

GRAUSTARK

#515

1983AJ; 1984V, IC, ID; 1985L, AG, CA, CT, HF, HL

28 December 1985

1985CA

"Fall 1902"

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

TURKEY IN EAST, FROG IN WEST

ENGLAND (Bragdon): A St.P-Mos; F Eng C
A Lon-Pic; A Lon-Pic; F Den S GERMAN
F Kie-Bal.

FRANCE (Petty): F Mid-Bre; A Gas-Par;
A Pic S A Gas-Par; A Bur-Mar.

GERMANY (Strickland): A Ber holds; F
Kie-Bal; A Mun-Bur; F Swe S F Kie-Bal;
A Hol-Bel; A Par-Gas.

ITALY (D. Walker): A Mar-Gas; F Tyr-Wes;
F Ion-Eas; "A Tun whistles the Mar-
scillaise."

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Foster): F Aeg-Con; A
Gre-Bul; A Ser S A Gre-Bul; A Gal-
Rum; A Bud S A Gal-Rum.

RUSSIA (Wrobel): A Ukr-Mos; A Sil-War;
F Bal-Bot; A Liv-Mos; F Rum S TURKISH
A Bul.

TURKEY (Martin): A Con-Bul; A Bul-Ser;
F Smy-Aeg; F Eas S F Smy-Aeg.

Underlined moves are not possible. The Turkish A Bul is annihilated, and Russia must retreat F Rum-Bla or -Sev. The direction of this retreat should be sent in with the "Winter 1902" orders, which may be made conditional on it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Den, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St.P. (6)

FRANCE: Bre, Por, Spa. (3)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Hol, Kie, Mun, Par, Sve. (7)

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

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

RUSSIA: Mos, Sev, War. (3)

(continued on p. 10)

1985HF

"Fall 1901"

DUAL MONARCHY LOSES ONE CAPITAL

Bill Quinn, the Boardman Number custodian, has assigned to this game the number "1985HF", so it need no longer be known as "the New Game". Players should use the Boardman Number in correspondence with one another or with the gamesmaster.

ENGLAND (S. Ellis): F Nrg-Nwy; F Nth-Bel;
"A Yor disbands"((sic)).

FRANCE (Lack): A Mar-Spa; F Mid-Por; A Pic-Bel.

GERMANY (Quirk): A Kie-Den; F Hol S FRENCH A
Pic-Bel; A Tyr-Vie.

ITALY (C. Johnson): A Apu-Ven; F Ion-Tun;
A Ven-Pic.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Bowen): A Vie-Tri; A Ser-
Tri; F Alb-Gre.

RUSSIA (Austin): F Bot-Swe; A Sev-Rum; A Gal-
Bud; F Bla S A Sev-Rum.

TURKEY (Rosen): A Bul-Gre; F Con-Aeg;
A Smy-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

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

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (6)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun. (5)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven. (4)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Vie, Ser, Tri. (3)

RUSSIA: Bud, Mos, Rum, St.P, Sev, Swe, War. (7)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Smy. (4)

France and Russia each have 3, and Germany, two new units, and Turkey, Italy, and England may each build one. The deadline for these "Winter 1901" orders is NOON,

(continued on p. 10)

IGNOBEL PRIZE AWARDS QUIET THIS YEAR

In many previous years, especially during the turbulent late 1960s and early 1970s, much disturbance has marked the award of the lucrative prizes provided for in the will of the spy, forger, war profiteer, and munitions magnate Alfons Ignobel (1838-1937). Various groups of malcontents, both in The Four And A Half Kingdoms and from outside the Balkan Massif, have tried to make noisy and even violent demonstrations for or against prizewinners. The most recent such disturbances were in 1983, when the Temporary Roman Fascist leader P. Vigurus Macho, leader of the Stalwart National Iron Fist (SNIF), opposed the award of the War Prize of Menahem Begin on the grounds that no Jew could really be a good war-monger. There was also a violent confrontation between Julius Orange, the American Yippie leader who is hiding out from charges that during the 1968 Democratic convention riots he raped a police dog, and the Feminist leader Valerie Solipsis.

In 1984 such troubles were averted by astute collaboration between General Peter Pfauschwanitz, commander of the Grand Ducal Secret Police of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel, and Mme. Conde-Wasch, Ministress of Royal Security of the Kingdom of Skandalutz. These two astute officers arranged plans for this year's awards during a week-long conference last month at Skandalutz's famous geothermally heated resort at Resilient Springs. As a result, the awards went off without a hitch.

As has been usual in recent years, the awards were made in the Salon du Grand-Duc of the Hotel de Wogastisburg et Metropole, a Gilded Age hostelry which is a regular stopover on the Jet Set's december tour through The Four And A Half Kingdoms. The awards are usually made a day or two before Christmas, so that tourists can attend en route from the Winter Solstice Festival in Skandalutz to the big Circus Bowl game in the Temporary Roman Empire.

The Winter Solstice Festival had been, as always, well attended. At this ancient orgiastic festival one male guest is chosen by the Sacred Lottery to become the next King of Skandalutz. As a climax to the Festival, the previous king is sacrificed to the Mother Goddess, cooked according to the cuisine of his native country, and eaten at the Sacred Feast. The sacrificial victim this year was Percy Bruce Reagan, offspring of a little-known marriage (his first, her tenth) between a rising young actor named Ronald Reagan and the aging silent screen star Gloria Snockers (1888-1983). Reagan, whose death was mourned even more deeply by the youths of the Titanian Guard than by Queen Tanna Hanna herself, was served at a traditional American meal of steak, potatoes, and green beans, with apple pie for dessert. (See Craig Claiborne's article in the New York Times for details.) The 1986 King of Skandalutz is the North Korean Kim Kip Ling, runaway younger son of President Kim Il Sung, who is rumored to have left his native country because his elder brother was assured of the succession in the world's first Communist hereditary monarchy, and he saw no future for himself there. "After all," he told Italian reporter Oriana Fellazi shortly after he was chosen King, "the transition from a nominal republic to a hereditary monarchy is full of hazard for younger brothers. Look at the history of the Roman Empire while it was making this transition, before the hereditary principle was firmly established. Even as King of Skandalutz, I am likely to live longer than if I had stayed home."

As was traditional, the Ignobel Prizes were announced by Alois Ignobel, 79, the son of the prizes' founder and of Mata Hari. The traditionally first-awarded prize, the War Prize, went to a surprise winner: President François Mitterand of France. "The War Prize," Ignobel explained, "is awarded not only to those who actually make war, but also to those who defend the existence of this venerable institution. This President Mitterand has done by the French attack on the notorious Pacifist ship Rainbow Warrior. Such things as the Greenpeace ships are viruses which must be ruthlessly eradicated if our way of life is to survive."

As the assembled jet-setters and local free-loaders cheered him, Ignobel opened the envelope that carried the name of the next prize-winner. Since the second prize

"DON'T NOBODY MOVE!"

In "Winter 1916 Italy removed F Gre. Germany defers the two builds to which it is entitled. All players were informed.

ENGLAND (J. Baker): A Sev-Arm; A Bur-Mar; A Pic-Bur; A Gas-Spa; F Mid S A Gas-Spa; F Nat, F Iri & F Eng S F Mid; F Bel-Pic; F Bre S F Bel-Pic.

FRANCE (Jordan): A Par holds.

GERMANY (Ripper): A Ru -Ser; A Ukr-Rum; A Gal S A Ukr-Rur; A Bud & A Vie S A Tri; A Tyr-Ven; A Tri S A Tyr-Ven; A Pic-Tus; A Mar-Pie.

ITALY (Wrobel): A Rum-Tus; A Ven S A Rom-Tus; F Adr S A Ven; F Spa(s.c.) & F Naf hold; F Wes & F Por S F Spa(s.c.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Rusnak): A Arm & F Aeg hold; A Ser S A Bul; A Alb & A Bul S A Ser.

Underlined moves are not possible. Not one piece on the board has moved, which I believe to be a First in GRAUSTARK games. The deadline for "Fall 1917" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986.

ROME to PARIS: Where's your self-respect, man? Stop blubbering and get up off your knees! (Aside to England: How can you tolerate such a worm? Finish him.)

1985CT

"Winter 1901"

ENGLAND (Chafetz): Builds F Edi.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Jordan): Builds A Tri.

FRANCE (Addison): Builds F Mar, F Bre.

RUSSIA (J. Goldman): Builds A Mos.

GERMANY (D. Walker): Builds A Mun, A Ber, F Kic.

TURKEY (Quarto): Builds F Smy.

ITALY (Tendering): Builds F Nap.

The deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986.

FRANCE: After getting lost in the jungles of Picardy, it is believed the men of the French army now know where they are. As a disciplinary action, they will receive no Christmas bonus this year. All Winter 1901 funds will be given to the French Navy.

FRANCE to SWEDEN: "hear elections are being held next year. What kind of government would you like to have?"

ST. PETERSBURG: Severely depressed by the outbreak of continentwide fighting, the Czar has retired to Moscow to mope. Russia, he asserted, desires only peaceful relations with all countries, and trusts that recent misunderstandings with England, Germany, and Austria will not be repeated. Russian troop deployments will give proof of our pacific intent.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

GRAUSTARK, the first bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy, is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. Game openings are available for a game fee of \$20, which includes a subscription to GRAUSTARK as long as the game lasts. With your entry fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play in your order of preference. The rules of postal Diplomacy were last published in #437; if you do not have a copy ask for one when you send in your game fee. Subscriptions for non-players are 9 for \$6. Back issues are available from #500 at 10 for \$2.

Also published here are EMPIRE, which currently carries postal games of SPI's Empires of the Middle Ages and A Mighty Fortress, and THE VALOR OF IGNORANCE, which carries two postal games of Victory's Pax Britannica. (This same publisher's new hit, Dr. Ruth Westheimer's Game of Good Sex, will positively not be offered for postal play.) No new game openings are currently available in either of these 'zines. Subscription and back issue rates are the same as for GRAUSTARK.

1983IE - GAME REVIEW

FOB BRAGDON (Italy): From this very complex game, two points emerge that helped an Italian victory. One is what strikes me as Italy's built-in strategic advantages in any Diplomacy game. The other help was the difficulty my main opponents - Germany and England - had in dealing with France and Russia.

Italy is, in my opinion, a very underrated country; I'm surprised that it ranks only third in wins in GRAUSTARK. Italy has a (southern) "corner"; is not (except by Austria-Hungary) easily stabbable; and is positioned to feed at the fringes of the usual opening battles among E-F-G and A/H-R-T. These features helped me get 17 centers in my only previous play of Italy in GRAUSTARK.

I started out 1983IE with aims of (1) attacking west for variety's sake and (2) getting at least a defensive alliance with A/H (John Jordan) to protect my eastern flank. Both aims worked out well. France (Paul Rauterberg) cooperated with me even after I had taken two of his centers because he was apparently more worried by concurrent attacks from Germany and England. Austria wanted my help initially against Turkey; later, John also hit Russia and Germany. Everything went swimmingly and by 1904 John and I had 16 centers combined. Although he had two more than I did, this did not bother me as long as he redistributed one to me fairly soon. That seemed logical because all of his other neighbors were weak, while I was having trouble advancing farther in France.

The I-A/H negotiations prior to the S'05 moves led to disruption of this alliance. On my inquiring about a "redistribution", John said perhaps sometime later. This introduced a disturbing element. John had gained three centers from Germany and Russia in '04 and was in a position to gain three more in '05. He would then be nearly impregnable, with nothing to stop him to his north and east. It thus appeared that A/H had both the intention and the capability to go for a win - unless I tried to stop him. No one else had enough forces to do it.

My attack on Austria in '05 was thus a very sudden decision that had not been planned in advance. I had to make one fleet retrace its steps clumsily from Wes to Tyr to Ion. The attack succeeded because two armies were just close enough to get to Tri in the Fall and Russia and Turkey took other A/H centers.

From about 1906 on, an eventual Italian victory became increasingly likely unless the G/E alliance either befriended Russia (Larry Chafetz) or conquered his centers. G/E could do neither rapidly enough. By 1908, Larry and I had annexed most of the A/H and Turkish centers and were knocking at Germany's and England's gates. Russia's gains in the Balkans compensated for G/E occupation of his home centers, most of which we soon liberated. The only other counteroffensive G/E could mount - in Spain and France - was into my strength and was quickly quashed.

G/E contributed to this, I think, by a series of major miscalculations. First, they may have assumed that I would push Russia into their camp by taking advantage of his vulnerability to stabs in his Balkan centers. Alternatively, if I didn't stab, I would have to maneuver slowly around these centers in order to hit Germany from the south and to finish off Turkey. In either case, G/E would have plenty of time to dispose of Larry's Scandinavian centers. Thus, they could take a hard line toward Russia, mixing threats with a few insults in the press.

All these assumptions proved to be ill-founded. I didn't stab - yet got two armies quickly into action by moving them through Russian centers (Bud and Bul) in Spring moves. G/E's "tough-guy" diplomatic approach to Russia backfired; it only made Larry resist them harder and work more closely with me. In the north, where I couldn't help him and he was heavily outnumbered, he had the tactical ingenuity to prevail, outwitting G/E time after time. The allies might take Nwy or St.P from Larry, but he would turn up in Edi the same year! The last time he did so, the unit taking Edi was an army, sealing England's doom.

Even after S'11, when I made the first moves clearly aiming at 18 centers, G/E continued to battle fruitlessly with Russia. This guaranteed a quick Italian win. There were moves available in F'11 that would have slowed me down, but the other

players couldn't bury the hatchet long enough to make them.

Thanks to everybody for a very exciting, topsy-turvy game - and especially to Larry for his astute and resourceful play. Theorists of Diplomacy tactics should take a look at his ingenious northern moves from about 1904 on. They are a textbook illustration of how to defend and counterattack effectively against superior forces.

Because of the close and rewarding cooperation with Russia, I almost bypassed the opportunity to go for the win in 1911. To try for it, I had to "stab", but I believe the stab was reasonable according to conventional Diplomacy criteria. Some players consider a stab worthwhile if it gains only two centers; mine gains a potential six (I took five centers in 1911 and could also have taken Bud) and a win. If Larry's and my positions had been reversed, I would have expected him to do the same.

LARRY CHAFETZ (Russia): I assumed that Italy was going to win. However, I had hoped he would have waited one more year. I wanted to destroy Eng & Germ & AH before the game was over.

In one more year AH would have been out & Eng & Germ perhaps not Germ would have been reduced to minimums.

I personally never really wanted to give all my support to Italy but despite all my entreaties Eng & Germany would not stop there attacks upon me. Italy came to my aid and I gratefully accepted.

I admit that if Germ gave me any leeway to do so without giving him more of my territory I would have turned on Italy.

I play to win but do not attack my allies unless they attack me or to stop them from winning. I do not believe in draws.

1984HB - GAME REVIEW

DICK MARTIN (England): This game never really got off the ground for me. Marc Hurwitz crossed me up all three seasons in 1901 and we fought relentlessly after that. My early ally, Dan Palter in France, resigned from the game to be replaced by Larry Sims. For my continued support, he stabs me just as it looks like I might gain some ground against Germany. Oh, well. With the impending Austrian sweep, and my prior trustworthiness, the move didn't make sense. The story of my game - not much seemed to make sense.

Vince Manna did a good job of taking advantage of every opportunity presented to him, and only fighting battles he could win. That's the way you win Dip games. Good game, Vince.

1984ID

"Winter 1905"

Some of the Turkish orders were misprinted in the reports of the "Fall 1905" moves. The move "F Aeg-Ion" was incorrectly underlined as failing. Actually it succeeded. The "Winter" orders are:

ITALY (Stewart): Removes F Rom, F Tun. TURKEY (Addison): Builds F Con.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Brooks): Builds A Tri.

The deadline for "Spring 1906" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986. Paul Rautenberg's new address is 4158 Monona Dr., Madison, Wisc. 53716 and Anthony Brooks's is 1539 Amber Court, Radcliff, Ky. 40160.

TURKEY to BARENTS SEA: What's this? A 7-unit "power" righting 4 players at once?

TURKEY to GERMANY: On the other hand, you look like a can of sardines.

SILVER SPRING to ROME: No one here receives letters unless someone first mails them. Cause and effect, you know.

TURKEY to AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: How can you complain about Italy vacationing in A-H, when you yourself are indulging in Italian delights?

TURKEY to RUMANIA: I'm going to make an offer you can't refuse.

"Spring 1906"

1984IC

ANGLO-GERMAN ALLIANCE MARCHES ON

ENGLAND (Loiacono): A Nwy-St.P; F Lon-Eng; F Edi-Mrg; F Liv-NAT; F Spa(s.c.) S GERMAN F Bre-Mid.

FRANCE (Chafetz): F Nat-Mid.

GERMANY (Manna): A Par-Bur; A Mun S A Tyr; F Liv S ENGLISH A Nwy-St.P; F St.P(s.c.)-Bot; F Bre-Mid; A Mar-Pie; A Kie-Ber; A Tyr S A Mar-Pie; A Ukr-War; A War-Sil; A Sil-Boh.

ITALY (Clarke): A Ser-Bul; A Rom-Ven; A Ven-Pie; A Bud-Tri; A Vie-Tri; F Tri-Alb; F Pie-Lyo; F Wes S F Pie-Lyo.

RUSSIA (Schembari): Smy-Sev((sic)); A Ank-Sev; F Bla C A Ank-Sev; A Mos S A Ank-Sev; A Gal-War; Rum-Ukr.

TURKEY (Quirk): A Con holds; F Aeg S A Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1906" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986. Douglas Clarke writes that until 19 January he will be at 704 Main St., Leominster, Mass. 01453, while Nunzio Paul Schembari asks that this present issue be sent to him at 1661 72nd St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11204.

RCME to World: Where's the war?

1985AG

"Winter 1903"

The Russian unit in Berlin, mistakenly listed as a fleet in the last issue, is actually an army. Serbia was not acquired by Russia in "1903" and remains an Italian supply center; therefore Russia had only three builds, and Italy had one. The Italian player was informed. The German retreat was A Mun-Bur.

GERMANY (Drakert): Removes A Kie, RUSSIA (D. Walker): Builds A War & A Mos; defers one build.

F Hel.

ITALY (Bennett): Builds F Rom. TURKEY (J. Schwartz): Builds F Smy.

The deadline for "Spring 1904" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986.

1985HL

"Spring 1901"

"BUT THEY WERE GOING TO ATTACK US!"

ENGLAND (MacNiallais): F Edi-Nth; F Lon-Eng; A Liv-Wal.

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

GERMANY (Austin): F Kie-Den; A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Bur.

ITALY (Palter): A Ven-Pie; A Rom-Ven; F Nap-Ion.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Thornsen): F Tri-Ven; A Vie-Gal; A Bud-Ser.

RUSSIA (Manna): F Sev-Rum; A War-Gal; F St.P(s.c.)-Bot; A Mos-St.P.

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

Underlined moves are not possible. Ben Austin writes that the ZIP code was given incorrectly for his new address, and is "94305" rather than "94304". However, he has a still newer address, as given in the press release below. The deadline for "Fall 1901" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986. This game was called "The Newer Game" when it was announced in the last issue, but has since been given the Boardman

Number "1985HL" by Bill Quinn. Players should henceforth use this number in communications with one another or with the gamesmaster.

MOSCOW: Norway has invaded Russia. In retaliation, the 1st Comrade Army will occupy Norway next turn. Stop.

GERMANY to World: Hey, like, I'm going to sunny California for a bit. Dig? The address there is Ben Austin, 2125 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025 (last issue's address incorrect). The phone number is (415)854-6594.

GERMANY to World: Recent revisionist historians have revealed that, during WWI, the Irish were actually in control of British military maneuvers. Has anyone else heard of this?

1984V

"Fall 1910"

GERMANY PULL BACK BEFORE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ADVANCE

There were a few misprints in the report of the "Spring 1910" orders in this game. The German unit list as "A Bur" is actually in Picardy. The Austro-Hungarian moves "F Ion-Eas; F Aeg-S" "Ion-Eas" were incorrectly underlined as failing. Actually, they succeed, and the Turkish F Eas is dislodged and retreats F Eas-Syr. For Anthony J. Brooks's new address see the report of 1984ID on page 5. He is now playing England.

GERMANY to World: Hey, I can dig it when I'm beaten by superior play - happens often enough! But I can't deal with losing due to another player's carelessness. I'm throwing the game to A-H unless someone comes up with a brilliant plan.

ENGLAND (Brooks): F Eng-Mid; F Bre S F Eng-Mid; F Lon-Wal; F Nth-Bel; F St.P(n.c.) holds.

FRANCE (Drakert): F Por S A Spa; A Spa S ITALIAN F Lyo-Mar.

GERMANY (Gaughan): A Liv-St.P; A Pru holds; A Sil-Ber; A Mun-Ruh; A Pic-Par; A Gas-Bre; F Hel-Nth.

ITALY (Sims): No moves received. A Mar, F Lyo, F Wes & F Mid hold.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Manna): F Aeg-Con; A Bul S F Aeg-Con; A Arm-Ank; A Mos S A War; F Ion-Eas((it's already there)); A Gal-Sil; A War S A Gal-Sil; A Boh-Mun; A Vie-Boh; A Tyr S A Vie-Bon.

TURKEY (Verheiden): F Con-Ank; A Smy S F Con-Ank; F Syr S A Smy.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy, St.P. (7)

FRANCE: Por, Spa. (2)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Par, Swe. (6)

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

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Mos, Mun, Rum, Ser, Sev, Tri, Vie, War. (12)

TURKEY: Ank, Smy. (2)

Austria-Hungary and England may each build two new units, and Italy may build one. Turkey and Germany must each remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1910" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986. Stand-by moves for Italy should be sent in by Evan Loiacono, 157-18 Cryders Lane, Beechurst, N. Y. 11357; 718-767-0448.

NEW BLOOD

These people have expressed an interest in playing postal Diplomacy:

John Brennick, 192 Curtis Ave., Stoughton, Mass. 02072

Carleton Harris, #97, 8686 Coy, Baton Rouge, La. 70810

Joe Holman, 65-742 Kahikinai Pl., Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Honest Gamesmasters with game openings may wish to get in touch with them. This, of course, rules out Linsey, Burch, and Couglan.

1985L

"Spring 1904"

GREEN TIDE ROLLS OF

ENGLAND (Bennett): A Yor-Den; F Nth C A Yor-Den; F Sve S A Yor-Den; F Nwy-Ska.

FRANCE (Dawson): No moves received. A Par, F Pic, F Bre & A Por hold; A Bur dislodged and annihilated.

GERMANY (Schembari): A Bel-Bur; A Ruh & A Mun S A Del-Bur; A Hol-Bel; A Ber-Pru; F Den-Kie.

ITALY (Jordan): F Ion-Eas; F Bul(s.c.)-Con; F Aeg S F Bul(s.c.)-Con; A Ser-Gre; A Gal S A Bud-Rum; A Bud-Rum; A Tri-Ser; A Ven-Tri; A Rom-Ven; F Nap-Tyr.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Hurwitz): A Pru-Liv.

RUSSIA (Cameron): F St.P(s.c.) holds; A Mos-War; A Sev-Mos.

TURKEY (McCarthy): A Ukr S RUSSIAN A Mos-War; F Bla-Bul(e.c.); A Con-Smy.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1904" moves is NOON; FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986. Stand-by moves for France should be sent in by Lawrence Chafetz, Apt. 178-10 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica, N. Y. 11432.

ANKARA to MOSCOW: Beware, the Pope's emissaries are without honour.

TURKEY to West: Better make a triple before its much too late.

ITALY to ENGLAND: Will the good gentleman from London please get his act together.

GERMANY to FRANCE (via Rome): Will you please try to get along with me before you give the game away to Italy.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

I regret to say that Steve Langley's 'zine The Not for Hire seems to have turned itself into a propaganda sheet for some of the most unreliable people in the postal Diplomacy hobby. Every issue has pages and pages of insufferably boring material by Brux Linsey, Mark Berch, and Gary Coughlan attempting to justify before the members of the hobby their forgeries and other insufferable contact. Langley has even opened the pages of his 'zine to Buddy Tretick, who is now using the false name "Bernie Oaklyn" and attempting once again to get back to defrauding postal Diplomacy players.

Under the circumstances, I must regretfully withdraw the endorsement I gave to The Not for Hire, as a successor to Feudesse, in GRAUSTARK #510. This 'zine, incidentally, does not seem actually to carry any postal Diplomacy games. It is entirely given over to screechings from Brux about how shabbily he has been treated by the rest of the hobby. Since nothing has happened to Brux that he has not worked hard to get, and richly deserved, we have no need to waste time on him or on any 'zine that gives him space.

GRAUSTARK has terminated trade relations with The Not for Hire. This step is recommended to other postal Diplomacy players and publishers.

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Who assigns Miller Numbers? These numbers, named after late pioneer hobbyist Don Miller, are assigned to variant postal Diplomacy games. Since I haven't run any of these for nearly 20 years, I have thus far been paying little attention to them.

However, a new Miller Number Custodian has just been announced. I do not have his name immediately at hand, and do not need it, because there is a good possibility that he does not exist. His address is the same as Robert Sacks's, and Robert insists that there is no way to phone this person because he does not want to get involved in hobby slanders.

Much as I appreciate the efforts that Robert Sacks has put into postal war-gaming

Over many years, I think he is doing the hobby a disservice here. This is just the same sort of thing that we ran Buddy Tretick out for - non-existent identities. And it is the same excuse that Tretick/"Oaklyn" gave when asked why nobody else but he could get in touch with these personages. He was, he said, magnanimously protecting them from being slandered by us hobbyists. Further inquiry revealed that at least one of these people was Tretick's son, and that the others were his playmates or pupils at a private school with which Tretick maintained some kind of unexplained connection.

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Meanwhile, the Boardman Numbers may get a new custodian. Although he has done a very good job, Bill Quinn is rumored to want to pass it on to someone else. I sincerely hope that we won't do it, but if he does he should take care that the new custodian should show the same sense of responsibility that he has shown.

*

Currently running in GRAUSTARK's sister publication EMPIRE are three multi-player negotiation games, two of Empires of the Middle Ages and one of A Mighty Fortress. (These were both published by SPI, and to the best of my knowledge have not yet been picked up by any other gaming firm.) All three of these games will end at various times next summer, and I will then be opening new games. Right now the most popular new game of this sort is Victory's Pax Britannica, of which I am already running two postal games in THE VALOR OF IGNORANCE. (See page 3 for details about these two 'zines.) If this popularity maintains itself through next summer, it is likely that a third, new, Pax Britannica game will be the players' choice. I plan at that time to cut down on the number of such games that I run, because all of these games are each more work than 4 or 5 postal Diplomacy games.

*

While I'm on the topic, Diplomacy was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and first copyrighted by him in 1959. It is now being brought out by Avalon-Hill Inc. of Baltimore.

*

Aside from the above-mentioned postal games, EMPIRE is also carrying postal combats in Nova's Lost Worlds two-book combat system. Last year I found that these combats can be carried on by mail. For details see just about any issue of EMPIRE published this year.

Also running in EMPIRE, as information comes in, is a series entitled "Dungeons and Christians". This series, of which 6 installments have thus far appeared, relates the Christian campaign to ban Dungeons & Dragons and other fantasy role-playing games, including one called "Dragonraid" that is itself in a Christian context! The campaign is based on the belief that the spells cast in D&D games are real and that real demons exist and are being invoked in these games.

I assure you I am not making this up. If you doubt it, please send me 35¢ and I'll send you a copy of a Christian tract called Dark Dungeons, written and drawn by the raving Christian pamphleteer Jack Chick.* In fact, if you're willing to admit to being a Christian, I'll send you one free. A Christian named Pat Pulling, who claims that her son would not have been driven to suicide if he hadn't played D&D**, is going around the country trying to drum up persecution of not only FRP but also war-game players. She has recently got on the board of a group of kindred wackoes called the National Coalition on Television Violence, which wants everything from Alice in Wonderland to "Rainbow Fright" banned as a danger to Christian children. (See EMPIRE #220 for documentation.) They have just discovered that a lot of FRP players also play war games, so apparently we're going to be next on the Christian hit-list. If you want to hear from these loonies in their own words, ask for literature from NCTV, c/o Dr. Thomas Radecki, P. O. Box 2157, Champaign, Ill. 61820. (He's a psychiatrist. Or says he is. So was Emmanuel Velikovsky.) Another Christian pamphleteer, Constance Cumbey, says things in her The Hidden Dangers of the Rainbow that make even Chick sound sane.

* - He's a Californian. Or did I have to tell you?

** - If you heard John Sapienza's talk on this case at the 1984 Atlanticon you know what really happened.

1985CA (continued from p. 1)

TURKEY: Ark, Con, Smy. (3)

Austria-Hungary and England may each build two new units, and Germany and Italy may each build one. France must remove one unit and Russia must remove two. The deadline for these "Winter 1902" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986.

ARMY ST. PETE to LONDON: Move from Normandy to St. Pierre successfully accomplished thanks to helpful withdrawal of St. Pierre's police force. Our G-2 is puzzled by some local customs, however: the natives drink a wine called "vodka" and don't speak French! One theory is that we are in Brittany & the local language is a Breton dialect. We may send a recon force south to ascertain exactly what part of France we are in.....

BOLSHOI ROCK OPERA (MOSCOW): Cap'n Walker didn't come home; his unborn child will never know him.

TSAR to Lost Lineys: You fellows really do have a problem, don't you?

ST. PETE to VIENNA-BUDAPEST: Sure, I could sell out Dick if the price is right, even though we do both live in the greater Washington, D. C. metropolitan area (gasp!)

ST. PETE to Whoever's in BERLIN: And I have an even greater sense of loyalty to my good neighbor, Mr. Bragdon.

TURKEY: What's with me? I used to win guessing games like that, and take Greece. Time to pack up my old blocks, and give way to the stars'n'anchors generation.

TURKEY to ITALY: How was I to know that France would roll over and die for you? How do you talk people into foolish things like that? I can't figure it, considering the stuff you write to me.

TURKEY to ENGLAND: That's what I like about you, Bob, you don't believe in overextending yourself.

1985HF (continued from p. 1)

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 1986. The Austro-Hungarian player writes that his new address is 2140 E. State St., Salem, Ohio 44460. The Russian player has a new new address, for which see the press releases below.

AUSTRIA to Board: Ima Pair Anoid, head of the Austrian Command, received his dispatches **with** distaste. The Germans invaded Tyrolia! The Russians invaded Galicia! Distressing indeed. Messages **were** sent to the head of state, notifying him of imminent peril. The forces in Vienna were also placed on immediate alert.

PARIS (F. R. O. P. - Financial Report of Paris): The Austrian Stock Exchange ceased trading in Vienna for two months recently after panic-selling gripped investors. Speculation is rife over the intentions of a large group of German tourists currently holidaying in the Tyrolean Mountains. "Are they here to ski?" asked one local. Meanwhile, rumours abound regarding a hostile takeover of one of the 'blue chip' companies on the Vienna Exchange. A friendly buyer is thought to be lurking in the north.

England's department for Imperialism continued to seek a partner for the massive project of building a road link from the English coastline to the Belgian capital, Brussels. Initial reports seemed to indicate that continental backing would **not** be made available for this ambitious project. The French Ministry for a dis-united Europe was quite adamant on this point, while his German counterpart was heard to mutter, "I must hear from the others...I must hear from the others..."

RUSSIA to World: Having suddenly succumbed to a dreaded fear of cold, northern waters, Czar Nicholas is announcing his winter vacation in sunny California. The address there is Ben Austin, 2125 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025 (last issue's address is incorrect). The phone number is (415)-854-6594. *

RUSSIA to AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: I have to trounce one of you. No hard feelings?

RUSSIA to TURKEY: I have to trounce one of you. No hard feelings?

RUSSIA to Coin: Tails. I guess it's Austria-Hungary. Sorry, Derwood.

* - The box number given for Austin in the last issue is still valid; however, the ZIP c de should be 94305, not 94304. - JB

IGNOBEL PRIZE AWARDS QUIET THIS YEAR (continued from p. 2)

to be announced is traditionally the Espionage Prize, the assembled crowd was naturally interested in hearing which of the year's many notorious spies had won it.

"The Espionage Prize for 1985," Ignobel said, "was a matter for vigorous discussion among the seven members of the Selection Board. There were, as you know, not only many candidates but many different traditions of espionage to be considered. There was the Walker Family Spy Ring, strictly in it for the money; its leader saw no contradictions in being simultaneously a spy for the Soviet Union and a leader of the Ku Klux Klan. There was Jonathan Pollard, a spy of the traditional type of ideological motivation, to which so many previous awards have been given. His added touch of irony, in that money America gave to Israel was used to get American secrets for Israel, adds something to the ideological motivation and puts this case above the run of the mill. For sheer volume of information it would be impossible to match the work of Larry Wu-Tai Chin, who passed U. S. information to China for 30 years. And of course we all have a weakness for the classic "I did it because I loved him" motivation of Sharon Scragge.

"However, out of all these worthy cases the Selection Board finally decided that Vitaly Yurchenko was the most deserving. Yurchenko has now defected twice; once more and he will tie the record held by Otto John, winner of the 1956 Espionage Prize. Both the nations which at one time or another have employed him are still in the dark about his motivations. And this clinched it for him - the week after he walked out of the Pigsfoot Restaurant in Washington -"

At this point there was an objection from Pierre deRriere, the French Ambassador to Skandalutz. As nearly as coherent words might be heard, he seemed to be objecting that Ignobel had translated the name of this French restaurant.

"My pardons, Monsieur Ambassador," Ignobel continued. "The owner of Au Pied de Cochon designed a new drink in honor of the occasion - the 'Yurchenko-Shooter', consisting of Stolichnaya vodka and Grand Marnier over ice, for \$3.75. This capitalistic conclusion to the affair caused the Selection Board finally to decide in Yurchenko's favor."

The remainder of the ceremony was an anti-climax, as the Genocide Prize went to General Mengistu of Ethiopia for his work in decreasing the surplus population of his country, and Fabian Ver of the Philippines received the prize as best agent provocateur for shooting Benigno Aquino. "General Mengistu gets this prize not merely for producing the conditions that brought on the famine," Ignobel said, "but for his ingenuity in getting guilty western liberals to send food - most of which will eventually be eaten by his soldiers, since they are the only people with guns in Ethiopia. This is an ingenious new approach to the age-old problem of provisioning an army. As for the assassination of Aquino, it brought out into the open a protest movement which can now be crushed, thus securing not only President Marcos's tenure but also the traditional close relations between his nation and the United States of America."

The Military Science Prize went for the seventh successive year, to an American. The 1985 winner was Peter Hagelstein, inventor of the A-bomb-powered X-ray laser, a vital part of the Strategic Defense Initiative "Star Wars" weapons system. At 29, Hagelstein is believed to be the youngest winner of this prize. "It is particularly noteworthy," Ignobel said, "that Hagelstein was won over from what was originally a Pacifist position. He has stated in interviews that he still has 'concerns' about building this, the most expensive and therefore the most powerful weapon ever built. Bless you, my boy, have all the compunctions you want, as long as those laser weapons get built." Ignobel went on to ridicule the critics of "Star Wars", who claim that the X-ray laser will be less than effective because X-rays do not pass through the Earth's atmosphere. "X-rays pass right through something as solid as the human body," he said. "Why shouldn't they pass through mere air?"

The ceremony was concluded shortly afterwards, though some of the tourists complained about the lack of protests, saying that they were what really made the Ignobel Prize Awards interesting. Most of them were seen a few days later at the Circus Bowl game in the Circus Minimus in Foma Temporaria. The game's final score was Lions 37, Christians 0.

RUSSIAN FLEET BLOCKADES SINGAPORE!

There was a misprint in the report of the 2nd War Phase, given two weeks ago in THE VALOR OF IGNORANCE #6. There are 2, not 3, British A10 units in Cape Colony. France does have a Merchant Fleet in the South China Sea, in addition to the ones listed in the last report on this game. There is no French Merchant Fleet in Oceania.

Only one attack has been ordered in the 3rd War Phase. It is:

GREAT BRITAIN: Cochin China: 2F3, F1 vs. French F3 2:1 (4). France retreats F3 Cochin China-Indochina.

Movement orders are:

GREAT BRITAIN (McCarthy): 2A1 South Atlantic-Senegambia; 3F10 South Atlantic-Cape Colony; A1 Australia-Oceania; A1 Kashmir-Punjab; A10 Bengal-United Provinces; A10 Punjab-United Provinces; A1 Hindoostan-United Provinces; A1 Rajputara -United Provinces.
FRANCE (Quirk): A10 Indian-Australia.
RUSSIA (Wrobel): F1 Baltic Sea Box-Baltic; F1 South China Sea-Federated Malay States.

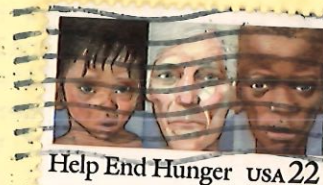
All other units hold. Players are reminded that a unit cannot be ordered to fight and to move on the same War Phase, and that movement is simultaneous so that you cannot make your orders conditional on what the enemy does on the same Maneuver Phase. A player cannot order Army units into a Sea Zone where he has no Merchant Fleet.

The French A3 Cochin China is not presently in danger of being out of supply, since it can trace a line through Indochina and thence by Sea Zones. However, all British units in the Federated Malay State will be out of Supply if the present Russian Blockade still exists by the end of the 4th War Phase.

There is presently military confrontation in Senegambia; if Senegambia falls the French will have no Coaling Rights in the South Atlantic. Players should send in conditional Retreat orders, and may make their Maneuver orders for the 4th War Phase conditional upon the outcomes of these battles. As of the end of the 3rd War Phase, the European Tensions Index is 29. This corrects an error in the last issue of THE VALOR OF IGNORANCE, as 3 rather than 2 casus belli were unresolved when the Congress of Europe collapsed. Orders for War Phase 4 should be sent in by SATURDAY 11 JANUARY 1986. This issue of GRAUSTARK with this report is being sent to all players in postal Pax Britannica Game II, whether or not they are party to the war.

GRAUSTARK #515

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11226
Great Big United States of America



- () - See above for war moves in Pax Britannica II.
- () - Your subscription expires with this issue.
- () - Your subscription will expire with the next issue.
- () - You are needed as a standby in _____. See the report on this game on p. _____.

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