

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

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THE KAISER'S FRANKENSTEIN — MILITARISM

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS

OFFICERS

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This month's cover was taken from a political cartoon which appeared in "The Searchlight" in 1917.

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EDITORIAL

THE BOARDMAN BUCKS

Doug Beyerlein, the Boardman number custodian, recently announced that he now will charge a \$1.00 registration fee for the processing of all games. A great hue and cry has ensued, and Doug has been criticized in "Lord of Mists", "Black Hole" and other publications. We do not join in this. We feel that not only is this charge altogether reasonable, but that it is also a very welcome development for Diplomacy. We're glad Doug has begun to charge this fee--and we'll very happily pay it.

The sport of postal Diplomacy has grown enormously in recent years. Hundreds of postal diplomacy games are begun each year. The Board Number Custodian, as part of his duties, registers all games, keeps records on the progress of the games, and prepares statistical reports on completed games. With the vast number of games opening, being played, and completed, the work of the B.N.C. is a Herculean task consuming hundreds of hours each year. The B.N.C.'s work is exacting and tedious. It allows for none of the laughs and ego-trips ordinarily available in Diplomacy publishing. The B.N.C. is taken for granted and rarely, if ever, thanked for his contribution.

Doug Beyerlein, while still willing to devote more and more his time to the service of the Diplomacy community, has decided to call a halt to the drain this job has on his finances. Postage, stationery, files, and printing expenses must be paid with money. The most fair and equitable way of spreading the cost of this enterprise is to charge the publishers who, in turn, can pass this minor expense on to their participating players.

The cost that Doug is asking us to bear is but \$1.00 per game, or just about 15¢ per player. This is only slightly less than the cost of mailing one first-class letter. The registration cost of 15¢ is a tiny and clearly insignificant cost of participating in one Diplomacy game which typically involves the expense of mailing 50-100 letters and usually a two year subscription to the sponsoring Diplomacy zine. This charge is hardly "burdensome" as too many people have written.

Doug's act is indeed unilateral, but he had no one with whom to consult. The B.N.C. is an institutional figure separate from T.D.A., I.D.A., and whatever other representative organizations that may next appear. Doug cannot be charged as being "arrogant" (as some fools have asserted) because he publicly asked the Diplomacy community to help with voluntary contributions or with organizational subsidies. When no help was forthcoming, Doug did the only thing available.

There is no reason why we in the Diplomacy community should be subsidized by one man. Imposed on one man, who has already assumed the time and effort the role of B.N.C. imposes, the cost of his operation can indeed be burdensome. Spread out among all of us the cost is laughably small. Why are some of us so amazingly cheap as to begrudge Doug this fee???

We're glad that the charge has begun because it is another step toward the stabilization of the Diplomacy hobby. If the office of the B.N.C. is self-sufficient, it is more likely that people will be able to continue the job without feeling burdened by its expenses. The job is thus service, but not utter sacrifice. The less of a burden a position is, the more likely it is that the job will con-

tinue to be done. In the present situation, if Doug were to fall ill, lose his job, or for some other reason be unable to financially contribute, the B.N.C.'s work would come to a halt. Finding someone else would not be easy (We'll tell you one thing: Don't look in this direction).

A self-supporting office of the B.N.C. should have a firm financial foundation, not dependent on charity from one overworked individual. It is an improvement to Diplomacy which we all should welcome.

LETTERS

Fellow Gamers:

Having just finished the letter to the Editor written by Harry Blakely in the October issue, I feel compelled to answer in some way. Mr. Blakely is certainly very strong in his support of Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon, so I don't hope to dissuade him from his views. I would, however, like the chance to comment on some of his statements.

Mr. Blakely defends Richard Nixon's policy of dealing firmly with the criminal element that is taking over our country. Now, I am all in favor of keeping our country out of the hands of the criminal element, but how does Mr. Blakely define "criminal"? I will concede that such a takeover has taken place, but Harry, it happened in 1968 and again in 1972—when Richard Nixon assumed the office of President.

You mourn the fact that a "cabal of New York, Boston and Washington intellectuals...seized upon a petty election campaign prank and some obviously necessary covert operations and forced Nixon out of office." Petty election campaign pranks? Obviously necessary covert operations? Though we live in a cynical age, Harry (and I believe myself to be as cynical as the next man), I am glad to find that I can still be morally outraged by some of the actions of the Nixon administration. The considerable power endowed by the American people upon that administration was used repeated-

ly in an illegal manner. Not only the Watergate braak-in and the subsequent cover-up, but the Ellsberg break-in, the Milk Money, the "Slush-Fund", the Canuck letter, assorted false publications (re such irrelevant topics as the Democratic candidates' sex lives), and the numerous illegal wiretaps, are evidence of the immorality of the Nixon administration. Despite the efforts exerted in the past 8 years, ours is still a free society, and there is no place in a free society for illegal covert operations, especially when exhibited by the leader of that society. The Machiavellian concept of the end justifying the means is useful in wargaming and in the policitacl struggles of totalitarian countries, but it is totally unsuited to the governing of a free society. Who can tell how much of Mr. Nixon's "overwhelming majority" was due to such illegal "pranks"? The American political system, faulty as it may be, is still the best one being offered, and when it is prostituted as it was in 1972, we all share in the loss.

Now to get back to Mr. Blakely's letter. He also mourns the fact that "the most skillful President of this country was forced, his final gesture of true greatness, to leave office for the good of this country." I'm sorry, Harry, but when I read that sentence I almost fell out of my chair. Leaving aside the question of his being "the most skillful President of this century"

(that would take another entire letter), I still question the statement. For one thing, if Mr. Nixon was thinking of the good of the country, why did he repeatedly attempt to block investigation of the Watergate affair, then on the verge of being impeached, resign in disgrace, refusing to testify, and thus, effectively blocking the discovery of the truth regarding the break-in? Was he trying to protect us from the truth? (Shades of Communist Russia!) Was he acting for the good of this country? Or was he trying to save himself from any further disgrace and the almost certain legal proceedings which would assuredly follow an impeachment? (Of course, if he was prosecuted he could always count on being pardoned by Gerry.) I am inclined to believe the latter.

You are evidently overjoyed, however, that Mr. Nixon was able to choose Gerald Ford as his "relief pitcher" to carry on the Nixon policies. I need not indicate what effect these policies have had on the United States. Drew has already point-

ed out just a few of the disastrous consequences of those policies in his editorial.

Mr. Carter is certainly not my idea of the perfect President, but when we are given the choice between him and Gerald Ford, the choice is clear. We must eliminate the immorality of the Nixon-Ford administrations. After eight years of Republican "leadership", we are ready for a change.

CARTER FOR PRESIDENT-FOR A CHANGE

Very truly yours,

/s/Edward R. Vesneske, Jr.

(Editorial note: Thanks for writing, Ed. November 2nd demonstrated that we weren't alone in our beliefs. Although, we here at Rebus must confess that we do see one good thing about Nixon's administration-- in about ten years, after all the facts have had a chance to unfold, we think that Dick will make a fantastic "Man of the Month" for this zine's column!

YOU MOVE OUR PLAYERS

Several months ago we published a Who's Who of Rebus players-- a directory compiled from the autobiographical sketches of our players, as we received them (i.e., unedited). This month, we add Curtis

Gibson to our directory. And we urge any of you who have not sent us your autobiography or personal statement to please do so--thanks!

.....

Curtis Gibson - Born around the turn of the century, last male line scion of Robert Gibson, a Paisley weaver born in 1761 who was my great-grandfather, and a pioneer land learning homesteader back in the Appalachians. Part Algonkin on my mother's side.

Formerly a Rocky Mtn. hobo, 7 yrs. U.S. Mountain Trail Climb Champion, 3 yrs. with fastest official timed ascent of Pike's Peak between 1920 and 1950. Recently Pike's Peak Marathon trail master. (con't. on next page)

Still single--used to claim "sweet 60 and never been kissed." But had a lot of fun without physical sex. E.g., was surely the only American boy who ever stood alone, erect, on the point of the Parthenon's gable. Rowed a boat across Lake Champlain and back at widest point. Swam in Dead Sea and Great Salt Lake before I was 18. Fought pack of Bedouin dogs alone at 16.

Was YMCA sports instructor, wrote for "World Tennis", represented Rocky Mtns. in Olympic Team road-cycling try-outs.

No. 1 American goh sensei, tho' only a nidan. Extensive researcher in mancala and other board games. Also in Conway's game "Life", and into pentomino and hexiamond and other geometric puzzles.

No. 1 keyt and gnost of the Band of Galahad, Free Mormon Seer and Eschatologist; general Rortean and hyperufologist, naturopath and Pan-Israelist ethnology,

etymologist and lib-ling specialist; play many instruments but whistle and sing better.

Transcendant time and space traveler ...I've ridden in "UFO's" from Mars and Saturn, and am a specially commissioned agent of the Cosmic Empire of Hehovah, comprises 1/5th of this galaxy--its capital on Polaris. Have had conversations with Baal, Satan and Superguru Jesus Messiah, face-to-face. And this is only the tip of the iceberg.

(Ed. Note: In your many adventures as an ambassador of the above mentioned Interplanetary Empire we're sure you have had many interesting run-in's with alien diplomats. They may be of interest to our readers. An account of how you negotiated a treaty with a multi-headed grand potentate of the Horn People would be appreciated)

GRAND TOURNAMENT DIPLOMACY

1976 Dhd

Winter 1902

ALLIANCES OF ENGLAND-FRANCE AND RUSSIA-TURKEY ARE CEMENTED BY NEW COMMAND APPOINTMENTS. COMMANDER-MERCENARIES PROSPER.

Russia Nina Pawlak, Tsarina

no builds

has: A Sev, A Rum, A War, F Bla, A Ukr

Austria Bob Martin, Kaiser

no builds

has: A Ser, A Gal, A Bud, F Adr

France Harley Jordan, Emperor

build F Bre, John Kador, Commander

has: A Bur, A Bel, F Mid, F Pic, A Spa

Italy Bob Sacks, King

Build A Ven, Karl Scheutz, Commander

has: A Boh, F Aeg, F Apu

Germany Jim Diehl, Kaiser

Remove A Mun

Retreat A Hol-Ruh

has: F Nwy, F Stp (SC), F Den, A Kie, A Sil, A Ruh

note: Lee Kendter has been purged as commander of F Den and has been replaced by Phil McGee

Sheland John Kador, King

no builds

has: F Hol, F Nth, F Ska, A Yor

Turkey Will McCullam, Sultan
Build F Smy, Nina Pawlak, Commander
has: F Bul, A Gre, A Ank, A Arm, F Smy
note: Rick Solomon has been removed from
the game and placed on the stand-by list.
He has been replaced as commander of A Arm,
by order of his Sultan, by David Staples.

PRESS

Tell those guys on the standby list we will
not appoint anyone who is not interested
enough to ask.

Emperor Harley (France)

(Rome) The Italian Government is pleased
to announce that it has seasoned military
units under experience commanders available
for sale or rental. Units and commanders
have so far proven to be extremely loyal
and their performance is guaranteed by the
Italian Government. Apply to URBANO,
MARCHESE di ROMAGNA, MAESTRO di CAMERA, e
REGGENTE

QUESTION ABOUT THE RULES

(Q) Please explain why when a player defects
his units to another country, the supply
centers which go with the units and belong
to the commander do not also defect to the
other country. It seems illogical that
they do not.

(A) First of all, the issue is not what
the rules should say, but what they do
say. They are not explicit, but they do
not provide for a automatic transfer of
supply centers upon defection of a unit.

The reason is because centers do not
belong to units or to commanders, they
belong to countries, and the written text
of the rules clearly so provides.

Rule no. 3 of the rules for Grand
Tournament Diplomacy provides for the appli-
cation of the regular diplomacy rules in
all GTD games.

3. Applicability of the Rulebook

All rules of the 1971 Diplomacy
rulebook, as published by Games

Research, Inc., will apply unless
obviously superseded by these rules.

Thus, the text of the 1971 rules are
incorporated into the rules for GTD.

Section V of the 1971 rules, establish-
ing the "underlying economic structure
of the game," provides that it is the
economic strength of countries that controls
the number of units that a country can have.

"... A country may have only as many
armies and fleets on the board as
it controls supply centers..."

This rule provides that control of
supply centers is done by countries and
not by units which occupy centers. (Note
the use of the word "it" in the rule.)

This concept is also established in
the regular Diplomacy rule for gaining and
losing supply centers, rule no. 1 of
section XIII. It provides that a country
occupies a supply center when one of its
units is located in a center at the end
of a fall turn. The rule also provides
that once a country controls a center, it
keeps that center until the units of
another country make occupation of the
center during a fall turn.

"...Occupation of a supply center
by a Great Power occurs when one
of its units is located in that
supply center after a Fall move
has been played, complete with
retreats...Once occupation has
been established, the center may
be left vacant for as long as
the player sees fit and the
occupying Great Power may con-
tinue to maintain one unit on
account of this supply center
so long as this center is not
occupied by another Great Power
at the close of a Fall move..."

By the use of the term "Great Power"
the rule obviously intends the meaning
"country" and not player. Thus it is
countries which gain and lose control of

6.

supply centers, and it is countries which own them.

The use of the word "player" in the above rule does lead to some unclarity, but in the context of the whole rule it can only be interpreted to mean that no "player" need do anything to continue ownership of a center by a country. That one word clearly can not overcome the clear expression of ownership by countries so often provided in the rules.

It is also important to emphasize that the rule specifically provides that the only way a country can gain a center belonging to another country is to occupy it with one of its units during a fall move.

Of course, in regular Diplomacy, the distinction between player and country is slight. The only time we do not think of a player and a country as not being the same thing is when a standby takes over for someone who has left the game. But in GTD it should be obvious that a player and a country are not at all the same thing, and that a country is intended to be an entity in itself, with players joining and leaving its ranks.

No where in the rules for GTD can any reference be found that would indicate

that it is a unit, or a commander, which takes control of a supply center by occupying it. When one player, who is a commander, occupies a center he does so for his country. It is the King and not the commander who decides what is to be built as a result of the gain and certainly there is no reason why the taking commander must be given the command of the new unit.

The Defection Rule for GTD, Rule no. 23, makes no mention of the transfer of control of centers so it must be assumed that, under the regular rules, incorporated into GTD, no such transfer is made.

I should point out now, before there is some confusion, that in one case the GTD rules do supersede the rules for gaining and losing centers. The regular rules provide that the only way a center can change hands is by Fall occupation. In GTD, in the case of Principalities and Grand Duchies, there is an exception. When such new countries secede, there is automatically established a new country and the units included in the order are considered to have defected to it. By operation of rules 11 and 15, the centers occupied by units of a new country are transferred to it. Such transfer then, takes place in either a Fall or a Spring turn.

FIRST REGULAR GAME

1976 BE

Fall 1903

GERMANS FAILING FAST. WAR BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITALY A STALEMATE

<u>Austria</u>	F Aeg-Gre
D. Malmquist	A Rum (S) TURKISH A Arm-Sev
	A Gal-Ukr
	A Bud-Gal
	A Ser (S) A Rum
<u>Turkey</u>	A Arm-Sev
R. Nelson	F Bul (S) F Con

<u>Italy</u>	A Mun-Ber
J. Rogowski	F Tyr-Rom
	F Ion-Tun
	F Eas-Smy
	A Pic-Ven

<u>Germany</u>	(retreat F Swe-Bot)
J. Diehl	F Den-Bal
	F Bot-Stp (SC)
	A Kie-Ber
	A Hol-Kie

England A Bel-Ruh
 D. Rittel F Nth (C) A Yor-Den
 F Swe (S) A Yor-Den
 F Hel (S) A Yor-Den

France A Tus-Ven
 B. Normand F Lyo-Mar
 F Pic (S) A Bur-Bel
 A Bur-Bel
 F Wes-Tun

Russia
 B. Sergeant A War-Sil
 A Sev-Arm (dislodged)
 A Ukr-War
 F Bla-Con
 F Ank (S) F Bla-Con
 F Hwy-Stp (NC)

SUPPLY CENTER CHART FALL 1903
Austria: home, Ser, Rum, Gre (6-build 1)
Turkey: Con, ~~Smy~~, Bul, Sev (3-even)
Italy: Home, Tun, Mun, Smy (6-build 1)
Germany: Ber, Kie, ~~Bel~~, Hol, ~~Swe~~, (3-remove 2)
England: Home, Den, Swe (5-build 1)
France: Home, Spa, Por, Bel (6-build 1)
Russia: Stp, War, Mos, ~~Stp~~, Ank, Nwy
 (5-remove 1)

(note. Underlined orders fail)

SECOND REGULAR GAME

1976 DG

Spring 1902

PLAGUE TAKES HEAVY TOLL

Austria F Gre-Ion
 C. Gibson A Tri-Vie
 A Bud-Gal
 A Ser (S) TURKISH A Rum

Turkey A Con-Bul
 D. Staples F Bla (S) A Rum
 A Rum (S) AUSTRIAN A Bud-Gal
 A Arm-Sev

Germany A Hol-NMR
 J. Harpur A Kie-NMR
 F Bel-NMR

Russia A War-NMR
 C. Dupuis A Ukr-NMR
 A Swe-NMR

A Mos-NMR
 F Sev-NMR

France A Par-Bur
 J. Machir F Bre-Mid
 F Eng-Bel
 A Mun-Ber
 A Spa-Mar

Italy F Rom-Tyr
 J. Diehl F Tun-Wes
 A Ven-Tyl
 A Pie-Mar

England F Lon-Nth
 F Nth-Hel
 F Nwy-Ska
 A Yor-Lon

Underlined orders fail.

(Ed. Note: Tut, tut, NMR players.)

THIRD REGULAR GAME

Country assignments, made in consultation with your submitted preference lists, are as follows:

George Bakich	<u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>C</u> <u>R</u> <u>I</u> <u>T</u> <u>A</u>	England
Ed Vesneske	<u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>I</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u>	France
Richard Enzler	<u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u> <u>R</u>	Germany
Mark Berch	<u>I</u> <u>R</u> <u>P</u> <u>T</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>A</u>	Italy
Tom McNally	<u>R</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>T</u> <u>G</u> <u>I</u> <u>A</u>	Russia
Jerry Rogowski	<u>T</u> <u>R</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>E</u> <u>G</u> <u>I</u> <u>A</u>	Turkey
Jad Dittmar	<u>A</u> <u>T</u> <u>G</u> <u>R</u> <u>F</u> <u>I</u> <u>E</u>	Austria

One player did not submit a preference list. In order to make the by lot system of country assignments fair, a list was made up for him at random.

Where two players chose the same country as a first choice, the decision was made by the flip of a coin.

Five out of the seven players in the game received their first choice. And now, let the fun begin!

NOTA BENE

- Deadline. The deadline for moves in all games is DECEMBER 10, 1976.
- Changes of Address. Please make note of the following players' new addresses.

George Bakich	Edward R. Vesneske, Jr.
c/o Mark Bakich	2505 East Avenue
Nationwide Insurance	Apartment 204
85-15 Main Street	Rochester, N.Y. 14610
Jamaica, N.Y. 11435	

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS
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 Staten Island, New York 10301
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address correction requested
 return postage guaranteed

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLEASE SEE PAGE _____



MR. ROD WALKER
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