

# GRAUSTARK

#153

1967U, 1967V, 1968G, "Graustark II"

17 February 1968

1968G ("Graustark I")

"Spring 1901"

## TURKS & RUSSIANS CLASH IN BLACK SEA

The designation "1968G" has been assigned to this game by Charles Wells, and will be used henceforth.

ENGLAND (Walker): F Lon-Eng; F Edi-North Sea; A Liv-Yor.

FRANCE (Peery): A Par-Bur; A Mar S A Par-Bur; F Bre-Mid.

GERMANY (Hueston): F Kie-Den; A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Ruh.

ITALY (Childers): A Ven S A Rom; A Rom S A Ven; F Nap-Ion.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Musicant): A Vie-Tyr; A Bud-Ser; F Tri holds.

RUSSIA (Prosnitz): F Sev-Bla; F St.P-Bot; A Mos-Ukr; A War holds.

TURKEY (Lebling): F Ank-Bla; A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1901" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 2 MARCH 1968. Press releases for 1968G begin on page 3.

1967V

"Winter 1906"

FRANCE (Prosnitz): Builds A Par.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (H. Anderson): Builds A Vie.

During "1906" there were some errors in adjudication in 1967V. The latest took place in the "Fall 1906" moves published in GRAUSTARK #152. The Italian move "A Rom-Apu", while unsuccessful, cut the Turkish move "A Apu S F Ion-Nap". Thus the Turkish "F Ion-Nap" also failed, and Italy remains in possession of Naples. Turkey thus has no build in "1906". As of the beginning of "1907", the position in 1967V is as follows:

ENGLAND (Lebling): F North Sea, F Norwegian Sea, F Hel, F Bar.

(continued on p. 6)

"Graustark II"

"Spring 1901"

## RUSSIAN ARMY ASSAILS GERMANY

No designation has yet been applied to this game by Charles Wells. The Wells number will be given in GRAUSTARK #154.

ENGLAND (H. Anderson): A Liv-Yor; F Edi-Norwegian Sea; F Lon-North Sea.

FRANCE (Maloney): A Par-Pic; F Bre-Mid; A Mar holds.

GERMANY (Chalker): F Kie-Hol; A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Ruh.

ITALY (M. Thomson): F Nap-Tyr; A Ven-Pie; A Rom holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Latimer): F Tri-Alb; A Bud-Ser; A Vie-Gal.

RUSSIA (Griffin): A War-Sil; A Mos-War; F Sev-Bla; F St.P-Bot.

TURKEY (Gordon): A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con; F Ank-Bla.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1901" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 2 MARCH 1968.

"Graustark II" now has a stand-by player. He is W. Gerald White, 4004 S. E. Pine Street, Portland, Oregon 97214. For the rules on stand-bys, see GRAUSTARK #151.

GRAUSTARK, the oldest postal Diplomacy bulletin, is published every other Saturday by John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11218. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$1.00. Back issues are 10¢ each, 15 for \$1.00. Diplomacy rule-books are \$1.00 each, and maps are 5¢.

Diplomacy, a board game based on the Europe of 1914, was invented by Allan B. Calhamer. It is manufactured by Games Research, 48 Wareham St., Boston, Mass. 02118. The game costs \$7.50, and is available at the larger department stores, book stores, and game and toy shops.

## TURKS CATCH HABSBURGS OFF BASE

GERMANY (M. Miller): A Edi-Norway; F North Sea C A Edi-Norway; F Den-Swe; A Ber holds; A Kie S A Ber; A Liv-St.P; A Pie S ITALIAN A.  
 ((This last move is invalid, since the Italian army to be supported is not identified.))

ITALY (Clark): F Norwegian Sea S GERMAN A Edi-Norway; A Lon & A Ven hold; F North Atlantic-Mid; A Mar-Bur; A Rom S A Ven; F Ion-Apu; F Nap S F Ion-Apu; F Tun-Ion.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Latimer): A Tri-Ven; A Tyr S A Tri-Ven.

RUSSIA (G. Heap): A Pru-Ber; A Sil S A Pru-Ber; F Ska-Den; A Swe S F Ska-Den; F St.P(n.c.)-Norway; A Mos-War.

TURKEY (Beshara): A Boh-Vie; A Ser-Tri; A Bud S A Ser-Tri; A Gal-War; F Eas-Ion; F Gre, F Aeg, & F Apu S F Eas-Ion; F Adr S F Apu.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Russian support A Swe S F Ska-Den and the Turkish support F Apu S A F Eas-Ion are valid because these units are giving support into the spaces from which they are being attacked. The only retreat available to the Austro-Hungarian army in Trieste is A Tri-Alb. If Italy ordered the retreat F Ion-Alb, these units would stand each other off and would both be annihilated. The Italian retreat would more reasonably be F Ion-Tyr, and this retreat will be assumed unless some recondit plot is under way and a contrary order is received from Frank Clark. The German fleet dislodged from Denmark may retreat to either the Baltic or the Helgoland Bight. Mike Miller should submit this retreat with the "Winter 1907" moves, which may be made conditional on the direction of the retreat. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Edi, Hol, Kie, Mun, Nor, Par. (8)	RUSSIA: Den, Mos, St.P, Swe, War. (5)
ITALY: Bre, Liv, Lon, Mar, Nap, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun, Ven. (10)	TURKEY: Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri, Vie. (11)

Austria-Hungary removes its last units and is out of the game. Germany builds one new unit, which must obviously be an army in Munich. Italy is entitled to a new unit, but has no home supply center open in which to build it. Russia must remove one unit; this removal may be made conditional on the direction of the German retreat. Turkey may build two new units. The deadline for these "Winter 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 2 MARCH 1968. However, if all these moves come in before them, players will be informed, and a deadline set for "Spring 1908" moves.

Frank Clark (Italy) reports a change of address; see under "The Ministry of Miscellany" for details.

FREEDONIA: President Rufus T. Firefly indignantly denied that the Freedonian economy is in bad shape. "Mrs. Teasdale is still paying my salary regularly!" he told reporters in a press conference held in the lobby of the Hotel Casablanca.

"Is it true that the Freedonian government is so broke that members of your own cabinet have had to take outside jobs?" a reporter asked.

Before the President could reply, a piercing whistle shook the room, and in came Secretary of War Chicolini, pushing a peanut wagon. Chicolini sold 37 bags of roasted peanuts to the members of the Press Corps. "This my best day since I join-a the cabinet!" he remarked.

BERLIN (1 January 1901): Today King Stefan IX announced to a startled world that war has broken out in Europe. He also announced that the Prussian Foot-Cavalry, under Field-Marshal Rudolf von Janprince, had been ordered to Hamburg to put down a riot by anti-war ditch-diggers. However, no trouble is expected, as they are harmless when out of their ditches.

HISTORY OF THE DUCHY OF GRAND MARTIN (Berliner Pressdienst): Nestled in the Alps, on the Eastern bank of the Rhine River, the Duchy of Grand Martin borders the two countries of Germany and Switzerland. It was founded by Count Don Martin after the tremendous battle of Huningue in 843. It became a separate state as a result of the Treaty of Verdun.

Count Don Martin was a little-known illegitimate son of Louis the Pious. And with the death of Louis the Pious, Count Martin received the Duchy as his inheritance from his father. In the war that followed Louis' death he fought on the side of Lothair. In 843 Charles invaded the domains of Lothair, and had almost reached the Duchy of Grand Martin, when he met Count Martin in battle. The battle was fought on a mountain pass just outside Huningue. It pitted an army of 20,000 West Franks against an army of 3,000 of Lothair's troops under Count Martin. As a result of this battle Charles, the King of the Western Franks, had to withdraw to his own Kingdom. And Count Martin received the Duchy for his part in the battle.

From 881-887 the only part of the old empire not to be under the rule of Charles III was the Duchy of Grand Martin. And from that point on the Duchy was never a part of Germany or of the Holy Roman Empire. Even Otto I could not subdue the fiery little Duchy. And for the next few centuries it played a major part in the election of new Emperors.

Now the Duchy occupies a total area of nine square miles. And it rests in a bend in the Rhine just north of Basel, Switzerland. From here in the Black Forest many of the greatest generals who have served in the German Army have come. Serving as mercenaries they have proved to be more loyal than even the most loyal of their employer's troops. And today they have supplied the German Army with one rifle company. This one company, the pride of the Army, called the Forest Devils, has racked up the best marksmanship totals ever amassed. And are considered by the High Command as being the best soldiers in the Army.

Now that the war has started, they are acting as the advance guard for the Prussian Foot-Cavalry. Moving across Northern Germany they have been constantly cheered by the populace. And each night after issuing orders for the next day, Captain Heinrich Jantler and Field-Marshal Rudolf von Janprince, talk about the unusual history of the small Duchy.

LONDON (3 March 1901): In His speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament (delivered this year by Nevil Malvolens, Duke of Exeter), King-Emperor Huon of Britain laid out the course of the Empire's foreign policy. "It shall be Our policy to oppose the spread of the Peerisites which presently infest the fair land of France. There is no question that the usurper Louis intends the invasion and subjugation of the Iberian peninsula, an act of evil unparalleled in the annals of modern history. As King-Emperor of Britain, We intend to do everything in Our power to prevent the Peerisitisation of the defenseless people of Spain and Portugal, for whom Our friendship is traditional. Death to Peerisitism!" His Majesty also stated that members of the Order of the Mantis, of which He is the Grand Master, will command the Expedition to the Continent. In a later Imperial Rescript, His Majesty confirmed the appointment of Sir Randolph Spencer Churchill, Grand Master of the Order of the Hawk, as Prime Minister. Another rescript from Buckingham has proscribed the unpopular Order of the Dove as being "inimical to the best interests of the British State and to public order". Sir Ian Plankman, Grand Master of the proscribed order, seems to have fled the country, after reportedly conducting a black mass at Chichester Cathedral in which the service included hosannas of praise for Peeryism.

PORTSMOUTH (15 April 1901): The First Fleet sailed from this glorious fortified harbor today, carrying the black banner of the Empire to the Continent. The Commander of the Fleet, Admiral Horatio Hornblower, Grand Constable of the Order of the Mantis,

read the following proclamation: "Sailors! In the name of the immortal Huon, who lives forever, I greet you! You are about to embark on a great civilizing mission: to save the Continent from the debilitating, demoralizing, dehumanizing influence of Peeryism! The deceit, the treachery, the base arrogance of Paris can no longer be borne! In the name of the great never-dying Huon, our King-Emperor, we shall bring France to its knees and the light of civilization to her benighted people. Onward, me hearties! The beaches of (CLASSIFIED) await us!!"

PEERISAILLES: Official Announcement of the Frencian Foreign Ministry; text released April 1, 1901. "I, Lurleen, the fourth of that name, and by the grace of God Empress of France and its possessions, do herewith declare the following appointments for my government until such time as it will be my pleasure to change them. To the position of Prime Minister, head of government and chief counsellor of the Empire, the Duc de Greene. To the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Comte de Berkeley. To the position of Interior Minister, the Marquis de Sade. To the position of Minister of Good Works, the Baron Munchenmouthen. To the position of commander of our armies, the Marshall de Tassigny. To the position of commander of our fleets, the Lord Admiral Villenvescuc. And, as Lord of the Treasury, the Duc de Bailistein.

PEERIS: Making his first address to the Frencian National Assembly the Duc de Greene, newly appointed Prime Minister, announced today that the Government of Frenciana would be re-organized as a Peerocracy. The Government will consist of a Council of Lesser Perisites consisting of 15 full members and 11 alternates. The Council will be presided over by the Great Perisite, in this case the Duc de Greene. Exact composition of the Council has not been announced as yet but rumors were multiplying regarding who would be elected as members of the Council. Elections will be held in the Fall.

PEERIS (April 6, 1901): The Comte de Berkeley, Frencian Foreign Minister, today began receiving foreign ambassadors at the Palace Peeri. The first ambassador received was that of Periland, who, it is rumored, is negotiating an alliance and mutual assistance pact with Frenciana. Ambassador Theodore Kennedy, a newspaper/tycoon who runs the KKK chain in Periland but was appointed as Periland's ambassador to Frenciana by Premier Eskibibble, is considered one of the brightest stars on the Diplomatic scene. Later in the afternoon the Minister received the Ambassador of Grand Sevastopol, its former Propaganda Minister, Karl Turnoff. The two met for less than five minutes and there are rumors the meeting was less than friendly. Early in the evening the Minister received the Italian Ambassador, who turned out to be none other than Bishop Niccolo Pandolfini, of Osta. The two had a long chat and finally parted, hopefully as friends. However, the high-light of the Minister's receptions came that evening at a grand ball for the English Ambassadors, the Duchess of Westmorelandshire, who just happens to be the former Lucrezia Peericelli. The Ball went well and after an evening of dancing, etc. the Minister and Duchess retired for some private discussions. It is regarded as highly significant that the last Ambassador received was that of Russia, the evil and gruesome Dr. Zhivago. It is not known for certain what qualifications Zhivago has for the post (it is rumored that he was responsible for the brutalities used to suppress the Peasants' Revolt of 1898 in the Ukraine) of Ambassador, but there were indications that England might demand his recall. The Minister did not receive the German Ambassador, Marshal von Tunden-dorff, who was at Sandhurst delivering a commencement address to the graduates of the Ecole de Militaire.

**COMMUNIQUE: TO AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.** The Frencian Government demands proof of the existence and identity of the Austrian player. Otherwise we will assume that he is an imposter.

**BREST (15 April 1901):** The Frencian High Seas Fleet today departed here enroute for the Atlantic. Final destination was unreported but there were several possibilities mentioned: Pango Pango, for the CCLIVth Annual Reenacting of the Mutiny on the Snoopy IVth; Monaco, the fleet's commander is fond of the gaming tables; Cam Ranh Bay, to re-establish the recently deposed Ngo Dam Goud regime, which was overthrown last year; Rota, Spain, to look for a missing 20 megaton pea lost by Frencia when one of its flying nuns went down near there earlier this month.

**BELGIUM (18 April 1901):** Belgium's Parliament today passed without dissent a resolution asking Frenciana to protect her sovereignty in light of the worsening situation in Europe.

**PERIGUERX (23 April 1901):** The Frencian Interior Minister, the Marquis de Sade, was reportedly assassinated here this morning. This may be the first act in the rumored up-rising that has been brewing in this hot-bed of unrest for several months. Who was responsible for the assassination remains unknown (though you can bet we'll find out).

**KOARSAR, POLLUTIDAR:** Honj the Horny, Emperoar of Polkutidar, has sent seven identically worded notes to the capitals of seven outer-crust nations, protesting about the "unconscionable racket" which their military activities are causing in Pollutidar. "The outer crust of Earth," the Emperoar told the Representative Diet, "is, so to speak, the roof of Pollutidar. We now find that the armed forces of these seven nations are tramping around on our roof, disturbing our sleep. This is a particularly serious matter here on the inner crust, where our only way of measuring the passage of time is by counting sleeps. Unless this racket ceases at once, the united Pollutidarian peoples, strengthened by the bonds of brotherly love among them, will go forth in our solidarity and silence the outer crusters ourselves!"

The Representative Diet broke out in tempestuous cheers at the Emperoar's speech. During the demonstration, two Himeans were eaten by the Horib delegation, and the Anoroc delegation brained a Sogoth with a marlinespike. As the Diet session broke up, the Mahar delegate Yu-Gho-Djump accused Anoroc of being "infiltrated by the Reds".

**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Piety XI today called for all nations to cease and desist from their warlike actions. He said that with a little effort from each nation's government there could be "peace in our time".

The Italian President Bernal de Bordzini stated his agreement with the Pope.

**ROME:** Thirty-six hours after the Pope's latest hilarity Bordzini resigned in favour of Nataseh de Villinno.

De Villinno is the newest idle ((sic)) of the younger set. Experts say that it is probably his long, coal black moustache.

Shortly after de Bordzini's resignation the Pope was heard to remark that de Villinno was the Devil himself come to lead Europe into another war. Who could believe such nonsense after seeing the Dictator deliver his stiring ((sic)) peace message.

\*

"The Rand Corporation of Santa Monica, Calif., long the favorite 'think tank' of the Defense Dept., is reported to have had its most recent report suppressed (for the first time in the Corp.'s history). A research team constructed a set of dominoes cut to the shape of every country in Southeast Asia and placed them on a giant board at a top secret site in the Mohavi Desert. In the presence of a Neutral umpire from Herman Kahn's Hudson Institute, one of the dominoes was pushed by the heaviest man on Rand's staff. To the consternation of the observers none of the other 'dominoes' fell." - "D. Melmoth", New York Free Press, 15 February 1968.

1967V (continued from p. 1)

FRANCE (Prosnitz): F Ska, A Mar, A Par, A Bur, A Kie, F Tyr, F Tun, F Wes.

GERMANY (M. Thomson): F Den, F Ber, A Norway, A Swe, A Mun.

ITALY (Griffin): A Rom, F Nap.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (H. Anderson): A Mos, A Vie, A Boh, A Pie, A Ven, F Tri, A Tus.

TURKEY (S. Heap): F Ion, A Apu, F Adr, F Aeg, F Gre, F Has, A St.P.

The powers control these supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Hol, Liv, Lon. (4)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Mos, Rum, Ser, Tri,  
Ven, Vie. (7)FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Kie, Mar, Par, Por, Spa,  
Tun. (8)TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, St.P., Sev,  
Smy. (7)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Mun, Nor, Swe, War. (6)

ITALY: Nap, Rom. (2)

The deadline for "Spring 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 2 MARCH 1968.

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

From 15 to 24 February, Frank Clark's address is c/o F. L. Clark, 5 South Tyler Street, Beverly Hills, Lecanto, Florida 32661.

\*

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This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

\*

Back issues are available of all GRAUSTARKs from #101, as well as several earlier issues. (See GRAUSTARK #151 for details.) These back issues are 10¢ each, or 15 for \$1.00.

\*

Yet more Canadians have appeared on the war-games scene. John Mansfield dropped by here a week ago, bringing with him a sheaf of fanzines and much news about the Canadian and U. S. war-game groups. John is one of the editors of The Canadian Wargamer, P. O. Box 100, Chester, Nova Scotia. He brought along #6, which contains articles on naval wargaming, reviews of histories on recent wars, the first in a series of articles on the history of wargaming, and a report of a naval wargame based on the battle of Trafalgar. (This reconstruction varies somewhat from actual history. Nelson's Victory is a wreck, while Gravina's monstrous four-decker Santissima Trinidad is simultaneously clobbering two British ships.) John would like to get samples of other Diplomacy bulletins; his address is SF 105358 Pte. Mansfield J. T., CFB Rockcliff, Ottawa, Ontario.

\*

Mehran Thomson asks: "Has Italy ever won a game?" Italy came very close to winning 1965I, I know. Could anyone give further information?

\*

"Those who lead the country into the abyss call ruling too difficult for ordinary men." - Bertolt Brecht

## THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT O-O-HATE

### Chapter XLVI

"That's a bellifist?" his boy assistant Burner whispered to Secret Agent O-O-Hate as they stood before the Emperor Nero.

"The opposite of a pacifist," O-O-Hate replied. "Apparently that's some kind of a crime here in ancient Rome, but I don't see why."

"I wish we'd never tried that matter transmitter that Dr. Pourguerre invented," Burner moaned. "It got us to Rome all right, but much too early."

"Of course bellifism is a crime," Nero said.

"But I don't understand," O-O-Hate protested. "Through war, Rome has grown from a little city-state to a great empire."

"That is just the trouble!" Nero snapped. He leaned back and stretched while his mother peeled a grape and popped it into his mouth. At the other end of his couch, his wife Poppaea began massaging his feet. "You apparently come from so far away that you don't understand our problem here."

"Our noble ancestors conquered all kinds of places. I don't object to this entirely. I have a very comfortable life here, and I'm not interested in upsetting it. But, once you conquer a place, you have to hold it. Look at Daddy Claude. Before his time, the empire ended at the Ocean, very neatly. But he went out and conquered a foggy island off the coast of Gaul. Now we not only have to hold the half of the island that he conquered, but we have to protect it against all kinds of kilted wild men who inhabit the other half. I had to kill off all the male rulers of one tribe to keep them from rebelling, leaving only a silly female named Boadicea who couldn't very well lead her men to battle."

"And look at Palestine, at the other end of the empire. There's always some kind of Jewish Conspiracy going on there. A few years before I was born, one rebel actually proclaimed himself King of the Jews. Uncle Tiberius fixed him fast, but there are plenty more where he came from. That whole region could go up any day."

"And I've got to try to keep some order in this chaos, sufficient to provide me with such amenities of life as you see gathered around me. One little war, anywhere around the edge of this empire, and the whole thing could go up in smoke. That's why bellifism is a crime here." Nero paused, exhausted by this long speech. "Did I tell it properly, Mommykins?"

"Extremely well. Agrippina is proud of her little Nero."

"I always thought I should be a teacher," Nero said to the Americans. "I love to spread enlightenment. Someday I shall illuminate all Rome with my burning eloquence. But for the time being, what shall I do with you. Let me see--"

"How about that bit where you dress up in wild animal skins --" the boy with the fan asked.

"No," said Poppaea. "Crucify them."

"Nothing doing," said Nero. "Since that character in Judaea got it, every Thomas, Diceus, and Harrias wants to be crucified. How about filling the Circus with water, and getting some crocodiles from Egypt, and--"

"No, there's nothing like the good, old, tried and true methods," said Agrippina. "Throw them to the lions. You young radicals are trying to overthrow all the good old Roman traditions."

"Aw, let's just throw him back into the dungeon till we think of something real good," the Emperor said. He summoned the Guards, and O-O-Hate and Burner were marched back to their cell.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF BEAUCOILLON - XVIII

The plot which overthrew Tsar Pyotr III of Russia and replaced him by his widow Yekaterina II ("Catherine the Great") was hatched in the Grand Duchy of Beaucouillon in 1760. Despite the war then raging throughout Europe, America, and India, representatives of the High Combatant Powers met around the gaming tables in perfect harmony. It seems to have begun in a conversation over the roulette table between the Earl of

Bute and a stalwart young Russian, Grigori Mstislavich Oblooff, the new Russian Ambassador to the Grand Duchy. Oblooff had obtained his high position through the influence of his father, Mstislav Yemelyanovich Oblooff, who had been Groom of the Bedchamber to the Tsarina Yelizaveta ever since she had seen him bathing in Lake Ladoga on 16 January 1751.

According to the croupier (who later reported everything to his father, the Grand Duke Ercole V) Bute sounded Oblooff on the possibility of bringing Russia over to the Anglo-Prussian side in the war. Oblooff demurred at first, claiming that both the Empress and his father favored the present policy.

"But her nephew and heir, the Grand Duke Pyotr, is a Germanophile," Bute observed. "If he were to come to the throne -"

"But the Tsarina is a strong old woman, and good for many more years."

"Suppose that - unknown to him - your efforts were added to those of your father," the Scotsman pursued. "From what the Princess Mathilde tells me, the Tsarina could not last long under those conditions."

"Not on your life!" Oblooff replied. "This would put Pyotr into power. He is a man, let us say - of quite different tastes. I decidedly would not want to take a position under him."

"But he has a young, attractive, and vivacious wife," Bute said. "Something could be arranged, once he had made peace with us."

A smile broke over Oblooff's face. "My friend, you have yourself a deal. I'm going back to St. Petersburg and get started at once. But why don't you try something of the same sort?"

"Great Britain has no Queen now," Bute mused. "But the Dowager Princess of Wales has been a widow for nine years - yes, Oblooff, there may be something in what you say."

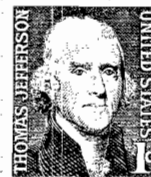
In less than three years, this plot was realized, and Yekaterina II came to the Russian throne. Oblooff was at Pyotr's bedside during his fatal illness. The new Tsarina rewarded him for his services by making him Count Oblooff. Grigori Mstislavich was the first of a long succession of Counts Oblooff to wield great influence in both Russia and Beaucouillon.

\*

"In all these instances, victory was won by small forces over big and by inferior over superior forces. In every case, the weaker force, pitting local superiority and initiative against the enemy's local inferiority and passivity, first inflicted one sharp defeat on the enemy and then turned on the rest of his forces and smashed them one by one, thus transforming the over-all situation into one of superiority and initiative!"  
- Mao Tse-tung, On Protracted War.

GRAUSTARK #153

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