

The Master Machiavellian

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A.P.-B.O.M.S. P.

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MARCH!

Dispatchio di Machiavelli

Greetings, to all who read these words, whether you be of high station or low, a prince of new dominions, a king of ancient family, or but an ambitious man, may you receive benefit from prescribing your ways by these words, and pleasure in the accomplishments thereof:

Due to the considerable response achieved by the placing of advertisements for The Master Machiavellian in several other publications, I have the great pleasure to announce to our readers that soon this periodical should be able to expand an additional two pages, bringing the total number to eight. I entertain great expectations for the next issue of The Master Machiavellian.

I am also pleased to announce that both the second Diplomacy game and this publication's first Colonia game are almost completed in the number of participating princes required. The following is a complete list of the various princes who have consented to participate in the strenuous exercises demanded by these bouts. In the Diplomacy game are Terry Lucero, Jon Pepper, Erich Swabeck, John Weswig, and Russel Fox; in the Colonia game are Terry Lucero, Richard Greenwell, Peggy Crispiano, and the variant's author, Fred Hyatt. Accompanying the printing of the Colonia maps, which I expect to supervise in a short time, I hope to be able to announce to the reader that the games have been filled.

In this edition will be found a continuation of both the current game and the history article, in addition to our other features. In response to several inquiries, I must answer in the affirmative, that all princes are cordially invited to contribute articles to the publication, and to gamesmaster new games.

Once again, my deepest thanks to those publications who have shown the kindness to include references about The Master Machiavellian. May all their stabs be unforseen!

I hope that you will be both stimulated and enriched by this publication. I know that through The Master Machiavellian you will gain greater command over the qualities of the lion and the fox, of force and of fraud.

Niccolò Machiavelli

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NOTE: The editors reserve the right to censor all press and articles

STAFF AND INFO

The Master Machiavellian is a gamezine of postal Diplomacy, its variants, and other wargames (when someone wants to play!). Subs are 12 for \$2.50. Game fee is \$1.00 or \$1.50 for Colonia, and does not include a sub. TM is pubbed every fourth Tuesday . . . Diplomacy, copyright Games Research Inc., 500 Harrison, Boston, MA 02118, was invented by Alan B. Calhmer -- Please make checks payable to Michael G. Homeier. STAFF: Editor-in-Chief, Financial Editor: Michael George Homeier; Front Page Editor: Peter Homeier; Game Adjudications: Jonathan Reich; Publicity Agent: David H. Calvert; Contributing Sources: Timothy Lee.

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1974HO AUSTRIAN FORCES TIED UP AS ENGLISH Spring 1902
 CUT INTO RUSSIAN ICE MARKET MONOPOLY

- AUSTRIA(Kissner): F Gre S ITALIAN F Ion-Aeg; A Bud-Rum; A Ber S A Bud-Rum; A Tri-Bud; A Vie-Gal.
 ENGLAND(Zimmermann): F Nwy-St.P (nc) ((!!)); F Lon-Nth; F End-Wal; A Wal-Yor.
 FRANCE(Sheroff): F Bre-Eng; F Mid - Ibi; A Por-Spa; A Pic-Bel.
 GERMANY(Fujihara): F Den-Swe; A Hol-Bel; A Mun-Bur; A Ruh S A Mun-Bur; A Ber-Mun.
 ITALY(Ferguson): F Ion-Aeg; F Nap-Tyr; A Ven-Pie; A Tun H.
 RUSSIA(Swabeck): F Swe H; F Rum-Bla; A Sev-Rum; A Gal S A Sev-Rum; A Ukr S A Sev-Rum; A War S A Gal.
 TURKEY(Lucero): F Ank H; F Smy-Aeg; A Con S A Bul; A Bul S RUSSIAN A Sev-Rum.

--Now! Things are finally beginning to move! Next deadline 29 March for 1 April edition (no comments from the gallery, please). Still we are having trouble with the Post Office! We have been debating the end-6f-year system -- should we have Fall/Winter section or Winter/Spring? Mail in your response (we favor former). Jon's address: 1443 Jonesboro Drive, L.A., CA -- zip 90049. And now for press (ah, love it, love it!...)

Ankara Star, 7 Feb. '02: "The Sultan announced today the third stage in his program to eliminate religious discrimination in The Empire. Henceforth, no government official shall be permitted to hold office and a religious title at the same time. Therefore, all priests, rabbis, ministers, and Moslem priests are hereby barred from office, for as long as they retain their titles. It is hoped that the other nations of Europe shall see the wisdom of separating church and state, and follow suit."

MOSCOW: "The Tsar announced today that in expectation of a beautiful spring of 1902 he is moving to his summer palace, and from this day on all letters should be sent to -- Erich Swabeck, 622 Victoria Ave., Venice, CA 90291."

Ankara Times Observer, 17 Feb. '02: "The Imperial government announced today The Sultan's decision to enter the Boer War on the side of the British, against the Zulu tribe. It is hoped that our aid will bring a speedier conclusion to this conflict, and strengthen our relationship with England. H.I.M. wishes that the other nations of the world not confuse this as an alliance against them, but see it as it is: an agreement to our mutual benefit."

Smyrna Daily News, 24 Feb. '02: "His Imperial Majesty The Sultan announced today that, hence-forth, all men will be limited to one wife. ((Well, postpone my lengthy vacation in Constantinople!))This is done

DAS DEUTSCHES AFRIKA KORPS: HISTORY AND ANALYSIS
by Timothy Lee

PART IV - "German Artillery and Self-Propelled Guns"

Without a doubt, the deadliest gun in the Afrika Korps armory was the infamous 88mm Flak gun. As Germany's standard heavy gun, the "88" saw action on all fronts, operating against armor, aircraft, and, in emergencies, against infantry. As a product of Germany's secret rearmament during the Twenties and Thirties, the 88mm Flak was the result of years of painstaking design and development, and proved to be a superb weapon in skilled hands. Originally designed in World War I as an anti-aircraft gun, the "88"'s A.A. ability to fire heavy shells at high velocity from a long range was capitalized on by the German gunners of Hitler's new Wehrmacht, who gave it a new carriage and sight for its new role as an anti-tank gun. The anti-aircraft element was retained, and the revised gun became a deadly menace to all who ventured into its sights.

The 88mm gun was mounted on a 4-wheeled cruciform carriage, and transversed a full 360° from its pedestal base. Although it weighed 5½ tons, the gun was still maneuverable enough to be manhandled into place. Ready for action at a moment's notice, it could fire unmounted on its bogies as well as from an emplaced position. Like all German artillery, it possessed excellent optics that allowed it to hit an aircraft at 6 miles and a tank at 9. Manned by a well-trained crew of 8-10 men, a camouflaged "88" could fire 20lb shells beyond the speed of sound (maximum velocity was 2,756 feet per second) at a rate of 20 rounds a minute against an approaching tank column, assuring their destruction miles before their own guns could get into range. Pulled by an 8-ton Sd.Kfz. 7 prime mover, the 88mm Flak became an extremely powerful and mobile weapon, with a versatility unmatched by any contemporary gun in the desert.

While the 88mm Flak gun had the makings of a super weapon, it had its weaknesses and vulnerabilities that the British unfortunately overlooked to their dying regret. The gun had a high, thin shield that was easily pierced by machine-gun fire, creating a high silhouette that was difficult to conceal. This made it a conspicuous target in the featureless desert, attracting all sorts of enemy fire. High-explosive fire from long-range artillery could easily neutralize a battery of 88s. Never having enough 88s, Rommel was forced to strip his air defenses to provide additional anti-tank support. Finally, the 88mm Flak was an expensive and bulky weapon to operate, a problem that was minimized only by efficient training and maintenance.

In addition to the "88", the DeAK had two other guns in the Panzerabwehrkanone anti-tank role at the beginning of the North African Campaign: the 37mm PAK 35/36 and the 50mm PAK 38.

The 37mm PAK 35/36 was a small, lightweight AT gun used by the infantry in the early years of the war. Weighing 952 lbs, it fired a 11lb projectile at 2,500 ft/sec from a range of 1,400 yards. The caliber of the gun was its chief drawback, because it demanded a high standard of discipline and crew proficiency, since they had to wait until the enemy tank was nearly upon them before they could effectively kill it with a first shot. Adequate against older tanks, it was phased out of front line service when the new model tanks thickened their armor.

Issued early in 1941, the 50mm PAK 38 was an excellent weapon with a torsion-bar suspension and solid, steel-spoked wheels. It was a powerful gun, firing 4½lb shells at 2,740 ft/sec, with a range of

3,000 yards. Like the "88", it saw service till the end of the war, and was noted for giving out a lot of firepower for its relatively light (2,016 lb) weight.

German artillery pieces were always scarce in the D.A.K., forcing them to rely on their Italian ally's older guns for bombardment and counter-battery fire. But what guns they did have were of excellent quality:

Howitzers are guns that fire shells at low velocity over a high, arching track at an unseen target. As field artillery (having calibers of 75mm-105mm), they serve in front-line units, supplying much of the fire support to the infantry. The Wehrmacht's standard divisional howitzer was the 105mm le FH 18, a reliable weapon that was easy to handle and operate. This 1.9-ton gun had a split-trail carriage, with steel-pressed wheels, a sprung axle, and hydro-pneumatic balancing gear on the barrel, which gave the gun exceptional stability. It fired a 33lb shell over a range of 11,675 feet at a velocity of 1,540 ft/sec.

Heavy artillery fire was provided by medium guns which had a caliber of up to 6 inches. The 150mm SFH 18 howitzer was Germany's medium gun, a well-liked, well built piece whose only unusual feature was a extremely long gun barrel (14 1/2 ft). Germany's tradition of using sliding breech blocks in her guns resulted in the creation of a heavy and massive block for the SFH 18, a feature that contributed considerably to its weight of 7 1/2 tons. To support such a large gun, steel-rimmed or rubber wheels were utilized, and a single axle limber supported the trails when it was towed. It fired both high explosive (HE) and armor-piercing (AP) shells with a velocity of 1,705 ft/sec from a maximum horizontal range of 14,570 yards.

Throughout World War II, the Wehrmacht suffered from a chronic shortage of such properly-developed AFVs as tanks, tank destroyers, self-propelled guns (SP), and infantry close-support vehicles. When the demand for these vehicles outstripped the supply then available German industry was forced to utilize obsolete and foreign equipment as new sources of mobile firepower. The turrets of tanks were removed to allow them to be fitted with heavier weapons. The guns, minus their undercarriages, were positioned at the front of the chassis and thin armored superstructures were fitted around them, producing open-topped fighting compartments. To save both time and money, these conversions were made as simple as possible, resulting in a confusing array of make-shift AFVs. Designed primarily as interim vehicles to hold the front lines while better equipment were being designed and produced, these SP guns frequently found themselves bearing the brunt of armored tank warfare. Because it was assigned a low supply priority, the Afrika Korps reflected these desperate conditions more than other fronts as it became the depository of much of this hasty stop-gap menagerie. At any particular time, such strange oddities such as a Czech 47mm gun mounted on a Panzer I chassis, a W.W.I 155mm howitzer in a French infantry carrier, a captured Russian 76.2mm or a PAK 40 75mm placed on an old Czech TNH/LT 38 tank chassis, and a German 150mm howitzer installed in a cut-down Panzer II saw service in the desert, pressed into service in the mad race to motorize German guns.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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...to free more women for work elsewhere, and to give everyone a better chance to find a spouse. He further announced that the wearing of the veil and the fez is to be prohibited because they tend to separate the sexes too much. He hopes that the people of the Empire will see the wisdom of these actions, and obey them."

THE TIMES: (Paris) "Yesterday's meeting of the French National Assembly was disrupted when a bearded figure in the public gallery jumped over the railing, pushed the legitimate speaker aside, and harangued the crowd for five minutes on the subjects of peace, freedom, and vegetarianism. After his speech, he produced a can of lighter fluid and proceeded to set the podium on fire. He then vanished in the confusion as the building was evacuated. Witnesses agreed that, as he lit the blaze, he shouted, 'Long live the Marius van der Lubbe International Firebombing Society!' Informed sources believe this incident was the work of the Anarchists Anonymous, a secret non-organization with no members (because no real anarchist would join anything) which was not disbanded in 1888, when it last received public notice. All European capitals are in suspense, waiting to see where the anarchists will strike next."

Constantinople Clarion, 30 Feb. '02: "H.I.M. The Sultan announced today that he has just concluded a treaty with the Prime Minister of England for the transfer of the following colonies to the Empire: the Arab states of Bahrain, Qatar, the Trucial Shiehdoms, and Oman; the African states of Sierra Leone and Togoland; and the Asian states of Malay, North Borneo, Brunei, and Sarawak. Official transfer and occupation is to take place 10 March. An official holiday is hereby proclaimed on 12 March, to be known as Empire Day, with all Empire officials to have the day off."

Ankara Herald-Advocate, 17 Mar. '02: "Due to increased agitation by the minority peoples in the southern part of the Empire for increased autonomy, H.I.M. The Sultan announced today that special status is to be granted to the provinces of Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine. The provincial governors and inhabitants' delegates are therefore instructed to report to Ankara by 1 April to discuss the exact terms of the autonomy and the boundaries of the provinces."

VIENNA, 21 Mar. '02: "The King announced today that he has chosen Field Marshal Gratestdorf to head up the Austro-Hungarian 3rd Army raised here in Vienna last winter. The Field Marshall was unavailable for comment, having just returned from testing new calibers of artillery ammunition on the Russian front."

Baghdad Bugle, 25 Mar. '02: "The Sultan's first minister announced today that a program of land reform is to be instituted, beginning 1 April. All nobles will be required to sell 1/2 to 2/3 of their estates to the government, which will then re-sell them to the farmers. In anticipation to any resistance to the program, the army has been mobilized; however, little trouble is expected."

TRIESTE, 21 June '02: "The King-Emperor today made public his destination for his summer holidays -- the Ural Mountains. When asked how this was possible in view of the hostilities existing between Austria-Hungary and Russia, His Majesty said that he would be traveling there via St. Petersburg."

The Jonesboro Dependent Press: "It has been released today that in a joint effort Russia and Turkey have committed some 600,000 men in the war with Austria-Hungary. Russia, though, has neglected the Summer Palace and it looks like the Austro-Hungarian Emperor might just spend a summer in the Urals after all. Although not available for an interview, King-Zimmermann the LXXXIII of England seems to

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be looking for an early end to the war (or at least a stake in the world ice cube market, presently \$3, 10/6 for a Russian Imperial Ton, up 2/4 from last year)."

Damascus Announcer, 29 April '02: "The Sultan announced today the National Assembly has finished its work on the constitution. He has approved it, and it will become official on 1 May. The present Assembly will continue to function, and new elections are scheduled for November 1904. It is hoped that any nations which previously have refused to establish diplomatic relations will do so now."

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THANKS!

As a result of our appeal of issue number seven of The Master Machiavellian for new plugs in an attempt to bolster our number of subscribers, we were pleased to note the excellent response. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following 'zines, with whom we are now or will be trading with:

Diplomacy World -- Walt Buchanan; Poictesme -- Bruce Schlickbernd; Speculum -- Dave Kadlecak; Impassable -- John Boyar; Bushwacker -- Fred G. Davis; Everything -- Doug Beyerlein; The Gameletter -- Don Miller; Greatest Hits -- Peter Birks. Again, our thanks to the publishers of these fine gamezines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the completion of the current historical article on the Deutsches Afrika Korps (or run at the same time, space permitting) will be an article by the editor in chief, Michael G. Homeier, on the various aspects of the naval war of the First World War, covering mostly the North Sea and Mediterranean Sea theaters, including Anglo-Italian engagements with units of the Austro-Hungarian Fleet, the Battle of Dogger Bank, and the titanic Battle of Jutland (the latter two taking place in the North Sea between vessels of the German Imperial High Seas Fleet and the Grand Fleet of Great Britain).

Several inquiries have been made to us regarding the subject of the other non-Diplomacy-type games we have said that we will run. We will in fact run games in just about any context, simulations game desired that we have a copy of and/or can embody into the gamezine. Some of these games would include Frigate, Tank, Wolfpack, Sixth Fleet, PanzerBlitz, and so on in tournament-type contests. Interested parties are invited to inquire.

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