in) of the Art Deco era. Backpacker's rooms are had for \$16 each, with bunks and basin. A kitchenette and lounge at the half end made breakfast simple, and we enjoyed a nippy but sunny start to Good Friday. Being thus, the town was dead, and we packed up and headed off. First, up the hill behind the town, to an old redoubt, refuge against Maori during the land wars. Whakatane is strange, in that the town centre is wedged between the cliffs of the hills and the small harbour and river. The residential areas and industry and on the plains to the west. The view from the redoubt, now a reserve, and with only the ditch and rampart left in the grass, was lovely. Then on towards Taneatua. The Ohuwa Harbour and its hills forces the road to go inland in a long loop. Taneatua is the end of the East Coast rail line. Just 3km before it, there is a rare road/rail bridge, one lane wide, with traffic lights. Trains get right of way (but are few these days), and traffic gives way to traffic in the other direction, and trains. It is strange to see traffic lights in the country, and they were the last lights before Gisborne, 400km away. From here on in, I was in new country, Eastland being the only part of the North Island I hadn't been to.

From Taneatua the road winds on to Opotiki. Here, at St Stephen the Martyr, Rev Carl Volkner was murdered by Maori in the land wars. The prophetically named Anglican church is nestled in amongst trees at the northern end of the main street. A memorial stone to Volkner is on the outside wall behind the church, under the altar windows. My mother was confirmed here in the 1950s. This is where Alamein Kopu, MP is from. Her office is opposite a Maori land claims office. On the window of this, a mis-spelt and badly grammatical letter demanded changes to the bureaucracy of the claims, calling on local Maori to ensure their voices were heard, arguing that the iwi representatives had no mandate from the iwi proletariat, did not live in the area and so had no right to negotiate a settlement. One of these reps is Ranganui Walker, a Maori studies prof at Auckland Uni, so the argument was reasonable, but typical of the fractured voice of Maoridom. Once a settlement is reached, some group always claims it will not accept, and so the process goes on and on.

Opotiki is the last town of note before Gisborne. We filled up with petrol and drove on. From here we were on the Cape highway, SH35. SH2 cuts through direct to Gissy from Opotiki, so 35 is a scenic highway, for local and tourist traffic only. The road, like all highways except between main cities, is 2 lane, one each way. It winds along the coast. The Bay of Plenty ends at Opotiki, and the beaches are coves, several km long, but separated by rocky bluffs. Black sand alternates with white, and shingle beaches too. Driftwood is piled high above the high-water mark, with a few locals in utes picking it up for firewood. Most of the larger bays have a flat or gentle sloped hinterland before the hills take off again, and this is farmed. The hills are in pine, with Caxton of the toilet paper a large owner. But the hills are rugged and steep, so much is still native bush, even the privately owned areas. Raukumara Forest Park does doesn't even have a map, as there are only a couple of tracks, although there is an historic Maori trail across the rivers valleys, with huts along the way, but it is routefinding, and requires 5 days minimum, and excellent navigation skills, being uncut, unblazed and unsigned. 10km past Opotiki, the Motu Valley road is unsealed and better suited to mountain bikes than cars. Motu was the end of the Motuohora rail line from Gisborne, designed to eventually link with Opotiki and Taneatua. But when only 60km apart as the crow flies, it had only got to Motu, and work was stopped. The rails were lifted and little remains.

Back to SH35, the road does a loop inland to cross the Motu river. This is a wild river, famed for white water rafting. My father went on a trip in the 80s, rain swelled the river, and they had to stay camped on the banks in the bush for

several days until the level dropped again. There was no way in or out except by river. It was quite strange not knowing when dad was going to come home, and having the other wives ringing up frequently to see if there was news of the group yet.

Te Kaha has holiday homes and the first shop after Opotiki. My maternal grandparents taught here at the Maori school (primary and secondary) in the late 1950s. My mother spent her holidays here. Nana remembers the isolation then, the miles and miles of unsealed road to Opotiki (2 hours hard driving). It was a once-a-month shopping trip, although there was a store for everyday needs in Te Kaha. The school is now an outpost of the Whakatane based Maori 'university'. We stopped for lunch, and headed on. The northern end of the peninsula is interesting because while the main mountains run NE/SW, the edge here has a narrow ridge along its length basically E-W, and the road is nestled in a river valley 5 km inland, until Hicks Bay. In the middle of this passage, a hoary old dirt road winds over to Lottin Point and a motel, although I wonder how many people get out there. We drove over the slippery remains of one landslide, and the road goes through a large paddock at one point, with a cattlegrid at each end, and no side fences, so stock are a danger. The road drops steeply over with spectacular views of the coastline, especially with the afternoon sun behind. Lovely.

Hicks Bay has a small store and a backpackers. There is a lookout on the hill over to Te Araroa, which has a larger town, with a hotel, Mormon Church (complete as always with basketball court), store, takeaway, and the old corrugated iron cinema. The takeaway bar has great photos of the place in the 20s and 30s, still recognisable, and one of the parliamentary tour of the 30s. Wow. The public loo are in a filthy state. Graffiti is even out here. Then there is a narrow 22km dirt road to East Cape itself and its lighthouse. This skirts the cliffs and small farmed bays, until the cape, which is the cliffs of one hill. The land immediately around is flat, sheltered and a great spot for a farm. The lighthouse is accessible up a steep flight of stairs, and a sign warns the path crosses private land and visitors do so at their own risk. Bloody American OSH getting in the way... since this Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed, trampers etc have been refused access across farmer's lands in case the injure themselves and then sue. Bloody silly. Anyway, the light was originally installed on East Island, 2km offshore, a steep razorbacked place, but landslides forced its re-installment on East Cape itself in the 20s. What a job that must have been in such an isolated location. East Cape can get very rough. One vessel, called from Wellington to Auckland to help against Heke in the Northern War of 1845 had to jettison most of her guns after getting caught in a bad squall here. The place feels like Owenga in the Chathams so far away from everything.

Footnote on the Chathams: a fisherman from Port Hutt was airlifted to NZ with a coffee mug handle embedded in his head last week. No explanation was offered.

East Cape will compete with the Chathams and Kiribati for the first glimpse of the sun on 1 Jan 2000. 1/1/2001 is actually the new century, but the reporters don't care. Kiribati even moved the dateline to ensure its claim to 10s of fame. I wonder if they'll move it back after...

Back in Te Araroa, the hotel was shut. No demand in the holidays said the landlord, as he loaded grog into a car at the back. So much for no liquor trading Good Friday... Nearly dark, the campground (complete with its own cinema) was full, as was the Hicks Bay backpackers. So it was on to Tikitiki, 15km away, over windy hills in the dark. There is nothing there now. There is meant to be a spectacularly decorated Maori church, but we couldn't see it in the dark. The shops were boarded up and hooded skateboarders hung out on the steps. Rather intimidating. The hotel, down the road, was in darkness, so on to Ruatoria...

Another 15km up the Waipua River got us to Ruatoria, a little off the main road. This is a mean town. A Rastafarian sect lives nearby, mainly Maori, and was implicated in a series of arsons in the 80s. Gang fights, high unemployment, cannabis cultivation... all the usual problems. The Rastas are quiet now, but still into the heavy weed. We knocked at the lovely old wooden hotel and got a room. Being good Friday, the whole place was silent despite it only being 7pm. Night falls quickly in the country. The kai kart outside was doing a brisk trade. We had a balcony room, but were advised by the landlady not to use it in case locals threw bottles... The place was still fitted out like the 50s, so it was a great find. I fell sound asleep, but apparently first a guest locked herself out of her room at midnight, and had to call the landlady, who had just got back to sleep when some local hoons made a racket at 1am demanding 'smokes and booze'. The landlady eventually shooed them off, but confided that as everyone knew everyone else around here, calling the cops wasn't an option unless it got ugly, so she had to try and deal with them.

We loved the cool crisp morning, and after breakfast, charged off around 7:30. We detoured off the main road down to the coast at Waipiro Bay. This was a small town at the turn of the century, and Mr Kerridge opened his first cinema here in 1923. It is now the local marae's dining hall. A heritage trail shows off the local church, a charming brick building, the dilapidated woolstore, and the old homesteads. The beach is wild and exciting, with macrocarpas and is easily accessible from the town. The town died when the road was completed and the shipping stopped for the 40s on.

We hit the main road again at Te Puia hot springs, then we soon at Tokomaru Bay. Again, a bustling town in the 20s, many old houses still stand, although the meat works are in ruins. Exciting ruins though. The works straddled a gullied stream, and the walls remain, with bare girders crossing to the other side, inviting the daring kids to play chicken on them. The remains of the rail lines to the wharf can be seen, and this structure has recently been redocked. Whereas it was a concrete jetty to a large wooden platform at the end, the replacement planks occupy only half the width of the platform, but zigzag from left to right to left again. Why I know not. Quite odd. The rails are intact on the concrete jetty, pointing at the forlorn concrete works walls protruding from the trees in the cove. While a heritage trail sign shows there is some interest in them I wonder if the will be repaired at all or just left in studied neglect. The old manager's house, a brick affair has nice lawns and a row of Phoenix palms twist it and the road. Inland again, then we follow the Uawa river valley, a large flat plain to Tolaga Bay. This is still a real town, a day trip for Gisbornites. The old hotel is picturesque. Across the river mouth is the motorcamp and the Southern Hemisphere's longest jetty, at 600m. That day there was a fishing tourney on it and it was packed. Erik wanted to go fishing but the crowds were ridiculous, so we parked in a field nearby, and did the Cook's Cove

walkway. Cook landed here in 1769odd. He had tried to obtain supplies at his first landfill, Poverty Bay, but the local Maori had nothing, so he sailed up the coast. At Anaura Bay local natives suggested Tolaga Bay, a little back to the south, and here he found a sheltered anchorage and friendly, supplied locals. The walk heads along a ridge that drops off as sheer cliffs overlooking the Bay, and then climbs down to Cooks cove itself, a narrow inlet behind the steep Mitre rocks. Nearby is Hole in the wall, a natural arch to the beach, which is quite lovely. It is a pleasant spot, a farm, but with plenty of trees and regenerating scrub on the hillside. The flat paddock drops about 4feet straight down into the sandy inlet, like a narrow slice of cake has been taken out of it. Strange.

There are many gorgeous beaches along the coast here, but their isolation means they are little visited except in high summer. This is great for the explorer like me. I'm glad they haven't developed like Snell's and Maratai near Auckland.

Just before Gisborne, Tuaheni Point rounds into Sponge Bay. Here the Gisborne Harbour Board had a rail line along the road and across a causeway to Tuamotu Island. Another island was on the reef between isle and mainland, but it was quarried away, and the spoil used to make the Gisborne wharves and breakwaters. The line was taken up in the late 1800s and nothing remains, and it is hard to imagine how it got to the island, as the road ends in a cliff, whatever support the line had having eroded away in the century until now.

Over the hill to Gisborne, and the first traffic lights signal the end of SH35. The city camping ground near the river was full, so we got a cabin at the racecourse camp for \$14 for the pair of us, \$7 each!!! It had 5 beds and a basin, spartan and stale smelling, but what a price! We dumped our stuff and headed up SH2, the gorge road to Opotiki. As I said, the rail line that was built as far as Motu was meant to link through Opotiki to Taneatua, but never made it. A shame, as Transrail operates a Bay Raider service today that rails Auckland-Rotorua, trucks to Gisborne and rails to Napier from there, as direct rail to Napier has otherwise to go via Palmerston North, a substantial detour. If only the rail HAD gone through. The old formation is still visible in most places all the way to Motu, and the 4 tunnels still exist. From just past Te Karaka to Otoko, a 5km NZ Walkway follows the old formation, a much better route than the road which winds up over a razorback ridge, like the road over Wenderholm. We walked the trail just before sunset, and it is quite eerie walking such a formation that is now in pasture. The huge embankments and cuttings are now in pasture, but rather surreal. The concrete piles of a bridge stand without any further remains over the river at one point. Of the 3 tunnels between the trail and Gisborne, one, the track start is almost blocked at one end, as if it was bulldozed shut, but a hole remains with a gate upon it to stop sheep falling in. As the blockage is flush with the hillside, and grassed, it suggests this was done quite some time ago, but why. I can't tell. Tunnel 3 is also open at one end only, and so full of mud and sheepshit, that I didn't go past the portal. It sits beside the road, sunken, just beyond Te Karaka. Tunnel 1 is still extant, and used as a cattle path between fields, just outside Waipaoa. A km or two away is an abandoned abattoir.

Sunday morning we saw Cook's landing place, his first in NZ, at the mouth of the Turanganui River in Gisborne itself. The landing monument was on the shore, but harbour works mean it is now nestled in the corner of a logging wharf, which cuts it off from the sea. On the hill behind, a statue of Cook stands, and Young Nick's Head is visible across Poverty Bay. Cook said he'd name the first sighting of land after it's sighter, and ship's boy, Nick, sighted NZ first. The name stuck, as the southern end of Poverty Bay.

Extensive flood works on the Waipaoa River cutting out large meanders, have reduced disaster potential, and allowed the railway to cross the river near its mouth to enter Gisborne. The airport, built near the city, shares land with the railway, and incoming flights must give way to trains, as the tracks cross the runway, the only known case of such in the Southern Hemisphere. I guess there is something similar in the US or UK then... anyone know?

Heading for Wairoa along the coast, we cut off to see the Mahia peninsula, and leaving Erik to fish, I drove to the end to see Portland Island off the southern tip. The pen. Is a tombolo, an island connected to the mainland by a sandspit, which has gradually filled in. The pen is flat in large places, a plateau 100m asl, which is rather weird, but it gets very rugged at the southern end, but flat again at the tip, overlooking Portland. The latter is probably a farm still, and rises smoothly like a wedge to its southern end. The pen is popular for surfers and fishermen.

Wairoa is a small but neat town, where the Portland Island light has been re-erected as a tourist draw. There is little else of interest here, the town being a service centre for northern Hawkes Bay. It is a long haul to Napier from here, with only 2 or 3 localities in between. Very rugged country. The Mohaka valley is quite spectacular, its sheer cliffs giving way to flat fertile floodplains. The railway stays on the plateau above, crossing several viaducts, the tallest in NZ being the Mohaka viaduct, 100m tall, 300m long. The road climbs out of the valley underneath it. Further south are a few more viaducts, the road below them again in narrow valleys. Tutira Lake is a wildlife reserve and a pleasant camping spot, then one is back on the coast and suddenly in Napier. Napier was an island until the earthquake of the 30s level the town, and raised the marshy lagoons above sea level, upon which the airport is now built. Reconstruction of the town resulted in a wonderful amount of Art Deco, for which the city is very well known. Bluff hill has great views of the port, and the old WW2 gun emplacements are now a gazebo. The railstation has gone, replaced by a barn-like prefab 'transport centre' while the old yards are slowly filling with gaudy McDonalds and Georgie Pie outlets. As in Auckland, railways and city planners have a lot to answer for in their destruction of public transport and allowance of gauche development. Why not 1990s Art Deco, to add to the town?

Monday was drizzly and we headed home via Taupo, stopping at the Waipunga falls on the long Napier Taupo road, with again, no real settlements apart from one lone pub. Towards Taupo is the site of an Armed Constabulary redoubt, and off in the bush are the graves of 9 soldiers killed in an ambush by Te Kooti as he attempted to reach the King Country. The old well and a coupe of troughs are to be seen down a track, but the signs in the bush are old and in need of repair, although the roadside markers are new. Strange to fix one and not the other...

Taupo for me is the southern limit of my Aucklandness. Basically, half of NZ live north of Taupo, so it is densely settled, and full of cars and people. Yuk. Heading back via Matamata, we stopped at the Firth Tower. I'd heard this was built

as defence against Maori attack, but actually constructed in 1880, it post-dated the troubles. Firth also built a castle-like house in Mt Eden, and owned vast tracts of the Hauraki Plains (later sold off as 120 farms!). His tower stood alone, a 3 story blockhouse. It burnt down and stood ivyclad, roofless and romantic until fairly recently when it was refurbished and is now the centrepiece in a historic village, a collection of buildings from the local area, restored to their heyday. There is an old church, jail, postoffice, cottage, barn, and shearing shed, complete with large displays of implements and tools. There are also 2 rail carriages with a display on the Kaimai tunnel, NZ's longest rail tunnel, linking Tauranga and Hamilton, bypassing the slow Karangahake Gorge near Paeroa. The saga of the drilling is quite interesting, and there's a great model of the drilling machine in the tunnel. Entry to the whole place is \$3, well worth it.

From there, we headed home, and despite heavy traffic, averaged 90km/h the whole way, 5 days, 1800km. Wow.

The next weekend I headed up to the Bay of Islands to get photos for an article on the Northern War I hope to get written soon. My proposal for a game on it for *Command* magazine was voted down by the readers, despite the editor, Ty Bomba, saying he was 90% certain it would be popular. But he's interested in an article. So having researched the background I visited Russell, Waikare, Pomare's pa, Kerikeri (Hongi's pa), Waimate North, Ohacawai, Puketutu & Kaikohe.

I found NZ's northernmost rail tunnel at Okaihau. The formation went on about 5km beyond, on the projected line to Kaitiā, but the track was never laid, and today, the line beyond Moerewa is torn up. The Kawakawa-Opua line is owned by a steamtrain crowd, the land leased from Tranzrail for \$1/year, and they run a train twice a day, 4 days a week in the winter. I rode it to Opua and back (\$16) and it is quite cool. Opua Port's owners (how can a port be privatised?!) claim their status as port of entry is costing them money, so they want to relinquish that role. This would be sad, as many yachties arrive there from Fiji each year. Besides, is there ANY business that doesn't use money from one operation to subsidise another? Government itself is subsidy. I personally think we can close down our army, but others want it, so I must subsidise it from my taxes... so why can a business close down a public good because it is (supposedly) costing them money. Remove the yachties, the shops at Opua will go broke, and the whole place will shut down. Business men often forget the flow-on effects, thinking services act in isolation to other services. Removing tariffs on imported cars means Honda and the other assembly plants here will close, as they have indicated they will. Then several thousand workers there lose their jobs, then all the NZ subcontractors lose theirs... So to give NZers cheaper cars, tens of thousands are made unemployed, to whom we then have to pay tax dollars for the dole. If the Japs and others want a tariff free structure here, why is their agriculture closed to our goods, and their country closed to our emigrants? I'm happy to see a free market IF others are equally free for us. It seems that open markets only apply to industrial goods, so ag producers like NZ suffer. That's plain wrong. If I was PM I'd close our market to Jap and other manufactured goods until they open their ag sector to foreign rice, apples, milk etc. Fair is fair. It seem the NZ govt is keener to sell NZ to foreign interests than see justice done for workers here. Ditto immigration. People and goods should be free to flow in BOTH directions, not only INTO NZ. Power to the people.

#### LETTERS:

##### Mike Gonsalves, Penn., USA

To give you an idea of how widespread con is, my small 48 million (\$?) hospital got the same letter. The Nigerian govt are the crooks.

##### Doug Kent, Tx, USA

I've received that Nigerian letter three times... they also used forged stamps to mail it.

*[Yep, and Michael Hood mentions he's seen it several times before too... I know it's common, I just think it hilarious that anyone gets caught with such a crappy scam. I almost feel anyone so gullible deserves it... just like all those pyramid schemes on the net.]*

##### Brad Martin, Australia

No comments on the Auckland electricity fiasco? I find that that such an event could occur in an advanced country incredible. A clear-cut condemnation of the privatisation of vital public concerns if ever there was one.

*[Robert Stimmel sent me a cutting from the Tucson papers about it, that was surprisingly accurate. Most media reports had NZ totally without power. Of course the main thrust of the article was that crime was down during the cuts... sensationalist journalism again. The City Council apparently wanted power diverted from 2 cables so it could do some excavation work in the city to do with the evil Britomart transport terminal. The load was too much for the other 2 cables and they blew. It is poor management by both council and Mercury Energy, and the fact that it can be partly blamed on Britomart (a combined rail/bus terminal in the city that necessitates the destruction of several heritage buildings... councillors have tried to tear them down anyway before resource consents are granted for the project under the argument that the site is more valuable as a carpark than a building. A further example of blinkered accounting that forgets historic/cultural/aesthetic and human values). The effect on residents was nought. On city apartment dwellers without a/c, showers (no pumps to get water 13 stories up), lifts, automatic doors, etc, it was hell. Serves 'em right for living like rats anyway. For shops in town, several of whom got rent increase notices after a week of no power (=no customers), it was too much and they went out of business. As usual it is the people who suffer and the bosses and owners prey on it. Trains were stopped on the central line to allow an emergency cable to be strung, for 2-3 weeks. This impacted commuters. Of benefit to the nation, some companies have moved to other cities or to the suburbs. Dunedin was trying to capitalise on this.*

*Talking of Third World, how about those wharfies, mate...]*

Gordon Oldfield, somewhere near Perth...

got to p 20...

WINTER 1898 Diplomacy Game "Bulgaria" Autumn 1906

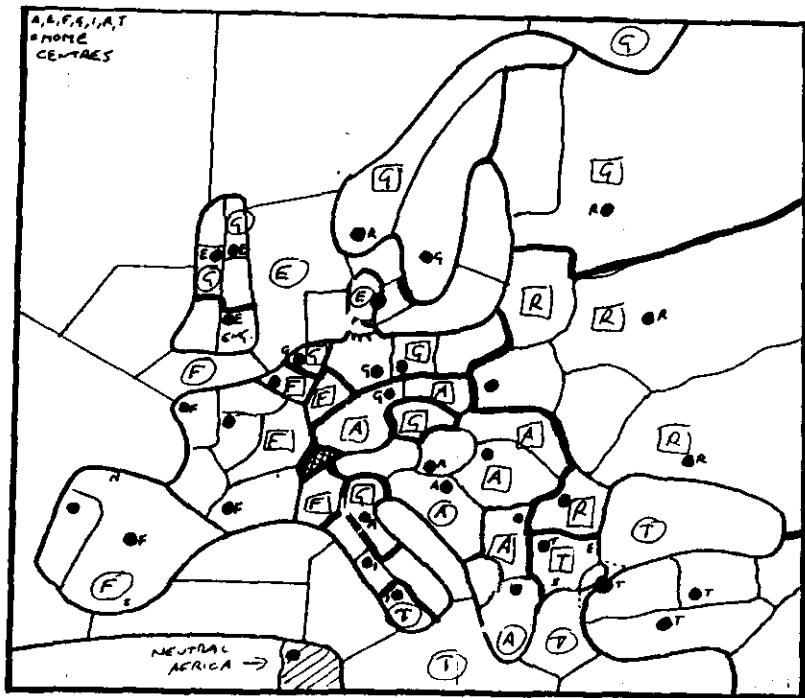
ENG (B. Quiding) F NTH-Den F Lon-NTH  
 FRA (Addison) A Bur S AUS A Sil-Mun(NSO) A Mar-Pie A Ruh S AUS A Tyr-Mun A Pic-Bel  
 F ENC S A Pic-Bel  
 GER (Kent) F IRS-Lpl F You-Edi A StP-Mos A Nwy-StP F BAR-Nwy A Ber-Kie  
A Mun-Kie A Ven-Tri  
 AUS (White) F Gre-Bul(sc) A Ser S F Gre-Bul(sc) A Bud-Tri A Gal S RUS A Rum H  
 A Sil S A Tyr-Mun A Tyr-Mun  
 RUS (M. Hood) A Ukr-Sev A Lvn-Mos A Rum S AUS F Gre-Bul(sc)  
 TUR (Craig) F ION-Nap F EMS-ION F AEG S A Bul H A Bul H F BLA S A Bul H

Retreats: GER A Mun-Boh Disbands: none  
 Builds: ENG(2) as is FRA(6) +F Spa(sc) GER(9) +A Hol  
 AUS(7) +F Tri RUS(4) +A Mos TUR(5) as is

Supply Centre info: Neutral still(1): Tun  
 Home centres: ENG(Lon, Lpl, Edi) FRA(Bre, Mar, Spa) GER(Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe)  
 AUS(Ven, Tri, Vie) RUS(Nwy, StP, Mos, Sev) TUR(Bul, Con, Ank, Smy) [ITA(Rom, Nap)]  
 [underlined = conquered]

New conquests: ENG(Den) FRA(Par, Por, Bel) GER(Ber, Nwy, Lpl, Edi, Ven, StP)  
 AUS(Mun, Rom, Bud, Ser, Gre) RUS(War, Rum) TUR(Nap)  
 [underlined = someone else's home centre]

Press:GM-all: This is the best game to GM: really exciting. Hope you're enjoying it!









GUNBOAT Diplomacy Game "Bohemia" Autumn 1917

ENG A SIP-Mos A Nwy-Swe F SKA S A Nwy-Swe F Den-BAL F Kie-Ber A Lon-Hol  
F NTH C A Lon-Hol A Bur-Mun A Pic-Bel F ENC-MAO

ITA F WMS S F TYS-Tun F TYS-Tun F Nap-ION A Apu-Ven A Rom S A Apu-Ven  
A Pie S A Apu-Ven

AUS A Vie H A Tyr S A Vie H

RUS A Lvn-Mos A Swe-Ber F BAL C A Swe-Ber A Ber-Mun A Boh S A Ber-Mun  
A Gal S TUR A Bud-Vie(nso)

TUR A Bud S RUS A Gal-Vie(nso) F Naf S F Tun H F Tun S F ION H F ION C A Alb-Apu  
F AEG S F ION H F Ven S A Alb-Apu F Tri S F Ven H A Ser S F Tri H F Rum H

retreats: RUS A Swe-Fin TUR F Ven-ADR disbands: none

builds: ENG(12) +A Lon, F Lpl ITA(6) as is AUS(1) -A Tyr RUS(5) -A Gal TUR(10) as is.

Press:

Mos-Lon If you wish to continue the charade I will decree the border between us to be frozen as it is now besides I believe I will become too small and compact to interest you greatly. Such is life!

Mos-Con: Our only course is to hold a stalemate against ENG. As he and I will now have an agreed armistice according to his public announcements it is up to you if it is not over already.

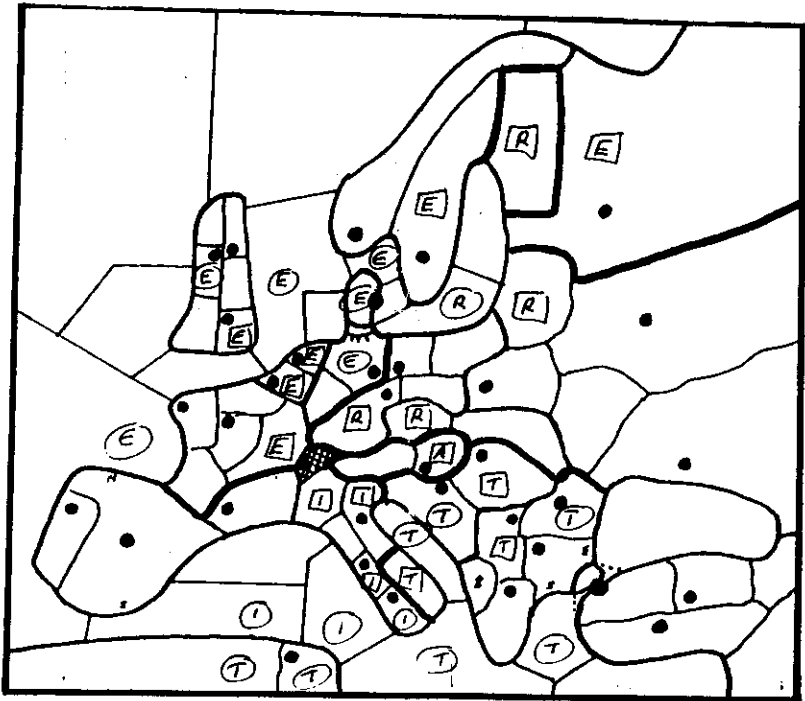
E-I: Buon giorno, I have moved into MAO to bounce T out of it and prevent her turning your flank.

E-R: Historically the successful invasions of R have been north to south, not east to west; with your permission I would like to see whether this continues to be true in 1918.

E-A: Greuss Gott, I hope you are still alive and thinking clearly as the Scots Greys arrive. I guess the Russians will try for Berlin and afn trying to bounce them.

E-T: If you strike at Russia now, a joint victory is assured for us.

Draw proposals: 1) Eng 1, Tur 2, Ita 3, Rus 4, AH 5. 2) 5way draw 3) Eng-Tur 1, Ita-Rus 3=, AH 5. Please vote on these with your next orders.



**WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN Game "Ile d'Aix" Round 6**

Romulus took the G hit on its guns (left side), taking these to 2.

FRENCH:	Crandemire: Neptune:2	Duc de Bourgogne: 2	Conquerant 2	Provence: 2
	Martin: Ardent:L2	Jason: 3	Eveille: 3	Romulus: 3
ENGLISH:	White: America:R1	Befford:R1	Adamant:1	London:1
	M.Hood: Royal Oak:1	Prudent:1	Europe:1	Robust:1

**Battle:** America and Adamant were ordered to fire at boats out of field of fire. Befford fires at Romulus' hull, causing a massive 4H-3G-C (rake, initial broadside). As this was a rake, Greg gets to decide which side the hits are taken on, and Brad decides if they are carronade or gun hits.

Romulus, Jason and Ardent return fire at America, causing G, H and C respectively. Brad needs to specify whether he will take the G hit on his carronades or guns. As the gun hit was caused by a rake, Greg should specify whether Brad takes it on left or right side.

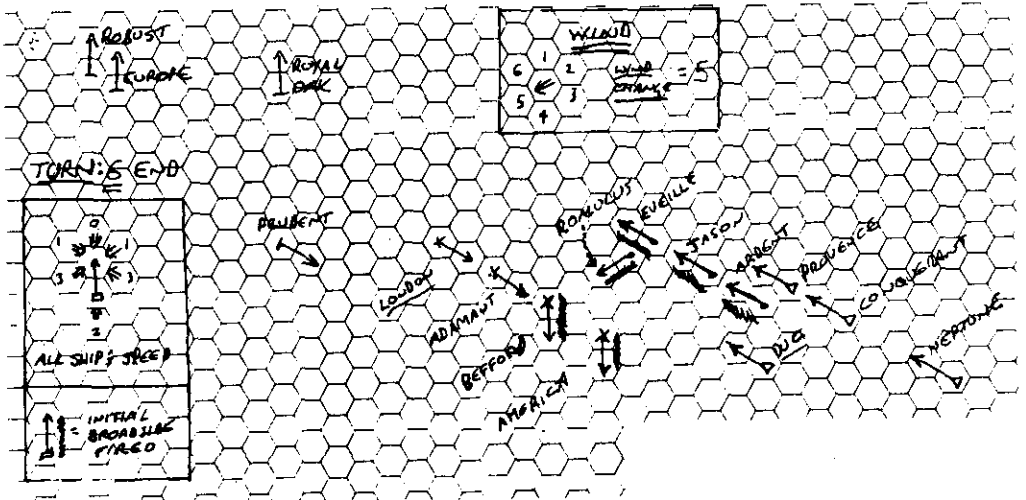
**Wind:** change roll of 2, means no change. Remains in direction 5, change # of 5.

**Results:** America's hull down to 9, crew section 1 down to 2. Awaiting Brad's choice of side, Greg's of gun or carronade for G hit.

Romulus' hull down to 1, crew section 1 down to 1, left guns on 2 (r.guns 3, carronades 1 each) and awaiting Brad's choice of gun/carronades, and Greg's of side for 3G hit.

**Updated specs for orders:** moves, conditionals for firing (MUST be at closest ship), sides for enemy to take hits caused by your rakes, choice of gun or carronade hits on your own ships, grapple/ boarding, loading.

Remember: you only get a choice of ships to fire at if several are equally close. So decide at what range you will bother to fire. E.g. "Fire at enemy on port side if closer than 4. Preference of Ajax over others as target"



**CITIZEN DOG** By Mark O'Hare



RAILWAY RIVALS Game "Ashburton" 1483CB, Canterbury, Economic rules, Round 10

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

round 10:	11-25	SIR 15(2)	ICH 19(6)	Kiwi 30(15)
	12-Port	SIR 33(3)	KIWI 43(10)	Ich no bid
	24-42	ICH 17(5)	SIR 25(10)	Kiwi 30(18)
	35-56	ICH 43(15)	SIR 43(22)	Kiwi no bid
	32-62	ICH 29(4)	SIR 31(10)	Kiwi 32(5)
	44-61	ICH 16(4)	KIWI 21(13)	Sir no bid
	53-South	ICH 39(8)	SIR 50(17)	Kiwi 52(20)

builds: Sir: Kaiapoi-C17-B17-A16. Kiwi and Ich: no builds.

NOTE: ICH overpaid SIR in 32-62, so I corrected, keeping the bid the same (i.e. it increased profit 2)

Monies: Name	Start	Payments in	Tender profits	Builds		Balance
				out	in	
ICH	260	+3	42	--	+1	306
KIWI	197	+10	23	--	--	230
SIR		147	+8	64	-6	225

Round 11 Contracts: 14/Pleasant Point-51/Hornby ; 15/Temuka-41/Southbridge ;  
22/Rangitata-63/Springfield ; 21/Fairlie-Sp2/West(F7/I5/L4) ; 34/Rakaia-45/Little River ;  
31/Valetta-Sp5/Timber(Little River/Oxford) ; 55/Lyttleton-65/Kaiapoi

There is no minimum run length in this version of Economic rules.

Enter any or all, then build up to \$4 including all payments to rivals, ready for final round 12.

RAILWAY RIVALS Game "Aliwal North" 1482SA, South Africa, Racing rules, Round 11

RACES:

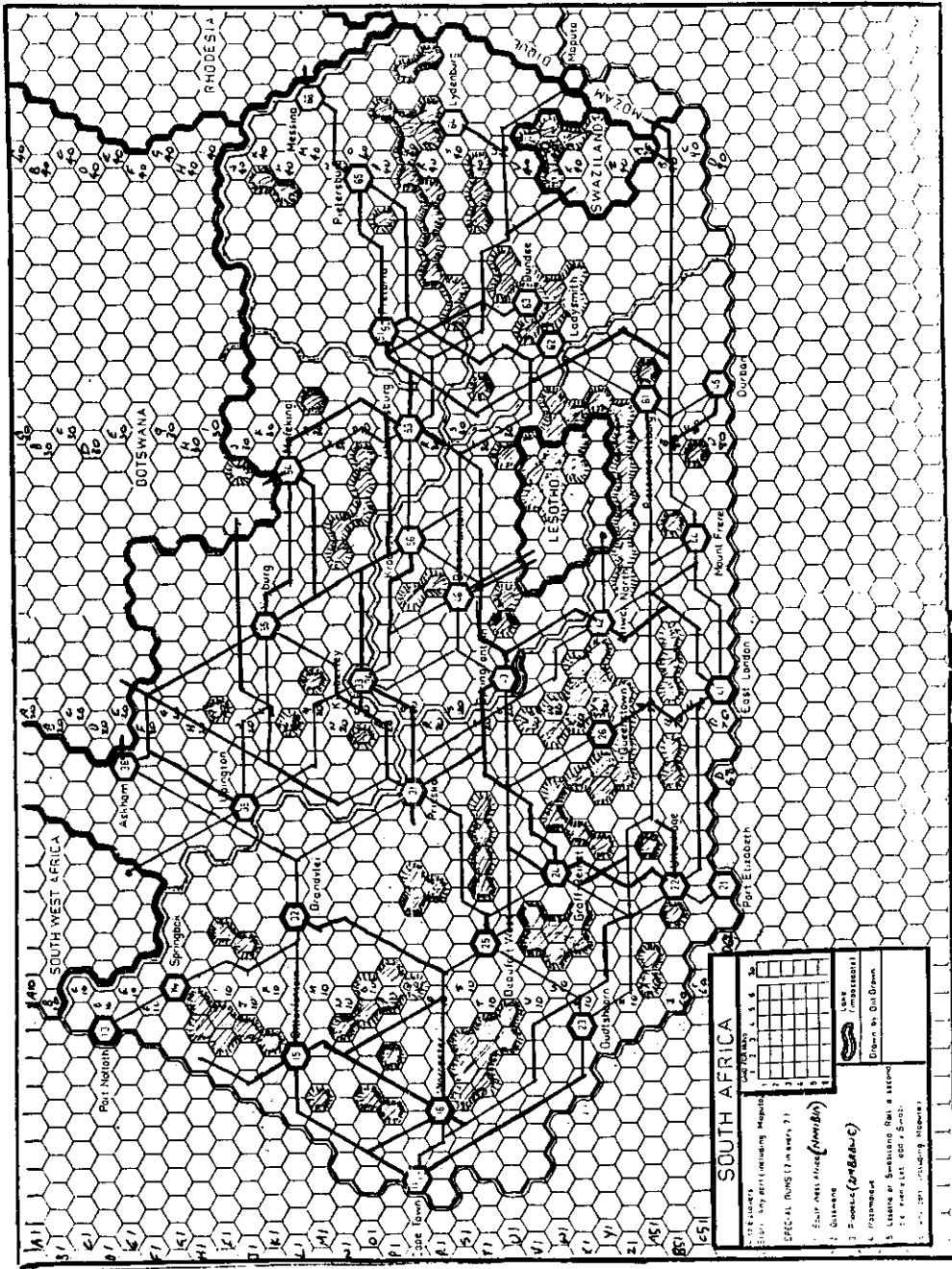
Held over from Round 10 66-Sp6: 1)BOERING \$13 2)CONTS \$8 3)Skokian \$5 4)ZEX \$4  
11-32: 1) CONTS \$20 2)ZEX \$10 36-42: 1)CONTS \$20 2)BORE \$10  
15-35: 1)CONTS \$20 2)ZEX/Skokian \$5 ea. 52-Sp2:1)ZEX \$20 2)BORE \$10  
24-61: 1)BOERING \$20 2)Skokian \$10 26-43: 1)ZEX \$20 2)BORE \$10  
66-Sp4: 1)BOERING/Skokian \$10 ea. 2)BORE \$10

BUILDS: BOERING(Von Metzke), red: No builds made.  
BORE (Martin), blue : No builds made.  
Skokian (Stimmel), purple : o20-Kimberley ; b80-d81-Durban.  
CONTS (Charlton), green : No builds made.  
Zulu EXpress(Crandlemire), black: s34-t35 ; j7-h8.

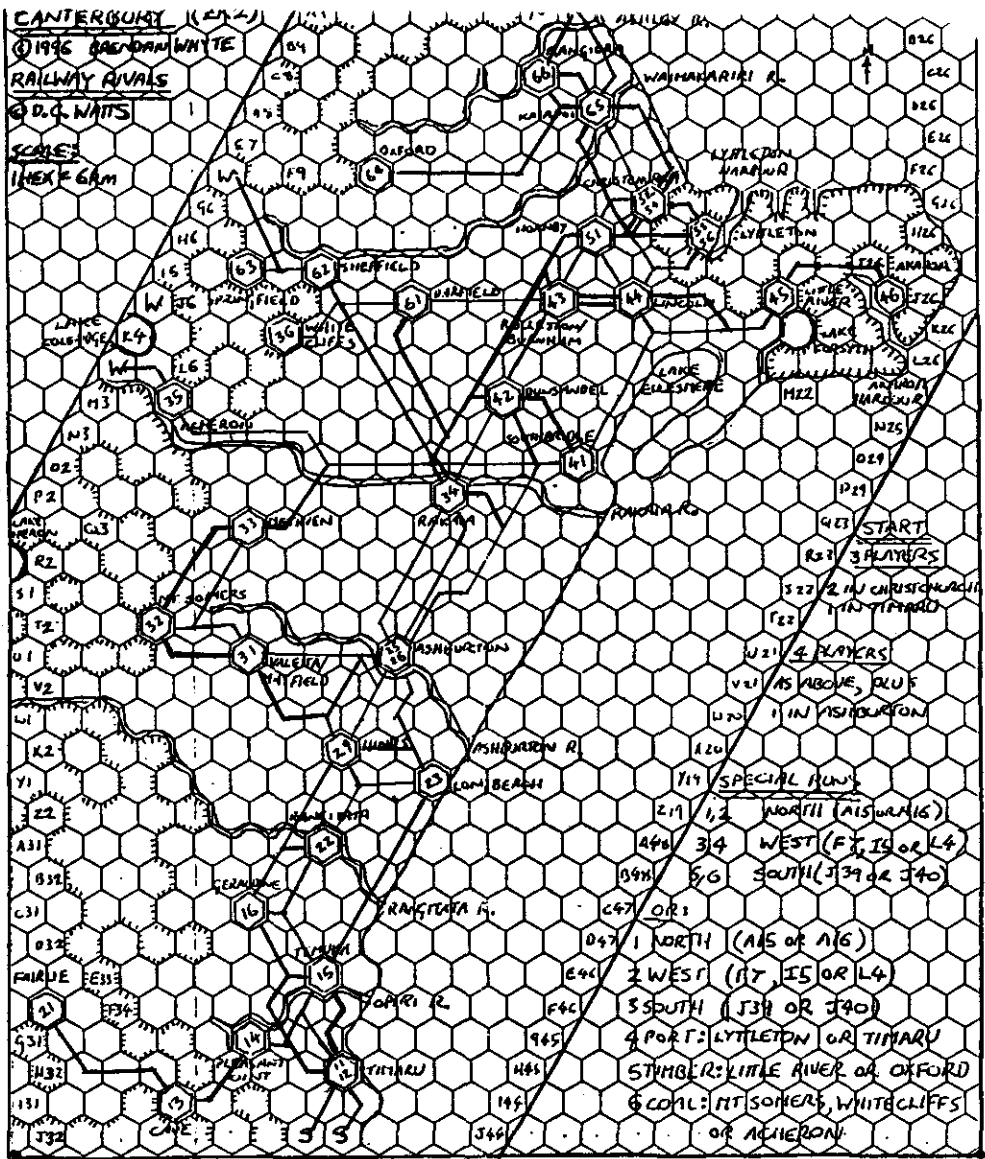
Monies: Name	Start	Rivals/races			Race wins	Builds		Balance
		in	out	out		in		
BOERING	158	+1	-9	43	--	--	193	
BORE	296	+5	-9	40	--	+1	333	
Skokian	117	+2	-6	30	-6	--	149	
CONTS	173	+10	--	68	--	--	251	
ZEX	185	+8	-2	59	-6	--	256	

RACES (Round 12): 12/Capetown-41/East London ; 13/Port Nolloth-65/Pietersburg ;  
21/Port Elizabeth-54/Mafeking ; 22/Uitenhage-Sp1/S.W.Africa ; 34/Kimberley-51/Pretoria ;  
35/Uppington-Sp5/Swaziland ; 45/Durban-62/Ladysmith.

Enter any 4 races. This is the final round, so no builds needed!



120



15

QUIZ (Round 7)

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.

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.

1&2) Cameroon and Mozambique were hardly/never British.

Mozambique, a Portuguese colony, is surrounded by Commonwealth countries, and ruined after civil war. Its landlocked neighbours export through its railroads and ports, and all felt it would be very helpful for it to be a member, due to the economic ties and political imperatives.

Cameroon was German, with the majority becoing a French mandate in 1919, while 2 small parts became British mandates on the Nigerian border. In 1946 these al became UN trust territories, the Cameroons. 1960 saw the independence of the French part. 1961 saw the northern British part join Nigeria, while the southern joined the independent Cameroon as part of a federal republic. In 1972 the federation was abolished for a unitary state. This explains the southern bulge into modern Nigeria. But the country was basically French in culture, although English is also an official language.

Mozambique: Addison, Clarke, Chariton ½pt Cameroon: Addison, Clarke, Chariton ½pt

3&4) Yemen (Aden was a Brit protectorate) and Rwanda.

Yemen is formed from the union of Yemen(Aden) and Yemen(Sana) about 1990. Aden had been a British town from 1839, when it was conquered after local tribes looted a shipwreck. Part of India until a separate Crown Colony in 1937, it was an important coaling stop for Suez ships. The Brits made a protectorate over the hinterland tribes through treaty to asafeguard the town from Yemeni claims. 1959: 6 tribal states in the Protectorate formed the Federation of Arab Emirates of the South, and Britain promised them independence for 1967. 1962: name change to Federation of South Arabia. All but 4 tribal states in the protectorate were federation members. Fighting between tribes saw the government collapse, the Brits withdrew and a Marxist government arose. Perim and Kamaran islands in the Red Sea belonged to Aden, but Kamaran was occupied by Yemen in 1972. Aden basically went downhill after its recoaling role disappeared mid-century.

Yemen Sana became independent of Turkey in 1924, under an Imam. Army officers set up a republic in 1962, but fighting continued to 1970. The army took over again in 1974.

Both countries united in 1990, but the poverty and feuding continues. It hopes Commonwealth membership will see aid return.

Rwanda was part of German East Africa from 1890 and along with Burundi, granted as a mamdate then UN Trust Territory to Belgium from 1919. Both became independent in 1962. Neither has any link to Britain. Membership application can be seen as a desparate plea for help after the recent horrors there, as neither Belgium nor Germany has interest in their former colonies, while Rwanda was neither British nor French, the countries that do.

Yemen: Addison, Clarke 1 pt Rwanda: Clarke 2 pts.

5&6) Burma and Ireland.

Neither joined the Commonwealth upon independence, and neither appears to want to. The N. Ireland question makes one difficult, and Burma suffers an intransigent military dictatorship.

Ireland: White, Addison, Chariton ½pt Burma: Addison, Clarke, Chariton ½pt

India and Bangladesh ARE members, Robert. Israel hasn't applied. Palestine can't until it is fully sovereign. Egypt WAS a Brit protectorate 1914-22, as were Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar & UAE. Jordan & Iraq were British mandates from 1918. Oman was never British, although its port of Gwador is now in Pakistan and the Kuria Muria Is were British 1854-1967. The Sudan was an Egyptian-British condominium. Turkish Rep of N. Cyprus, the Dodecanese, Corsica, Majorca, Helgoland etc were all British at one point too, and there were several British factories in Indonesia (which was governed by Raffles in the early 1800s). Nicaragua's Mosquito Coast was British too, as were most Caribbean islands at some point. Hong Kong I THINK is out of the Commonwealth now, but then so are the other British settlements in China: Shanghai, Wei-Hai-Wei, etc.

I will give David C. ½pt for Egypt, and Brandon ½ for The Sudan.

Standings: Clarke 14.5 Chariton 12.75 Crandlemire 8.25 White 7.75 Addison 7 Martin 4.25  
Howell 4 M.Hood 2.5 Petrie 1.5 A.Hood 1 Stimmel 0.5

Round 7 Questions:

What was/were/is/are the following:

1) Waterloo 2) Peterloo 3) Bakerloo 4) (Lanter)loo 5) Coalsack 6) Vegesack 7) Woolsack

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

WINTER 1898 Diplomacy Game "Bulgaria" Autumn 1906

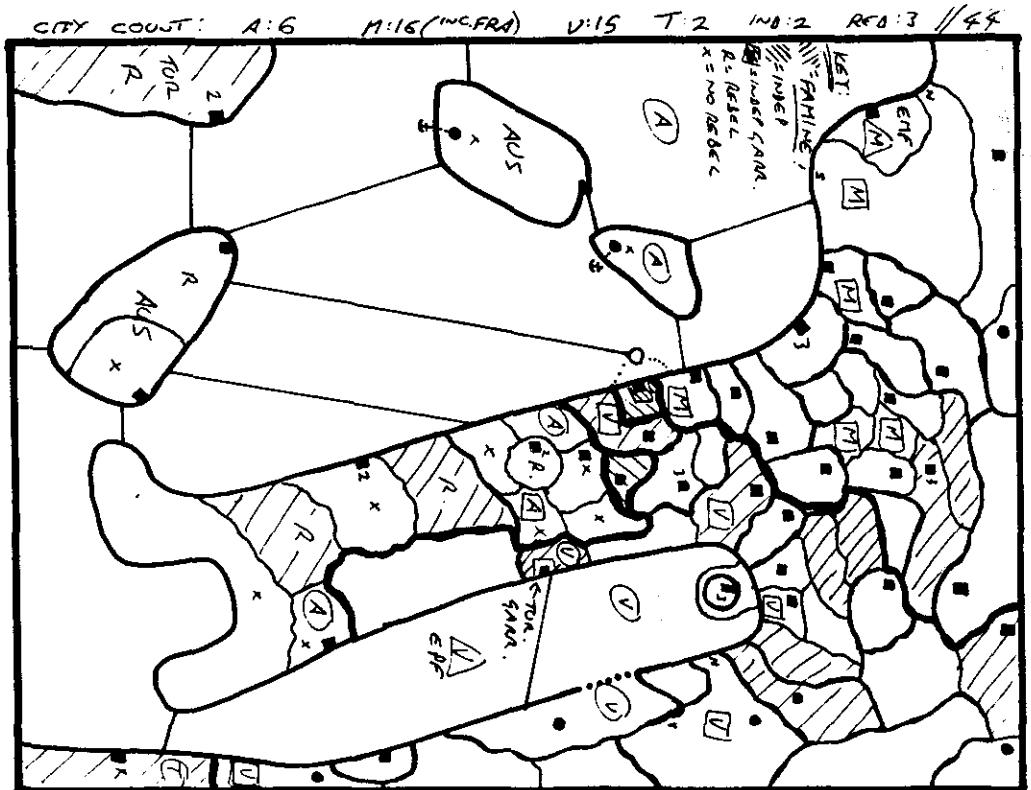
ENG (B. Quiding) F NTH-Den F Lon-NTH  
 FRA (Addison) A Bur S AUS A Sil-Mun(NSO) A Mar-Pie A Ruh S AUS A Tyr-Mun A Pic-Bel  
 F ENC S A Pic-Bel  
 GER (Kent) F IRS-Lpl F You-Edi A StP-Mos A Nwy-StP F BAR-Nwy A Ber-Kie  
 A Mun-Kie A Ven-Tri  
 AUS (White) F Gre-Bul(sc) A Ser S F Gre-Bul(sc) A Bud-Tri A Gal S RUS A Rum H  
 A Sil S A Tyr-Mun A Tyr-Mun  
 RUS (M.Hood) A Ukr-Sev A Lvn-Mos A Rum S AUS F Gre-Bul(sc)  
 TUR (Craig) F ION-Nap F EMS-ION F AEG S A Bul H A Bul H F BLA S A Bul H

Retreats: GER A Mun-Boh Disbands: none  
 Builds: ENG(2) as is FRA(6) +F Spa(sc) GER(9) +A Hol  
 AUS(7) +F Tri RUS(4) +A Mos TUR(5) as is

Supply Centre info: Neutral still(1): Tun  
 Home centres: ENG(Lon, Lpl, Edi) FRA(Bre, Mar, Spa) GER(Hol, Kie, Mun, Swe)  
 AUS(Ven, Tri, Vie) RUS(Nwy, StP, Mos, Sev) TUR(Bul, Con, Ank, Smy) [ITA(Rom, Nap)]  
 [underlined = conquered]

New conquests: ENG(Den) FRA(Par, Por, Bel) GER(Ber, Nwy, Lpl, Edi, Ven, Stp)  
 AUS(Mun, Rom, Bud, Ser, Gre) RUS(War, Rum) TUR(Nap)  
 [underlined = someone else's home centre]

Press:GM-all: This is the best game to GM: really exciting. Hope you're enjoying it!



BRITANNIA Game "Alban" Turn 5, A.D. 355-410

ROMANS (Natrass) Builds: 5A ENC to make minimum 10 armies.

Moves: A ENC-Wes A ENC-Sus-Ess-Suf A ENC-Sus-Ess 2A ENC-Sus A Suf-NMe-Yor  
A Yor H A Wes H A Che H A Sky H

Battle: none

Build Forts: none

BELGAE(M.Hood) Dead.

WELSH(A.Hood) Pop: Opt +4½ on board= 2A, but all 13 are on the board, so none. 2½Pt held over.

Moves: none

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

Moves: none

PICTS(M.Hood) Dead.

CALEDONIANS(A.Hood) Pop: Opt + 1½ on board = 1½pt. No builds.

Moves: 2A Cai-Mor A Ork-Cai. Battle: none

IRISH (Martin) Pop: Opt +1pt on board = 1pt. No builds.

Raids: 2A ATL-Ava Moves: A Cum-Che

Battle: Ava: 2 Iri vs RF. All die. No one left.

Che: 1 Iri vs 1Rom + RF. 1Iri & 1Rom die. RF left.

SCOTS(Natrass) 2 Scots raider hold in IRI.

JUTES(A.Hood) Pop: Opt +1pt on board= 1 pt. No builds.

Raids: 2A ENC-Sus Moves: A Ken-Ess

Battle: Ess: 1 Jut vs 1Rom +RF. 1 Jut, 1 Rom die. RF left.

Sus: 2 Jut vs 2Rom +RF. 2 Jut die. 2Rom+ RFleft.

SAXONS(Martin)

Raids: 2A ENC-FRI-Ess 2A ENC-ATL-Che 2A ENC-ATL-HWI

Battle: Ess: 2Sax vs RF. RF dies. 2Sax return to ENC.

Che: 2Sax vs RF. RF dies. 2Sax return to ENC.

Hwi: 2Sax vs RF. RF dies. 2Sax return to ENC.

ANGLES(M.Hood)

Moves: 3A FRI-NTH-Mar A FRI-NTH-Lot A FRI-NTH-Dun

Battle: Mar: 3Ang vs 1 Brig. 1 Ang & 1Brig die. 2Ang remain.

Victory Points:

Romans(N): 28+16Limes(Yor:3; Nme,SMe,Suf,Sus,Wes:2; Ber,Mch,Pen:1)=44

Belgae(MH): 2 (dead)

Irish(M): 2+2(dead Rom, RF)=4

Brigantes(M): 9+0=9 (submitted)

Scots(N): 0+0=0

Welsh(AH): 8+0=8

Jutes(AH): 4+1(dead Rom)=5

Picts(MH): 9(dead)

Saxons(M): 0+9(3 dead RF@3)=9

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

Angles(MH): 6+0=6

Totals: Natrass:44+0=44 Martin:9+4+9=22 A.Hood:8+6+5=19 M.Hood:2+9+6=17

Roman forts removed. Romans replaced with up to 8 Romano-Brits (only 8 Roms DID remain).

Turn 6: 1Iri(ATL) 2Sco(IRI) 1Jut(ENC) 8Sax/Hengist(FRI) 3Ang(NTH)

Major invasion by Saxons

Boats: Picts, Caledonians, Irish, Scots, Jutes, Saxons, Angles.

Press: GM-all: if you get raiders, please make it clear if you are raiding, or settling. Let me know if a people are doing nothing, else it looks like you have forgotten them.

Romans-all: Aaargh... a phyrmic victory over the Picts I think.

Brigantes-exPicts: You have reaped your just desserts for your selfishness.

Angles-Saxons: Stay south of North Mercia and we will not clash

Picts-Romans: So this is what really happened at Mons Graupius! I always suspected that: a major Roman defeat, which has broken up Roman power in the north forever, will be written up as a major Roman victory, though that will not explain why the Romans will never enter the Highlands again. The Picts, being a dignified people, will build a carved stone to this great victory, and disappear from history as a people, or rather go underground as the little people, and haunt the Brigantes and the Romanised Britons forever until the Highlands are clean of all but their white bones.





Game "Albatross" Round 49

	end	face	ammo	hp	vp
Col. du Bois (Craig)	---	---	16	00	04
Capt. von Bomb (B. Quiding)	P17	Q17	9	12	07

Press: dB-vB: I've stopped for a dwinkie, don't hole me when I'm bottoms up!

Von Bomb shirketh not from the deed and perforates du Bois like a stamp. Well done von Bomb!  
 This game is now over. Future games from Brequet on will have only 6 players and be a fight to the finish, and I will maintain a league ladder of pilots from them.

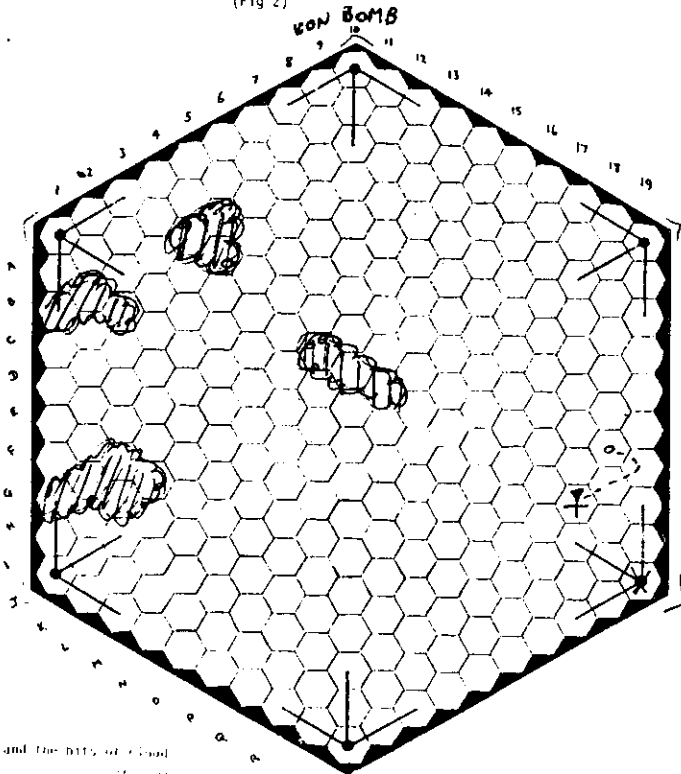
**CITIZEN DOG** By Mark O'Hare



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Gazfine's Sopwith map

(Fig 2)



...and the bits of food

Fig 2

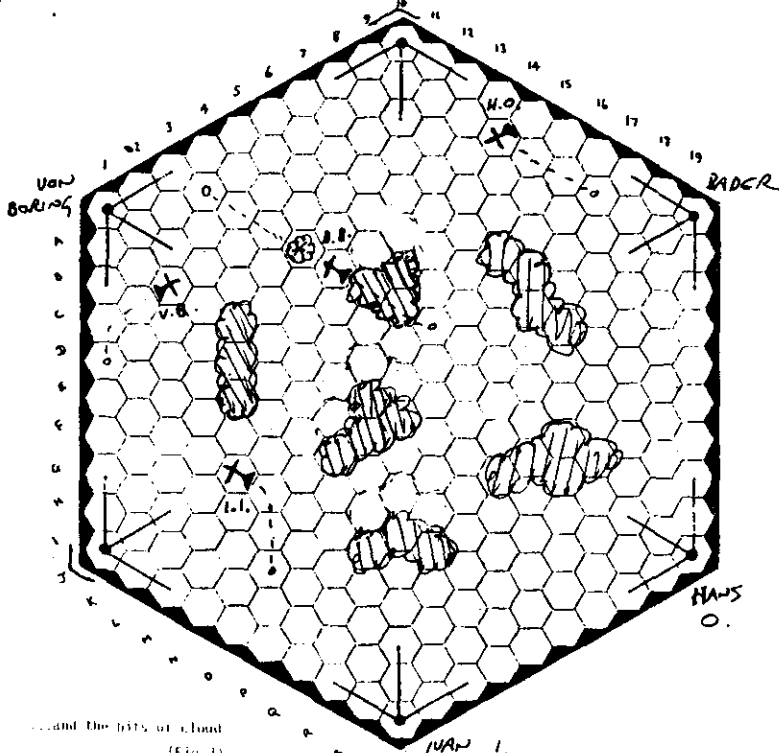
SOPWITH Game "Brequet" Round 6

				end	face	ammo	hp	vp
Dougie Bader(White)	RT	A fA	A fA	f8	e7	12	11	7
Hans Offermierplane(Clarke)	RS	RS	RS	e13	e12	13	12	0
Ivan Itchianus(A.Hood)	RS	RS	A	j5	i4	16	12	0'
Montgolfier(Petrie)	A fA	A	A fR	—	—	13	out!	0
Baron von Boring(Martin)	RT	RT fA	A fR	d3	d4	6	12	3

Montgolfier flies into some flak, on move 2 from vB on his right and DB ahead. Move 3, he is headed off by DB who pumps him full of lead while Monty fires graciously right instead. He goes up in a poof of French smoke, and a mass of twisted steel and charred canvas. Cursed luck, M. Golfier. Clouds move south, no damage.

Press: Hans-all: Pussy!! Und ich thought you ver a doggie all along!

Ivan-all: Ah, ee, ii, oo, you, ah, ee, ii, oo, you. I am merely doing my exercises. I think a German accent is so common don't you?



Gordon, Dick & Phil Post

Couldn't vote for your game in Command as the circuitous route travelled by the magazine meant it didn't get to me in time.

*[Not to worry, it was voted down apparently convincingly, as Mr Bomba wrote to me well before the deadline to say there was no chance it would make it. But I hope to get an article on Hone Heke done for it sometime... my move is getting in the way though.]*

*What's your job front like?*

### Tim Lurz, Independent Republic of Taiwan

Thanks for the chicken joke. I nearly pissed myself reading that one. Here is a story that is also going to be in atwts. I thought you may want to include this in your letter column after reading the little something from your Nigerian friends that graced the cover of your last ish. It's titled, "Little Greasy Sneaky Bastards".

About 6 years ago I was in transit in Hong Kong on my way to Rome and I was partaking of the free beer (or maybe it was rum and coke, my drink of choice) they serve in the Hospitality lounge of whatever airline I was taking. And I saw these two Middle-East looking chaps kneeling on a carpet (I remember thinking that if they want to look up an Asian stewardess' knickers all they have to do is ask. They are known to be very accommodating to suck..ah..um.. 'requests'). So when they finish they sit down next to me and we start talking. "What were you guys just doing in the corner with the carpet?" "We were praying." "To the wall in the Hong Kong Airport Hospitality Suite?" "Oh no, we have to face a certain direction when we pray." "Oh yeah, I understand. I gotta look up when I pray. Where you boys from?" "Libya." "Oh, cool." "Where are you from?" "Oh..ah..er..the States." "The STATES! We love America!" We talked about what we did. I told them I work for a computer company and they mentioned that they ran a trading company. They said that they had a branch office in Florida. We exchanged namecards and I went back to the matter at hand...free beer.

I get back from overseas and there is a FAX from the two guys I met in HK waiting for me in the office. They asked for my help in getting some babyclothes, computer desks and chairs, some hardware, and two HP computers (I don't remember exactly what kind, but I do remember big and fast is what they wanted). Henry, my boss, and I sat down and started to calculate profit. GREED, DROOL. My cut would have been about a \$1,000USD for a couple hours on the phone. I tell you what, there is no light brighter than the light found in Henry's and my eyes when we talk money. Now, I started to think about this order. Everything is fine, ok, peachy. Noworries. But why contact a Taiwanese company for some HP stuff? Hmmmm...perhaps check this out a little more. So I called the American Representative Office in Kaohsiung and asked them about American nationals doing business with Libya. The dipshits (all US government employees working in Taiwan are worthless fucks, but that's another story) working there said that they would look into the matter. I get this FAX from the Rep office a while later and it contained all sorts of legalistic crap but it basically said that any US citizen caught doing business with Libya would get spanked for about 10 years in the slammer and a \$250,000USD fine. Oh my, oh thank you my little voice of reason that protects me from harm. Those two little sneaky greedy bastards tried to pull one over on me. Needless-to-say, I dropped that case.

There are a lot of scams coming from Africa. The ROC government has issued a public warning about 'investment opportunities' coming from Africa. Mine wasn't so bad as their order was legit. But there is a lot of stuff coming from there that is downright financially nasty. But the only people who get burned on the con like the one that you had on your front cover are the overly-greedy ones who deserve it.

*[why are they sneaky? They want us stuff, but can't write to HP direct. Therefore you can sell it to them. Or rather, your boss' name can be on the letters, and you can ship it via Taiwan. You can be part of the profit spiral, but not be on the forms can't you? If not, your boss can make a mint and pass some on to you. Then the Libyans get their guff and are chuffed, he gets profit and you get kudos and influence for his profit, and HP gets to sell more. Everyone wins. They may have assumed you knew about the sanctions and could get the stuff because you were in Taiwan. I can deal with Cuba, but not from US soil, although I am not a US citizen. You can surely deal with Libya as long as you aren't on US soil. Besides, if you've been overseas for ages, how can you keep up with every little US-banana republic tiff? Don't you have a Taiwanese passport you can do it all under the banner? I'm not sure why it is such a sneaky deal, if it is genuine, rather than a scam. Not that I trust towel-head arab belly-dancing scum. I met some very dubious Kuwaitis in Java in 94. But that's another story...]*

Some very good points. They were doing nothing illegal but it was a scam in the sense that they were asking me to do something illegal. Believe me, I thought long and hard about it. The FAX from the Rep office clearly stated that any US citizen doing business with Libya could get into trouble. No, I don't have a Taiwanese passport. An American passport is as good as gold. The question that I finally decided that needed to be answered was, "How much is a \$1,000USD worth to me?" It was not worth the consequences even though I probably could have pulled the trigger and have nothing happen. PS I had a typo in there: "suck" should read "such".

*[Talking of praying to walls, there is a sign in Colombo airport for 'religious observance area', for Muslims apparently, as there is an arrow on the ground there pointing to Mecca. But the offensive part is that the 'area' is the spot under the escalators, between their works and a wall, hard high enough to stand in and hardly high enough to kneel in, sort of like a cleaner's closet, but with no walls for privacy.]*

*I was having lunch the other day in Khyber Pass, sitting on the grass outside a church, when I saw a chap standing dead still behind a tree, head bowed. Rather strange. I watched him, well dressed and no hobo, then when he knelt, I realised he was Muslim. First time I've seen Muslim prayer in NZ, and the first time ever in public. I wonder how many mosques would allow Christian prayer on their grounds...]*

Tom Howell, Port Angeles, Washington

*[... in reply to a request about a book published in Port Townsend "How to Start your own Country" ...]*

Loompanics has been publishing "fringe" stuff for years. A lot of it is How to do <something>. The <something> usually being illegal... don't know how much of their stuff actually makes it into the libraries, local or distant. The Port Townsend zip code is 98368.

We went for a hike today. The trail was the "West Elwha Trail", which parallels the Elwha River opposite the stretch of road we drove in and out on at the exit end of our hike. We saw a number of early flowers. Most I did not know, but some were lilies and a few specimens of Trillium. Unfortunately, we left the flower guide at home. Barb managed to find two ticks crawling up her leg when we stopped for lunch. Then she "found" one on me, but I think it was a "plant".

Morry Veer, Colorado, Rocky Mountain High

I'm a Canadian - working in the US (Denver, Colorado), and have been slightly involved in the hobby for about 8+ years now (doesn't seem that long... I'm feeling old here). I run a game for Brent McKee in MALOC (making love in a canoe - run out of Saskatoon, Sask. Canada), and playin a game in that publication as well. I'm signed up for a game in Diplodocus, and host a web site with "a little bit of diplomacy" I've really enjoyed your magazine so far - I've got a friend in HongKong and several female friends from NZ who are living in Canada after moving there to become nannies. So I'm familiar with the region but it's nice to hear about what's happening from your point of view - for all the media here in the U.S. I sure don't get much interesting news. And about those Nannies - if they're any indication you're either sending all your gorgeous women to Canada or keeping the really good ones for yourself - in the latter case let me know - I'm coming to visit.

I do most of my Correspondence through my home account - Mveer@aol.com. You can always email me here (and I occasionally sendout emails from here), but my primary account is on AOL. I've been meaning to write to all the 'zines I've subscribed to this year - Diplodocus, DiC, SNOT, MALOC, The Canadian Diplomat, and so on. Last year, when the PDORA auction came out, I bid fairly high on a bunch of 'zines because I was just plain tired of getting the runestone poll and not having read more than one or two different publications. So I went nuts and now I feel qualified to at least rate a few.

*[Glad to get to know you. At least you wrote back. I sold a hiking trip in PDORA, but the winner never wrote to me, nor answered my letter to him. Strange...and now I'm leaving the country]*

Brandon Clarke, Auckland Dip Champs Organiser

This is the first message going out on my newly updated "NZ Diplomacy Champs" mailing list. If any of you don't want to be on this list, please advise me and I'll regretfully remove you from the list. I anticipate that there will be an update mailed to the list at least once a week every week between now and the tournament which if you haven't heard is going to be **Saturday August 29th & Sunday August 30th in central Auckland.**

The final venue is not yet settled. This is one of a number of details I'm still working on. At this stage most of my energy is being put into spreading the net as wide as possible to dredge up as many interested players as possible. You can't see it, but the full distribution list is at the moment:

Auckland(+10 more): Andrew Royle Brandon Clarke Brad Edley Brendan Whyte Brian Wolstenholme Daniel Hurley John Hookway Leon Quidding Lindsay Jones Mark Nelson Peter Taylor  
Hamilton: (3) Douglas at Waikatio Uni Gwyn Judd Robert 'stumpy' Marsh  
Lower North Island: (3) Geoff strange Jimmy Millington Russell Holland  
South Island: (1) David Graham  
Australia: (6) Craig A. Sedgwick Harry Kolotas - anyone got an email address for Harry? John Cain Jason Whitby Bill Brown Ken Sproat

Well, the news then? Well there isn't much as yet. I'm still getting plenty of nibbles off nz.usenet and rec.games.diplomacy. If any of you have any friends who even "MIGHT" be interested in playing, please put me in touch with them. I'll do all the leg work, and ask them if they're interested...you just have to give me the leads to chase down. Hopefully the three guys in Hamilton will be able to grow to 7 or so as each of them has said they might know one or two people. So far Harry and Craig are the two Aussies who seem likely to attend, but I know the others on the list might just get twitchy as the time gets closer and closer, and if they can find a way to come - you never know...

I'd really like to place some adds in the student newspapers etc. Anyone who can help in say Wellington or Hamilton or Dunedin, speak up. I'll write the adds and pay for them if necessary. I just need someone to help me get them in there...I'm pretty busy you see.

Well that's all for now - I'll send you another update next week, when I hope to have info about entry fees sorted out, at least roughly.

*[Good on ya for organising this. John Dods did one in Wellington in 91, Daniel Blanchon (Gorson Oldfield?) and I did one in Auckland a few years later, and several abortive attempts were made at games cons, but with so many other shorter games to play, Dip is a loser in this situation. It needs a separate event. Hope it goes well. I'm happy to publish further details. Contact Brandon to sign up.]*

*P.S. My mum has found NZ\$20 someone sent while I was in Asia. She can't remember who. Let me know & I will credit you.*

RAILWAY RIVALS Game "Auckland" Waikato map, Set-up round

Auckland: Bien, BIEN= Bien's International Express Network, yellow ;  
Charlton, RRB= Rugby, Racing and Beer, purple  
Hamilton: Irving, ENZED= Equatorial NZ Mobilisation & Development, green  
Thames: Crandlemire, WAINOT= Waikato National Overland Tracks Network, orange  
Tauranga: von Metzke, MARMITE= Many a Rail Magnate Injured The Environment, black  
Rotorua: Martin, HST= Hot Springs Trains, blue  
Grid numbers: Top left is A1. Numbers go down(to 44 or 45), letters across, i and o included. Te Aroha is Z21. Next column is A51 to A95. Easternmost column is Q51 to Q55  
Round 1 rolls: 5,5,2

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RAILWAY RIVALS Game "Alexandra" Otago-Southland map, Set-up round

Invercargill: Bien, BIEN= Bien's International Express Network, yellow ;  
Martin, SOUTH= Southern Otago Universal Transport Holdings, blue ;  
von Metzke, DYSPEPSIA= Do You Suppose People Eating People Sometimes Is  
Acceptable (that's it, he's cracked... no one cross his tracks!!! - ed), black  
Dunedin: Crandlemire, GOGO= Gotta Go Otago Railways , orange  
Oamaru: Irving, OHNO= Otago Highlands - Northern Operations, green ;  
Charlton, BOS= Bluff Oyster Special, purple  
Grid numbers: Top left is A12. Numbers go across (to 36 max), letters down (l and o included).  
Waimate is B35. Tuatapere is Z2. Next row is A41-A64. Bluff is G48.  
Round 1 rolls: 3,5,5

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RAILWAY RIVALS Game "Aschersleben" Hannover-Leipzig map, Set-up round

Hannover: Martin, RAUS= Rapid Area Universal Service, blue ;  
Irving, DWEEB= Der Wienerschnitzel Express Eisenbahn, green  
Halle: Crandlemire, HELL= Hannover Express Leipzig Lines, orange ;  
Charlton, DGSE= Dangerous Good: & Services Express (not tax then? -ed), purple  
Kassel: Bien, BIEN= Bien's International Express Service, yellow  
Map notes: there IS an "N" at J45 and an "S" at A16  
Round 1 rolls: 5,4,6

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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, Charlton, 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/Brighton Ave: Starting anew next ish. Send in your numbers.  
Banbury Merton St: Started again this ish. Send in your numbers.  
Quiz: send in your answers!!!

STANDBYS: WS&IM: Natrass, Clarke Sopwith: Crandlemire Dip: Lurz RR: Stimmel, Natrass.

FOR SALE:

Frederick the Great: AH's version, generic box, punched How to Host a Murder: Hoo Hung Woo (9th Century China). Ventura. Unplayed. Breakscore NZ-invented dice race game, like Yahtzee on a track.  
Air Strike GDW. Air/ground module for "Air Superiority" game. Unpunched 221B Baker St. Cluedo-style detective game set in London. 20 cases to solve. Includes 3 expansions.  
Erection set Building block (drinking) game. Crown Red, Psychologiser Parker Bros family games.

DIC ADDRESS LIST, May 1998 bold = new. (NZ unless stated. NZ ph # don't include country code (84))

**BRENDAN WHYTE** 96 WAIATARUA RD, REMUERA, AUCKLAND 9-5244307 whythouse@clear.net.nz  
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**Ben Easton** P.O. Box 20344, Glen Eden, Auckland 025-340540 mortand@morlandgames.co.nz  
**Michael Hood** 499 Main Rd, Orewa, Auckland 9-4267756 michaelh@fcl.co.nz  
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 now in Australia: c/- Anthropology Dept, Aust. National Uni, Canberra, ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA

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**Andrew Ward** 16 Dalwood Cr, Hemlington, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS8 9Jg, UK ???

BANBURY MERTON STREET Round 1 (lowest unduplicated integer >0)

White, A.Hood 1 ; **Charlton 2** .

Name	Pts
Charlton	1

The new game starts with a few players and a fight to give the lowest number...

**ANYONE CAN PLAY: JUST SEND ME A NUMBER.** The game lasts 10 rounds.

BRIGHTON AVENUE (Final) Round 10 (closest to median of integer entries >0)

Charlton, White 9 ; **Addison, Clarke, Crandlemire, Martin 10** ; A.Hood 11 ; Stimmel 12 ; Petrie 13.

The 4 winners get 0.25 each under A, 0.0662 under B and a point each under C.

Name	A	B	C
A.Hood	1.3333	0.3719	3(!)
Addison	1.1667	0.3077	5
B. Quiding	1.125	0.2863	4
Nattrass	1.0	0.2892	3
Martin	1.0	0.2352	3
Petrie	0.9167	0.2843	3
Charlton	0.875	0.2295	3
Crandlemire	0.875	0.2017	3
Stimmel	0.8333	0.2303	3
Hutton	0.375	0.0809	2
White	0.25	0.0588	1
Clarke	0.25	0.0662	1

Congratulations to Alex and David. David won more games, but Alex shared his win with fewer people, so won more solos. Taking into account the fraction of subbers playing, Alex wins there too. A new game of 10 rounds starts next issue. Be there by sending me your numbers!

BONNIE BRAE (Final) Round 10 (closest to mean of integer entries  $0 < x < 1000$ )

Martin, Petrie 1 ; Clarke 161 ; **Charlton 301** ; Crandlemire 411 ; White 417 ; A.Hood 439 ; Addison 503 ; Stimmel 505.

n=9, mean = 304.333 ; David C. scoops the pool!

Name	A	B	C
Charlton	2.333	0.6666	3
Stimmel	2	0.5588	2
White	1.333	0.2807	2
Crandlemire	1	0.2973	1
Clarke	1	0.2703	1
Nattrass	1	0.2647	1
B. Quiding	1	0.2352	1
Petrie	0.333	0.0686	1

David Charlton wins in all three scoring systems. This is more likely than in Brighton Ave, as the chances of several people guessing the same number are low with only this many players. But a win is a win, and David has 3. Well done, and a new game of 10 rounds starts next time. Send me your numbers!

**DEADLINE :**

**FRI JUNE 5 '98**

**DEADPLACE : MELBOURNE . **NOTE ADDRESS / CHANGE.****