

DOWN THE TUBES

 #16 4740 Conrad Ave #117, San Diego, CA 92117 (619) 277-1429 JAN 1985

1981KH (PANTHER) ENDGAME STATISTICS

AUSTRIA - Ken Hager (out F09).
 ENGLAND - Ed Jacobs (sur F11).
 FRANCE - Marc Peters (out F11).
 GERMANY - Earl Wiggers (drop F05); Bill Quinn (sur F11).
 ITALY - Raymond Pryor (res S04); Kevin Tighe (sur F11).
 RUSSIA - Jeff Sandelin (win F11).
 TURKEY - Ken Kriz (drop F02); Ricardo Fernandez (out F03).

GM - Steven Duke (F03); Gregg Fritz.
 ZINE - THE SCHEMER (F03); DAMN THE TORPEDOES (S05); DOWN THE TUBES.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
AUSTRIA -	5	5	5	6	6	4	4	2	0		
ENGLAND -	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	9	9
FRANCE -	5	5	6	6	6	5	3	2	2	2	0
GERMANY -	5	6	6	6	4	6*	6	6	5	2	2
ITALY -	4	5	4	4	4	3	5	6	6	5	5
RUSSIA -	6	6	8*	7	9	11	11	13	15	16	18 WIN F11
TURKEY -	4	2	0								

Ken Hager (Austria) -

Congratulations on a fine win, Jeff! I'm glad to see that you ultimately gained the win after stabbing me. It eases the pain a great deal. To be honest, I didn't think you'd pull it off. I was sure the E/G/I team would finally stop you. Fortunately, you found somebody who preferred an outright second to your win rather than a share of the draw. Thanks to you, Marc, Kevin and, to a lesser extent, to Bill for the letters during the game. You all helped to make my initial venture into postal Dip an enjoyable, if not successful, experience.

Kevin Tighe (Italy) -

Strange game. I took over an Italy that was the meat of an A/F sandwich. But, luckily, Marc decided to hold off England while suiciding out to me; and Austria called off his attack after the Russian stab. I spent the rest of the game trying to consolidate my forces to fight Russia. Ed in England never seemed intent on stopping Russia and continued on a senseless French campaign. All in all, the few letters I sent and received were quite inferior to the brief letter exchange I had with Daf in 1982 O (my other game in DtT). After I had given her the world's best yogurt waffle recipe, she admitted to not only being without a waffle iron, but that she skipped breakfast intirely. Well, I was flabbergasted! How can anyone exist, let alone write orders, without having a good breakfast? Besides, waffles aren't just for the morning, but they also make for an excellent dinner, especially when topped with fresh fruit, such as strawberries or peaches...but I digress. Sandelin played a nice straight-forward game. I was amused by his reasons why I should vote for the concession. Jeff, if I don't win, what does it matter to me if I finish second or third? Anyway, thanks to Gregg for finishing the game. No matter what anyone else might say, it was worth it.

More endgame statements on next page...

Marc Peters (France) -

PANTHER was the first postal game I entered, though far from being the first one completed. In its own ways, it was one of the most interesting. Things started out bizzarely when Earl Wiggers (Germany) wrote in S01 to request that I allow him to move to Burgundy. He needed Bur, he explained, to get to Bel, which he needed more than I did because nobody knew what Russia would be doing. After reading this letter, I sat down and shook my head, wondering what I'd gotten myself into! I wrote back that if he wanted Bel he'd better find another route there, to which I got no reply. Fortunately, the correspondence I received from others was much saner, including a very nice letter from Ed Jacobs (England). Germany made my first moves very easy: I supported myself into Bur. Germany, of course, moved there also. Not to be outdone, Earl wrote immediately after the Spring moves, saying "You didn't trust me!", and went on to explain to me that had he really intended me harm he never would have told me he was moving to Bur. Obviously, Earl had found out I was a "novice" and took this to mean that I'd never played Dip before. I explained to him that while this was my first postal game, it was hardly the first I'd played Dip, so he should stop assuming I had mush between my ears where brains ought to be. That was pretty much the last I ever heard from him.

Things were a little more normal elsewhere. England continued to write and asked for support into Bel in Fall 1901. If I made any mistake in this game, it was here. I had a maniac neighbor in Germany, and was in a quandry about what should be done with Bel. On one hand, it would be very nice to have help against G. On the other, the whole set-up smacked greatly of the old "good guy bad guy" routine, where one person rants, raves, and threatens, while the other points out that only he can save you from the maniac. I finally decided it was best to play it safe and bounce the English convoy into Bel, and see what happens. What happened is that either I was correct about the E/G ploy, or Jacobs simply never forgave me for the bounce. After that, I was forced into defensive moves against the E/G attack. Things were going OK nevertheless because Ken Hager (Austria) and Jeff Sandelin (Russia) had made short work of Turkey, and were now turning their attention to G and I. The distraction this provided to G was a great help. I continued to point out the threat of a strong A/R alliance to Ed throughout the game, but he was long past hearing anything I had to say. Then Italy resigned the game and Kevin Tighe entered, and immediately attacked me. Being under assault by A himself, he soon backed off. In the years that followed, I jockeyed here and there, trying to set up the opportunity to do something besides defend against England, who continued to fruitlessly attack despite the lack of help from anywhere else. At one time or another, I held Munich and Tunis, but with England refusing to face the real enemy--the East--I could never continue in another direction. Eventually, Jeff stabbed Ken in going for the win. Shortly after that, when it became clear that Jacobs was no longer interested in playing the game seriously and was refusing to stop Russia from winning, I decided that, as the only person who hadn't lied to me, Jeff would get the win. I vacated my country and attacked Germany, giving Russia the needed dots for the win. It was highly appropriate that one of the winning dots was England's Norway, which he didn't bother to defend.

Thanks to all of you involved in the game for making it a real learning experience. Regretably, some of the lessons were negative--I will never play another game with Jacobs again--but on the whole, it was an enjoyable game. Congrats on the win Jeff, and many thanks to Gregg for picking the game back up and being a reliable GM the second time around.

And finally, the winner, Jeff Sandelin (Russia) -

Thanks to a lucky guess in Scandinavia, the war has finally come to an end. Without Austria's long and trustworthy alliance and the continual English-French war, this victory could not have been possible. In the end, France did die and England did turn against me, but it was all too late. Better luck next time.

* * *

°PLUG° Kevin Tighe is starting up a new zine called REDWOOD CURTAIN. It will be warehouse in nature and Xerox will be the method of reproduction. I understand he will have openings in regular games of Dip on either two or three week deadlines. The zine will come out every three weeks and is 25¢ an issue. For more info, contact Kevin at 290 12th Street, Arcata, CA 95521.

1984 HY

POWER PLAY

Spring 1901

AUSTRIA - Jeff Sandelin - A VIE-Gal, A Bud-SER, F Tri-ALB.
 ENGLAND - Peter Baker - F Edi-NUG, A Lpl-EDI, F Lon-NTH.
 FRANCE - Keith Kline - F Bre-MID, A Par-BUR, A Mar-PIE.
 GERMANY - Mark Harris - F Kie-DEN, A Ber-KIE, A Mun-RUH.
 ITALY - Charles Fargo - A VEN h, A Rom-APU, F Nap-ION.
 RUSSIA - John Pittman - F Stp(sc)-BOT, A WAR-Gal, A Mos-UKR, F SEV-Bla.
 TURKEY - Dan Young - A Con-BUL, A Smy-CON, F ANK-Bla.

VIENNA: Word of an outbreak of hostilities throughout Europe has lead to the mobilization of the Austrian armed forces. If the situation does not improve, those with legs will also be called up.

RUSSIA-BOARD: Please be gentle with me.

GERMANY-RUSSIA: You asked me to keep Prussia and Silesia open - I did. I forgot to ask you to keep them open also.

BERLIN-FRANCE: Pick Picardy; I don't want to get munched on in Munich.

PARIS: France lies enveloped in complete chaos. While ostensibly her armies are on the march, in reality they are nearly paralyzed by discord, infighting, and mutiny. The once elite central army attempts a move to Burgandy in order to quell growing anti-government riots. Yet, as scattered revolts arise in Marseilles, the southern forces are fleeing into Italy. The fleet, beset by Marxist agitators, sails in a desperate gambit toward the United States. Meanwhile, guerrilla armies roam France at will, while the barricades are thrown up once again in Paris. The president has completely broken down. Will Italian armies be forced to occupy our beloved France? Will civil war destroy our nation? Will France be forced to once again bow under the heel of wretched autocracy - as the rest of oppressed Europe?

RUSSIA-FRANCE: Howdy!

RUSSIA-TURKEY: To quote a player in another game, "Mommy take your crayons?"

BERLIN-WORLD: Any bets that the Cowboys will make the playoffs? They're gonna at least win the NFC east.

GM-BERLIN: I agree that they will make the playoffs, but their chances of taking the division are slim and none. With two games to go, they are tied with the Redskins and the Giants for the lead, both of whom have much better records within the division. In order for the Cowboys to win, they must beat Washington next week and win their final game too and hope the Giants lose one of their remaining two games. If the Cowboys finish in a tie with either the Redskins or the Giants, they lose. If the Giants win their next two games, they take the division. I think the best the Cowboys can hope for is a wildcard spot.

RUSSIA-GM: Hockey? Was ist das Hockey? If there's one sport I know nothing about, it's Hockey. If possible, could you explain the "Power Play" in a little more detail?

GM-RUSSIA: The "Power Play" is a term used to describe the condition that exists on the field of play when one team has an advantage in manpower over the other team. This is usually caused by a player breaking the rules and having to spend some time in the penalty box. The team that has the extra man becomes very aggressive and goes on the offensive while the team that is a man down has no choice but to go on the defensive. This condition usually only exists for a couple of minutes, but it is very exciting and quite often many goals are scored. A parallel can be drawn to the game of Diplomacy, where it takes an advantage in manpower in order to gain a supply center. If enough supply centers (goals) are taken, then the game is won. Perhaps next time we can talk about the "Hat Trick"?

1984 CQ

"PADRES' PENNANT?"

Fall 1902

° Okay guys, I can take a hint. So you want to change the name -- how does HOME RUN sound? I'm not upset, we all know the Padres are the National League champions anyway (heh, heh).

AUSTRIA - Kathy Byrne - A Vie-BOH, A Bud-VIE, A BUL S Italian F CON, F Eas-SMY.
 ENGLAND - Peter Baker - A Bel-NWY(F NTH C), F SWE h, A Lon-YOR, F Eng-LON.
 FRANCE - Russell Wood - A Bur-BEL, A Bre-NAF(F MID C), A Mar-PIE(F LYO S).
 GERMANY - George Graessle - A Hol-KIE, A Ber-PRU(A SIL & F BAL S), A MUN S A SIL.
 ITALY - Marc Peters - A TYO-Pie, A SER S Austrian A BUL, F CON S Austrian F Eas-SMY,
 F Tyh-TUN.
 RUSSIA - Ken Hager - F Stp(sc)-LVN, A GAL-Sil(A WAR S), A RUM S Austrian A BUL,
 F SEV S A RUM.
 TURKEY - Mark Harris - F Bla-ANK, A Smy-Con(dsl, ret Arm, Syr, Otb).

AUSTRIA-FRANCE: Could have fooled me - you look just like Woody, you play just like Woody - you are Woody!

BUDAPEST-PARIS: Have you always had this great ability to act the part of a yoyo? With George as the puppet master, and WOOD for a brain, you won't go far.

ITALY-FRANCE: Russell, Russell, Russell; whatever is to become of you? How on earth did you ever get talked into a three way? Surely you must realize who will profit the most from this, and it ain't you, and it ain't George. Sure, the convoy into Tuscany looks nice, but if you'd look at the long range prospects, you'd see with my two builds this season, and another one coming up next year, you can get nowhere at all. And for Pete's sake, if you're going to attack someone, don't stop writing--it's a dead giveaway. I, A, and R all know the three-way is coming, and will defend accordingly, which means one big standoff. Back off now, Bub, or let George lead you down the path of destruction.

ANKARA-WORLD: It's only natural that Turkey is carved up around Thanksgiving.

TURKEY-AUSTRIA: I know you're looking out for your own best interests, but what happens when I'm gone and Ken and Marc are still allies?

AUSTRIA-TURKEY: Sorry, but I can't afford to watch my rear, I have to go after George and his two lackeys!

AUSTRIA-GERMANY: What's the matter, someone steal your phone.

MARC-GEORGE: Two advocates, all cosy in their three-way bed. News for you, Boy George: You've invited a shark into your bed.

MARC-KATHY: You better know how to write beer commercials! Who could give a better testimonial?!? Beer commercials are the only decent ads on television, anyway.

AUSTRIA-ITALY: I'm almost afraid to ask this - are we still friends?

MARC-KATHY AGAIN: And who are you calling a simple minded antelope, anyway?!? That phrase is exclusive property of Bob "Alfalfa" Olson. Boy, some gratitude I get for using half of my units to support yours!

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA: Your choice, hope you made the right one.

ANKARA-RUSSIA: I am vacating the Black Sea (hopefully), with or without it I still have as much mobility as a toad in a tree.

CONSTANTINOPLE-ITALY: Greetings from the #1 tourist center in the world. The entire crew of your fleet is being taken on a tour of famed Constantinople at no expense to the Italian government. We hope you will extend your stay, and perhaps wish to visit other parts of Turkey. Ankara looks so pretty in Fall of 1903, and Smyrna has a lovely summer all year round.

ITALY-ENGLAND: Happy munching, Peter.

SUPPLY CENTER STATUS

1902

AUSTRIA	- Home, BUL, Gre, SMY	6	build 2
ENGLAND	- Home, Bel, Nwy, SWE	5	even
FRANCE	- Home, BEL, Por, Spa	6	build 1
GERMANY	- Home, Den, Hol	5	even
ITALY	- Home, CON, Ser, TUN	6	build 2
RUSSIA	- Home, Rum	5	even
TURKEY	- Ank, Bul, Con, Smy	1	remove 1

1984 CR

"76ed?"

Fall 1902

° I would like to change the name of this game to SLAM DUNK, if there are no objections.

- AUSTRIA - John Ringhoffer - A VIE-Gal, A BUD-Rum, A Ser S A BUD-Rum(dsl, ret Alb, Otb), F Tri h.
- ENGLAND - Rose Donaghue - F Nth-DEN(A SWE S), F ENG S French A Pic-Bel, F IRI S F ENG.
- FRANCE - Jay Brumbaugh - F BRE-Eng(F MID S), A Pic-PAR, A Gas-SPA.
- GERMANY - Andy Clough - F BAL-Bot, A Mun-SIL(A BER S), A Bur-MUN, A Ruh-KIE, A BEL h.
- ITALY - Ed Jacobs - A Ven-PIE, A Apu-VEN, F ION h(F TUN S).
- RUSSIA - Bob Balinski? - NMR! F BOT h, A MOS h, A WAR h, A GAL h, F RUM h.
- TURKEY - Charles Fargo - A Bul-SER(A GRE S), A Con-BUL, F AEG S A GRE, F EAS S F AEG.

° Will Mike Raymond, 34 Colgate Rd, Beverly, MA 01915 please submit standby orders for Russia?

KAISER-POPE: I'm doing it your way. If I die, it's going to be on your head.

AUSTRIA-ITALY: If there was only a way for all my forests to hide in the Alps and let you, Turkey and Russia fight it out.

TURKEY-AUSTRIA: It has been brought to my attention that you haven't been telling me the whole truth!

TURKEY-RUSSIA: Charge! Before Austria's help arrives.

AUSTRIA-RUSSIA: The Kaiser hopes you realize Galicia rightfully belongs to the Austrian empire.

AUSTRIA-GERMANY: Help will be appreciated.

GERMANY-RUSSIA: Okay, you sleazy commie! I'm coming after you!

FRANCE: As usual, the Anglos and Saxons assume their enemies will capitulate at the first sign of trouble (The Monty Python strategy, "Run away, run away"). Sorry folks, the Franks fight to the death.

ISTANBUL: With a heavy heart, the elite guard of the House of Osman have moved to quell the unrest in Serbia. Fears that our Austrian friend will no longer be able to protect the helpless Serbs from the encroaching Russian and Italian forces have necessitated this move.

TURKEY-ITALY: Nice to hear from you! My reply is in the mail.

AUSTRIA-THE QUEEN: See you in Moscow perhaps?

TURKEY-GM: 11-1! 1984-85 Celts first to break Russell Curse!

GM-TURKEY: Yes, they have gotten off to a fantastic start, but it will all be for not. 76ers all the way!

SUPPLY CENTER STATUS

1902

AUSTRIA	- Home, Ser	3	remove 1
ENGLAND	- Home, DEN, Nwy, SWE	6	build 2
FRANCE	- Home, Por, SPA	5	build 1
GERMANY	- Home, Bel, Den, Hol	5	remove 1
ITALY	- Home, Tun	4	even
RUSSIA	- Home, Rum	5	even
TURKEY	- Home, Bul, Gre, SER	6	build 1

° PREDICTIONS ° Earlier in this issue I made the rash statement that the Cowboys would reach the playoffs. Since I took my sweet time getting this done, we now know that the Cowboys didn't make it. We also know that the Rams and the Raiders have been eliminated. I am going to go out on a limb and predict that not only will they win the NFC, but the 49ers will go onto win the Superbowl. In Basketball, It's a two team horserace. The Celtics and the Sixers are the teams to beat. One of those two teams will become the champions. I'm a great fan of Julius Erving (Dr. J), so I'm pulling for Philly. Hockey is the easiest sport to pick a winner. The Oilers are easily the best in the league and will have no trouble winning the Stanley Cup for the second year in a row.

It's the day after Christmas and I'm just getting around to putting this into the mail. I'm sorry for the delay, but sometimes you just have to get away from it all to put things back into their proper perspective. This was one of those times. I'm sorry that it had to be at your expense, but this was something beyond my control. I tried many times to do it, but I couldn't keep my mind on my work. To complicate matters, I reinjured my right ankle (which I broke earlier in the year) and had to spend some time on my back with my foot elevated above my heart. I tried to do some typing while in this condition, but it didn't work out too good. Christmas was rapidly approaching and I wasn't ready for that either. I was out of control and nothing was getting done. I needed to take time out to get things straightened out. So I did. Thank you for being so patient while I got my stuff all in one bag. I trust all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Because of all the problems I had this month, a lot of things I had planned for this issue didn't get done. The Awful Green Things from Outer Space will return next month along with the much awaited houserule rewrite. Rail Baron didn't get anymore players, so it is hereby terminated. It's just as well because I have seriously been thinking about hanging it up. It's just not as fun as it used to be. In fact, I'm not enjoying it at all. Don't worry, I'll see all the games to conclusion before I depart. ~~With the end of Panther, I could have been out this month, but I still thought there was something there. I was wrong. I don't feel like I am making a worthwhile contribution to the hobby, nor do I feel like my services are appreciated except by a small few. All the fueding and oneupmanship has really turned me off. Unless you make waves, you go unnoticed. There is no reward for doing your job efficiently and quietly. Perhaps I'm in this for all the wrong reasons. The game has become more important than the people in it. I'm sorry for taking my frustrations out on you, but these are some of the things that have been bothering me lately. Hopefully, I'll snap out of it soon and get back to my old self.~~

DEADLINE FOR ALL GAMES IS 2 FEB 1985

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