

off-the-shelf



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vol XIV, no 2

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off-the-shelf is published by Tom Howell, 365 Storm King Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363, USA; phone 360-928-9698; electronic mail: off-the-shelf@olympus.net. Web version at: www.olympus.net/personal/howell/o-t-s. *off-the-shelf* is dedicated to the play of Diplomacy, Downfall of the Lord of the Rings, and other diversions.

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Welcome to Volume XIV, number 2, the one hundred fourth issue of *off-the-shelf*.

The *off-the-shelf* Standby List:

Bart Denny, Fred Wiedemeyer, Jon Fetter, Dave Partridge, Martin Burgdorf, Andy York, Tim Snyder, Paul Milewski, Keith Evans, Dave McCrumb, Don Williams, Doug Kent, Mark Nelson, James Nelson, David Anderson, and Jim Burgess.

off-the-shelf Game Openings:

By Popular Demand. Game Name: *Snag Peak*. A word game! Join Now! GM: Andy York. See page 4
The Golden Strider. Game Name: *Michel Jazy*. Need about eight. Have Jim Reader, Brendan Whyte, Bart Denny, Brad Martin, Dave Partridge. Want three more!
Dress Mlle. Need about eight (plus or minus two?). Have Jim Reader, Bart Denny, Brad Martin, Dave Partridge, Tim Snyder. Want a couple more...
World Record. Need five to eight. Have Brad Martin, Dave Partridge. Want three to six more.
Small World II R. GM: Mark Nelson. Need 7 or 8. Have Brendan Whyte.
Sign up lists for Diplomacy or it's variants are hereby cancelled until further notice.

Sub-Assembly Schedule

Variations on a Theme	3	Skokomish River II Fall 1909	12, 15
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ManorCon XXIV will be held on 21st to 24th July 2006, in Shackleton Hall at the University of Birmingham, England. This year, the con will be in a different area of Shackleton. Rio's is a two storey hall that is completely new following the refurbishment. We will be using both levels, including the bar that serves directly into the lower level. More information about the location is available at <http://devel.diplom.org/manorcon/location.htm>.

The Flyer and booking form are available at <http://devel.diplom.org/manorcon/book.htm>.

The following arrived in my e-mail box whilst I was putting this thing together. I haven't looked at it myself, but would be interested in a report from anyone who has seen it:

Issue 4 of *Will It Lead to Trouble!?* hit the streets yesterday. Chock full of stuff, including Science Fiction, Super Hero's; lots of letters; music; live reviews; Nostalgia and a NEW GAME - Fighting Talk - enter now??.. PLUS DIPLOMACY, could this be the only purist zine left out there?. Want a copy, email andymansfield@btinternet.com and a 3MB pdf will wing its way back to you?.. GO ON GIVE IT A GO

About that e-mail address shown above. Many folk are using this format to foil all those obnoxious spammers out there. Substitute the usual "@" for the "of" and replace any "dot"s with a period, and you have the original e-mail address.

Enjoy the 'zine!

Variation on a Theme

".... But when we come to paying down of crowns, and embarking of large squadrons, we must have to propose to our subjects some substantial excuse for plunging them in war; some proposal for the public good — or, by Saint George! For our own private advantage, which is the same thing. This is the course the world runs, and Oxford, to tell the plain truth, I mean to hold the same bias."

— Charles, Duke of Burgundy
from *Anne of Geierstein*
by Sir Walter Scott

On the Test Bench

Hi! Sarah & I have been busily doing moving / house things in the past several weeks; we'll be changing phone numbers sometime this weekend. Here is the new info:

120 Gila Cliff Dr
Pflugerville, TX 78660

(512) 252-1686

With luck, we'll be able to have people over before too long.

Ciao!

-Tim. (SNYDER)

In My Neighborhood

The rain finally broke about the first week in February. Interestingly, the weather forecasts did not change all that much. They still called for partly cloudy or partly sunny and chance of rain, or showers, or some such indicating that it probably won't be dry all day. In fact, some days we did get rain during the next couple of weeks. By the second week of February, the weather, while cool, was for the most part clear, sunny, and dry. Later on, I realized that the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce must have lost their weather reporting services, as I eventually noticed that the reports quit being updated as of 31st January. We had a couple of very dry weeks early and mid February. It has been so dry, in fact, that the doors to the tool shed have been opening freely since early mid-February. Normally, they stick (due to the wood swelling in the high winter humidity) until mid Spring or later.

We used to have a shop in town named, "Mail Boxes, Etc." The local franchise was owned by a man, maybe ten years younger than I, and his daughter, who I think was attending the local college when I started copying this rag on one of their copiers. The one I used had a small box attached to it. The box had a number pad and a small display screen. One punched one's secret code into the box, the screen would show how many copies one had remaining and alert the copy machine that it was ok to allow copying without one of the red counters. They also gave me a key to the front door so I could do my copying any time of the day, night or week. Now, the copier with the magic keypad probably got more than it's share of use — because of the keypad thingy, I'm sure. The registration was slightly off; but I managed to figure out how much to offset my originals when making masters (and usually remembered to do), so that the pages would (usually) be centered well enough that the edges weren't lost in one margin or the other. Nevertheless, this arrangement worked fairly well for several years.

continued on page 5

Snag Peak

By Popular Demand

Round Six

GM: Andy York

a word game in ten rounds

By Popular Demand - the goal is to pick something that fits the category and will be the "most popular" answer. You score points based on the number of entries that match yours. For example, if the category is "Cats" and the responses were 7 for Persian, 3 for Calico and 1 for Siamese, everyone who said Persian would get 7 points, Calico 3 and the lone Siamese would score 1 point. The cumulative total over 10 rounds will determine the overall winner. Anyone may enter at any point, starting with an equivalent point total of the lowest cumulative score from the previous round. If a person misses a round, they'll receive the minimum score from the round added to their cumulative total. And, if you want to submit some commentary with your answers, feel free to. NOTE: I always acknowledge an Email submission. If you've sent something in and don't hear back from me after a couple of days, send again or check with Tom. I let him know if I expect to be away from the computer for any extended period of time.

Sixth Round - 1960's Neighborhood

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Reason for a Neighborhood Party: | 4th of July/Holiday 5, Birthday 1, Olympics 1, Moon Landing 1, Housewarming 1, Barbecue 1 |
| 2) Favorite Hangout After School: | Diner 3, Ice Cream Parlor/Milk Bar/Soda Shop 3, Village Hall 1, Mall 1, Friend's House 1, Bowling Alley 1 |
| 3) Organization Adults Belonged To: | PTA 3, Elks Lodge 2, Church 1, Masons 1, Veterans Group 1, Bowling League 1, Rotary 1 |
| 4) Organization/Group Children Belonged To: | Scouts 10 |
| 5) Favorite Vacation Trip: | Seaside/Beach 4, Camping 2, Rocky Mtns/Grand Canyon 2, Disneyland 1, Summer Camp 1 |

Individual Scores:

01) Doug Kent	Holiday	Diner	Elks Lodge	Scouts	Grand Canyon	= 89 + 22 = 111
02) Fred Davis	[no entry received]					= 92 + 17 = 109
03) Kevin Wilson	4th of July	Diner	PTA	Scouts	Disneyland	= 85 + 22 = 107
Jim Reader	4th of July	Diner	Masons	Scouts	Seaside	= 84 + 23 = 107
05) David Partridge	Barbecue	Soda Shop	Rotary	Scouts	Beach	= 87 + 19 = 106
06) Tom's Mom	Olympics	Ice Cream Parlor	Veteran's	Scouts	Camping	= 88 + 17 = 105
07) Brendan Whyte	Moon Landing	Milk Bar	PTA	Scouts	Summer Camp	= 84 + 18 = 102
08) Tim & Sarah Snyder	Housewarming	Friend's House	PTA	Scouts	Beach	= 81 + 19 = 100
09) Tom Howell	4th of July	Bowling Alley	B. League	Scouts	Camping	= 76 + 19 = 95
10) Mark Stretch	Birthday	Village Hall	Church	Scouts	Seaside	= 71 + 17 = 88
11) Ward Narhi	Holiday	Mall	Elks Lodge	Scouts	Rocky Mtns	= 42 + 20 = 62
12) Mark Nelson	[no entry received]					= 42 + 17 = 59

Top Score Possible: 25

Top Score Achieved 23 by Jim Reader

- Reason for a Neighborhood Party: I don't recall many Neighborhood Parties in the suburb I grew up in. The closest was probably Halloween when many houses had displays and some really made a production of it. I recall the person who became my high school band teacher, one year, created a "mad scientist" lair with a Frankenstein and was giving out a greenish punch to visitors. For the 4th, some families got together for sparklers and such. As for the Moon Landing, I remember setting on the floor in front of our black and white TV seeing the feed, but no parties or get-togethers.
- Favorite Hangout After School: In my case (I ended the decade at 9 years old), a friend's house was the hangout or the backyard. Sometimes we'd go to the drugstore down the street to get candy and comics.
- Organization Adults Belonged To: In my past, PTA was big with civic (Rotary and such) and veteran groups next line. Fraternal organizations weren't that noticeable.
- Organization/Group Children Belonged To: Yep, Scouts was expected to be the number one choice. Even I was a member, but briefly. However, I had expected a church group to get a mention.
- Favorite Vacation Trip: Our vacations were road trips (which I would have answered). We did some camping with a pop-up camper through the Northeast and Canada. Then, there were trips to my grandfather's hunting cabin/spread (no hunting though). We did do Disneyland one summer, primarily staying in a great aunt's condo in Ft. Lauderdale at the end of the road trip.

Player Comments on the Round -

- Reason for a Neighborhood Party: [Tom's Mom] Since "party" seems to me to be a celebration I did not think a neighborhood getting together to mourn President Kennedy's Death appropriate. [Tom] Tough one. I'll stick with the 4th, but won't be at all surprised if football game wins! [Brendan] ??? you need a reason? A send off for someone enlisting to fight in Vietnam? The seizing of power in Bolivia by a pro-American dictator-for-life-that-will-actually-be-about-3-months? But seriously, the First Man on the Moon!
- Favorite Hangout After School: [Brendan] or am I too 50s here?

- 3) Organization Adults Belonged To: [Brendan] PTA (Harper Valley of course!). You did say 'parents' here, or I would have said Buffalo/Dreida/Friendly Society/Masons/Lodge a la the Flintstones.
- 4) Organization/Group Children Belonged To: [Brendan] or 4H, Boys Brigade, or one of those other wanna-be scout organizations.
- 5) Favorite Vacation Trip: [Tom] Specifically, car camping, as opposed to backpacking. Completely different animals. (In backpacking, the bears one meets are much less likely to be interested in filching a meal off one (most years)). [Brendan] Christmas vacation? Thanksgiving vacation? Easter vacation? I think you mean the where rather than the when, so how about 'summer camp' a la all those teen horror movies, and that song "hello mudda, hello fadda, here I am at Camp Greendale" (but that was probably 40s or 50s, not 60s).

Seventh Round - 1990's Grocery Store

- 1) Best Chain Store
- 2) New Speciality Produce Item
- 3) Favorite Cut of Meat
- 4) Common Non-food Department
- 5) Brand of Canned Good

Deadline: March 25, 2006 at high noon CDT.

Email address is: wandrew@compuserve.com and the postal address is: POB 201117; Austin TX 78720-1117

In My Neighborhood continued from page 3

A couple of years ago, the father-daughter team sold the franchise and a new crew moved in. I'm still not sure I could say what changed beyond the personnel, but the atmosphere sure felt different thereafter. One of the first things to go was bathroom privileges for the customers. (Hmm. In retrospect, I wonder if someone had crudely responded to the marked decrease in friendliness that came in with the new management.) Then, the name changed to "The UPS Store," though Barb and I continue to call it by its former moniker. I started finding the magic keypad copy machine unavailable for $\phi-t-s$, not because it was in use, but because it was broken down or under repair. It seems all the copiers had their own subtly different registration which gave me fits with my narrow margins. I never made a list of which direction and how far to offset the originals on each of the machines, because I always figured that I'd be able to use the usual machine next time.

They eventually replaced the magic keypad copy machine with a newer, fancier model. The magic keypad was on it, but it must have been a different brand as many details were some other way around. For instance, I had to change the orientation of the pre-printed covers in the paper input trays. There were supposedly some fancy features that I could use, but after spending two hours or more copying, collating, stapling and stamping, I never wanted to spend significantly more time trying to find "how to" in that copier's impenetrable manual. Then this new copier started breaking down because it hadn't been designed to work with the magic keypad. The last time I was in, three issues ago, a repairman was inside the guts of the thing, disconnecting the magic keypad. Some discussion with management revealed that there would be no magic keypad replacement, here is a pre-sold copy card with my balance, and could we have our key back, please? After I posted that issue, I gave Barb the card, and checked out a smaller, non-chain operation down the street providing most all the same services. This place had been recommended by our neighbor, Fred.

The "Lincoln Street Station" is owned and has been run for <memory fails me here> years by a local couple. When I walked in, I was greeted with a big smile and "How can we help you?" The genuine article; not the imitation version which really means, "What are you doing here? You'll find the exit behind you." Yes, they have a copier for the convenience of their customers. Ten cents a copy. Too much. After I explained that I'd be wanting to run nearly 500 copies every six weeks, we negotiated a price that matched the "competition" up the street. That being late mid-December, the place was quite busy the two plus hours I was there.

continued on page 7

Regular Diplomacy.

DIAS

Black Press

Italians ignore English advice! French lose two! Germans held even anyway! Austria grows at Turkish expense!

Retreats: Ger: F Nwy r Bar; Tur: A Sev r Ukr.

Underlined moves fail.

Austria (Evans) A Bud S A Sev-Rum, A Mos S English A Fin-StP, A Ser S A Sev-Rum,
A Sev-Rum(d, annihilated), A Tri-Alb
 England (Williams) A Fin-StP, F Nrg S F Nwy, F Nwy S A Fin-StP, F Ska-Nth
 France (Wiedemeyer) F Eng-Bel, A Gas S A Par, F Mar-Spa(sc)Nd, r Lyo/OTB], F Mid-Brc, A Par S
 F Mid-Brc
 Germany (Burgdorf) F Bal S A Swe, F Bar-Nwy, A Bur-Mar, F Hol-Nth, A Kie-Den, A Lyo-StP,
A Pic-Bel, A Swe S F Bar-Nwy, F Lyo-Spa(sc)
 Italy (Petter) A Pic S German A Bur-Mar, A Ven-Rom, F Wes S F Lyo-Spa
 Russia (Nelson) A War hold
 Turkey (Kent) F Aeg S F Bas-Ion, A Arm S F Rum-Sev, F Bul(sc) hold, F Bas-Ion, A Gre-Ser,
 F Rum-Sev, A Ukr S F Rum-Sev.

Retreats: Aus: A (Sev) r OTB [NRP!]; Fra: F (Mar) r Lyo/OTB.

Pre-adjustment Unit Positions:

Austria A Alb, A Bud, A Mos, A Ser
 England F Nrg, F Nwy, F Ska, A StP
 France F Brc, F Eng, A Gas, F (Mar)[Lyo/OTB], A Par
 Germany F Bal, F Bar, A Den, F Hol, A Lva, A Mar, A Pic, A Swe
 Italy A Pic, A Rom, F Spa(sc), F Wes
 Russia A War
 Turkey F Aeg, A Arm, F Bul(sc), A Gre, F Ion, F Sev, A Ukr.

Supply Centers: gained (lost)

Austria Bud, Mos, Rum, Ser, Tri, Vic
 England Bel, Lon, Lpl, NWY, StP
 France Brc, (Mar), Par, For, (Spa)
 Germany Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mar, Mun, (Nwy), Swe
 Italy Nap, Rom, Ser, Tan, Ven
 Russia War
 Turkey Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, (Ser), Sev, Smy

Total	Builds
6	+2
5	+1
3	-2
8	even
5	+1
1	even
-6	-1
34	

Game Notes:

Map on page 9. If the French fleet retreats off the board, then France will have only one additional unit to remove. Please remember to submit any autumn retreats and winter adjustments with your Spring 1905 orders.

News from the Board

Tom-Tom-Tom: Sex on the TV is like sex on the pool table. Sounds like fun, but it's not all that comfortable.

Austria-Denny: Haven't we done this before (the parrot thing)? Can't you think of something original?

King of the Hapsburgs to the Duke of Warwick: The real Uncle Tom's cabin is actually located near here in Wheaton, MD. The county has just bought it as an historical site.

KoH-Uncle Tom: The Duke doesn't know that the misprint (about Austria's allies) was a test to see who would say anything about it. Some people got to think that they are better than others. I guess, that's why he's a sitting Duck, I mean Duke.

Uncle Tom-KoH: He's a duck alright. I mean Duck!

Washington-London: What is Gates of Fire about?

Vic-Con: After your stab, I AM ignoring you.

England-GM: No, no, no ... the NMR was the fainting dead away AFTER the scream... must I teach you about all the subtle nuances?

GM-England: No, not all. But, some, yes.

London-Paris: If those guys won't leave you be, wouldn't you want to will your remaining dots to me?

York-Brest: It was just a rhyme.

Duck of Warwick to Kaiser Burgdorf: I congratulate you on your successes ... hope you'll congratulate me on mine ... if there are any. Got to admit - given the disparity of forces, I'm giving as good as I get. There's a lot of war left to fight, but at least you'll know at the end you were in one.

England-Italy: Hope you took a good look and saw what I was talking about. Take France down and you're

going to give this game to the Hun. Your good times will roll away as the germans pour forth over your borders ... trust me, it'll be easier for him to head after you than break my fleet wall.

France-Lou: Call a doctor—you make me sick.

France-Turkey: Toujours gai.

Rome-Lou: "inglotera?" Isn't that where the Ingles lived on "Little House on the Prairie?"

Fetter-Williams: What about the bloody boats in the south? I saving myself for them (the Turks).

Rome-Lou: Yeah, I sees'em. One at a time, one at a time.

Rome-Denny: Looks at his what? Okay, I'll play along. He looks at his and says "is that a wave motion gun?"

Tim says, "Why yes, I am a great fan of 'Battle of the Planets'. My favorite scene is of Deslock taking a bath, which I am currently reenacting." The bartender, a Mr. Denny, smiles and nods.

Hamamoto-Williams: Suminansen. Wakarimansen.

Dr. Diplomacy: Open your books now and turn to Lesson 12, "The Beginning of the End of the Middle Middle of the End" ... you there! Fetter! Pay attention. And, Mr. Nelson, please keep your eyes on your own paper ...

Deadline for Spring 1985 is 6 PM PST on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

In My Neighborhood continued from page 5

When I went in for the last issue, end of January, the Station was much quieter, only a few customers came in. Trish was just as friendly, however. Since she appeared to have time to ask a few silly questions, I did. It turns out the copier really is there for the convenience of the customers, but more than it's basic operation is not usually called for, and more than that, Trish doesn't really know. I, he who usually manages to find the one operation listed in the instructions which does not function as advertised, wanted to know whether this machine could merge in my pre-printed covers.

The machine at the old place had 20 collating bins. One pass for the bulk of the pages, another for the cover. Then collate twenty map pages and repeat for twenty more.

This new machine only has one output tray - no collation it would appear.

We poked around through the menus in the control panel. Trish got out the manual, which proved to be as impenetrable as the last one I looked at. I did find a description of a function which looked close to what I had in mind, so I did some experimenting. Turns out these new copiers are pretty impressive. Instead of putting your original on the platen for each copy made, the originals are scanned once, put into memory, and that remembered image is what the copies are produced from.

The really interesting feature is that one can place blank stock in an input tray located on the side of the machine and tell it to use that stock for a cover (front page OR back!) and the usual tray inside the machine for the common pages. The output is produced in collated order. One full copy is produced before any pages of the next copy, so once one or two copies are done, I can pull them and commence collating the map pages. Even if I don't actually spend less time in the copy shop, at least I won't be standing idle waiting for the first twenty copies to finish. So it will seem like more efficient use of my time, whether it actually is or no.

When I finished copying, collating, and stapling last ish, I made notes. We'll see whether they are good enough to figure out exactly what it was I did last time. Ha!

**椎
茸**

Our forest is what one would call "over-stocked." That means we have too many trees growing too close together. They compete with each other for sunlight, water, and nutrients. With our droughty summers, the trees grow very slowly. So we decided to do a little thinning. Not nearly enough, but some.

We cut five big leaf maples near the trailer and 5 alders growing on an abandoned logging road we'd like to keep open as a trail and eventual re-use as a skid road.

We ended up with 53 logs 48 inches long and between eight and 3 inches in diameter, plus a few odd length logs. Whilst waiting two weeks for the anti-fungal chemicals in the trees to dissipate, I ordered some Shiitake mushroom plugs (spawn grown in wooden dowels) and we

continued on page 8

French plan Spanish starvation! Balkans: still a mess!

Underlined moves fail.

Austria	()	A Bud S A Ser, <u>A Ser S A Bud</u> , A Vic S A Bud
Balkans	(Kent)	<u>A Bul-Ser</u> , F Gre-Aeg, A Tri S A Bul-Ser
England	(Stretch)	<u>F Lon-Nth</u> , F NAi-Mid, F Nrg S F Nwy-Lap, F Nth-Ska, F Nwy-Lap
France	()	F Bre-Eng, <u>F Hol-Nth</u> , <u>A Mar-Gas</u> , F Mid-Por, A Par-Bur, <u>A Spa-Gas</u>
Germany	()	F Bal-Don, <u>A Ber-Kie</u> , A Swi-Mun
Italy	(Snyder)	F Aeg-Con, F Mor S F Tyn-Wes, F Nap-Tyn, F Tyn-Wes, A Ven S Balkan A Tri
Russia	(Donny)	A Gal S A Rum, <u>A Lap S A Swe</u> [d, r Fin/StP(nc)/StP/OTB], A Rum S A Gal, <u>E Sev-Bla</u> , A Swe S German F Bal-Don, A Tra S A Rum, A War-Sil
Scandinavia	(Martin)	F Den-Hel, <u>A Kie-Ber</u>
Spain	()	<u>A Bas-Spa</u>
Turkey	()	<u>E Ank-Bla</u> , A Con-Smy, F Cre-Ion, A Smy-Arm

Retreats: Ruc: A Lap r Fin.

Final Unit Positions:

Austria	A Bud, A Ser, A Vic
Balkans	F Aeg, A Bul, A Tri
England	F Lap, F Lon, F Mid, F Nrg, F Ska
France	A Bur, F Eng, F Hol, A Mar, F Por, A Spa
Germany	A Ber, F Den, A Mun
Italy	F Con, F Mor, F Tyn, A Ven, F Wes
Russia	A Fin, A Gal, A Rum, F Sev, A Sil, A Swe, A Tra
Scandinavia	F Hel, A Kie
Spain	A Bas
Turkey	F Ank, A Arm, F Ion, A Smy.

Game Notes:

Map opposite. Please remember to submit conditional autumn retreats and conditional winter adjustments with your Fall 1903 orders.

News from the Board

Ita-Fra: If I were you, I'd let me help you against the RA alliance in the east, instead of making me divert a bunch of fleets westward. I'm willing to work with you (as I have so far) - let me know.

Ita-Ruc: Haven't heard back from you, so I'm proceeding on the assumption that that means what I think it does.

Mr. Howell - Ita: On the other hand, it could just mean that Russia is being played by Mr. Donny. He tends to start negotiating about half an hour before the deadline.

Russia-Austria: Dearest friend, here is yet another unbelievably well-timed support to help your completely independent bid to thrash Balkans. How else may I be of service? Please contact me via our usual super-secret and hyper-anonymous method. And don't tell me who you really are; I don't want to know.

Deadline for Fall 1903 is 6 PM PST on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

In My Neighborhood continued from page 7

threw an inoculation party (or a plugging party, take your pick) last Saturday. We ran out of plugs before we ran out of logs. (A good thing!) Everyone who came to the party got a chance to take a few logs home to cultivate their own mushrooms. We're still getting a few from the log we got from two years ago when Doug, the farmer from Salt Creek Farm, the CSA we work at, started his first batch. If you like dried shiitake mushrooms, you'll not want to go back to the dried after you've eaten a few nice; firm, as opposed to woody; fresh shiitake mushrooms!

Hardtop Downfall of the Lord of the Rings

Resumption of Hostilities in Middle Earth!

Underlined> moves fail.

Dwarves	(Depkus)	A Ang-Gun, A Del-RRu, A DoS S A Del-RRu, A Brb-Bag
Elves	(Schmit)	Fellowship(-), A Bco-Crk, A Crk-OFo, A Btt-Amo, <u>A GHa-Shi</u> , F Har-Wes, A Lor S A Crk-OFo
Gondor	(Muller)	Farimar Ano lead A Ano-Nit, Gandalf Osg lead A Osg-MMo, Ranger(-) , <u>A Ano-Nit</u> , F Bel hold, A Lam-Los, A Leb S A Sit, <u>A MTi-Amo</u> , A Osg-MMo, A Sit S A Osg-MMo
Mordor	(Wilson)	<u>Nazgul MMo lead 2A MMo-Osg(d, r Gor/OTB)</u> , Sauron Udu-Oro, <u>A Ana S</u> <u>A Wil-Bra[sic]NIMP!</u> , A Bar-Oro, <u>2A Kha-Hdw</u> , <u>2A MMo-Osg(d, r Gor/OTB)</u> , <u>A NDo-Brc</u> , <u>2A Nit S 2A MMo-Osg</u> , E Nur-Kha, E RRU-SMi, E SRh-Dag, 2A Udu S 2A Nit, <u>A Wil-Bra[sic]NIMP!</u>
Rohan	(Scharf)	C Dol S C Wol-Bro, <u>A Dun S Gondorian A Ano(OTM)</u> , A Edo-EErn, A HDe hold, C Wol-Bro
Saruman	(Anderson)	Saruman(-), A Cel S A KDu-Aza, A Dul-Bac, A Hol-Cad, <u>A Jtc-Gap(INSUL A KDu-Aza, A Shi-Brc</u>
Umbar	(Narhi)	F Cit-Sou, <u>A Hdw S A SGo</u> , A SGo S A Hdw, P Tol-Bay.
Retreats:	Mor: 2A (MMo) r Gor.	

Pre-adjustment Unit Positions:

Dwarves	A DoS, A Bag, A Gun, A RRU
Elves	A Amo, A Crk, A GHa, A Lor, A OFo, F Wes
Gondor	A Ano, F Bel, A Leb, A Los, A MMo, A MTi, A Sit
Mordor	A Ana, E Dag, 2A Kha, 2A Gor, A NDo, 2A Nit, E Nur, A Oro, E SMi, 2A Udu, A Wil
Rohan	C Bro, C Dol, A Dun, A EErn, A HDe
Saruman	A Aza, A Cad, A Cel, A Bac, A Shi
Umbar	P Bay, A Hdw, A SGo, F Sou.

Notes from Tom Bombadil:

Map opposite. Bart asked if Ward was interested in the game in his place and Ward is! I have orders for Umbar from Ward Narhi and still have not heard from Cary Nichols. Thanks Ward, for taking over in the land of the Corsairs! Summer retreats are not needed from anyone, as Mordor has already submitted his: reported above.

News from Middle Earth

(Fellowship): If anyone finds the donut, we haven't had our second breakfast yet. We'll meet you in Backwaith next year for the handoff.

Incogard World: Saruman Evil??? No, not me, nada, no way, can't be, unsh-unsh, nope. I'm not that kinda of Maia. Grima would kill me if I ever became evil. I'm head of the White Council. Jewelry broker as a side job.

Denny-Misty: Tim Larz goes into another bar. Okay, no surprise there. Anyway, he has a parrot, an orc, two nasty looking hookers, a pink elephant, six Jordanian taxi drivers, a small pine tree in a pot, Luke Skywalker, a bottle of dietary fiber supplement and his big fat Mama with him. As the parrot jumps down off his shoulder, Tim says, "Give me two beers." The Bartender looks at him and says, "Hey Tim, welcome back!" (With your next press, please tell us what the name of the bar is, what the name of the bartender is, why Tim is only ordering two beers and what happens next!)

Bombadil-Denny: Now, that ought to get a rise out of someone. But, it hasn't, ... yet!

Deadline for Solmath II 3019 is 6 PM PST on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

Off the Palantir

Tom,

Thanks for the update.

Given that I am currently not in any *active* games in your zone, how about we stop the postal copy.

I'll read the online version, and if and when I become active, we can consider restarting the postal copy.

Put the massive \$\$ savings toward a new car or something :-)

Grabem [WILSON]

That sounds ok by me. You could consider that Golden Strider game on offer. I've been hoping it would start, but we need more runners. I'd run it with seven, despite thinking it plays much better with eight. Then, you could also sign up for Mark Nelson's Small World II-R game. [TOM]

Flag-of-War Diplomacy

Austria (Martin)
 England (Snyder)
 France (Lurz)
 Germany (Partridge)
 Italy (York)
 Russia (Paskon)
 Turkey (Williams)

Your Supply Centers:

Your Adjustments:

Game Notes:

Map on page 15. Please remember to submit conditional summer retreats with your Spring 1910 orders.

News from the Board

Anonymous: And says "Mr. Denny will be here to see you in a minute, why don't you just turn your back to the door and start doing some toe touches to loosen up."

Deadline for Spring 1910 is 6 PM PST on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

**Off the Palantir**

Hi Tom

Well, I've enjoyed another trip to the US and another extended stay in Chicago courtesy of United Airlines, but this time we did go over Alaska rather than over the Northern States. I'm not sure why they changed but the clear views over the ice-scape were stunning.

It's raining here, but mostly we've escaped the bad winter that the rest of Japan has been suffering. There have been major snowfalls over most of Japan with many people being killed by collapsing roofs and the cold.

There's only been one snowfall in the greater Tokyo area this year, the day I flew back from Thailand (only a 35degC temperature change). I was lucky the flight landed early as the airport got really chaotic later. The weather sounds pretty unpleasant where you are - I hope it's started to dry out now.

Here are my orders for the games in o-t-s....

That's all for now.

All the best

Jim [READER]

As I write this it's been raining for most of the day. However, the last couple of weeks have been pretty dry. So dry in fact, that the tool shed door has dried out and has not been sticking. That door is my humidity meter. Usually it sticks all winter and early spring and opens without complaint mid spring through late fall.

Does that lack of snow in the greater Tokyo area speak to you about energy usage in the big city?

Back in the 80's, my grandfather used to tell me (especially in the winter) that temperatures in downtown Seattle were always two to three degrees warmer than at his house, which was only about 5 miles from downtown as the crow flies. [TOM]

More Press from Lake Lillian

GM - Wakefield: Nah, Deacon's only out for himself. But the BB Croc is looking out for his Broken Buddy.

Tito to Semi-Astute GM: The key this time is whether the pack stuck in the upper 50's connects with the pack in the early 60's. Deacon and Blue Car's plays are the key, followed by Roger Taylor playing his 7, which if I counted right is the ONLY rider who can hit 60. Does that match your semi-astute thinking? It is also why I ordered my riders to get up ahead of that. If I bet right, much of the pack is pretty well out of the game, otherwise, those guys at the back are gonna have some GREAT cards....

GM-toddler: Actually, I don't pay nearly as much attention to the what ifs when I'm GMing these things.

Maybe a bit after I get a couple sets of orders. For instance, when your orders came in, they followed the Brit pack, so when I evaluate your comments vs. the orders I have, only Dave's and Bill's are outstanding.

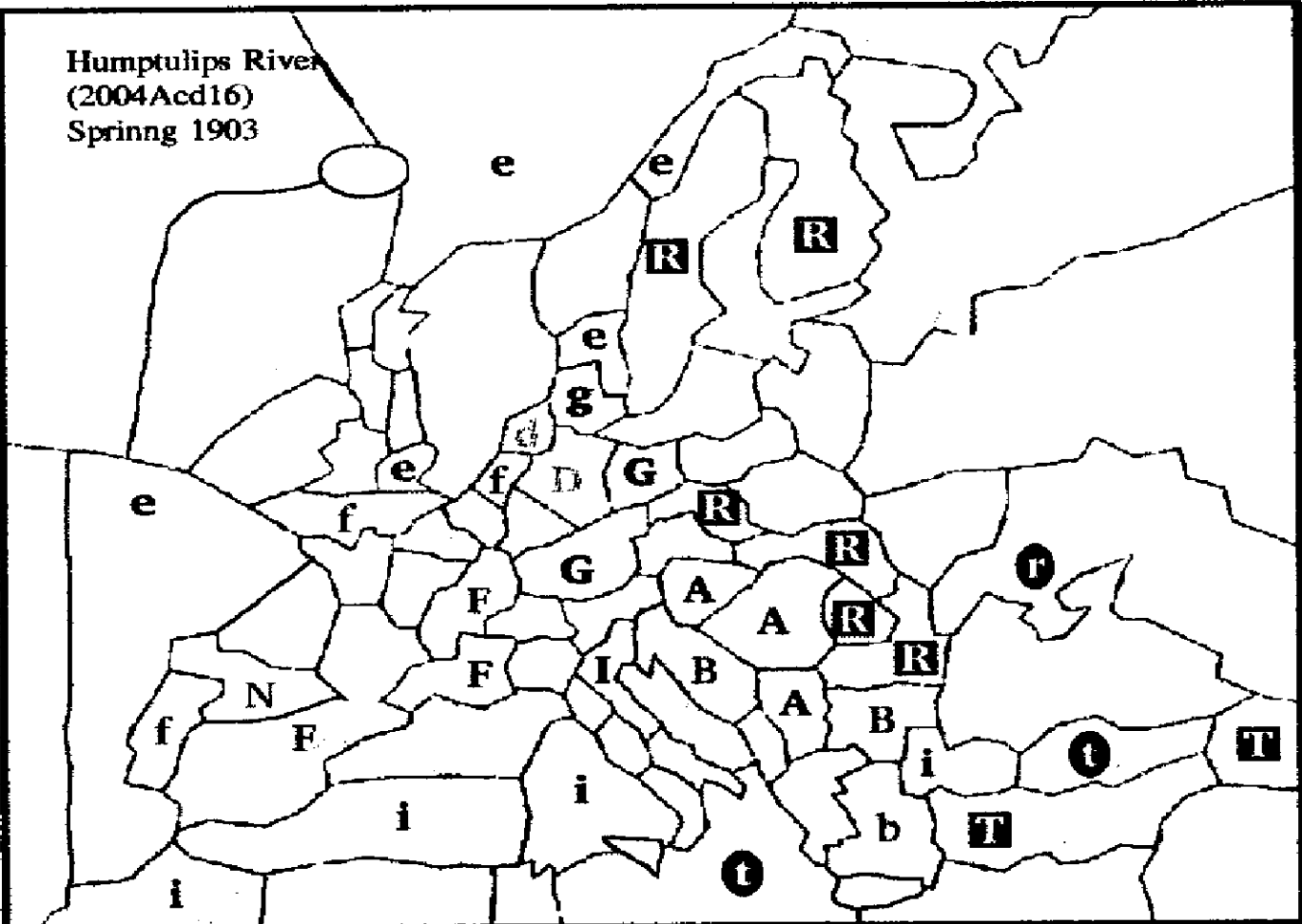
At that point, 59 through 65 were covered and the key square is 58. If Astro or Lifeline plays a 5, then we get the big cards.

Tom-Jim-Bob: Isn't omniscience great?

Goat-GM: I just got out here to keep Wakefield from breaking away. But if you saw the way he was looking at me, you'd have run too!!

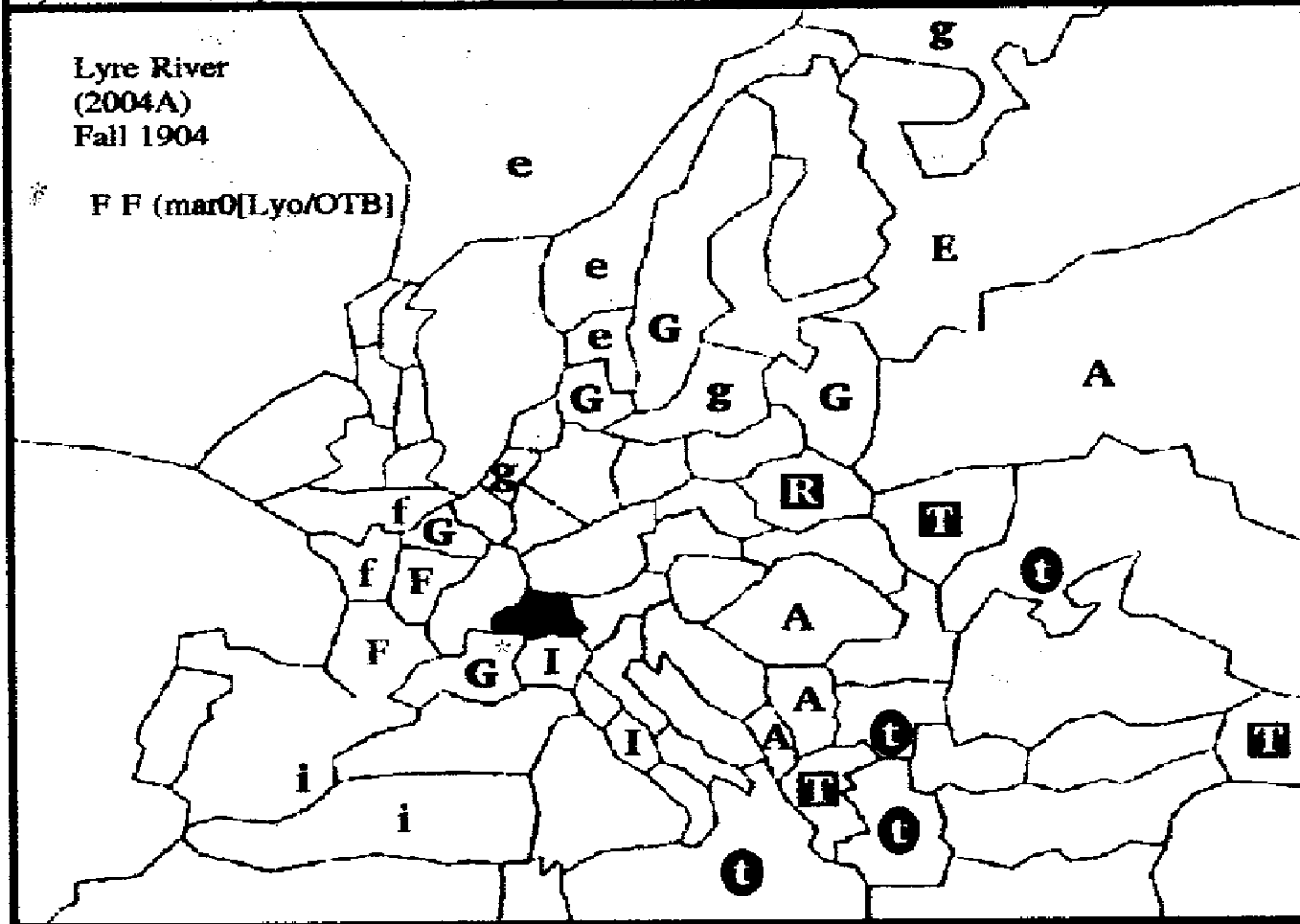
GM-Goat: Aye. No doubt, faster than you, also!

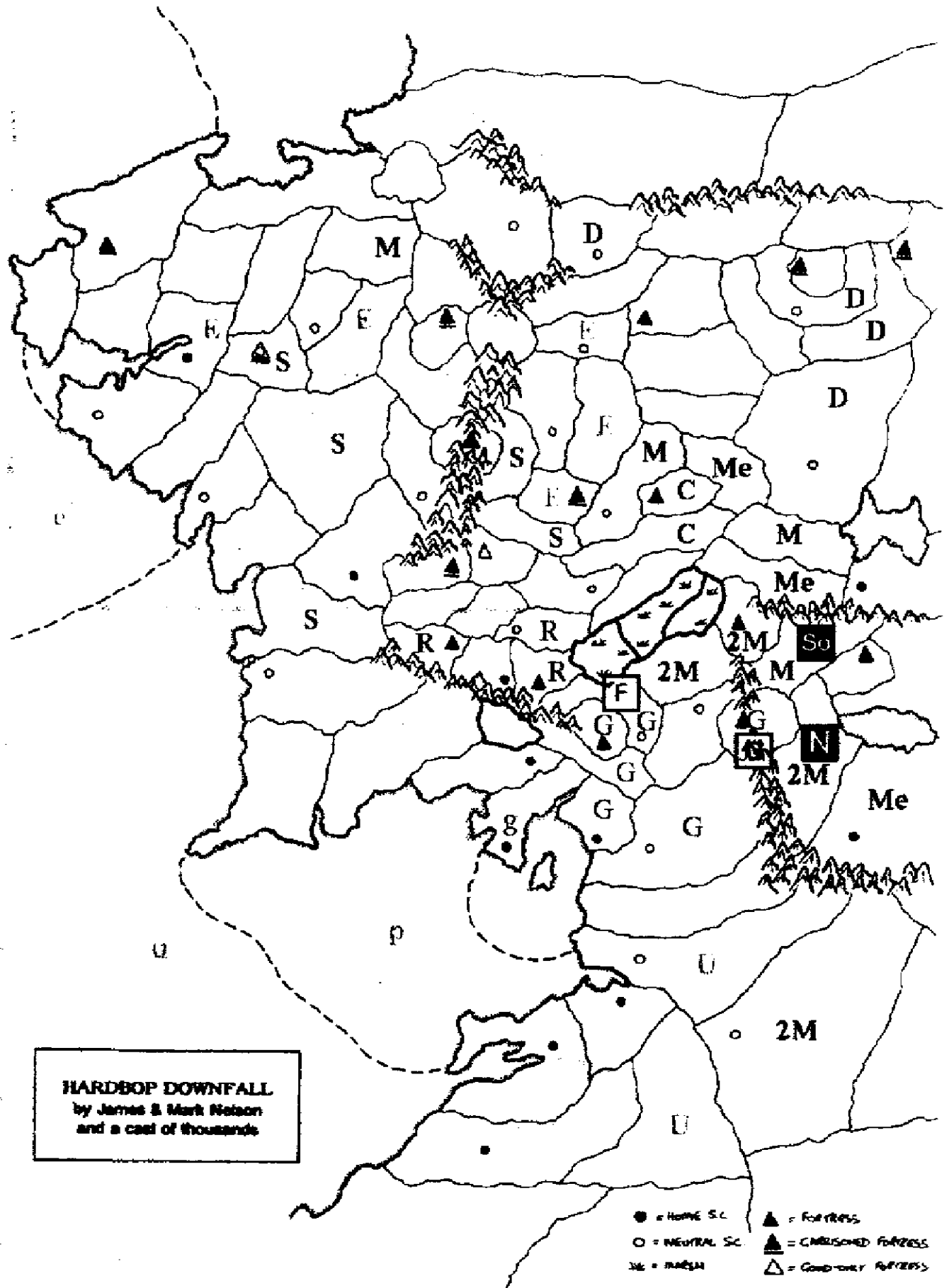
Humptulips River
 (2004Acd16)
 Spring 1903



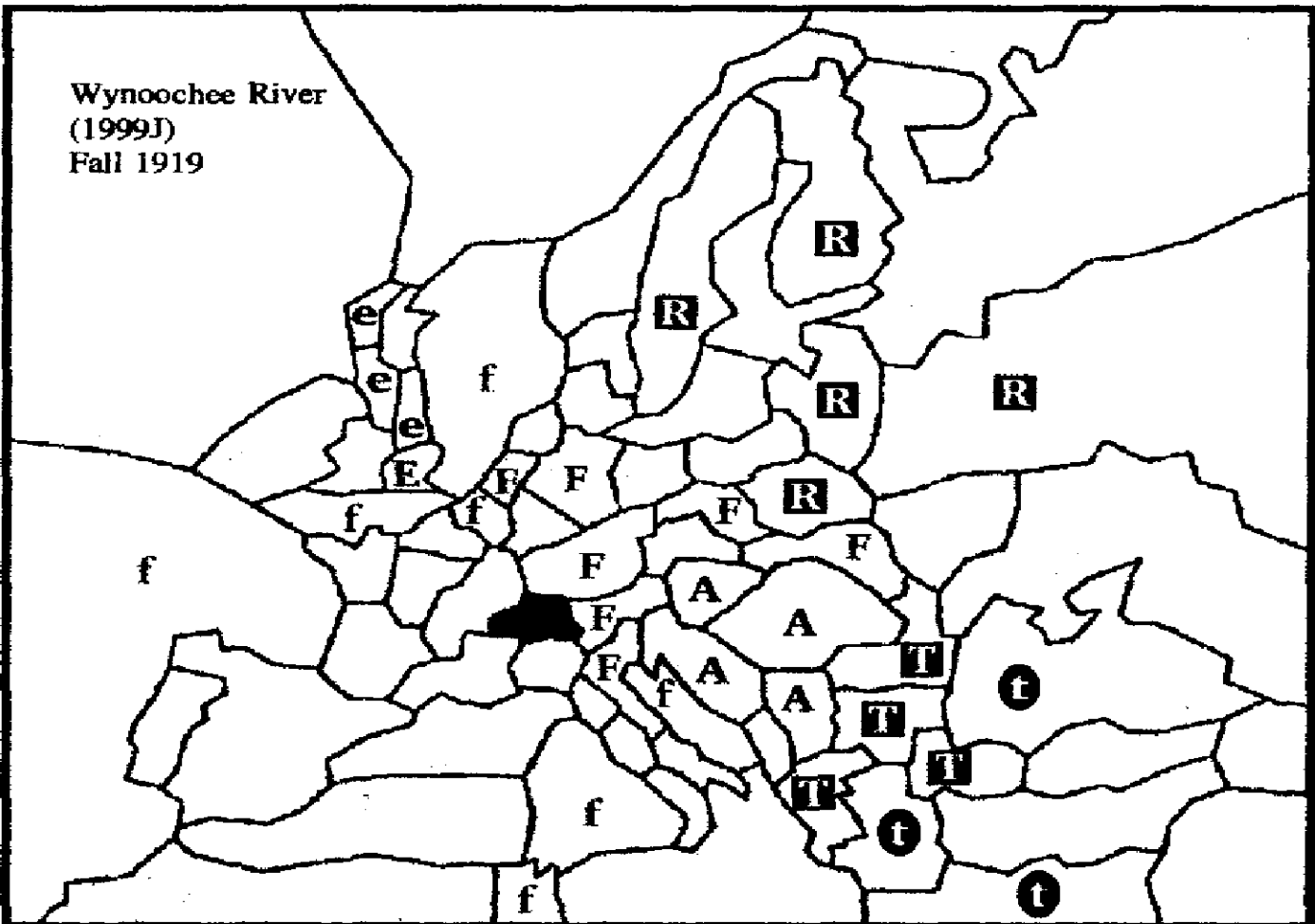
Lyre River
 (2004A)
 Fall 1904

F F (mar0[Lyo/OTB])

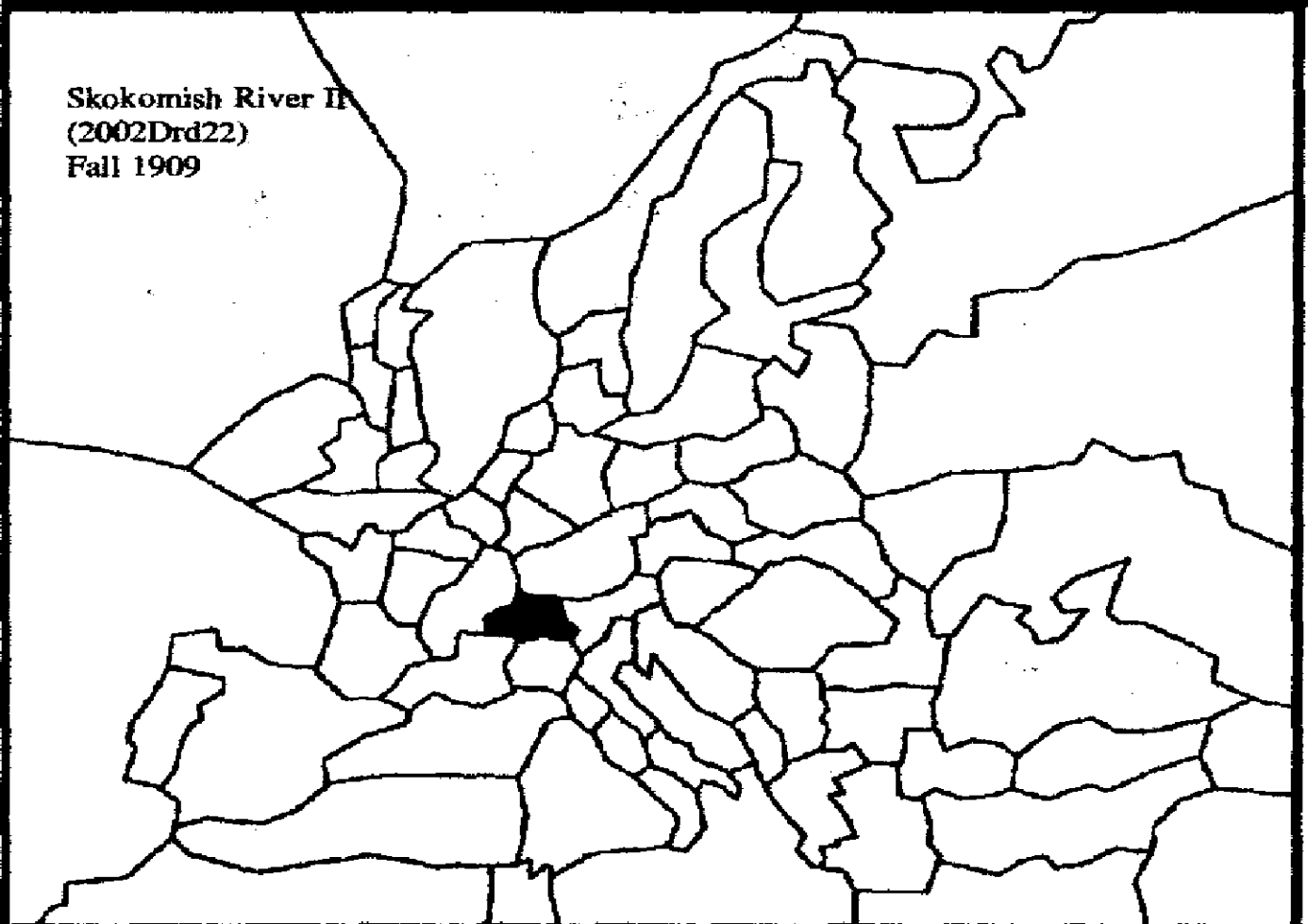


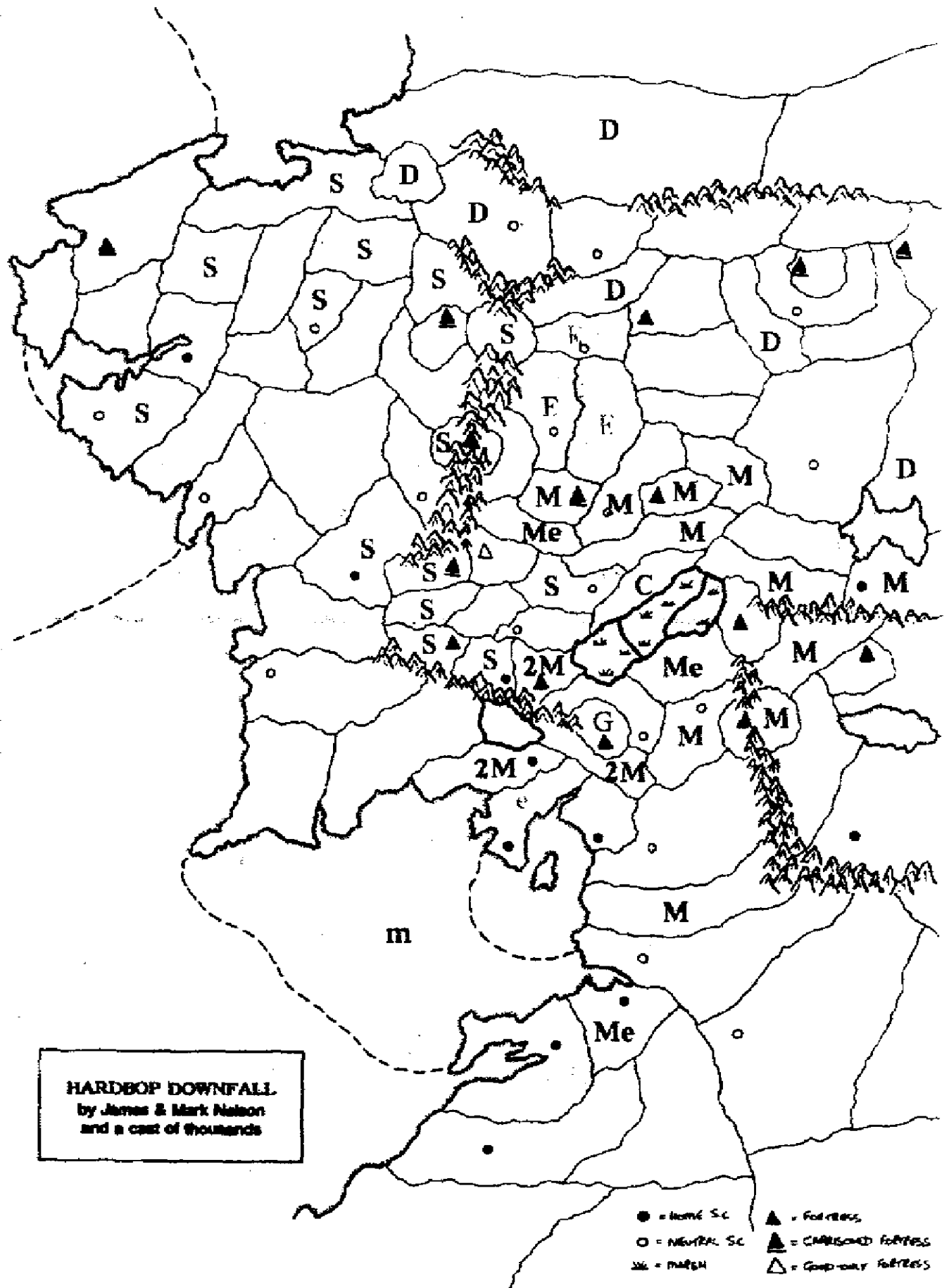


Wynoochee River
(1999J)
Fall 1919



Skokomish River II
(2002Drd22)
Fall 1909





Lake Lillian

Turn Eight

Breaking Away!

Square	Rider(s)	Replacement Card
77	Tom Corbett	3
76	Goat	4
71	The Green Bit	3
70		
69	Star	3
68	National	4
67		
66		
65	Derek Lowe; John Deacon; Dhank	3
64	Tim Wakefield; Polaris	6
63	Ajar; Curt Schilling; Cooch Behar	8
62	The Bum Biting Crocodile	11
61	The Broken Blue Car	12
60	Roger Taylor	13
59	Brian May	14
58	Astro	15
57	Freddie Mercury; Roger Manning; Pedro Martinez	16
56	Lifeline; Bhor	19
43	The Biff on the Nose Fairy	3

The pack consolidates for some good replacement cards this turn. Lifeline and Bhor grab 19s, but will they be enough to hold off Pedro Martinez? Looks like Tom Corbett grabs top points at the second sprint line; with the bulk of the remaining points going to Front Four.

Listed are the teams, player, accumulated points and manager (if any). Columns show level, card played, rider's name and cards currently held, with current replacement ~~underlined~~ in bold.

Maharajas on Wheels Brendan Whyte

Points: 5

Team Manager: the Akund of Swat

A	11	Ajar	15	9	8
B	10	Bhor	13	3	19
C	18	Cooch Behar	20	4	20
D	20	Dhank	11	4	3

Queen Mark Stretch

Points: 2

A	5	Freddie Mercury	1	3	9	16
B	3	Brian May	12	7	14	
C	7	Roger Taylor	13	5	13	
D	6	John Deacon	3	3	3	

Family Icons Jim Reader

Points: 13

Team Manager: Jim Reader

A	6	The Bum Biting Crocodile	5	15	3	11
B	18	The Green Bit	3	5	3	
C	3	The Biff on the Nose Fairy	3	3	3	
D	9	The Broken Blue Car	3	3	12	

Front Four David Partridge

Points: 8

A	16	National	14	11	9	4
B	3	Lifeline	15	5	19	
C	18	Star	11	13	3	
D	7	Goat	3	3	4	

Red Sox Starters Jim Burgess

Points: 5

Team Manager: Tito Francona

A	14	Curt Schilling	3	20	16	8
B	3	Pedro Martinez	17	18	16	
C	15	Derek Lowe	4	3	3	
D	2	Tim Wakefield	4	3	6	

Base Academy Bill Scharf

Points: 6

Team Manager: Commander Evans

A	21	Tom Corbett	3	9	3	3
B	3	Roger Manning	3	3	16	
C	5	Astro	3	3	15	
D	13	Polaris	4	3	6	

Press:

Bhor-Ajar: So, are you related to that famous Pakistani cricketer Akhbar-Imam-ud-Din?

Ajar-Bhor: No, but I think you are a great Bore...

Bhor-fellow Maharajas: Well, dhank you very much! Goodness gracious me, shouldn't we be spending our energies on catching up to the leaders?

Akund to his riders: Shut up and pedal or your bottoms will understand why I am the Akund of Swat, and why I carry this flywhisk!

Maharajas to each other: No flies on him, mate!

Tito-Akund: Nice little pack you made back there, now want to catch up and give my guys some cards??

Tim-Goat: I may not get any Sprint Points, but I feel better thinking you may not either, surely you will get fewer than 5....

Wakefield-Deacon: I suppose you played your 3 to slot into 62, that likely saves the Broken Blue Car from being dropped, as long as he played the 9. If not, he's probably out too, along with a bunch of others.

more press ... over there!

Deadline for turn 9 is 6 PM PDT on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

Russians(!) remove English unit; reinforce Warsaw!

Underlined moves fail.

Austria (Partridge) A Bud S A Vic, A Ser S A Tri, A Tri S A Vic, A Vic S A Tri
 England (Milewski) F Iri-Lpl, F Lpl-Cty, F Nth C A Nwy-Lon(d, r Edi/Hel/Nrg/Sks/Yor/OTB),
A Nwy-Lon, A Wal-Lon
 France (Snyder) F Adr S F Tun-Ion, F Bel S F Eng-Nth, A Boh-Gal, A Bur-Mun, F Eng-Nth, A Hol
 hold, A Kie-Dea, F Lyo-Tyn, F Mid-Eng, A Mun-Sil, F NAt-Mid, A Tri hold,
F Tun-Ion, A Ven S A Tri
 Russia (Kent) A Fin-Swe, A Mos-Sev, A StP-Lva, A Swe-Dea
 Turkey (Wiedemeyer) F Aeg S F Bas-Ion, F Bla-Sev, A Bul S A Rum, F Bas-Ion, A Gre S A Bul, A Rum S
 A Bul, A Smy-Con.

Retreats: Eng: F Nth r Yor.

Supply Centers: gained, (lost)

		Total	Builds
Austria	Bud, Ser, Tri, Vic	4	even
England	Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nwy, (Swe)	4	-1
France	Bel, Ber, Bre, Hol, Kie, Mar, Mun, Nap, Par, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun, Ven	14	even
Russia	Dea, Mos, StP, <u>Swe</u> , War	5	+1
Turkey	Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Sev, Smy	<u>7</u>	even
		34	

Adjustments: Eng: GM removes A Nwy; Rus: b A War.

Final Unit Positions:

Austria A Bud, A Ser, A Tri, A Vic
 England F Cty, A Lon, F Lpl, F Yor
 France F Adr, F Bel, F Eng, A Gal, A Hol, A Kie, F Mid, A Mun, F Nth, A Sil, A Tri, F Tun, F Tyn,
 A Ven
 Russia A Fin, A Lva, A Mos, A Swe, A War
 Turkey F Aeg, F Bla, A Bul, A Con, F Bas, A Gre, A Rum.

Game Notes:

Map opposite. The French win has been proposed yet again. Please vote with your next set of orders. Please remember to submit conditional summer retreats with your Spring 1920 orders.

News from the Board

Wy River - holdout: An insect researcher was doing a study on bees in urban areas. He selected a point near a main intersection of the town, at each corner of which stood a gas station - Arco on one corner, Gulf on another, Sunoco on the third corner, and Esso on the fourth. He selected this point because the Arco, Gulf, & Sunoco stations each had little flower gardens out front, and he could monitor which bees (if any) came to the flowers each day.

The researcher's assistant counted and tagged each bee that came to the intersection, and after a few days, reported back to the researcher. "Sir," said the assistant, "I've observed something remarkable. Many different bees come each day to the three flower beds, which we expected, but at the Esso station (where there are no flowers), only one bee came the first day (# 39), and # 39 has come there all alone every day since. How do we explain this behavior?"

"It's simple," replied the researcher. "There's an Esso bee in every crowd."

Austria-World: My mistake, far be it from me, a last minute standby, to keep you from ending a game you all want to stop. I'll re-propose the concession to France and vote for it this time.

Austria-GM: Propose a concession to France.

Austria-France: The coin came up heads, so I'm protecting Vic.

Deadline for Spring 1920 is 6 PM PST on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

Subject: OTS arrived today
 Date: Mon, 06 Feb 2006 18:04:05 +0200
 From: Brendan Whyte <bwhyte@macc.huji.ac.il>
 To: off-the-shelf@olympus.net
 see subject

B

Thanks. Only a two week transit. Considering the delivery time to Australia isn't nearly that long, I guess it must be the Israeli end of the trip with causes the delay. [TOM]

Hardtop Downfall of the Lord of the Rings

Mind-up Press

Dwarves cut off from Blue Mountains! Forces of Good somewhat reduced!

Underlined moves fail.

Dwarves (Scharf) A Ang hold, A Bco-HPa, A CDu S A Ang, A Bag-Dal, A Fdw hold, A NRh S
 A SMi-RRu, A SMi-RRu(d, r Cea/RRu/OTB)
 Elves (Wilson) Fellowship(-), F Bel hold, A Fan-WEm, A Gla S A OFo, A OFo S
 A OPR-Crk, A OPR-Crk
 Gondor (Denny) Paranzir MTi lead A MTi-MTi, Gandalf MTi lead A MTi-MTi, Ranger(- -),
 A MTi hold
 Mordor (Anderson) Nazgul RRu terrorize A SMi, Sauron Oro-MMo, 2A Ano-Dun, A Ans S A Lor, B Col S
 Saruman A EEm-Wol, A Dag-Bro, A Dol S A Wil-SMi, A ELi-SRh, E Hrd hold, A Lor
 S A Ans, 2A Los-Lam, E Nit hold, A Oro hold, A Osg S 2A Sit-Los, A SGo-Por,
 2A Sit-Los, F Sou-Bay, A SRh-Dag, A Wil-SMi
 Rohan (York) A Edo S C Wol-EBm(d, r EBm/OTB), C Emry S C Wol-EBm, C Wol-EBm(d,
 annihilated)
 Saruman (Springer) Saruman EEm lead A EEm-Wol, A Bra-Har, A Bre hold (U), A EEm-Wol, A Eit-Ang,
A Gap-WEm, A HDe S A WEm-Edo, A HPa-Crk, A Iac-Fan, A Lhu S A Nen-Fcl,
 A NDo S A Nen-Fcl, A Nen-Fcl, A WEm-Edo.

Retreats: Dwa: [NRR!] A SMi r OTB; Roh: A Edo r EBm, C Wol r OTB [NRP!].

Supply Centers: gained, (lost)

		Total	Builds
Dwarves	Ang, Bha, Brb, Bag, Gun, Iro, RRu	7	+1
Elves	Bel, Crk, EKH, Gla, (Har), (Lam)	4	-1
Gondor	MTi	1	even
Mordor	Ano, Ans, Bar, (Bel), Cit, Dol, <u>Dgn</u> , Hav, Hrd, Kha, <u>Lam</u> , Lcb, Lor, MMo, Nar, off, off, off, Osg, SGo, Sit, SRh, Udo	22	+5
Rohan	(Dwn), (Edo), <u>EBm</u> (Wol)	1	-1
Saruman	Bre, Dra, Dal, <u>Edo</u> , (EEm), GHa, <u>Hag</u> , HDe, Hol, Insi, Iac, KDa, Min, Shi, <u>Wol</u>	<u>14</u> 49	+2

Adjustments: Dwa: [NBR!] plays one short; Elv: d A Fan; Mor: b A MMo, plays 4 short; Roh: d A Edo;
 Sar: b A Dal, A KDa.

Final Unit Positions:

Dwarves A Ang, A Bco, A CDu, A Dal, A Fdw, A NRh
 Elves F Bel, A Crk, A Gla, A OFo
 Gondor A MTi
 Mordor A Ans, F Bay, A Bro, B Col, A Dag, A Dol, 2A Dwn, E Hrd, 2A Lam, A Lor, 2A Los, A MMo,
 E Nit, A Oro, A Osg, A Por, A SMi, A SRh
 Rohan C Emry
 Saruman A Bre, A Dal, A Edo, A Eit, A Fcl, A Gap, A Har, A HDe, A HPa, A Iac, A KDa, A Lhu, A NDo,
 A Wol.

Notes from Tom Bombadil:

Map opposite. The Mordor/Saruman draw fails (4 yes, 0 no). In my book (read "zine"), "unanimous" means: six yes votes required to pass. Four yes and two NVR won't do the job. Please remember to submit conditional summer retreats with your Afterlithic I 3019 orders.

News from Middle Earth

Sauron-Blond: Sorry, I think I'll have to keep Lorien for you.

Mordor-Elves: [doing our best Deaethor impression]: LORIEN IS MINE AND NO OTHERS!!!!!!

Mordor-Gondor: Minas Tirith won't fall this turn. We just want to keep making your allies weaker.

It's just good to see everyone in their pen.

Sauron to Minas Tirith: How many personality units are going to hold up in there? It will still give you 1 center.

It doesn't matter as Rohan disappears and the Dwarves shrink.

Mordor-Rangers: I see Dead people.

Sauron-Saruman: Why do they resist the inevitable?? 2 way as planned.

Deadline for Afterlithic I 3019 is 6 PM PST on Tuesday, 11 April 2006

	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12
Austria	2	1	0									
England	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	9	10
France	5	6	5	4	2	2	2	3	2	0		
Germany	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	2	1	2		
Italy	5	7	9	11	12	11	12	13	14	15	16	18
Russia	6	7	8	7	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	6
Turkey	5	4	2	1	0							

Paul Milewski	eliminated	Fall 1903
Jon Fetter	survive	Fall 1912
Keith Evans	eliminated	Fall 1910
Timothy Lurz	dropped	Spring 1911
Jim Burgess	eliminated	Fall 1912
Fred Wiedemeyer	WIN	Fall 1912
Phil Reynolds	deceased	Spring 1911
David McCrumb	survive	Fall 1912
Bart Denny	eliminated	Fall 1905

GM

Tom Howell

Although this game started nearly two years after the start of Wynoochee River, it progressed quickly and saw the elimination of two powers while Wynoochee River still had all seven. I soon began thinking that this game would end before the earlier game; and it did, just barely.

Phil dominated this game; not through a superior position after the first five or six turns, but via his personality and by managing to retain a strong board position despite alienating all the remaining players. He also, better than any of the other players, kept me informed of his thinking during the game, as can be seen below. After Phil's death and Tim Lurz' NMRs, I erroneously called Bart back as a standby for Germany. That provoked much behind the scenes activity, which is only hinted at in Fred's message below.

Thanks to all for playing. Especial thanks to Jim and David for stepping in at the end of the game.

England

Jon Fetter

EOG: This game started for me in a dark bar in Taiwan, planning with Tim Lurz (then Germany) the destruction of France. With each sip of Taiwan Beer (750cc, \$100nt) I laughed to myself. "Yeah right, after I'm through with you." Anyway, memory is vague on some points (too much Taiwan Beer?) but I arranged with Russia to divide Scandinavia and leave each other alone cause there's no big advantage for England to go that way early in the game. This agreement Russia broke not once (F mc St. Pete) but twice (what does Bush say? "Fool me once, shame on....me? uhh..."). Anyway, the second time Russia was naughty blew most of my chances of winning. Also there was the threat of the IR juggernaut. So I secured a deal with the stronger Italy (Congrats!) that I would help him only so far as he did not take any more of my centers and would win by taking Russia's and others. France was at first a willing ally and I'm sure we would have succeeded against Germany if Russia hadn't blown things. France indicated that I could take his centers, which I did, even though he seems to have changed his mind about it. By the time Mr. McCrumb took over Russia (Thanks Dave), I could no longer muster the interest in the game to make a stand against Italy as he offered, I had been fighting Russia for so long. Well, better luck next game.

France

Keith Evans

Spring '04: I noticed that I did not bounce myself out of Burgundy even though I had support. Are you saying that I can't kick my self out of a territory? I thought I remembered being able to do that.

No. The rules are very clear that one cannot dislodge one's own units. In fact they specifically mention that if you (as France) support a German unit into a space occupied by one of your own (French) units, the German unit will not advance if your support is required to give him enough to move. I.E.,

France: A Bur hold, A Par S German A Ruh - Bur

Germany: A Ruh - Bur

Assuming no other supports or attacks, the German A Ruh would not move.

On the other hand, if, in addition to the above, Germany ordered A Mun S A Ruh-Bur, then your army would be dislodged. But not because of your support from Paris.

The support would be valid for other reasons; for example, if, in addition to all the above, England ordered: A Pic-Bur, A Bel S A Pic-Bur, A Gas S A Pic-Bur; then, the English and German armies would stand each other off, and you would have a beleaguered army in Burgundy, which would stand in place without getting dislodged.

Well, it wouldn't have mattered anyways as Germany did not attack Ruhr. The idea was to be able to build a fleet. Things don't look good now.

Spring '08: Here are new moves for France for Spring 08, Quinault River. Thank for sending Jon my email address. It was very useful. He confessed.

He did, huh? To what?

He confessed to a non-stab, but a breakup of the alliance that we (BFG) had going against Italy. In time for me to change my orders.

Fall '08: ... Plus no one sends me email anymore. It's amazing what happens when you only have 2 armies.

Germany

Jim Burgess

GM (in response to Spring '12 orders): Given that that unit in Kiel is a FLEET, you may wish to reconsider these orders...

I thought it was.... but then Fred W. told me it was an Army, so I thought he must be paying more attention than me....

Fall '12: If I don't get in, I'm dead....

Well, ... yeah. No final words to pronounce (press)?

Nah.. I really haven't been in this long enough to be engaged all that much...

Italy

Fred Wiedemeyer

Fall '11: from fred - italy

[Sent to everyone except Russian standby]

to whoever is going to play the nice one centre position of germany.

i have promised fetter (england) that germany will at least survive, and will keep that promise. my concentration is on russia. i will move reh back into man. i ask that germany hit her to cut a possible double by the russia on man. once i am back in man, i will on subsequent moves support germany into her in an effort to help germany get her back. after that, we'll even talk about getting man back to german hands.

and yes, jim you are the official standby. it took me painfully long to rid of denny as turkey earlier in this game, and now i'm promising to help him survive as germany? good grief and no thanks. i would feel too much like charlie brown.

Russia

Phil Reynolds

Winter '08: Have you got an e-mail address for Keith Evans? (Hey, somebody I don't know already!)

Fall '04: What I'm about to say, I'm not blaming on you - it's my own carelessness. But due to my waiting to really look at "Quinsalt" until the past couple of days, not having the published map of it, and not being accustomed to playing with predictive adjustments, I neglected to notice until I was submitting my orders last night that Turkey had retreated to Ank. I had told Fred W. earlier that day the moves I was suggesting, not knowing for sure which way Turkey would retreat, and I didn't want to (or have the time to consider) conditional orders. But once I started looking at the results right before deadline and saw not only that Turkey was in Ank, but that I could move A Rum-Ukr (rather than A Rum-Bul, which I had told Fred I'd do so we could bounce over Bul and keep all of my Black Sea centers secure from Turkey), I regretted not having the luxury of time to be able to write back to Fred and come up with a better, alternative set of orders. Since I want to make sure that Italy doesn't take Bul (or Bud), I still had to commit to most of my proposed plan, but this leaves either Rum or Sev vulnerable, with my move to Ukr. So I'm really crossing my fingers and toes that Turkey doesn't order F Bla-Rum.

I've learned my lesson - I need to tend to this (and other games) quicker, but real life has been topsy-turvy of late, starting a new job with the same company, etc.

Fall '05: DISBANDS: F Ank, F Bla, F Bar, F Stp(nc), F Nwy, A Pru, A Lvn

i only need one reference to a particular unit. At least as these are written. The retreat software will find the southern fleet wherever it ends up. Same with the northern fleet.

However, if you were doing something fancy like: only remove southern fleet if it did NOT get into Ankara, second remove northern fleet, ...

Then, You'd need write something like that, rather than the simple list.

I was anticipating writing something more complex for the retreats based on whether or not Italy were to stab me, so I was thinking it out as I was typing it, but it turned out to be pretty straightforward.

Spring '06: A teaser: I think this turn is going to be a VERY interesting one in "Quinsalt"....

As in, "everyone turns on Italy"? or something else?

I'm thinking "something else." I've approached B & G to lay off me and instead join me in stopping Italy, but B doesn't like my having a northern fleet (as Russia), and G doesn't seem as responsive as I'd think he'd be. So, it might just take a big slam through Tyr, Boh & Pru this turn to prove to G how vulnerable he is, in order to get him to lay off me. E already made moves west to defend vs. Italy, but G is the weak link.

However, I told both I won't stop my current strategy while either is attacking me or occupying my home country. (I've suggested they convoy the English A Pin to Kiel and have it move to Ruh to shore up the defense around Switzerland.) With all the centers I have down south that they can't touch, and the armies I can bring to bear, they're fighting a losing war - but I have to hope they accept this NOW. I don't want Italy to win, but I won't attack him while someone else is attacking me. Maybe Italy will win because of this, but that's the chance I'm taking....

Spring '08: I'm actually hoping that England destroys both of my northern fleets so I can build an army after losing just one center (Stp)! (Unless, of course, Fred gets off his butt first and breaks into Mid, causing England to redeploy some of his fleets away from me!)

Dave McCrumb

Spring 12: Note: This game is over. After the spring moves, there is no hope of me holding back Italy in the

Balkans. I'm down 2 this turn and at least one next year. The spring moves were a killer. I think Italy could have been stalemated at 17 otherwise.

Fall '12: I have no idea what I was planning in this game. I didn't hear from anyone else, hence no planning. Doesn't matter as looking at the map indicates an Italian win.

Looking at the map would indicate that. You, however, look like you are doing what you can to correct that situation..!

I never quit until the game is over one way or the other. Since I'm not helping him to the win, I'm doing everything I can to stop it. I don't think I can do it but I'll give it a good try. Who knows, he might screw up. I was in a game a few years ago that went from a guaranteed German win to a 4-way due to one error. The German didn't believe it when I told him so they played another 2 hours before he finally agreed. His stab had allowed the opponents to stabilize the stalemate line.

Off the Palantir

Hi Tom:

Spent three weeks in Kaohsiung, Taiwan over the holidays with family. I did get to see Mr. Tim Lurz. He is doing well and is thinking of leaving Taiwan soon. Many of my old friends and acquaintances are doing well for themselves over there. Two have opened their own bars and four (including Tim) run their own language schools. I hadn't been back for four years due to work demands and the SARS outbreak, and I really missed the place. I do think leaving there six years ago was the right decision for my family, but I will always feel split about where I want to live. Most of my good friends remain in Asia.

My son enjoyed his daily scooter rides (he never once said that he'd had enough and when we would get home he would climb onto another scooter) and rides on the Kaohsiung harbor ferry.

I took my metal detector along, and did very well at the local beach in terms of coins and jewelry. No one else metal detects in that city.

One of the nicest things about the trip was that I was isolated from all the political crap going on in the states. The Taiwanese media is obsessed with local events (which is fine), and whenever I turned on CNN International they were talking about the year in review, business, or cricket.

Cheers,

Jon [FETTER]

"Did very well?" did you? You going to retire now? As for the scooters, just goes to show how important are the simple things we lose with ageing. <g> [TOM]

Tom:

Actually, you don't need to send me the paper version of the zine as the online version is just fine by me. I figured I probably owed you some back money anyway and if not, I don't mind paying a bit towards the online version.

Just read the latest issue and gave some answers for BPD to ease my transition from lurker to participant. Hopefully I will get up enough nerve and dedication to get back into a Dip game at some point.

Ward

No, actually, you'd been in the hole, but dug yourself out of it. You still had two issues to go before your last contribution ran out. As for getting into a Dip game, check out the Downfall game on page 11; we called you as a standby! [TOM]

Hi Tom

Well, I've enjoyed another trip to the US and another extended stay in Chicago courtesy of United Airlines, but this time we did go over Alaska rather than over the Northern States. I'm not sure why they changed but the clear views over the ice-scape were stunning.

It's raining here, but mostly we've escaped the bad winter that the rest of Japan has been suffering. There have been major snowfalls over most of Japan with many people being killed by collapsing roofs and the cold.

There's only been one snowfall in the greater Tokyo area this year, the day I flew back from Thailand (only a 35degC temperature change). I was lucky the flight landed early as the airport got really chaotic later. The weather sounds pretty unpleasant where you are - I hope it's started to dry out now.

Here are my orders for the games in o-t-s....

That's all for now.

All the best

Jim [READER]

As I write this it's been raining for most of the day. However, the last couple of weeks have been pretty dry. So dry in fact, that the tool shed door has dried out and has not been sticking. That door is my humidity meter. Usually it sticks all winter and early spring and opens without complaint mid spring through late fall.

Does that lack of snow in the greater Tokyo area speak to you about energy usage in the big city? Back in the 80's, my grandfather used to tell me (especially in the winter) that temperatures in

downtown Seattle were always two to three degrees warmer than at his house, which was only about 5 miles from downtown as the crow flies. [TOM]

Hola, Tom,

I actually have been meaning to drop you a note for a while in order to give you a little update of my own AND to thank you for continuing to send me your little magazine which, through the "in my neighborhood" section provides me with updates on what's going on for you and Barb. Don't know which is the "best" way to reach you, via your old personal email address (I assume you still have that, being who you are???) or via the zine's...

Anyway, before I get started with my little update: Would you please, pretty please send some of those storms that continue to inundate you folks w/ more than enough moisture down this way???? We have received hardly anything at all this winter, even in the mountains!

Our last good moisture came in OCTOBER! Since then we've had nothing but a couple of light showers, usually snowy stuff, but not enough to be worth measuring! The mts. have gotten a little bit more, but so little, that all the ski-areas in this general area have only been able to open part-way, and that only due to massive snow-making.

So, since you guys/folks up in the NW could probably use a little break from the storm systems sweeping across, SIMPLY send them down our way, ok?

Dagmar

The "best" way to reach me depends on what you're sending. The o-t-s address is meant for stuff that ends up here in the 'zine, and the throwell address for stuff not meant for the 'zine. Yes, I still have both e-mail addresses, but am now being charged for the alias; and as a result have been contemplating a change.

Well, we have had a relatively dry February. Hope it meant you got some wet down your way. Hurricane ridge has the highest snow pack in five or more years, though Barb and I have not made it up for any skiing. We thought about it when we had some snow here, but there wasn't enough to ensure the skis wouldn't pick up more gouges in their bottoms.

Ok. When we've figured out a simple way to send excess moisture to the Southwest, we'll do so.

<G> [TOM]

Tom,

Thanks for the e-mail. I totally forgot but I think I have a fairly good reason. Baby came early!

Tristan Steven Springer - 8 lbs. 9 oz 22 1/2 inches

everyone is doing fine but Tristan has a pretty wicked case of jaundice right now and we are struggling to bring his numbers down. He had to stay in the hospital an extra day and we have been going back and forth doing some blood tests. o-t-s fell off my radar since we were all caught by surprise by him coming a week and half early. Hope you can accept orders a tad late....

Thanks for your patience!

Vincent

Congratulations on your first born. Barb says, "Feed, feed, feed." Apparently, jaundice is very common in babies. As a WIC dietician, she also strongly recommends breast feeding. By the time I hear from you again, I expect this will all be resolved.

As the only set of late orders, and given your immediate response to my request for orders, being a tad late proved not to be a problem. [TOM]

Hi Tom,

Just really busy at the moment. We have a big government review of our program management process for our new contract in March so this is taking a lot of my time (conducting training, reviewing and submitting documentation).

Also been busy planning our next holiday. One of the attractions of accepting the job in Indianapolis was the opportunity to stay longer in the US and travel around. So in early April we off to the SW, two weeks in Southern Utah / Northern Arizona going around the National Parks (Zion, Arches, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Glen Powell, Grand Canyon, etc.) and ending up with a few nights in Las Vegas. Looking forward to the dramatic scenery. Most of the trip will be the 'tourist' drive to the scenic overlook but Charlie will be nearly two so we should be able to manage a few short walks as well...

... however based on our experience yesterday this might not work so well! We went to South Bend, IN yesterday to visit the Notre Dame Campus. Charlie's idea of walking was to walk in the opposite direction to that which we wanted to go in! He thought it was very funny. Especially when Daddy chased him...

Best Wishes

James [NELSON]

I haven't ever been down there, but understand that's the best season. Especially if you manage

to time your visit just after a spring rain.

I seem to remember something about a kid halter on a leash. You might want to look into finding one for your walking jaunts... If training dogs is similar to training children, as I've often claimed, the converse must also be true...? [TOM]

Found in Postal Equipment

Dear Tom,

I expect to leave by 3/10, so after 2/28 my best address would be ... [as found on page 23].

I don't know where the halfway house in the Dallas area is, or how long I'll be there, but I figure that by the end of March I hope to be spending weekends at home. My old e-mail of dougray30 "of" yahoo.com is still active, but I don't know when I'll be able to start accessing it personally.

I don't know what I'll be doing for work. Worst-case I guess I'll find some minimum-wage "survival" job for the first 6 months while I look for something better. It's scary to wonder what the world holds for a felon like me, but I guess I'll have to go out there and find out. At least I have friends, family, and Heather who all love and support me. Now I just need to work on learning to love myself, at least a little bit!

Best,

Doug ☺ [KENT]

Dear Tom:

Here is a copy of the "Small World II-R" rules and maps, plus an Introduction to the concept of the game, and a description of how the "II" version differs from the "II-R" version. The "Small World II" NAVB Catalog No. is "gf02/08," and the II-R version (this one) is "gf08/08." In addition there is a supplementary set of rules for playing II-R as a seven-player game instead of the 8-player game of the original, by elimination of the Pacific Empire player. This does not have a separate Catalog no., but is included in case the players want to try out the 7-player version.

The last set of numbers in the Catalog number indicates how many Powers/players there are in the variant. I devised the Pacific Empire Power in order to include Japan as a Home SC, but at least one of the players in the BUSHWACKER game I adjudicated felt that this was stretching things a bit. In any case, the players can vote on whether to play this as a 7 or 8-player game.

Note that no specific date has been given for this variant, since I wanted to leave this up to the players' imaginations. I just used the years "01", etc. to keep track of the moves. However, with one exception, the names would fit in with either the original 1901 starting date, or a mid-century 1951 start. The exception is that I changed "St. Petersburg" to "Leningrad," which was the name of that area in 1978, when I first designed this variant. I would have no objection if the players decided that they'd want to have this space revert to the "St. Petersburg" name, which would have been correct for 1901 or for the present time. Note the Chinese spaces have been given the names that were used in either 1901 or 1951, but not the modern ones. And the name "Persia" fits in better with a 1901 scenario. Except for the African nations, most of which were still colonies in 1901, I feel that the design fits better with a 1901 or 1914 starting date than with a more modern one.

Also, I'm enclosing the Army/Fleet Rules Module, which describes how the F's will move when they are carrying A's on board. After my first Davis design, I incorporated the A/F Rules in this way, rather than to have to write these rules into every variant I designed. (Most of my variants used the A/F Rules Module).

I'm also going to enclose a larger map, which could be useful if you want to set up a board for this game. I'll let you know the cost of all of this later. You can add that sum to my sub.

Best regards,

Fred [DAVIS]

Some Assembly Required

Doug, welcome back! Don't know exactly when this will reach you. However, since I'm sending it to you at Heather's I have some confidence that you'll be in Texas when you see it. If you wish, send me an e-mail when you do get back on-line, and I'll let your fans here know so you won't have to track down all their e-addresses.

You could look on that first six months as a chance to discover some jobs that you don't want do for the rest of your life... <g>

As for that last part, it's one of the hardest things one can do, and the most important.

Fred, thanks for the rules and map. I have the rules and some of the other material you sent on the links page of the e-t-s web site. I'll get the map up there also, as soon as I finish re-assembling it in the computer. I suspect the determinant of seven vs. eight players will be how quickly folks sign up.

As for space names, I'm of the opinion that "A rose, by any other name..." Of course we could change all the

space names, but why bother? What's there will work just fine, and I suspect the only significant impact that changing space names or designating a century, whether early- or mid-, would be in the inspiration that provides for press. Which is to say, there would be some impact on the peripheral fun, but probably not any to the actual outcome of the game.

I added three dollars to your subscription. Hope that works for you.

These are ...

Your Neighbors

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