

GRAUSTARK

#72

"Winter 1908"(1965A); "Winter 1902"(1965NT)

14 November 1965

THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM

It was a summer evening;
Old Kaspar's work was done,
And he before his cottage door
Was sitting in the sun;
And by him sported on the green
His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother Peterkin
Roll something large and round,
Which he beside the rivulet
In playing there had found.
He came to ask what he had found,
That was so large, and smooth, and round.

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,
Who stood expectant by;
And then the old man shook his head,
And with a natural sigh,
"This some poor fellow's skull," said he
"Who fell in the great victory.

"I find them in the garden,
For there's many heaps about;
And often, when I go to plow,
The plowshare turns them out;
For many thousand men," said he
"Were slain in that great victory."

"Now tell us what 'twas all about,"
Young Peterkin, he cries;
And little Wilhelmine looks up
With wonder-waiting eyes;
"Now tell us all about the war,
And what they fought each other for."

"It was the English," Kaspar cried,
"Who put the French to rout;
But what they fought each other for,

I could not well make out;
But everybody said," quoth he,
"That 'twas a famous victory.

"My father lived at Blenheim then,
Yon little stream hard by;
They burnt his dwelling to the ground,
And he was forced to fly;
So with his wife and child he fled,
Nor had he where to rest his head.

"With fire and sword the country round
Was wasted far and wide,
And many a childing mother then,
And new-born baby, died;
But things like that, you know, must be
At every famous victory.

"They say it was a shocking sight
After the field was won;
For many thousand bodies here
Lay rotting in the sun;
But things like that, you know, must be
After a famous victory.

"Great praise the Duke of Marlboro' won,
And our good Prince Eugene."
"Why, 'twas a very wicked thing!"
Said little Wilhelmine.
"Nay, nay, my little girl," quoth he;
"It was a famous victory.

"And everybody praised the Duke
Who this great fight did win."
"But what good came of it at last?"
Quoth little Peterkin.
"Why, that I cannot tell," said he;
"But 'twas a famous victory."

- Robert Scuthey

In the Winter of 1908 England builds a fleet in Liverpool, Russia builds an army in Sevastopol, and Turkey builds a fleet in Smyrna. The French fleet in the Western Mediterranean retreats to the Mid-Atlantic, and the armies in Burgundy and Gascony go off. The deadline for "Spring 1909" moves is SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 1965.

1965NT

In the Winter of 1902, the Austro-Hungarian army in Venice retreats to Tyrolia. England builds fleets in London and Liverpool.

The deadline for "Spring 1903" moves is SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER 1965.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS

In 1965T, Steven Patt has been replaced as Germany by Pat McDonnel. In 1965U, Frank Clark replaces Phil Castora as Germany.

NEW AND CHANGED ADDRESSES

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James Goldman writes that he and his wife Debby are expecting a baby next month.

In the wake of the most recent of an uncountable number of Canadian elections, Derek Nelson has sent along further rebuttal to my statement in #63 that the Social Credit Party has absorbed the Tories in the West. For those of you who came in late, this all began when I characterized the Canadian team in 1965JT as the "Tories". In protesting, Bob Lake identified himself as a Liberal and John Davey as a SoCred. Davey, it later turned out, is actually a socialist, quite far removed from the rightist So-Creds. As for the western provinces, the SoCreds have never had any strength in Manitoba, which now has a Tory government; Saskatchewan has never sent either Tories or So-Creds to the provincial parliament in some 35 years; and there apparently never were any Tories in SoCred-ruled Alberta. "It was impossible for Social Credit to absorb Tories who never existed." This being the case, where did all those Tories come from that Alberta sends to Ottawa?

Derek continues: "British Columbia is the only province where your claim has some validity, though not too much... The SoCreds, a number of whom were renegade Tories, ran as non-corrupt anti-Socialists and pulled second choice on the preferential ballots thus winning the election. They did absorb the Tories and most Liberals the next election. Federally the province is Socialist..."

British Columbia politics, it appears, run about the same way as the political life of the demographically similar state of California.

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GRAUSTARK is published at 10 issues for \$1 by John Boardman, 592 16th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218.