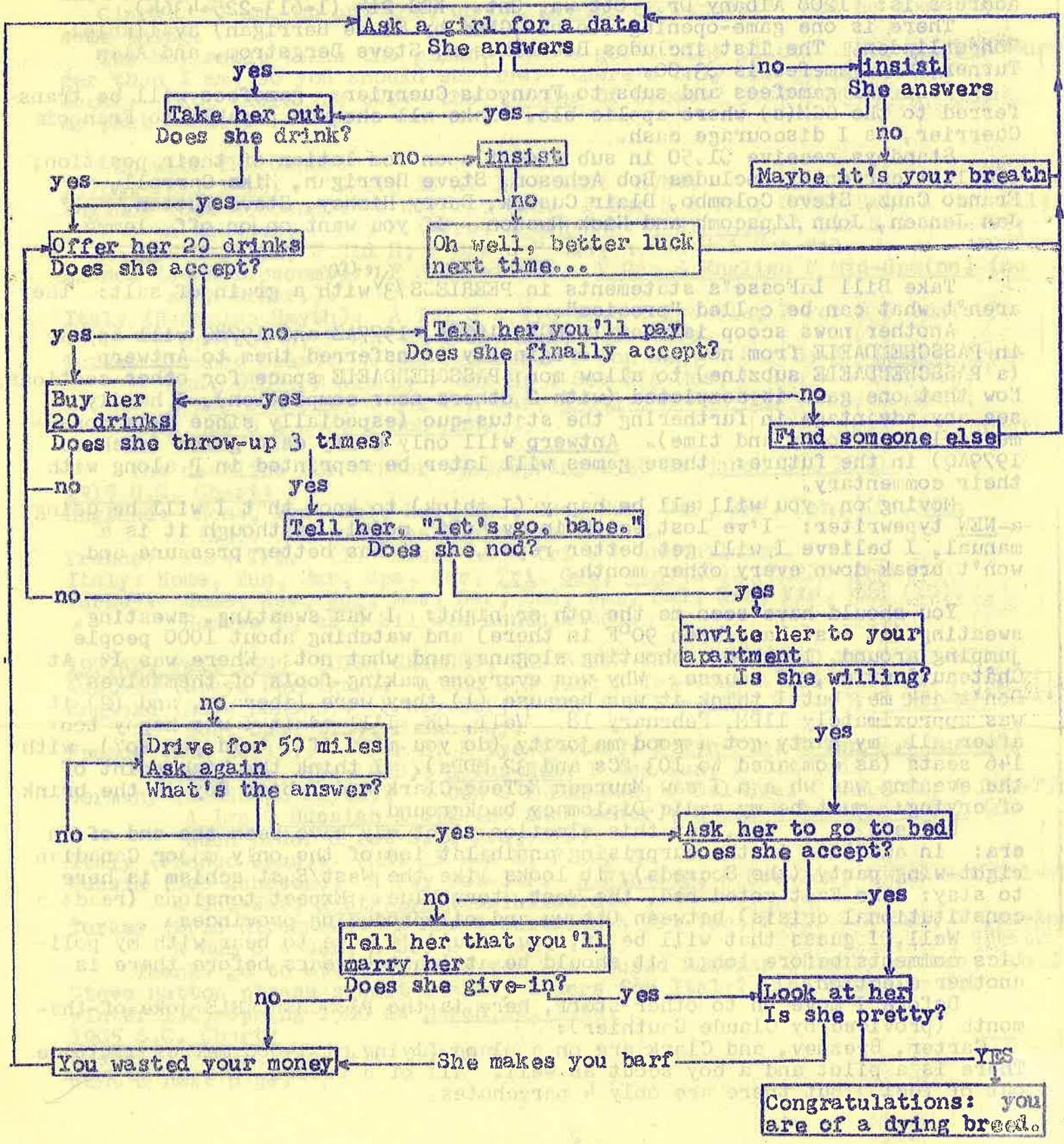


Passchendaele

PRESENTS:

YOUR SEX FLOW CHART!



20
This is PASSCHENDAELE# (February 22, 1980), a magazine devoted to the postal play of Diplomacy, and published by François Cuerrier, 2210-160 Chapel St., Ottawa, Ont. K1N 8P5 (1-613-236-1351). Subs are available for 35¢/issue and articles are paid for at the rate of 50¢/page. I am the GM for 1976A, 1976CX, 1977AB, 1977AZ, 1978Q, 1978R, 1978S, 1979AC, 1979AQ, 1979HY and 1979KH. Steve Berrigan is the GGM for Gaugameles; his address is: 1208 Albany Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K2C 2L4 (1-613-225-4364).

There is one game-opening (to be GGMed by Steve Berrigan) available: Honenlinden. The list includes Bob Acheson, Steve Bergstrom, and Alan Turner; the gamefee is \$3.00.

Send all gamefees and subs to François Cuerrier: gamefees will be transferred to the GGM(s) where applicable. Make all cheques payable to François Cuerrier, as I discourage cash.

Standbys receive \$1.50 in sub credit upon completion of their position; the list currently includes Bob Acheson, Steve Berrigan, Mike Carroll, Franco Cauz, Steve Colombo, Blair Casack, Barry Hickey, Steve Hutton, Jan Jensen, John Lipscomb and Nick Russon. If you want on or off, lemme know.

Take Bill LaFosse's statements in PERRLESS#3^{re-000} with a grain of salt: they aren't what can be called "precise".

Another news scoop is that 1976CX, 1976A, 1977AZ and 1978Q will appear in PASSCHENDAELE from now on: I originally transferred them to Antwerp (a PASSCHENDAELE subzine) to allow more PASSCHENDAELE space for other sections. Now that one game is completed (with 2 others near completion), I hardly see any advantage in furthering the status-quo (especially since this consumes a lot of money and time). Antwerp will only carry demo games (such as 1979AQ) in the future: these games will later be reprinted in P along with their commentary.

Moving on, you will all be happy (I think) to know that I will be using a NEW typewriter: I've lost faith in my "old" model. Although it is a manual, I believe I will get better repro, as it has better pressure and won't break-down every other month.

You should have seen me the other night: I was sweating, sweating, sweating (it must have been 90°F in there) and watching about 1000 people jumping around, laughing, shouting slogans, and what not. Where was I? At Château Laurier, of course. Why was everyone making fools of themselves? Don't ask me, but I think it was because (1) they were Liberals, and (2) it was approximately 11PM, February 18. Well, OK, I'll admit I was happy too: after all, my party got a good majority (do you mind if I told you so?), with 146 seats (as compared to 103 PCs and 32 NDPs). I think the high point of the evening was when I saw Maureen McTeer-Clark and Fabien Roy on the brink of crying: must be my sadic Diplomacy background.

Believe it or not, but this election night may have been the end of an era: in addition to the surprising annihilation of the only major Canadian right-wing party (the Socreds), it looks like the West/East schism is here to stay: the East voted red, the West, tory blue. Expect tensions (read: a constitutional crisis) between Ottawa and oil-producing provinces.

Well, I guess that will be it; you shouldn't have to bear with my politics comments before long: it should be at least 4 years before there is another election.

Before I move on to other stuff, here is the PASSCHENDAELE joke-of-the-month (provided by Claude Gauthier):

Carter, Breznev, and Clark are on a plane flying at 14000 metres altitude. There is a pilot and a boy scout as well. All of a sudden, the plane runs out of fuel. But there are only 4 parachutes.

PASSCHENDAELE#20, Feb. 22, 1980.

Carter says, "I am the President of the United States. I must survive." And he reaches for a parachute and jumps.

Breznev: "I'm the Premier of the greatest nation of the world! I must also survive." And he does the same.

Clark: "I am, uh uh, the, uh uh, brains of Canada!" And he does the same thing.

The boy scout tells the pilot, "Let's go!". The pilot: "No, you're younger than I am, so you should survive: there's only one parachute left." Scout: "No, there are two: the "brains of Canada" just jumped out with my pack sack."

On with THE GAMES!

1976A, Fall 1915. SMYTH IS AT IT AGAIN! RUN!!
England (Bob Acheson): A War ret-Pru. F Ber S A Pru; F Kie-Hel; A Mun-Sil;
A Ruh-Mun; F Bal S A Pru; A Lvn-War; A StP-Mos; A Bur S A Ruh-Mun;
F Iri-Lpl; F Mid H; F Bre S F Mid; A Pru S A Mun-Sil.
France (John Lipscomb): F Mid ret-Gas. F Gas S English F Mid-Spa(nc) (no such order).
Italy (Randolph Smyth): A Tri S A Tyo-Vie; A Tyo-Vie; F Por S F Spa(sc);
F Spa(sc) H; F Mar H; F Tyn-Tun; F Ion-Gre.
Turkey (Franco Cauz): A Mun ret-Boh. F Con-Aeg; A Ser H; A Vie-Boh (ret-Bud, OTB); F Alb H; F Adr H; A Sev S A Mos; F Eas S F Con-Aeg;
A War S A Sil; A Gal S A War; A Sil S A Boh-Mun (annihilated);
A Mos S A War; A Boh-Mun.

The deadline for Winter 1915/Spring 1916 is March 28, 1980.

1915 S.C. Chart:

England: Home, Bre, Bel, Hol, Den, Swe, Nwy, StP, ~~War~~, Ber, Kie, Mun (13). Build 1, as played one short.

France: Par, ~~Tri~~. (1) Even, as A Tri was annihilated.

Italy: Home, Tun, Mar, Spa, Por, Tri, Gre, Vie (10). Build 3!!!

Turkey: Home, Sev, War, Mos, Ser, Bud, Rum, Bul, ~~Gre~~, Vie, Mun (10).
Remove 1, as A Sil was annihilated.

1977AZ, Fall 1905 LOTSA CHANGES, AND SMYTH TAKES THE LEAD POSITION-WISE!

Austria (Steve Berrigan): A Bud S A Vie; A Tri-Ven; A Vie S A Bud.

England (Dave Hansen): F Nwy-StP; F Bar S F Nwy-StP; F Swe S F Ski-Nwy (ret-Bot, Ska, OTB); F Ska-Nwy.

France (Ron Kelly): A Par H; F Lyo-Spa(sc); F Tyn-Nap; A Ven S A Tus-Rom (ret-Apu, Pie, OTB); A Tus-Rom; F Wes-Tun; F Tun-Ion.

Germany (Randolph Smyth): A Den S F Bal-Swe; F Bal-Swe; F Bel-Nth; A Boh-Tyo;
A Lvn S Russian A StP (no such order); A War S Russian A Gal (no such order & ret-Sil, Pru, OTB).

Italy (Franco Cauz): NMR! F Rom H, F Nap H.

Russia (Bob Acheson): A Nwy ret-StP. A Fin-StP; A Sev-Mos; A Ukr S A Gal-War
A Gal-War; A StP-Lvn (annihilated).

Turkey (Eric Kirchner): F Adr S Austrian A Tri-Ven; F Bla S A Rum; F Con-Aeg
A Rum S A Ser; A Ser S A Rum.

Thanks go to Steve Colombo for his unused Russian standby orders; could Steve Hutton please submit standby orders for Italy? The deadline for Winter 1905/Spring 1906 is March 28, 1980.

1905 S.C. Chart:

Austria: Home, Ven (4). Build 1.

cont'd next page.

PASSCHENDAELE#20, Feb. 22, 1980.

1977AZ cont'd:

England: Home, ~~Den~~, Nwy, StP. (5). Build 1 or 2 depending on the retreat.
France: Home, Spa, Por, Tun, ~~Yen~~. (6) Remove 1 or Even depending on the retreat.
Germany: Home, Hol, Bel, Den, Swe, Ww. (7) Build 1 or 2 depending on the retreat.
Italy: Rom, Nap. (2). Even.
Russia: Mos, Sev, War, Ww, Ska, Kam, StP. (3) Remove 1, as 2 annihilations occurred.
Turkey: Home, Bul, Ser, Gre, Rum. (7) Build 2 as played 1 short.

1978Q, Fall 1905. TACTICAL FINESSE AND A BUILD SAVE SMYTH!

Austria (Oded Klinger): A Tri-Bud (ret-Alb, OTB); A Vie-Bud; A Bud-Rum;
F Nap-Rom.
France (Bob Acheson): F Spa(sc)-Mid; A Ruh-Bel; A Bur S A Ruh-Bel
(ret-Gas, Mar, OTB); A Par S F Bre-Pic; F Bre-Pic; F Lon-Nth;
F Eng S F Lon-Nth; A Edi H.
Germany (Randolph Smyth): F Nrg S F Swe-Nwy; F Bel-Nth; F Swe-Nwy;
F Den S F Bel-Nth; A Pic-Bur; A Mun S A Pic-Bur; A Ber-Kie.
Italy (Steve Colombo): A Ven S A Tyo-Tri; A Tyo-Tri; F Rom-Nap; F Gre-Bul(sc)
(ret-Ion, Alb, OTB).
Russia (Jan Jensen): F Nwy-Nrg (ret-StP(nc), Ska, OTB); A Gal-Bud;
A War-Mos; A Ukr S A Rum-Sev; A Rum-Sev (annihilated).
Turkey (Hugh Polley): A Sev S Austrian A Ser-Rum; F Bla S A Sev; F Aeg-Gre;
A Ser S Austrian A Bud-Rum; F Bul(sc) S F Aeg-Gre.

The deadline for Winter 1905/Spring 1906 is March 28, 1980.

1905 S.C. Chart:

Austria: Bud, Vie, ~~Txx~~, Nap, Rum. (4). Even or Build 1 depending on the retreat.
France: Home, Spa, Por, Lon, Edi, Lpl. (3). Build 1 or Even depending on the retreat.
Germany: Home, Hol, Bel, Den, Swe, Nwy. (8) Build 1.
Italy: Ven, Rom, Tun, Tri, Gre. (4) Even, or will play 1 short, depending on the retreat.
Russia: Mos, War, StP, Sev, Ww. (3) Remove 1 or Even depending on the retreat.
Turkey: Home, Bul, Ser, Kam, Gre, Sev. (7). Build 1.

1978R, Winter 1904/Spring 1905. SMALL GUYS RETALIATE! CROWDS ROAR!

Austria (John Kelley): A Tri ret-OTB; A Vie ret-Tyo; removes A Ven.
A Tyo goes out with both middle fingers raised (A Tyo-Mun).
England (Bob Acheson): F Mrg! A Yor H (ret-Edi, Lpl, OTB); F Nwy H; F Mrg H.
France (Trevor Baillie): F Lyo-Wes; F Mid-Eng; A Bur-Ruh; A Mar-Bur;
A Bre-Pic.
Germany (Shelley Foster): Builds F Kie. F Nth S A Lon-Yor; F Eng-Wal;
A Bel S A Mun-Ruh; F Kie-Hol; A Mun-Ruh; A Boh-Mun; A Lon-Yor.
Italy (John Lipscomb): Removes A Pie. F Tyn-Nap; F Rom S F Tyn-Nap.
Russia (Hugh Polley): Builds A War. A Sil-Boh; F StP(nc)-Bur; A Vie S A Bud;
F Ska-Swe; A Mos-StP; F Ion-Tun; A Bud S A Vie; A War-Ukr.
Turkey (James Clarke): Builds A Con, F Ank. A Tri-Tyo; A Smy H, unordered;
F Aeg-Ion; F Nap H (ret-Apu, OTB); F Gre S F Aeg-Ion; A Ser-Tri;
A Con-Bul; F Ank-Con; A Bul-Ser (NO FLYING DUTCHMANS (DUTCHMEN??)
ALLOWED!!! No such unit.).

Will Nick Russon kindly submit standby orders for the English position?

The deadline for Fall 1905 is March 28, 1980.

1978R Press:

Tyrolia-Berlin: Serves ya right, supporting the white death into Vienna.
Paris-Berlin: That was a short alliance.

Editorial column#12: breaking the seal of confidentiality.

A never-dying debate has centered on this theme for the past decade; and with its recent recrudescence in the U.S., I hardly expect the 1980s to see the end of it.

Is it ethical to divulge confidential information? Clearly, the issue of passing compromising letters to an ally in the normal course of a game is not at stake: the discussion revolves around other hobby-related not-for-quote matter.

The pros argue that any letter becomes the recipient's property upon receipt: the treatment it later receives is none of the sender's domain.

Is this really so? True, the recipient may physically do anything he pleases with his ingoing correspondence: nothing's stopping him. But this is not a matter of "can" (or "may"), but rather of "ought": the sender clearly vested his confidence on the beneficiary's shoulders; the way I see it, anyone breaking this confidence has poor taste, with few exceptions. Fortunately, those individuals are few; as they hopefully didn't know better, things may shape-up in the future.

The burning questions are: can the hobby do anything about it? Is it willing to undertake action? I'm afraid the answer is negative: most are obsessed in playing, and pay attention to little else, insofar as they aren't directly concerned. Also, the prestige of the persons involved may be another factor: who wants to get a publisher (aside from another publisher) on his back, for instance?

Denouncing the culprits achieves little: nothing constructive, at least. As everyone's autonomous, nothing short of legal procedures can stop them. Of course, some of those who read about them may be forewarned and act accordingly.

One solid piece of advice: don't tell anyone anything you don't wish to be spread around like feathers in the wind if at all possible. Alternatively, don't repeat the experience with those who "burn" you, regardless of circumstances: that's what I do!

1979AQ (All-GM demo game), Fall 1902.

Austria (Ron Kelly): F Gre S A Ser-Bul (ret-Alb, OTB); A Ser-Bul;
A Tri-Vie (ret-Alb, OTB).
England (Pierre LaBrèche): ret F Nwy-Ska. F Ska-Den; F Edi-Cly; A Den-Yor;
F Lon S F Nth; F Nth C A Den-Yor.
France (John Kelley): A Gas-Bur; A Mar-Bur; F Spa(sc)-Mid; F Mid-Iri;
F Eng-Lon.
Germany (Bill LaFosse): A Hol H; A Sil-Mun; F Kie-Den; A Bel H; F Hel S;
F Kie-Den.
Italy (Andy Lischett): A Ven-Tri; A Tyo S A Ven-Tri; F Ion-Gre; F Nap-Ion.
Russia (Randolph Smyth): F Swe S English A Den (no such order); A Gal-War;
A StP S F Nwy; F Nwy S F Swe; F Sev S A Rum; A Bud-Vie;
A Rum S F Sev.
Turkey (Blair Fusack): A Bul-Gre; F Aeg S A Bul-Gre; F Bla C A Arm-Bul;
A Arm-Bul.

1902 S.C. Chart:

Austria: Vie, Ser, Tri. (2). Remove 1, Build 1, or Even D. O. R.
England: Home, Nwy, Den. (3). Remove 2.

France: Home, Spa, Por. (5) Even.
 Germany: Home, Bel, Hol, Den. (6) Build 1.
 Italy: Home, Tun, Tri. (5) Build 1.
 Russia: Home, Bud, Rum, Swe, Nwy. (8). Build 1.
 Turkey: Home, Bul, Gre. (5) Build 1.

STEVE BERRIGAN'S COMMENTARY: Fall 1902 was for the most part predictable. The FG advance against E was foreseeable and well executed. The German moves to Denmark and Munich were quite sound and the French moves were equally effective. England is in a very poor position due to his NMR and the obvious lack of coordination between E and R. As I predicted Russia seemingly desires to aid E--whether he can do so effectively remains to be seen. The loss of Denmark was a crucial one for E--his two removals should be a real headache for him. There will be a request for Winter only--there are simply too many contingencies. Still I would expect something like the following from E & G: France: F Mid-Nat, S by Iri, A Par-Bre, A Gas-Mar or H, F Eng, Ger. F Hel-Nth. Germany: Builds A Kie, A Kie S F Den, F Den S F Hel-Nth, F Hel-Nth, A Mun H, A Hol H, A Bel H. I don't think it really matters which units England removes; perhaps F Ska and A Yor would be best however... Certainly Russia will do something to help--probably F Nwy S Eng. F Nth, F Swe-Den would be safest but Russia may well decide to put real pressure on G by an all out attack. In any case E is doomed--F Lon S F Nth, F Cly-Lpl would be best, more or less as a delaying action. In the East, the picture is not as clear. Austria has two units but that doesn't help very much. The problem here is what is the alliance structure in the East--is it really RI v. TA or RT vs. AI, or RIT v. A or everyone for himself? Personally I feel Russia has short term deals with both Turkey and Italy and could very well be in the luxurious position of having the option of doing what he wants in this game. After all R now has 8 units--he has no pressure at all from E or G and A is decimated. If R is to be stopped resistance must crystallize now but there seems little chance of that happening in the foreseeable future. I predict RI will wipe out A and then move on T very quickly as it is not in Russia's interests to have a strong T at his doorstep. T would be wise to prop up A at least to slow down RI until help arrives from the west. For example if A disbands both F Gre and A Tri, and builds A Vie the following could be effective Austria: A Ser S Turkish A Con-Bul, A Vie-Bud Turkey: Builds A Con, A Con-Bul, F Aeg S A Con-Bul, A Gre S Austrian A Ser, F Bla S A Arm-Sev. If all goes well Rum at least should fall in Fall 1903. There is a danger of allowing Italian fleets to enter the Eastern Med. area but little can be done if Turkey does build F Smy.

Russia will build A Mos; not only because that's the only home center open but also because he must guard Sev from attack. Italy will build A Ven this year but he must be thinking about either (a) heading west against France or (b) protecting himself from a French attack. Neither R or I want to fight FG right now so they will consolidate Austria as FG will do likewise on E. Italy will probably move F Ion-Adr, F Nap-Ion, A Tyo-Vie, S by A Tri, A Ven-Tyo (or simply S A Tri). Russia's moves in the southeast are more difficult to predict: perhaps A Mos S F Sev, F Sev S A Rum, A Rum S A Bud, A Bud S Italian A Tyo-Vie, A War-Gal.

All or most of the above will be negated if the alliance structure is not which I think it is. Surely Turkey's moves suggest a RT pact as does the elimination of A suggests a RI pact. I seriously question the wisdom of Turkey not moving against Sev (which couldn't fail) and then Rumania was

certain to fall in the next season. Obviously T was persuaded by that "devious slick Smyth" to proceed against A as well; but T did not benefit. Russia can now swing both ways (not a reference to Randolph's sexual preferences)* either with I v. T or with T v. I. Wouldn't it be interesting however if Russia gets shafted by a TI alliance v. Russia? ** Anything is still possible--we shall just have to wait and see.

*Those who receive THE VOICE OF DOOM already know Randolph's preferences for gals and R(h)um. (Bruce Linsey, adress in P#15--a good zine!) (F.C.)
 **Yes, it would be. I just can't wait to see Randolph get shafted. (F.C.)

I have been in correspondence with Stephen Hutton recently, following a letter in which he expounded on his grandiose theories. Namely, he said all GMs are mentally sick, and said he got this info from the AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIST. Unfortunately, he was unable to give me a precise quote.

I offered the counter-argument that his "quote" was worthless since I couldn't check it out. I added that no such conclusion could occur in a scientific review as, (1) Diplomacy is a fairly marginal hobby: no scientific review would waste time and space on it, especially as people would have trouble finding what GMing is all about, and, (2) GMs would probably not comply with any scientific study aiming to determine their degree of mental stability (or lack thereof) as compared to normal people.

Well, it appears I may have been wrong! Or so Steve Hutton says: judge by yourself!

Dear François:

You made the rash assumption (certainly not your first) that the study which found a high rate of insanity in Diplomacy GM's was carried out on the GM's themselves. This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. What scientist could with a clear conscience sit back and observe the mental decay taking place in GMs without seeking to stop it? The experiment, of course, was carried out using laboratory rats. They used a control group of rats who were trained to be Certified Public Accountants and a group subjected to the ordeal of being Diplomacy GMs. The rats who were GMs showed a 98% higher rate of mental disease than the control group. Pretty telling evidence!! Yet you, in your infinite wisdom, dismissed my story because I couldn't give you a few totally insignificant pieces of information. Don't assume that I was content with the already overwhelming evidence I had accumulated. I personally interviewed the scientist who made this chilling ((brr!!)) discovery.

The scientist was none other than Dr. Ivan Stalinismybestfriendovich. In case you are not familiar with his illustrious career, I will fill you in. He was born Dr. Ivan Trotsky ((He was born with a PH.D. in his hands???)) but that name was rather unpopular at the time, so he changed it. He was the star of the Bolshoi Ballet before defecting during an American tour. A few years later, he moved to California to become the head of the Dept. of Diplomacy Related Illnesses at UCLA. There in 1976, he made the famous discovery that the Lepanto opening causes cancer in laboratory rats. This chilling finding totally revolutionized the play of Italy. A consumer group is trying to get a warning against using the Lepanto put on every Diplomacy box. Incidentally, he vigorously denies the persistent rumors that he's just a front for Buddy Tretick. I asked him about the GM study (for which he expects a Nobel Prize) and this is what he said: "Th t w s the most horrifying experiment of my career! Most of the rats were okay. Most of the GM rats were even controllable. But, there were these two viscous little bastards François and Randolph. François started accusing Randolph of faking his 'zine Rattendele. Then Randolph accused François of faking

Fol Sie Rat. Then François accused Randolph of shitting on his duplicator and making it go kaput. For a little while there was an uneasy peace. François went back to running letters about averages, medians, and other doubletalk. Randolph devoted his attentions to reducing the number of games in his "zine. Then something happened that was so disgusting I can't even speak of it..." Naturally, being one who loves hearing disgusting things, I pressed him. It was no use. All he would tell me was that it was so awful that they had to call off the experiment then and there and send François and Randolph to an assylum.

So that's the whole story (at least as far as I know). Do you still stubbornly refuse to hear the voice of reason? By the way, in your letter you suggested I had "a fertile imagination". How ironic. Who supplies the monthly fertilizer?

High Command: I advise everyone against living in south-western Ontario: it curves the mind.

It's been a long time since there has been a strategy article in PASSCHENDAELE, has it? Well, I've decided to be even kinder and combine three articles in one. Happy?

Evaluating intentions III: alliances.

What is an alliance? Webster defines it as "an association to further the common interests of the members". Clearly, this dispels any notion that Big Brother/Protégé, puppethood, and cross-game relations may be alliances as they do not always further common interests. Despite these restrictions, however, the term "alliance" (when loosely used) may include neutrality pacts and defensive alliances, offensive dual and triple ententes, and even stop-the-leader coalitions.

Neutrality pacts involve non-aggression and (quite often) demilitarized zones, whereas defensive alliances usually only imply mutual assistance against a common foe (in case of attack). Offensive alliances are the result of greed: two allies attack a third country for no other reason than it is there and that they want to grow. Stop-the-leader coalitions differ from the above as they are a reaction to a power dangerously nearing the win criterion.

Clearly, evaluating intentions will vary according to the situation: in some cases it is quite easy and in rare others, non-existent.

Obviously, neutrality pacts will be respected when both parties have no border units. This isn't, alas, always the case, however: the allies may then rely on a "line of trust", or preferably, leave enough "second line" units in the area to enforce the agreement and make a breach-of-contract useless. Guarding your centers proper against a stab will help.

Assessing intentions in defensive alliances (when the ally is some distance away) is easy; a PR 1902 defensive alliance doesn't entail the risk of a stab: at worst, the promised assistance won't materialize, but then trying didn't hurt! But the best insurance against treason in this case is (paradoxically) the common foe's threat of steamrolling both of you.

Little sleep should be lost over whether your ally will respect his part of the deal in an offensive alliance: this should be clear soon enough, thank you. Once the alliance is operating the main worry stems from the possibility of a backstab. You should then put accent (in your diplomacy) on your ability to ally with yesterday's foe and deny your ex-ally any substantial progress following a stab. An intelligent combination of the two should deter any attack (unless the stabber is a fool): the proper ingredient is strengthening your border as the common foe loses centers. Of course, your ally's rate of growth should also be taken in account.

PASSCHENDAELE#20, Feb. 22, 1980.

Your ally's competence increasingly becomes a factor as the situation becomes critical; this is particularly true in stop-the-leader coalitions: he must visualize the common danger before it is too late. But dealing with the corner (read: completely-behind-the-line) power often is THE problem: your other allies usually understand the threat as they are directly involved. Your diplomacy must then stress the strategic implications of a stab (ie.: the leading power will win) as well as your ability, if any, to backlash. Of course, this argument (even if 100% correct) may not sit well with some, who'd rather see some fire: then, allowing his units to take front positions may help, though it may later translate in a stab. Your last alternative will then be the satisfaction of wiping him off if your analysis was correct in the first place.

Dealing with neighbors in any alliance always involves some degree of risk: the threat of having uninvited guests slip through the back door is always present. Players react differently to this problem: some will rely on the "line of trust", whereas others prefer peace of mind and place an appropriate number of units in key positions near the border, to discourage any funny business or even to take advantage of future opportunities. As far as I'm concerned, I'd rather ally with the latter as we think alike.

Oh boy, I'm left with all this space to fill. But I know I must keep some material "in reserve" to fill some space in PASSCHENDAELE#21.

Oh well, I guess I should fill you in on what will be in P#21: I've got nothing else to type. Those who don't CARE what next ish's will contain (a very small and miserable minority, I hope) may as well skip this.

Nextish will feature:

- (1) the games: 1976CX, 1977AB, 1978 S, 1979HY, and 1979KH. I might add that the format (staggered deadlines) I've been using since January has made it very difficult for me to fill this and get full mileage out of my stamps.
- (2) the introduction and, hopefully, some humour (what?) that you will appreciate.
- (3) poll results: I expect this to cover about 3 pages.
- (4) an article
- (5) letters: incidently, quite a few persons have told me my letter column is getting mad-er and mad-er. Taking thisish letter column as an example (p. 7), why, gosh, I'm surprised!
- (6) and my usual meandering comments. Who knows? Maybe I'll think of something interesting for once! Hold your breath.

This is an insult to your intelligence: I better stop it there.

Almost filled the page, too.

FINE JIG-A-DOO!
François.

Oh yes: I just found a quote that is particularly relevant (since we just voted): "You can't fool all the people all the time, but when you do, it lasts 4 years."

