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MURD'RING

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MINISTERS

Issue #47

June 11, 1982

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a game designed to the play of postal DIPLOMACY, a game owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co. MM is available at the low subscription price of 12/\$5.50; 50¢/issue if purchased in smaller increments than 12. MM is published by that little ol' Main Minister, so, Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Berkeley, CA 94704. Phone (805) 834-8409. There are currently Game openings. See the GAME OPENINGS section for details.

Well, let's see now, there are a few things worth mentioning this time around. Where to begin? How about with the last issue of EVERYTHING (#52) which arrived just after the last MM went out. This issue was put out by Don Ditter alone and was a massive 26 pager filled with interesting Dippy stats. Don, at 910 Hope St. #12A, Stamford, CT 06907 is looking for someone to help him with the printing and distribution of future EVERYTHINGs. If you are thinking of doing something that would benefit the Hobby, this is your chance. Don gives the procedure as: "every so often I mail the editor/publisher a packet of game stats and finishes. He types them up and when there is enough material to publish I send a cover letter . . . and address labels. He then completes the issue, copies, collates, and mails it out -- I cover all costs." So if you don't mind a little work that doesn't cost you any bucks, why not become the next publisher of EVERYTHING? Write to Don for more details.

If you haven't voted in this year's LEEDER POLL, you probably have just enough time to get one in if you act right away. The deadline for your ballot is the end of June. Just rate each zine you receive on a scale of 1-10 with ten the tops. Send your ballot to John Leeder, 695 15th St. NW, Calgary, Alberta CANADA T2N 2B1. And if you're really motivated, you can vote for your gamemasters in a like manner. Hurry.

Another fake DIPLOMACY DIGEST entitled DIPLOMACY DIGRESS arrived a couple of weeks ago. It contained some humorous endgame statements and a good parody of Mark's "The Nine Column". Anyone know who did it?

John R. Pack, 290 Kimberly Lane, Los Alamos, NM 87544, and friends have a new(?) Dipsine out entitled POLYMERO. I recently received issue #11 1/3 so apparently it's been out for awhile although I hadn't heard of it before now. It will be published monthly on the first Monday of each month. All games will be free of charge if you have a two year "membership" in John's "club". Dues are \$7.20/year. This issue contained some interesting articles and cartoons. Write to John at the above address for a sample!

(Con'd pg.3)

MURD'RING MINISTERS MAILING LIST (6/11/82)

1. Jeff Albrecht, 2029 Cedar Breaks Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84118.
2. Stephen G. Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale, PA 19446.
3. Marc Arrigo, 103 Tenby Rd., Havertown, PA 19083.
4. John Beck, 2406 18th Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502.
5. Jim Bumpas, 1405 West 26th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405.
6. Ronald J. Brown, RR#1, Brennan's Hill, Low, Quebec, CANADA JOX 2C0
7. Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304.
8. Mary Beck, 5410 West 190th St. #24, Torrance, CA 90503.
9. Doug Beyerlein, 640 College, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
10. David Carter, 118 Horsham Ave., Willowdale, Ontario CANADA M2N 129
11. John Caruso, 160-02 43rd Ave 2nd Floor, Flushing, NY 11358.
12. R. Michael Conner, 1500-B Ashwood Rd., Austin, TX 78703.
13. Gary L. Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118.
14. George Cunningham, 75 Cedar St., Burlington, VT 05401.
15. Patrick J. Conlon, Box 1212 270 Sig. Co., Pirmasens, Germany APO New York 09189.
16. Don Ditter, 910 Hope St., #12A, Stamford, CT 06907.
17. Fred Davis, 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207.
18. Martin Ethington, 1732 18th Ave. Apt. O, Seattle, WA 98122.
19. Bruce T. Filbeck, 4240 Kilgore Rd., Crosswell, MI 48422.
20. Jim Finley, 1716 Nisson Rd., Apt. C, Tustin, CA 92680.
21. Jack Fleming, 5000 22nd Ave NE #211, Seattle, WA 98105.
22. Paul Goodrich, 1839 18th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122.
23. Daniel Gorham, 1365 Edgecliffe Apt. 3, Los Angeles, CA 90026.
24. Dave Graber, 1583 Truman, Chowchilla, CA 93610.
25. Timothy R. Haffey, 810 53rd Ave., Oakland, CA 94601.
26. Scott Hanson, 701 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.
27. Roy Henricks, 128 Deerfield, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.
28. Jim Gray, 436 Concord Ave., Elyria, OH 44035.
29. W.A. Hugh, 17622 Jordan #20D, Irvine, CA 92715.
30. Andy Halla, 539 Pennsylvania St., Denver, CO 80203.
31. Ron Kelly, 6038 Richmond Hwy #314, Alexandria, VA 22303.
32. Steve Langley, 2154 Fairfield Rd., Sacramento, CA 95815.
33. Bruce Linsey, 24A Quarry Dr., Albany, NY 12205.
34. Jerry Lucas, 3902 Lakemead Way, Redwood City, CA 94062.
35. Tom Mainardi, 1403 Lawrence Rd., Havertown, PA 19083.
36. Dick Martin, 7400 Columbia Ave. #4, College Park, MD 20740.
37. John H. Masters, 25711 No. Vistax Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355.
38. Larry McCloud, 520 Geary, San Francisco, CA 94102.
39. Stephen Lee, 23690 Doane Creek, Sheridan, OR 97378.
40. John Michalski, Rt. 10, Box 526Q, Moore, OK 73165.
41. Michael Mills, 47 Mayer Dr., Suffern, NY 10901.
42. R.L. Morton, 173 Irving Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA K1Y 1Z6
43. Robert Olsen, 6818 Winterberry Circle, Wichita, KS 67226.
44. D.S. Palter, Box 156, Cedarhurst, NY 11516.
45. Al Pearson, PO Box 898, Charles Town, WV 25414.
46. Konrad Baumeiser, Box 6050 Henle, Washington DC 20057.
47. R. Clark Reynolds, 6731 37th Ave, Sacramento, CA 95824.
48. Bob Sergeant, 3242 Lupine Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224.
49. Bill Schiwautz, 1342 N. Cresent Hgts Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.
50. Don Swartz, 6703 Strawberry Lane #409, Louisville, KY 40214.
51. Deane Sperdakos, 154 West 70th St. #2D, New York, NY 10023.
52. Bobby Stephens, PO Box 340111, Dallas, TX 75234.
53. Ben Schilling, Apt. 315, 24730 Roosevelt Ct., Farmington Hills, MI 48018.
54. Daniel P. Stafford, 2640 Adams Apt. D, Columbus, OH 43202.

(Con'd next pg.)

MAILING LIST (Con'd)

55. James R. Williams, 2500 6th St. SW, Altoona, IA 50009.
 56. Allan Wells, 1450 Worcester Rd., Apt. 8109, Framingham, MA 01701.
 57. Tim Winger, 419-16 Piccadilly Place, San Bruno, CA 94066.
 58. Judy Winsome, 749 21st Ave., Apt. #3, San Francisco, CA 94121.
 59. Pete Tamlyn, 17, Pelham Court, Kingston Rd., STAINES, Middlesex UK TW18 1AL.

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MORE STUFF (Con'd from pg. 1)

THE GREAT WAR IN MODERN MEMORY is the name of the zine published by Guy and Elizabeth Hail, 1103-B Lorraine St., Austin, TX 78703. Issue #25 (5/19) was the first anniversary issue. Guy has one regular DIPLOMACY game opening, a thirty-day deadline and a gamefee of \$6.00 which includes a survival length subscription. TGM features an attractive format, clear printing, and illustrations. Write for a sample.

I'm not exactly being overwhelmed by a flood of articles! The last several months have been really devoid of any reader contributions. Anyone have anything to say? Remember that an easy way to extend your MM subscription is to write an article for these pages. Why not start writing one today?

JUST AMONG FRIENDS published by Al Pearson, Box 898, Charles Town, WV 25414 continues to be one of my favorite zines. Al currently has 12 DIPLOMACY games underway therein and has just begun two new subzines so there will be more game openings now. The subscription rate to JAF is \$8.40/12 and it is one of the most reliable zines in the hobby coming out once a month. Al has never yet been late and he has published 22 issues already! If you are interested in an excellent GM, excellent repro, timely publication, and one that has openings, write to Al for a sample!

The latest DIPLOMACY DIGEST (#59) arrived lately. After all the fakes of it, I had to look at it closely to see if it was the real thing or not. The theme of this particular DD is the debate on which is preferable, getting a draw or getting a strong second place in a DIP game. I've been planning a similar discussion in MM, so it was of particular interest to me. Also of interest about this issue are Mark's comments about all the confessions of those responsible for the fake DD, "Grandson of Lexicon". Those claiming they were responsible for the fake issue were: Guy Hail, Bruce Linsey, Myself, Kathy Byrne, Andy Lishett, Steve Arnawoodian, Gary Coughlin, and Jack Fleming. Even though Berch thinks otherwise I must confess to all of you that it was indeed myself that did the fake. Thank you and good night.

There has been some discussion lately about whether or not the scoring system used at a tournament should be kept secret or not. The two most notable debaters on this topic have been Mark Berch and Steve Langley. I really must take Steve's side on this one. The main argument, it seems, for the argument of making the scoring system public is Mark's contention that without knowing the system, a player might make a decision that hurts his score. Mark gave this example in COAT OF ARMS #10: "You are England, with 13 centers. Austria has 12, Italy has one. Austria tells you, 'I will attack Italy on this, the final move of the game. You could foil this by supporting him; please do not.' What do you as England, do? . . . the winner will be determined by the choice of system, not quality of play." But if the scoring system is known, England's choice is made up for him. He will do whatever will improve his chances. If it's unknown, he must make a decision and wait to see how the scoring system awards points for it. I mentioned before my experience of playing Turkey in a tournament game. The last move of the game was coming up - one that I had carefully set up and played for. I was going to stab two countries at once and gain 5 SCs, and if the system were unknown, I would have. But because it would have lost points, I didn't do it. I maintain that knowing the scoring system perverts the natural course of the game!

1980IX FALL 1908 GAME ENDS WITH AN E-I-R DRAW!!

1980IX has ended with a unanimous vote for the E-I-R Draw. Please send your endgame statements to me by July 16, so I can publish them with the final SC Chart and Stats next issue. Congratulations to Al, Bill, and George!

1980KZ WINTER 1907 TWO MORE TURKISH ARMIES APPEAR!

England- No Adj
 France- F Tun-r-OTB, F Bre-r-MID (GM note: this unit was not listed in the last game report- should have been F Bre-H/d/-r-Mid, etc)
 Disbands F Lyo
 Germany- NBR! (plays one short)
 Italy- No Adj
 Turkey- Builds A SMY, A ANK

1980KZ SPRING 1908 TURKS CONTINUE UNOPPOSED MARCH WITH HELP FROM POPE PUPPET!!

England (Kelly): A NTH-Den; A Hol-KIE; F Nat-NWG; A Fin-STP; F NWY-s-A Fin-StP.
 France (Sperdakos): F Mid-ENG; F SPA(sc)-H.
 Germany (Stephens): NBR! A Tya-H/a/; A StP-H/d/-r-Lyn,OTB; A BRE, A PAR, A BOH, A SIL, F SWE, F DEN - all H.
 Italy (Hugh): A VEN & A PIE-s-Turkish A Vie-Tya; A Bur-MUN; F Tys-LYO.
 Turkey (Masters): A Con-Bul/NSU//; A Ank-CON; A Smy-ARM; A Sev-MOS; A UKR-s-A Sev-Mos; A WAR-Sil; A GAL-Boh; A Vie-TYA; A Bud-VIE; A Ser-TRI; F Tri-ADR; F ADR-ION; F Ion-TYS; F Tun-NAF; F Apu-NAP.

Fall 1908 due July 16, 1982.

Would Al Pearson, PO Box 898 Charles Town, WV 25414 please submit standby orders for Germany?

1980KZ Press-

POPE-BAKERSFIELD: If you haven't got any rescue pictures of your wife, would you like to buy some? -- Yes, the Pope has an excellent lawn, with all kinds of wonderful grass growing in it! (Choke - cough!)

ITALY-TURKEY: Why do I feel this heavy burden on my back-side?? I feel like someone's watching me from dark corners.

1981D Press (Con'd from pg. 5)

ITALY-WORLD: Woody is a dildoe (wooden prick).

ENGLAND-ITALY: Don't worry about France; he'll be around longer than you!

"Nothing in his life
 Became him like the leaving it; he died
 As one that had been studied in his
 death

To throw away the dearest thing he
 ow'd,

As 'twere a careless trifle."

MACBETH I, iv, 7.

"Is this a dagger which I see before me,
 The handle toward my hand? Come,
 let me clutch thee:

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
 Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
 To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
 A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
 Proceeding from the heat-oppresed
 brain?"

MACBETH II, i, 33.

1981AB (Con'd)

success against Goodrich's Germany and Rick Ragsdale was doing very well with Russia by cooperating with Jack. This game began really well and held a lot of potential, in the early going to be a great deal of fun for all. Unfortunately, a few players lost interest, Rick was forced to resign because of a new assignment in the Air Force, and a chain reaction developed leaving Jack as the only original player of the five remaining nations. Congratulations to Jack on what I believe is his first postal win. He is an excellent player and deserves the victory.

ENGLAND - Jack Fleming (Winner): Not much to say about this game. I was surprised to see the concession pass -- but a win's a win. Thanks to all the standby's who sent in orders. This game never was very exciting either strategically or tactically -- my only highlights were the chance to meet Dan Kuszynski, Mary Beck, and, of course, David Manuel. Thanks.

* * * * *

1981D WINTER 1907 CONCESSION TO ENGLAND FAILS!
M England- Builds F LON, F LPL, F EDI Italy- A Mar-r-PIE, Disbands F Gre & A Bud
France- No Adj Turkey- No Adj
Germany- Builds A MUN, A BER
1981D SPRING 1908 BRITANNIA REALLY RULES THE WAVES NOW WITH 3 NEW FLEETS! MAD TURK
RETURNS AND ORDERS THREE SUPPORTS FOR NON-EXISTENT UNITS! KRAUTS INVADE
TYROLIA & BUDAPEST!

England (Arnawoodian): F MAR-s-F Spa(sc); F SPA(sc)-s-F Eng-Mid; F ENG-Mid;
F LON-Eng; A WAL-H; F Lpl-IRI; F Edi-NWG; F NTH-s-German
A Bel; F Nap-ROM; F Tun-ION; A MOS-Sev; A LVN-Mos.
France (Gray)* A Par-BUR; A PIC-s-A Par-Bur.
Germany (Langley): A BEL-H; A Mun-TYA; A TRI-s-A Mun-Tya; A Bur-MUN; A Ber-SIL;
A Vie-BUD; A GAL-s-A Vie-Bud; A Boh-VIE; A UKR-Rum.
Italy (Filbeck): A Gas-BRE; F LYO-Spa(sc); A PIE-Mar; F NAF-Mid; A Tva-Mun/d/
r-Ven,Boh,OTB.
Turkey (Ethington): F BLA-s-A Sev; A SEV-s-A Rum; F BUL(ec)-s-A Rum; A RUM-s-
Italian A Bud/NSU/; F AEG & F EAS-s-Italian F Gre-Ion/NSU/.

Fall 1908 due July 16, 1982. Thanks to Larry McCloud whose Turkish standby orders were not needed. There are several proposals to be voted on with your next orders. Please vote on each remembering 'NVR'='yes' vote. The proposals:

- German-English Draw
- Concession to France
- English-German-Italian Draw
- English-German-Turkish Draw.

((1981D Press is on the following page))

*See the address list in this issue for Jim Gray's address.

* * * * *

"When sorrows come, they come not
single spies,
But in battalions."

HAMLET IV, v, 78.

"My pride fell with my fortunes."

269.

"Bait the hook well: this fish will
bite."

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING II, 111, 121.

"He is come to open
The purple testament of bleeding war."

RICHARD II, III, 111, 93.

NEW GAME BEGINS! BOARDMAN NUMBER,
PLEASE, DON?

MM-15 1982?? EUROPE BEGINS ARMS RACE AS WAR SEEMS CERTAIN!

- Austria: Larry McCloud, 520 Geary, San Francisco, CA 94102.
- England: Robert Olsen, 6818 Winterberry Circle, Wichita, KS 67226.
- France: W.A. Hugh, 17622 Jordan #20D, Irvine, CA 92715.
- Germany: Don Swartz, 6703 Strawberry Lane #409, Louisville, KY 40214.
- Italy: D.S. Palter, Box 156, Cedarhurst, NY 11516.
- Russia: John Beck, 2406 18th Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502.
- Turkey: Daniel Gorham, 1365 Edgecliffe Apt. 3, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

Spring 1901 is due July 16, 1982. Good luck to all!

MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY
LIST

Regular DIPLOMACY - Larry McCloud, Dan Gorham, Jim Gray, and Al Pearson. Anyone else care to be added? Did I forget to list anyone who has requested to be on the list? The more the merrier. Remember, taking over a standby position gets you into a MM game free!

GAME OPENINGS

Regular DIPLOMACY - Another game of regular DIPLOMACY is in the works! The gamefee is \$6.00 plus a refundable \$3.00 NMR deposit. A subscription to MM must be maintained additionally. One signed up. There are six open spots. This one will begin as soon as they're filled.

1981AB FINAL STATS AND ENDGAME STATEMENTS

1981AB MURD'RING MINISTERS (Ron Brown) Austria: Mary Beck (Out W'03); England: Jack Fleming (WIN W'05); France: David Manuel (Dropped F'04) Dan Gorham; Germany: Paul Goodrich (Out W'04); Italy: Dan Kuszynski (Resigned F'04) Jerry Lucas; Russia: Rick Ragsdale (Resigned S'04) Steve Heinowski; Turkey: Paul Ajdaharian (Resigned F'02) Steve Arnawoodian.

	01	02	03	04	05
A	3	1	0	X	X
E	4	5	6	7	9
F	5	6	6	6	4
G	5	3	2	0	X
I	6	8	8	6	5
R	6	7	8	11	12
T	4	4	4	4	4

WINS BY CONCESSION

GM Comment-

This game has the distinction of being one of the most quickly concluded of any MM game and one of the highest dropout rates of any game I've GM'd. The highlights? There were a few worth mentioning. As evidenced by a glance at the final SC Chart, the central powers of Germany and Austria came under early attack and were the only

ones eliminated. Mary Beck's Austria fell victim to one of the most devious, underhanded, sneaky, backstabbing players ever to grace the DIPLOMACY hobby in Dan Kuszynski. In a 'telephone blitz' of diplomacy, Dan convinced Mary to vacate her centers -- even as he moved into them right behind her. Meanwhile, Jack Fleming was enjoying

1981AY SUMMER 1905 English A Bel-r-HOL; Russian A Mos-r-OTB/NRR/
 1981AY FALL 1905 SULTAN TAKES HOLIDAY -- AND LOSES THREE SUPPLY CENTERS!!
 Austria (Lucas): A Tya-VEN; F Ion-NAP; A Rum-BUL; A Gal-RUM; A Boh-GAL.
 England (Gray): A Hol-BEL; F NTH-s-A Hol-Bel; F Eng-BRE; F Iri-NAT.
 France (Winger): A PIC-s-A Bel; A Bel-H/a/; A Bre-PAR; F Por-SPA(nc); A Gas-MAR.
 Germany (Albrecht): A BUR-Mun; A KIE-Mun; A RUH-s-English A Hol-Bel; F Bal-SWE;
 F Ber-BAL; A War-UKR; A MOS-s-A War-Ukr.
 Russia (Beck)*: NMR; F ANK-H.
 Turkey (Halls)*: NMR; F MID, F NAF, F WES, F LYO, A GRE, A CON, A SEV, F BLA,
 A ARM - all H.

Winter 1905 AND Spring 1906 orders are due July 16, 1982.

I will hope that Mary Beck submits orders for her lone Russian fleet -- otherwise Russia will be placed in CD.

**Would Larry McCloud standby for Turkey? (See address in this issue's Mailing List).

1981AY 1905 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ven, Rum, NAP, BUL,.....	(7)	+2
England- Home, Bel, Nwy, BRE,.....	(6)	+2 (was one short)
France- Mar, Par, Spa, Por,.....	(4)	0
Germany- Home, Den, Hol, Swe, War, StP, MOS,.....	(9)	+2 (was one short)
Russia- Mos, Ser, ANK,.....	(2)	+1 (no home centers to build)
Turkey- Con, Smy, ANK, Gre, Tun, Rom, Sev,.....	(6)	-3

1981AY Press-

AUSTRIA-WORLD: Don't forget to vote for the main minister in the Leeder Poll.
 AUSTRIA-ENGLAND: We regret the apparent departure of Minister Hartman and hope for his rapid return to the diplomatic community.
 PARIS: It has come to the attention of the French Government that a new natural oddity has been discovered in California. Known as the Terran Black Hole, it was discovered in San Jose -- a mass so dense that even mail can't escape.
 SWITZERLAND (PP): Informed sources have pointed to an apparent loose alliance being formed by French and German forces against the new English regime. (Thanks for the article on grey press - Ron).
 MADEIRA-WORLD: The Portuguese state department through their representatives in Funchal have noted the remarkable reduction in fraudulent diplomatic missives.
 AUSTRIA-TURKEY: Sometimes when a man gets to be very good with a hammer, everything starts to look like nails.

1981AP SUMMER 1907 Russian A Sev-r-MOS
 1981AP FALL 1907 ENGLAND BECOMES MAJOR POWER WITH HELP FROM THE FROGS; ITALIAN EXPANSION CONTINUES!

England (Gray): F Nwg-NWY; A Den-SWE; F KIE-H; F Eng-BEL; F NTH-s-F Eng-Bel; A YOR-H.
 France (Gorham): F BAR-s-English F Nwg-Nwy; A MUN-Bur.
 Italy (Williams): F PIC-Bel; A BUR-s-F Pic-Bel; A Bre-PAR; F Mid-IRI; F Spa(sc)-MID; A TYA-s-Russian A Boh-Mun/NSO/; A VIE-s-A Bud; A BUD-s-A Tri-Ser; A Tri-SER; F ION-Eas; F TYS-Ion.
 Russia (McCloud): A UKR-s-A Mos-Sev; A MOS-Sev; A GAL-Rum; A Boh-SIL; A BER-s-A Boh-Sil; F Nwy-STP(nc).
 Turkey (Haffey): A ARM-s-A Sev; A SEV-H; A BUL-Ser; A RUM-s-A Bul-Ser; F BLA-s-A Rum; F SMY-Eas; F GRE-H.

Winter 1907 AND Spring 1908 are due July 16, 1982.

1981AP 1907 Supply Center Chart

England- Home, Den, Hol, Kie, BEL, SWE, NWY,.....	(9)	+3
France- Mun,.....	(1)	-1
Italy- Home, Tun, Tri, Vie, Mar, Spa, Por, Bre, Par, SER, BUD,.....	(13)	+2
Russia- StP, War, Mos, Ber,.....	(4)	-2
Turkey- Home, Bul, Gre, Ser, Rum, SEV,.....	(7)	0

*GM Note: Italy actually took Budapest last year but wasn't given credit for it. Since he had 3 builds last year it makes no difference but this is why it's listed as a new SC in the '07 SC Chart - RB.
 (Press on next page)

1981AP Press-

LONDON-MOSCOW: The English Government regrets that these attacks had to occur. However, the lack of communication between us has left us no choice.

SWITZERLAND-TURKEY: Letting the Italian into the Ionian sure is a queer way to set up your attack on him. You'd better be more serious about it from now on if you want our alliance to work.

AUSTRIA
by
Stan Johnson

((This article was first published in Jerry Jones' LIES, DECEIT, & NEFARIOUS SCHEMES, Issue #50 - RB))

Many people despair upon hearing they've drawn Austria. Ooooh NOOOOOOOO! They cry throwing up their hands in defeat. "I'll never see '04," they sigh, resigning themselves to a draw at best.

But are they right to do this? Sure, Austria has more potential enemies than a dog has fleas and only the fact there is only four directions from which the enemy can come, North, South, East, and West, limits Austria's vulnerabilities.

However, just as there is great risk there is also great potential for an Austrian player who uses his wits and his pen. Austrians who don't write, find self in big fight.

Sure, you're vulnerable; use it to your advantage. When you write the Big Four remind them of this: "I'm vulnerable, I have enough to worry about." Many attacks originate out of fear, man's basic fight or flight instinct arises even in DIPLOMACY. If you make someone nervous, they'll attack you, so ease these fears and calm those nerves.

You have the least to fear from Germany. In fact a good relationship with Germany can be your ace in the hole. Remind him of your common Aryan ancestry, your common heritage and foes. The threat of a block in Sweden may keep Russia honest.

Russia may be the one country with more to worry about than you. If you can establish a common ground in this paranoia, he may be a good friend. You must interest him in the Turk and vice versa. Let them both know the other is plotting against him. A Russian-Turkish war is every Austrian's truest wish. However, the same Russian weaknesses that may ally you sometimes prompts the Russian to attack. Why should Russia attack the one nation for which he has the least to fear, you may ask? Indeed, often the Russian feels incapable of dealing with a strong foe, so he seeks the weakest, he may also be hoping to appease the Turk, or received promises from the Italian. So with false dreams of glory he heads South. Always watch Galicia, it is your most vulnerable point. Always be prepared for Russian perfidy. If you are wise you have made preparations for gaining English or German aid in the event of such an attack. Then, of course, there is always the Turk.

If the Turk does not attack Russia, you can bet dollars to doughnuts he's coming after you. So you had best get him after Russia unless you are a masochist. Promise the Turk anything and everything. Show him how to achieve two birds at Russia's expense. Point out the advantages of boating to the Black Sea and vacationing in Sevastopol. Inform him about the secret Russian plan for the invasion of Turkey, that's fallen into your hands, and of the dread Russian-Italian alliance aimed at you and he. However, always remember the Turk's usefulness to you is short term. If allowed to grow unchecked he'll be your undoing, so use him and lose him.

Which brings me to Italy. Surprisingly, it is often easy to reach agreement with the Italian. This may be because most writers of these articles are quick to say an early attack on you is bad for Italy. Besides, if a peaceful agreement about the Venice/Trieste question can be worked out there is really little to fight over. A three-way German/Italian/Austrian neutralization of Tyrolia often suits everyone.

((Con'd next pg.))

AUSTRIA (Con'd)

An Italian ally can also be a great asset against the Turk. Let Italy know you are protecting Trieste so he is not tempted to go there. Also, I never buy these brilliant Italian schemes to attack Turkey by moving A Ven-Tri. You may want to try it but I'm not that trusting. If you are attacked by Italy, Turkey is your best chance for aid. France may help you but usually he has his own worries and takes his time coming.

As far as offense, play it by ear. Watch for an opening and go for the throat. Once Austria gets a secure flank or two the world had better watch its ass.

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Tim Winger))

Dear Ron,

Three more weeks and I'll be a gun-toting, full-fledged Postal Inspector -- they're sending me to Denver for a couple of years so I might miss the next Sact-Con.
Tim Winger

((So, you'll be a Postal Inspector, huh? Does this mean the next time an issue of MM arrives late to your place you'll be able to go out and shoot the SOB who's to blame? Seriously, it sounds like a good job. Be sure to let us know how you like it. Denver's nice - I'm sure you will enjoy your stay there. - RB))

((from Jim Williams))

Dear Ron,

I haven't heard anything about your family's health lately, but I hope that all is well again in that regard. Judging by your apparent high spirits in the last MM, I trust that it is.

I've got a few more months to go before Marti and I become 3. We start our natural childbirth classes tonight and I'm sooo excited. I suppose it will pay off in the long run though. I am looking forward to being in the delivery room though.

Oh, I'm glad you found that cartoon. ((the Snoopy surfing cartoon that adorned the cover of MM#45)) It was one of my favorites. I enjoyed your "teacher humor", too. Don't worry though, school is almost out for the summer.

I agree with John Michalski's statement that NMRs happen not because of short deadlines, but due to a lack of interest on the players' part. In the 3 years or so that I've been playing postal DIP, I've noticed that if a player NMRs once in a game, the chances are good that it will happen again.

An exception would be the player who is obviously appalled at his NMR that may have occurred for reasons beyond his control. These are very few though.

I hope you are right though and that the number of NMRs do decrease under the longer deadlines. It couldn't hurt!

Take care,
Jim

((Thanks for writing, Jim. It's always a pleasure to hear from you. Yes, thank you the health of the boys is very good right now. As soon as the cold weather departed their general well being increased greatly. We have to keep giving Corey his medication until next December but other than that everything is fine. I know you and your wife must be getting very anxious now with your child's imminent arrival. Your life will never be the same, that's for sure! Char and I attended the LaMaze classes before Corey's birth, but then we ended up having to have a Caesarian
((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

Section with him so all that intensive training was pretty much wasted. The exercises really helped Char deal with the labor pains though so it ended up helping anyway. I'm the one who's glad I found that cartoon. I knew it was around here somewhere and I finally found it in a stack of old papers I was going through one day. Thanks for your patience! School is out for the summer! I don't think I need to convey my feelings about that! Speaking of NMRs - Last issue (#46) I had as many as I've had in awhile . . . and it was the first issue of allowing the extra week of time! Maybe you guys are right and if a guy is going to NMR he's going to NMR regardless of whether he has a 2 week deadline or one of 6 weeks. I have upped the gamefees for MM games in an attempt to cut down on the NMRs. If someone has to apay a heftier fee for a game maybe they'll hold more interest in it. We'll see as the new game starts this issue. I'm glad you provided for the exception to your observation about NMRs. I've NMR'd before in games but I don't believe I've ever done it more than once in any one game. And as you noted, I am appalled when it occurs. Let's wait a little longer before we cast judgement on the four week deadlines. Thanks again for writing. - RB))

((from Bob Olsen))

Dear Fish,

Sigh. This really grieves me. I thought the problem could be covered up, but you, Ron, have brought it our into the open. Did I not plead with you? Did I not beg that you censor Gary's raving before the shameful truth came out? But no, you have to be so smart. You have to publish every damn thing you get your hands on, even when it's nothing but a bunch of mutterings from the bottom of an empty Coors bottle, the final ravings of a mind so far gone in the mists of alcohol poisoning (and note how the poisoning spills over into his letter) that all hope, yes, every bit of hope, for recovery is lost. Alas, that Gary has come to this! I didn't want Dipdom to have to see this sorry spectacle, and I did my best to safeguard the shocking secret of Gary's mental deterioration as long as I could, but you, with these standards of "journalism" to which you pretend, have had to drag the facts out from under their rock (which they share with Gary) and into the light of day. All right, on your head be it. It's just too bad that you chose to print Gary's letter on blue paper, when yellow paper would have so much better denoted the type of journalism to which you have resorted. (Notice the color of EUROPA EXPRESS paper; Q.E.D.).

However, I'm willing to give you another chance, even though you don't actually deserve it. I think that this argument between Gary and me has gone on quite long enough. I'm sick of it, and I know your readers are too. I mean, when our letters start to attract scavengers from the boneyard of DIPLOMACY teapot-tempests like Bruce Linsey, then we have reached a sorry pass indeed. Therefore, I am now taking a step designed to bring the Coughlan-Olsen "argument" to a halt, once and for all, now and forever. I call for an ombudsman!

I have given this matter a lot of thought. There are probably a lot of ombudsmen who could do the job, but frankly, it would be hard to find someone totally objective. After all, Gary Coughlan has made himself such an object of derision and contempt throughout the country (and, thanks to the international flavor of his zinny, throughout the world) that there are probably very few people who could even consider this tragic matter without breaking into gales of laughter. However, I think that you might be satisfactory. Of course, I want someone who can make a decision on this matter, and enforce it. How about it, Ron? Will you do this? If so, I will undertake to supply a list of reasons why I should be considered an "obnoxious Yankee" and Gary can supply a list of reasons why I should not. (Boy, these Southerners are so easy to confuse! Wanna buy a bridge, Clem?)

I suppose I should say something about the Wichita River Festival, since Gary brought it up and kept harping on it at obsessive, interminable length. Of course,

((Con'd nex pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

we can all understand why Gary is insanely jealous about this event; after all, there's nothing going on in Tennessee this year except the (ho ho) World's Fair. I would like to at this time invite Gary to attend the River Festival; I think it would do him a lot of good. Just think of the possible benefits when Gary competes in the bathtub race! Of course driving such an unfamiliar vehicle might be a problem, but once Gary sees a bathtub and comes to understand its uses, I predict a vast improvement in his social acceptability! But then, we covered the matter of the Plague Times T-shirt awhile back, now didn't we?

Best wishes,
Bob Olsen

((Thanks for writing, Bob. If Gary agrees to your proposal, I will agree to be the ombudsman deciding whether or not you have the right to be called "an obnoxious Yankee". Well, Gary, what do you think? - RB))

((from John Michalski - let me preface his letter by stating that last issue I ran a quote from Pete Tamlyn's ACOLYTE which referred to a remark of John's about nuking Europe: ". . . one of the American correspondents has gone on record as favouring withdrawing from Europe immediately and then nuking the place to prevent the Commies from getting their hands on it."))

Not quite true. I proposed nuking it only after it was occupied by Soviet troops, as was made clear later even to those who misread the original. With the population of Western Europe what it is, you have the wealth and population to defend yourselves if you wanted to. Yet you "leave it to the Yanks", and give us a bunch of shit for carrying your load for you. "Frightening"? No. "Disgusting"? Yes!

John Michalski

((Thanks for the response, John. For what it's worth: I don't ever want to contemplate the possibility of a nuclear war. There will not be any winners in an all-out nuclear confrontation. The Soviets know this and don't want a nuclear war. Why would they wreck their economy building up the world's most awesome conventional armed force if they wanted to see it and everything else go up in radioactive dust? No, all the aggressions being committed in various parts of the world are with conventional weapons and it's ~~in~~ in this area that the Free World needs to upgrade its strength. Any comments Pete, John, or anyone else? - RB))

* * * * *

SCIENCE FICTION LITERATURE TRIVIA QUIZ

Here's something I've never done before - a quiz! These are probably pretty simple, but here goes anyway. See if you know the answer to all of the following:

1. What is Paul Muad'dib's real name?
2. What famous monument for decades has become a symbol of science fiction's pessimistic view of the future? (Giants have uprooted it, aliens have found it curious, Charlton Heston has gazed up at it and realized which planet his new ape-infested homeland really is).
3. Name the producer of "2001: A Space Odyssey".
4. A science fiction classic of immense scope is THE STAR MAKER (1937). Name the author.
5. Valentine Michael Smith was raised by Martians. What is the name of the well-known novel he appears as the protagonist and who wrote it?

((Answers in the next MM))

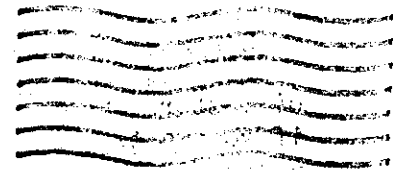
WRAP-UP

Well, there goes another fun issue (?). Who all is going to ORIGINS this July 23-24? Mark Berch has named off quite a list here lately so it seems like all of you are going to have quite a great time there. You guys think about those of us who live on the West Coast and are too broke to make the long trek to Baltimore. If any of you are going to be snapping any photos while there, I would very much appreciate you sending me a copy of a few with the names of those pictured so I could run them in the August issue. Anyone do that for me? Well, that's if for now. Take it easy . . . or any way you can get it! Bye!

* * * * *

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Would you please standby in game # _____ on pg. _____?
Your subscription expires with issue # _____. Would you please renew now?

Messages: Doug, Thanks for resubbing! Hope you have a great time in Baltimore this July. Best, Ron

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