

TRAN TOR

#4/SVG #4

Winter 1901

October 31, 1964

GREAT POWERS CALL-UP RESERVES

Paris: High ranking officials of the French Ministry have been asked about the effect of the apparent Russo-German alliance. Few seem to show any fear for they say that overlapping desires will erode their alliance in the near future, just as it has so often in the past. Although the Germans talk big, even act big, they have an extremely low rate of success.

Storisende, Poictesme, France (October 31, 1901): The roads to the West, once dark with marching men, have just become clear again. The Second Army, led by a general whose French has a strong Canadian accent, suddenly wheeled around from its support on the eastern front and moved into Spain. This move was particularly popular locally, as Poictesme has strong ties with Spain dating from the Middle Ages when it was a fief of the Castilian crown. Large numbers of Poictesmian youth enlisted, led by Raoul, Prince de Disuarte, son and heir of the Duc de Puyssange.

Like other Frenchmen, the people of Poictesme are confident of victory. Germany is on the defensive, and a French army stands on her borders. Yesterday I spoke in a local cafe with 76-year-old Holmendis Craqueur, a veteran of the 1859 war with Austria. Vieux Craqueur, as he is known locally, was filled with glee at the apparent paralysis of the Austrian government. "Lost Budapest, they did," he chuckled into his calvados, "and sent their fleet from Trieste straight to the Aegean. What did they expect their ships to do, sail straight through Mt. Olympus?"

Pere Chrysostome de Perdigon, a short thin priest with an air of perpetual worry, dissented from the general rejoicing. "While Christian battles Christian in the Balkans, the Turk marches on," he fretted. "The Turk has no rear to defend, and he can bring his full force against Christendom while Austrians Russians, and Italians fight amongst themselves, Alas! we are threatened by the Mohammedan abroad, and by even darker paganism here in Poictesme, particularly on this night of the year." With a sudder Pere de Perdigon refused to elaborate on these words of foreboding.

- James Branch Water
Lichfield Times-Despatch

Moscow (October 30, 1901): The Government of Czar Nicolas announced today the repulsion of an attempt by a radical group of militarists to overthrow the provisional government in the province of Ukraina. The origin of this group of militarists is thought to be the badlands around Carlsbad, New Mexico in the United States of America. These radicals will be taken today to the capital in order that they may be put under the scrutiny of Russia's new department of public information.

St Petersburg. The Russian secret service today intercepted a cryptogram that was being carried by a French spy bound for Turkey. In spite of the greatest efforts of the top Russian counter-intelligence agents, the cryptogram remains entirely insoluble. If any friendly power can come up with the solution, Czar Nicolas will make a present to that power of the entire nation of China. The cryptogram is as follows.

airmcokhtx nrosewviop tipsowawqc owtlaitpds kqvackkwer iyiiarengws
esabhetdsf eohranaqwe eossoertyj hasseraawqm smmlaoiuyg caevtdituo
rasyopiuyt oi*srnusgb

It is thought that the key to this cryptogram lies in the number series 13457.

Message from the Mule.

"What profiteth a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Oh, I don't know, a few more supply centers, maybe."
- Owen Hanifen

"Who breaks his faith, no faith is held with him."
- Guillaume de Salluste

BUILDING MOVES FOR THE WINTER OF 1901 ARE:

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: none

ENGLAND: F London, F Edenburg

FRANCE: F Marsieller, A Paris, A Brest

GERMANY: A Berlin

ITALY: none

RUSSIA: F North Coast St Petersburg, A Warsaw, A Moscow

TURKEY: A Ankara

SPRING MOVES ARE DUE NOVEMBER 14, 1964.

CHANGE OF PLAYER

Don Recklies has been required to drop from TRANTOR because of a heavy school commitment. The new player for Russia is

James Thomas, 1133 SR 44 RD 1, Atwater, Ohio

Re cryptogram; Answer to the cryptogram presented in this issue will be printed in the Fall issue of TRANTOR. If there is a positive response to this cryptogram, then the editors will have a policy of publishing a cryptogram in the Spring issue of TRANTOR.