

# StabBack

Published by: Howard R. Christie

Issue #5

September 18, 1984

This is STABBACK, a monthly journal of Diplomacy and a variant of my own design. This variant is a 12 player global Diplomacy game, 1898. Subscriptions are 10/\$3.00. Game Fee is \$5.00, plus subscription. STABBACK is edited and published by: Howard R. Christie, P.O. Box 115, Millville, PA 17846. (717) 458-5790

---

It is impossible to make anything foolproof,  
because fools are so ingenious.

---

Welcome to the forth issue of STABBACK. The purpose of this zine is for the playing of postal Diplomacy. I will be running 4 regular Diplomacy and 1 1898 game within the pages of STABBACK. Game turns will run 21 days, rain or shine. If you need a copy of the house-rules, just send a S.A.S.E. The next issue of STABBACK will be published October 12. The deadline for all game turns will be October 10.

---

The start of STABBACK #4 has finally happened. The players, their postions, and their addresses are shown below:

Austria: Michael Perry - 1205 Armor, Pasadena, TX 77502  
England: Hugh E. Christie - 43 E. Houston Ave. Montgomery, PA 17752  
France: Nonzio Schembari - 210 Chinook Drive, Synacose, NY 13210  
Germany: Chris Downs - 742 Spring St., Alton, IL 62002  
Italy: Philip Cooper - 752 60th St. Apt 1C, Bklyn. NY 11220  
Russia: Fred Hyatt - 60 Grandview Place, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043  
Turkey: Chris Bruck - 5150 Fairbanks Ave., Culver City, CA 90203

---

The Boardman Number for this game will appear in the next issue of STABBACK. Players should use STABBACK #4 for all corespondence concerning this game. The deadline for Spring 1901 is 12:00 PM on Wednesday, October 10.

---

## PLAYING ITALY

Although she has land connections with Europe, Italy is in many ways an island. Because Switzerland is impassable, the land approaches to Italy are restricted. Like England, Italy has three coastal supply centers (only Italy, England, and Turkey can build three fleets at one time).

Even so, the Italian position is precariously weak. She lies directly across the main route through the Mediterranean: Turkey's (or Austria's) way out and England's (or France's) way in. Furthermore, her center at Venice is exposed to immediate Austria attack. France, moving out of Marseilles and through Spain, can quickly concentrate large naval forces against Italy.

But the Italian position has some strengths. She can quickly become a large naval power while having direct (if limited) access to the interior of the continent. She is frequently the odd-man-out in the western and eastern triangles which are often at war within themselves. By playing the middleman, encouraging two in each triangle to attack the third, Italy can derive a lot of the benefit.

Italy must be more sensitive to the Balance of Power than any other country. With one exception she must attempt to keep the other players from being eliminated. So long as that policy is successful, her chances of being attacked are reduced. The one exception is Turkey. The Ottomans can be strong allies, but more frequently they are Italy's bete noir. Once the Turkish navy gets rolling, it rolls right through Tunis and Naples.

"The Gamers Guide to Diplomacy"

---

### Standbys

If your name appears below you are on STABBACK's standby list. If you want on or off, just drop me a line. I am starting a new policy for all standbys. Any player that plays out a position as a standby, will receive three free issues to STABBACK.

Brumbaugh, Clough, Early, Ridenour, Turner, Smith, McKinnon, and Young

---

### Moving

Steven McKinnon - A303 BARH, RP1, Troy, NY 12181

---

1898

The maps and rules are done!!!!!! This game should be starting next issue. I have 12 players signed up for this game, which is all we need. I have run into a small problem. This problem is that the cost of mailing and printing up the maps and rules ran into a small fortune. So I am asking all the players in the game to send me \$3.50 for the maps. Smith, Crow, Cooper, Hyatt, Early, Young, Brumbaugh, Perry, King, Mckinnaon, Ridenour, Turner

AUSTRIA (James Early): Built A Bud,Tri; a bud-GAL; a VIE s aa bud-gal;  
a TRI s aa ser-hold; a SER s ta rum-hold; f gre-ION

ENGLAND (Philip Cooper): Built F Lon; a wal-PIC; f ENG c ea wal-pic;  
f LON s ef eng; f nor-SWE

FRANCE (Jay Brumbaugh): Built F Bre; f BRE-eng; f mid-POR; a bel-BUR;  
a MAR s fa bel-bur

GERMANY (Andy Clough): Built A Mun,Ber; a hol-BEL; a RUH s ga hol-bel;  
a MUN-bur; a ber-SIL; f den-BAL

ITALY (Jim Ridenour): 1 Short; NMR! f TUN, a PIE, a TUS all hold

RUSSIA (Bob Smith): Even; f gob-STP(sc); a gal\*rum; a UNK s ra gal-rum;  
f SEV s ra gal-rum

TURKEY (Steven McKinnon): Built F Con, A SYM; a sym-ARM; f con-BLA;  
f ANK s tf con-bla; a BUL s ta rum; a RUM s aa bud-gal

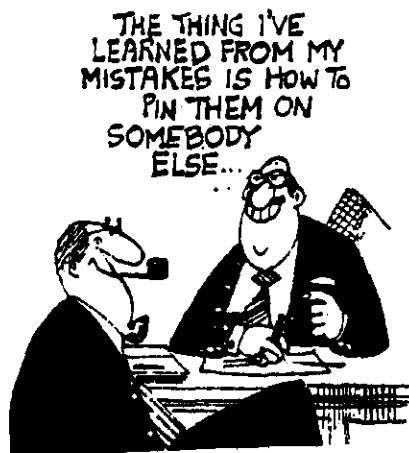
The Russian A Gal must retreat to Boh, War, or otb. Jamie Young (PSC 1 Box 2126, McGuire AFB, NJ 08641) is asked to send in standby Italian orders. The deadline for Fall 1902 orders is 12:00PM on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

PRESS:

TURKEY-AUSTRIA: Let's get cruisin dude!

TURKEY-GERMANY: About your last "Germany-East" comment: The poison was on the black blade.

TURKEY-ALL GERMANS AND RUSSIANS: If good always triumphs over evil, who will defend Marget lady Fenning, who said that it is "White for poison, black for purity". and who remembers which way it really was?



MORE PRESS:

VIENNA-CONSTANTINOPLE: Adam Ant! Yick!

VIENNA-BERLIN: Your name rhymes with "rough". Now, am I a good guesser, or what?

VIENNA-PARIS: That one press item from Germany to you should have read: Sorry, life is CLOUGH!

VIENNA-WORLD: Can you believe that? Russia gets no builds, so that wimp quits the game! I think his country needs to die for that, don't you? Yea, I thought so.

VIENNA-GM: Why do you abbreviate "Ukraine" as "UNK"? That seems kind of silly to me.

GM-VIENNA: What sounds silly to some people, makes all the sense in the world to others. The reason I use that abbreviation is because it is used hobby wide.

VIENNA: Kaiser Andrew of Germany has already been renominated for the "worst Pun of the year" award. For the repeated use of my name! Keep trying, Andy, I'm sure you'll get it every year if you want!!!

GERMANY-RUSSIA: I must apologize for moving to Silesia but I have a good reason. James, the kaiser of Austria, told me that he greatly wished to obtain Warsaw. He strongly hinted so by asking me, "Andy, what's the capital of Poland?" I know damn well what the capital of Poland is and I know that James knew that I knew, so instead of answering him, I humored him. "I don't know, James what is the capital of Poland?" He replied "About ten cents!" He paused for a second and then went into hysterics. Since I felt his joke was worse than mine from Spring 1901, I hung up on him and vowed to myself that I would not let James reach Warsaw before I did! My troops from Berlin are on a mission to save the world from such terrible jokes. Now that was a good reason for me to move to Silesia, isn't it?

GERMANY-FRANCE&GERMANY: Oh boy, a two-front war. Just what I always wanted.

ANDY-JAMES: Shhhhh! Yes, I know that you didn't really tell that joke and you know that didn't really tell that joke, but let's not tell anyone shall we?

ANDY-WORLD: OK, I'LL tell you. My name is pronounced cluff as in Rough tough, clough(hint,hint). Now how many of you guessed correctly? Let's rephrase that question. How many of you bothered to guess?

GM-ANDY: It looks like only one bothered to guess: That must give you a clue to how many people really care.

WHITE (Germany)

N-QB3

N-B3

Black(AUSTRIA)

B-N2

P-Q4

AUSTRIA (Eric Jurgelit): a GAL-unk; a SER s tf con-rum(nso); f ALB-gre  
 ENGLAND (James Early): a wal-BEL; f ENG c ea wal-bel; f nth-NWY  
 FRANCE (Robert Smith): a gas-BRE; a SPN-mar; f mid-POR  
 GERMANY (Philip Cooper): a kie-HOL; a bur-MUN; f DEN-swe  
 ITALY (Kevin Turner): a PIE-mar; a tus-TUN; f TYH c ia tus-tun  
 RUSSIA (Jay Husber): a sil-WAR; a UNK s rf rum-hold; f RUM-hold;  
f BOT-swe  
 TURKEY (Jamie Young): a BUL-gre; a ank-CON; f con-AEG

Underlined moves fail and capital letters show unit postions.  
 The deadline for Winter builds and Spring orders are due by 12:00 PM  
 on Wednesday, October 10. The supply center chart is shown below:

A - home, ser	(4) Build 1
E - home, bel, nwy	(5) Build 2
F - home, por, spn	(5) Build 2
G - home, hol, den	(5) Build 2
I - home, tun	(4) Build 1
R - home, rum	(5) Build 1
T - home, bul	(4) Build 1

PRESS:

VIENNA-VENICE: Long live the California neutrality!!

VIENNA-PARIS: If someone would write once in a while, perhaps one would not be in such difficulties.

VIENNIA-BERLIN: Never fear, Austria-espana is here!!! P.S. Let's keep the north neutral.

VIENNA-MOSCOW: Well my decision has been decided by the expertise of the sultan.

VIENNA-CONSTANTINOPLE: I am loyal, are you?

VIENNA-LONDON: Sorry but I have my own ideas.

VIENNA-LONDON: By the way, Russia told me nothing, he didn't write me.

LONDON-BERLIN: Where are all those press releases you promised us?

LONDON-CONSTANTINOPLE: So you want Moscow now, do you? Well! Getting a little greedy, aren't we? We'll see about that.

LONDON-ST. PETE: You're ungly and your mother dresses you funny.

MORE PRESS:

LONDON-VIENNA: Though his mind is not for rent  
Don't put him down as arrogant  
His reserve, a quiet defense  
Riding out the day's event  
The river

Rush, Tom Sawyer

LONDON-ROME, PARIS, BERLIN and VIENNA: I'd watch out for the Turks  
and the Russians; they are  
up to something.

LONDON-VIENNA: What's the deal with all this Spanish stuff? Are you  
from Spain or something?

LONDON TO WORLD: They say there are strangers who threaten us  
In our immigrants and infidels,  
They say there is strangeness, too dangerous  
In our theaters and bookstore shelves  
Those who know what's best for us-  
Must rise and save us from ourselves!

Rush, "Witch Hunt"  
(Part III of "Fear")

LONDON TO PARIS: You thought I was going to move to Brest, didn't you?  
Well, every man is entitled to getting a little  
Brest now and then. But now is not the time for me.  
So for now, I'll leave your Brest alone.

LONDON-CONSTANTINOPLE: Thanks for the no-bullshit letter, I appreciate  
it.

---

MAPS or NOT:

I have decided not to put the maps in this issue of STABBACK. Many of the players have written and talked to me about the maps. Their feelings were that we didn't really need the maps. So I have decided to let all the subscribers vote on this issue. If you want the maps to still be included you should send in a yes vote. If you do not like the maps or if you like the way this issue is, send in a no vote. If you don't vote, your vote will be counted as a no vote. I am publishing for my readers, so here is your chance to let me know how you feel.

---

YES, I want the maps. \_\_\_\_\_

NO, I don't want the maps. \_\_\_\_\_

AUSTRIA (Doug King): a vie-TRI; a SER s af alb-gre; f alb-GRE  
 ENGLAND (Chris Bruck): a wal-BEL; f ENG c ea wal-bel; f nth-NWY  
 FRANCE (Jim Ridenour): NMR!!!; f MID, a SPN, a PAR all hold  
 GERMANY (Fred Hyatt): f DEN-swe; a mun-RUH; a kie-HOL  
 ITALY (Greg Doyle): a apu-VEN; a ven-PIE; f ion-TUN  
 RUSSIA (Willis Beaver): f GOB-swe; f RUM-hold; a unk-GAL; a war-SIL  
 TURKEY (Peter Satirfein): a BUL-gre; a arm-SMY; f con-AEG

STEVEN MCKINNON (A303 BARH, RP1, Troy, NY 12181) is asked to send in standby orders for France. The deadline for Winter builds and Spring moves is 12:00 PM on Wednesday, October 10. The supply center chart is shown below:

A - home, gre, ser	(5) Build 2
E - home, bel, nwy	(5) Build 2
F - home, spn	(4) Build 1
G - home, den, hol	(5) Build 2
I - home, tun	(4) Build 1
R - home, rum	(5) Build 1
T - home, bul	(4) Build 1

---

PRESS:

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA: Contrary to popular belief Galicia is not Silesia.  
 (but they are close)

---

