

GRAUSTARK

#531

6 February 1987

IMMEDIATE RETURN MAIL, AND SO FORTH

The following immediate returns, and moves upon which others may be made conditional, have been made following the moves reported 13 days ago in GRAUSTARK #530.

1984V

Following "Spring 1916" moves, Italy retreated "F Spa(s.c.)-Lyo."

1985CA

The question about the retreat of the English A Boh, following "Spring 1907" orders, has been raised again. Let us carefully examine each of the areas adjacent to Bohemia:

SIL: Where the dislodging German army came from.

MUN: Occupied by the Germany army that supported "A Sil-Boh".

TYR: Occupied by an Italian army, whose support of the Italian A Tri was cut by the English order "A Boh-Tyr". This English move failed.

VIE: Vacated by the Austro-Hungarian "A Vie-Tri", which succeeded. Occupied by the Austro-Hungarian "A Gal-Vie".

Except for Galicia, this completely exhausts the areas adjacent to Bohemia. The only possible English retreat was therefore "A Boh-Gal". The actual Austro-Hungarian order, which succeeded, was "A Vie-Tri". The "A Vie-Tyr" which appeared in #529 was a typographic error by myself, as I explained in #530.

Is there some difficulty with this?

The last-minute change of orders from the Turkish player in "Fall 1907" left us with another problem. Turkey does not re-occupy Constantinople after this change of orders, and Constantinople remains an Austro-Hungarian supply center. In the absence of available home supply centers, Austria-Hungary still has no builds. Turkey, however, has a "Winter 1907" removal. Since the Turkish player's many criticisms of the "1907" adjudications did not catch this error, the deadline for "Winter 1907" builds and removals is postponed to NOON, FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 1987, and for "Spring 1908" orders to NOON, FRIDAY 20 MARCH 1987. In "Winter 1907", England has two builds, and Italy and Turkey each have one removal.

1984IO

The Italian move "F Adr-Alb" was left out of the report of the "Spring 1910" orders in #530. It failed, but did cut the support that the Turkish F Alb gave to the Turkish move A Ser-Tri, thus preventing a Turkish capture of Trieste.

1986AM

Following "Spring 1903" moves, Austria-Hungary had the option to retreat either "A Gal-Vie" or "A Gal-Bud". The Austro-Hungarian player chose to retreat A Gal-Bud. France retreated F Tyr-Nap.

In "Winter 1906" Russia builds A Sev, A War, and A Mos, while Turkey builds F Smy. No German removal was sent in, so the gamesmaster removes the German A Par.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

GRAUSTARK, the first bulletin for the postal play of Avalon-Hill's board game Diplomacy, is as a rule published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226-5302. Since the last issue, #530, was dated 24 January 1987, it might reasonably be suspected that the next one will come out on 21 February 1987. However, so many press releases came in for the last issue, that could not be printed in it owing to lack of space and time, that I am publishing this issue to accomodate them. In addition, some immediate return mail moves were asked for in #530, and they also appear in this issue, as do some corrections in the adjudications. Circumstances described on p. 1 have required the postponement of a deadline in 1985CA, and that is also announced.

All pending deadlines remain NOON, FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 1987, and GRAUSTARK #532 with these adjudications will appear on the following day.

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Numerous players have sent in press releases in recent issues, which is generally an encouraging sign. To preserve the individuality of expression of each player, press releases will be printed in GRAUSTARK as they are spelled and punctuated by the authors. The surprisingly large number of players who send in press releases entirely written in capital letters will see them in print in the more usual print format, with capitalizations placed at the publisher's discretion.

I want to make clear that the numerous misspellings in the press releases are not mine, though errors in typin are. It can only be assumed that there are GRAUSTARK readers who sincerely believe in the existence of such spellings as "supercede", "gaurd", "gorly", "propogation", or "oversite". And many of them seem unable to comprehend, or even recognize, the difference between "its" and "it's" or between "yours" and "your's".

*

Diplomacy was designed nearly 30 years ago by Allan B. Calhamer, an successively copyrighted first by him, then by Games Research Inc., and now by Avalon-Hill of Baltimore. Philmar is the British publisher.

*

Eight players missed moves in as many games by the last deadline, 23 January. One of the players miswrote my address, one just forgot, and one only allowed some 5 or 6 days for his letter to get here from Michigan. A fourth player says that he sent in a letter, but it has not yet arrived. Nothing has been heard from the other four about why their letters were late. Remember, just because a letter can usually get from where you live to Brooklyn in less than a week does not mean that it always will.

*

A desperate extremity is, of course, the phone call. However, you should not try to make up for negligence with last-minute phone calls as a regular thing. My home telephone, which has a recorder attached to it, is 718-693-1579. My office phone, at which I am reachable at unpredictable hours, is 718-780-5180.

*

For over a month, I have been holding six entries in a new postal Diplomacy game, waiting for a seventh person to sign up. As soon as one does, I will send out the country assignments. If a seventh entry arrives by Saturday 24 February 1987, the deadline for the "Spring 1901" moves will be Friday 20 March. Otherwise it will be Friday 17 April.

The entry fee for a postal Diplomacy game in GRAUSTARK is \$20. This includes a

PRESS RELEASES

1984ID

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY to RUSSIA: Don't go to the North Pole VIA Norway, Go Home to warm Moscow VIA LIV AND ENJOY RUSSIAN VODKA.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY to TURKEY: You need an ally in A H think about it. Otherwise your northern campaign against Germany will crumble.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY to BROOKLYN: Define "Revolting Politicians" Do you refer to the fat junior senator from Ballo, Md. It is ashame to have that ugly on T.V. representing such a beautiful state like Maryland.

BROOKLYN (United Rabble Rousing Press): "Revolting Politician: n., Politician."
- Boardman's Unabashed Dictionary.

FRANCE: Convoy, convoy, who's got the convoy?

FRANCE to ST. PETERSBURG: I think you're right...

1984V

ITALY to WORLD: I would rather be strangled to death by the strings that stretch between the Austria-Hungary throne and Italy, than be endlessly sodomized by the thrones of England and Germany. Death to the bastards from the West! Long live Austria-Hungary!

GERMANY to Gamesmaster: Ouch! I don't know that army slipped onto my map, but I'm sorry.

1985CT

GERMANY to TURKEY: Terms of your surrender can be arranged at any time. All you need to do is communicate.

1985HD

RUSSIA to GERMANY: No hard feelings at all, I knew it was coming. How about you?

RUSSIA to ITALY: Okay, you dissolved our alliance, by the way what was that about heading west to pick up easy French centers?

RUSSIA to FRANCE: You seem to have a lost army wandering the board. I hear the Tyrol is beautiful this year.

MOSCOW to BUDAPEST: I don't see any yellow pieces, why do you?

GERMANY to WORLD: Germany's holdings have been viciously attacked by the backstabbing Russian Horde. The Kaiser calls upon all nations to support a unified front against the White Plague! Germany will fight until the end.

1985HF

RUSSIA to WORLD: I have a confession to make. I am allied with Jerry Rosen (Turkey) and have been so since spring 1901. He's a nice guy, Jerry. Poor choice of high schools, but a bright kid.

1985CY

PARIS: This is my first game in GRAUSTARK (I think), and I would like to introduce myself. I am Harley Jordan (HARLEY THE HORRIBLE) and my address is in issue #529. That is my mailing address only. I am employed at Xerox Corporation and I live in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Mail usually takes about two weeks to reach me, and my reply depends on how soon I can find a visitor returning to the U. S. But please do not let my location inhibit you from writing, in case you would like to conduct diplomacy or

(continued on p. 6)

1986CW

SHUTESBURY to LA JOLLA: Have you ever heard Tom Paxton's song "The Day We Lost The America's Cup?" It's pretty funny. Most people could care less who wins, but I maintain the reason "they" made Rambo was because the Aussies stole the cup.

BROOKLYN (URRP): It is no disgrace to have lost the America's Cup to Australia after it had been in U. S. hands for 133 years. It would be no disgrace to lose it to New Zealand. But to lose it to California...

VIENNA to WORLD: Der Rote Kriegsspieler was awakened by the sound of keys in the lock of his cell door. Taking the opportunity, DRK jumped the guard, who had obviously not expected DRK to be awake. Exchanging clothes with the Guard, DRK left the Guard in the Cell, locking the door. "Hopefully," thought DRK "they will mistake the guard for me!" Hearing yelling and running on the roof, DRK made his way to the courtyard. Making it into the courtyard, DRK hid in the shadows as guards passed by. Soon DRK overheard two guards talking of DRK's execution. "He screamed all the time, even when his head was in the basket!" said one guard. "They executed the guard instead of me," thought DRK, "I guess they were as dumb as I thought." A long shadow loomed over the courtyard. Looking up, DRK saw a Cigar shaped balloon with an Iron Cross and the name "DER WEINMACHT" written on it. Recognizing DRK, Lt. Michael Cogley threw out the ladder. Many a Turkish guard died this day as DRK climbed into "DER WEINMACHT". As "DER WEINMACHT" turned for home, German machine gunners, riflemen, and longbowmen caused countless casualties among the Turkish troops. Now we go home...

BUDAPEST: DRK arrived safely. Thank you Kaiser John. The Pinot Grand Fenwick was fine. Send more.

KAISER STEVE to TSAR MIKE: The Sultan should stop writing you 3 page letters. The paper would have been better used to make paper boats to save the Black Sea.

KAISER STEVE to ANDY THE FROG: The English are only blockading Brest, don't be upset. You are a friend of my court and myself but King Pat is right. Frenchie Froggie Stock is at an all time low. Everyone will want to buy.

VIENNA: Since the peace treaty was signed between this government and Russia, joint plans of invasion are being written for use against Turkey. We need you! DRK.

LA JOLLA to WORLD: Hey, hey. Ol' Dennis is on his way. The Kiwis seem to have lost their magic against San Diego's Stars 'n Stripes. Of course it would've been a 4-0 win had Dennis not borrowed a spinnaker from an unnamed boat from the East Coast.

ITALY to FRANCE: Oh mother of mercy--how could this happen to Rico. The Cardinal in charge of the Congregation for the Propagation of Guilt has chided me severely. I sure hope-a this works!

ITALY to TURKEY: Why wouldn't you convert? My Jesuits have worked so hard! Well, conversion by force ain't so bad, now is it, me lauds?

ITALY to GERMANY: Wake Up! Them durned Russians are coming.

VIENNA: DRK has been placed under house-arrest pending the outcome of an investigation into the breakdown of Austro-Turkish relations.

BULGARIA: Rumors came from Budapest hinting of Austrian evacuation from Sofia! The men cheered this rumor, and upon investigation, the reason was found to be that the Turkish left no women, no wine, and nothing worth pillaging!

DRK to WORLD: Be thankful the Sultans' government is gone. Your children are safe, my friends. I continue to fight for Truth, Feudalism, and the Austrian way!

KAISER STEVE to WORLD: The collapse of the Turkish government clearly shows DRK's innocence. Turkey was obviously corrupt and unstable (even petty) long before DRK's arrival. DRK is cleared of all charges.

DRK to TSAR MIKE: Just think, you could have a long parade, then I could sneak away and...

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRIA: DRK boards DER WEINMACHT. Where could he be going? Our Hero's adventure continues...

1985CA

ROME: Il Papa excommunicates French cabinet/army/navy, Tomaso XIX says, "The way you handled the Dreyfus affair was bad enough, Monsieur Le Frog, but now you have subjugated the free peuples of Spain & Portugal. Do you not realize that I have Paris and Marseilles in the hands of the Poor Clares and Sisters of Mercy? Do not listen to claims that these are troops! St. Bozo, patron saint of French weasels, appeared to me last night, and told me that France must suffer for her sins."

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves
1420

ITALY to AUSTRIA: Boy, you have to hate my owning Trieste, don't you? I mean, you could, like, build fleets and all kinds of neat stuff, if it wasn't for me--right? Well, Archduke, soon your empire will be dust, and we'll all be saying "Here Duke! Here Duke!"

ITALY to GERMANY: Sorry about my New York Times--like letters, but there are so many bad things to say about Duke!

LONDON to BROOKLYN: Mind if we complete your 1985CA headline? Last month, it read "Dual Monarchy Fights Triple Threat" Please add "...With Triple Alliance."

ENGLAND to GERMANY: Welcome to 1985CA! Her Majesty is overjoyed that you have joined out game and wants to make sure that you receive her warm welcome. She has accordingly dispatched several emissaries that are even now approaching your country (contrary to rumor, these messengers are not military units).

ROME to WORLD: Nice stab, England. But for 2d place?

ITALY to FRANCE: So sorry!

ITALY to GERMANY: A true friend is hard to find.

ITALY to WORLD: Oh, well, I'm just a sub.

1986AM

TURKEY to ITALY: Do we have to go through this again?

TURKEY to RUSSIA: The seas are now clear. Go do your damage.

TURKEY t ALL: The Sultan recently visited the sacked city of Constantinople and reported little damage done by the visiting Russians. Upon leaving, he was heard to remark "With their warlike attitude, I hope they never return."

1986AV

BERLIN: The High Seas Fleet concedes naval supremacy to the Grand Fleet. We hope the British will use their seapower with as much skill and determination as they have in the past.

LONDON: Lord Admiral to the Tsar: The Brandy and Vodka was real good. But next time how about importing some cuban cigar's, your's gave me heart burn.

BERLIN: Acting on their own initiative, unknown bureacrats in Berlin have diverted funds intended for the recruiting of a new army and they have used these funds to construct a new fleet.

BERLIN: "No man can do very wrong if he places his ship alongside that of the enemy!" - Admiral Hipper

1986HI

ROME: In an effort to devine a viable military strategy, King Victor Emmanuel studied the entrails of large birds sacrificed for that purpose.

(continued on p. 6)

1986AZ

VIENNA: Closed door meetings continue to be the rule as high ranking government officials and military leaders explore the gravity of the crisis caused by the Ottoman Empire's treacherous invasion of Greece. It has been rumored that the Kaiser himself will announce the declaration of war on the Monarchy's ancient foe. Already, a call to arms is beginning in the capital as well as in the larger cities of the realm. The recently mobilized IV Corps has been dispatched to Croatia to provide stability to the region and prevent the predominantly Muslim population from possibly assisting the enemy.

BULGAREST: It was announced that Count Poniatowski, the Empire's representative at the Sistova Conference, had passed away after failing to recover from a stress induced heart attack which occurred the day of the Ottoman invasion. Referred to as "the Sucker of Sistova" in recent issues of the press, the Count suffered his attack only minutes after he had concluded his audience with the Kaiser. In that meeting, he gave a report of his "successful" negotiations with the Sultan's ambassador. Even as the Count was leaving the Kaiser's chamber, news was received of the disastrous battle of Athens and the near destruction of the Austrian fleet just off Crete. The Count was stricken immediately and rushed to his home where it was hoped he would recover. Instead, his condition deteriorated until doctors pronounced him dead this morning.

BELGRADE: Greek and Macedonian refugees continue to stream into Serbia seeking refuge from the Turkish butchers. Stories of atrocities are common as the victorious Turks, in a shocking display of brutality, engage in mass slayings of the hapless Greeks and burnings of local villages. General Lang, commander of the Austrian army in Serbia, vowed that the Turks would not long hold their ill gotten gains and that the Greek Peninsula would soon be safe again for its Christian inhabitants.

ROME: Yesterday, as the Pope arrived home after talks in Geneva, he announced that Italy and France have made a compromise. They have agreed to trade France's build for two first round picks and two second round picks in the 1903 soldier draft. The Pope proceeded to order the construction of F-Nap.

1985CY (continued from p. 3)

just keep in touch.

I have been playing Diplomacy for 25 years now, and am almost as old as John Boardman, but not nearly as grouchy. Happy New Year to everyone!

1986HI (continued from p. 5)

As expected, the entrails of a rooster pointed to continued success of our westward assault, and the king assured further movement in that direction.

However, the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean is beginning to deteriorate, and requires further study. "I hope it will not be necessary to sacrifice the turkey," said the king, "but our knives are sharp."

RUSSIA to BERLIN: Well, adios to our treaty! It looks like it will be the mission of honest Russian peasants to discipline all Teutonic Fascists.

RUSSIA to AUSTRIA: Thanks for the warning about Germany. I can attack with that Bohemian army!

RUSSIA to GERMANY: an old gypsy says she sees Russian troops getting revenge again and again--even up to 1945. What do you think she means?

RUSSIA to WORLD: No more Disco Czar, now I'm the piss-co Czar!

1984ID - LATE PRESS RELEASES

TURKEY to AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: You don't have to vote for the concession. Would you rather be eliminated?

ST. PETERSBURG: Two down, sixteen to go.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 2)

subscription to the game as long as it lasts, whether you are eliminated or not. With your game fee, please send in a list of the countries that you'd like to play, in your order of preference. I will try to put you as close to the top of that order as I can manage.

The rules for postal Diplomacy were last published in GRAUSTARK #525. If you do not already have a copy of these rules, ask for one when you send in your game fee.

Subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$7. Back issues as available are 10 for \$2. All back issues from the beginning of 1986 are available currently.

*

My other postal gaming 'zine is EMPIRE, which currently has openings in Victory Games's Pax Britannica, designed by Greg Costikyan. Pax Britannica is, like Diplomacy, a board game of negotiation, back-stabbing, and war. Unlike Diplomacy, Pax Britannica is played on a world-wide board. The game is one of conquest and contention for colonial empires, and is played in 4-year game-turns beginning in 1880. The game proceeds until World War I breaks out. The powers involved are Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Japan, Russia, and Italy.

The game fee for postal Pax Britannica is \$25, and includes a subscription as long as the game lasts. As with Diplomacy, you should send in a list of the countries you want to play in your order of preference. The rules of postal Pax Britannica were published in EMPIRE #234; if you do not already have a copy, ask for one when you send in your entry fee. Deadlines are 4 weeks apart except when a war is on.

*

The following people have expressed an interest in postal Diplomacy. Honest gamesmasters with game openings should get in touch with them:

Bill Glaser, 262 Prentice St., Springfield, Mass. 01104

John Schlosser, Apt. 4-B, 107 Cottage, New Haven, Conn. 06511

*

Votes are up which, if approved, will end postal Diplomacy games 1984V and 1984ID. The subscriptions of the following people end with these games:

1984V: Ron Galicia, Peter Gaughan, Timothy Kutta, Larry Sims, Terry Tallman. (Galicia's subscription will run 23 issues after the end of this game.)

1984ID: Anthony Brooks, Charles Gratto, Charles Hall, Scott Cameron, Daniel Larose, Alan Stewart.

The subscriptions of the following readers will expire with the indicated issues:

531 - Don Del Grande

532 - Ronald Meldrum

Glenn M. Nelsen

533 - Jacques Belanger

Barry Swift

536 - Jeffrey L. Hoffman

537 - Ralph J. Morton

538 - Stephen Kwiatkowski

539 - Ted London

Bruce Schaefer

546 - Eric Verheiden

547 - John Weswig

548 - Gerry Thompson

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The annual Princecon is scheduled this year for the weekend of 13-15 March at Whig Hall, Princeton University. It is mainly a convention for fantasy role-playing fans, and in recent years it has had an over-all theme. This year it is a quest to restore the endangered "laws of the Gods, Nature, and magic" to the land of Mythlaya. Advance registration for the quest is \$7.50 from Simulated Games Union, 216 Edwards Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. 08544. If your character dies you can run a new one with half his or her experience.

*

Scott Ruffing, 356 Linworth Road East, Worthington, Ohio 43085, is trying to adapt Victory Games' Cold War and Avalon-Hill's Empires in Arms for playing by mail.

Empires in Arms is a multi-player war and negotiation game from the Napoleonic period, and the countries are France, Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, Spain, Austria, and Turkey. Cold War was designed by a man who was a radical Pacifist in the 1960s, a vehement cold warrior in the 1980s, and you can place your bets now as to what he will be in the 1990s. Game actions include "Establish Political Control", "Assassination", "Destabilization", and other acts of contemporary international politics. (There is no "Hostage Taking" yet, but presumably that will come in an expansion module.) It sounds like just the thing to play while watching the ABC "miniseries" Amerika.

Anyone with suggestions on adapting either of these games for postal play, or who wants to play them, should get in touch with Scott.

*

This is the first issue of GRAUSTARK to be printed on a rebuilt Gestetner 320 which I recently bought from Marty Newman at Mr. Mimeo. I will be happy to give his address and phone number to any amateur publisher in the Greater New York area who is in search of mimeograph supplies or repairs.

*

Only a few GRAUSTARK readers have as yet sent in their nine-digit ZIP codes. I have no idea whether these do any good, but at least they can't hurt. Your local post office will tell you what your 9-digit ZIP code is, if they're not having coffee breaks or playing pitch-and-toss with the next mail delivery. If you send it on to me, it might help speed your mail to you. And please use mine on mail to me.

Another thing worth being careful about is the name of the street on which I live. It is "East 19th Street"; the "East" must be included. There is a plain "19th Street" somewhere several miles west of here, to which mail will be misdirected if you omit that direction. In Brooklyn, "19th Street", "East 19th Street", "West 19th Street", "Bay 19th Street", "19th Avenue", and "19th Lane" are all separate and distinct streets in different parts of Brooklyn.

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One GRAUSTARK reader has already sent in his value for "Podbielan's Attorneyship Index", which was described two weeks ago in #530. Other GRAUSTARK readers who are lawyers should also do so. Ratings will be published in GRAUSTARK #533 on 21 March 1987.

GRAUSTARK #531

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11226-5302
Great Big United States of America



Are you playing in
postal Diplomacy game(s):

F I R S T

1984V Then see the
1984IO announcements
1985CA on pp. 1-2.
1985HF
1986AM