

# The Prince

April 7, 1983

Game Openings: Yes

Number 10

"Over and over again courts have said there is nothing sinister in so arranging one's affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible. Everybody does so, rich or poor; and all do right, for nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands: taxes are enforced extractions, not voluntary contributions. To demand more in the name of morals is mere cant."

Judge Learned Hand

The Prince is a postal diplomacy zine published every three weeks by Jim Meinel, 628 Whitworth Lane So. Renton, WA 98055. Phone (206)228-7802. Subs are available for the low price of 10/\$2.50. Gamefee is \$5.00 with no NMR fee.

So what's the weird quote all about? Well, besides it being tax time, I GOT A JOB! Yes, after many long months of campus interviews and resume writing and rejection letters I finally got a job offer. And it's with a public accounting firm! I'll be starting as a staff accountant with the firm of F.M. Strand, P.C. on August 1st. They do audit work, some tax work, but their primary workload is with compilations and reviews. (you accountant types know what I'm talking about) It's a small firm - one partner, an audit manager and a tax manager and four staffers (counting me). They have, obviously, all smaller clients with the bulk of them in construction and real estate development. So where is this small public accounting firm? Hold your hats: ANCHORAGE! That's right, we're heading north! My wife and I are really excited about it. The in-laws and my parents of course loath the prospect; not because we are leaving but we're taking their grandson with us! After my campus interview with them on Feb. 1st they flew me up to visit them on March 23rd for a day. Inside is a short account of that trip. As for how all of this is going to affect this zine: hardly at all I suspect. I will try to keep the deadlines at three weeks but we'll just have to see how slow the mail is from and to Alaska. But other than that, no problems at all!

The game opening I announced last issue filled up so fast that before I could do anything else I received four more requests for games! So, I will hold game openings open for the time being. Looking really hard at what I do, I don't put that much time into the zine besides the games so I do have time to run some more. And that is what I enjoy the most about publishing is the games. After ten issues I've learned one thing: I don't think I would enjoy too much typing up a bunch of letters and articles I received. Give me another ten games any day. So I'm looking for another two or three players right now to fill up the one right now. Five bucks, no NMR fee or preference list required, non-DIAS with non-black press. Gamestart announcements are sent out as soon as I get seven people.

SealthCon will be day after tomorrow on the ninth at Tallman's. I'll let you know kinda how it goes next ish. I was briefly thinking about holding this issue over two days to get it in but decided it wasn't worth the extra time you'd lose.

Enclosed are two ballots. The first and most important one is the Runestone Poll ballot of all the gamemasters and zines. PLEASE VOTE! I didn't cough up 8¢ a ballot for my health, you know. Rate zines you get and gamemasters you've played under from one to ten, ten good, one bad. All of the publishers would like to get lots of feedback on their efforts. I believe there were about a hundred ballots submitted last year. C'mon, there are 45 of us, that's half right there! The second ballot goes to me. It's just a little questionnaire giving me a little info about my particular effort. Please have this returned to me by the end of April. I went to two ounces and had to lay out another 17¢ for postage for the ballots so if you could mail them to Randolph and me it would be greatly appreciated. But you're all a great bunch of subbers so I know you will, right? Or else I wouldn't have done it.

Thank you to all the subbers who have written me words of encouragement. They are appreciated.

Medici 1982 IC  
Spring 1904

TURKS TAKE BULGARIA WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

England (D.Scheifler) F NAF-Mid, F NWY H, F NWG S F Nwy, F NTH S F Nwy, A BEL-Pic  
France (M.Whitty) F Spa(s.c.)-GOL, A GAS-Mar, A PIC-Bur  
Germany (J.MacFarlane) A Bur-PAR, F Hel-DEN, A RUH-Bur, A KIE-Ruh, A HOL S A Kie-Ruh,  
A MAR S A Ruh-Bur  
Italy (K.Byrne) F WES-Mid, F Lyo-TYN, F Eas-ION, F AEG S TURKISH F Con-Bul(e.c.),  
A Ven-TRI, A VIE-Bud, A Pie-TYO  
Russia (L.McCloud) A SER-Bul, F BLA S A Ser-Bul, F SEV-Arm, A BUD H, A GAL H,  
A STP-Nwy, A FIN S A StP-Nwy, F SWE S A StP-Nwy, A MOS H  
Turkey (K.Tighe) F Con-BUL(e.c.), F ANK-Bla, A SMY-Arm

The deadline for Fall 1904 orders, any Autumn retreats AND Winter adjustments will be Thursday April 28, 1983 8:00 PM PST. Because of my mistake in announcing the season-year all orders labeled "1903" were accepted. Below are a list of units possibly requiring retreats orders for Autumn. This is a prophetic play game.

Eng: F Nwy, A Bel                      Ger: A Mar, A Par, F Den, A Hol                      Rus: F Swe, F Bla, A Bud  
Fra: A Gas, F Lyo, A Pic                      Ita: F Wes, A Vie, A Tri                      Tur: F Bul(e.c.)

Press:

Ita-Rus: I can't help myself - I get these urges! I know - I'm had, but Germany is my ally!  
Ger-Rus: I'm with you all the way, Larry--sorry if any suspicions were aroused.  
Tur-Rus: How about a truce, Larry? If you stop hitting me, I'll stop throwing my stomach into your knee.  
Ger-Tur: Keep up the rooting for E/F--they sure need it!  
Tur-Bloodsucker: I call 'em as I see 'em, and I see you dripping with red.  
Ita-Tur: Obviously, it's a 10-4 Buddy!  
Ita-Ger: At least I understand prophetic play, stick with me kid, I knew that wasn't you in Europa Express! I bet you're real handsome!  
Ita-Fra: If it's you Goosey - welcome aboard! If it's you Whitty, please resign!  
Paris: Well, France's president sure messed up with his spring break, didn't he? He spent a wild week in the French Riviera (or was it South Padre Island, Texas?) and returned late one drunken evening to discover he had forgotten about his deadline. Too late, now France has a terminal case of the Black Blocks in his eastern provinces. Oh well, better to die of Black Blocks and Navy Blues than the terrible Green Meanies. Tell the stores to poison all the cigarettes, Kathy's coming! France is being threatened by the greatest smokestack in Dipdom. But not for long. If it weren't too early by the rules, I would go ahead and concede to Russia. Bye, y'all.  
Ita-Eng: Oh please let me have the MAO!

x                      x                      x                      x                      x                      x                      x                      x

The Iron Dream 1982 AP  
Spring 1906

BLACK AND BLUES GRIND FORWARD

Austria(B.Zilberman) A Ukr-GAL, A BUD S A Ukr-Gal, A Vie-BOH, A Tyo S A Vie-Boh(dis,ret-VIE),  
A VEN S TURKISH F Rom-Tus, A Ser-TRI  
England(B.Gosselin) F Iri-MID, F SPA(n.c.) S F Iri-Mid, F ENG S F Iri-Mid, F NAF-Tun,  
A Edi-NWY, F NTH C A Edi-Nwy, A Mos-UKR, A StP-MOS, A LON H  
France (B.Blum) F POR S TURKISH F Wes-Mid  
Germany (M.Henry) A Tus-PIE, A MAR S ENGLISH F Spa(n.c.), A Boh-TYO, A MUN S A Boh-Tyo,  
A WAR S ENGLISH A Mos-Ukr, A Ber-SIL, A Kie-BER, F Den-HEL, F SWE H  
Russia (E.Wiggers) A SEV H  
Turkey (J.Cummins) A GRE-Tun, F ION C A Gre-Tun, F WES-Mid, F Tyn-GOL, F Rom-TUS,  
A Apu-ROM, A Bul-RUM, F Bla-CON

The deadline for Fall 1906 orders, any Autumn retreats AND Winter adjustments will be Thursday April 28, 1983 8:00 PM PST. Winter will be separated on three requests, however, you must have supply centers to vote. An English win and a England/German draw have been proposed, please vote on each proposal with your next orders. NVR\* No. Below are possible retreating units for Autumn:

Aus: A Ven, A Boh, A Gal    Fra: F Por                      Rus: A Sev  
Eng: F Spa, A Ukr, A Mos    Ger: A Pie, A Tyo, A Sil, A War    Tur: A Rum, F Tus, F Wes

No press submitted this season.

## First Impressions of Anchorage

I got up at the ungodly hour of 5:00 AM on Wednesday March 23 to catch a 7:00 AM flight out of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to Anchorage, Alaska. I flew Alaska Airlines, the people with the big face of an eskimo painted on the tail of their planes. I caught Flight 81 out okay and with my two year old son waving out from the terminal window we took off.

Now, I've only been flying twice before and that was before I read about how flimsy aircraft is in general and just how human our pilots and co-pilots are. I wouldn't say it was sheer terror as the plane lifted off but I sure wasn't as calm as all the businessmen who were also on the plane.

The flight was boring. Oh, right after takeoff I got to see all the Navy's war vessels at dock in Bremerton from about 10,000 feet which was interesting. And about twenty minutes before landing I got to see Anchorage and the surrounding plane it rests on pretty clearly. But the rest of the three hour flight was nothing but butterflies-in-the-stomach and a fairly decent breakfast.

The owner of the firm, Mr. Strand, met me at the airport and drove me into town. There were a few balloonists in the sky that morning; I guess that's popular up there. It was cold too; I got there at eight o'clock Anchorage time and it was 22 degrees and clear. It went all the way up to 40 that day. Lucky I brought my warm overcoat!

There was snow everywhere. They told me it was 'breakup' time, that two or three weeks in spring when all the snow breaks up and melts away with the onset of summer. What a quaint term, I thought. My companions also had a habit of calling anywhere other than Anchorage 'the outside'. I could understand that; there are mountains to the north, south and east of the city with water to the west. I felt trapped and isolated.

The morning was spent with members of the firm, talking about myself and what I wanted to do and why and wanted to work in Alaska. I had already gone over all that in the first interview; maybe they were checking up on me to make sure I had my story straight. It was a comfortable office though with a nice view of a baseball and soccer field across the street. They took me out to lunch at a restaurant which was on the top floor of the tallest building in Anchorage - maybe fifteen stories (I'm guessing, correct me if I'm wrong). Great view, saw Mt. McKinley to the north and all the other mountains which I can't remember the names of right now. I ate with Mr. Strand and the tax manager of the firm, I guess since I'm interested in going into tax. I had french dip and coffee.

After lunch one of the staffers, Carolyn, took me around town to look at apartments and condos and a tour through some stores. I 'bout gagged at the housing costs; \$500 a month for just a one bedroom apartment, 6-800 for a two-bedroom! To give you an idea of what I'm used to right now we're paying \$225 for a one bedroom cottage, and we used to live in a two-bedroom apartment for only \$300. Condos up there started at \$77,000 and houses at about \$100,000. A gallon of milk was three bucks (two here in Seattle) and it was rumoured that a lunch at McDonalds was four bucks, though this could not be confirmed by yours truly. They didn't tell me how large of a lunch.

I saw a little park where the ground from the big earthquake in the early sixties had ripples in it about two feet high. Also saw a ten foot stuffed bear in one of the shopping malls on display (and thus ending my boast to Patti I could take one on with just a Bowie). At the airport they had various stuffed animals on display; a polar bear, (they tell me it's the only mammal that actually hunts man for food) a moose, a wolf and several other neat critters. The state patrol keeps a 'moose kill' list in the winter; whenever some poor jerk runs into a moose on the road and kills it (and crunches his car all to hell) the patrol starts going down a list of people who signed up to come out and haul the moose away (for laughs, no doubt). About 250 moose were downed in the Anchorage area last year so it sounds like big business. I don't think my wife's Arrow would quite do it; they weigh 1500 lbs.

So after all that excitement they brought me back in, had me talk about what I saw and then plopped me back on the plane for the trip home. I was really hoping they would put me up for the night but no such luck. Actually had another good meal on the plane. But with the two hour time difference and the three hour trip it was ten o'clock when I got home. Another candidate flew up the next day but I never did find out who it was; he/she was in my class too. Obviously it was fun, it was definitely worth it; ten days later Mr. Strand called and offered me a position with the company.

*The opinion of bishops on the fine points  
of nuclear deterrence is as valuable as the  
opinion of generals on the fine points of  
transubstantiation.*

—EDWIN YODER, PULITZER PRIZEWINNING  
EDITORIAL WRITER

A PARTICULARLY LONG WINTER

Austria (J.Beck)	Builds A Budapest, A Trieste
England (R.Delzer)	Builds F Edinburgh
France (P.Conlon)	even
Germany (G.Ellis)	Builds A Munich, F Kiel
Italy (E.Diamond)	Builds F Naples
Russia (B.Orloff)	Builds A St.Petersburg, A Warsaw
Turkey (K.Sesler)	Builds A Smyrna

The motion to play Spring 1902 failed 6-1. The deadline for Spring 1902 orders will be Thursday April 28, 1983 8:00 PM PST. Pat Conlon (FRA) submitted orders so he is still with us. Greg Ellis (GER) has a change of apartment number. He is now at #1612, with all other info the same.

Press:

Fra: A thousand apologies to my allies for the unfortunate NMR. I hope it doesn't change things between us. To the rest of you - go suck an ostrich egg.

Ellis-Conlon: What a time to turn pacifist! Hey, not that I am complaining!

Par, Ber-Lon: Of course we like press. You're just jealous cause you don't have the imagination to write any of your own.

Eng-All: I'm counting German fleets in my sleep...Seeing German fleets in my sleep...1-2-3...

Turkey-J.T.Kirk: If you are searching for intelligent life in Europe you can safely avoid the Tsar's palace without fear of missing any.

Swampdweller to Kirk: It never fails. You simple humanoids are so full of yourselves that you invariably fail to recognize higher forms of life just because they don't look like you, something which we are wise enough to be grateful for. So continue on your merry way to some other dismal planet where you can do battle and shed blood with creatures of lesser intelligence.

Dateline: Berlin: It now appears that Minister Kirk was correct and the signals received in the spring were just a bad case of gas. No further emissions from the south-central U.S. were reported, but strange noises were heard referring to the alleged football supremacy of Pac 10 and Big 8 teams. This was an obvious hoax in light of the fact that the Southwest Conference is clearly the best conference.

LAFITTE's FEAT (episode two)

Through his acts of piracy, Pere Lafitte brought employment and prosperity to the French settlers of coastal Louisiana.(Now if only he'd bring me a new typewriter ribbon) Although much loved by his people, certain groups, namely sea merchants, were not favorably disposed towards his concept of economics. But despite their best efforts, Pere Lafitte was never captured. This is all history now, as it occurred during the nineteenth century.

Today, many of his children live in the big cities. They are doctors and lawyers and tradesmen. But some still live in the swampy regions, clinging to the old tongue, the old food, and the old ways. More often than not, they are born on the water, in boats, and die on the water as well. They are fisherman, eeking out a meager existence. But on those darkest nights of the month, when even the moon dares not show its face, mysteries abound. If you ask some of the local New Orleans businessmen, they will tell you they steer clear of the bayous because there are so many tricky currents and shifting sandbars there. None will offer explanations how vessels can disappear in a sandbar though. And none will admit to fear. But in the light and security of their offices they count the days on the calendar and never fail to take a few extra days off "to spend time with their families" whenever the moon hides.

Sultan-Tsar: Ask too much? Surely you jest.

Tur-Rus: After seeing your orders last turn, I now have no doubt that you were telling the truth when you said that this is your first diplomacy game.

Rus-Tur: I had written a letter to send you in reply to your incredibly unsportsmanlike and immature response to my moves, but I don't think that you deserve my time - I hope you stay in character and withdraw from the game.

Tur-World: Beware the lying Tsar! His unfamiliarity with the game combined with his treacherous nature causes him to abandon the best laid-out plans and turn on his allies on the merest whim. Therefore, I strongly advise all European leaders to avoid any dealings with him unless they have made arrangements with others to take care of Russia after its usefulness has expired.

"Kind of interesting in it's own way."  
(name withheld by request)

"5½\*\*\*\*\* Our HIGHEST RATING"  
Dialing for Dollars

"If you only read one subzine this year, read Humboldt."  
Vincent Canby

"I can't afford it."  
Several TP subbers

## HUMBOLDT

III

Today's writer and artist is Kevin Tighe (rhymes with pie) surviving at 1603 G st. in Arcata, Califloodnia, 95521. Everybody put your Dan Hicks record on the turntable, sit back and relax, 'cause here we go...

Humboldt update: Saskatchewan contains the town of Humboldt, Nevada has the Humboldt reservoir and Humboldt salt marsh, and central Colorado has Mt. Humboldt (14,000 ft.) climbed by Keith Sherwood. Nice going Keith. If you have a Humboldt feature near you, please let me know. In some future issue I'll print a map showing the geography of Alexander von Humboldt. Now many of you (well, two) have asked just who is this Humboldt fellow anyway? So here's a quick history.

Alexander (see picture), a German, lived from 1769-1859. In 1799, he made a 5 year trip thru South America, Mexico, and the U.S. (only spent 6 months in US). During the trip he rewrote maps, noted meteor showers, charted tropical storms and ocean currents, and acquired the largest European collection of South American plants and artifacts. He stayed in Paris for the next 20 years filling 33 volumes of his observations in geology, anthropolgy, sociology, and biology.

He was the originator of the term "plant geography" and proved vertical zonation of plants on mountains is similar to latitude vegetation changes.

In 1829, at the invitation of Czar Nicholas, he led a scientific expedition into the Urals and Siberia.

The last 20 years of his life was spent writing "Cosmos", an account of man's knowledge of the physical and organic universe (and you thought Carl Sagan was the first). In his time, Humboldt was the most popular generalist in Europe. His fondness for the U.S. was well known and Americans found him to be accesible whenever they visited Germany. In South America, peasants were taught that he was "the man who named the plants."

Most of his accomplishments are outdated now, but his name lives on in towns, counties, forests, mountains, expressways and subzines.

Humboldtumboldtumboldtumboldtumboldtumboldtumboldtumboldtumboldt

### Playlist:

Softball \*\*\*\*  
Volleyball \*\*\*\*  
Golf \*\*  
Badminton \*\*\*  
Hacky Sack '



Sports Update: The response is trickling in now, and it seems all you out there aren't as sedentary as I've claimed. Besides climbing mountains, Sherwood is on the UCSD intercollegiate badminton team (big schools can afford that), and enjoys intermural soccer and football. Eric Ozog is planning a 300 mile bike trip this May. And Kathy Byrne claims to be nonactive now (I have yet to see a nonactive mother) but "in my teens I was a real athlete!" Amen. Anybody else?

In some of my correspondence people have hinted at crew being an elitist sport. For most schools and clubs this is true; at Humboldt St. this is not true. When I rowed ('75-'80) we were the only team wearing beards and long hair. We've camped out next to boat-houses during regattas, and pulled the boat trailer with a used ambulance. This is not your typical crew team. Still, we've won or placed in about 75% of our races.

Last Oct. 31, I got together an alumni four to row at the Head of the Estuary (three miles) in Oakland. For the race our coxswain was dressed as a queen bee and we (her drones) wore deely-bobbers. Despite being out of shape, we still managed to beat Cal mainly because they were laughing so hard.

I only row for exercise now and will be teaching a Recreational Rowing class this Spring. Please don't ask me why I ~~like~~ love crew because I haven't the foggiest notion.

#### MORE EXPRESSIONS MADE FAMOUS BY THE DONNER PARTY

13. I find that hard to swallow.
14. Two heads are better than one.
15. That's what I call a hearty meal.
16. I've got eyes for you.
17. Finger lickin good.
18. Where were you when they passed out brains?
19. You make me sick.
20. Cold hands, warm heart.
21. I feel like a sandwich.
22. You ass-bite.
23. I'm a leg man myself.
24. You're not so tough.
25. How would you like a bust in the mouth?
26. Well, you sure have me stumped.
27. Who wants gum?

ISCAREMYSELFJUSTTHINKINGABOUTYOUISCAREMYSELFWHENIMWITHOUTYOUISCAREMYSELF

#### DENOUEMENT

John Michalski in MES #20 denounced people who denounce fueds and controversy. A fued, of course, starts when someone denounces somebody else, then that person denounces the other person. It is tempting to denounce John for these remarks (and set up the inevitable chain) since I was one of those who came out against fueds, but I'd rather just avoid the whole controversy.

THEMOMENTTHATYOURGONEISCAREMYSELFWHENILETMYTHOUGHTSRUNANDWHENTHEYRERUN

"It was reading Humboldt's earlier work that fired young Darwin to embark on a career combining geographical exploration and natural history. Shortly there after he accepted a position aboard the Beagle, the event that led to the Origin of the Species."

From "Cosmos" by Carl Sagan

WICKED WITCHES ARE IN BIG TROUBLE

Austria (G.Hail)	A VIE S A Bud, A BUD S A Vie, A SER S RUSSIAN A Rum-Bul, F Alb-GRE
England (M.Paoletti)	A Nwy-YOR, F NTH C A Nwy-Yor, F ENG-Bel, F Edi-NRG
France (M.Luedi)	A Mar-BUR, A Spa-POR, F Bre-PIC, F Mid-NAO
Germany (J.Shea)	F DEN-Nth, F Kie-HEL, F Ber-KIE, A HOL-Bel, A Mun-RUH
Italy (B.Gosselin)	A Ven-TYO, F Ion-EAS, A TUN H, F Nap-ION
Russia (N.Heintzman)	A StP-NWY, F SWE S A StP-Nwy, A Mos-STP, A Gal-RUM, A Rum-BUL, F Sev-BLA
Turkey (K.Tighe)	A Bul-Ser(ann), A CON-Bul, F ANK-Con, F Smy-AEG

The deadline for Fall 1902 orders, any Autumn conditional retreats AND Winter adjustments is Thursday April 28, 1983 8:00 PM PST. Below are possible retreating units for Autumn season as this is a prophetic play game:

Aus: F Gre, A Ser	Fra: none	Ita: F Ion	Tur: F Aeg, A Con
Eng: F Nth	Ger: F Den	Rus: A Nwy, A Bul, A Rum	

Press

Aus-Ita: Call me a silent partner.

Paris: Please excuse the lack of correspondance and press. I seem to be handcuffed to the clock lately. I am aware of all commitments and such. Too bad so many of us are in school, as I'm sure I've not been the only one not finding the time to write.

GM-Paris: Didn't even work up a sweat deciphering that one!

Tur-Fra: (penalty shot) Yes, I do know Frueh, he's currently kicking my ass in 82S. I'm playing Turkey, of course.

Ger-Eng: You're bitter, aren't you?

Buffalo-Country X: The name is HEINTZMAN, not "Hei...,whatever...". If you had checked your records or back issues of the zine, you would have found it. I find the emotional overtones of your latest communication disquieting. If you are having any difficulties separating game life from real life as well as the corresponding emotional responses appropriate to both, may I suggest that you talk things over with an experienced player who may have a broader perspective of the nature of the game and its proper place in reality?

Sultan-Tsar: Oh no, Plan A! Quick, switch from the zone to man to man... whew, that was close.

Tighe-Russia: Humboldthumboldt.

Ger-World: Why is everyone so upset that I have occupied Southwest Africa? It's just a piece of desert, no one will care about it 75 years from now.

Tighe-GM: Haagen Daaz is expensive, but you can taste every penny.

GM-Tighe: Copper after-taste in your mouth too, huh?

Aus-Seattle: How much is electricity in Renton?

Sea-watt watcher: Puget Power charges about \$33.00/kilowatt hour. For a one-bedroom apartment poorly insulated (the last factor way more important than size of apartment) we have used 1.28, 1.36, 1.91 & 1.7 kilowatt hours the last four months. Halve it during summer.

Ger-Stand up Classical Music Comics(and I know you're out there): Here's another uproarious joke you can use. Question: what did Schoenberg say to Mozart? Answer: Forgive me. ((?))

Ha-ha-ha! I laughed so hard when I first heard that one I nearly fell out of my box at the Berlin Royal Opera.

*To be prepared for war is one of the most  
effectual means of preserving the peace.*

—GEORGE WASHINGTON

1983I press continued from page 4

Spa-World: The Spanish government today issued an open invitation to any and all interested parties who would like to vacation in their fair land. Special discount rates were offered as economy has taken a terrific downslide following the unexpected lack of French tourism last season.

Rus-Ber: E tū, Germany? You may want an English army in Norway, but not me.

Ber-All Bismarck: Call him Stephen or he will never be your ally!

Czar-Pope: Welcome to the Triple/Central alliance. Onward to Iceland!

Ber-Rom: It's a good thing you like the water so much. In about two years you will be swimming away from the AUSTRIAN boot! Now I know what nuetered orders are!

Tur-Ita: Don't waste your time trying to sail east and join in on the attack on Turkey, as it can easily be arranged for the remaining Turkish centers to arrange their defense so that when they ultimately fall, they will not fall to Italy.

Bismarck 1983 W  
Fall 1901

GERMANS SMASH RUSSIANS AT TANNENBURG

Austria (E.Diamond)	A SER-Bul, F ALB-Gre, A BUD-Ser
England (S.Wilcox)	A Yor-NWY, F NTH C A Yor-Nwy, F NRG S A Yor-Nwy
France (P.Gardner)	A Pic-BUR, A Spa-POR, F Mid-SPA(s.c.)
Germany (P.Clemens)	A Sil-WAR, F DEN-Swe, A Kie-HOL
Italy (J.Wall)	A Pie-TYO, A Apu-VEN, F Ion-TUN
Russia (B.Blum)	F RUM H, F BOT C A Lvn-Swe, A LVN-Swe, A StP-FIN
Turkey (R.Delzer)	A BUL-Gre, F Con-AEG, A Smy-CON

Winter 1901 Supply Center Chart

Austria	Home, SER	4	Build 1
England	Home, NWY	4	Build 1
France	Home, POR, SPA	5	Build 2
Germany	Home, HOL, DEN, WAR	6	Build 3
Italy	Home, TUN	4	Build 1
Russia	Mos, Sev, StP, <del>War</del> , RUM	4	even
Turkey	Home, BUL	4	Build 1

The proposal to combine Winter 1901 & Spring 1902 failed 4-3. So, Winter 1901 builds only will be due Thursday April 28, 1983 8:00 PM PST. This is a standard Diplomacy game.

Press

Ank-All: Anxious silence reigns in the Turkish court awaiting the outcome of the current moves.

Lon-GM: I still think Iceland should be a supply center!

Rom-Ber: Great move on France via Silesia. I may learn something in this game after all.

Lon-Ank: Did you say you needed help with Austria? I'll be there as soon as I can!

Vie-Ank: I hope for your sake that you did not buy my story about giving you Serbia.

Switz-Aus,Rus,Ita&Tur: If you don't recognize a Western Alliance opening when you see one you deserve what you get!

Paris-StP: Tsar Blumanov, what next? 3 units ordered north; how many officer's heads will roll if they come up with nit?

Norway-Lon: Due to unexpected Russian forces approaching from the east, we request assistance from the English fleets in the area. Since the Russians are expected to launch a land based attack, English armies (if available) would also be welcomed. Our fjords are open to you. Please help.

Lon-Nwy: We have always been glad to aid in the defense of any territory threatened by Russia. All available forces are already in route.

Lon-Mos: (forwarded to StP) Whoever told you "if one is good - two is better" never played Diplomacy.

Tyrolia: The people of Tyrolia wish to thank those involved in vacating the surrounding territories. Even though we are still keeping a close eye on the Italians in Piedmont, citizens of Tyrclia are breathing much easier now that their prayers for peace seem to have been answered.

Rome: I was only lied to 3 times in S 01, what's wrong guys?

X X X X X X X X

1983 XX Machiavelli  
Winter 1900

NEW RULERS THREATEN EUROPEAN PEACE

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The deadline for Spring 1901 orders will be Thursday April 28, 1983 8:00 PM PST. Gamestart announcements and houserules were sent to the players on March 31st. Please get a set of orders on file early as a Spring 1901 NMR will get you dropped from the game. This will be a standard diplomacy game with regards to retreats.



## THE UNWANTED CONVOY PLOY

How far to take it?

I was, as Kevin exclaimed last issue, totally underwhelmed by the response to the obscure question I posed to readers in The Prince #8 concerning how far to take the reasoning of allowing an unwanted convoy maneuver to work should a GM allow it. Three people stepped forward with answers:

Terry Tallman (renown gamemaster, never one to be at a loss for words) - "Chickenshit". Thank you, Mr. Tallman.

A somewhat more literate, if not as concise, response was elicited from Greg Ellis:

"Also, I would beg to differ on your solution on the convoys. What happens if the fleet is in Helg(oland) instead of North Sea? What if the French fleet in Mid convoys the same move? I would agree with an additional fleet convoying an army that needs a convoy to reach a space, but not if the army can move there without the help of a fleet. Example: A Bel-Nwy, F Nth C A Bel-Nwy(England); Russia: F Nwg C A Bel-Nwy; Fra: F NAO-Nwg, F Bar S F NAO-Nwg. The convoy is disrupted and A Bel holds. It will be very interesting to see how other GM's rule. Personally, I hope it never comes up."

Yes, it would have been interesting. If the fleet was in the Bight or in the Mid-Atlantic it would not legally be able to convoy the unit so its disruption would have no effect on the move. In your example where the French fleets dislodge the Russian fleet trying to give the English an unwanted additional convoy; it (the ploy) would work and the convoy disrupted. Conceptually, it is no different than having just a lone fleet try to disrupt an army's move, like A Bel-Hol. But onto another letter, by Stephen Wilcox, who raises further questions about the ploy where some sort of rule must be formulated to keep total ridiculousness from breaking out:

"According to the rulebook your "original" interpretation of an "unwanted convoy" ruling is correct. But how far can this go?

"There are problems with going all the way with "unwanted convoy" ploys. The first is listed in your zine #8. Also, what if Mid convoyed the move from Hol-Kie? What if Black Sea did?...

"What about in the event of German A Bel-Hol, English F Nth C GERMAN A Bel-Hol. If Nth is dislodged, I agree the piece should not move. But what if England has fleets in Eng, Mid, NAt, Nrg, Nth and all convoy that (particular) move...if F Mid is dislodged should that stop Bel-Hol? OR, what if England only has fleet Nth & Nrg and both convoy the move...if Russia dislodges Nrg does the A Bel not move?

"The solutions I see are as follows:

1. The "unwanted convoy" ploy only works if one fleet of an opposing country convoys (legally- meaning it is in a position in which it can convoy the army to its destination) the army moving and is dislodged from its space.

Example #1 German A Bel-Hol

England F Nth C GERMAN A Bel-Hol

if North Sea is dislodged Bel doesn't move.

Example #2

English A Bel-Nwy, F Nth C A Bel-Nwy

Russian F Nrg C ENGLISH A Bel-Nwy

if Nrg is dislodged the piece in Belgium doesn't move.

2. Otherwise, the only solution I see is to require all armies being convoyed by fleets of a different country to include that (fact) as part of its order.

Example #1 German A Bel-Hol (convoyed via English Fleet in Nth

English F Nth C German A Bel-Hol

Example #2 English A Bel-Nwy, F Nth C A Bel-Nwy

Russian F Nrg C ENGLISH A Bel-Nwy

in Ex.#2 even if Nrg is dislodged the move to Nwy succeeds.

"What solution 2. does is not accept the "unwanted convoy" ploy at all... but it gives you a way to determine if the convoy was wanted or not. (This is my preference considering this is a wargame and logically a German navy would not board an English fleet unless it was specifically ordered to.)" (cont. pg 10)

*Despotic governments can stand "moral force" till the cows come home; what they fear is physical force.*

—GEORGE ORWELL

Stephen hit the jackpot with solution #1. While the reasoning of not being able to decline a convoy would allow the unlikely situation of being able to stop A Bel-Hol by ordering F's Eng, Nth, Nrg, NAt & Mid to convoy and then dislodging F Mid to disrupt the convoy, it doesn't feel right. We don't want to open up a whole new doctrine in the matter of adjudication, rather, we just want to allow an isolated case of a rulebook ambiguity to open up a sneaky tactic. If we were to restrict the interpretation to just one fleet executing the move it would serve to keep the silliness out of the discussion. Additionally, the single fleet must of course be legally able to execute the convoy. With those two provisos the problem appears to be settled.

To discuss a couple of Stephen's counterpoints: solution two is totally unsatisfactory. Diplomacy is not a wargame primarily; it's tactics were kept simple on purpose to keep the emphasis on the diplomatic nature of the game. A brilliant diplomat can probably do very well in a game despite being somewhat less than competent in the tactical sense, but a tactical wizard won't get anywhere if he cannot master the basics of persuasion and influence. So to add 'explanatory intentions' to the orders of each unit would impinge on the simplicity and intention of the game.

One last point I would like to bring up. Personally, unless a unit is allowed to state it's true intention (which it is not) I don't see how a gamemaster could support his position of allowing a piece to move into the adjacent space should the 'unwanted' convoy be dislodged. How would a gamemaster know it was unwanted? As far as he is concerned, he has a set of German orders, a set of English orders that are apparently working within an E/G alliance and a nasty set of Russian orders that is screwing up the convoy. How can the GM know on deadline night as he's adjudicating the game what the intentions of the parties are? He cannot, and if he is to remain consistent with how convoys and supports are usually treated during the course of the game he must 'see' a legitimate convoy being attempted and a legitimate dislodgement occurring to disrupt it. (unless, of course, houserules state otherwise!)

*Were we directed from Washington when  
to sow and when to reap, we should soon  
want bread.*

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

*When it didn't work they called it Rea-  
ganomics. Now what are they going to call  
it?*

—RONALD REAGAN

### Player Reliability Rating

Everything #55 came out a few weeks ago and this is the update for the Player Reliability Rating that I keep. It is a count of how people finish their games as reported in the pages of E. Below is a list of all players who have completed five or more games without NMR'ing or otherwise dropping out of a game. Asterisks(\*) indicate a player had a resignation but which is not included in the total. It's not a list that people hold their breath for but I like to know who finish their games.

*Lee Kendter, Sr.	29	Bob Olsen	11	Larry McCloud	7	Gregory Dick	5
*John Caruso	26	*Al Pearson	11	Kevin Mooney	7	Chris Edwards	5
*John Michalski	25	*Ken Iverson	10	Clark Reynolds	7	Ron Foster	5
Dick Martin	24	Richard Kovalcik	10	Tom Ripper	7	Peter Fuchs	5
Dave Carter	23	David Pierce	10	Mark Rowell	7	Guy Hail	5
Gene Boggess	19	Paul Rauterberg	10	Tom Swider	7	David Hard	5
*Kathy Byrne	19	Don Swartz	10	Fred Townsend	7	*John Hendry	5
*Jack Masters	17	Steve Arnawoodian	9	John Aicken	6	Roy Hendricks	5
*Bob Sergeant	16	*Mark Berch	9	Gerald Austin	6	Barry Hichey	5
Ron Brown	15	Doug Beyerlein	9	Ken Baker	6	Gary Howe	5
George Pyfrom	15	John Daly	9	Mike Conner	6	Tom Kissner	5
*Konrad Baumeister	13	Doug Karnes	9	Bill Drakert	6	Jim Lawniczak	5
Ben Schilling	13	*Dwayne Shreve	9	Stanley Dunn	6	Bob Lipton	5
Bill Schiwautz	13	Scott Hanson	8	Greg Haskew	6	Dan MacLellan	5
*Dan Stafford	13	Rick Kassel	8	Bryan Jurkowski	6	Dave Marshall	5
Bill Becker	12	Eldon Nichol	8	Mark Larzelere	6	Mike Mazzer	5
Arturo Guajardo	12	Tom Thornsens	8	Fraser McLeod	6	*Michael Mills	5
*John Michal	12	*Mike Barnn	7	Peter Reese	6	Anna Moraitis	5
Keith Sherwood	12	Uli Baumeister	7	*Vern Schaller	6	*Jeff Noto	5
Randolph Smyth	12	Mark Fassio	7	Pete Ashley	5	Gene Paulsen	5
Lee Kendter, Jr.	11	Bob Kluge	7	H.D. Bassett	5	Art Schleinkofer	5
Eric Kirchner	11	*Doug Landon	7	Joe Clement	5	Don Sigwalt	5
George Leritte	11	Mike Lariton	7	Bart Denny	5	Don Tinker	5