

The Master Machiavellian

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

16 September 1975

Dispatche di Machiavelli

Greetings, and welcome to the first anniversary issue of this journal of victory and defeat, of conquest and loss, of diplomatic sojourns, and of intelligent understanding. You princes who peruse these pages will find therein many literary jewels of great merit and learning. It is my hope and earnest desire that you will profit from these pages, and increase your cunning and ferocity through my words.

I AM MACHIAVELLI. Many have called me the master of all that is deep, dark, and treacherous in statesmanship. In part this is true, and yet the truth is better said, that I know the principles of power, of the ways of accession to a throne, and the maintenance thereof, whether these ways be honorable or villainous, and the thrones be of monarchies or republics, new or of immense antiquity.

To those who are repulsed by my recognition of villainy as a usable force in politics, I will merely state that I tell what is, not what should be. A man who wishes to make a profession of goodness in everything must necessarily come to grief among so many who are not good. Therefore, it is necessary to learn how not to be good, and to use this knowledge and not use it, according to the necessity of the case.

This can be observed to be true in examining the game Diplomacy, the prime subject of this periodical, where often an opportunity appears where a player has placed himself in the power of an ally. In such cases the prudent ally unhesitatingly breaks the alliance and sends his forces into the other's territory. If a prince kept all of his promises, he would be ultimately overcome by those who have had little regard for good faith, and have been able by astuteness to confuse men's brains. Yet the prince who never bids by agreements is powerless, for all others soon learn not to put faith in him, and lacking allies he is quickly overthrown.

The Master Machiavellian shall be expanding to ten pages regularly from this time on. This issue, being our first anniversary issue, is twenty-four pages long, and the staff and I will continue to celebrate our creation anniversary each year with a correspondingly grand issue.

This anniversary issue contains a report of DinkCon II; moves of the DinkCon III's "Masters' Game"; Revised House Rules; articles on Diplomacy and Dungeons & Dragons; reviews of the periodicals with which we trade; and, of course, those contests and their press releases native to this publication.

There remain four positions in The Master Machiavellian's second Colonia contest, for which the following princes have inscribed their names: Paul F. Boeth, Jon Pepper, Russell Fox, and Robert Stimmel. TM's fourth Diplomacy contest includes three openings; the princes James Diehl, Thomas Cooper, David Fujihara, and William Adam are enrolled in this. The response to our request for standbys was very poor, and should no others apply for this opportunity to join a game for free, the staff will be forced to incorporate the Civil Disorder rules, much to their distaste.

(Continued from page 1) ... every this year has been most enjoyable for me, and my pleasure is and grows greater for every person who has profited from hearing my words. The ways of the world often seem unkind, but it is only by understanding the principles of the lion and the fox that we may wrestle the world to our feet, and stand victorious in control of our own destiny.

Niccolò Machiavelli

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STAFF AND INFO

The Master Machiavellian is a game of postal Diplomacy, its variants, and (hopefully soon!) other wargames. Subs are 10 for \$2 (see expl. why later!). Game fees are \$1 for reg Dip, \$1.50 for Colonia, and \$1 or \$3 for War of Wizards (see below), which do not include a subscription. TMM is ostensibly pubbed each fourth Tuesday. Diplomacy, copyright Games Research Inc., 500 Harrison, Boston 02118, was invented by Alan B. Cathamer. Please make checks, money orders, etc. payable to Michael G. Homeier.

Did Machiavelli really say?

Niccolò Machiavelli was an Italian statesman and student of politics. He was born in Florence in 1469, and grew up under the rule of Lorenzo the Magnificent. When Lorenzo died in 1492, political chaos reigned for many years, but Niccolò Machiavelli was elected to the Second Chancery of the Republic of Florence, which had charge of foreign and military affairs. He was influential in shaping policy and these could be no higher tribute to his political competence than the fact that he was sent on twenty-four missions, including four to the King of France, several to Rome and one to the Emperor Maximilian. After thirteen years of service, political revolt cost Machiavelli his job, and in 1512 he was imprisoned and tortured for an entire year. Released on the order of Pope Leo X, he was exiled to a small property in the country. In a letter he wrote, "When evening comes I return to the house and go into my study. Before I enter I take off my rough and stained country dress. I put on my royal and curial robes and thus fittingly attired I enter into the assembly of men of old times. Welcomed by them I feed upon that food which is my true nourishment, and which has been the same through all ages: I take to talk with them, and ask them the reason for their actions. Of their kindness they answer me. I no longer fear poverty or death. From these notes I have composed a little work, The Prince."

This book established Machiavelli as the father of modern political science. The book sets forth the idea that a ruler shouldn't bother about the means needed to achieve his purposes, but use any means at his disposal, no matter how wicked, to destroy his enemies and maintain his power. Machiavelli set down for all time the rules to be followed to keep in power (a point severely emphasized during his imprisonment).

Though Machiavelli has long been a symbol for all that is deep, dark, and treacherous in statesmanship (Marlowe's Pygmalion: "A damned Machiavellian he is, gentle to the devil for a while."), he actually helped the people in understanding the techniques that effective rulers already knew and used. In favor of the republican form of government, as evidenced by his three other major works.

After completing The Prince, Machiavelli sent it to the new Lorenzo in hopes of receiving a position, but Lorenzo never replied. He continued to write on politics, poetry, history, and comedy. In his later years he was sent on minor missions, and thanks to Cardinal di Medici (later Pope Clement VIII) he was commissioned to write The History of Florence.

I was stunned. The great Machiavelli, famous 15th century Italian, author of The Prince and The Art of War, the most legendary figure of political deception and dark doings in history? I felt I must seize this chance, whatever the consequences.

"I have the courage and the perseverance," I earnestly replied. "What is your task?"

"Finally, I have found he for whom I have so long searched," said the figure. "After passing through the Realms Beyond which you have no knowledge of, I glanced to view your era, with its machines, industry, and technology. Nowhere did I see any able practitioners of the great art of deceit, until at last I found a group of contestants in a game called Diplomacy. Here, at least, were the first feeble gropings toward the correct handling of situations of political intrigue, the first level of understanding, of using the mind to control the situation, instead of the sword. Here, at last, I could begin to enlighten the world on the proper use of this game, Diplomacy. Therefore, it is your task to commence a publication designed to teach all the Diplomacy contestants how to properly conduct their high-level conflicts. The periodical shall be called The Master Machiavellian, and is to contain treatises on proper techniques of deception, review of past engagements, and also games of Diplomacy and its variants, as experience is the best teacher. I myself will aid you insofar as an introductory letter to each issue is concerned, and also, occasionally, with advice for the princes engaged in combat. Your rates will be very low, for I wish to contact the largest possible audience, and it would not be meet for some not to have the opportunity due to lack of finances."

"But why have you chosen me to write this great magazine, O Master of Deceit and Deception?" I asked. "Certainly there are many others more ably versed in the intricacies of alliances and stabs than I. Would not one of them be more able to carry out this task?"

Machiavelli replied, "It is true that there are more experienced players of this game than you, but I have recognized in you certain potential for craft and ingenuity not to be found all throughout this field. Furthermore, the other Diplomacy publishers insist on purple reproduction, whereas black is the only appropriate color for my journal. You shall have my favor as long as you use black!"

With that, he removed a rolled-up scroll from his pocket and cast it into my lap. Opening it, I discovered it to be the first Dispatchio, which appeared on our first issue. Looking up again, I saw the figure of Machiavelli dissolving like smoke into the darkness.

The Master had left.

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THE STRATEGY OF THE INDIRECT APPROACH by Ron Stephens

The theory of the indirect approach was first formulated in 1929 by B. H. Liddell Hart in his book Decisive Wars of History. While it takes in General Camon's researches of Napoleon's campaigns in "manoeuvre sur le derrières," B. H. Liddell Hart's work has greater application and circulation. It was further expanded and polished by him when he served as military editor of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. It finds its present form in the updated work Strategy (1969) in which B. H. Liddell Hart examines a succession of great captains and major conflicts in history which bear out his theory.

This article is designed to merely outline the major tenets of the theory of the indirect approach and provide examples for clarification. It is not an attempt to synthesize B. H. Liddell Hart's research or add anything to his work. This is because the author is primarily a pragmatic theorist rather than a philosopher (i.e., Clausewitz's reliance on Kant's precepts in philosophy as a framework for developing military theory). Thus, I believe B. H. Liddell

(INDIRECT APPROACH) Hart's work is a complete whole which reflects a sound basis for developing tactics, strategy, and grand strategy.

In brief, B. H. Liddell Hart maintains that the direct approach most favored by the conventional military mind provokes a stubborn resistance. This in turn only serves to intensify the difficulty of gaining one's object. History is filled with examples of failures to achieve decisive ends by resorting to a direct frontal assault. Some of the more notable examples include:

1. Allies and Germans on the Western Front in WWI
2. Allies in the Italian Campaign (Anzio) in WWII
3. Japanese at Fort Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War
4. Napoleon's later campaigns especially Waterloo
5. Lee at Gettysburg in the American Civil War

At best, the direct assault obtains a strategic advantage and at worst, the attacking force can lose control of the entire campaign or war. In B. H. Liddell Hart's view, the direct approach never yields conclusive results! Quite the contrary, the direct approach jeopardizes in advance the success of an attack and needlessly exposes attackers to unnecessary risks in the pursuit of objectives that could nearly always be obtained more expeditiously and at less cost through an indirect approach.

The indirect approach consists of avoiding a frontal attack and seeking to turn it by a flank movement so that a more penetrable side is exposed. To move along the line of natural expectation increases the opponent's balance and thus, his power to resist. In B. H. Liddell Hart's words, "In most campaigns dislocations of the enemy's psychological and physical balance has been the vital prelude to a successful attempt at his overthrow." The strategy of the indirect approach embodies not only conventional military strategy but use of other factors to "dislocate" the enemy in battle such as morale, politics, public opinion, economics, subterfuge, propaganda, fifth column, will to win, miscellaneous psychological devices, etc. Thus, there is a whole range of activity away from the battlefield that provides an arena for dislocating and disorienting the opponent so that one's own forces have an indirect advantage prior to strategic considerations on the battlefield.

Some major examples of successful use of the indirect approach in actual battle include:

1. Alexander's campaigns into Persia
2. Wellington's Peninsular Campaign
3. The Normandy invasion by the Allies in WWII
4. Hannibal's Italian invasion during the Second Punic War
5. Scipio Africanus' campaigns against Carthage in the Third Punic War
6. Cromwell at Preston Moor and Dunbar (English Civil War)
7. Caesar against Pompeii culminating in Pharsalus
8. Marlborough's Bavarian campaign during the War of Spanish Succession
9. Sherman's march on Atlanta and Savannah in the American Civil War
10. Ludendorff's 1917 withdrawal to the Hindenberg line preparatory to the 1918 offensive in WWI
11. Frederick the Great's campaigns during the War of Austrian Succession up to the peace of Breslau
12. Napoleon's Italian campaign prior to Marengo
13. Grant's capture of Vicksburg in the American Civil War
14. Wolfe's defeat of Montcalm and conquest of Quebec
15. The initial German campaigns in Europe culminating in Dunkirk in WWII
16. German invasion of Greece and the Balkans in WWII
17. The Japanese campaigns in the Pacific to 1942
18. The Allies fight for the Rhine and invasion of Germany in WWII
19. The Israeli-Egyptian campaigns fought over the past thirty years

The essence of strategy, tactics, and grand strategy can be epitomized in B. H. Liddell Hart's eight axioms of the indirect approach:

1. ADJUST YOUR PLAN TO YOUR AIMS
2. KEEP YOUR OBJECT ALWAYS IN MIND
3. CHOOSE THE LINE (OR COURSE) OF LEAST RESISTANCE
4. EXPLOIT THE LINE OF LEAST RESISTANCE
5. TAKE A LINE OF OPERATION WHICH OFFERS ALTERNATIVE OBJECTIVES
6. ENSURE THAT BOTH PLAN AND DISPOSITIONS ARE FLEXIBLE -- ADAPTABLE TO CIRCUMSTANCES
7. DO NOT THROW YOUR WEIGHT INTO A STROKE WHILE YOUR OPPONENT IS ON GUARD
8. DO NOT RENEW AN ATTACK ALONG THE SAME LINE (OR IN THE SAME FORM) AFTER IT HAS ONCE FAILED

Two main problems are encountered in successful use of the indirect approach. The first is dislocation which precedes the actual blow. The second is exploitation which follows the actual blow. Application of the eight axioms of the indirect approach in both military and psychological (especially morale) arenas can almost always solve these two problems and insure ~~decisive victory~~ for the one using them!

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REPORT FROM DINKICON II by Niccolò Machiavelli

The Second Annual Dinkicon occurred on the 25th of August in Holmby Park in Beverly Hills. I arrived upon the scene about the hour of ten, accompanied by others on the staff of The Master Machiavellian, including the principal editor, Michael Homeier, the gamesmaster for the Diplomacy games, Jonathan Reich, and he through whom I communicate to the world, Peter Homeier. Three games had already commenced, and Michael was soon interesting princes in a contest of Colonia.

A tall, pale gentleman with piercing blue eyes walked over and introduced himself. "I'm Fangmaster Horton," he said, displaying his magnificent pair and lunging at my neck. Surprised, I barely achieved an incorporeal state before his fangs clicked together where my juglar had been. Disappointed, he said goodby while muttering something about incompetent French dentists, and left in search of other victims.

I had to cast a Protection from Normal Missiles spell at this point, as the knives were flying about so furiously that even I had a couple of narrow escapes. I made the acquaintance of Ron Stephens, who had detoured to Los Angeles on his way home to Washington from CITEK 75 in Chicago, and Eric Verheiden, who informed me that he was trying to wind down his Diplomacy activities with a goal of only fifteen games at one time.

I then met Rod Walker, who was wearing glasses over an enormous pointed nose, and trying to untangle a wand from some kind of a marionette, which Rod referred to as a "bash-puppet." The strings trailed along the ground towards the east, and when I consider the matter, I never did notice any end to them. Rod began handing out copies of Erehwon 91 to those who either had a trade or a subscription with him, and one copy was nailed to a tree by a passing knife in flight.

Play continued, with a comfortable high number of shouts, groans, shrieks, cheers, gasps, and screams, and the miniature river that wound through the park acquired a definite reddish tint. When all ceased their play for the midday meal, it was clear that the Dinkicon was a great success, as about forty princes had come to participate.

Frankfurters, salad, and soft drinks were served to those wise enough to have purchased lunch tickets beforehand. A group of eight-year-old entrepreneurs had opened a refreshment stand, and were taking in a quick and steady business.

Fall 1902: AUSTRIA GOES TOGETHER WITH ENGLAND ALL OVER BUCKINGHAM PALACE.
TURKS TRYING TERRIBLY TO TAKE TUNIS.

AUSTRIA: F Tri-Ven/r oth/, A Pie S F Tri Ven, A Bud-Tri/r oth/.
Owns: ~~Wid, 771, 844~~ (9). Removes A Pie. Out.
ENGLAND: F Ska-Nwy/r oth/, F Nrg S F Ska-Nwy, A Ion S F Eng-Lon/nso/.
Owns: ~~Edi, Lvp, Edi~~ (2). Removes A Ion.
FRANCE: F Eng-Lon, F Mid-Tri, F (Spain)-Mid, A Gas-Mar, A Bel H/r Bur/.
Owns: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Per, Lon (6). Builds A Par.
GERMANY: F Hel-Nth, F Den S F Hel-Nth, A Ruh-Bel, A Hol S A Ruh-Bel,
A Mun leaves at Ber. Owns: ~~Den, Kiel, Mun, Ber, Hol, Bel~~ (6). Builds F K
ITALY: A Tyo-Tri, A Vie S A Tyo-Tri, A Rom-Ven, F Apu S A Rom-Ven, F Ion-Alb.
Owns: Rom, Nap, Ven, ~~Edi, Tri~~ (6). Builds A Par.
RUSSIA: A StP-Nwy, F Swe S A StP-Nwy, A Rum-Bud, A Gal S A Rum-Bud,
F Sev-Rum, A Ukr S F Sev-Rum. Owns: Mos, StP, War, Sev, Swe, Rum,
Bud (7). Builds A Mos.
TURKEY: F Ion-Tun, F Aeg S F Eas-Ion, A Alb-Ser, A Bul-Gre, A Con-Bul.
Owns: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul, Gre, Ser (6). Builds F Smy.

GM Comment: The reader must bear in mind that any apparent difficulties between France and Germany are deceptive; they are mostly pre-arranged. They are enough, however, to give other players the idea that this alliance will break up soon. It is hard, otherwise, to explain the stubborn single-mindedness with which all the other players attack England and Austria and neglect the growing might of the two western allies. Surely they remember that the same two players, playing the same two countries, registered a joint victory last year...? Italy, for instance, is playing as if he will not have to fight France and Turkey at the same time, soon. He is about to find out how a nutcracker operates.

Spring 1903: SEE RUSSIA. SEE RUSSIA STAB TURKEY. SEE TURKEY BLEED. SEE ANKARA HANG. SEE SULTAN SOB SOFTLY. SEE FRANCE. SEE FRANCE STAB ITALY. WERE YOU SURPRISED? SEE ENGLAND. ENGLAND IS IN NORWAY AT LAST. AND IF ENGLAND GETS NORWAY, GUESS WHO GETS ENGLAND...?

ENGLAND: F Ska-Nwy, F Nrg S F Ska-Nwy.
FRANCE: F Lon H, F Iri H, F Mid-Wes, A Mar-Pie, A Bur-Mar, A Par H.
GERMANY: F Den-Swe, F Kiel-Bal, A Mun-Sil, A Hol-Kiel, A Bel-Ruh, F Nth S
ENGLISH F Ska-Nwy.
ITALY: F Alb-Ion, F Apu S F Alb-Ion, A Vie S A Tri,
A Tri S RUSSIAN A Bud-Ser, A Rom-Ven.
RUSSIA: A StP-Nwy, F Swe S A StP-Nwy, F Rum-Bla, A Ukr-Rum, A Mos-Ukr,
A Bud-Ser, A Gal-Bud.
TURKEY: F Ion-Tun, F Smy-Eas, F Aeg-Ion, A Ser-Tri/r Bul/, A Gre-Alb, A Bul-Gre.

GM Comments: Italy's expectations have come true...a Russian stab of Turkey. Considering what is going on in the west, that was not wise of Russia. England has become a puppet of France (who from this point on is simply dictating the English orders to the English player). It's too late for Italy, though, because he is now between France and Turkey. Turkey is no push-over and Russia's northern front is about to crumble. In short, the eastern players are paying insufficient attention to the West.

Fall 1903: DRANG NACH OSTEN...DRANG NACH OSTEN...DRANG NACH OSTEN...DRANG NACH OS

ENGLAND: F Nrg S F Nwy, F Nwy S GERMAN F Den-Swe. Owns: ~~Lvp, Edi, Nwy~~ (2).
No change.
FRANCE: F Lon H, F Iri-Lvp, F Wes S ITALIAN F Ion-Tun, A Pie-Tyo, A Mar-Pie,
A Par-Bur. Owns: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Per, Lon, Lvp (7). Builds F Mar.

GERMANY: F Den-Swe, F Bal S F Den-Swe, F Nth-Nwy, A Sil-War, A Ruh-Bur, A Kie-Ber. Owns: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, Bel, Swe (7). Builds A Kie.

ITALY: F Ion-Tun, F Nap-Ion, F Apu S F Nap-Ion, A Tri S RUSSIAN A Ser, A Vie S A Tri, A Ven S A Tri. Owns: Rom, Nap, Ven, Tun, Vie, Tri (6). No change.

RUSSIA: F Swe H/r Bot/, A StP-Fin, A Ukr-War, A Rum-Bul, A Bud S A Ser, A Ser S A Bud, F Bla-Ank. Owns: Mos, StP, War, Sev, ~~StP~~, Rum, Bud, Ser, Ank (8). Builds A War.

TURKEY: F Bas-Ion, F Tun S F Bas-Ion/r Tyr/, F Aeg-Con, A Alb-Ser, A Bul S A Alb-Ser, A Gre S A Bul. Owns: Con, ~~StP~~, Smy, Bul, Gre, ~~StP~~ (4). Removes F Tyr, A Alb.

GM Comments: The little "war" in Burgundy is thoroughly phoney...as the builds amply demonstrate. But now the Italian, Russian, and Turkish forces are so entangled that a united front against the Franco-Germans may be impossible. The invaluable Turkish fleet in the west has had to go. By now, creating the necessary atmosphere of Russo-Turkish trust will be difficult. Turkey's diplomacy is aimed at doing so, but Russia remained obdurate. It is tempting to give French diplomacy credit for this singular single-mindedness, but I am inclined more to the view that Russian policy was dominated more by an anti-Turk vendetta than by any larger grasp of what was going on in the game. Diplomacy is an irrational game sometimes; that's what makes it interesting.

Spring 1904: FRANCO-GERMAN CLASH OCCURS THIS TIME NEAR DOGGER BANK. RUSSIAN CAPITAL ABOUT TO FALL. TURKS CARRY WAR NEAR RUSSIAN HOMETOWN.

ENGLAND: F Nrg-Bar, F Nwy S GERMAN F Swe.

FRANCE: A Tyo-Ven/r Boh/, A Pie S A Tyo-Ven, F Wes H, F Mar-Lyo, A Par-Gas, F Lon H, F Lvp-Iri.

GERMANY: A Kie-Lvn, F Bal C A Kie-Lvn, A Ber-Pru, A Sil S A Ber-Pru, A Ruh-Mun, F Swe H, F Nth-Lon.

ITALY: F Ion-Tyr, F Tun S F Ion-Tyr, F Apu-Ion, A Vie-Tyo, A Ven S A Vie-Tyo, A Tri S A Ven.

RUSSIA: A Fin-Sw, F Bot S A Fin-Sw, A War H, A Ukr-Gal, A Ser-Bul, A Rum S A Ser-Bul, A Bud-Ser, F Ank-Con.

TURKEY: F Con-Bla, A Bul-Con/a/, A Gre-Bul, F Bas-Smy.

GM Comment: Well, the Germans had nothing better to do with F Nth. Italy and Russia look as if they're trying to establish a line, but trying to do in Turkey at the same time is going to be difficult. Meanwhile, the English player is now in a lousydown game and is writing down whatever he's told by France. Note that he has much choice at this point....

Fall 1904: MORE SKIRMISHING AROUND DOGGER BANK (NO-HULLMUT), AS FRENCH MOVE ON ROME AND GERMANS BLOAT HUGEL. HUNS BLITZ ST. PETERSBURG.

ENGLAND: F Bar S GERMAN A Lvn-StP, F Nwy-Swe. Owns: Edi, Nwy (2). No change.

FRANCE: A Pie-Tus, A Gas-Mar, F Wes S F Lyo, F Lyo S F Wes, F Iri-Mid, F Lon H, A Boh S GERMAN A Tun-Tyo. Owns: Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa, Lon, Lvp (7). No change.

GERMANY: F Swe H, F Bal S F Swe, A Lvn-StP, A Sil-War, A Pru S A Sil-War, A Tun-Tyo, F Nth-Lon. Owns: Ber, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, Bel, Swe, StP, War (9). Builds A Ber, A Kie.

ITALY: F Tun-Wes, F Tyr S F Tun-Wes, F Ion-Ion, A Ven-Pie, A Tyo S A Ven-Pie, A Tri S A Tyo. Owns: Rom, Nap, Ven, Tur, Vie, Tri (6). No change.

RUSSIA: A Fin-StP, F Bot-Lvn, A War-Hol, A Gal-War, F Ank-Con, A Bul S F Ank-Con, F Rum-Sev, A Ser-Rum. Owns: Mos, ~~StP~~, ~~StP~~, Sev, Rum, Bud, Ser, Ank, Bul (7). Removes A Fin.

TURKEY: F Smy-Con, F Bla S F Smy-Con, A Gre-Bul. Owns: Con, Mar, ~~StP~~, Gre (3). No change (one annihilated).

OTTOMANS: Owns Cap, Hag, Dam, Izm, Jer, Sof, Par, Afg, Yem, Egy (10) Builds 4.
 PORTUGAL: Owns Als, Ang, Bra, Lag, Mac, Opo, Gab, Bna, Azo, Arg (10) Builds 4.
 RUSSIA: Owns Pet, Irk, Kis, Mos, Oms, Smk, Amu*, Cri*, Chn, Sva (10) Builds 4.
 SPAIN: Owns Lad, Ma, Ma, Mad, Lon, Val, Tex, Mra, Tar (9) Builds 3.

... as functions as Russian home supply centers (i.e., as colonial centers). Press:

THE HAGUE: "The collapse of Dutch efforts to preserve the peace in Western Europe leaves us no choice but to take up arms against that power responsible for the present military conflict. The Kingdom of The Netherlands does hereby declare that a state of war exists between itself and the Duchy of Austria."

WIEN: "Without no colonies," grumbled the emperor. "Ist rhotten, not nice and bossed subject!" "Yah, coddly buggy," roared the empress. "If die Franzosichers mit lavoy so much, let dem haf it! But dey had better be nice to us or ve send some sekret veypon to get dem, maybe. By der vay, ve got a sekret veypon!" "Nicht," sighed the emperor resignedly.

FRANKFURT-AM-MAIN ((Holy Roman Empire)): "The Imperial Diet, urged on by Dutch political agents and the presence of a Dutch army in the Rhineland, has convened to discuss the question of 'Revocation of the Imperial Crown.' It is expected that those representatives from Austrian-controlled areas will argue that the Crown is not revokable, while the representatives from Dutch-controlled areas will argue that the Electors of the Empire have the power to revoke the Crown and elect a new Emperor in full view of the welfare of the Empire as a whole. Undoubtedly, political agents have been setting forth the argument that the Emperor, in his capacity as hereditary Duke of Austria, is endangering the Empire for the benefit and aggrandizement of Austria. The fact that Austria has been a province of the Empire, is pointed to as proof that the Emperor has no regard for the Empire nor for the states that compose it. Only under an Emperor who places the needs and interests of the Empire above those of his hereditary lands can the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation survive and prosper. The present Emperor obviously places the welfare of his Dukedom above that of the Empire."

Switzerland Free Press, 17 July 1910: "Ominous reports have reached this society's offices from Madrid and Lisbon. Are the kings there dead? Or are they in danger and telling no one? Perhaps the addresses of their U.S. Embassies were misprinted, and they haven't received any communiques sent them by other powers? Only time will tell. I HAVE SPOKEN!" ((Hint taken. See the two Spanish Kings address earlier; Wiley Carter, 10628 Blythe Ave., LA, CA 90064, is Portugal. By the way, Ed Schnaeth's address is 12515 Taunt, not -unc))

TRIER (Holy Roman Empire): "The Arch-bishop, in his capacity of Elector of the Empire, today called for the abdication of Emperor Ron, in the interest of the Empire. In his statement, the Arch-bishop recalled the horrors of the civil war of the last century and predicted that Germany will again be devastated, unless the Emperor restrains his pride and overbearing ambition."

197480 FRENCH GOVERNMENT: NEXILE BETTER AT LISBON WHILE GUNS MULTIPLY LIKE RABBITS. Winter 1906

AUSTRIA (Austria): No change.
 ENGLAND (England): No change.
 FRANCE (France): BR. GN removes F Mid.
 GERMANY (Germany): Builds A Ber, A Mun.
 ITALY (France): No change.
 RUSSIA (Russia): BR. A Jar annihilated, as per BR/8. No change.
 TURKEY (Russia): Retreats A Sub-Con. No change.

Deadline for Spring 1904 moves is 16 October. Jon Reich, 1443 Jonesboro,
L.A., CA 90049 USA. Press:

VIENNA (November 1, 1904): "The Imperial Government of Austria-Hungary today broke off relations with all non-European countries and expelled the ambassadors of these same countries. The King-Emperor said that this move was in response to the extremely non-diplomatic moves of certain New World countries especially those in North America."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 1, 1904): "The Austrian ambassador to the United States was declared 'persona non grata' yesterday, after his outrageous conduct at the State Department dinner last Saturday night. The ambassador, Col. Graf Ludwig von Hoffengrüber, had been miffed by having been seated farther down the table than the French representative, M. Henri du Boussier, and made a caustic remark about the French military reversals of late, attributing them to overwhelming inhibiting of spirits by everyone from the President to the lowest private. There was a moment of shocked silence which was broken by President Roosevelt requesting an apology at once. The Austrian ambassador began shouting, stood up, and hurled his dessert, a lemon cream pie, at President Roosevelt. The President adroitly avoided the pie, which somewhat disfigured a bust of Napoleon, and quietly ordered von Hoffengrüber to leave. This was ignored by the Austrian diplomat, who continued to shout threats and curses until he was forcibly removed from the room. The State Department hopes that the Austrian government can soon supply another ambassador, one more experienced in tact and diplomacy, and this message has been transmitted to Europe via trans-atlantic cable."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 10, 1904): "In President Roosevelt's annual message of 1904 he declared, 'Chronic wrongdoing, or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society . . . may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power.' This momentous announcement is already being referred to as the 'Roosevelt corollary' to the Monroe Doctrine."

New York Journal (November 17, 1904): "The United States finally moved against the Turkish Barbarians who have moved into the Caribbean and British Honduras. Reports are as yet incomplete, but indicate that the Marines have landed in Jamaica, Trinidad, Bermuda and about twenty other tiny islands in the Caribbean Sea. Turkish resistance is reported to have been sporadic, uncoordinated, and extremely unproductive to Turkish interests. Casualties have been practically non-existent, and this is said to be a result of the intensive planning and extended practicing that went into the assaults. Elections will be held soon in the liberated areas, and most are expected to whole-heartedly enter the North American Confederation."

New York Times (November 18, 1904): "There was a clash recently between the British 2nd, 3rd, and 5th fleets currently deployed in the Caribbean, and elements of the United States Caribbean and South Atlantic fleets. The naval action took place off Bermuda, where the British force attempted to prevent American occupation of the island. The Americans wished to proceed without hostilities, but the British remained obstinate. The United States South Atlantic fleet, on station off the Florida Keys, first sighted the leading elements of the British 2nd and 3rd fleets entering the Bahama Channel at 0755 on the morning of November 16. A running fire fight commenced, following the sinking of the US battleship 'Kentucky,' when she tried to sail peacefully on to Bermuda, and the van of the American battle fleet was driven back with heavy damage. The battle went hard with the Americans for the first hour or two, but eventually it became the British force that was taking the most damage, as the superior gunnery and weight of shell began to make itself felt. Follow-

ing the destruction of several British battleships, the enemy was forced to draw off to seaward, and the Marine landings continued without a hitch.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 30, 1904): "The Navy Department released today the casualty lists, both of men and ships involved in the recent naval action off Bermuda. Naval losses:

<u>US</u>			<u>England</u>		
#	Type	Class	#	Type	Class
4	battleships, old	Kearsarge	8	battleship	Bellerophon
1	battleship, new	Connecticut	4	battleship	Vanguard
1	battleship, new	S. Carolina	3	battleship	Hampshire
3	armored cruisers	California	5	armored cruisers	varying
3	light cruisers	Chester	1	light cruiser	Palorus
4	destroyers	Truxton	-	light craft	---

Losses to personnel: US: 1400 killed, 1600 wounded. England: 1000 killed and wounded. British casualties are estimates based upon all information available."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 30, 1904): "In a speech before both houses of Congress today President Roosevelt spoke of the recent American involvement in the Caribbean. "Each Turkish stronghold has been reduced; each city taken; each island occupied. We tried to warn the Turks off; for years diplomatic efforts have come to naught, and finally we have been forced to use our vast military might in the role of an international police power. Now the European powers will have to realize that they can no longer hope to expand to satisfy their imperialistic natures in the New World. The Monroe Doctrine has been upheld!" The entire room was on its feet, cheering and waving hats. The scene was duplicated outside the Capitol and across the nation as the news arrived. President Roosevelt later said that he does not want war, but the United States is ready to fight to defend the integrity of the Western Hemisphere."

Ankara Herald-Advocate (November 31 (1904): "The results of this month's National Assembly elections have been tabulated and certified, and the results are as follows: Turkish Liberal Party, 34 seats; Ottoman Imperial Party, 103 seats; Arab Separatist Party, 79 seats; Turkish Nationalist Party, 57 seats; Muslim Democrats, 61; and Others, 13. The new Assembly will be convened Jan. 7, 1905, and it is hoped that it will be successful in repulsing the Austrian invasion of Bulgaria, and finishing the leftover business of the last."

The Times (via Ankara) (December 14, 1904): "Parliament met today in emergency session, to consider taking action against the strikers in Edinburgh and Glasgow. After much deliberation, it was decided to dissolve the Public, and call for new elections. Reaction from the public is expected immediately."

BERLIN (via Ankara) (December 16, 1904): "In response to the recent revolt in Denmark, the Reichstrat today voted additional funds to suppress it. In a late session, it was also decided to follow England's recent example, and dissolve the public. New elections have not yet been scheduled, and may be delayed due to the war. The militia has been mobilized to aid in the dissolution, but violence is expected."

BUDAPEST (December 17, 1904): "The King-Emperor today formed the world's first.

... exactly one year after the first power-driven, heavier-than-air flight. With this new addition, the Austro-Hungarian armed forces are now considered to be the most modern anywhere in the world. It is expected that this air power will play an important part in deciding the present European conflict."

ROME (via Ankara) (December 17, 1904): "The Parliament today held its final session before the Christmas recess. It was interrupted when a bearded man pushed aside the legitimate speaker, and harangued the crowd for fifteen minutes on communism, terrorism, and 'flower power.' As the guards closed in, he poured lighter fluid over the podium, and set it afire. Witnesses reported hearing him say, 'Long live the Marius Van der Lubbe International Firebombing Society,' just before he disappeared. This anarchist organization received notice last when a non-member (no real anarchist would join anything) made a similar appearance before the French National Assembly two years ago. Police are searching for him, and all European capitols are in suspense."

1925AV RUSSIANS THROWN OUT OF ALASKA BUT REINVADE FLORIDA! late Fall 1902

ASIA: A Yukon-British Columbia/a/, F Vladivostock-W. Pacific, F Anadyr-Bering Sea/a/, A Akka-Anadyr, A Yakutsk-Vladivostock, F Port Arthur-Philippine Basin, A Omsk-Port Arthur via The Trans Siberian Railroad! Vladivostock is the end of the Trans Siberian Railroad, and the A Omsk branches with the A Yakutsk. Sorry./, F Nassau-Florida.

USA: F No. Pacific Ocean-Alaska, F W. Atlantic executes practice maneuvers and guards the eastern seaboard, A British Columbia-Yukon, A California-Oregon Territory, A Montana-Alberta, A Washington D.C. boards train for Seattle.

WYOMING: A Northwest Territory S AMERICAN A British Columbia-Yukon.

1925 AV TURKEY LOS S HEART A TAE THRAC POWER ASSAULT Winter 1902

- AMERICA (Hawaii): No change.
- FRANCE (Canton): No change.
- FRANCE (Canton): Builds Bra.
- GERMANY (Canton): Builds F Kin.
- ITALY (Weswig): Retreats F Aeg-Gra Builds F Nap.
- RUSSIA (Pep): Builds A S.P.
- TURKEY (Pep): Retreats A Bul-Co. NBR. GM removes F Aeg.

Deadline for Spring moves is 15 October. GM: Jon Reich, 1443 Jonesboro, CA 9002, USA. Press:

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 11, 1902): "The President made a short speech from his railroad car today before leaving for Seattle. 'We have never allowed any enemy of the United States to take what is ours, and we shall not begin until he said in his impeccable Harvard accent. 'We will push the Russians back across the Bering Sea, and we will make them pay for every inch of land and every ounce of gold that they have taken. The Tsar shall learn that he cannot trifles with the United States.' Many of the Rough Riders leaned out of their windows in the other cars and gave the President a special cheer. The President stepped aboard the special train, gaily decorated with pennants, streamers, and signs. Cheers and wits filled the air as the crowd watched President Roosevelt wave as the train pulled out of the station, and set off towards the West Coast."

OTTAWA (November 11, 1902): "The Prime Minister of Canada today expressed the complete approval of the Canadian government of the United States' reaction to the Russian invasion and generalised all U. S. Armed Forces free right

SUWANNEE RIVER MOUTH, FLORIDA (December 12, 1902): Five MILLION men of the Russian Army, all well equipped landed here. The ship, "Viva la Suwannee" was sunk by the superior Russians.

JACKSONVILLE (December 12, 1902): Word was received of the landing at the mouth of the Suwannee by all. All of Jacksonville was about ready to leave for the mouth of the Suwannee, when Jacksonville itself was bombed by three Russian Imperial Navy ships; the "Mason Star," "Alexander Suvorov," and "Tarzan's Pride." The US National guards is being called in, as well as the Army and Navy.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA (December 12, 1902): Word was received about the fates of Jacksonville and of the mouth of the Suwannee. A few minutes after that was found out, the Harbormaster at St. Petersburg Recreational and Yachting Harbor spotted 500 craft, mostly some sort of Amphibious nature, approaching St. Petersburg Municipal beach. Immediately, St. Petersburg was evacuated, but it was learned that the peninsula was cut off by the Russian attack force. They had linked up at Gainesville.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA (December 13, 1902): "All has been done," reported Field Marshal Zhukov. "I am going to St. Petersburg, Fla. to take personal command of the situation. We have captured all of Florida but Fort Lauderdale." "Very good," said Gen. Russell, "Next, capture the state of Washington, and then Washington, D.C."

A SPANISH FISHING STAFF OF 100 MEN IS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND (January 20, 1903): SPANISH VESSEL ABANDONED WAS UPON ENGLAND STOP WORD EXPECTED FROM THE GOOD SHIP FIZZY SHORTLY SINCE END

THE NEW ZEALAND (A New Zealand) (January 20, 1903): "Word was received today, of 500,000 men of the Russian logistic machine. Apparently the 3rd army, stationed at Yakutsk, was ordered to proceed to Vladivostok. This wasn't so bad, but the 5th army, which had been taking a train ride from Omsk to Port Arthur, discovered to their surprise that the Trans-Siberian Railroad ends at Vladivostok. The two forces attempted to enter Vladivostok at the same time and apparently did not recognize that the other force was also Russian. A small battle ensued, which did more damage to the local populace than to either side, and ended with both sides falling back in retreat to some quickly thinking peasants who sounded the bugle call for retreat. The 3rd army hastened back to Yakutsk, and the 5th army clambered aboard the train again, had the engineer put it in reverse, and started back to Omsk."

PARIS (February 6, 1903): "Today it was announced that the good ship Fizzy was sunk by a French submarine. All hands were lost and it is hoped that the good King Behnen went down with his ship."

1975GJ SLEEPING SICKNESS STRIKES DOWN MORE THAN HALF OF Fall 1901
EUROPE AS EAST OF WORLD MISSES GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

AUSTRIA (Boris): NMR. F Bla H, A Con H, A Bul H.
ENGLAND (Dick): A York H, F Nrg-Nx, F Nth-Sha.
FRANCE (Pepper): NMR. F Pic H, A Gas H, A Spa H.
GERMANY (Fom): A Kie-Bal, A Ruh S, A Kie-Hol, F Dan-Swa.
ITALY (Lucero): A Tri-Sar, A Ven-Apu, F Ion-Aeg.
RUSSIA (Dunn): NMR. F Bot H, F Rum H, A Gal H, A Liv H.
TURKEY (Lewin): NMR. F Bla H, A Con H, A Bul H.

So many people miss'd their orders that we will not bother with standbys this time. You people had six weeks to get your orders in, and there's no excuse for this. Deadline for Winter orders is 16 October. GM: Jon Lynch,

1443 Jonesboro, Los Angeles, CA 90049 USA. Press

(Supply Center Chart

MOSCOW (August 6, 1901): "It was announced today by Jerkov, the Tsar's first minister, that his Tsarship has appointed Yrneh Regnissik (a rather backward little fellow, some say) as Secretary of State. Sources at the Summer Palace say that this was done over the protests of most of his Tsarship's ministers, and, as a result, a shakeup in the court is expected. The Imperial Duma has so far been silent on the appointment, but is expected to approve the action.

Naples News (August 2, 1901): "His Royal Highness King Terry I today announced that our forces have succeeded in occupying the Dodecanese Islands, formerly owned by Turkey and claimed by Greece. In exchange for permission to do this, the Greek government (which has gone into temporary exile in London) was permitted to annex Crete. Formal annexation of the Islands to the Kingdom is expected within a month, and it is hoped that the Turkish government will not attempt to occupy the islands, as this would mean war.

* * * * *

ATTENTION ALL PLAYERS!

The editors of The Master Machiavellian have heretofore been rather lax about accepting orders late. Now that school is starting, the printing of EMM will be run on a much tighter schedule, and no more will orders be accepted after the deadline. In 1975GG this season there was a ridiculous number of NMR's especially considering that you had six weeks this time. From now on, if you don't get your orders in our hands by the mail of the day of the deadline, you will NMR and a standby will be assigned to your position. So get those orders in on time from now on!

* * * * *

1975GG

SUPPLY CENTER CHART

Winter 1901

- AUSTRIA: Bud, Vie, ~~Tri~~, Ser. (3) No change.
- ENGLAND: Lon, Lvp, Edi, Nwy. (4) Builds 1.
- FRANCE: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa. (4) Builds 1.
- GERMANY: Ber, Mun, Kie, Hol, Swe. (5) Builds 2.
- ITALY: Rom, Ven, Nap, Tri. (4) Builds 1.
- RUSSIA: Mos, StP, War, Sav, Rum. (5) Builds 1.
- TURKEY: Con, Ank, Smy, Bul. Builds 1.

* * * * *

REPRINTS

Reprints of The Master Machiavellian will soon be available for issues #1-12, at a cost of 20¢ apiece, or \$2.00 for all twelve. For all of you who didn't get #1, it's a worthwhile production, and would be a nice finishing touch to your collection.

* * * * *

PLUG SECTION!

Bushwacker, by Fred C. Davis (3012 Oak Green Ct., Ellicott City MD 21043), is an excellently-reproduced (mimeo) zine specializing in variants. His great reliability is partly shown by the fact that he is now on his 47th monthly issue! In addition to announcements, games, press, etc. Fred has published the amendments to U.S. Diplomacy. Bushwacker, 12/\$2.50, has openings in Atlantica II, Abstraction, and U.S. Diplomacy for \$7.

General magazine is done at 5160 Donna Ave., Tarzana CA 91356, and runs about 10 pages minus ads. (How could I have a legible copy, Russ?). Subs are 8/92 which includes play on a big Dippy game -- so much for fees! Russ offers 4/92 issues of articles over 1 page, and 2 for less than a page. This last issue is especially good because, in addition to Terry Lucero's "Opening Day at ...", it contains the second installment in my series, "The Russian Bear Afloat: A History of Russians at Sea AD 940-1975" (if my article goes on too much longer it'll be "AD 940-1976"!)). Thanks for the plug to Diplomacy World, by Walter Buchanan, P.O. #3, Box 924, Lebanon IN 46052, is probably the Diplomacy magazine to get. Now in its second year, DW, owned by Games Research Inc., describes its purpose as being "to present a broad overview of the postal Diplomacy hobby by printing articles on the Diplomacy scene and on good play, carrying the Hoosier Archives Demonstration Game with expert analysis, rating systems, listings, publishing letters to the editor and listing game openings and zine news." DW runs about 40 pages, offset printing!, and subscriptions are \$4.00 per year, with quarterly printing.

Shewon is published by Rod Walker at 1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas CA 92024, and mixed in with a profuse amount of humor are editorials on hobby politics and "The Game" Roll's only at the moment in which each player is engaged with all the other players press, at the end of each issue each player's press is rated and the winner determined! Roll has been in the hobby for almost ten years, and it shows in the fine quality of this magazine. Runs about 12 pages, purple ditto, 5/91. Our thanks to Rod for GMing the DinkiCon II Master's Game!

Everything is put out by Doug and Marie Beyerlein, 240 Hawthorne, Apt. F, Palo Alto CA 94301, the boardman Number Custodians, who assign the Boardman Numbers to each regular Diplomacy postal game as it starts. Everything carries player ratings for each game plus supply center charts for those games needed, and is a must for any statistician. John Weswig publishes Everything for the hobby, should be sent to him at 2115 NW Elder St., Portland, OR 97207, Everything Enterprises.

The Impassable, by Ron Stephen, 12315 Nelson Road, Wheaton MD 20906, is a quarterly magazine, the official organ of the NIF Games Bureau. It carries a lot of good stuff, including game openings and book reviews, listings of new games, and news and information received, and sundry doings in the hobby. It is published twice a year, at 10/92, and runs about 20 pages. It is a must for anyone in the wargaming field.

Impassable is done by Ron Stephen, 12315 Nelson Road, Wheaton MD 20906, is on issue #7. Ron's hobby, which asserts as to the excellence of this publication, is highlighted by John's publishing of a survey he ran to determine the strong and weak points of Impassable. Also interesting was Ron Stephen's "Effective Interpersonal Interaction in Diplomacy," covering diplomatic communications. No openings, but subs are 12/92 for 10 pages of excellent mimeo.

Poictesme, by Bruce Schlickherd, 6194 E. 6th St., Long Beach CA 90803, has already celebrated his first anniversary issue with a giant 22-pager with a cover (five color!) and lots of information of Dungeons and Dragons. Bruce includes a lot of good humor, and some information on Diplomacy politics. Poictesme runs for 10/92, and always has a lot of humorous press. One regular game has sixteen players, seven regular ones and nine "minor" powers who submit really funny press. This unpronounceable zine is on issue #19, purple ditto, and has no openings as of now.

Speculum is done by Dave Radlecek, 1447 Sierra Creek Way, San Jose, CA 95132. Dave includes about four pages of gaming reviews each issue, plus a letters section, along with the games. Speculum is tri-weekly, costs 10/92 (\$2.30 Air Mail), and has openings in Third Age for \$1.50, Necromancy for \$0, Middle Earth VII for \$1, Giganon King Variant for \$2, Global Variant for \$1.50, and International Dippy game for \$1. For more info on these openings, contact Dave -- Speculum runs about 12 pages of purple ditto, and is on issue #23.

DAS DEUTSCHE AFRIKA KORPS: HISTORY AND ANALYSIS
by Timothy Lee

PART VIII: "Italian Doctrine & Organization; Operation 'Battleaxe'."

A good illustration of Italian tactics was demonstrated at the Battle of Chirba, during the early days of the desert war. Vigorous probing attacks by British mechanized forces had resulted in the capture of Fort Capuzzo, a strong point of the Italian defense as well as a springboard for any Italian offensive. On 16 June 1940 an Italian force of 12 light tanks, 400 infantry, and 40 trucks, was reported near Capuzzo, and a British force of cruisers, light tanks, ACs and AT guns was dispatched. The two enemies met on a plain, and as the British approached, the Italians promptly formed a square with their infantry, placing their tanks in the center and their guns at the corners! Unimpressed by this antiquated display, the British tanks advanced, and were charged by 7 L3s, which they quickly shot apart. The tanks then surrounded the square and knocked out the artillery, which prompted the infantry (who had no AT guns) to break up and flee in their trucks, only to be rounded up by enemy ACs. 4 guns, 17 light tanks, and over 100 Italians were thus captured at Chirba, while the British suffered no casualties at all.

Although this tactic was never tried again (for obvious reasons), it did characterize Italian doctrine in World War II: obsolete, passive, unresourceful, and uncoordinated. The Italian soldier has been described as being brave, enduring, and even courageous, but his officers' strategy and tactics, like his equipment, were inherited from World War I. Italian generals repeated the same massed infantry attacks of the last war, and were met with the same, bloody results. At lower levels unskilled officers compounded their superior's blunders with more of their own, and thousands of troops died needlessly in the process.

Due to the inferiority of the task force, Italian artillery became the prime weapon for both offensive and defensive actions. In the attack, the guns were placed at the head of the advance, where they attempted to keep the enemy armor at a distance with massed fire. When defending, the pieces were usually well-emplaced to maximize their effect against the enemy. They were usually effective against unsupported tank or infantry attacks, but their lack of transport made it impossible to retreat, consigning them to an unpleasant death by overrun. Nevertheless, they provided welcome artillery support in the service of the Afrika Korps.

Italian tanks were trained to exploit, scout, and counterattack, purposes which they dismally failed at. They neither had the speed to exploit nor the firepower and protection to assault. Again Col. Jarrett: "Their tech orders might have designated them as motorized and armored, but desert warfare soon classified the Duce's tanks as scrap and junk." With the arrival of the D.A.K., Italian armor was relegated to light scouting and support duties.

Italian infantry was the poorest of the 3 branches. Made up largely of metropolitan conscripts who had little training or reason to fight the British, their morale was delicate at best, and frequently broke down in the volatile and fluid battles of North Africa. The meager firepower of their weapons made it impossible to attack or defend properly, and without transport, they could not even retreat once in position. The more professional troops, such as the Bersaglieri, fought considerably better in combat. But their efforts were usually in vain whenever the enemy closed in, since their antiquated artillery pieces were unable to depress on the enemy tanks and their tanks were too vulnerable to counterattack the enemy infantry, who had effective AT guns. Without hope of relief or the means to escape, surrender or death were the infantry's only options after their supporting guns and armor had been knocked out. Since Italian troops well outnumbered their German counterparts, Rommel resorted to deploying them in static positions at the front lines, often placing companies of German soldiers among them to "stiffen their resolve," as well as putting them under the command of German officers.

Organization was equally poor. Over a dozen different formations with overlapping functions existed, with the main ones, Binary, Autotransportable, Motorized, and Armored, possessing a bipolar structure of organization. All had little technical and service troops, making it difficult for them to participate in any sustained combat. A system of centralized command and a shortage of radios made communication between headquarters and the front lines slow and difficult, making it hard to exploit opportunities or even to be aware of them! The Italians tended to operate their units as whole formations, which put them at a disadvantage in small unit actions.

The War in the Desert --

Rommel fully expected another British offensive after "Brevity", and deployed accordingly. He reinforced Halfaya Pass with a battery of 88s, and built a fortified line of AT guns west from the pass to Halfid Ridge in order to prevent the British cruisers from again outflanking the Halfaya defenses. Further back was the Trento Motorized Division, which held the coastal area east of Sollum to Bardia, and south to Fort Capuzzo. Between Capuzzo and Bardia stood the 8th Panzer Regiment, 80 tanks strong. Finally, the 5th Light Division was put in general reserve near Tobruk. Efficient intelligence work had revealed the date of the new British attack -- June 15th. Thus forewarned, Rommel alerted his troops on the 14th, and then waited.

On the dawn of 15th June 1941, General Wavell launched operation "Battleaxe." The objectives were to capture Halfaya Pass and gain control of the Sollum-Sidi Azeiz-Bardia area, prior to an advance on Tobruk. 2 columns of Matildas from the 4th Armored Brigade, supported by troops of the 11th Indian Infantry Brigade made their way toward Halfaya, with one moving on the coastal road and the other along the escarpment at the southern part of the pass. Out of the desert, fast cruiser elements of the 7th and 4th Armored Brigades headed for Halfid Ridge and Fort Capuzzo, respectively.

Although "Battleaxe" began much like "Brevity," all the similarities soon disappeared when battle was joined.

NEXT INSTALLMENT: Battleaxe, Crusader, and Rommel's second offensive.

* * * * *

DIPLOMACY RATING SERVICE: AN EDITORIAL

by Peter Homeier

We recently received a letter from DIPLOMACY RATING SERVICE about a new system they were providing. Enclosed along with the form letter were three Game Report Forms, and a sheet explaining the "factor" column on the Forms. After reading their material, I was upset by what appears to be an attempt to use our hobby for monetary gain.

The first two paragraphs were about the free Forms and their philosophy of having the players pay for the cost of "organization," but in the third paragraph the DRS people got down to business. To the editors that had responded "favorably" to DRS's first mailing, permission was granted to publish discount coupons for players to order Game Report Forms. The publisher would receive "a substantial percentage" of the money received along with his coupons. This program was being offered on a decreasing basis, "with the editors responding at the earliest date being offered the highest percentage rebate." This offer was extended to us.

On the Game Report Form is listed their rating system: for each place a certain number of "game points" are received, from 7.00 for first place to .01 for seventh place. Then these "game points" are multiplied by the "factor" to give the "rating points" which would be used in computing and comparing ratings. The "factor" starts at 1.00 for new players. For each new player the gamesmaster brings into the DRS fold, 1/2 is added to the gamesmaster's "factor", and this 1/2 goes to the player's rating. The Game Report Form

orders. This means that if you play in a game (led by a person who has got fifty people to play with DRS, you will automatically get 1.50 times as many rating points, or half as much again, as if you had played with a new games-master (i.e. no DRS, that is).

The above are facts, and anyone wishing to verify them need only send me a SSAE and eight cents for photocopying, and I will send photocopies of this letter and the "factor" sheet. I feel that anyone reading this will become alarmed at the pushing to quickly join up with DRS or "you'll be left out in the cold" of bulbing for publicity with cuts of the money received, and the automatic criticism and precedence shown to those GMs who are the most profitable for DRS.

But the most distressing part of this is that DRS is completely unnecessary. There are already many rating systems, kept and maintained by people genuinely interested in helping the hobby. The only extra thing that DRS offers is that they will rate any game results, postal, local, PTF, or other, provided it is submitted on a duly purchased Game Report Form. This means that a man could buy twenty forms, fill himself in as GM and fictional results for the games with himself winning each, send them to DRS and get a fantastic rating for the price of the Game Report Form. Disreputable individuals no doubt exist who would take advantage of DRS in this form, and then what good is anyone else's rating? And remember, you're paying for all this!

I strongly suggest that all publishers carefully review DRS's offer. I also suggest that all players refrain from spending their money on what seem to be worthless Game Report Forms. The Master Machiavellian is not being run for profit, and none of the staff have taken a penny for their own use. I cannot see the use for our hobby supporting venery, cunning, unnecessary people who are trying to rush gamers into sending them money before the players are fully aware of what they may be getting themselves into. Comments are invited.

(Rod Walker, are you listening?)

Now laudable it is for a prince to keep good faith and live with integrity, and not with astuteness, everyone knows. Still the experience of our times shows those princes to have done great things who have had little regard for good faith, and have been able by astuteness to confuse men's brains, and who have ultimately overcome those who have made loyalty their foundation. N.M.

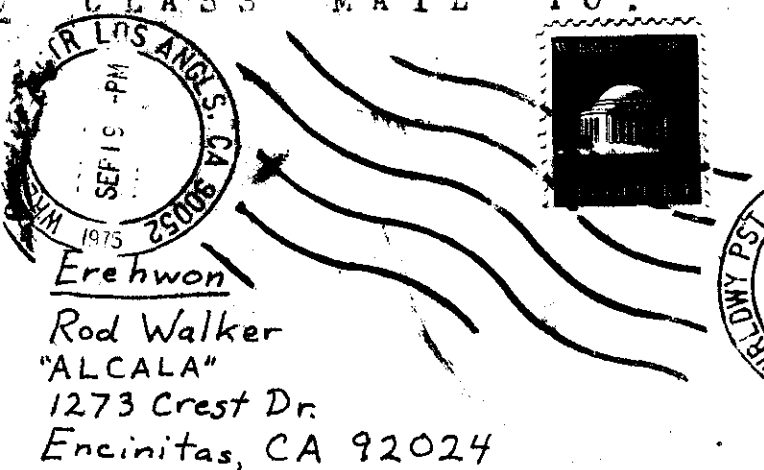
We apologize for the poor quality of this printing, our first run was smeared, and this is the second hundred off each ditto. - The Staff

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See page 21!