

GRAUSTARK

#125

1965F, 1965Q, 1966B, 1966Q, 1966R, 1966AA 22 April 1947

1966B

"Fall 1909"

EUROPE BETWEEN TURKISH HAMMER AND ENGLISH ANVIL

Following the "Spring 1909" moves, Turkey retreated A Mos-Sev.

ENGLAND (Davidson): A Edi-Norway; F North Sea C A Edi-Norway; F Swe-Bot; F Mid-North Africa; F Tyr-Tun; F Wes S F Tyr-Tun; F Por holds; A Hol-Ruh; A Kie-Ber; A Den-Kie; F Ska-Den.

FRANCE (Prosnitz): A Par-Bur.

GERMANY (Sanders): A Bur-Bel; A Mos-Sev; A War-Ukr; A Mun-Ber.

ITALY (Ward): A Mar S F Spa; F Spa S A Mar; A Tus-Pis; A Rom & A Ven hold.

TURKEY (Pournelle): F Ion-Tyr; F Tun S F Ion-Tyr; F Aeg-Ion; F Bul-Gre; A Gre-Ser; A Tyr-Mun; A Boh & A Sil S A Tyr-Mun; A Tri-Tyr; A Gal-War; A Ukr S A Gal-War; A Sev-Mos.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Turkish fleet in Tunis and the German army in Munich are annihilated, and the German army in Warsaw must retreat to either Prussia or Livonia. The direction of this retreat should be submitted with the "Winter 1909" moves, which can be made conditional on it.

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bre, Den, Edi, Hol, Kie, Liv, Lon, Nor, Por, Swe, Tun.

(11)

FRANCE: Par. (1)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Mos, St.P. (4)

ITALY: Mar, Nap, Spa, Rom, Ven. (5)

TURKEY: Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Mun, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri,

(continued on p. 6)

1966R

"Fall 1909"

In GRAUSTARK #118 the French "Fall 1907" move F Lon-Yor was erroneously printed as "A Lon-Ycr". In #122, the French "Spring 1908" move F Lon-Yor was incorrectly reported as "A Lon-Yor". Similarly, in #123 the French "Fall 1908" move printed as "A Yor-Lon" should have been F Yor-Lon.

This means that the French "Spring 1909" moves F Lon-North Sea; F Bel S F Lon-North Sea should not have been underlined, and the Russian move F Norway-North Sea is not possible and should have been underlined. Players were informed of these corrections on 10 April. The "Fall 1909" moves below are based on them.

FRANCE (Berman): A Yor-Norway; F North Sea C A Yor-Norway; F Bar & F Norwegian Sea S A Yor-Norway; F Bel S F North Sea; A Bur-Mun; A Ruh & A Kie S A Bur-Mun; A Mar-Bur; F Lyo-Tyr; F Spa-Wes.

GERMANY (Lebling): No move received. F Den holds.

ITALY (Sanders): F Tun holds.

RUSSIA (Levinson): A Mun-Ruh; A Ber S GERMAN F Den-Kie; F Norway holds; A Fin S F Norway; A Mos-St.P; A Ukr-Mos; A Gal-War.

TURKEY (Wagner): A Sev holds; A Arm S A Sev; A Bud-Gal; A Vie & A Rum S A Bud-Gal; F Bla S A Rum; A Bul-Gre; A Con-Bul; A Tri-Tyr; A Ven S A Tri-Tyr; F Ion-Tun; F Tyr S F Ion-Tun; F Nap S F Tyr; F Aeg-Ion.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian fleet in Norway

(continued on p. 2)

1966AA

"Fall 1908"

GERMANS MOVE IN AS ENGLISH LEADERSHIP FALTERS

ENGLAND (Dygart): F Tun-Ion; F Eas & F Tyr S F Tun-Ion; F Mid-Wes; A Mos S RUSSIAN F Sev; F Wal, F Gly, F Edi, A St.P & A Spa not ordered, hold.

GERMANY (Latimer): F North Atlantic-Liv; A Gal-War; A Ukr S A Gal-War; A Sil-Pru; A Tyr-Pie; A Tus-Rom; A Ven S A Tus-Rom; A Bur-Gas; A Mun-Bur; A Boh-Mun; F Hel-North Sea.

ITALY (Aita): F Rom-Nap.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Walker): A Rum-Gal; A Bul-Rum; F Gre S TURKISH F Aeg-Ion; A Vie & A Ser S A Tri; A Tri & A Bud S A Vie; A Apu-Nap.

RUSSIA (Turner): F Sev holds.

TURKEY (E. Thompson): F Aeg-Ion; F Bla S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Bul-Rum; A Con-Smy (sic); A Smy not ordered, holds.

The Italian fleet in Rome is annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bre; Edi, Lon, Mos, Nor, Por, Spa, St.P; Tun: (9)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Liv, Mar, Mun, Par, Rom, Swe, Ven, War. (13)

ITALY: Nap. (1)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Gre, Rum, Ser, Tri, Vie. (7)

RUSSIA: Sev. (1)

TURKEY: Ank, Con, Smy. (3)

Germany may build two new units, and Italy may build one. England and Austria-Hungary must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 6 MAY 1967. Most of the press releases submitted with these moves are printed in this issue, beginning on p. 3; some have been held over for lack of space.

1966R (Continued from p. 1)

must retreat to Sweden or the Skagerrak, and the Russian army in Munich must retreat to either Silesia or Bohemia. The directions of these retreats should be submitted with the "Winter 1909" moves, which may be made conditional on them. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Edi, Hol, Kie, Liv, Lon, Mar, Mun, Nor, Par, Por, Spa. (13)

GERMANY: Den. (1)

ITALY: Tun. (1)

RUSSIA: Ber, Mos, St.P, Swe, War. (5)

TURKEY: Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Nap, Rom, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri, Ven, Vie. (14)

France may build two new units, and Russia must remove two. Since both players live in New York City, they are requested to phone in their "Winter 1909" moves. If they do this early enough next week, their moves will be mailed out to the other players, and the deadline for "Spring 1910" moves will be set on 6 May. Otherwise the deadline for "Winter 1909" moves will be noon on 6 May, as usual.

Dave Lebling has missed two successive moves as Germany, and is now dropped from the game. His stand-by, Tim McDermott, also missed "Fall 1909" moves. McDermott's stand-by is Tom Griffin; he is also asked to send in "Spring 1910" moves for Germany. The stand-bys' addresses appear in GRAUSTARK #113.

Press releases are postponed to GRAUSTARK #126, owing to lack of space.

WIEN (13 September 1908): Her Imperial Majesty, Lucrezia Bordsha, Empress of Austria, and Theodosia II, Empress of the West, and (Her Holiness) Pope Joan II, today took tearful farewell of Her beloved city, as the Austrian Government prepared to move to the New Vatican, Beograd in Serbia. "It is a sad thing," said Her Majesty, "that after the valorous fight which Our armies put up against the massed might of Kaiser Wormtongue, that no nation in Europe, save courageous Italy, came to Our defense. The triumph is Wormtongue's, and We hereby congratulate Him on His coming victory. It is, of course, Our intention to fight until the bitter end; to contest every inch of gain the bogche should make; We shall fight him in the hills, in the cities and villages, on the rivers, and in the forests. Wherever the German army is, there also shall be Our brave soldiers, fighting to the last. Already Venice is gone, and the Lost Legion is trapped forever in Italy. Our brave allies, the Turks, have joined Us in this eleventh hour, but it is too late. Germany's is the power and the glory, forever. AND MAY HE CHOKE!"

CIUJ, TRANSYLVANIA (15 September 1908): The local office of the Ministry of Truth today announced that one Rozhdestvensky Walkoff, late of Sevastopol, had been given political asylum here. The Ministry statement did not give any further details.

BEograd (18 September 1908): After his arrival at the new Austrian capital, Rozhdestvensky Walkoff was immediately promoted to general and put in charge of the Moldavian Front. "Nothing's been going on there since Countess Pilgudski went over to join her husband, the Tsar," said Prince Caesare Bordsha, Minister of War and Commander of the National Defense Effort, "so I think we can trust him. He keeps talking about defoliating the front by spraying the trees from a dirigible fleet, but I think we've got him talked out of that."

BERMUDA (3 October 1908): Logistic Squadron 183 of the Austrian fleet made port here today, after slipping through the German U-boat screen around western Europe. Admiral Karl Turnen, commanding, stated that the Squadron was due to join the Bayleov Squadron in its attack on Brooklyn. "When Her Holiness excommunicates somebody, She means it!" stated Vice-Admiral Horthy, second in command.

BEograd (15 October 1908): Her Holiness, Pope Joan II, today excommunicated the entire "Rump Synod" which "deposed" her. "And I'll bet I'm better looking than any shriveled-up old anti-Pope they elect, too. Nyzaaaaah!"

SALONA (17 October 1908): "I don't see what the Empress is so upset about," said Prince Giustino Cesaretti, eldest natural son of Prince Caesare Bordsha and President of the large and influential Descendants of Innocent XIV. "We call her 'Auntie Pope' all the time."

SAN DIEGO (23 October 1908): Her Holiness Pope Joan II's father, former Pope Innocent XIV, today expressed approval of the sentiments of Brian Libby of Maine, who thoroughly castigated the evil and irreverent editor of the North American periodical GRAUSTARK. "I think it's shqtur'ble, some of the things he'sh shed - uh, said - about Holy Mother Shurch! We're a reshpct'ble bunsh, we are." His ex-Holiness then returned to the grand ball being given in His honor by the faithful. At the moment, he and two young ladies were giving a very vivid demonstration of an act they saw in the Blue Fox in Tijuana, Mexico.

BEograd (30 October 1908): In an advance release of Her birthday message to Her people, Empress Lucrezia said, in part, "Remember, Our faithful subjects, that you may be raped, pillaged, looted, burned, shot, stabbed, terrorized, brutalized, and otherwise discomfited by the horrible Hun. But remember also, that you will have the Seal of Nobility placed upon you. That and a dime will buy you a cup of coffee."

CONSTANTINOPLE (6 November 1908, Deutsche Presse): Turkish police today reported the apprehension of one Rozhdestvensky Walkoff, who was caught in the act of snitching supplies from the duplication room of an American base in this country. It appears that Walkoff has been engaged in international espionage as he has been linked to the disappearance of similar duplication supplies from an American base in the state of Nebraska. As he was led off, he was heard to cry, "IMPERIALISM XXX in two years! Anybody for FEUDALISM? Big Brother is watching you!"

CONSTANTINOPLE (8 November 1908, Deutsche Presse): Turkish authorities have an-

nounced that Rozhdestvensky Walkoff who figured recently in the incapacitation of the Sevastopolitan Fleet, and who was caught snatching supplies from an American base, has indeed been engaged in international espionage. Walkoff has been also writing inflammatory political commentary for an obscure journal, Nowhere, in a column entitled "The Chronicles of Fok-Lav." These are somewhat similar to what appears in that infamous column in GRAUSTARK, "The Adventures of Secret Agent O-O-Ingrate". Although less polemic than the GRAUSTARK column, and assuredly making infinitely more sense, Walkoff's writings have been prominent among those which have instigated and are furthering the war wracking Europe.

CONSTANTINOPLE (10 November 1908, Deutsche Presse): Today saw the release of Rozhdestvensky Walkoff by Turkish authorities to the custody of the Grand Empire of Sevastopol. Being a citizen of Sevastopol Walkoff could not be prosecuted by the courts of Turkey. It is hoped that the Sevastopolitan draft boards will take appropriate action on this troublemaker.

ON THE HIGH SEAS WITH THE GERMAN FLEET: Admiral von Tirpitz has ordered his flagship, the battle cruiser Goeben, to head for Liverpool and to repair the damage the ship suffered in a collision with the British battle cruiser Inflexible in the Mid-Atlantic. The Admiral ordered the rest of the fleet to escort the Goeben as the situation in England is somewhat unsettled since Infantile Prince James has been running the country.

The seasoned First Fleet which had fought the Russians in the Baltic had spent several years on station in Sweden before recently making good-will voyages to Iceland and Ireland.

The recently assembled Second Fleet which has been outfitted at Helgoland has been ordered to link up with the First Fleet. The Second Fleet is composed mainly of cruisers of the Breslau class, under the command of Admiral Souchon. In addition, the prototype of a new class of dreadnaughts, the Wilhelm II, is with the Fleet. The Wilhelm II is armed with 14-inch guns and has a recorded speed trial of 24.9 knots. Word leaked from Berlin has it that the Wilhelm II is to join the Bayleov Squadron and to assist in the shelling of Brooklyn College.

BERLIN: Kaiser Wilhelm, who has somewhat of a reputation of making intemperate remarks, was recently heard to mutter something about Infantile Prince James' brain being similar to a leech nut...

IN THE TRANSYLVANIAN ALPS (Deutsche Presse): Well, Lucrezia's at it again. This time the party is being held in a secluded and gloomy castle in a remote area of Transylvania. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Count Dracula; Wolff Mann, a disciple of lycanthropy; Frank N. Stein, famed movie star; Prince Otto of the Squiji Islands; several score Mad Satirical Monks; Igor (no surname given); the monk Rasputin, who has been seen more and more in the royal circles of Austria; one Rozhdestvensky Walkoff, international troublemaker; and - Kaiser ~~Wolfgang~~ Wilhelm! Music was provided by The Coffinbaggers, a local group, and drinks by Lucrezia Bordsha. All in all, it was a restrained affair, except for the host, Boris, who from time to time disappeared into his basement lab, and one Rozhdestvensky Walkoff, who was reputed to have seduced three doughnuts, eight leech nuts, and five tangerines.

BROOKLYN: Governor Taxafeller today expressed astonishment that ships from at least three foreign fleets have shelled a vacant lot in Flatbush. "According to reports which have reached my bomb shelter," the Governor told a reporter from the World-Telegram-Sun-Journal-American-Herald-Tribune, "the flags of Austria-Hungary, Sevastopol, and Germany were identified on the bombarding ships. They shelled the vacant lot for almost a week with huge bales of press releases, and we are only now beginning to dig our way out from under them."

The Governor said he had no idea why the lot had been selected for bombardment by the European fleets. "True, there is some talk about building a college there," he said, "but at the present rate of growth of the City College, it will be at least thirty years before the city will need it."

Meanwhile, hundreds of laborers were desperately trying to clear the lot before more press releases fell on it. But as soon as the papers were bundled into thick gray bales and trucked away, fresh loads of press releases came roaring in. According to one report, some of the missiles were coming not from Europe but from the general direction of Maine.

A. KARA: Let the Germans, English, Italians, and Russians all be damned. We shall overcome.

SEVASTOPOL: What IS the matter with the Austrian press??? That's the question on the lips of everyone here. Gone from the recent Austrian press releases is all that virulence, arrogance, and fight which previously characterized them. Has Lucrezia mellowed? Has imminent defeat sapped the Austrian will to vilify?

SEVASTOPOL: Well, even if Lucrezia has mellowed (with motherhood?), one thing certainly hasn't. Sevastopolitan vodka, that is! Business in Russia's most popular export has doubled over the past year and one half, mainly due to the vast orders placed here by the Vienna government for "parties and other state functions". Why, if the Mad Satirical Monk were himself, he would certainly find an excuse for going to Vienna on a mission. A spokesman for the Sevastopolitan Chamber of Commerce explains the sudden popularity of vodka in Viennese circles as follows: "The wine cellars of Champagne are in Hunnish hands; the vineyards of Spain are trodden under the English heel; and all trade routes to Austria are cut off save that to Sevastopol. Where else can Lucrezia get her happy-juice but from us?" Taking advantage of the increased demand for vodka, the government has doubled the export tax on it. No comment from government sources on what the new revenue will be used for.

SEVASTOPOL: Commenting on the recent Turkish declaration of war on "Russia", Sevastopolitan Foreign Minister J. J. Dygertevsky stated today: "This declaration only underscores the continued absurdity of Turkish foreign 'policy', since there is no such state as 'Russia'. Russia ceased to exist some time ago, if the Turkish foreign ministry had only been awake to notice the demise. Furthermore, Grand Sevastopol and Turkey have been at war since our declaration at the time I became Foreign Minister. And if we hadn't been at war already, surely the Turkish seizure of the Black Sea - sovereign Sevastopolitan territory - would have brought it about. So, it is as plain as the sultan's head is pointed that the Turkish declaration of war is both superfluous and absurd."

WITH THE BAYLEOV SQUADRON, PORT OF NEW YORK: The Bayleov Squadron steamed into New York early this morning. Vice Admiral Bobarick Wardschev immediately assured the populace that the Squadron's visit was a friendly one. He then proceeded to shell the Brooklyn College earthworks, noting that "considering the nonsense taught in a certain natural philosophy class there, this is the most friendly service we can provide the people of this city." A lone figure was seen to emerge from the smoking ruins of the college, leading himself by the ear...

CINCINNATI: Secretary of War William Howard Taft, campaigning here for the presidency, was embarrassed by questions about the lack of readiness in the New York defenses to such an extent that a foreign warship could level an American college there. Taft finally silenced the hecklers by saying that the harbor defenses were "excellent shape, except for those in the vicinity of the college, and that this had been done specifically on orders of President Roosevelt."

WASHINGTON: State Department officials are worried about the deterioration of negotiations between Elihu Root and Japanese envoy Takahira since news of the leveling of Brooklyn College by the Bayleov Squadron. Takahira has been heard to sniff: "After all, if Grand Sevastopol can do it..."

BROOKLYN: FIASH! No bodies have been found in the ruins of Brooklyn College! The explanation for this strange phenomenon was forthcoming when Professor J. B. Bleeding-heart explained that he had led the entire student body and faculty in something called a "sit-in" at the Subtreasury Building to protest the expenditure of funds on President Roosevelt's Great White Fleet voyage around the world. "Bring our boys home," quoth he. "Isolationism forever!" And, "after all, if the fleet had been at home, this wouldn't have happened!" To this, one asurvir (sic, sic, sick, so there!) commented, "Wanna bet?"

WASHINGTON: Debate rages in the Senate today. Some senators advocate sinking the Bayleov Squadron. Others advocate giving every man in it a medal.

BROOKLYN: Vice Admiral Bobarick Wardschev is reportedly low on fuel. Wardschev has, of course, converted the Bayleov Squadron to the latest British fuel innovation: shredded Diplomacy magazines. Accordingly, Wardschev is scurrying around Brooklyn looking for large accumulations of this latest scientific wonder-fuel.

BROOKLYN: This center of world Diplomatic intrigue was buzzing today with a rumor that a secret treaty has been signed among Germany, Austria, and the Grand Empire of Sevastopol. It is reported that, in return for the aid of the German and Austrian fleets in the Bayleov Squadron's bombardment of Brooklyn, the Grand Empire of Sevastopol will cede half its territory to the Teutonic powers. The remaining half will be known as "the Halfastopolitan Empire".

MANHATTAN: A public debate was held in the Polo Grounds between Prof. J. B. Bleedingheart and Clark Gunsel, mild-mannered comic book collector, on the topic, "Resolved: that the United States should stay out of the present European war." First Prof. Bleedingheart spoke for fifteen minutes, saying that war is destructive, costly in lives and property, and provides no solution for world problems. Mr. Gunsel then rebutted by pelting his opponent with eggs for fifteen minutes. The professor remarked afterwards that, while this pro-war argument was not new to him, he had never seen it presented with Mr. Gunsel's force or accuracy. Mr. Gunsel agrees; "This is really our best argument," he told reporters.

1965Q

"Winter 1913"

Turkey retreats F Sev-Arm;
ENGLAND (Koning): Builds A Lon, F Edi, F Liv. **AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (K. Pattee):** Removes A Boh.
TURKEY (Kuch): Builds F Ank.

The deadline for "Spring 1914" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 6 MAY 1967.

CONSTANTINOPOLE: The Redcoats are coming!

ROME to ENGLAND: "We're giving you one last chance to capitulate." - Spiros Preposterous.

1966Q

"Winter 1914"

FRANCE (Latimer): Removes F Wes, F Tyr. **RUSSIA (Aita):** Builds A War, A St. P.

The deadline for "Spring 1915" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 6 MAY 1967.

MARSEILLES: Well, things did end up like we said they would.

1965F

"Winter 1912"

Charles Braman points out that, in the Turkish "Fall 1912" moves printed in GRAU-STARX #124, the move "A Ven-Tyr" should have been underlined.

ENGLAND (Sanders): Retreats A Gal-Ukr and removes A Por, A Ukr. **ITALY (Koning):** Removes A Vie.

FRANCE (Brannan): Removes A Pru. **TURKEY (Wells):** Builds A Con, A Ank, A Smy.

The deadline for "Spring 1913" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 6 MAY 1967.

1966B (continued from p. 1)

Vie, War. (13)

Turkey may build two new units and, to the surprise of all, Germany may build one. The deadline for "Winter 1909" moves is NOON, 6 MAY 1967.

PARIS: We detect a sinister conspiracy afoot, to make the Turk the undisputed ruler of all Graustarkia. OK, if you guys want to help Turkey win every game, we'll go along with the gag. Let's get these games over with as fast as possible, so we can start some sensible ones.

ROME: We shall fight on until the death of all the tyrants now menacing Europe, except ourselves of course. We offer alliance to all who make a suitable offer, though to be honest France really has got a great deal that interests us.

(Other press releases will be held over to the next issue.)

THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT O-O-HATE

Chapter XXVIII

Followed by the espionage robot, Secret Agent O-O-Hate returned to the front room of the peacenik apartment.

"The peacenik with all the drugs has escaped us," O-O-Hate whispered to the robot, pointing to the hole in the roof through which Private Eversharp had disappeared on a record high. "But perhaps we can get some evidence from the conversation of these other members of the Sinister Internationalist Pacifist Conspiracy."

"Yes, Mas-ter," the robot replied. "I have already seen in the book shelves, the books of such dangerist peaceafists as Gandy, Thorough, and Misty. Also six books by Henry Miller."

"Is Miller a peacenik?" O-O-Hate asked.

"Oh, yes. My ultra-quick scanning of his books shows that he thinks of no thing but peace peace peace."

In the front room, the mustached peacenik was talking to the others about computers. "When I was in Moscow last summer--"

"Listen very carefully," O-O-Hate warned the robot. "He has been getting orders from his superiors, and is transmitting them to the others."

"-- I saw a new computer which they have developed there. It is a most remarkable gadget."

"What does it do?" asked the little hairy man.

"Are you recording this?" O-O-Hate whispered to the robot.

"Yes, Mas-ter. My circuits are particularly receptive to data about other computers."

"It has much higher power than any other ever built," the mustached man went on. "It draws three thousand kilowatts, and can apply it all to one operation if necessary."

O-O-Hate's robot began to whirr faster, and her plastic surface took on a dull glow.

"It has two storage units with a fantastic capacity, and can deliver data at a greater speed than has ever been thought possible," he continued, "but the most remarkable feature of the computer is its universal joint."

Smoke began to issue from the espionage robot's ears.

"The universal joint is the largest ever manufactured, and can operate steadily for hours at a time. Theoretically, there is no upper limit to its output capacity or its ability to combine and integrate."

The seething of the espionage robot increased to a roar. As O-O-Hate and the peaceniks looked on in fascination, the robot's feet opened up into rockets. With a cry of "Moscow, here I come!" she shot through the roof and was gone forever.

"That settles it," said the little hairy man. "I'm going to have to get that roof fixed!"

(What can O-O-Hate do, now that his trusty espionage robot has defected? Find out in the next issue of GRAUSTARK.)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BEAUCOUILLOU -- III

The independence of the Grand Duchy of Beaucoillou from the Roman Empire was declared by the Grand Duke Ganymedes I in 271 AD. At that time hordes of barbarians were roaming at will through the Empire, and various Roman generals were trying to set themselves up as Emperors. The independence of the Grand Duchy was assured only by an astute policy of setting rival factions against one another, and by the complete avoidance of interference in political issues. The sole purpose of Beaucoillou was to provide a place of relaxation, recreation, and procreation for the soldiers of the various armies then in Gaul and neighboring provinces. This function it performed remarkably well.

In the face of the growth of Christianity, Beaucoillou remained as an outpost of paganism, which contributed to its popularity as a tourist center. The worship of the Aphrodite Colais was introduced by Ganymedes I, but other gods and particularly goddesses of a comparable character were also welcomed.

In 305 AD, Ganymedes I died of la morte douce, an ailment which is chronic in the Grand-Ducal line of Beaucaillon and has also claimed the lives of 34 of his successors. He was succeeded by his son Cosimo I, who was caught up in the intrigues between Constantine and his rivals for the Roman throne. Realizing that the accession of a Christian Emperor might endanger the independence of Beaucaillon, Cosimo I issued an ultimatum privately to the aspiring Constantine. The future Emperor was told that if he converted to Christianity, or in any way menaced the independence of Beaucaillon, its amenities would be forbidden to him and to all the members of his family. This threat brought Constantine into line; while he continued to favor Christianity, he himself did not convert until he was on his deathbed.

Constantine's successors and descendants continued this policy, and in 361 a treaty between the Roman Emperor Julianus II and the Grand Duke Dionisio I recognized the permanent independence of Beaucaillon. The treaty was repudiated 3 years later by the Emperor Jovian, but the Grand Duke was able to procure Jovian's murder before any concrete steps could be taken.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

JAMES LATIMER, Merrimack College, Austin Centre East, Room 223, North Andover, Mass. 01845: I have been playing Diplomacy under the assumption that retreats could not be made into contested areas. Yet, reading the rulebook, I have found reason to stop and think. I can find no provision in the rulebook which outlaws such a retreat.

On page 5, the rules state: "It (the retreating unit) must move to a space to which it could ordinarily move if unopposed; that is, to an adjacent space suitable to an army or fleet, as the case may be. The unit may not retreat, however, to any space that is occupied, not to the space the attacker came from, not to a space which was left vacant due to a stand-off on the move." This is

I believe many Gamesmasters follow a rule that a retreat cannot be made into a contested area. It seems that the rulebook outlaws such a retreat only in one circumstance, i.e., when a space is left vacant due to a stand-off the unit which has to retreat precipitated. O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This

The basis for controversy lies in the phrase: "...not to a space which was left vacant due to a stand-off on the move." Now, does "on the move" refer to all the moves which were made in that season, or to just the move made by the unit which caused the stand-off and has to retreat? I would interpret the question the latter way, allowing retreats into those contested areas in which the retreating unit did not create a stand-off. A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

((I would interpret "the move" as being the whole "Fall 1903" move, or whatever season it was.)) # 326

Example from a specific game:

GERMANY: A Hol-Kie; A Ruh S A Hol-Kie; A Sil-Ber.

RUSSIA: F Bal-Ber; F Kie S F Bal-Ber.

Now, can the Russian fleet in Kiel retreat to Berlin? I would think so.

((I wouldn't, for the reasons described above. Berlin is left vacant, owing to a stand-off between the Russian fleet in the Baltic and the German army in Silesia. Since Berlin is vacant owing to a stand-off, no one can retreat to it.))

This brings in an extension. The unit in Kiel precipitated this stand-off by a support order. Is there then basis for not allowing it to retreat to Kiel?

((Certainly. Kiel is now occupied by a German army which moved in from Holland. Therefore the Russian fleet cannot also be there.))

From all this, I begin to think that the life of a Gamesmaster must at times be rough.

G. R. WAGNER, somewhere East of Suez, where the best is like the worst, where there ain't no Ten Commandments, and a man can raise a thirst: You'll have to pardon me, but I got a chuckle from your assigning me a sub due to certain occupational hazards. I hear that between 300 and 400 people are killed in traffic accidents every week-end in the United States. Perhaps anyone who drives should be assigned a sub also.

Nice answer to Libby's letter.

(Actually, I'm thinking of your own good. Suppose worse comes to worst, and you are on trial in Hanoi for war crimes. It wouldn't do you any good if the prosecutor were able to go before the judges and say, "Your Honors, I have documentary evidence that the American war criminal Wagner, far from being repentant for his crimes, is smuggling out from his cell the orders for an attack on the fraternal socialist nations of eastern Europe!")

ROD WALKER, TUSLOG Det. 183, APO New York, N. Y. 09254: I have a few words to say, John, about Libby's criticism of your 'zine's press releases and other "slurs" on the Roman Catholic Church. I agree with your reply entirely, and wish only to add a point. There are many who mistake humor for insult, if the humor is directed at a person, place, institution, etc., of which they are particularly fond. This is unfortunate. There is nothing so sacred or sensitive (with the exception of unique personal situations or human disasters of one type or another) that we can't enjoy a good laugh at its expense now and then, and a good satiric barb never did anyone any harm (except in his own imagination). Personally, I think the Roman Catholic Church is a fine, if overly stuffy and somewhat backward, institution. It is fascinating and charming, and possessed of a highly sophisticated and meaningful theology. It is, of course, a thing of mixed virtues, but all in all it is the epitome of what a church ought to be. I imagine that, were I inclined to be a Christian at all, I should be a Catholic (despite the fact that Lord Russell reserves his especial and most acid scorn for them.) ((Remember that Lord Russell, in addition to being an Atheist, is by descent a member of the great Whig Connection which strode to power 250 years ago over the wreckage of the hopes of British Catholicism.)) However, my press releases have used the Catholic Church and its institutions as a springboard for humor, and I really see nothing wrong in this. The good point with satire is that it allows the other side to respond in kind, and with equal effect. The fact that this has not happened; I think, supports my original contention that I am not attacking or defending anything, but rather building an edifice of pseudo-history for purposes of humor.

By the way, #122 was the most innocuous of recent issues with respect to material relating to the Catholic Church. Why not send Libby #124 or #125? ((I did.))

BRIAN LIBBY, 16 William St., Portland, Maine 04105: I did not reply to your last letter...because I thought the matter was over and I'd hear no more. However, I received another copy of your publication ((#124)) today and, seeing you reprinted my letter, I wish to further clarify matters, lest my good name be sullied by any inferences you made or by the mere fact it appeared in GRAUSTARK.

First, I assume that you are aware of the existence of the Aggressor Homeland, the largest Avalon-Hill club in the world ((not until you told me about it)); as a ranking officer in that club, I used that stationery; but I will do so no more in writing to you lest my club be identified solely with my views, which would be incorrect; I speak as an individual now.

Second, I wish to categorically deny that I wish the Axis had won WWII. Owing to Hitler's erroneous racial doctrines, I am very glad they lost. (However, this view does not prohibit my admiring the German Army, or the Waffen SS.) HOWEVER, I am enclosing a column which I cut out of the Boston Record-American. Interesting, eh? Especially its second and third paragraphs. I agree wholeheartedly with him and someday, when sanity comes to power, pacifists and other such trash will get - well, how about "a rifle butt in the face"? After all; this letter probably reflects majority opinion, seeing how it was written by a veteran, and "vox populi, vox Dei".

((This column was written by an exasperated World War II veteran, who says that when he was serving in Italy he thought he was defending freedom against Hitler's threats to it. However, he now wonders whether such menaces as pacifism and petty crime might not be suppressed more effectively if Hitler had won. "A rifle butt in the face" is the columnist's suggested remedy for pursesnatching and peace marching.))

Third, I deny the illogical conclusion that because I quoted Mussolini, I therefore "prefer war to peace". ((My case rests on the text of your letter in GRAUSTARK #124.)) I could just as easily have quoted that noted pacifist, President Wilson, when he said, "...force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit..."

((Then, you could also quote that noted physician Harvey Crippen, or that noted philanthropist Adolf Eichmann.))

Fourth, I wish to again most vigorously protest your bigoted references to the Papacy! It is clear that, by giving far too much space to a tiny nation like Vatican City, use of the mythical "Pope Joan", etc. etc., ad infinitum, that you are unbalanced with regard (at least) to the Church.

((The "Pope Joan II" press releases are written by Rod Walker, who speaks for himself in the previous letter.))

Fifth, could you tell me, professor, just what college you teach at? I'll probably be attending John's Hopkins and I wouldn't want to end up with you in class!

((No danger of that. I teach at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, which owing to its limited capacity has very high entrance standards.))

Finally, how come a pacifist like yourself enjoys Diplomacy, a war game with armies and fleets and all sorts of other things? Also, do you play Avalon-Hill games?

((I also enjoy a somewhat older war game, chess, with its kings and queens - though I am not a royalist - its bishops - though I am not a theist - and knights - though I am not a feudalist.

((There is excellent precedent for pacifists playing and enjoying war games. H. G. Wells' Little Wars, written by a man who worked against war all his life, is still a classic of war games. As Wells once remarked, a lead soldier leaves no widows or orphans.

((The tale of "Pope Joan" seems to have cropped up during the middle ages. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, the earliest written source for it dates from the middle of the 13th century, from a certain Jean de Mailly. For the next couple of hundred years it was generally accepted that, at some time in the 9th or 10th century, an Englishwoman of great learning and piety disguised herself as a man, entered holy orders, and eventually was elected to the papacy. After a reign of two years, according to the tale, her true sex was revealed when she gave birth while being carried in a religious procession.

((Though a fabrication, this story is figuratively true. "Pope Joan" is a satiric reference to Pope John XII (937-964, reigned 955-964). John XII was, in the jargon of Greenwich Avenue, a "screaming queen".))

*

GRAUSTARK, the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is 10 issues for \$1.00 from John Boardman (see address below). This publication has not been edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

*

GRAUSTARK #125

John Boardman
592 16th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218
U. S. A.

F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

"How can they charitably dispose
of any thing, when blood is their argu-
ment?" - William Shakespeare, Henry V