

GRAUSTARK

#339

74GO, 74HQ, 74IA, 74H, 75Q, 75AP, 75CQ, 75ET, 75GW

20 December 1975

1975AP

"Fall 1905"

BIG WHITE MACHINE ROLLS ON

ENGLAND (David Dalman): F Kie & F Lon
hold; F Wal-Liv.

GERMANY (Michal): A Mun-Kie; A Hol & F Hel
S A Mun-Kie; A Pic-Bur; F Nth-Lon; F Yor
S F Nth-Lon.

ITALY (Eisen): F Iri-Liv; A Mar-Pic; F
Mid-Eng; F Alb-Ion; A Ven S A Mar-Pie;
F Adr S F Alb-Ion; F Apu S A Ven.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Murray): A Tyr-Pie; A
Vie-Boh; A Tri holds; A Bud & A Ser S A
Tri; A Gre-Alb; A Bul-Rum; F Aeg-Ion.

RUSSIA (Cathcart): F Nwy-Nrg; A St.P-Nwy;
F Den-Ska; F Bal-Den; A Swe S F Bal-Den;
A Ber-Mun; A Sil S A Ber-Mun; A Pru-Ber;
F Bla-Con; A Arm-Sev.

Underlined moves are not possible.
England retreats F Kie-Bal; the dislodged
English F Lon is annihilated. The High
Combatant Powers now control the follow-
ing supply centers:

ENGLAND: Liv. (1)

GERMANY: Bel, Bre, Edi, Hol, Kie, Lon,
Par. (7)

ITALY: Mar, Nap, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun,
Ven. (7)

RUSSIA: Ank, Ber, Con, Den, Mos, Mun, Nwy,
St.P, Sev, Swe, War. (11)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Gre, Rum, Ser,
Smy, Tri, Vie. (8)

Russia may build one unit, and England
must remove one. (Germany has gained one
supply center, but has no home supply
center on which to build.) I already have
the Russian build, and as soon as the Eng-
lish removal arrives I will send both to
all players. The deadline for "Spring
1906" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY
1976.

Mark Murray's new address is: Apt.
19, 20 Quaker Drive, West Warwick, R. I.
02893; phone 401-821-0782.

1974IA

1975Q

The New One

WE HAVE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM

A week ago I finally filled the all-
New York City game. The country assign-
ments crossed in the mail with a letter
from Gary Stratton (Austria-Hungary), say-
ing that he has just been transferred and
cannot play in the game. (His new address
will be P. O. Box 906, Belmont, Calif.
94002.) So, the "Spring 1901" move dead-
line originally set for 10 January 1976 will
be postponed while I try to line up a New
York City resident who can play Austria-
Hungary. The game fee is \$10 and the postal
rules are in GRAUSTARK #318; the first en-
trant gets it.

The Canadian postal strike is now over,
and players in games 1974IA and 1975Q should
see p. 5. Tom Kissner reports that he will
indeed retreat the dislodged Russian A Vie-
Boh following "Fall 1905" moves in 1974IA,
rather than remove it. I have not yet
heard from Laurence Gillespie in 1975Q on
what he proposes to do with the dislodged
German F Bal following "Spring 1905" moves,
but I will pass this information on to the
other players as soon as I get it. Players
should send in "Fall 1905" moves in 1975Q
not only for the contingencies of retreat
to Bot, Liv, or Pru, but also for the possi-
bility that no retreat is received and the
unit is therefore annihilated.

Players in these two games should note
that the deadline for the next moves is 3
January 1976, although the moves will not
published until 10 January. As for the all-
New York City game, if it is filled by 3
January, the "Spring 1901" deadline will be
NOON, SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 1976.

MEDIUM JOHN

Even before his name became notorious
as a result of the 'Watergate' mania, Jus-
tice John Sirica was nicknamed "Maximum
John" for the size of the sentences he
handed out. But apparently he does not be-
(continued on p. 9)

1975GW

"Fall 1904"

TWO EMPIRES DOWN THE TUBES

ENGLAND (Ripper): F Bot-Swe; F Nwy S F Bot-Swe; F NAT-Nrg; A Bel-Bur; F Pic-Bre; F Mid & F Por S GERMAN A Gas-Spa.

FRANCE (Haas): A Bur-Gas; A Par S A Bur-Gas; F Spa(s.c.) holds; A Mar S F Spa(s.c.).

GERMANY (Wicnicik): A Pru-Ber; A Kie-Ber; F Den-Bal; A War-Sil; A Gas-Spa; A Mos holds; A Mun S ENGLISH A Bel-Bur.

ITALY (Kramer): A Gal-Bud; A Vie S A Gal-Bud; F Nap holds; F Tyr-Tun; A Tri-Ser; F Adr- Alb.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Lipton): A Bud holds.

RUSSIA (Hendry): A Sil-Ber; F Bal S A Sil-Ber.

TURKEY (Bowman): A Bul-Rum; A Sev S A Bul-Rum; A Alb-Ser; F Eas-Ion; F Aeg & F Gre S F Eas-Ion; F Ion-Nap.

Underlined moves are not possible. France must retreat F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo or -Wes; the direction of this retreat must be sent in with the "Winter 1904" moves, which may be made conditional on it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, Por, St.P, Swe. (9)	GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mos, Mun, Spa, War. (8)
FRANCE: Mar, Par. (2)	ITALY: Bud, Nap, Rom, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. (7)
	TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy. (8)

England may build two units, and Germany, Italy, and Turkey may each build one. France must remove two; the remaining Austro-Hungarian and Russian units are also removed. The deadline for these "Winter 1904" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1975.

1975GW

"Fall 1902"

Following "Spring 1902" moves Turkey retreated F Bla-Ank:

ENGLAND (Spiegel): A Yor-Bel; F Nwy S GERMAN F Den-Swe; F Nth C A Yor-Bel; F Lon-Eng.

FRANCE (Bowman): F Eng holds; A Bel holds; F Bre S F Eng; A Spa-Mar.

GERMANY (Sergeant): A Ber-Sil; A Hol S ENGLISH A Yor-Bel; A Ruh S A Hol; A Bur-Par; F Den-Swe.

ITALY (Douglas Dalman): F Ion-Gre; F Wes-Spa(s.c.); A Pie holds; A Ven-Apu.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Trtek): A Vie-Gal; A Bud S A Vie-Gal; A Ser-Rum; F Tri S ITALIAN F Ion-Gre ((sic; no such unit exists)); F Alb not ordered, holds.

RUSSIA (Ilves): F Swe holds; A St.P holds; A War-Gal; A Ukr S A War-Gal; F Sev-Rum; F Bla S F Sev-Rum.

TURKEY (Girsdansky): A Smy & A Bul hold; F Ank S A Con; A Con S A Bul.

Underlined moves are not possible. France retreats A Bel-Pic and Russia must retreat F Swe-Fin, -Bot, -Bal or -Skå; the direction of this retreat should be sent in with the "Winter 1902" moves, which may be made conditional upon it. England acquires Belgium, Germany takes Paris from France and Sweden from Russia, and Italy takes Spain from France and also gains Greece. Italy & Germany may each build two, England may build one, Russia removes one, and France removes two. The deadline for "Winter 1902" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1976. See p. 8 for press releases.

AND THE WINNER IS...ANGOLA?

I must confess to have been surprised by the United States government's apparent choice of location for what has been called "the next Vietnam". That there would be a "next Vietnam" has not been open to doubt. The men and policies which planned American policy in Vietnam are still dominant in Washington, and war remains a vital necessity to the economic health of our country. But, to judge from trial balloons sent up in the press over the past 2 or 3 years, the location of the next extension of the American Empire was more likely to have been the Middle East, Portugal, or Korea. (Korea was my personal favorite for the role, as readers of GRAUSTARK #336 will recall.)

But, unless our rulers are involved in an elaborate misdirection aimed at deceiving the Soviet government on this matter, it now appears that the former Portuguese colony of Angola will be the site of the next big American military effort. Two factions are fighting for supremacy in Angola. One is backed by the Soviet Union; the other, a coalition of two groups, is being backed by the American Empire and its subject allies China and South Africa. Cubans have been imported to fight for the former group, and a paradoxical mixture of American blacks and South African whites to help the latter. (The blacks are being recruited by the Congress of Racial Equality, with CIA funding - New York Times, 14 December 1975)

The big push is shaping up clearly. The same men who directed US policy in Vietnam are now going before Congress and the public with the same arguments: possible Russian control of Africa, Angola's critical position on the oil shipping routes, its rich natural resources, and, as Senator Humphrey put it, "...we do not propose we should simply ignore this Soviet challenge". (New York Post, 18 December 1975) In short, the Soviet Union and the Angolan group it supports have flatly challenged the imperial mission of the United States of America. This cannot be allowed in even the slightest degree.

Badly burned by their experiences in opposing the American war against Vietnam, Pacifists are apparently going to sit this one out. There have been a few weird noises in the Senate about the coming American armed intervention into Angola, but there were such noises before Vietnam too. Then they could be traced to that national laughing-stock, Wayne Morse; now they're mostly coming from an Iowan named Dick Clark. However, it is not as if Congress really has anything to do with the making of imperial policy. They can pass all the laws they like, restricting US expenditures and military activity in this or that part of the world. But the activity will go on. It should be recalled that the United States put in motion an amphibious assault to recover the Mayaguez, despite a congressional "law" that forbade the usage of funds for military activity in that region. It should also be called that King Friedrich II of Prussia once said, "I have an agreement with my people. They may say what they want, and I may do what I want."

Of course, it may well be that the whole Angolan tumult is a clever bit of misdirection from Washington, while the real blow will land in Korea, Panama, the Azores, or even Vietnam. In the Village Voice of 1 December 1975, Alexander Cockburn and James Ridgeway offer some speculations along these lines, realizing that President Ford seems to be in trouble for renomination and that nothing solidifies press and public support behind a President like a war. The change of management at the Pentagon hasn't changed this fact; as Mary McGrory pointed out (New York Post, 14 November 1975) "Whenever ((Secretary Rumsfeld)) was asked about such fateful matters as our military intentions towards South Korea or the use of tactical nuclear weapons, he virtuously referred his questioners to Schlesinger's posture statement of last February." - which I cited in #336 as grounds for believing that Korea will be next on the Empire's little list.

But the issue was stated most concisely by Carl Rowan in his New York Post column of 3 December 1975: "The American people are going to have to come to grips with a simple question: Do we want to control the ideology, determine the leadership of foreign governments, or do we not?" The answer, as shown by everything from CIA covert operations to the forthcoming American invasion of Angola, is an emphatic "Yes!" Anyone who objects to America's imperial role in the world runs a strong risk of finding him- or herself lying in a pool of blood - one's own. And that goes for Americans as well as for other subjects of the Empire.

IRON RING FORMS

Following the "Fall 1906" moves, Germany built A Kie, A Mun, F Ber, and Italy built A Rcm, F Nap. France removed F Bre and Russia removed A Arm.

ENGLAND (Robinson): F Wal-Lon; A Edi-Yor; F Nwy-Nth.

FRANCE (Lariton): A Gas-NAF; F Mid C A Gas-NAF; A Bur-Gas; A Pic-Bur.

GERMANY (McCulliam): F Lon-Eng; F Nth S F Lon-Eng; A Kie-Den; F Ber-Bal; A St.P holds; A Mos-Ukr; A War S A Mos-Ukr; A Mun-Boh; A Sil S A Mun-Boh; A Tyr-Pie; A Ruh-Mun.

ITALY (Drakert): A Mar-Spa; F Wes & F Lyo S A Mar-Spa; A Ven-Pie; A Rcm-Ven; F Nap-Tyr; A Con-Ank; F Smy-Con.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (McKeon): A Tri S A Vie; A Vie S A Tri; A Bud-Ser; A Gal-Bud; A Ukr-Gal; A Sev holds; A Rum-Bul; F Bla-Bul(e.c.).

Underlined moves are not possible. Ron Robinson's address, for those who didn't get it, is 2233 Cartwright Place, Reston, Va. 22091. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1976.

BERLIN: GERMANY RENOUNCES TRIPLE ALLIANCE!

The recently concluded 3-way pact with Austria and Italy is declared null and void in view of continued border incidents. Austrian refusal to evacuate "buffer zones" constitutes a breach. Treacherous Papal aggression against France.

Germany vows revenge for western civilization. Promises England, France freedom and survival for help against the common enemy of Europe. Germany restores London as pledge, but states that England will be crushed if she joins with the filthy Austro-Italian criminals.

NEW BLOOD - XVII

These are people who have recently inquired about postal Diplomacy or other war games. This list is complete to 18 December 1975, and updates the one published in #337.

Richard S. Anderson, 345 Edythe St., Livermore, Calif. 94550

Walter L. Calkins, P. O. Box 13, West Swanzey, N. H. 03469

John D. Cantrall, 801 Cornelia Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60657

Thomas J. Corroy, 32 Highgate St., Needham, Mass. 02192

Douglas K. Happel, 2012 Ben Ali Rd., Achnage, Ky. 40223

Robert Kitley, P. O. Box 4483, Fresno, Calif. 93744

Bart Levy, 308 Whitmarsh Valley Rd., Fort Washington, Penn. 19034

Randy Rauscher, 15 Anchor Rd., Barnegat, N. J. 08005

The following new subscribers have been added since #337 was published:

Frank Brunckhorst (347), 444 E. 82nd St., New York, N. Y. 10028

Greg Gallagher (346), Apt. 1, 3907 N. Pershing Dr., Arlington, Va. 22203

Ellis F. Morris (346), 463 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, N. Y. 12866

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These people's subscriptions expire between now and the next Bundle Day, 20 February 1976, with the indicated issue:

339 - Christopher Bradshaw, David Darden, Kenneth Spaatz.

340 - John Carroll, Evan Jones, Richard Kovalcik, Gerry Thompson.

341 - Ricky Phillips.

342 - Michael J. Lowrey.

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The following subscribers' copies of GRAUSTARK have come back in the mail, and I would appreciate it if anyone knowing their correct addresses could tell me: Nelson Flynn, Alfred Fornarie, Tom Henry, Anthony Kniaz, Howard Latin, Ronald E. Melton.

THE GRAUSTARK QUIZ - I

This is the first of a series of quizzes which will be presented to GRAUSTARK readers over the next several weeks. Each quiz will have a deadline, well after the next "Bundle Day", and providing that he or she gets at least 5 of the 10 questions correct, the winner will get a free entry in a postal wargame: either one Diplomacy game, or two of the games available in GRAUSTARK's sister publication EMPIRE.

This first quiz will be a general quiz on historical trivia. The deadline is SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 1976.

1. In 1823 President James Monroe declared, in the doctrine that bears his name, that no eastern hemisphere country could henceforth establish or re-conquer colonies in the Americas. As it happened, no European country challenged this doctrine at the time it was promulgated. If one of them had, how would the doctrine have been enforced?
2. If there had been a calendar hanging on the wall of the room in which George Washington was born, what date, day of the week, month, and year would it have read?
3. Most people believe that Abe Beam is the first Mayor of New York City of Jewish ancestry. Who was it, really?
4. What member of a European royal family served in the cabinet of the United States of America?
5. What representative legislative assembly has been meeting regularly for over one thousand years?
6. Where was Richard M. Nixon on the day that John F. Kennedy was assassinated?
7. One of the oldest inhabited places in the world has a name which means "New City". Where is it, and by what other name is it also known?
8. What pope was placed in hell by Dante Alighieri for an act for which the Roman Catholic Church later canonized him?
9. Of two brothers, one was President of the United States on the stage, and the other was Governor General of a Commonwealth nation in real life. Who were they?
10. According to an old story, a spectator at the coronation of Queen Anne in 1702 saw an elderly man, from his clothes a country dweller of no great wealth, gawking at the splendor and finery. He asked the old man, "Have you ever seen anything so magnificent?", indicating the queen on her throne. "No," the old man replied, "not since I sat there myself?" Who was he?

O, CANADA!

Last Monday the United States Postal "Service" finally lifted the embargo on mail addressed to Canada, following the end of the Canadian postal strike. This means that GRAUSTARK postal Diplomacy games 1974IA and 1975Q can now resume. The deadline for "Winter 1905" moves in the former, and for "Fall 1905" moves in the latter, is NOON, SATURDAY 3 JANUARY 1976. This date is the fourth Saturday after the lifting of the embargo, according to the contingency rules announced in GRAUSTARK #336. These moves will be published on 10 January 1976 in GRAUSTARK #340, and deadlines for the next moves will then be set.

I have written to Tom Kissner and to Laurence Gillespie, the Canadian players in these games, asking for the directions of retreats which they had to make after the last published moves in #336. These retreats will be passed on to the other players as soon as I receive them.

Incidentally, if there should ever be a postal strike in the United States, all pending deadlines for GRAUSTARK games will be reset to the fourth Saturday after the end of the strike.

It should be noted that, although there is no longer domestic air mail service within the United States, air mail to Canada and Mexico still exists, and will go up to 17¢ an ounce on 28 December 1975. Overseas airmail rates will also rise sometime early in January; for details see your post office or GRAUSTARK #340.

1975h

6

"Winter 1905"

ITALY GOES TO SEE

Following "Fall 1905" moves, England retreated F Nwy-Bar. All players were informed of this retreat. The following builds and removals were then made:

ENGLAND (Verheiden): Removes A Lon, F Nrg. ITALY (Lariton): Builds F Rom, F Nap.

FRANCE (Heuer): Builds F Mar.

RUSSIA (Cathcart): Builds A Mos.

The deadline for "Spring 1906" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1976.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

BOB LIPTON (29 September 1975): It's nice to see something in GRAUSTARK besides games for a change...

I'd like to comment on Peter Berggren's letter in #335, on his sentence about Walker dying of leukemia. As all readers of my 'zine know, the article detailing Rod's "disease" appeared in The Mixmaxu Gazette. When I published the article I detailed the thoughts the article raised in my mind, and offered xeroxes of the original letters to anyone who would pay for the costs of xeroxing and mailing.

Interestingly enough, during the month and a half during which anyone could have gotten copies, no one did. There are two possibilities: either everyone believed what I said and the actuality of the letters or 2) no one cared particularly, or 3) people are so used to the filth poured out by Walker and Co. about John Beshara and anyone who has the "poor sense" to be his friend "and therefore a puppet" that they didn't even consider the relevance of the matter.

During that time, I received comments on the matter, mostly from New Yorkers who imparted their pearls of wisdom by mouth. Nick Ulanov gave as his medical opinion that Walker might very well have had leukemia, that this was the sort of disease that did occasionally remit spontaneously. And thereby he missed the entire point of the article, as I saw it.

It didn't matter a groat, not a farthing, whether or not Walker had leukemia. Consider the portrait drawn in the article, of a man who is about to die, and seeks to bury all feuds that he may die with a clear conscience. All right. This is a little too hackneyed to get much space in a modern novel, but it is believable. His worst enemy is willing to bury the hatchet. He doesn't want to think he let someone die without so honest a request unfulfilled. Months pass, and they correspond in a friendly and intimate matter (and believe me, some of the sections left out of Walker's letter I wouldn't tell to a psychiatrist), until the dying man comes to look upon his ex-enemy as one of his greatest friends.

All this is something that would appear in a bad novel. Unfortunately, the bad novelists have this justification: that people often act in this manner.

The dying man continues to try to effect a cure, of course. This is quite understandable. Finally, it looks as if he will not die. There is rejoicing by both this man and his ex-enemy.

A cure is effected. Greater joy on both sides. A minor miracle! The once-dying man, who has changed from a heterosexual agnostic to a homosexual Catholic, gives thanks to his gods. His onetime enemy, it is to be assumed, also gives thanks to his god.

All is joy, et c. to nauseous details.

A year and a half later, the once-dying man is attacking his once-and-present enemy as vociferously, if not more so, than before. He writes to friends of his onetime friend that they should pay no heed to friendship, but attack this friend publicly. This is, I believe, known as 'biting the hand that feeds you'. If, of course, Walker was faking when he told John he had leukemia, that but makes it worse.

Now, as to whether or not Walker actually wrote the letters in the article, I will say this: I am not an expert on such things, but then again, I am no fool. The following factors were involved in my belief that the letters were real, for both John and I insisted I see them before publishing the article: 1: the paper some of the letters were printed on were the backs on some sort of variant which used North America or the US (west half) as a board. I have received other letters from Walker on those sheets. 2: the signatures all appeared to be Walker's. 3: The typeface and the dolor of the print-

... Walker and I both use the literary form of punctuation, which differs in several aspects from the journalistic style John uses. For example, punctuation followed the close of quotation marks, rather than appearing inside them. This is subtler, and therefore less likely of imitation. John could theoretically, I suppose, have bought a typewriter to match Rod's; he could forge Walker's signature. He could even, conceivably, go through the trouble of printing or obtaining copies of the variant map solely to fool me. If John were a madman, he would be quite capable of all these things. But punctuation is a matter of reflex, and this was not John's style.

((I have another hypothesis. It is, that Rod Walker is completely heterosexual and always has been. After all, many of his snide attacks on John Beshara have imputed that John is effeminate or epicene, and this is not the sort of attack that a gay person will make. However, Rod may have relied on the frequent accusation of homosexuality that is made in this country against people of John's ethnic background. Rod may have figured that he would fake homosexuality in writing to John, elicit comments of a similar sort from John, and then spray such letters all over war-gaming fandom. When this strategy failed, Rod decided to abandon the pretense that he was dying.

((Certainly there is nothing in this hypothesis that is inconsistent with Rod Walker's character as Diplomacy fandom has come to know it.))

1974GO

"Fall 1908"

WHAT ARE ALL THOSE FRENCHMEN DOING?

Following "Spring 1908" moves the French A Tyr was not annihilated, but retreated A Tyr-Pie. Both the French and the Austro-Hungarian players caught that one.

ENGLAND (Doyle): A Sil-Mun; A War-Pru; A Pru-Ber; A Nwy-Edi; F Den-Kie; F Hel S F Den-Kie; F Nth-Hol; F Bal S A Pru-Ber; F Nrg C A Nwy-Edi.

FRANCE (Amer): A Ven-Tri; A Pie S A Ven((sic)); F Nap & F Tyr S F Ion; F Ion holds; A Mun-Tyr; A Ber-Sil; A Kie S A Ber((sic)); A Bel S A Hol; A Hol S A Kie; A Pic-Bur; F Eng-Ion; F Wal-Liv.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Zimmermann): A Tyr-Ven; A Tri S A Tyr-Ven; A Gal-Boh; A Vie S A Gal-Boh; A Ukr-Gal; A Mos-Ukr; A Rum S A Ukr-Gal.

TURKEY (Drakert): A Bul holds; A Alb S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tri; F Aeg-Ion; F Gre & F Eas S F Aeg-Ion.

Underlined moves are not possible. The two French moves marked "sic" are impossible under Section IX, Paragraph 6 of the Rulebook. "A unit ordered to move...may not be supported in place in the event that its attempted move fails." France retreats A Kie-Ruh, and the dislodged French A Ven must retreat to Tus, Rom, or Apu. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Ber, Den, Edi, Kie, Mun, Nwy, St. P, Swe, War. (9)	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Mos, Rum, Ser, Sev, Tri, Ven, Vie. (8)
FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Hol, Liv, Lon, Mar, Nap, Par, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun. (12)	TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Smy. (5)

Austria-Hungary may build one unit, which will obviously be A Bud. France must remove one unit. This French removal should be sent at once to the Gamesmaster along with the above-mentioned retreat; he will inform the other players. The deadline for "Spring 1909" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1976.

One player has suggested that the game be declared a draw. If all four players vote approval of this plan by the next move deadline, it will be so declared. An abstention is equivalent to a negative vote.

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"Last April the Alabama House of Representatives was close to passing a resolution prohibiting its members from bringing pistols onto the floor...Ray Burgess, the member who caused this commotion...nonetheless vowed that he would carry his pistol on the outside and that, in fact, he had acquired a pistol for every member of his family...Three months later, Mr. Burgess was shot in the head while struggling with his wife over a pistol during a quarrel. On Sept. 20 he died." - New York Times, 5 October 1975

LONDON (via VIENNA):

Greenspade: "The Lost Funnel, part two." Worried about Major Bloodclot's capacity to lead, Dipgoon wanders the streets of Calcutta in a quandry.

Sour William: Whoa, mate! (audience titters) You go' a license to op'rate this quandry? (audience laughs)

Dipgoon: Well, no.

Sour William: Tha'll be five guineas fine, mate.

Dipgoon: What's fine about it? (audience titters)

Greasepipe: Don't worry, Mr. Dipgoon, I'll pay it. Officer, here is a photograph of a guinea. (audience laughs)

Sour William: Well, I suppose....Wait! You can't pull a fast one on me, mate! (audience titters) The fine is five guineas. (audience laughs)

Greasepipe: Oh, I'm sorry. Here's the negative. Go make four more copies (audience laughs)

Sour William: Well, tha's more like it! (audience roars) Thanks...

Dipgoon: How can I thank you, kind, suspicious stranger?

Greasepipe: Eat this shredded wheat. (audience laughs)

Dipgoon: I aulf much guzzle-munch.

Greasepipe: Allow me to introduce myself. I am Sir Greasepipe Finn. This is my partner, Count Ruiz Zhivago von Fred Noriarty. Come inside. (whissssskkkk)

Dipgoon: Nice place you have here.

Greasepipe: Thank you. Now, have another shreddie, Neddie. (audience titters)

Dipgoon: My throat is dry.

Noriarty: Here, wash it down with cephalopod tea!

Dipgoon: All this is a bit excessive, isn't it, Greasepipe?

Greasepipe: Nonsense, Ned. There's nothing wrong with excess, as long as it's done in moderation. Drink and eat and be merry! (audience laughs)

Dipgoon: (voice over) Hello, Folks. Calling all Folks. Are you there, Folks? Oh, Folks, what a terrible thing, Folks! Yes, dear readers, plied with shredded wheat and cephalopod tea, I was before long ready to spill vital military secrets!

Greasepipe: Noriarty, get a mop and clean up that vital military secret Dipgoon just spilled. (audience laughs) I think he's ready to answer our questions. Neddie?

Can you hear me, Neddie?

Dipgoon: (in a trance) I-hear-you-Greasepipe.

Greasepipe: Fine, now then, little bovine peapod, have you seen your regimental funnel lately?

Dipgoon: Yes.

Greasepipe: Where?

Dipgoon: In Major Bloodclot's brandy cabinet. (audience titters)

Greasepipe: Is the cabinet locked?

Dipgoon: No. Major Bloodclot had trouble unlocking it when drunk. (audience laughs)

Greasepipe: Fine, Ned. That's what we need to know. When you awake from this trance, you will forget all that has happened here. Noriarty, quick, heave him over the side and let's be off. (whissssskkkk) (SPLASH!)

Little Tim: He's fallen in the water! (Audience roars, applauds)

Greenspade: Later that day, at the Wynsheel-wypr garrison...

Bloodclot: What's the matter, Dipgoon?

Dipgoon: I don't know, Major. There's something I was supposed to forget.

Bloodclot: Well, what was it?

Dipgoon: (pauses) I can't remember. (audience laughs)

Bloodclot: Keep thinking, lad. Listen to the radio. I think we're about to hear Ray Hellinatongue... (musical interlude)

WOGASTISBURGER-NEUSTADT (United Rabble Rousing Press): A paternity suit was filed today in the Grand Ducal Court of Chancery and Casuistry by Fr#olein Gwladys Nirzwasser, who claimed that an Englishman named Ned Dipgoon was the father of her illegitimate son Marty Anaconda. (The boy had been named after a Montana copper tycoon with whom Fr#olein Nirzwasser had had a close relationship of an unspecified nature.) The lad's mother, a citizen of the Grand Duchy, claimed that the child had been begotten during a

Winter Solstice Festival in Skandalutz, but had been born in Wogastisburger-Neustadt. Judge Wilgastockt asked to see the child in question. Fräulein Nirzwasser set the little toddler on the floor, and he promptly walked with a kind of jerky stagger over to the judicial spittoon, which he then crushed with an oversized foot.

"Does Mr. Dipgoon admit that the child is his?" the judge asked.

"Certainly not!" replied Dipgoon's solicitor, Advocate Blaufläschl.

"I can easily see why," remarked the judge drily. He then inspected Blaufläschl closely. "Are you his child?"

"Eyebrows rise in astonishment," said the diminutive lawyer. "Thinks - Is he making a joke of I? Realizes - he probably is! No, Your Worshipwreck. I was appointed Herr Dipgoon's solicitor after his old one was arrested."

"Whatever for?"

"For soliciting."

The court was promptly adjourned for three days on account of the opening of the peacock season.

MEDIUM JOHN (continued from p. 1)

lieve in maximum postal rates. Thanks to his decision of this week, first-class postal rates will not rise to 13¢ on 28 December. (This decision also renders premature a huge printing of stamps in the denominations of 13¢; 9¢ (for postcards), 11¢ (for the second ounce of first-class mail), and 24¢ (for the first two ounces). Since this is Bundle Day, I'm using one of the new 13¢s plus a 5¢ for the usual 18¢ rate for 4 ounces by 3rd-class mail, and two 13¢s for the 6-ounce rate.

The next step will be for Justice Sirica to follow the advice of one of his colleagues on the federal bench, who a few months ago ruled that the first-class postal rate could be reduced to 8½¢ an ounce!

1975ET

"Fall 1903"

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY STABS, IS STABBED

ENGLAND (Penn): F Mid holds; F Pcr S F Mid; A Gas-Par; F Bre-Eng; F Eng-Nth; F Nwg-Nwy.

GERMANY (Squires): A Bur-Mar; A Bel & A Hol hold; A Kie-Mun; A Ber S A Kie-Mun; A Sil-Boh; F Den-Bal.

ITALY (Lerman): F Spa(s.c.) holds; A Mar S F Spa(s.c.); F Lya S F Spa(s.c.); A Pie S A Mar; F Tyr-Tun; F Wes-Naf.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Rittel): A Gal S GERMAN A Sil-War; A Bud S A Gal; A Vie-Tyr; A Tyr-Ven; A Ser holds; F Ion-Nap.

RUSSIA (Birsan): A Mos & A War S A Ukr; A Ukr S TURKISH A Rum-Gal; A Liv-Pru.

TURKEY (Remmele): A Sev hold; A Rum S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Gal; F Bla S A Sev; F Con-Aeg.

Underlined moves are not possible. The vote for a draw fails, and is re-submitted for the next moves. The High Combatant Powers control the same supply centers that they did after "1902" (see #336) except that England has taken Paris from Germany, and Austria-Hungary has taken Naples and Venice from Italy. Austria-Hungary may build two new units, and Turkey and England may each build one. Germany must remove one unit, and Italy must remove two. The deadline for these "Winter 1903" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 1976.

*

For the holidays, David Wiencik is at 5530 S. Kolmar, Chicago, Ill. 60629; Mark Zimmermann is at 6812 Langston Dr., Austin, Texas 78723 (512-926-7769); Eric Verheiden is at 3245 S. W. 185th Ave., Aloha, Ore. 97005; John Hendry is at 17 Ridge Road, Rossety, Mass. 01960; and Bob Lipton is at 556 Green Pl. Woodmere, N. Y. 11598.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

This is the last issue making up a third-class mail bundle to non-playing subscribers, the last issue before Christmas (or whatever it is that you're celebrating this time of year) and the last issue before the increase of postal rates (unless the USP'S" pulls another fast one on us). I would like to wish all GRAUSTARK readers felicitations of the season and a happy new year.

*

As of the deadline date for the last issue of GRAUSTARK, there were 36 active players in current GRAUSTARK games, not counting those suspended on account of the Canadian postal strike. Of these 36, no fewer than 13 still were missing moves as of the morning of Saturday 29 November. Three of the 13 phoned their moves in that morning. I have phone numbers for 9 of the remaining 10, seven of whom live out of town. I made collect person-to-person calls to 8 of this 9, obtaining moves and frequent expressions of surprise that the mailed moves hadn't yet arrived.

Eventually, at about 2 PM (which is usual here) the day's mail arrived. Five of the missing 13 had mailed moves in; the postmark dates were the 24th and 26th from the west coast, the 27th from Connecticut, and the 28th from New York City and a New Jersey suburb. Another of the missing moves eventually arrived the following Monday, 4 days after it was postmarked in the Midwest. One player, Tim Scanlan, was never heard from and, this being the second time in succession, was dropped from 1974HQ.

Players living outside the eastern states should note that the USP'S's" elimination of air mail does not mean that first-class mail will all go by air but that, for all practical purposes the US no longer has a domestic air mail service. Players on the West Coast in particular should expect that letters will henceforth take between 3 and 5 days to reach me, and send in their moves accordingly.

*

GRAUSTARK, the Very First bulletin of postal Diplomacy, is published on every 3rd Saturday by John Boardman (address below). Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$2. The available back issues are 200, 202, 206, 249, 250, 253, 258, 271, 273, 275, 276, 280, 285, 286, and 291-338. These are all 10 for \$1 except for ## 296, 300, & 315, extra-large issues full of game and book reviews, which are 50¢ each.

Also available here is EMPIRE, published on alternate Saturdays for the play of board games other than Diplomacy. Currently in progress in it are postal games of SPI's World War II, Spartan, Legion, and Frigate. Also available are postal versions of SPI's Chariot, Viking, Yecman, Dreadnought, and 'CA', and a game is now under organization of Avalon-Hill's Origins of World War II. It needs 2 more entrants; write for details. EMPIRE has the same subscription & back-issue rate as GRAUSTARK, and back issues 2-28 are available.

GRAUSTARK #339

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11226
U. S. A.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

HAVE A DIFFERENT VACATION THIS YEAR!

Visit the Winter Solstice Festival in Skandalutz! Participate in the Sacred Lottery! You'll be treated like a King!