

TRANTOR

#20/SVG #20

"Fall 1907"

31 July 1965

AUSTRIANS SURPRISE TURKS IN BULGARIA

Following the "Spring 1907" moves the French Army Ruhr retreated to Burgundy; the Turkish player supported my interpretation of his "NO RETREATS" order, and the Turkish Army Bulgaria was annihilated rather than retreating to Rumania.

AUSTRIA: A Vie-Bud; A Bud-Rum; A Ser-Bul; F Gre (S) A Ser-Bul.

ENGLAND: F Mid-Gas; F Iri-Mid; F Por (S) F Iri-Mid; A Wal-Pic; F Eng (C) A Wal-Pic; A York-Nor; F N.S. (C) A York-Nor; A Den-Kiel; F Bal (S) A Den-Kiel; A Ruhr-Bur; A Bel (S) A Ruhr-Bur.

FRANCE: A Pic-Bel; A Bur (S) A Pic-Bel; F Bre-Mid; F Spa (S) F Bre-Mid; F Was (S) F Bre-Mid

GERMANY: no moves received

ITALY: A Tyr-Mun; F Ion-Eas; F Aeg (S) F Ion-Eas

TURKEY: A Mun-Ruhr; A Sil-Ber; A Pru (S) A Sil-Ber; A Gal-War; F Bul-Aeg; F Eas (S) F Bul-Aeg; A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con

DEADLINE FOR "WINTER 1907" BUILDS IS SATURDAY, 14 AUGUST 1965;

DEADLINE FOR "SPRING 1908" MOVES IS SATURDAY, 28 AUGUST 1965;

OR 2 WEEKS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE

--WHICHEVER IS LATER -- players will be notified by mail.

The Austrian attack on Bulgaria succeeds, routing and -- since it has no available spot to retreat (being on the South Coast) and since the Turkish player repeated his "NO RETREATS" order -- is annihilated.* The Turkish attack on Berlin likewise succeeds, routing and destroying the last German Army there.

(*and annihilating the Turkish Fleet there)

The High Combatant Powers now control the following centers, and will build the below noted number of new forces:

AUSTRIA: Vie, Tri, Bud, Ser, Gre, Bul, Rum ((7)) builds two, since Budapest is occupied and a piece cannot be built there

ENGLAND: Lon, Liv, Edi, Nor, Swe, Den, StP, Kie, Hol, Bel, Por ((11)) no change

FRANCE: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Tun ((5)) no change

GERMANY: ((0)) OUT

ITALY: Rom, Nap, Ven ((3)) no change

TURKEY: Con, Smy, Ank, Sev, Mos, War, Mun, Ber ((8)) builds one

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ROME (Reuters) Today the glorious vessels of the magnificent Italian Navy won an astonishing victory (their first in six years of war) over the dirty, no-good Turks attempting to surrender to them. The fight was bloody while it lasted. The heathen attempted to scuttle their ships before the valiant Italian command could reach them but failed miserably as seventeen direct hits were scored before the ships were finally sunk by their crews. Twelve Turkish vessels were lost and only fifteen Italian; three took a wrong turn at Crete and were impounded by the British in Cyprus, two were rammed by Turkish rowboats, nine were lost firing on each other in the confusion, and the captain of one ship that sprang a leak trying to let the water drain away by drilling a hole in the hull. Great though this victory is, the average sailor feels it will be nothing compared to what lies ahead when they storm the harem walls of Constantinople...

And the new war song of these valiant sea dogs goes something like "Who's afraid of the big, big Mule..." the rest being unprintable.

ABOARD THE BRITISH FOURTH FLEET, Every Jack Tar aboard this fleet
BALTIC SEA (7 July 1907) has been infected by the confidence radiated from its commander, Admiral Lord Rokesle. The Royal Navy is now twice as large as any other navy in Europe, and commands all these seas outside the Gates of Hercules. As the flagship Imperturbable led the fleet eastward through Baltic waters, speculation was rife about the fleet's ultimate destination.

Last night I spoke with some seamen below decks, who were wondering among themselves about the future course of the war. One of them asserted, as though he had been privy to a council of war in Whitehall, that the next duty of the fleet would be to support a Turkish offensive into Berlin against the remnants of the German army. Another, a stout petty officer named Henry FitzBulmer, laughed at this assurance, and declared that England was shortly to go to war with the Turks.

"Look you," he said to his mates, speaking in the cultured tones he had learned in backstage society at the Duke of Ormskirk's London town house before the war, "we and the Turks divide Europe between us. They hold the south shores of the Baltic, and we the north. Mark my words, within a year we'll have orders to bring an army into Russia and dispute Turkish control there."

"But wot about the Mule?"

"What about the Mule?" FitzBulmer repeated. "He is a serious problem, but not to be overestimated by our fears. I've seen the papers that come aboard with the supply ships from Goteborg. The Mule is in a blue funk --- not a Turkish force has moved all spring, and a Turkish fleet in the Mediterranean was blown out of the water by the Italians."

So the vaunted Mule is capable of human failings after all? A sigh of relief went around the table and someone began dealing cards.

ABOARD THE BRITISH FOURTH FLEET, Admiral Lord Rokesly today ordered yet another general inspection of the entire fleet. He particularly stressed preparation for immediate military action. Since
BALTIC SEA (10 July 1907)

The Admiral rebuffed requests for an interview yesterday, claiming that his duties completely occupied his time. Lord Rokesle has indeed been spending much time in these naval duties, but has also been frequently isolated for long periods in his cabin. On these occasions he is attended solely by four or five German cabin boys whom he enlisted into the British Fleet at Kiel. These cabin boys wear standard British naval uniforms, which seem to bind them very tightly around the chest and hips.

It was one of these cabin boys, speaking in a high tenor, who let slip a hint of the fleet's destination. "Denny -- er -- Lord Rokesle -- hopes we put in at St. Petersburg. He says he'd like some of the art works from the Hermitage for his own castle on Stornoway." -- James Branch Water, Lichfield Times-Dispatch

Dear John:

Was talking with some friends, and I would like to see seven players play a couple of dozen games in a row with each one playing the same country each time. I feel that after the first four-five games, a set pattern would begin to crystallize, at which point some of the players would decide this was not a good thing for them, and a new pattern would begin to emerge, after a short period, two or three games, in which new possibilities would be explored.

Seven players would learn a hell of a lot about Diplomacy, and observers would, too. One possibility vitiating the possibilities for good: one of the players is either an idiot or totally untrusting/untrustable; still it would be enlightening with respect to the other countries. -- Phil Castora

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ON OTHER FRONTS (DIRECTORY OF OTHER DIPLOMACY PUBLICATIONS):

COSTAGUANA: Conrad F. von Metzke, 5327 Hilltop Drive, San Diego, California, 92114. Subscriptions: \$1; Games \$3.

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