

I hope that by the time this issue reaches you there'll still be time to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year before the fast. I'm not counting on it, though... In any event, any belatedness of the expression of my sentiments does not diminish their warmth. On to the eighties!...

Game 1979R, Fall 1903: AUSTRIA REGAINS HOMELAND; FRENCH TROOPS RANGE FAR AFIELD; TOP COUNTRY SLOT SHARED BY BOTH AFOREMENTIONED!

- Austria (Horst John): a bul h, s by f gre; a rum h, s by a ser; a tri-bud.
 - England (Bernie Oaklyn): f eng-mid; a hol-den, e by f nth, s by f ska.
 - France (Peggy Genignani): a mun-ber; a bur-mar, s by a gas; f lya-wes, s by f spasc.
 - Germany (Bob Albrecht): a den-kie; a sil-war, s by a pru & a lva.
 - Italy (Fred Winter): f wes-mid (NRR, ann.); f tyr-wes; a mar h (ann.); a tyr-pie. (oops! f wes retreats to naf, by general orders.)
 - Russia (Alvin Smoliak): NRR! a war h (ann.); a mos, f swe & f nwy all hold unordered.
 - Turkey (Sellick Davies): a sev h, s by f bla; a con h.
- Winter 1903: Austria: vie, tri, bud, rum, ser, gre, bul (7) Builds f tri, a vie.
 England: home, hol, den (5) Builds a edi.
 France: home, por, spa, bel, ber (7) Builds f bre.
 Germany: kie, mun, war (3) NRR! GM removes a lva.
 Italy: home, tun (4) Builds f rom.
 Russia: mos, sto, swe, nwy (4) NRR, plays 1 short.
 Turkey: home, sev (4) Builds f smy.

Standby for Russia will be Tom Butcher. (Tom is in fact the only worldwide standby eligible for this game.) Fred Winter's COA is overleaf, with 77AM; all other addresses are in #265. Mon., Feb. 4 is the due date for Spring orders/retreats (a seven-weeker, due the the holiday slowdown in mails).

Paris: Realizing that the cunning of the dastardly Italian has suffered somewhat in reputation, the French peoples have decided to have mercy on those dark-haired monsters and merely shift them about a bit. But, if they do not stop stepping on our toes, we will not be so kind in the future, but instead issue a declaration of all-out war against their perfidious hides.

Holland: The Autumn of my life lay near and the wind was a roar in my face. My entire life flashed before my mind's eye as I remembered my childhood and my tender years. I was born in early spring, when, through my mother's umbilical cord, my life's blood did flow like sap and honey. Budding through the adolescent time, I matured rapidly. But, now, old age had taken its toll, and I was to return to the earth from where I came.

But, diplomatic relations between our country and Denmark had also taken its toll. The military was being deployed for the journey across the waters into the land of low-mountains.

My flight was begun rather suddenly. I cruised at altitudes beyond my wildest dreams, and then took to sailing on the rough waters of the north sea. The journey seemed endless, and the water - very cold.

But, I had remembered what me mother had told me about ducks - all that polyunsaturated oil on the outside of their skin to keep them afloat. That information was a life-saver to me, and extended my days somewhat.

Arriving on the shoreline of Denmark was a first for me. I looked up
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Game 1977AM, Spring 1909: FRANCE WITHDRAWS FROM GERMAN FRONT! ITALIAN COMMAND TEMPORIZES, SPANISH FLEET LOST!

England (Dave Pengelly): a sto-mos, s by a sev; f bar-nwy; f hel-kie; a kie-ber, s by f bal; f mid s Fre f por-spac (nso).
France (Tom Butcher): a pru-war; a ruh-bur; a bur-gas; f hol-bel; a mar-spa, s by f por.
Germany (Frej Wasastjerna): f bar-kie, s by a mun.
Italy (Hartmut Halfmeier): NMR! f spac h (ann.); a ven, f rom & a pie all hold unordered.
Russia (Horst John): f ion h; a tyr & a boh s Ger a mun; a gal-rum; a sil-war; a war-mos, s by a ukr.
Turkey (Dave Hurd): f wes s Ita f spac-mid (nso); f tyr-lyo; a gre-tun; f aeg h; a con h; a haf un.

COA: Frej Wasastjerna, c/o Kyllästinen, Merivirta 9 C 41, SF-02320 ESPOO 32, Finland.

Standby for Italy will be Fred C. Winter, 6465 Yadkin Rd. #1, Fayetteville, NC 28303, USA. Other addresses in #265.

Fall orders/retreats/builds/removals are due Mon., Feb. 4. This is a 7-week deadline due to the Christmas slowdown which is upon us.

Kiel: Full speed ahead and damn the torpedoes!

Moscow: The Russian adventures of Charles XII ended at Poltava. Tomorrow is Poltava day for Dave, alias Charles.

(Continued from p. 1) only to see Bad Bob Albrecht, target practicing from a rock high above me. I yelled up to him, "Bad Bob! Don't shoot! Please! Don't shoot!" But, he did not see, to hear me since he seemed to be concentrating on the draft of another hate letter to Peggy. It was then that I realized that the life of a leaf was not so good after all. I yelled once more... "Bad Bob! Please don't, oh! please dooooo..." (Silence)

Game 1979Jhg, Fall 236: PROPHECIES OF RHENISH COMMANDER PROVE TRUE, AS (Imperator) REBELS FALL SHORT, EMPEROR ESTABLISHES CONTROL!

African Commander (Art Lowe): NOR! A Tyre, F(AGC) LevantineSea, A Ptolemais, A Cyrene, A Carthage & F Lalacca all hold unordered.
Danube Commander (Vic Melucci): NOR! A(AGC) Athens, A Scythia, A Nicomedia, A Epirus, A Pannonia & A Dacia all hold unordered.
Emperor (Steve Payne): A Venetia-Raetia, s by A CisalpineGaul; A(PG) Palermo h; F AiolianSea-Carthage; F SouthTyrrhenian-Sardinia; F SouthAdriatic-NorthAdriatic; A Ravenna-Venetia; A Etruria s A CisalpineGaul.
Rhine Commander (Raynald Provost): A LowerGermania-Belgica; A Aquitania-Saguntum; A Massilia-Aquitania; A(AGC) EastCeltica-Massilia; A UpperGermania-EastCeltica; F OceanusAtlanticus-IberianSea.
Syrian Commander (Dan MacLellan): A Phrygia-Nicomedia; A Sidon h; A(AGC) Lycia-Ephesus; A Pontus-Colchis; A Dura-Philadelphia; A Antioch s A Sidon.

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Winter 236: Afr: jer, cyp, nca, car, cyr, pto (6) No change.
 Dan: lar, ath, thr, nic, scy, dac, ill, epi (8) NBR! 2 short.
 *double centre Emp: rom+, bru, rav, nea, cis, ven, syr, pmo, sar (15) Builds f rom, f nea, a rav, a bru, a syr (2 short). +4
 Rhi: lug, ece, wce, bel, mas, agu, sag, bri (8) Builds f bri, f lug.
 +triple centre Syr: ant*, cap, phr, eph, pay, sid, phi (8) Builds a cap, f cil, f lve, a phr (1 short) (Cil and Lyc are not centres, Phr is occupied.)

Well, guess what, folks: the Emperor has won! He has a five-unit advantage over his nearest competitor and thus has fulfilled the special victory condition.

I guess I agree with Raynald that Emperor is unsuccessful as a game, in that the Emperor just grows too fast in the early stages. The only way for the Emperor to lose is via an immediate all-out attack by his neighbours, and players just haven't seemed to be able to do that, either because they did not realize the full effect of the victory conditions, or because they couldn't submerge their differences.

For the sake of interest, would anyone be up for continuing the game from this point as "Imperator II", with the extra victory condition eliminated? We'll need standbys as well, so any interested onlookers please let me know if you're interested. If I don't hear from you by Feb. 4, I'll assume you don't want to play.

Meantime, Imperator R.I.P....

Game 1979Jhg (Imperator). Zine: RUNESTONE. GM: John Leeder. Players: African Commander: Arthur Lowe; Danube Commander: Victor Melucci; Emperor: Steve Payne (Won W236); Rhine Commander: Robert Paquin (dro. S235), Raynald Provost; Syrian Commander: Dan MacLellan.

Centres: 235 236 begun: Mar. 26, 1979. ended: Dec. 17, 1979
 Afr. 6 6
 Dan. 6 8** Sorry it had to end like this, folks... might
 Emp. 13***15** won as well print the press. (The first release
 Rhi. 6 8 arrived late, intended for last season.)
 Syr. 6 8

North African Supreme Commander to Rhine "Gymnasium": "Haden Sie ein Zimmer?" If you have, I'll come and see you and we'll confer. If not, please get a new secretary, because mine was completely unable to decipher your recent missive.

Rome: The Emperor suggests that Victorius' allusions concerning the Emperor's private conduct are clouded by Victorius' well-known perversions with Greek hetiras and nubile Thracian slaves. Of course the Emperor must frequently make appearances at Imperial orgies, if only to ensure that the wives of Army Group Commanders are performing properly while their husbands are in the field. The Emperor applauds Raynaldus' plea for unification and pledges to do his utmost to maintain Pax Romana throughout the known world.

Vesontio, East Celtica: To the Emperor: Ave! to you too, you old "caninum filius"! Syria is a nice place to visit, but when you need workers it's worse than Neapolis! I asked to be transferred to a colder place, where belly dancers, opium and harems are unknown. Here in the bracing air of Gaul, we stay in shape and I keep an eye on my men; I don't let them go to Luteria (with its Moulin Rouge and strange women) nor to Portus Herculis Monolci

with its gambling dens, nor to the Oktoberfest of Lower Germania. With the arrival of the barbarians, "there goes the neighbourhood"! So we are going south! I can see that you managed to leave the Rhine to become Emperor; I hope to do the same, soon!

Raynaldus II

Vesontio: I said, and repeat: "We must unify or die!" Do you hear, you fools?

Moose Factory: The history books now bear witness to the accuracy of Raynaldus' foresight...

Game 1978Chb (Gesta Danorum), Winter 872: East Angles removed A SSx; Norse stood pat (no standby called for); Picts built F W10; Welsh disbanded A SAN, retreat A Pec-Nme, built A SMe, A Wre. Spring orders are due Mon, Jan. 21. Two queries:

"You list 7 Wales units. Where are the others?" ((A Hwi was unordered; missed it, sorry.))

"Can F IOM convoy (as it is a water space as well as an island)?" ((Nothing in the rules about it, so... Oops, there is something: "Wihl and the Isle of Man are both sea spaces..." Therefore, a unit in IOM can convoy.)) Bit o' press...

Powys: Methinks I shall become a walnut.

Letter from Art Lowe: Further little note regarding the letter from Bruce Linsey. ((See #265, p. 5.)) If indeed B.O. and B.T. are the same person then this character should receive the Diplomacy Deception Medal (designed and accepted as full payment for services rendered, by a certain author whose name is D.H. (Ssh!) Lawrence after the publication of another well-known piece of lush, which you all know well, in 1960) for not only having the gall to "pull off" such a stunt but also for having the energy and enterprise (for example, the maintaining of two different styles throughout the long campaign). If he wants to win that badly, then I personally think he's earned his corn.

Alternatively, if all he wanted was a bit of fun, well I'm not going to cry out for his blood either. It seems to me that the only indiscretion he has committed is that of being found out, or even suspected. Obviously, if it does turn out to be true, some degree of censorship is going to be necessary (rules are rules, etc.), but as far as "besmirching the hobby" is concerned: cry into your nappies, you whining "Bobby Fischers" (not that I don't think the tactics applied by that particular personage were not useful and, concerning his psychological characteristics and intelligence, justified. However, that's another discussion.)

I'm right with Comrade Leader. ((Perhaps you misunderstood me. I never approved of Buddy Tretick's GMing, having been on the receiving end once. What I said was that Bernie Tretick should not be kicked out of games because of what Buddy Tretick did, even if it's proved that they're the same person.

((Also, it's possible to have a sneaking admiration for someone who wins a game by such methods (eg. John Boardman in the Eric Blake hoax) but that's a far cry from a GM systematically ripping off players. Perhaps the Europeans take a more lenient view (for instance, it's told that Belgian GM Michel Feron usually played 2 or 3 spots in games he GMed). North Americans definitely don't!)) CHIMO!