

# TRAN TOR

#5/SVG #5

Spring 1902

November 14, 1902

## R U S S I A T A K E S N O R W A Y

### RUSSO-GERMAN PACT ANNOUNCED

Moscow: The Duma announced the signing of a treaty of alliance with the government of Kaiser Wilhelm III. The treaty encompasses the following points:

1. Non-aggression
2. Mutual assistance
3. Neutrality of Prussia and Livonia
4. All provinces South of Denmark and West of the German Eastern border will be considered in the German sphere of influence.
5. All provinces North of Denmark, exclusive of the British Isles, and East of the German Eastern Frontier will be considered in the Russian sphere of influence.
6. Exceptions: The sovereignty of the Italian provinces will be sacred to all parties to this alliance.
7. Any act of aggression against any party to this alliance will be considered an act of war to all parties to this alliance.

Bellegarde, Poictesme, France (21 December 1901): Yesterday I visited l'Anse, that little cove near Manneville which figures so prominently in the history of this province. The hillside around the Shrine of the Redemption of Poictesme was filled with confident, voluble Poictumaise who spoke with every expectation of victory as they watched units of the new Second Fleet pass in review before Vice-Admiral Bertran de Fomor, Seignuer de Belpaysage Le Bas.

Naturally, the disposition which will be made of this new fleet is a naval secret. But speculation is rife that France will take advantage of the blunders of Italian and Austro-Hungarian policy to establish French supremacy in the Mediterranean. There are rumors of a French alliance with Turkey against Italy and Austria-Hungary, although Turkish forces seem at this moment to be poised on the vulnerable southern flank of the Russian Empire.

Geneva papers received in this isolated province report a curious cryptogram which the Russian secret service has found among the effects of an alleged French spy. The encoded message was included in the newspaper report, and the habitués of Bellegarde's many cafes are amusing themselves this afternoon by trying their luck in deciphering it. I found it to be a relatively easy transposition cipher with some enciphering errors. It reads:

"March on Sevastopol. Attack Ukraina. The bear has sores as he is lame. Victory is ours."

Curiously enough, the transpositions seem based vaguely on the English avocation of change-ringing, in which I was once instructed by a local sexton while visiting the quiet Lincolnshire town of Fenchurch St. Pauls. But the changes do not follow the rules, and as a consequence I am uncertain of the translation of the third sentence of the message.

My gloomy friend Pere de Perdigon, the local priest of Storisende, expressed dismay at the report of the Turkish alliance. "No good can come from a heathen alliance with our Christian nation," he sighed. "Or," he corrected himself, "our mostly Christian nation. To too many of my parishoners, this is the season not of the Nativity but of the Feast of the Wheel."

- James Branch Water  
Lichfield Times-Despatch

"I'm sure this is where I came in"

- The Mule

Geneva: A wild disheveled individual, clothed in a shabby winter coat, stormed into our office and just as quickly left. The staff was too stunned to detain the man or to follow in pursuit. When we had managed to regain our wits we discovered that our bearded intruder had left a message. The message was of two parts: The first part was the translation of the cryptogram found in the possession of the French spy. It reads:

"March on Sevastopol. Attack Ukraina. The bear has a sore ass. He is lame. Victory is ours."

The second part was encoded. Again the editor and his staff are unable to discover the solution. Again we appeal to our readers to come to our aid. The second part reads:

E HMTPSQEXW ASVHW QYWX LEZI RS VPEXMSR XS EGXMSRW - SXLIVAMWI  
ALEX OMRH SJ MX? ASVHW EVI SRI XLMRK, EGXMSRW ERSXLIV. KSSH  
ASVHW EVI E GSRGIEPQIRX SJ FEH HIIHW. WMRGIVI HEMTPSQEGC MW  
RS QSVI TSWWMFPI XLER HVC AEXIV SV MVSR ASSH.

- NSWIJ Z, WXEPMR.

MOVES FOR THE SPRING OF 1902 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Serb (S) A - Bud, A Vie - Bud, F AdS - Tre

ENGLAND: A Holl (S) French A - Ruhr, F Norw - Skag, F NorS - Hel,  
F Lon - NorS, F Edin - NorwS

FRANCE: A Bel (S) A Par - Ruhr, A Par - Ruhr, A Bre - Pic, A Sp - Mar,  
F Mar - G Ly, F Por - Sp, South Coast

GERMANY: No moves received

ITALY: No moves received

RUSSIA: A War - Uk, A Mos (S) Sev, A Sev (S) A - Rum, A Bud - Rum,  
F SW (S) F - Norw, F StP - Norw

TURKEY: A Rum - Uk, A Con - Bul, A Ank - Arm, F BLS - Sev

Underlined moves do not succeed. The A-H fleet was already in Trieste so the move was impossible. As Paris does not border on the Ruhr the series of moves attempting to place the A Paris in the Ruhr are illegal. Perhaps the French High Command was attempting to use some of the captured German transport balloons? The Russian army in Budapest must

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retreat. The only retreat possible is to Galicia. The A Budapest will retreat to Galicia.

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**QUESTION:**

In issue #4 of TRANTOR Russia was permitted to build three units, two new units for the captured supply centers of Sweden and Budapest and one unit to replace the fleet annihilated in Rumania. There has been some question as to why I permitted Russia to build the unit to replace the annihilated fleet. So permit me to quote,

"After the Fall moves have been played, and the retreats, if any, made each player's number of units is adjusted to equal the number of supply centers his country controls..... If he gains units, he may place them, one in each unoccupied supply center in his home country only....."

- Page 5, Rules for Diplomacy

Are not the rules explicit on this matter? I do not understand the need for the question. If any reader wishes to comment on this question please address your comments to the editor, and they will be published in the next issue of TRANTOR.

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER MOVES IS NOVEMBER 26, 1964. HAPPY THANKS-GIVING.

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If any paid player wishes to call me at my home, my phone number is 112 412 545 3058. Please call in the evenings. I will not be at home on Wednesday evenings. Again, let me repeat, I will not be at home on Wednesday evenings.

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**DIRECTORY**

Here is a list of Mail Diplomacy Games now in progress. Subscriptions can be had by writing to the editor in question. Rates are 10 issues for \$1.00.

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REMEMBER THAT THE DEADLINE IS THE 26th of NOVEMBER.