

GRAUSTARK

#20

"Fall 1902"

15 March 1964

This issue of GRAUSTARK is the largest journal of postal Diplomacy ever published.

LAST AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY BESEIGED IN VIENNA
EMPIRE BETWEEN RUSSIAN HAMMER AND ITALIAN ANVIL

ENGLAND: A St. P-Mos; F Norway-Swe; F North Sea-Ska;
F Eng-North Sea.

FRANCE: No Moves Received.

GERMANY: A Tur-Par; A Hol-Bel; A Mun-Tyr; A Ber-Sil;
F Den S English F Norway-Swe.

ITALY: A Ven-Tri; A Tri-Vie; A Tyr S Vie; F Nap-Tyr;
F Ion S Turkish F Aeg-Gre.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Vie-Tri; A Ser S Tri; F Gre-Bul.

RUSSIA: F Bot-Swe; A War-Mos; F Sev-Bla; A Rum-Ser;
A Bud S Ser.

TURKEY: A Bul-Gre; F Aeg S Gre; A Con-Bul; F Ank-Bla.

Underlined moves are not possible. The support order to the Italian fleet in the Ionian Sea is invalid since it refers to a Turkish move which was not made. The Austro-Hungarian forces in Serbia and Greece are dislodged and, since Austria-Hungary has lost two supply centers, removed. The high combatant powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edinburgh, Liverpool, London, Norway, St. Petersburg, Sweden. (6)

FRANCE: Belgium, Brest, Marseilles, Paris, Portugal, Spain (6)

GERMANY: Berlin, Denmark, Holland, Kiel, Munich (5)

ITALY: Naples, Rome, Trieste, Tunis, Venice (5)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Vienna (1)

RUSSIA: Budapest, Moscow, Rumania, Serbia, Sevastopol, Warsaw (6)

TURKEY: Ankara, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Greece, Smyrna (5).

England may establish two new units, and France, Russia, and Turkey may establish one unit each. Immediate announcement of these establishments is requested so that military communications may be expedited.

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Other Diplomacy bulletins are published, at 10 issues for \$1, by Dave McDaniel (10629 Ayres, Los Angeles, Calif. 90064) and by Bruce Pelz (Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024).

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GAMESMASTER

In New York, Diplomacy sets may be purchased from F. A. O. Schwatz, 745 Fifth Avenue, for \$7.50. The game cannot be played to best advantage except with a set. However, if this is beyond the means of a prospective Diplomacy player, rulebooks are available from GRAUSTARK at \$1, and maps at 4¢, apiece.

Your forbearance is asked for the inferior duplication of GRAUSTARK #20. I am experimenting with a new type of stencil, which seems to let through more ink and thus cause more offsetting.

As players were informed, the deadline for "Fall 1902" was extended from 7 March to 14 March. The publication of GRAUSTARK #19 had been held up to accommodate Derek Nelson's spring retreat. At that time it became evident that air mail between New York and the environs of Toronto requires three days in transit each way. The same is apparently true of air mail between New York and Detroit-Windsor. Players in these areas are advised to take note of this.

NEW POSTAL DIPLOMACY GAME TO BEGIN! In response to several queries, the Gamesmaster hereby opens entries in a new postal Diplomacy game. This game, 1964B, will have the same entry fee of two dollars. First priority will be given to entrants who have never before played postal Diplomacy, and second priority will go to persons not presently playing postal Diplomacy. All entries must be received by Saturday 2 May 1964. At this time playing assignments will be made, and surplus entry fees returned. For the rules of postal Diplomacy, send 10¢ for GRAUSTARK #17.

The correct title of the book reviewed on p. 3 is The Fall of the House of Habsburg. The title as given on that page was taken from an incorrect bibliographic listing after I had already returned the book itself to the library.

CONSTANTINOPLE - The Turkish Government wishes to announce to the Christian nations that there is no longer any need to celebrate Easter. A group of Turkish explorers have found the Body!

At the same time, the Islamic Faith is willing to allow former Christians the opportunity to convert to the True Religion, regardless of race, creed, or boxing ability.

The Turkish Army is starting a new drive to gain recruits. The slogan for the drive is "The Army Keeps Whatever And Whoever Drops To Or For The Army". There has recently been a rush of former Christians using the army to gain the necessities of a good Moslem life.

BELGRADE (INP) - The General Staff of the 2nd Army Group (Moscow North) was very restrained today in its victory celebrations. With the collapse of the 3rd Hungarian Corps in the pocket at Veles, Serbia has been officially designated as being cleared of major enemy forces.

The reason for the restraint was, of course, self-evident. Rumors continued to flit about headquarters that the 2nd Army Group would return to Roumania soon and head north towards the German-English front.

GENEVA - The published text of an Anglo-German treaty was received here, and will shortly be printed if the treaty will then still be in effect.

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF HAPSBURG by Edward Crankshaw (Viking, \$7.50) contains numerous inaccuracies which extend even to the title. For one thing, the proper spelling of the name of this ancient house is "Habsburg" (More properly, "Habsburg-Lorraine" since 1740), and for another, Crankshaw devotes the book to biography of Kaiser Franz Josef I rather than to the whole dynasty.

The author is openly sympathetic to the Habsburgs and their Empire, and sees in the troubles that have beset the successor states since 1918 a vindication of imperial policy. Where Habsburg misrule led the Empire to a disaster that even Crankshaw must acknowledge (the lost wars of 1859 and 1866, for example), he excuses Franz Josef on the grounds that nothing could have helped the Empire anyway. The picture of the old Kaiser is one of a gallant, noble, foredoomed man, bearing up with fortitude under the attacks of fanatical nationalists, misunderstanding from abroad, open treachery in Hungary, and the personal tragedies in his immediate family.

The Dual Monarchy, as constituted in 1914, was the last vestige of the idea of a Universal Monarchy of Christendom, in which all peoples could find union and justice under a benevolent and wise Emperor. This was the ideal to which Franz Josef clung, despite the fact that in its last half-century his Empire was a conjoint rule of Germans and Hungarians over Slavs who had little or no voice in the conduct of their own affairs. At the end, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was correctly described by the cacophonous German word "Völkerkerker" ("Prison of Peoples"). Crankshaw criticizes the Austrian government for failing to make clear before the world the evidence that the Serbian government was aware of the plot to assassinate the imperial heir, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Crankshaw fails to realize that the Serbian government had not merely the right, but the duty, as free Serbs, to liberate the oppressed Serbs of Bosnia. And, although the Serbian government had been aware of the plot, they had not instigated it, and were in process of investigating the plot when Austria-Hungary delivered the ultimatum that brought on the war.

A history allegedly of the fall of the Habsburgs should include an account of the last ruling Habsburg, the preposterous Karl I (or IV or VIII). Unfortunately, Crankshaw's scholarship fails here also.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

DICK SCHULTZ, 19152 Helen, Detroit, Michigan 48234:
I've been doing a lot of thought about Diplomacy lately. ("Lately" was 12 December. There's quite a backlog in the letters department.) And I've come up with a series of moves for each country which are the best possible. At least they are, as far as I can tell.

England: F Lon-North Sea; F Edi-Norwegian Sea; A Liv-Edi. Next: A Edi-Nor; F Norw-Sea; C Edi-Nor; F North Sea-Bel. (This presupposes an arrangement with France allowing Belgium to England for this year at least.)

France: F Bre-Mid; A Mar-Spa; A Par-Bur. Next F Mid-Per; F Spa holds; A Bur-Mun. It would take more than two

moves for an English army to reach Paris. Brest is in danger if the London fleet moves to the Channel. (A calculated risk, if England is presumably an ally.) France should hold out Belgium as a bribe to keep England in line for the first few moves.

Reasoning: Norway is out of reach for both Russia (F St. P.) and Germany (F Kie) since they cannot reach it in less than three moves. F North Sea might be attacked; therefore convoy the army via the Norwegian Sea to insure the supply center. Germany should try to gain Denmark and Holland; therefore England should try for a supply center that it is probable Germany will not try for. Spain and Portugal are unprotected ((so are easy targets for France)); By moving A Par-Bur, Munich is threatened. If Italy threatens Marseilles, the army may be moved to cover Marseilles or at least to contend with an Italian army in Piedmont for it, therefore leaving it unoccupied. If the army in Munich attempts to move on Burgundy on the first move, A Par-Bur keeps this army at bay. In Fall 1901, attempt A Par-Bur once more. If this is successful, the army is in a position to attack Ruhr and Munich and defend Marseilles, not to mention covering Paris. If unsuccessful, A Mun is also stopped once more, meaning stalemate while France gathers forces.

Germany: F Kie-Hol; A Mun-Bur (alternately, A Mun-Ruh); A Ber-Kie (alternately, A Ber-Sil). Next: F Hol holds (alternately, F Hol S Ruh-Bel); A Bur-Par or Mar. (Germany should attack Paris if Italy threatens Marseilles.); A Kie-Den (alternately, A Sil-War).

F Kie might also move to Denmark, leaving A Ber-Kie, thence to Holland. Then, according to whether the French have moved into Picardy or to Burgundy, the Ruhr army may support A Kie-Hol or return to Munich. A return to Munich might be dictated as inadvisable if Italy menaces Marseilles with an army in Piedmont. The fleet in Denmark would then hold. A Ber-Sil should be played only if Germany and Russia are definitely at war. If A Ber-Kie and Russia moves A War-Sil, Germany can move A Kie-Ber.

Germany has enemies on both sides of her, and the other frontiers are not secure. At all costs make Russia friendly, therefore. But in any case take and hold Denmark as early as possible, and engage in contest for the Low Countries, both to deny them to the enemy and to gain supply centers. I do not think that under any circumstances can Germany be holding more than four supply centers by Fall, under pressure of a concerted Franco-Russian attack. Therefore, gambling is in order.

Italy: Under all circumstances attack Trieste immediately with A Ven-Tri; F Nap-Ion; A Rom-Tus. Next: A Ven-Tri ((if previously unsuccessful)) or A Tri holds ((if the attack in the spring succeeded)); F Ion-Tun; A Tus-Ven if Ven is free and otherwise A Tus-Pie. There can only be war between Austria and Italy. Therefore Trieste is to be gained at the earliest. Seek alliance with France, for with armies moving into northern Italy a French drive from Marseilles is impractical. If the Austrian fleet is not in a position to take Greece, F Ion-Gre instead of to Tunis might be considered.

Austria is forced to defend Trieste. Make a secret alliance with Austria to facilitate the seizure of Trieste. If Trieste is taken, Austria cannot obtain and hold more than four supply centers. Italy will have five. If Trieste is defended, Austria's Russian and Turkish frontiers are in danger, and Austria will probably not have more than five centers all told in any case.

Austria: F Tri-Alb; A Vie-Tri; A Bud-Ser. Next: F Alb-Gre; A Serb holds; A Tri-Ven. The fleet moves to contend for Greece. The army of Vienna contends for Trieste. The army in Serbia can support A -Vie-Tri. If a Turkish army in Bulgaria attacks Serbia, the army in Vienna still contends for Trieste. Better yet is A Ser-Bul. That way a Turkish attack on Roumania would be spoilt, or at least leave Bulgaria neutral, and Serbia in Austrian hands.

Austria must move south to the Balkans and defend Trieste. Do not trust an Italian treaty. If Russia moves A War-Gal and the army in Vienna still contends for Trieste, move A Ser-Bud. At worst, the move will be legal. At best, A Ser-Bud cancels A Gal-Bud; Trieste and Budapest are free of units; and Serbia is still held. It might be wise to have A Bud hold on the first move and go to Serbia on the second. But the Turkish threat to Serbia must be considered.

Austria, like Germany, has no safe flank and must try to contend with all comers.

Russia: F St. P.-Bot; A War-Sil (or A War-Gal); A Mos-Sev (or A Mos-Ukr); F Sev-Rum. Next: F Bot-Swe; A Sil-Ber or Mun; A Sev-Arm or A Sev S F holding in Rum. Alternatives: A Gal-Vie or Bud, depending upon which is undefended; A Ukr S F Sev-Rum.

Move A Mos-Ukr only if an immediate contention with Austria over Roumania is believed possible. Let the move by the army in Warsaw be governed by political considerations. If a working alliance with France exists, A Bur can support A Sil-Mun.

Russia and Austria must fight sooner or later; it's best to weaken or frighten Austria into ill-considered moves if possible.

If AF Sev-Rum works in the first move, try F Rum-Bul. Since Turkey will most undoubtedly defend Bulgaria, the move will have the effect of a hold order. If A Con-Bul, then A Bul-Gre, the Russian move F Rum-Bul will make Bulgaria a neutral and thereby out of Turkish control. Result? Scratch one supply center for Turkey.

Turkey: A Con-Bul; F Ank-Bla; A Smy-Arm. Next: A Bul-Rum; A Arm-Sev; F Bla supports one of these moves. It is impractical to try for Greece, sure to be contested by one of the other powers. But A Bul-Rum pins down the Russian fleet in Roumania, which will probably be supported by an army in Ukraine, Sevastopol, or Galicia. If Russia is engaged in Austria in 1901, F Bla S A Arm-Sev just might succeed. Otherwise it's a forced draw with Bulgaria firmly in Turkish hands.

If an Austro-Russian alliance is apparently in effect, it might pay to order F Bla S A Bul holds. In any case order A Arm-Sev, if only to cut Russian support of Balkan moves.

General notes: It pays Germany to attack the Low Countries if it's at all possible, with A Mun-Bur. France

therefore must move into Burgundy herself, ally herself with Italy, and let England contend for the Low Countries at first.

Therefore, it behooves Russia to make alliance with Austria and Germany, and immediately break it. Simple, yes? In any event, avoid conflict with England until forces are built up heavily. England should contend for the Low Countries and take Norway and, if allied with France (watch out for those fleets in Brest) attack Germany's northern flank, avoiding overextending herself into Russia until built up. At any event, England should be well established in the Baltic and Scandinavia before attacking Russia.

To avoid being trapped, Turkey should seek alliance with Austria or Russia. Turkey might agree to split the Balkans, with Russia at least, and promote a Russian trend into central Europe.

Austria and Italy should be at each other's throats immediately. If they are not, it is a diplomatic masterpiece by someone. Naturally Italy will attack Trieste whatever treaties she may have signed.

France, England, and Russia should at all costs avoid fratricidal warfare until forces are built up at expense of neighbors. Russia, England, and France could in fact sweep the board. Take advantage of the fact that in real life these alliances did exist, just as German and Austrian players take advantage of historical alliances to promote one firm flank anyway.

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GRAUSTARK is 10 issues for \$1 from the Gamesmaster, John Boardman (address below). Back issues from # 15 are available at the same rate.

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MOVE IN POSTAL DIPLOMACY GAME 1964A IS SATURDAY 28 MARCH 1964.

GRAUSTARK #20
14 March 1964
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Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218
U. S. A.

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