

RAMBLING WAY

Issue #5

March 1991

First off, I want to thank everyone for getting their build orders in early. I was able to get a head start on the issue, which helped me get this out on time.

I hope that within the next couple of months, to change the format and appearance of this rag. Two friends recently started a newsletter business. As soon as they obtain a modem, this should be coming through a laser printer, and maybe some graphics will be added.

For those of you who made comments, and suggestions, I appreciate it. In the future, I will be designating failed moves by leading them with an asterix. Unfortunately, at this time, I can't underline. Also, I'll make sure my address is on every issue.

Tomorrow night, on NBC, there is going to be an airing of "Shoot First: A Cop's Vengeance." The show follows the case of Farrell Tucker and Steven Smith, two San Antonio police officers. Smith was a vigilante cop, and Tucker (best friend) eventually shot and killed Smith. It was an apparent case of self-defence.

I have not seen the movie. However, it is getting quite bad press in the San Antonio newspapers. People that are familiar with the case, and who have seen the movie, have almost universally panned the story and setting (though almost all praise the acting).

Comments in today's papers include an objection to the portrayal of the police department as "small-townish, a force consisting of a chief and a few cowboys." San Antonio has 1608 sworn officers. Another person stated that he now knows why they lead off these movies with the disclaimer 'based on a true story.'

I lived in San Antonio during and after the shooting incident, the trials and the lawsuits (some just recently concluded). It had a significant effect on the police department, and on the city. With the recent happenings in Los Angeles, this will have an even greater impact on the national viewing audience.

I'll say two things, based on the comments I've seen so far. First, this incident involves only a few officers (as does the incident in LA). Don't base your opinions of police officers, and law enforcement, on the actions of rogues. Every profession has their 'black sheep,' including police departments.

Secondly, the movie was shot in California on generic sets and locations. None of the magnificance and beauty of San Antonio will be seen. Don't make your decision about visiting this city based on the movie -- it won't (can't) do the city justice.

Until next time....

Diplomacy

MENSA #35

"Thistle and Shamrock"

BN: 1991A

WINTER 1901

Turkey: (Con/Ank/Smy/Bul)

Units--A Bul, A Con, F Bla, NEW: F Smy

Russia: (War/Mos/StP/Sev/Rum/Swe)

Units--F Swe, F Sev, A Rum, A Gal, NEW: F StP (nc), A Mos

Italy: (Rom/Nap/Ven)

Units--F Ion, A Tyr, A Apu

England: (Lpl/Edi/Lon/Nwy)

Units--F Bar, F Nth, A Nwy, NEW: F Edi

France: (Par/Bre/Mar/Por/Bel)

Units--A Bel, A Por, F MAD NEW: F Bre, F Mar

Germany: (Ber/Kie/Mun/Hol/Den)

Units--F Den, A Ber, A Hol, NEW: F Kie, A Mun

A/H: (Vie/Tri/Bud/Ser)

Units--F Alb, A Ser, A Vie, NEW: A Bud

DUE DATE FOR SPRING 1902

April 27, 1991 -- 12 noon

Notes

1) The regular due date for moves/builds will be the Friday before the last full weekend of the month. This month was an exception, as I have a rookie draft for my pbm baseball league, and I'm writing this between picks. Thus, next deadline is five weeks, instead of the normal four.

2) We now have a boardman number, 1991A. I hope this portends great things for this game (being the FIRST number of the year).

3) Don Williams also let me know that he was stepping down as the BNC. The new BNC (make a change on your mailing list please) is Gary Behnen; 13101 S. Trenton; Olathe, KS 66062.

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PRESS

Turkey: Reference was made recently to the alleged silence of Turkey re the Russian invasion of Galicia.

If the Austro-Hungarian leader would take time out from explaining to his armies that they are not to attack each other, he might bother to read and reply to his mail from Sultan Jim the Great. We have written to him twice and have yet to receive a response.

An ancient Islamic proverb: He who attends a 34 course banquet and without maintaining conversation with his fellow diners, expects to consume a majority of the courses, will instead be consumed himself.

Dateline THE HAGUE: Top French and Italian military leaders became embroiled in a brawl over accusations of incompetence at the annual Conference on Strategic Studies. Failed military expeditions into Tunisia and Spain have cast serious doubts on the capabilities of each respective powers' military and political leadership.

GENEVA (API) -- Serbian nationalists not represented at the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of England, France, Germany and Italy, exploded a bomb at the Austrian embassy in Bern yesterday in protest of the Austrian annexation of Serbia. Placards supporting the Russian invasion of Galicia and Vienna were left near the scene. Representatives from the major nations expressed regret over the incident. The Turkish ambassador to Switzerland could not be reached for comment after being quoted in Der Deutsche Zeitung as stating, "We fully the (sic) support the Serbians in their quest for independence and invite them into the Ottoman Empire."

GAME OPENING

Two positions left in a Gunboat game