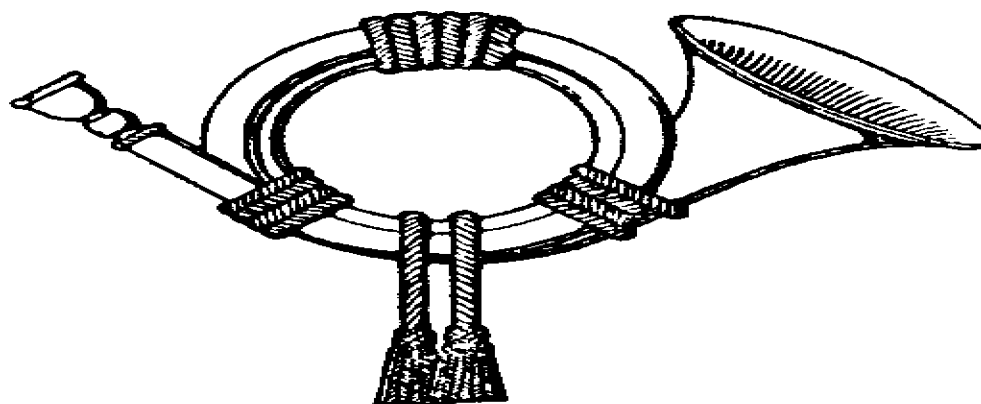
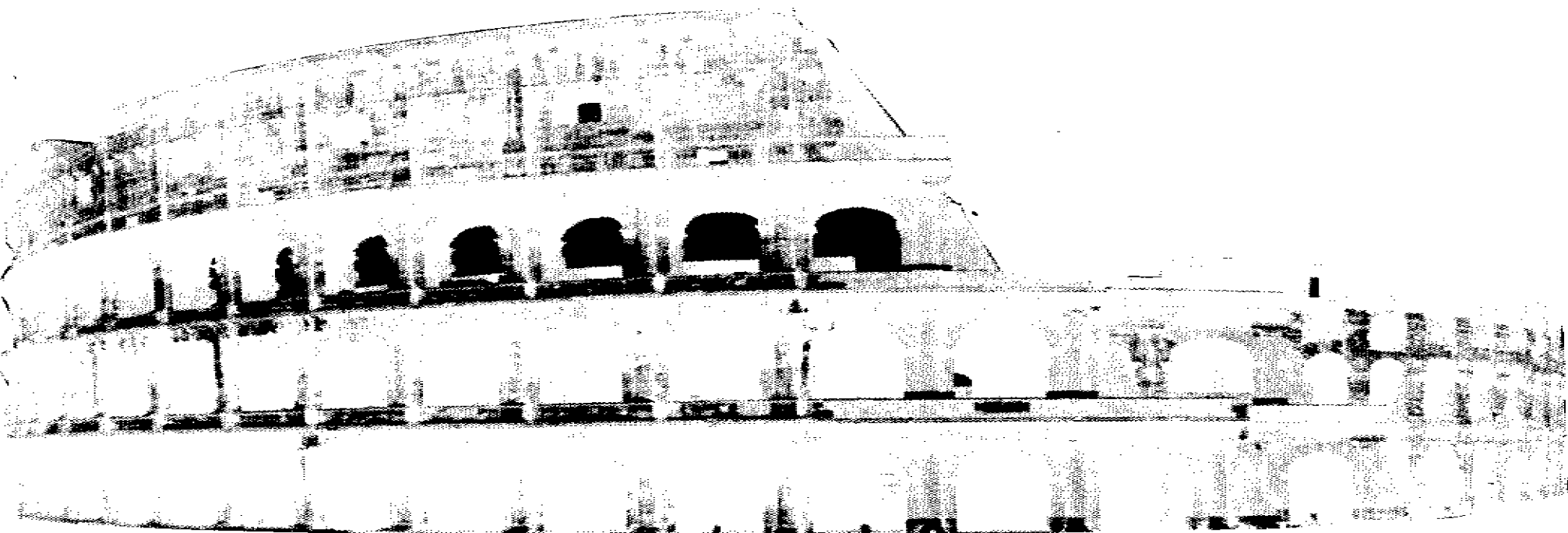


Emhain Macha

46



EM Notes

*Emhain Macha is a monthly journal for the discussion and play of diplomatic games available from Michael Mills, 26 Laurel Road, Sloatsburg, NY 10974; 914-753-5513.

*Subscriptions are available at the rate of 10¢/4pgs. + postage. Subscribers maintain a subscription account from which the cost of each issue is deducted. It is recommended that subscribers start their account with \$5. Payment may be made by check, M.O., cash or unused postage stamps (Canadian and foreign Okay). When your account falls below \$1, it is time to renew.

*Writing in EM: Writers receive compensation in the form of sub credit at the rate of \$1.50 per printed page and fractions thereof. Suitable topics include but are not limited to how to devise a workable game strategy, tactics, methods of negotiation, etc. DYO COD scenarios are also sought for Battalion Briefings.

*Playing in EM: Winners of games in EM receive a free game start in EM plus \$3 in subcredit. All survivors get \$1.50 in subcredit.

*Volunteers are standbys for Diplomacy. They receive \$1 in subcredit when they play a position to the end. They are Placek, Arnawoodlan, Carter, Horn, Walters and Ledder.

*Mercenaries are standbys for diplomatic games other than Diplomacy. They receive \$1.50 in sub credit when they play a position to the end. The one and only is

*Rules: KONIGREICH and S.P.Q.R. rules are available from me for 20¢ each in postage.

*KONIGREICH: There are openings for this great, great game. I need 5 players. There isn't a game fee, in fact, EMs are free while the game is on and you are in it! See this issue for more details!

*S.P.Q.R.: No game openings here, sorry! However, I am lobbying you to sign up as a standby. You'll get EM free if you're called, and this is a GREAT game --- no other comment is necessary!

*Bourse: You can enter the BARBAROSSA BOURSE at any time, simply by sending in an order form, from the back of this issue. You start with 500 of each currency on the market and 500sf. (FREE!)

*DIPLOMACY: no game openings right now...or for a long time...sorry... you can get on the standby list though!

OLD BALANCE

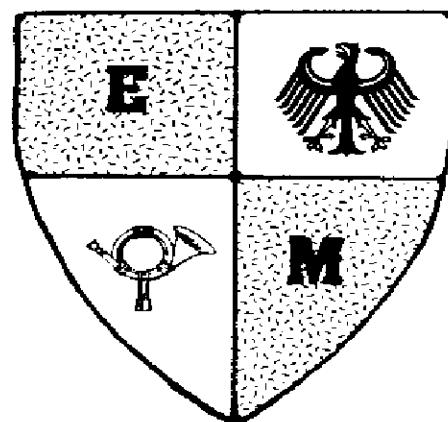
2.40

THIS ISSUE -
COST

.70¢

NEW BALANCE

1.70



(If New Balance is less than \$1.00 it is time to renew.)

S.P.Q.R. II (Bread and Circus) starts within. The first round of the auction has passed and the map represents the state of the Empire after the first round; doesn't look too hot for the great Egyptians, does it? Oh well, this is just a game...just a game... just a game... Anyway, I'd like to put a few of you on the standby list just in case Chuff (GM) needs someone, though I doubt it.

I've dissolved the 1st KONIGREICH playtest for reasons given within and have opened up a new section. I need 5 players and you could be one of them simply by sending in your request! (How exciting!) If you want to know more about the game, write and ask, etc.

A current PDC report is within in DAS BANNER, as always. we are moving forward and have captured 100 delegates to the Democratic National Convention! Not bad for a 1 year old organization!

But seriously folks, things are fine and blossoming in PDoville. in fact so well that we may have our first elections very soon. but let's get serious here. I have signed GRAND KOMMISSAR ORDER #1. All the rest have been policy papers, but the order is just what you'd expect --- PDC law with violators expunged, punished and whipped. The ORDER is inside. Beware subversives!

There just isn't that much to comment on anymore and I've never done a Mark Berch Dept. I hope you like this issue. I think it looks good and keep those cards and letters (don't forget the money) coming in!

CHERNEVKO
KREMLIN
MOSKOW, USSR

MAR 17 1984



ORIGINAL

To The American Grand Kommissar
Peoples' Diplomacy Organization
Twenty-Six Laurel Road
Gloatsburg, New York
10974
United States of America

MAR 16 1984

AIR MAIL

THE DEADLINE FOR PDORA 84 DONATIONS IS APRIL FIFTEENTH. THE LIST WILL APPEAR HERE AND IN OTHER FINE ZINES WITH ALL DETAILS FOR BIDDING AND THE LIKE. KEEP YOUR EYES PELED.

Valhalla

Winter 1900

Impressive list of Heads-of-State lead Europe into war

Austria-Hungry: Don Swartz, 6703 Strawberry Ln., #409,
Louisville, KY 40214

England: Jake Walters, P. B. 471, Natick, MA 01760

France: Steve Arnswoodian, 602 Hemlock Cr., Lansdale, PA
19446

Germany: Dave Carter, 118 Hersham Ave., Willowdale, Ontario
M2N 1Z9

Italy: Tom Mainardi, 1403 Lawrence Rd., Havertown, PA
19063

Russia: Glenn Ledger, 2307 Eastern Hwy, Schenectady, NY
12309

Turkey: John Crosby, 830 Hunterhill tr., Roswell, GA
30075

GM: Michael Mills, 30 Laurel St., Westbury, NY 11594

I wouldn't want to be called presumptuous, but the Balkan , with Swartz, Ledger, Crosby and Mainardi, will probably be dragged through the world's worst bloodbath since Hotel Beirut! Has a more slippery crew ever manned the top positions in the south? As for the north, it's manned by the world's most charitable and kindest diplomats. How could any of them wish harm on the other. When war breaks out up there, it will be for lack of grace.

I believe that all of you know most of the players in this game, either from other games or by reputation. Some of you already have your days numbered, but I'm sure will do your best. Those who will depart before peace is declared will enter Valhalla, and we salute you!

Deadline for Spring 1981: Saturday, April 7, 1984.

INSURED

V 041 469 451

U. S. MAIL

DAS BANNER

PDORA '84 Funding Levels - At this time the following are the funding levels for services as a percentage of the monies collected by the PDORA '84;
PNC, 35%; MNC and Pontevedria, 15% each, Orphans' Bureau, 10%; PDO Blood Bank, 25%.
All above levels are provisional, and I invite any and everyone to write in their comments.

PDO Blood Bank - No, it's not anything to do with the Red Cross, but is about new blood. The plan at this time is this; PDORA money buys ERs from Henricks and distributes them free of charge at the summer CONS to those playing in tournaments, preferably to the newcomers and those who've just played Lip FTF. This plan is also provisional. Ideally, we'll be able to get a few people attending the east coast CONS and a couple going to the west coast CONS to hand out the ERs with the assent of the folks running the tournays, themselves, etc.
I'd like to know what you think about this. It will involve some volunteers and will be eating up your PDORA dollars to help promote the pbm hobby to those who have never heard of it, etc.

GRAND KOMMISSAR POLICY PAPER C31584 - Appointment of Boundry Commission:

It is apparent that the boundries of the present zones are more or less arbitrary in many cases and in order to better balance the scales, I am appointing John Caruso to head the PDO Boundry Commission. It will be John's job to name 2 or 4 others to the commission and then to suggest a new set of boundries for PDO zones. Once the Caruso Report is published and generally accepted the zones will be redrawn. Then I will set a date for the election of Zone Kommissars. I plan on giving it a date of 3 months after the acceptance of Caruso's report in order for candidates to declare themselves and voting to be run. Voting will be run by RETS and once the results are approved by me, I will resign as Grand Kommissar so that the Zone Council can elect a new Grand Kommissar. But that is not to say that I won't be a candidate for the GK.

PDORA '84 Update - The closing date for donations is April 15th 1984, and so far the response is much stronger than for the first PDORA. If the level continues at this pace, we'll have twice as many lots up for auction as the last auction.

I had considered farming out the PDORA'84 to RETS after I'd printed up the listings, but it is apparent that the change of address, etc., would probably cause some confusion that would be totally unnecessary. So, I'll handle this one to the end. Furthur, the next PDORA, whenever it is, will be run by RETS and not I.

Dipdom In Brief

Once again it's time to look around Dipdom and cast out the nasties wherever they may be.

Dan Wilson (215 Radiance Dr., San Antonio, TX, 78218) announces the start of his new zine, FEUDIST, "dedicated strictly to the housing of hobby feuds." Dan'll charge \$6 for 12 issues. He says he wants to make it even better than BRUTUS PULLETIN! That'll be some 'zine. But really, if all the feuds go to Dan, there'll be some 'zines that'll have nothing to carry but games... and then they'll fold and fade into the muck. (Actually, not a bad idea, afterall, Dan.) If you'd like sneak a peak at feud, then write to him for a sample. Anyone who donates to PDORA can't be a bad guy and should handle his feud referee job nicely. I just hope he knows when to blow the whistle!

This is the first mention of THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS in this column and a long overdue one at that. TEJPM is Jim Briggs' zine (POB 6243, El Paso, TX, 79906... down in the west Texas town of El Paso...) Anyway, IF you like more than Dip, Jim's got some oddball games for you. The "monster" of course is ENGARDE! This is royalty role-playing a la 1400s England, I think. It's one of those games people play and don't want to end because the joy isn't in winning, but in playing it well. (dumb game, eh?) But there's also a strange political game in there called DER FUHRER. Everybody is the head of some German political party in 1932 and the elections are on. I have no idea how to win this game and I'm Adolf, himself. I'm been trounced in every election no matter what I do or how well I pad my strategy. I think the dice Jim uses were cast in Israel, or something like New York City (you know, Jesse Jackson's Hymietown?) Jim also has a Machiavelli game opening for you as well as Dippy. You could get a sample for 37¢, which is what postage costs.

OK let's get SERIOUS! I have been informed by Larry Peery that I, myself, have been nominated for the 1984 DMMA! The DMMA is the Don Miller Memorial Award that Peery set up after the demise of Don. (Don's name is the same as the numbers given to variant games!) Don did a lot for variants and this award is a nice way to remember him by. Anyhow, vote for me, your KOMMISSAR in the elections. Why be humble, this is no time to play Gomer Pyle. Besides, I could use the trip to Paris.

Dave Carter is a nasty guy. Not really, but he putting a nurtin' on my Jerries in this Squad Leader game we're playing...so I got a beef with him. He also runs SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS. (Have you noticed how he no longer puts in those saucy ladies, lately?) His SK30 had lots of interesting tidbits; Francois Guerrier wants to start PASSCHENDAELE again (good grief), Dave's got a computer gadget (oh boy), and Adam Carter has two teeth (YEH!). Dave's zine is absolutely littered with the dumbest jokes about _____ (enter minority).

However, he prints them upsidedown so that the holymen among us can be spared such gutter filth. Funny thing is that no one reads SK rightsideup! SK is and probably always will be one of those very funny, breezy sort of zines, where you feel like you always get your money's worth. This is a recommended zine. Send him some stamps (20¢) for a sample. He's at 118 Horsham Avenue, Willowdale, ONTARIO, M2n 1Z9. (OK Dave, Now will you move those damn halftracks away from my German Boy Scouts...you know they were on this jamboree, when all of a sudden...)

Let's talk COAT OF ARMENIA, that's Arnawoodian's new name for his zine, he dropped the "s" and added the "enia" for some strange reason. Anyway, Steve's trying to boost circulation and wants everyone to send for a sample and then sub to him. He wants you to sub for 2 years, so get out your checkbook. Issues are cheap at only 70¢ an issue so why not just send him \$14.00 right now, before you read anymore!

Talk about scandal rags! Steve's got the field covered like a blanket. And he has a few good subzines in there, too. Lots of times you'll find Mark Fassio's LEAD in there and if you've read that weird stuff, you'll wonder about the US armed forces of which Mark is a member; he drives a 20 ton tank, or tries to, but they've got lots of trees, cows, covilians and infantry around Mark.

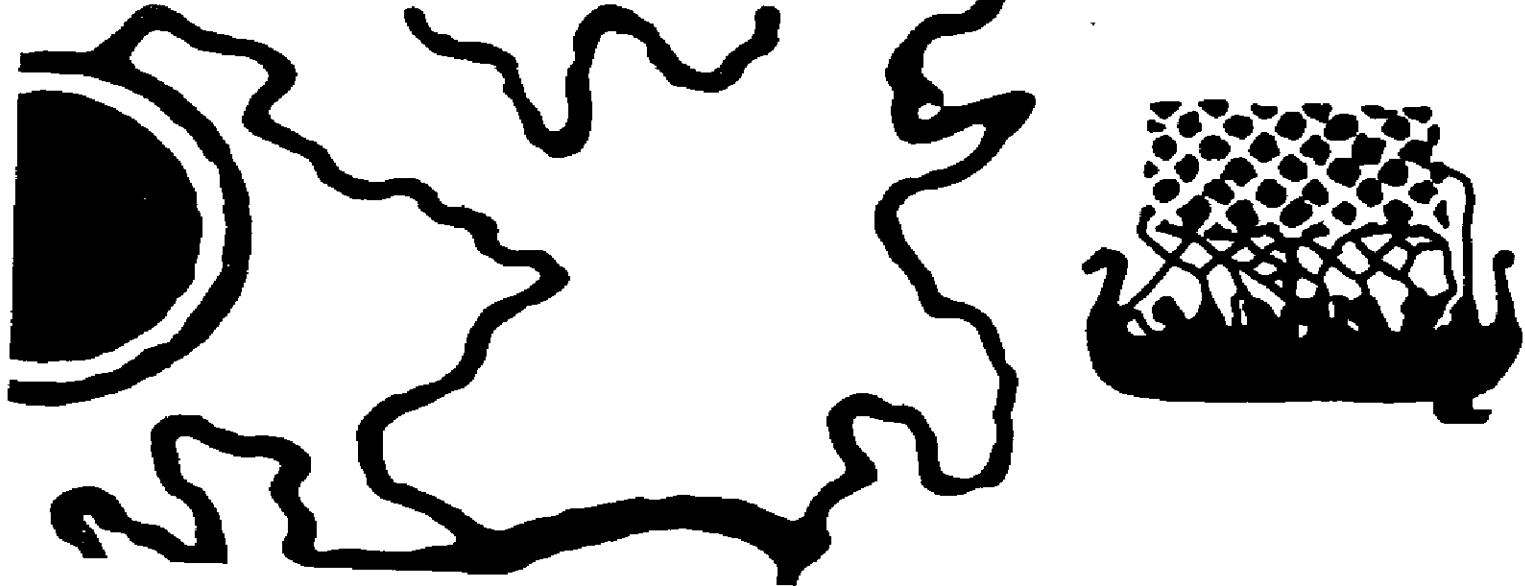
Yes, I'd have to say that you must sub to COAT OF ARMENIA --- it's the zines that sounds like a disease!

I guess, I don't have to mention EUROPA EXPRESS. Everyone reads it and it's been #1 everywhere for at least 2 years straight. It's probably the best zine ever. (sniff sniff).

OK enough of this, but one last thing. Pete Laughlin (spelling may be off, but you know who he is), pubber of PERELANERA recently subbed up to EM and then asked for his money back. He didn't care for the naked women, who prostitute their bodies for the entertainment of EM readers. So I sent him his money back and he's happy now; so am I --- no harm done, but if you are/were afraid to brouch the subject and want your money back, just ask. Personally, I would think that given the serious nature of the hobby and DIPLOMACY that a little cheesecake was in order.

OK then until next time, may you not be blinded by those who wish to baffle you with bullshit, like President Ron W. Reagan (who was divorced), or millionaire Jerry Falwell, or maybe the other freaks and oddballs on the planet, like them Soviet guys who keep dying, or the Fascist in 10 Downing Street... (I've written myself into a hole here)... and until then smile and say my wooden armies don't bleed.

Denmark



"Two things only the people anxiously desire . . ."

BREAD and CIRCUSES

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE AND PEOPLE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

S.P.Q.R. GAME II

VOL. I

WINTER 191 A.D.

. . . that is the label the poet Juvenal lends to our contest, and so be it. He who can feed the masses and sway the majority (by whatever means he sees fit) shall truly deserve the name of "Emperor". But who shall it be?

Will it be the eminent MAXIMUS CLAUDIUS MILES, governor of AEGYPTUS and leader of the POPULARES? It is said that he wrote the book on S.P.Q.R. (available from MIKE MILLS, 26 LAUREL ROAD, SLOATSBURG NY 10974.)

Or perhaps it will be the distinguished SEVERUS, elder of the SEVERI, ruler of THRACIA. Another veteran of the Empire (reached in care of RON SMAY, 7244 78TH STREET N., PINELLAS PARK FL 33565.)

Another contender must surely be the noble LEDDERICUS, master of the PYRRHONISTS and governor of CAPPODOCIA. He too returns to the fray (via GLENN LEDDER, 2003 EASTERN PARKWAY, SCHENECTADY NY 12309.)

Next claimant to the throne is the rising star JAKIUS MAXIMUS, commanding the LUSITANIANS from their land of HISPANIA (also known as JAKE HALVERSTADT, 1106 CASTLEROCK DRIVE, FORT COLLINS CO 80521.)

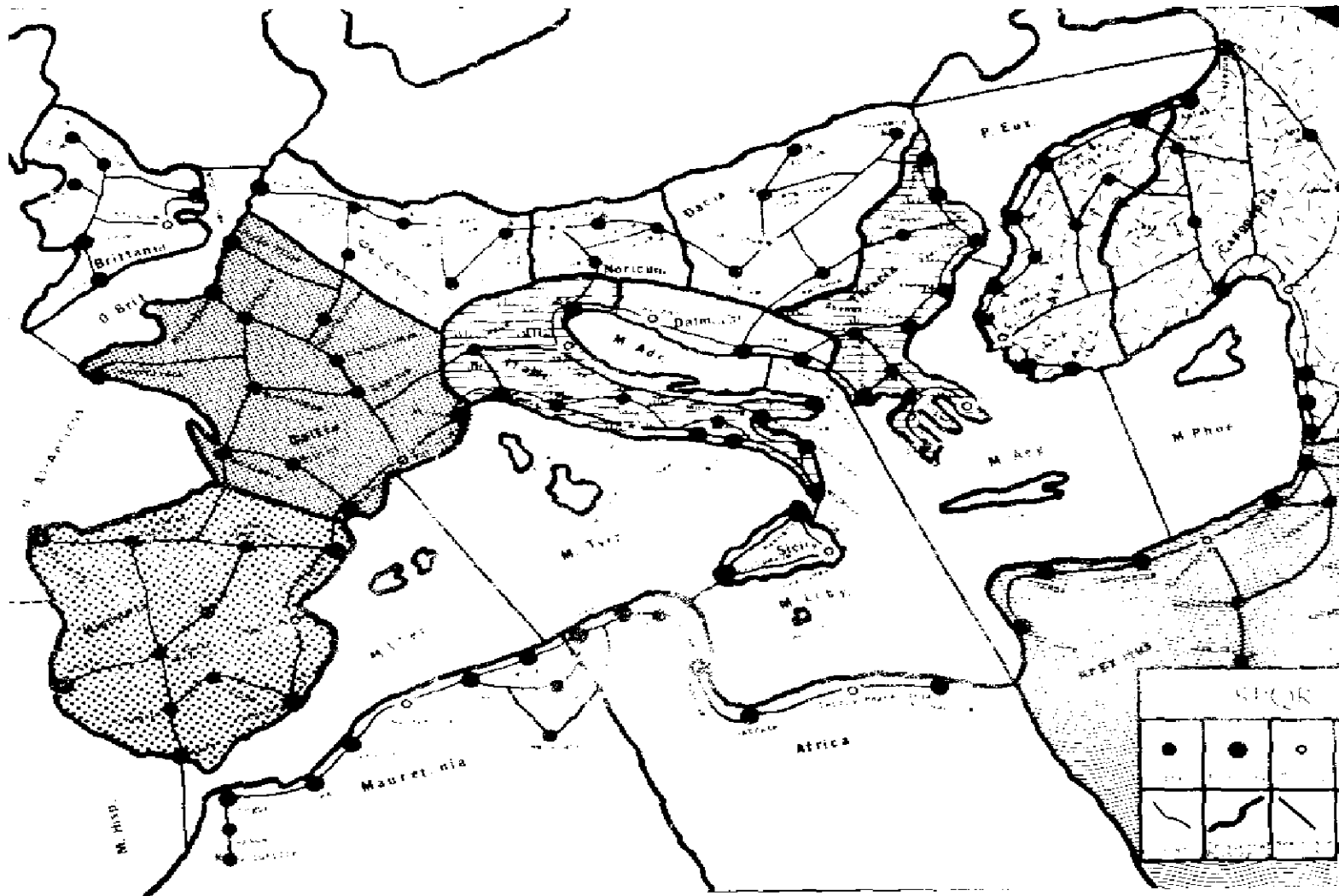
Last but not to be denied is the ambitious MICHAELIUS of GALLIA, senior patrician of the ALLEGANTIA MIDAMERICUS. Keep an eye on this newcomer (alias MICHAEL KETTMAN, 445 ELM #3H, DEERFIELD IL 60015.)

Each patrician now has in his treasury 2000 sesterces. Besides the purchase of provinces, that money must also pay for the hiring of Imperators (8.71), the building of a first fleet (3.22, 13.2), creation of a faction legion (opt. rule A), and any other expenses incurred in the first year of play. Note that each provincial legion shall begin with 3 SPs (8.2). Since nowhere is a hiring fee for these units specified, there shall be none (by precedent of SPQR.)

Thus, we enter Round One of the Provincial Auction. Going on the block are the lands of ITALIA and ASIA MINOR. Deadline for Round One bids shall be noon Saturday, March 17th. In the meantime, beware the Ides of March and . . .

". . . CAVEAT EMPTORI!"

(S.P.Q.R.II is GMed by CHUFF AFFLERBACH, 5632 OAKGROVE, OAKLAND CA 94618, 415-655-7393. All questions cheerfully answered. And if you have not yet received the tan rules or the large-sized map, tell me!)



MAP REFLECTS HOLDINGS AFTER FIRST AUCTION ROUND.

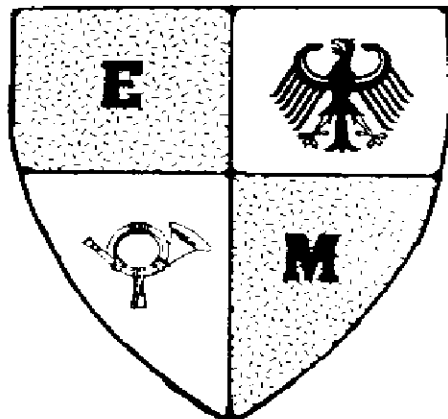
Mike Kettman - Gallia
 Jake Halverstadt - Hispania
 Mike Mills - Aegyptus
 Ron Smay - Thracia & Italia
 Glenn Ledder - Cappadocia & Asia
 (others are up for bid in rounds 2&3)



Be a Man! Play Konigreich!
 Join the Regiment in the field
 for glory and fame! Only seasoned
 Vets need apply, and should have
 strategic and tactical skills as
 well as a glibe mouth.



HI BIG DIPPERS, I'M TERPI YOUR
POMME DE TERRE-TETE LADY OF THE
MONTH, I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE
SPRINGTIME AS MUCH AS I AM, AND YOU
KNOW, I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE HOT
WEATHER SO I CAN...OH RELAX...



Königreich



I've decided to "kill" GOTT MIT UNS, the first playtest of KÖNIGREICH. Before the first movement phase began, we lost one player. That was months ago, and I haven't been able to find anyone to replace him. Another player, at this time, is iffy about playing because of the time involved in playing the game. I think it only fair then to stop whatever is going on here and open up a new section of KÖNIGREICH.

The game fee is zero, and as long as you're playing the zine is free. The rules cost you 20¢ in postage. I'll need four or five players for this game.

KÖNIGREICH is central Europe around the 1700s. Each player is a duke, king or whatever, who attempts to carve out the largest kingdom on the map and win the game. Units are infantry, artillery, cavalry and the house grenadiers, as well as field-m Marshals and you, the king (or whatever).

The map is a 16 X 22 hex-grid map with terrain, thus there are differing movement costs for mountains, open ground and the like, as well as combat modifiers.

This game is nearly tactical in approach to the unit movement, but they occur over wide areas.

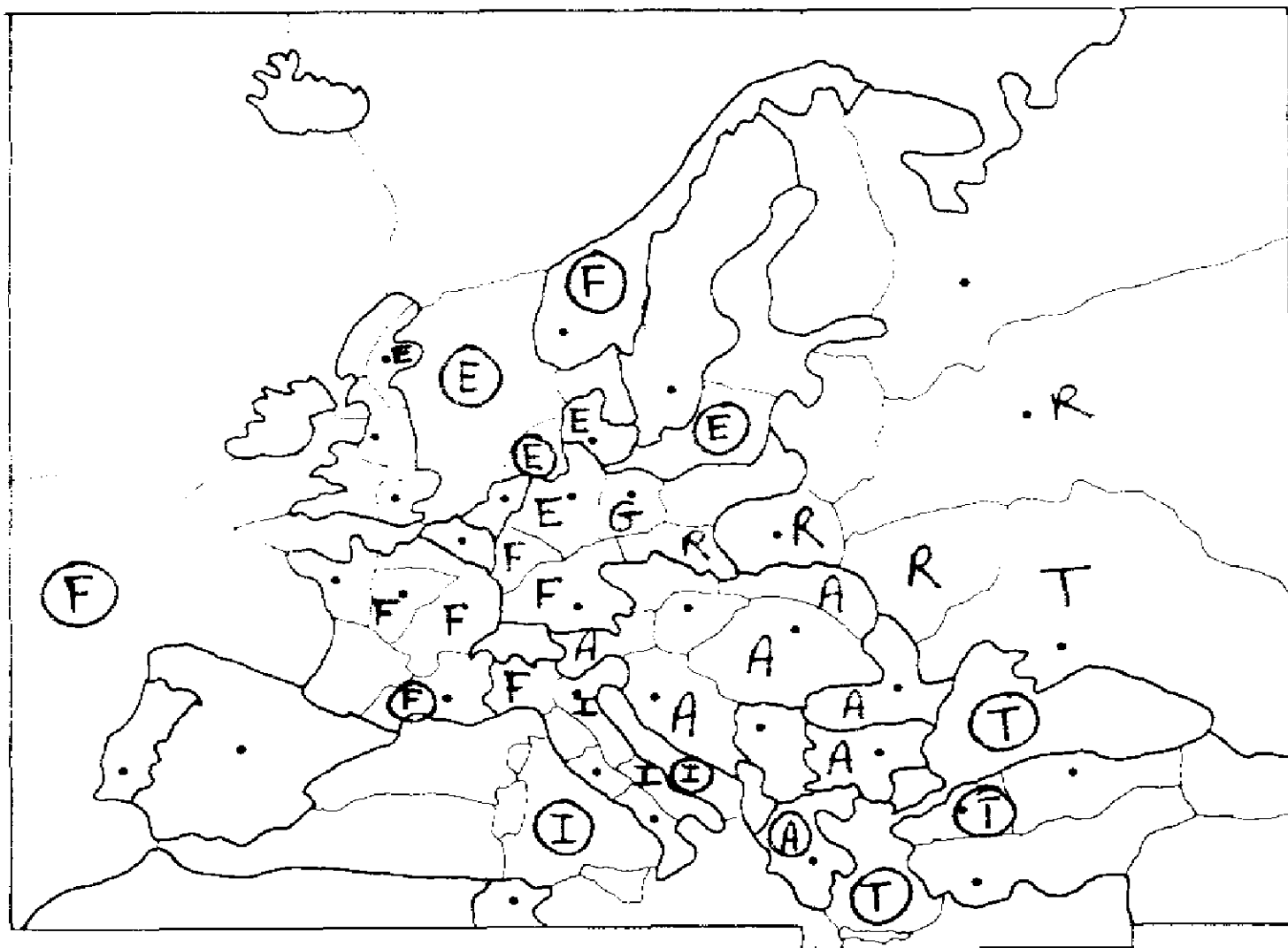
You have to overcome the geography of the lands, supply lines must be intact and diplomacy is the rule here. It's a fast game, but will ask for some timely planning on your part, especially when drawing out movement orders for your orders.

You can get the map/rules from me for 20¢ and read all about it yourselves. I am now releasing every GOTT MIT UNS player from any responsibility he may feel he owes for signing up. I don't want to seem like I'm "coercing" anyone and making them feel guilty and all that. (Afterall, playing a game is supposed to be lots of fun! And KÖNIGREICH is that!)

OK, only 4 or 5 players and we go!



Barbarossa



Severe Winter Causes Delay of Spring Campaigns!

Winter 1905 -

A: even

E: Builds A EDI

F: Builds A PAR and F MAR

G: even

G: even

I: even

R: removes F SWE & F NWG

T: even

Orders for Spring 1906 are on file for EFGIRT. I've saved all press for the spring, but you have till April 28th to revise your press and/or orders.

The criteria for a GM separating seasons is 1) two or more requests, and 2) a justifiable situation, such as a plethora of builds and removals over the board making conditional orders exceedingly complicated or imprecise. In our case, it was Russia's two removals from some six units, making it hard to cover all possibilities.

EM Explained

HEY! Don't people come up to you and say, "Hey, Dan, what's this Emain Macha stuff? They've just can't come up with it, now, because he went to Emain Macha, that's all, right? Is it war, Yeh, four or more? I finally found a positive excavation of it."

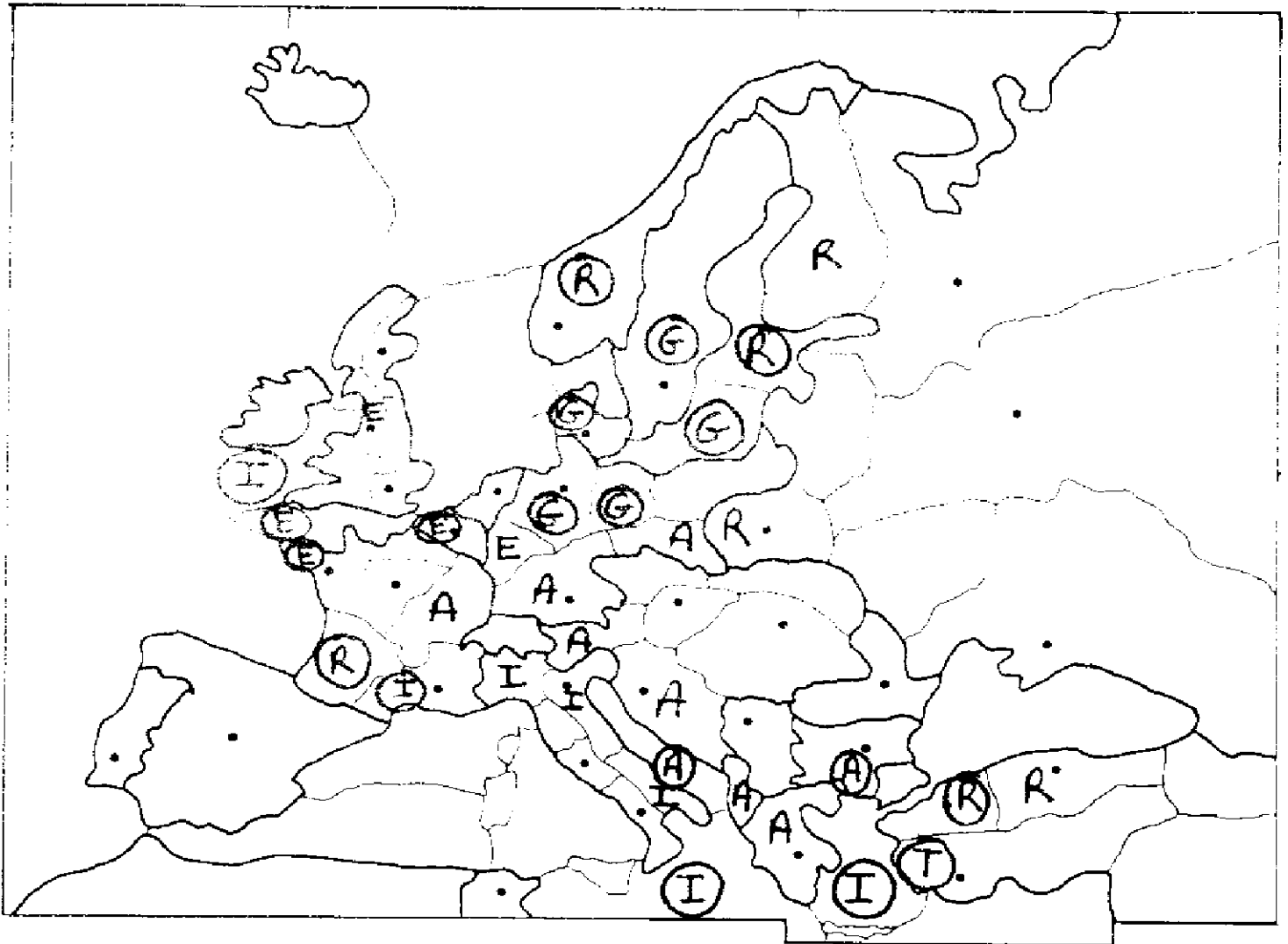
Well, sure, Emain Macha DID exist, though very long ago, in Ireland before the Christian conversion, another culture was going strong etc. they weren't savage, but they weren't civilized either. They were Celts. The very word Celt, and gave the Romans a clue for the name of the British wars, i.e. the Britons, etc. etc. were Celts, too! Because the Romans never got beyond it in Ireland, the Celts may have survived down to the 11th century or so. Even when they started, "civilized" themselves, by Celtic boys, and the two tended to produce a kind of Celticism, evidenced by the monasteries and the like, etc. etc. The years of Rome, indeed, it was another few centuries before Ireland had a great Roman presence, and that was not the end of the matter, but a good start for the time.

But this is just to give you a little idea of it's rough shape of what EM was a Celtic stronghold, a lot of legends (especially Beidre of the Sorrows and those rough and tumble Knights of the Red Branch, the Fenians, and of course, Connor), and of Celtic Irish history.

Somewhat larger, though still not towns, were princely seats like that of the legendary Conor Mac Nessa in Navan near Armagh. The earth wall of his Emain Macha enclosed a surface of some seventy-three thousand square yards, giving space for extensive living-quarters, sanctuaries, stables, barracks for the retinue and a large banqueting-hall. Probably this 'palace', in which Cú Chulainn also lived, should really be visualized as a kind of extended farm. Its owner can have been nothing less than an absolute monarch. Irish society was ordered in countless – it is assumed, more than two hundred – *túatha* (from *túath*, 'people'), of which each had its own king, the *rí*, like Eogan Mac Durtacht of Farney, mentioned earlier. None of these peasant communities can have had more than two or three thousand members, for the island's population in the La Tène period was at most half a million.

Within this tiniest of political units there existed clan-like social groupings. These were extended families to whom all male descendants of the founder and their wives and children, down to the fifth generation, might belong. They were called *fine*, and it was to these, and not to individuals, that the land controlled by the clan belonged. They alone were empowered to make agreements. Individuals had only limited rights. But there was no organic link between the clan and the *túath* or between the *túatha* and the larger

Gotz



Another Lazy Spring Visits Europe With Ruskies Headed to Spain for the Fall!!

Winter 1907

G: Builds A BER

R: Builds F STP(nc)

E: GM removes F Nth

Spring 1908

Austria (BYRNE): A BUR-Mar/A Boh-SIL/A Vie-TYR/A MUN & A TRI S A Vie-
TYR/F BUL(sc) S Russian F Bla-Con/A ALB S A Gre/A GRE S Russian
F Bla-Con/F ADR-Ven

England (CD) As Lpl, Ruh; Fs Eng, Bre, Bel

France (long dead)

Germany (SWARTZ): F Kie-DEN/F SWE H/F BAL S F Swe/ A Ber-KIE/A Pru-BER

Italy (Long?) NMRs: As Ven, Pie, Apu; Fs Ion, Aeg, Mar, Iri all Hold.

Russia (ARNAWOODIAN): F StP(nc)-NWY/A Nwy-FIN/F BOT-Bal/ A Par-GAS/

A WAR S Austrian A Boh-Sil/F Bla-CON/A Con-ANK

Turkey (Perlmutter): F SMY H

All those draws failed. A concession to Russia and a AR draw, plus a AIRG proposed; vote with next orders, which are due April 28th.

Press:

*R-G: If you are truly a dedicated fan club president, you'd turn all your centers over to me.

*R-A: How come I have to pay \$20.00 tolls every month to get to NYC, making certain you don't do your usual screw ups.

*R-A: Actually, with Mills as GM it's more like ince every two months. It's too bad Austin's not our GM, then I'd only have to go to NYC once a year.

*R-G: Since you are the president of my fan club you had better start badgering Ms Byrne or I'll have you placed in the Robert Sacks Fan Club. By the way, Bobby Sacks says you're sexy! He's planning on reuniting with you at MaryGM.

*T-Wo-Jr: You're right. Byrne is between a rock and a hard place. I never have a bill, I never write one that's because it's the dust I want you to be!

*R-G: Wrong. It's not tak. out you, then Italy!

*R-B: How come I always have to pay for the stamp when he makes our moves in?

*R-GM: Please tell Mr. PotatoHead to stop badgering me, warn him to stop trying to write my orders.

Bourse

MARKET STAGNATES AS EVERYONE CASHES IN CURRENCY FOR SWISS FRANCS.

Market Report Winter 1905

OIL	-500	-500	-500	-420	-495	-500	-142
PIGS	-500	+140	-500	-500	-500	-500	+858
STINC	-500	+40	+200	-104		-498	-500
TOTAL	-1500	-220	-780	-1024	-995	-1498	+216
change	-.15	-.02	-.07	-.10	-.09	-.14	+.02
DMP	2.23	1.49	1.94	.57	1.55	1.27	1.03
CMP	2.08	1.47	1.87	.47	1.46	1.14	1.05

Holdings Report Winter 1905

BBC	4411	4302	4373	590		3891	642	153.14
OIL	3461	1302	5760		9540	2611		4755.61
PIGS	6502	2500	5280	1124	560	898	4000	6220.31
STINC	4502	4000	4000			1000	2142	1651.30

Press:

*PIGs: Just what I need --- more DMs!

*PIGs-BARBAROSSA Austria, France and Turkey: Hey guys, I've got a great idea! Everybody against ITALIA!

PDO

Grand Kommissar Policy Paper 022684A: Investigation of Zone 1 Kommissar Appointment.

Recently, the GK appointed Bruce Linsey as Zone 1 Kommissar due to his moving into the state of Massachusetts. Because the membership and LDK action in New England had faltered somewhat under the previous Kommissar, it was thought imperative that the most important LDK post in the Zone be given over to a new Kommissar. That person was Linsey.

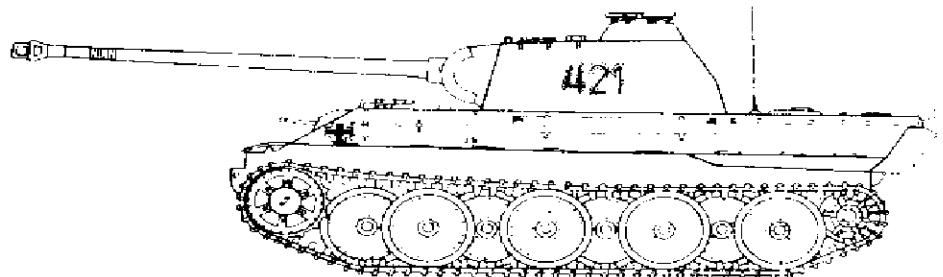
However, it has been brought to the attention of the Grand Kommissar that the appointed Kommsar of Zone 1 might not have been the good choice originally intended. Several items were brought up in relation to the Kommsar, which cast suspicion on his ability to serve in high office and fulfill the original intentions of the Manifesto of April 1983.

because LDK can ill afford to have its record sullied and while that possibility exists the Grand Kommissar by the powers invested in him by the Manifesto hereby strips the Kommsar of Zone 1 of office, title and honor. Mentions of his name in connection with this Zone will be stricken from the record.

Further, the Grand Kommissar receives an endorsement from the Zone 2 and 3 Kommissars for the appointment of Bob Blosser of Connecticut to the post of Zone Kommissar. Thus, the Grand Kommissar hereby appoints Bob Blosser as Kommissar of Zone 1.



PDO



The Gun That Shoots Fans

To understand some of the priorities of military procurement, consider the Army's new Sergeant York air-defense gun.

The weapon is a computerized, radar-guided pair of guns mounted on a tank chassis. Designed to shoot down planes and helicopters, it is programmed to fire at whirring blades. In recent tests, the newsletter *Defense Week* reports, the first production model ignored all the targets presented to it. But the gun is no dummy. Instead, it zeroed in on what it considered a more promising target: the exhaust fan in a nearby latrine.

All new weapons have bugs, says a manufacturer. Then why not fix them in the prototype, rather than the production models? But the Sergeant York's flaws transcend repair. Its radar, adapted from a fighter plane's, is probably too delicate to withstand rough terrain. Should the radar keep working, its emissions will give away its unit's position. Its gun is a different caliber from other NATO guns. It can shoot planes only if they fly in straight lines, leaving helicopters as its only real target.

But a man with a machine gun can bring down a helicopter. The Army should know: it lost 4,665 of

them in Vietnam, nearly all to rifles and machine guns. Why does it need radar-guided guns, which cost \$6.5 million each?

Because, as Gregg Easterbrook has recounted in *The Atlantic Monthly*, in 1973 the Israelis captured a Soviet radar-controlled gun called the Shilka. Tested by the Army, the Shilka proved a poor weapon, incapable of hitting maneuvering aircraft. But the Army was envious. Ten years later it has a high-tech, armor-plated lemon all its own.

After the test fiasco of the Sergeant York, will Congress not cut the \$4.2 billion budgeted for the program? No: because of jobs and contractor pressure, Congress can almost never cut a weapon once production has started. But, knowing its own weakness, it's pursuing other reforms.

Last year Congress told the Pentagon to seek warranties on all weapons and to set up a truly independent testing office. The intensity of the protests now heard from the Pentagon and its contractors betrays how seriously these two simple reforms threaten the present procurement system.

Apparently combat-effective weaponry is not the highest concern of that system. For those who disagree ponder the Sergeant York gun, shooting out the fan in the latrine.



Question: Who is this man? This photo recently arrived in the mail, and I've been unable to tell who it is? Does anyone know? And why is this little child in the picture; are these two people related? The little shaver reminds me of Jimmy Carter, though I doubt he has that many teeth? Help me!

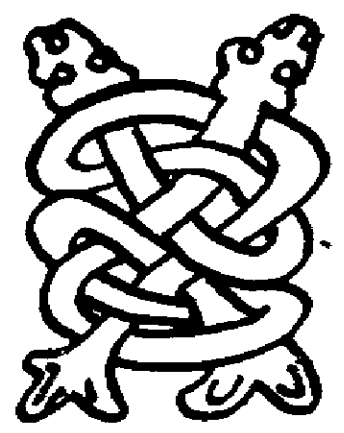
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