



TAKE A STEP INTO THE
BEYOND
ENTER THE
MACHINES

For the final time in this incarnation, the powers of darkness (A.K.A. the editor, yours truly), bring you the

MACABRE

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This zine has been dedicated to the proposition that variety is the spice of life (with a few exceptions). As such, it majored (heavily) on variants (called deviants by some).

A FORMAL CON

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to attend an annual Dip Con in Grass Valley, California (about 1 hour from where I live). It was held, this time, at a church; which, in this case, really added to the atmosphere. It was spot on by *La Societe de Waur* and was the 8th annual such affair. These people are almost exclusively non-PBMers. In fact most of them only play once a year. Somewhere within these walls you will find some pix - I hope they come out OK.

This is a real formal extravaganza. Dress is Black Tie (or you can wear a tie the color of your country). But everyone must wear a tux or a dress military uniform or (if you're of the feminine persuasion) a dress.

They run 2 games using 4-man teams for each country. They have 2 approximately 8' x 6' boards and equitably sized ships and cannon to hold the countries' flag for each unit. The entry fee is \$170 per team and \$35 each for war correspondents (your wife or girlfriend tagging along, for example). This includes the evening meal (catered), the bar, hors d'oeuvres, as well as entry into the game. The festivities began at 1:00 pm. The games were to be called at 1:00 am with the presentation of awards to follow.

The three other members of my team were Evans Givan (from Citrus Heights), Clark Reynolds (from Sacramento) and Dave Graybar (from Chowchilla). Much to my chagrin, we were Germany on board #1.

introduction

Our plan was that Evans would negotiate with Italy/Austria, Clark with England/Turkey and Dave with France/Russia and I would write the orders.

Frankly, we never had a chance. Evans and Clark had been to this con before (Evans once, Clark several times) and their reputations preceded them. England, France and Italy decided to team up and take us out. Our only ally was the Russian who was such a novice he tried to move F Stp(sc) to Barents Sea in S'01. So it was 3 against 1 and a half. Like I said, we never had a chance. We tied with Austria for *first out* honors in about W'05.

Before the games began, all participants were formally introduced with official (and funny) sounding names. Official pictures were taken of each entourage at this time. The games got underway with the bar and Hors d'oeuvres available. Most seasons lasted 15-20 minutes. They even had official *orders forms* printed up. You just check off unit type (army or fleet), write in the space, check off what the unit is doing and write in the last part (where you're going or who you're supporting or convoying). The judges (GMs) were amateurs and wore two hats - they played on one board and GMed on the other board. To give you an example of their level of competency - one of ours thought you could have 2 units swap spaces with each other. I had to show him in the rulebook before he'd believe me.

We took a 2-hour break at 7:00 pm for dinner during which we were entertained by a pianist who we could just about hear over the din of the conversations at the tables. The meal was OK. Most of us had chicken, a half a chicken. We couldn't believe how big it was. It was very good but tasted like ham. I thought I was going crazy, it looked like chicken but tasted exactly like ham. I asked the waitress how they did that. After conferring with the chef she informed me that it was *smoked chicken*. I'd never even heard of it. Delicious!!! Then we returned to the main room for waltzing and other dances while the piano player played dance music on the grand piano.

Then it was time to resume play. By this time negotiations were practically nil and I had a lot of free time between orders so I went over to the grand piano (I never could resist a grand piano, they are indeed grand), and broke into Number 1 from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, the only secular piece I know from memory. You should have seen everyone stare at me (it was a rather unexpected happening). That was my thrill for the evening.

Since we were out at about 11:00 pm, we went on home instead of staying till it was over (2 am). So I missed out on the presentation of awards. We did, of course, pick up our participation medals before we exited.

All in all, it was a night to remember and that I will. I fully intend to go back next year. It was a fun affair and the game was really secondary to the event itself. However, next year I plan to WIN!!

It's time to say goodbye I fear. Actually I'll just say *hasta luego* (until later). I'm already starting to miss doing adjudications, so I imagine you will see MACABRE again some day, although it may be quite some time from now.

When I first started out, it was very frustrating what with all the NMRs. I used to wonder if I would ever have a single season devoid of NMRs. But I finally did and things eventually settled down. I think what really made it difficult to find standbys (especially reliable ones) was the fact that most of my games were variants. The demand for variants just isn't anywhere near that for reg dip. So maybe next time around I'll have a much greater percentage of reg games. We'll see.

I would like to say that I've enjoyed my association with each and every one of you (and I can say that since none of the NMR-out-ers are on my mailing list for this final ish). You've been great. A lot of you threw compliments my way from time to time, giving me the incentive or inspiration to keep plugging even though it did sometimes get frustrating. I would also say that my reason for quitting at this time is not due to burn-out so much as it is due to time limitations. I just can no longer justify the time expenditure involved. But I will be in contact with most or all of you in the future as I will probably always be in at least one game and I will be running the *Peeripoll*, this year at least (yes, Larry, I am going to get with it very soon, I promise)!

So, to one and all I say, thanks for the memories (where have I heard that before?) and I'll see you around. Good luck in your games (unless you're my enemy).

May God bless you,



Mark Coldiron

introduction

The Players:

Balkans - Evans Givan - 8066 Camstock Court
 Citrus Heights, CA 95610
 England - Keith Kline - 4385 Harvest Lane
 Houston, TX 77004
proxy - Win Knowles - 255 Front Beach Dr. #58
 Ocean Springs, Miss 39564
 France - Lee Kendter - 4347 Benner St.
 Philadelphia, PA 19135
 Russia - Jim Neville - 622 West Laurel Fort
 Collins, CO 80521
 Scandinavia - James Kramer - 27 Mulford Lane
 Montclair, NJ 07042

France-Turkey/Scandinavia-Austria have 2-way draw
 in Summer 1906

FINAL SC CHART

	1	2	3	4	5
Balkans	2	1	1	-	-
Germany	3	-	-	-	-
England	5	6	6	6	6
Italy	5	5	5	4	4
France	4	4	5	5	5
Turkey	4	4	5	6	7
Russia	5	5	5	5	3
Spain	3	3	2	3	3
Scandinavia	4	5	4	4	4
Austria	4	6	6	6	7

Balkans/Germany: Matthew Lee dropped S '02 /
 Evans Givan out W '04

England/Italy: Keith Kline
 (proxy for Italy Win Knowles) survived

France/Turkey: Lee Kendter draws

Russia/Spain: Kevin Tighe dropped S '02 /
 Lex Lambert resigned S'04/Jim Neville survives

Scandinavia/Austria: Fred Hyatt resigned S '03 /
 James Kramer draws

ENDGAME STATEMENTS

Win Knowles (England): My edification wasn't led astray. I know that at least one of us NVRed. I would never vote for the Pennsylvania Party Pooper and the Montclair Moron! Hail Kovacs! The true Diplomacy Genius!

Keith Kline (Italy): Good game. Special thaks to Admiral Winford for his voluminous, and might I add, brilliant press, and to our tireless gamesmaster for his slavish devotion to us all. Congratulations to the Presidope and to the terror-Sultan. Those interested in keeping up with the exciting events of Maceration may subscribe to the recently revived "Decline of Autocracy" for \$5.00 at 4385 Harvest, 77004 (Since 1978!) Contributions to the "Find the Poobah" fund may also be sent to this address.

FINAL CARTOON COURTESY ROMA PRESS:



Mark Coldiron (Gamesmaster): I was sorry to see Balkans and Germany disappear so quickly. After that, though, there wasn't any thing going on worthy of note other than a lot of press (a lot of press)!!! I think Keith is a fantastic press writer, albeit a bit long-winded. I especially enjoyed the pix. But I must admit I'm glad to be done with all that typing.



↑ YOURS TRULY
DAVE GRAYBAR }

↑ EVANS & VAN
CLARK REYNOLDS }

OUR TEAM

The Players:

England - Lee Kendter - 4347 Benner St.
 Philadelphia, PA 19135
 Germany - David Anderson - P.O. Box 3761
 Pontiac, MI 48059
 Italy - Dan McCooey - RPO 3117 CN #5063 New
 Brunswick, NJ 08903
 Turkey - Jim Neville - 622 West Laurel Fort
 Collins, CO 80521

England/Germany/Italy/Turkey have 4-way draw in
 Winter 1917

FINAL SC CHART

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Austria	4	5	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
England	3	4	3	3	5	5	5	6	7	6	6	6	8	6	5	5	5
France	4	5	5	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany	4	6	6	7	7	8	7	7	9	10	10	11	9	12	13	13	13
Italy	3	4	4	5	6	6	7	7	7	7	8	7	6	6	6	6	6
Russia	5	5	5	6	7	6	5	5	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	10	11	10	10	10	10

Austria: Matthew Lee out W '05

England: David Flint dropped W '14 /
Lee Kendter draws

France: Rick Darrow dropped W '05 /
 Chris Hutts out W '09

Germany: Charles Fargo resigned F '13 /
David Anderson draws

Italy: Dan McCooey draws

Russia: Evans Givan out W '12

Turkey: Mark Harris resigned F '15 /
Jim Neville draws

ENDGAME STATEMENTS

David Anderson (Germany): I was surprised and shocked when the game ended. I was hoping to pummel Lee. I had just made a stalemate line in the East which really would have been unbreakable. After I took the stan by position, Italy wrote to me asking for an alliance and I accepted. He had sent me orders for a detailed attack on Turkey and I used them. He also warned me about England and so I attacked him too. Unfortunately, he succeeded all too well and Italy had started cooperating with his former enemies and no matter how I tried to explain my actions, I was left holding the bag. Unfortunately, I started to lose position in the East I was succeeding in the West and I had convinced Lee to go on the defensive, because he had demanded Belgium or war and so, if he had not demanded anything we could have avoided war and we could have worked out compensation. I had at this point decided to go for the win, but, decided that if the current proposals had failed that I would not vote for a draw afterward as I had perfected an Eastern stalemate. Thanks for the game Mark, you're a good GM. To Lee - Don't be so demanding. To Dan - You shouldn't wobble so much. Stick with one ally at a time. To Jim - Thanks for the chance to clash swords. I enjoyed it.

Mark Coldiron (Gamesmaster): This was the first playtest of *Mixed Breed*. Granted it was a simple variant, but I thought it was rather interesting as a variant. I was disappointed that some of the rules rarely, if ever, got used. But, other than that, I enjoyed the game and found it to be somewhat interesting. I am a little sorry to see it end.

Shux, no pit would
fit here.

The Players:

Devil's Hole Gang (DH) - James Kovacs - 103
 Tamworth San Antonio, TX 78213
 Lonesome Pine (LP) - James Kramer - 27 Mulford
 Lane Montclair, NJ 07042
 Lone Star (LO) - Simon Billeness - 61A Park
 Avenue Albany, NY 12202
 Rancho Grande (RG) - Steve Langley-2296 Eden Roc
 Lane #1 Sacramento, CA 95825
 Red River (RR) - Dan McCooey - RPO 3117 CN# 5063
 New Brunswick, NJ 08903
 South Fork (SF) - Evans Givan - 8066 Camstock
 Court Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Proposal results:

- (1) concession to RG received no votes
- (2) concession to RR received no votes
- (3) RR/RG draw received one yes
- (4) RR/RG/LO draw received no votes
- (5) RR/RG/DH draw received one yes

So, as I stated last time, since there's no majority, the winner is number 3, the RR/RG draw.

Red River/Rancho Grande draw in the Branding season of 1876

FINAL SC CHART

	1870	171	172	173	174	175	176
Devil's Hole Gang	4	4	5	5	6	6	6
Lazy S	1	3	3	1	-	-	-
Lonesome Pine	1	4	4	5	4	4	3
Lone Star	1	2	4	5	6	6	7
Mule Ridge	1	3	3	3	2	-	-
Rancho Grande	1	4	5	5	5	6	7
Red River	1	3	5	8	9	10	12
South Fork	1	2	4	4	5	5	3

DH: Mark Harris resigned W 1875 / James Kovacs
 LZ: Joe Hahn dropped S 1871 / Stan Plummer out
 1873
 LP: Joseph Flores dropped S 1876 / James Kramer
 LO: Ron Galicia dropped S 1871 / Charles Fargo
 resigned W 1874 / Simon Billenness
 MR: Lex Lambert dropped S 1874 / Bob Olsen out
 1874
 RG: Steve Kreisler resigned W 1869 / Steve Langley
 RR: Dan McCooley
 SF: Oscar Mondego dropped S 1871 / Evans Givan

ENDGAME STATEMENTS

Steve Langley (Rancho Grande): Not much of a game for correspondence except for Dan McCooley who outwrote everyone else and Simon Billenness, who arrived on the scene too late. I enjoyed the press and am just as happy the game ended because I had sort of run out of ideas for 'South of the American Border'!

Conratulations to Dan for a game well played and thanks to Mark for running it.

Jim Kovacs (Devil's Hole Gang): "What"

Mark Coldiron (Gamesmaster): No I don't know what Jim Kovacs means by that. Well guys, this was sure a tuff one to GM. And for that reason I can't really say I'm sorry to see it end. But it was quite an experience. I did enjoy seeing Red River walk all over the rest of the cowpokes.

I think the general idea of the game was a good one, but the game has too many ambiguous (or potentially ambiguous) space names and the rules left a little too much possibility for interpretation to suite me.

I was almost surprised ya'll didn't concede to McCooley early on. He sure jumped out in the lead quickly. Well played Dan. I enjoyed the *different* press, especially Steve Langley's. An interesting confrontation, to say the least!

There is an interesting aside to this particular game. In the fall of 1984 Simon Billenness wrote to me and sent me the rules and map for this game, saying he'd like to see it get played. However, I was rather nonplussed when he stated that he would be unable to participate. So I got a real kick out of it when, a year and a half latter, Simon winds up playing in the game! A fitting ending in my book!

The Players:

Austria - James Kovacs - 103 Tamworth San Antonio, TX 78213
 England - Stan Plummer - HHC-FMMC LSU/MFO, Sinai APO, NY 09677
 France - Steve Kreisler - 5714 S. Woodlawn Ave. Chicago, IL 60637
 Germany - Dan McCooey - RPO 3117 CN# 5063 New Brunswick, NJ 08903
 Turkey - Dan Stafford - 58 W 9th Apt. E Columbus, OH 43201

Germany/Turkey 2-way draw in Fall '09

FINAL SC CHART

	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8
Austria	5	7	5	4	5	6	5	5	6
England	4	6	6	3	3	2	2	3	1
France	5	6	5	7	7	8	8	5	5
Germany	4	6	8	9	9	9	9	12	13
Italy	4	3	5	5	3	2	2	1	-
Russia	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	-	-
Turkey	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Austria: Shelton Fugate resigned W '03
 / Rick Darrow dropped W'04
 / Keith Kline resigned S '05
 / James Kovacs survives

England: Mark Harris resigned S '08
 / Stan Plummer survives

France: Steven Kreisler survives

Germany: Dan McCooey draws

Italy: Joe Hahn dropped S '04
 / Terry Tallman dropped F '06
 / Jeff Zarse out W '08

Russia: Tom Boyd dropped W '05
 / Conrad Minshall out W '07

Turkey: Joseph Flores resigned S '02
 / Ron Galicia dropped F '04
 / Dan Stafford draws

ENDGAME STATEMENTS

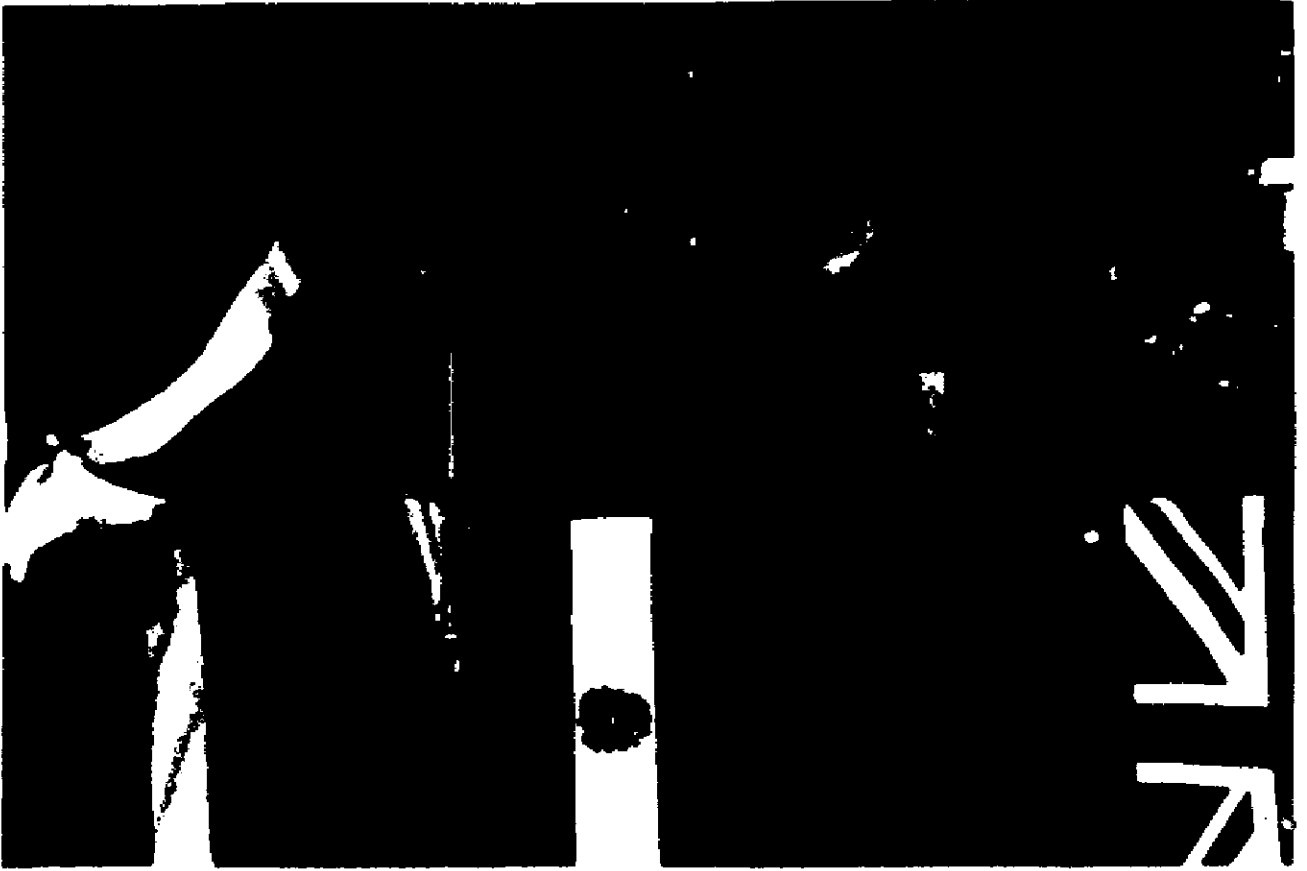
Jim Kovacs (Austria): Ha, I'm really Keith Kline, James Kovacs was a figment of my imagination! Ha! Ha! You fools! Ha! Stafford sniffs his own shorts! McCooey licks dog popopy! (sic)

Steve Kreisler (France): This was my first (and probably last) postal Diplomacy game, and I think I did learn certain things. It's been real, guys. Thanks to Mark for a well-run game, and my congratulations to the victors.

Mark Coldiron (Gamesmaster): This was my one token regular dip game. You will note there are two (2) 1904 seasons listed. That's because I messed up and called two years in a row 1904. I decided to leave it as two 1904s rather than renumber all the later ones.



*Me, Evonne & Dave Graybar
at the dinner table*



The Board ↙
↘ F1A65





DAVE, Evonne, CLARK, Evans

Back of Evans' head



