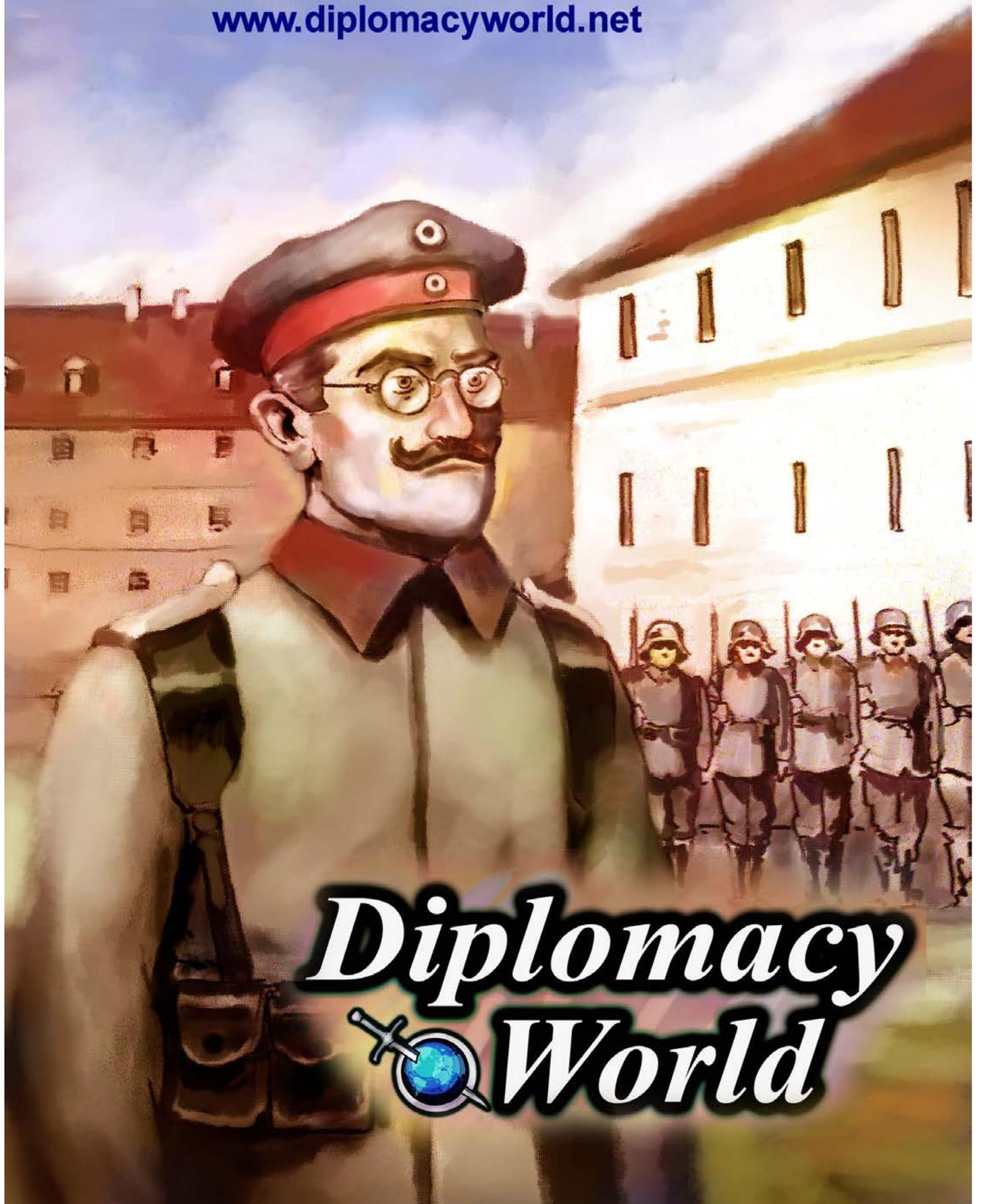


Diplomacy World #129 - Spring 2015 Issue
www.diplomacyworld.net



Diplomacy
 *World*

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of **Diplomacy World**, #129. Spring is here, when a young man's fancy turns to who gets Belgium. And young women too...and older people, and anybody who has sat at a table or a computer trying to decide whether F Lon-Ech is a sneaky way to start Spring 1901, or the defining move that will quickly seal their doom.

In my case, it doesn't much matter; it'll seal my doom no matter what moves I make. Hopefully those of you who read Diplomacy World on a regular basis have learned some tricks of the trade and fare better than the worst Diplomacy player in history (me). I mean, I've been stabbed so many times, pincushions pity me. I've been stabbed by players I didn't even know I was playing against in games I didn't even realize I was a part of!

Fortunately, I've been able to get a lot more out of the hobby than just my horrible track record. I've published a lot of zines, and I've made a lot of friends along the way. If I allow myself to fall into "good old days syndrome" I could go on and on about how much fun the age of paper zines was, and the community of players it built...how you got to know your opponents much better and became friends with a lot more people...but I'm hopeful that a player who enters the hobby in the electronic age finds their own sort of communal ties to the Diplomacy players he or she encounters.

Speaking of friends, Co-Editor and all-around good guy Jim Burgess asked that I cede a portion of this column to his keyboard this time around, so that he could make an important personal announcement. So, I pass the microphone to him....

I need to let everyone know that, unfortunately, I have been diagnosed with Cancer of the Small Intestine. I'm undergoing some successful treatment so far, and I'm staying involved in a variety of Diplomacy games I'm in. But especially after the unsuccessful battle with some cancer in the abdomen that my closest friend in the hobby, Don Williams, had, you can all imagine that the irony and bad luck is quite vivid. I have been maintaining a really positive attitude so far, and Mark Fassio (who also has suffered similar cancer) has been

really supportive. I didn't write any articles in this issue, though I kept up with the Demo Game commentary. And my Diplomacy szine, The Abyssinian Prince, has been running late. In the next issue, TAP #358, that will be up in a couple of days at

<http://www.diplom.org/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html>

will have much more detail on what's been going on. Prayers and good wishes are welcome, but unlike Don, I do not intend on pulling away from anything I'm doing that I enjoy. You all mean a lot to me and I intend to be around for a long time. Thanks, Jim-Bob

I am sure you all wish the best for Jim-Bob...but why not drop him an email and let him know yourself? Here is a guy I consider a close friend, who I have known for over 20 years, and yet I still haven't had occasion to meet him in person. (That's my fault; I'm a hermit). Don't be like me...get out there and enjoy some face-to-face events, meet your fellow hobby members; enjoy a slice of pizza or a glass of whiskey with them before or after a bloodbath. It'll make the experience of being part of the Diplomacy hobby that much more fulfilling. And if your schedule or location doesn't allow much of that, put some personal information in your negotiation emails and ask for the same. Get to know the people you're playing with. It will be worth your time.

Oh, before I forget, please note that the Interview Editor position in Diplomacy World is still open. Of all the Editor spots, that one would be the least intimidating to a lot of you. It's an opportunity to get to know people better, and to expose the rest of us to the genius behind both you and your interview subject! If you're interested, just let me know.

I'll close by reminding you the next deadline for Diplomacy World submissions is July 1st, 2015. Remember, besides articles (which are always prized and appreciated), we LOVE to get letters, feedback, input, ideas, and suggestions too. So email me at diplomacyworld@yahoo.com! See you in the summer, and happy stabbing!

Diplomacy World Staff:

Managing Lead Editor:	Douglas Kent, Email: diplomacyworld of yahoo.com
Co-Editor:	Jim Burgess, Email: jfburgess of gmail.com
Strategy & Tactics Editor:	Joshua Danker-Dake, Email: jadddiplomacy of gmail.com
Variant Editor:	Jack McHugh, Email: jwmchughjr of gmail.com
Interview Editor:	Vacant!!
Club and Tournament Editor:	Will J. Abbott, Email: wabbott9 of gmail.com
Demo Game Editor:	Rick Desper, Email: rick_desper of yahoo.com
Technology Editor:	Thaddeus Black, Email: thaddeus.h.black of gmail.com
Original Artwork	Nemanja Simic, Email: nemanja.painter of gmail.com

Contributors in 2015: Will J. Abbott, Thaddeus Black, Jim Burgess, Joshua Danker-Dake, Rick Desper, Jack McHugh, Christopher Martin, Larry Peery, Simon Portegies Zwart. Add your name to the 2015 list by submitting something for the next issue!

Contributions are welcomed and will earn you accolades and infinite thanks. Persons interested in the vacant staff positions may contact the managing editor for details or to submit their candidacy or both. The same goes for anyone interested in becoming a columnist or senior writer. **Diplomacy** is a game invented by Allan Calhamer. It is currently manufactured by Hasbro and the name is their trademark with all rights reserved.

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Knives and Daggers - The Diplomacy World Letter Column

Yes, we actually have a letter column of sorts this issue. It's not much, but it is more than I've been able to publish for quite some time. When each issue of Diplomacy World is downloaded (and presumably read) by thousands of people each quarter (sometimes over 10,000) you'd think we could generate more than six letters every year. Do you think my sparkling personality has something to do with it?



Larry Peery - THE SEARCH FOR DIP HEROES AND VILLAINS IS ON! --- If you're interested in Diplomacy and Opera I'd like to hear from you. I'm looking for some volunteer collaborators to help me on a project that will match up Diplomacy personalities (past and present) with heroes and villains from the world of

opera. There are lots of heroes out there but finding a good villain is a bit harder. Who is worse, The Commander from The Don or Scarpia in Tosca? Please send a list of your favorite operatic heroes and villains and which Dippers you think match up with them to peery@ix.netcom.com



Roland Clarke - In relation to the Korea story, I am pleased to confirm that Daztur is returned and will continue posting updates once more shortly.

[[Roland is referring to the article "Can a Group of 5th/6th Grade Korean Girls Play Diplomacy and Remain Friends? Of Course They Can!!! By Jim-Bob Burgess" from Diplomacy World #128.]]

Selected Upcoming Conventions

Find Conventions All Over the World at <http://diplom.org/Face/cons/index.php>

2015 CODCon Open – Saturday April 11th 2015 - Sunday April 12th 2015 – Glen Ellyn, Illinois - <http://windycityweasels.org/codcon9>

WDC 2015 (the tournament of style and great food) – Friday May 1st 2015 – Sunday May 3rd 2015 – Milano, Italy - Website: http://www.signoridelgioco.it/index.php?option=com_seminar&Itemid=53

DixieCon 29 – Friday May 22nd 2015 – Sunday May 24th 2015 - Chapel Hill, North Carolina - <http://dixiecon.com>

Weasel Moot IX – Saturday June 13th – Sunday June 14th – Chicago, Illinois – <http://windycityweasels.org/wm9>

Yorkshire DipCon 2015 – Friday June 19th 2015 – Sunday June 21st 2015 - Ferens Hall, The Lawns Centre, The University of Hull, Northgate, Cottingham, East Yorkshire, HU16 5SQ, United Kingdom - <http://www.ukf2fdip.org>

ManorCon / EDC - Friday July 17th 2015 - Monday July 20th 2015 - John Foster Hall, University of Leicester, United Kingdom - <http://www.manorcon.org.uk>

Carnage - Friday November 6th 2015 - Sunday November 8th 2015 - Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, Vermont – <http://www.carnagecon.com>

Standing at the Edge of the Pool: Barriers to Getting into the Hobby

By Joshua Danker-Dake

I have a good friend—let's call him Aaron, because that's his name—who I've gotten interested in Diplomacy. That is to say, he's interested but hasn't yet committed to learning the rules or giving it a try even though he and I both know that he'd love it. I finally asked him why, and he gave me a variety of reasons—the long and short of which is that he thought Diplomacy was too big, too intimidating. The first step is the hardest to take.

"So you're like a little kid standing at the edge of the pool, afraid to jump, with his dad in the water trying to coax him," I said. "Exactly," he said.

This got me thinking about the barriers to getting into the Diplomacy hobby and the conceptions and misconceptions that prospective players have, especially those who would play predominantly online.

I suspect that most of us in the hobby, whether we play online or in person, were invited personally by a friend. Now, any seven guys (or gals) who know each other can get together and play a board game—tagging along one night to give a game a shot with folks you already know doesn't tend to be particularly daunting. But I expect it's more challenging for the online game—most people aren't going to take "Hey, go register on PlayDiplomacy.com and get going" and run with it.

So it seemed good to me to address these issues—not just to compile a link dump of Diplomacy resources, but also to respond directly to the specific concerns about getting started in Diplomacy.

The following are the barriers to getting into Diplomacy as Aaron gave them to me—my personal experience suggests that they're widely applicable.

Barrier: The Diplomacy hobby seems massive and difficult to enter—I would never do it without an invitation.

The invitation, as I've said, is probably pretty standard. And getting an invitation typically includes help with ease of entry. But what if you don't have an invitation?

If you're looking for a face-to-face game, your prospects can be thin indeed if you don't have a personal relationship with one or more players. A Google search for play Diplomacy in Tulsa (where I am), for example, turns up only a lone, five-year-old relevant hit.

Looking for an online game, you run into rather the opposite problem, as a Google search for play Diplomacy gives dozens of relevant links. The best sites mostly float to the top, as they should, but this can be overwhelming for a prospective new player. I recommend PlayDiplomacy.com here, which is probably the most user-friendly site for people who have no clue what they're doing.

(I'm going to be focusing mostly on PlayDiplomacy.com throughout this article—there are plenty of great places to play Diplomacy online, but that's where I typically play, and I think it's got one of the easiest interfaces around.)

Barrier: I would expect that going in as a noob would not be fun. I hate getting crushed and looking foolish, and I rarely trust the kindness of experienced players.

Part of me says, "This is Diplomacy; getting crushed is part of the learning experience." But that in and of itself can be off-putting for a lot of people. After some thought, I think it would be better to say, "getting crushed in a fun and interesting way is part of the Diplomacy learning experience."

Or at least it should be. Yeah, you could have a bad game experience because there are a lot of jerks out there (welcome to the internet), but the truth is, there are a lot of super-kind folks in the hobby. There are veterans who will crush you kindly, offering sincere advice both in- and post-game (I try to be one of these). And there are a lot of kind people over at PlayDiplomacy.com (as well as many other places, of course) who go out of their way to make the game accessible to new players.

Barrier: It's intimidating. I'm afraid it will be confusing, that it's too complex as far as the strategy—teaming up, getting screwed, partnerships, cooperation.

When Aaron told me this, I asked him whether he thought chess was intimidating. He said, "No; chess is impossible to master, but it's very simple to play, and very easy to get into."

You're welcome to disagree, but to me, Diplomacy is the same way. The mechanics are simple: there are only two types of units and only four things they can do. Yet we all know what a complex, nuanced game Diplomacy is—hence our hobby's copious piles of strategy articles.

I think Diplomacy is actually more forgiving than chess to new players because of the human element—you're not competing against one person, but six. The superior chess player is going to beat the inferior player the vast majority of the time, but in Diplomacy, you can do decently well for yourself if you're not flagrantly stupid and the breaks go your way—that is, other players' actions against one another can create opportunities for you. The inverse is true as well, which is why the best Diplomacy players can't rack up winning percentages as ridiculous as those of the best chess players.

As far as the strategy, yes, it's complex, and you can do as much or as little reading as you care to do on the subject. And to those who are scared to try them: I promise, Diplomacy strategy articles are an order of magnitude more reader-friendly than chess articles. But whether that's your bag or not, at the end of the day, there's nothing wrong with jumping right into a game and taking your lumps—that's the best way to learn. Just remember to not take it personally.

Question: Are there games just for beginners?

There are indeed. If jumping right into an unranked game and learning on the fly isn't your thing, there are other options. PlayDiplomacy.com, for example, offers Mentor games, where beginners can play together, learn the game, and learn the interface, all with a veteran player on hand to provide assistance.

Question: Is there an online manual?

Boy, is there. And it's just the tip of the iceberg of Diplomacy literature big enough to sink a fleet of Titanics. You can find the manual here:

<https://www.wizards.com/avalonhill/rules/diplomacy.pdf>

If you're looking for more resources, <http://www.DiplomacyWorld.net> (that's us, kids) is obviously a great place to start—all our back issues are archived there, and there's a great links page to plenty of other worthy hobby sites.

Another great site if you're weird like I am and can't get enough strategy articles is Diplomacy Archive (<http://www.diplomacy-archive.com>), where you'll find an extensive collection of strategy articles, the full text of Richard Sharp's The Game of Diplomacy (an extensive overview of the game's tactics and each power's strengths and weaknesses), and a few articles by Allan B. Calhmer, the game's creator.

PlayDiplomacy.com has a Help page with links to rules and tutorial videos:

<http://www.playdiplomacy.com/help.php>

And here's a walkthrough of the first couple turns of a game with explanations and commentary:

<https://www.sff.net/people/jbailey/diplo.htm>

Question: How long does a typical game last, and how much time per day/week/month do I need to carve out for it?

Playing seven days a week with 24-hour deadlines (which seems to be the most popular choice), a typical game will run four or five weeks. And obviously, if you get eliminated, you don't have to hang around.

But you can find the deadlines that work for you. On PlayDiplomacy.com, for example, you can create your own game with deadlines ranging from every 12 hours to every seven days, and you can choose whether to take the weekends off.

Nearly every game turn is going to require your time and attention, both in terms of communicating with the other players and figuring out your orders. Communication is likely to take more time earlier in the game, while orders will become more time-consuming the better you do. As far as actual minutes invested, the sky is the limit, although for a typical order phase, 20 to 30 minutes isn't unreasonable. Retreats and builds will require considerably less time.

So there you have it. Do you know anybody who would be a good fit for the hobby? Maybe somebody who's interested in giving Diplomacy a try but who hasn't brought themselves to pull the trigger yet? Someone who's standing at the edge of the pool? Hopefully, some of the above can be used to help coax your friend into the water.

But if not, go ahead and just shove 'em in.

[[Joshua is the Diplomacy World Strategy and Tactics Editor. I'll also mention that you can find some interesting strategy articles and discussions if you sift through the Postal Diplomacy Zine Archives at <http://www.whiningkentpigs.com/DW/>]]

Allan Calhamer and the Six Wise Men of Diplomacy

By Larry Peery

In recent issues of DIPLOMACY WORLD and THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH I wrote about the connection between Allan B. Calhamer, the man who created the game Diplomacy, and Henry Kissinger, perhaps the best known diplomat, if not the best practitioner of the diplomatic arts, of the last century.

Now I would like to look at some real life diplomatic historians who may have influenced Allan's work. Admittedly these are not well known names, but even I was surprised at how little known they are among Diplomacy players. I asked a German Diplomacy player if he knew who Fritz Fischer was. "No." I asked an Italian diplomat and Diplomacy player if he knew who Luigi Albertini was. "Nope." Even I had never heard of Bernadotte E. Schmitt. Only "Doc" Binder identified Sidney B. Fay, the diplomatic historian, as the man who inspired Calhamer.

Like many of my writings this one came about while I was researching something else entirely. I was curious to know how many books about WWI had won Pulitzer Prizes. Simple enough, right? Well, not quite. Here's the list:

1921 THE VICTORY AT SEA: THE ALLIED CAMPAIGN AGAINST U-BOATS DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1917 - 1918 by William Sowden Sims in collaboration with Burton J. Hendrick (Doubleday).

1931 THE COMING OF THE WAR 1914 Vols. 1 and 2 by Bernadotte E. Schmitt (Scribner)

1932 MY EXPERIENCES IN THE WORLD WAR 2 Vols. by John J. Pershing (Stokes)

1957 RUSSIA LEAVES THE WAR: SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, 1917-1920 2 Vols. by George F. Kennan (Princeton University Press)

1981 OVER HERE: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND AMERICAN SOCIETY by David M. Kennedy (Oxford) Finalist, not winner.

The first thing I noticed was that the first two books had both been published by major popular publishers that are still around, the third book was published by what we would today call a "vanity press," and the last two had been published by academic presses.

All of these works are available at Amazon.com, often at very good prices. I paid USD6 for an original edition of the Pershing work. If you aren't inclined to read the entire work (NB: Some of these are not easy reading.)

just reading the descriptions and reader reviews on Amazon.com may be useful.

The second thing I noticed was that while I had read the last three books ; I knew nothing about the first two. William Sims was an American admiral (think Alfred T. Mahan) and wrote mostly about the US contribution to the battle against German U-boats. But who was Bernadotte E. Schmitt, I wondered? I assumed, from his name, that he was a European historian. Little did I know. A search on Wikipedia revealed that he was an American diplomatic historian and opened a Pandora's Box that soon became a rubik's cube as I moved from Wikipedia site to Wikipedia site, each one leading me to the next.

But let's step back to begin with Sidney B. Fay (1876-1967), who at least some of you have heard of, because of his connection to Allan B. Calhamer and his role in the creation of Diplomacy.

WWI had barely begun before both sides were hard at work trying to blame the other side for having started the war. Mostly this was done via propaganda and the daily news media, long on patriotism and passion and short on facts and objectivity. About ten years after the end of WWI the historians, having access to some but not all, of the facts and official documents began to have their say about who was responsible for the War's out-break.

Fay was the acknowledged leader of the "revisionist" school that also included Harry Elmer Barnes and others. The Revisionists believed, to put it as simply as I can, that Serbia and Russia were culpable and responsible for the outbreak of the War. Fay's original work, The Origins of the World War first appeared in 1928 and was revised in 1930. It won him a Beer Prize.

Arrayed on the other side of the argument were the members of the "orthodox" school represented by Bernadotte E. Schmitt (1886-1969), Luigi Albertini and Pierre Renouvin. Schmitt's work, The Coming of the War, 1914, was also published in 1930 and won him a Beer Prize, as well as a Pulitzer Prize. Schmitt insisted that Germany had indeed been largely responsible for the catastrophe. The battle was on!

While Fay and Schmitt were the main protagonists; the works of Barnes, Albertini and Renouvin should not be ignored and the three men are fascinating in their own right. All of these men have write-ups of their own in Wikipedia and you can learn more about their works on Amazon.com. For anyone seriously interested in any of them I suggest reading their obituaries in the New York Times or academic journals.

Harry Elmer Barnes (1889-1968) was born in New York and died in California. He got his Ph.D. at Columbia and taught there for a while. His writing skills and photographic memory resulted in more than 30 books, 100 essays, and 600 articles and book reviews. His controversial ideas made him popular, at least in some quarters, but his practice of Holocaust denial cost him his academic credibility by the 1950s.

Luigi Albertini (1871-1941) was born in Ancona, Italy, and died in Rome. After studying law at the University of Turin, Albertini was an influential Italian historian, journalist and politician. His seminal work was *The Origin of the War of 1914* (3 volumes) published in 1942-1943. The book gained worldwide fame primarily because it was based on interviews with many of the key participants in the events leading up to WWI and because it was translated into English in 1953.

Pierre Renouvin (1893-1974) was born in Paris, France, and died in Paris. His two main relevant works were *Les formes du gouvernement de guerre* in 1925 and *Les Origines immédiates de la guerre* (28 juin – 4 août 1914), also in 1925. In his works Renouvin demolished German claims for non-responsibility for the First World War and compared the history of France and Germany and how democracy survived in the one but disappeared in the other. His works provoked a strong response from Barnes, a German apologist, who claimed that it was France and Russia who were the aggressors in the July Crisis of 1914.

For the record Fay studied at Harvard, where he got his Ph.D., the Sorbonne and the University of Berlin before a teaching career that took him to Dartmouth, Smith, Harvard (where he met Calhmer) and Yale. Fay's conclusion was that all the European powers shared in the blame, but most of all the system of secret alliances that divided Europe after the Franco-Prussian War into two mutually suspicious camps of group solidarity, Triple Alliance against Triple Entente but that Austro-Hungary, Serbia and Russia were primarily responsible for the immediate cause of the war's outbreak. In Fay's opinion other factors included: militarism, nationalism, the economics of imperialism and the newspaper press.

Schmitt got his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, spent most of his teaching career at the University of Chicago and in addition to his Beer and Pulitzer prizes was the first editor of the *Journal of Modern History* (1929-1946) and President of the American Historical Association (1960-?). Worth reading is his address to the

AHA, "With How Little Wisdom," which can be found on line.

When looking at the works I've mentioned and the arguments put forth in them it's important to keep in mind that "The Truth" about the origins of WWI did not just appear. It took nearly a generation for the various waves of information to be revealed: first in propaganda and newspapers; second in the academic histories and personal memoirs; and third in the release of various official documents and "secret agreements."

Finally, just as it seemed everything there was to say or write about the origins of The Great War had appeared, a fairly young German historian named Fritz Fischer (1908-1999) who studied at the University of Berlin and the University of Erlangen, joined and then quit the Nazi Party and served in the German Army in WWII. After the war he became a professor at the University of Hamburg and in the 1960s published his most important work, *Germany's Aims in the First World War*, which caused a huge uproar in Germany and turned the discussion of the origins of WWI back into a hot topic among academics and politicians. Fischer's research was heavily based on work in the Archives of the Central Powers and although controversial it pretty much rewrote the book on the subject. Based on that one book he has been described as the most important German historian of the 20th century.

Still, the debate has refused to die and both Fay and Schmitt have their supporters even now. Modern-day historian Christopher Clark has followed in Fay's footsteps; and no doubt with the Centennial of WWI upon us there will be more popular and scholarly works written on the origins of the War as well as the War itself. Read and enjoy.

We know that Fay's ideas had a major impact on the design of Diplomacy because Calhmer told us so. However, we don't know if he read the works of any of the other authors I've mentioned. I tend to think not because Allan wasn't, to be honest, the kind of person to do that kind of academic research in the amounts required. But it is interesting to speculate on how the design of Diplomacy might have been different if he had read them.

So the next time you're sitting around a table or bar at a DipCon or World DipCon and things are getting dull, ask your drinking friends if they've read anything by Fay, Schmitt, Barnes, Albertini, Renouvin or Fischer lately. It may not get you any dots but it will certainly get you a call from Nathan Barnes.

Club and Tournament Report

By Will J. Abbott

It's tournament and convention season! We have already had a couple of events this year in the United States, and we have some more coming up throughout the world. As always, we're happy to give your event free publicity-- just let us know!

The next convention is April 11-12, CodCon, in Glen Ellyn, IL, with the Diplomacy tournament run by the Windy City Weasels. After that is WorldDipCon in Milan, Italy, May 1-3. DixieCon is happening May 22-24 in Chapel Hill, NC. Origins will be June 3-7 in Columbus, OH. Weasel Moot follows, June 13-14 in Chicago. You can then go across the Atlantic to play in the Yorkshire DipCon June 19-21. ManorCon hosts the European DipCon July 17-20. August will bring at least four more conventions, and two more are on the schedule for October.

One of those is a new tournament. Necronomicon Florida is October 9-11 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida. I am currently planning to run a Diplomacy tournament there – likely the first one in its history. Since it is taking place during a broader

convention, it will be designed to be very friendly to new tournament players and those wanting to do other things at the convention.

The scoring system will be a modification of C-Diplo. Each game will be scored according to this system, except the final board, which determines positions 1-7. Each player counts only one round, and the best seven performances qualify for the final board. By only counting the one round, this tournament will give a chance to win even to those who want to play other games over the convention. Think of it as a tournament with one fewer drop rounds than overall rounds, plus a separate final board.

If you are looking for a different tournament this year, prefer the warmth of Florida, or just have nothing better to do that weekend, come on by! For more details, please email me at centralfdip of gmail dot com.

[[Will is the Diplomacy World Club and Tournament Editor.]]

Ask the GM

By The GM

Dear GM,

I am not sure what face to face conventions I should go to—I can only afford to go to one, which one should it be?

Sincerely,
An Indecisive Player

Dear Indecisive,

Most of the cons listed in DW are very good but you should always go World Dip Con so you can hobnob with the greatest Diplomacy players, or at least, the greatest Diplomacy egos. Failing that your national DipCon is usually a good bet.

Of course any con where The GM goes is a great con... sadly my identity must remain secret so that I'm not over run by my fans and to enable to fight crime as a superhero.

*Your Pal,
The GM*

Dear GM,

I don't like you and I think your column is a bunch of made up crap designed to make you look good.

Signed,
Your Editor.

Dear Editor,

You're lucky you have me—quit your bitching and go back to editing Perriblah.

And I love you and want to have your baby

*Your Pal,
The GM*

An Interview with Tobias Florin of the German-Language Diplomacy Website

by Thaddeus Black

German-speaking Diplomacy players have been stabbing one another on Diplomacy's Website (<http://www.diplomacy.s-website.de/>) with such enthusiasm that the din and clatter of battle have drawn *Diplomacy World's* attention. Over on Diplomacy's Website, we find that adjudication is automated. German-speaking players log into a Web interface to conduct negotiations, enter orders and receive results. Play is gratis; there is no charge.

Moderator Tobias Florin of Diplomacy's Website has observed us on Diplomacy's Website as we look and wander about. Greeting us, he has kindly granted *Diplomacy World* an interview.

Diplomacy World (DW): Please tell us a little about Diplomacy's Website.

Tobias Florin (TF): Diplomacy's Website was founded by owner Stefan Behrendt in 2009. It is based on WebDiplomacy (<http://www.webdiplomacy.net/>), but was converted into the German language. The software not only offers a web interface for Diplomacy fans but also provides the facility to play Diplomacy games on the website itself. All adjudication is done by the system, so no GMs are needed. Typically, phases have a length of one or two days, but longer periods or live games are possible, too. There is a small collection of variants, as well.

During the last five years, more than 2000 users have registered on Diplomacy's Website. We have an active member base of more than 100 users and around 50 active games running at the moment. Therefore, Diplomacy's Website is probably the biggest German-language Diplomacy platform, though our usage is of course nothing compared to the usage on some big English-language platforms.

DW: But to be bigger is not always to be better, is it? Also, 50 active games seems a fairly large number.

TF: Yes, bigger is not always better. But a bigger group of active players means a higher chance to meet different opponents and different play styles, which makes the game just more manifold. In addition, one can get games started more easily in a bigger group, especially games that do not have the most common configurations.

Currently, I do not see any disadvantages with the number of players we have. On the other hand, the large number we have shows the attractiveness of

Diplomacy's Website for many German Diplomacy fans. Since many members are more or less new to Diplomacy, I suppose that Diplomacy's Website makes a nice contribution to sustain the Diplomacy hobby in the German language.

DW: What is your role at Diplomacy's Website?

TF: I am a moderator on Diplomacy's Website and assist the owner in maintaining the website.

The main task of the moderation team is to answer users' questions concerning the game and the platform. We also have to treat cheating—metagaming and multi-accounting—which fortunately happens only very rarely on this platform.

Besides moderating, I am currently working with others on a large update for the website.

DW: Do moderator's duties consume much of your time?

TF: Fortunately, Diplomacy's Website is still small enough that my task as moderator is not really time consuming. Issues do arise to the moderator's attention once every few weeks or so, but so long as moderation is not neglected, the moderator's duties do not take too much time.

DW: How did you become involved?

TF: As you probably know, Diplomacy is not the most popular board game. Finding seven friends willing to play a round of Diplomacy was quite difficult for me. Therefore, I searched for online platforms to play Diplomacy and finally joined Diplomacy's Website in 2010. After playing a few months, I became more and more interested in developing variants and other extensions for the platform.

In autumn 2013, the situation on Diplomacy's Website grew a bit chaotic, when the site's administration was neglected for time reasons. A friend of mine, who was also playing on Diplomacy's Website, then asked the owner if we could assist him as moderators, and he agreed.

DW: Does Diplomacy's Website differ from other German-language Diplomacy forums? If so, how?

TF: As far as I know, Diplomacy's Website is the only German-language website that focuses on playing

Diplomacy per browser. We do not play by e-mail (PBEM), but communication and the entering of orders happens on the platform itself. (See the screenshot.)

Of course, PBEM is not bad, but it is a different variant; and, in my view, a complete and user-friendly web interface is more attractive—especially for new Diplomacy players, who lack experience with postal or online Diplomacy.

The screenshot displays the Diplomacy website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for various countries: Global, Frankreich, Italien, Deutsches Reich, Österreich Ungarn, Osmanisches Reich, and Russland. Below these, the user's name 'Deutsches Reich seb-234' and a resource indicator 'Beslegt. Einsatz: 10' are visible. A list of messages from May 13 and 14, 2012, is shown, discussing military movements and support requests. A 'Senden' button is located below the messages. At the bottom of the screenshot is a map of Europe for Autumn 1901, with various regions and cities labeled, and arrows indicating military movements.

Screenshot: Negotiation, planning and adjudication at Diplomacy's Website.

DW: Good point. Do you happen to have played postal Diplomacy?

DW: Is the culture at Diplomacy's Website distinctive in any way about which you would like to tell us?

TF: No, I never have—which might be related to the fact that postal Diplomacy was just before my time.

TF: Unlike the other German-language Diplomacy forums, Diplomacy's Website has many young members

and many beginners, and the playing style might be a bit more casual than on other platforms. Therefore, Diplomacy's Website is quite beginner-friendly.

DW: Who can play at Diplomacy's Website? Who should?

TF: Of course, everybody is welcome on Diplomacy's Website. However, one should not expect to meet many hard-core Dippers. As I have before stated, many players on our platform are inexperienced. Not many of our users know about official tournaments, or are even listed in international rankings or national-championship standings. If you are experienced and you seek challenging Diplomacy games, then you should probably take a look at other German forums, where the majority of players have been playing Diplomacy for several years. However, if you are new to Diplomacy, or just want to play a few quick rounds of Diplomacy, then Diplomacy's Website is probably the best choice in the German language. The level of Diplomacy is not that high in general, but there are also some very experienced players, so new members can learn Diplomacy well yet retain realistic chances to win a game.

DW: Do your experienced players sometimes, or usually, form and play their own, private games on Diplomacy's Website? Or do they usually prefer to play with the beginners?

TF: The private games on Diplomacy's Website are normally real private games, games each just between a group of friends. I suppose that our player base is still too small to support private games between experienced players only.

DW: Some online players also attend face-to-face tournaments, whether in German, in English or in another language. For example, many attended David Hood's World Diplomacy Championship, North Carolina, May 2014 (though I do not believe that many Germans were present at that particular tournament). Do you attend face-to-face tournaments? If so, then how would you compare the face-to-face experience against that of Diplomacy's Website?

TF: I have only attended the BerliCon last autumn, a face-to-face tournament in Berlin and by chance the German Face-to-Face Diplomacy Championship of 2014, too.

My experience over there was very different from the experience of Diplomacy's Website. The difference was first of all due to the face-to-face aspect. Looking into your opponent's eyes while negotiating is wholly different from looking at just a small text box on your computer screen—especially with experienced players, who just hit the nail with their questions, so to speak, and leave

you no time to react and adapt. In addition, the time span to negotiate and develop strategies face-to-face is of course much shorter compared to the game phases of a common online game. Therefore, I found that a face-to-face tournament is much more exciting and stressful than a normal Diplomacy round at Diplomacy's Website is.

I would definitely recommend that everybody who knows only online Diplomacy take part at such a face-to-face tournament, since such a tournament offers quite a different experience than online Diplomacy does.

DW: Not all Diplomacy players like online tournaments, but many do. Has Diplomacy's Website hosted a tournament?

TF: From time to time, one or another of our users starts an internal tournament played on Diplomacy's Website, but only a few players (15 at max) attend those tournaments. There has been no really big tournament hosted by Diplomacy's Website itself, but we have a player ranking for those interested in comparing their own achievements against the achievements of others.

DW: Do the rules of the game as implemented on Diplomacy's Website differ from the rules as implemented by WebDiplomacy? If so, and if the difference is interesting, then how do the rules differ?

TF: Since WebDiplomacy and Diplomacy's Website use the same software, there is no difference between the implemented rules on the two sites.

DW: You have mentioned that you are currently working with others on a large update for the website. Would you like to tell us a little about the update, or is it too early to ask?

TF: The update does not offer anything new. We have just decided to update the site's outdated software to the current state of VDiplomacy (<http://www.vdiplomacy.com/>), which is another website that uses the WebDiplomacy software, since VDiplomacy's owner has added many nice features that enhance the Diplomacy-playing experience. With the update, our players will for example be able to set many more parameters during game creation—parameters that will offer, amongst others, the possibilities to progress only on particular days per week or (if you do not prefer random allocation) to choose one's starting country.

For us, most of the work to update consists of translating the whole site again from English into German, since the initial German translation on Diplomacy's Website is unfortunately hard-coded in software and therefore bound to the current version.

DW: In some English-language Diplomacy forums, too many beginners abandon their positions. Are German beginners more reliable in your experience? Also, does Diplomacy's Website replace abandoning players in the same manner WebDiplomacy does, or differently?

TF: I doubt that you can find any difference in the reliability of beginners based on their language, so of course if somebody got tired of Diplomacy after a few rounds, he would just abandon. We have those players on Diplomacy's Website, too.

But the software update I have described also offers a solution for this problem. In contrast to WebDiplomacy, where abandoned positions are opened for replacement after two NMRs in a row, our update will let the game's creator decide that abandoned positions be opened for replacement after the first NMR. Alternately, our update will let the game's creator stipulate that the game be

extended automatically when orders are missing, so that no NMR can occur.

In addition, there will be a rating that reduces the number of games you can play if you are too unreliable, a rating you can improve by taking over open positions. This also means that open positions will be filled, even if the chances to win are very low; and therefore that abandoned positions (which cannot be avoided, if you want beginners to take part) will not have a very big impact on the game and its balance any more.

DW: That concludes our interview. Thank you.

If you read and write German, then sharpen a steel blade and bring it along to Diplomacy's Website, <http://www.diplomacy.s-website.de/>. They would be glad to have your supply centers.

2015 NADF Masters Invitational Final Report

By Christopher Martin

A total of 28 people gathered in Gulf Shores, Alabama over the MLK holiday weekend for the 3rd NADF Masters Invitational. After three rounds of no-time-limit diplomacy, Robert Premus emerged the winner. This was Robert's second Masters, and the victory is a fine addition to a string of good results he has achieved over the last few years. He joins the august company of Edi Birsan and Adam Sigal as Masters Invitational Champions. The 19 qualified players in attendance were joined by Yann Clouet, who was in country visiting New Orleans, and Tournament Director Matt Shields. Due to illness on Sunday, Matt had to play on two boards - about which more below.

FORMAT

This event used "the Paris method" for power selection. Normally reserved for top boards in tournaments it uses the rankings of the players to determine, first, the order in which players will pick their powers, and second, power selection. Generally, people were pleased with this, and I feel the spirit of the event - great players gathering to duke it out - was embodied by the use of this method rather than either a TD creating boards manually or a random draw. One change I would definitely make to the system was in who gets to select

first. We used the ranking of all players coming into the event as the seed for the first round, and then position in the tournament in the second and third round, with the lowest ranking players getting the worst position in the draw. In the future, I would use the opposite - give the lowest ranked players the best position in the draw, on the theory that the really good players will be able to succeed regardless of the power or their neighbors. After the event, some potential problems with using this method (that happily did not manifest in this event) were pointed out to me, and I will be working on ways to mitigate them the next time around.

COSTS

Costs were very reasonable for the Friday -> Monday event. The total spent was \$8,438.42. Shared among the 23 paying attendees, that came to \$362.97 each. Included in that amount was lodging for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 full meals + snacks and desserts, transportation to/from the Pensacola airport, and an iconic NADF polo shirt. All attendees split all costs equally, despite some not requiring transport or desiring a shirt - this was balanced, in my opinion, by the lack of an entry fee for the event. Here are the cost breakdowns:

House Rental	Van Rental	Chefs	Groceries	Shirts
\$3,458.50	\$677.58	\$2,500.00	\$1,230.07	\$482.27

We had four chefs working on site, and this proved to be barely adequate - they all worked far too hard to produce

the delicious and nutritious meals. Despite some attendees initial concerns about the food, it turned out to

be one of the high points of the event, . Several people observed that staying on site and having meals together was a definite plus.

POST-EVENT SURVEY

After the event was over, I sent out a 10-question survey to attendees. I'll summarize the results below, and I think this is something that more tournament directors should do after an event - getting good feedback from the people who attend is a great way to improve your event. I'll also be sending out a survey to qualifiers who did not attend - looking to find out how I can better encourage folks to come in 2017.

- 1) Overall, how would you rate the event (16 responses)
 - a) Excellent: 11
 - b) Very Good: 3
 - c) Fairly Good: 2
- 2) How organized was the event (16 responses)?
 - a) Extremely Organized: 6
 - b) Very Organized (9)
 - c) Somewhat Organized (1)
- 3) Was the event better, worse, or about what you expected (16 responses)?
 - a) A great deal better: 1
 - b) Quite a bit better: 5
 - c) Somewhat better:3
 - d) About what was expected: 7
- 4) Prior to the event, how much needed information did you get (16 responses)?
 - a) All of the information: 10
 - b) Most of the information: 5
 - c) Some of the information: 1
- 5) How much value for the money was the event (15 responses)?
 - a) A great deal of value: 8
 - b) A lot of value: 5
 - c) A moderate amount of value: 2
- 6) How well-structured was the event (16 responses)?
 - a) Extremely well-structured: 7
 - b) Quite well-structured: 8
 - c) Moderately well-structured: 1
- 7) How would you rate the venue/location (16 responses)?
 - a) Excellent: 7
 - b) Very good: 4
 - c) Good: 4
- 8) Is there anything else you would like to share about the event?
 - a) Responses included (edited for brevity):

- i) The pool was useless - but everything else was great.
- ii) Keep the event in warm places!
- iii) Having friends/family prepare food was awkward
- iv) I was skeptical about Alabama, but it turned out great.
- v) Possibly too remote / too many trips to the airport
- vi) Menu surveys should have gone out over email a week before the event

Great feedback, and some very constructive comments. The two other questions were more open.

- 9) What did you like about the Masters Invitational
 - a) Responses included,
 - i) Communal Atmosphere
 - ii) Delicious Food
 - iii) Excellent Venue
 - iv) Well Organized
 - v) Value for the price
- 10) What did you dislike about the Masters Invitational?
 - a) Responses included:
 - i) Someplace with more direct flight options / closer to a major airport
 - ii) Lack of awards other than winner
 - iii) Not enough room to spread out if event was larger
 - iv) Food/cook situation was not ideal
 - v) Paying for expenses (Van, shirts) not used
 - b) Humorous responses included:
 - i) Not winning
 - ii) Organizer an asshole (Maybe not humorous)
 - iii) Someone drank my beer (Also maybe not humorous)

As an organizer, I felt that the most contentious elements were the participation of "non-qualified players" (Yann Clouet and Matt Shields), and having family/friends as chefs.

LOOKING BACK

For the chefs, I initially sought professionals to cater the event. I was unable to find anyone whose bona fides I trusted - I believe that most of the area caterers are set

up for summer business, as is reasonable for the area. The decision to go with friends/family for food preparation was not made lightly, and presented different challenges. There were several advantages to this choice. We undoubtedly saved a great deal of money, even after paying the chefs exactly what was budgeted for professionals. Several people commented on how awesome they thought the food was, and that having friends/family support the event made for a better sense of community as there were no "outsiders" present at the event. In preparing and executing the meal plans, communication was made easier by pre-existing relationships.

However, there were problems. There was too much work for the number of people in the kitchens. Four people worked more than 30 hours each between arriving Friday and leaving Monday morning. They didn't get to participate in the event in the same way as other, non-diplomacy playing attendees, which I had thought would be one of the advantages of having them as chefs. Some attendees felt uncomfortable having friends and family working while they were playing. In the future, I will take all this into account. On balance, I felt that the general idea of having members of the community prepare the food was a good one. Having more people participate in the prep and cleanup stages would have gone a long way towards improving the overall happiness of all involved, and the lessons learned from this event will make planning for future events more focused and, I am convinced, productive.



LOOKING AHEAD

In the three times I have held this event, I haven't been able to get to a perfect multiple of seven players, and every year, someone has had to play on two boards, at least once. I know that having players who cannot win negatively impacts the quality of the event, and I intend to modify the structure of the event to ensure that a round multiple of seven players are in attendance in the future.

Two good suggestions were made to me after the event:

- Allowing the TD to invite non-qualified players from among players who they know will meet the quality of play desired. Perhaps there is some other rubric, such as a top 3 finish in a tournament of X size in the last Y years, but functionally, it would mean inviting high-caliber players who were not regularly attending tournaments in the last two years, or whose results didn't make the cut.
- Creating a lottery system, along the lines of the Ironman World Championships - non-qualified athletes can purchase lottery tickets, the proceeds from which are used to subsidize the event and reduce overall costs. Two weeks after the final NADF event has concluded, 7-X spots will be awarded by random draw. These attendees then participate on the same footing as those who qualified through play.

I'm sure there are other good ideas about this out there, I'd love to hear suggestions.

Finally, the most important event of the weekend was the 2015 Fantasy Diplomacy draft. Check out www.diplomacycast.com for updates!

A big thanks and shout out to everyone who helped make the 2015 Masters Invitational a great event! See you again in 2017!

December 7, 1931: A Day Like Any Other Day; Well, Not Quite

By Larry Peery

December 7, 1931 was a day like most days. Nobody famous got married, but nobody famous got divorced either.

Nobody famous was born, but nobody famous died either. Well, maybe not quite.

What was the world like on December 7th, 1931; and why would it become a day we should be celebrating? Read on and find out.

The world was recovering from The Great War or "The War to End All Wars" as historians were beginning to call it, but already the clouds of an even greater war were gathering.

Few people outside of Manchuria had heard of Chinchow or Jinzhou, a town in Liaoning Province, on 7 December, 1931 but it was very much on the mind of Chang Hsueh-liang, a Chinese warlord and ally of Chiang Kai-shek who was military governor of Manchuria. On that morning the Japanese Army launched an offensive that would come to be known as the "Mukden Incident" and eventually lead to the Second Sino-Japanese War. Still, the situation remained unclear as the 7 December, 1931 issue of The New York Times reported: "Observers Deny Tales of Chinese Activities; Agree That Railways Have Not Been Used to Transport Troops to Chinchow. At least that's why a special cable to the NY Times said and the Print Headline reported.

On December 7, 1931, Dennis "The Don" Bradman, considered by many to be the best professional sportsman of all time, scores 219 in a Test between NSW and South Africa that lasted 234 minutes and included 15 fours.

The December 7, 1931 newspapers in Europe and North America were filled with stories like this: "Hitler's Boldness Astounds Germans; His Assumption to Speak for Nation on Foreign Policy Puts Bruening in a Dilemma. 'NAZI' Rule Meld Unlikely Party Has Never Been Able to Cut Into Radical Vote or Win Prussian Support. Definite Program Lacking Fascist Leader Admits He Would Have to Follow Course Like That Forced on Present Cabinet. Bruening's Friends Stunned. Nazis Need Socialist Votes. Bruening Support Wavers.

Few newspapers anywhere reported on a story published in on 7 December, 1931 Germany indicating that Nazis would ensure "Nordic dominance" by sterilizing certain races.

On 7 December, 1931, newspaper headlines in Lima, Peru trumpeted: "Peru Holds 23 as Rebels.; Prisoners Are Accused of Aiding in Attempt Friday. 23 held as rebels."

At home on December 7, 1931 the Associated Press reported: "Legion Head Assails Paring on Defenses: Stevens Says Army and Navy Have Been Cut Beyond Point of Nation's Needs." Baton Rouge, LA --- Henry L. Stevens, Jr. of North Carolina, national commander of the American Legion today voiced an appeal for full American naval strength under the terms of the London Treaty and an increase in the standing army as...

America was having its ups and downs in 1931. On the upside The Empire State Building in New York City was completed and open for tenants. On 7 December, 1931, down the street at 52nd St. and the Hudson River, the 27-story River House co-op opened its doors to perspective buyers. The lowest priced co-op was available for \$25,000. Today a unit goes for a minimum of \$4,000,000. Henry and Nancy Kissinger still live down the hall from one of the lesser Rothschilds. On the downside the great drought that would create the Dust Bowl and the bad farming techniques of Midwest and Great Plains farmers were combining to cause a national disaster.

On December 7, 1931, John Nance Garner became the 44th Speaker of the House of Representatives and graced the cover of Time Magazine. Two years later he became Franklin Roosevelt's vice president, a post he held until 1941. As Christmas, 1931 approached The Good Earth by Pearl Buck was a best seller in book stores across the country, Frankenstein with Boris Karloff and Possessed with Joan Crawford were big at the movies, and Bing Crosby was number one on the hit parade.

How much did things cost in 1931? The average cost of a new house was \$6,790. The average wages per year were \$1,850. The cost of a gallon of gas was outrageously high --- 10 cents a gallon. The cost to rent a house was \$18 a month. A loaf of bread cost 8 centers. A pound of hamburger meat 11 cents. An alarm clock cost \$3.50. And the average price of a new car was \$640.

On 7 December, 1931, Max Valdyne Peery of Nelson, Nebraska (population 532) told his older sister at his eighth birthday party that "When I get older I'm going to run away from home, join the Navy and see the world." He also made her promise not to tell anyone. On 7

December, 1941, S2c Max Peery died on the USS Arizona.



In Detroit, the last of the Ford Model As was rolling off the assembly line on 7 December, 1907. Nearly five million of the cars would be sold for from \$385 to \$1,400 by the time production ended. At its peak the Model A was being manufactured in over 20 plants on five continents. The 4-cylinder car would be followed by an 8-cylinder Model B V8.

In Chicago, on 7 December 1931 a freezing, cheering crowd of 18,000 gathered at Wrigley Stadium under an open sky with a grass field to watch the Chicago Bears beat the Green Bay Packers. The Bears scored 7 points in the first quarter and the Packers scored 6 in the second quarter; and that was it.

Proving that crime doesn't pay, or maybe it does, on 7 December, 1931 Al Capone was serving day 51 of an 11 year prison sentence for tax evasion at Atlanta Penitentiary while he waited for his new digs to be finished on Alcatraz Island. In 1923 Capone purchased a two-flat home in the Chicago working-class

neighborhood of Grand Crossing for \$5,500. The house is currently on the market for \$450,000, more than double current prices in the area. On the other hand, a 10,000 square foot, 7-bedroom estate on Palm Island in Miami Beach complete with pool, private beach and dock recently sold for \$8,500,000. Capone bought it in the early 1920s for \$40,000 and added many features, including a guard house.

Finally, for those of you who were wondering when I was ever going to get to the point I have: It's quite simple: Allan B. Calhamer was born on 7 December, 1931 not too far from where Capone lived and is buried.

And with that introduction I would like to propose an event I will call "A World Wide Day to Celebrate Diplomacy." And because this year the 7th of December falls on a Monday, I suggest it be held on the 6th of December.

The purpose of the event is simple enough: to help grow the world wide hobby and to celebrate its fifty-plus years of existence.

Without going into a lot of specifics here is my idea:

- 1) The event will be held simultaneously on the same day worldwide over a twenty-four hour period (local time).
- 2) All events will use a common set of rules for play.
- 3) Adjudications will occur simultaneously.
- 4) Results will be announced simultaneously.
- 5) A common scoring system will be used.
- 6) All events will be coordinated by one "command central."
- 7) A common PBEM system using a common scoring system will allow internet play at the same time.

At this point I have no specific procedural rules in mind. I just want to find out how much support there is for the concept. If it seems warranted then we can go forward with the nitty-gritty of planning and organizing the event (and won't that be fun ☺).

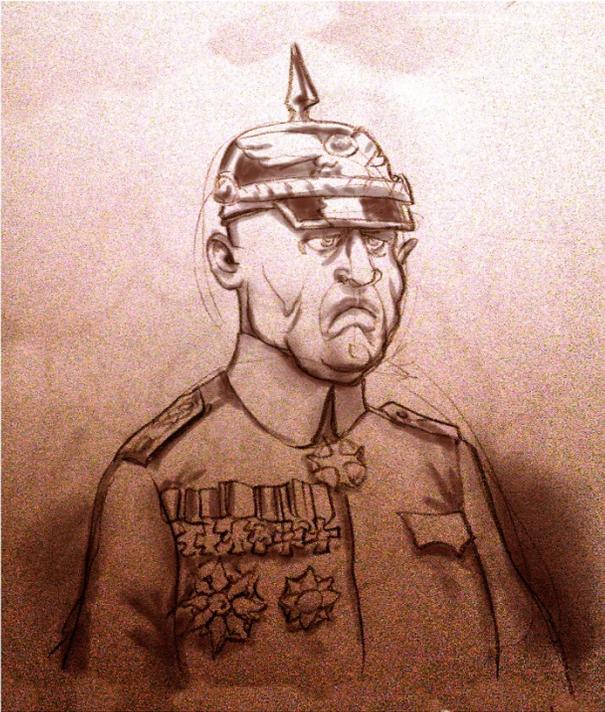
If you like the idea and/or would like to participate please contact me sooner rather than later.

The First Computer Diplomacy Challenge

by: **Simon Portegies Zwart** - Professor of Computational Astrophysics
Leiden Observatory, Leiden, the Netherlands

The neural network of biological systems is composed of sensors that monitor changes both in and outside the body, an integrative function that interprets changes and a responds to the interpretations. The Human brain is not fundamentally different than that of any other mammal. Still intelligence is often attributed to Humans only. It is not clear what makes this enormous difference; is it the size, the complexity, or something else.

One way to try understanding this difference is by reproducing a brain in the computer. This is done by implementing the appropriate software in the computer hardware to mimic the brain, but the size is so overwhelming that even the biggest computers can emulate at most the little brains of our purring friends.



Thinking (using the biological brain) about how we can monitor, develop and improve a computer brain requires the possibility of doing controlled laboratory experiments. There are many environments in which external stimuli can be monitored and interpreted, but they generally are unsuitable for controlled experiments in which reward and punishment can be invoked integral as a natural part of the learning and operational processes.

Examples of such environments are often games such as connect four, tic-tac-toe and chess. In these games the external stimuli are mediated by strategies that fail or succeed. The crucial communication aspect needed to develop the brain are completely missing in these games.

Recently the Poker card game has been addressed effectively with computer algorithms (Science Vol. 347, pp. 145-149, 2015), but the random aspect of the game renders it in a number-crunching computer exercise rather than a form of intelligence. Though smartly designed it can hardly be called an artificial intelligence.

The game of Diplomacy has a number of attractive aspects. It lacks randomness and there is a crucial need to communicate, collaborate, and it has interesting strategic aspects. A computer program that misses any of these will be an jeopardy when juxtaposed with other 'players' in an actual game, except of the other players have a similar deficits. We therefore think that the game of Diplomacy is excellently suited for studies on artificial intelligence.

To start a global discussion and to organize the community we therefore organize the Computer Diplomacy Challenge. In this contest programs (we call them "bots") play against themselves and others to win the game. Bots should have a strong strategic engine, but they are also required to communicate, make deals and alliances.

We organize the first Computer Diplomacy Challenge, and we encourage you to compete against our bots, and those submitted by others. The challenge is organized as a part of the Advances in Computer Games Conference and in particular of the Computer Olympiad held at that conference.

We challenge you to submit your champion Diplomacy bot.

Date: July 1

Location: museum Boerhave, Leiden, The Netherlands

URL: https://icqa.leidenuniv.nl/?page_id=987

Youngstown IV – Diplomacy World Demo Game – 2013Cxm03 – “Reasonland”

The Players:

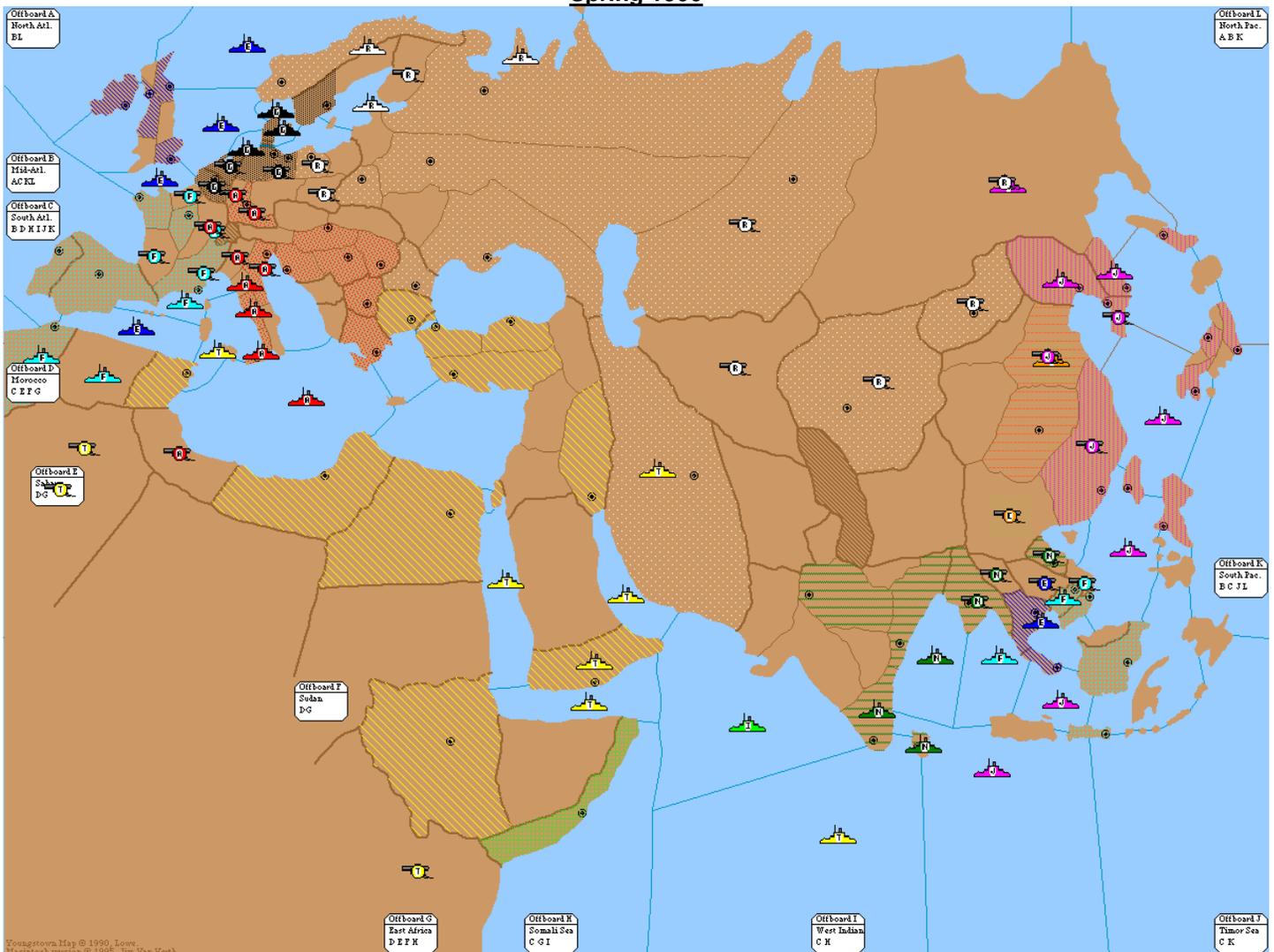
Austria: Andrew Leavey
 China: Tim Haffey
 England: Graham Wilson
 France: Larry Peery
 Germany: ~~Andy Bate~~/David Partridge
 India: ~~Heath Gardner~~/Harold Reynolds
 Italy: Brad Wilson
 Japan: Walt Buchanan
 Russia: Nathan Deily
 Turkey: Ernest Hakey III

GM: Douglas Kent

The Commentators:

Jim Burgess
 Rick Desper
 Jack McHugh

Spring 1906



Austria: F Apulia – Naples, A Bohemia – Munich, F Ionian Sea Convoys A Rome – Libya, A Munich – Burgundy, F Naples – Rome, A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Fails*), A Rome – Libya, A Ruhr Supports A Munich – Burgundy, F Tuscany Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea, A Venice Supports F Tuscany.

China: ~~F Peking Supports A Sikang – Canton~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Yellow Sea or OTB), A Sikang - Canton (*Fails*).

England: F English Channel Supports A Brest – Picardy, F Gulf of Siam - Thailand(ec),
A Laos Supports F Gulf of Siam - Thailand(ec) (*Cut*), F Norwegian Sea Supports F North Sea,
F North Sea Supports F Norwegian Sea (*Cut*), F Western Mediterranean Sea Supports F Gulf of Lyon.

France: F Algeria Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea, F Andaman Sea - Bay of Bengal (*Fails*),
A Annam - Viet Nam (*Fails*), A Brest – Picardy, A Burgundy Supports A Brest – Picardy (*Dislodged*, retreat to Paris
or OTB), F Cambodia Supports F Gulf of Siam - Thailand(ec), A Gascony Supports A Marseilles,
F Gulf of Lyon Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea, A Marseilles Supports A Burgundy (*Cut*),
F Morocco Supports F Algeria.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Munich – Burgundy, A Berlin Hold, A Holland Supports A Belgium,
F Kiel - Helgoland Bight, F Skagerrak - North Sea (*Fails*), F Sweden - Denmark.

India: F Bay of Bengal Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Cut*),
A Burma Supports F Cambodia - Thailand(ec) (*Void*), F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*),
F Madras Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Cut*), A Shan Supports F Cambodia - Thailand(ec) (*Void*),
A Viet Nam - Laos (*Fails*).

Italy: F Arabian Sea - Madras (*Fails*).

Japan: A Canton – Peking, F East Indian Ocean Supports F Arabian Sea - Madras (*Cut*),
F East China Sea Convoys A Osaka – Canton, A Korea Supports F Manchuria,
F Malay Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean, F Manchuria Supports A Canton – Peking, A Osaka – Canton,
F South China Sea Supports A Osaka – Canton, F Siberia Hold (*Dislodged*, retreat to Sea of Okhotsk
or North Pacific Ocean or OTB), F Vladivostok Supports F Siberia.

Russia: F Gulf of Bothnia Convoys A Livonia – Finland, A Livonia – Finland, A Moscow – Omsk,
F Norway Supports F Skagerrak - North Sea, A Outer Mongolia Supports A Omsk – Siberia, A Omsk – Siberia,
A Posen Hold, A Silesia Supports A Posen, A Sinkiang Supports A Omsk – Siberia,
F St. Petersburg(nc) Supports F Norway, A Turkistan Supports A Omsk - Siberia.

Turkey: F Baghdad – Iran, F Egypt(ec) - Red Sea, A Ethiopia - East Africa, F Persian Gulf - Arabian Sea (*Fails*),
F Red Sea - Gulf of Aden, A Sahara - Off Board E, A Tunis – Sahara, F Tyrrhenian Sea Convoys A Rome – Libya,
F West Indian Ocean Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean, F Yemen Supports F Red Sea - Gulf of Aden.

PRESS

Tokyo (This morning.) Headline from The Times of
Japan: SO WAS IT A FLEET OR AN ARMY?

Kyoto (This morning.) Headline from the Kyoto Geisha
Tattler: SO WAS IT AN ARMY OR A FLEET?

Sapporo (This morning) Headline from the Sapporo on
the Rocks Drill Press: WAS IT A FREUDIAN SLIP OR A
JAPSUS LINGVAE?

Hiroshima (This morning.) Headline from Hiroshima
Amour: MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR!

Nagasaki (This morning.) Headline from the Nagasaki
Fudoshi Rag: DOES IT MATTER IF IT'S AN ARMY OR
A FLEET? WE SAY NO!!

Canton (Mid Spring, 1906): The Third Imperial
Japanese Army has landed in Canton determined to end
the current war in China as soon as possible.

Moscow, Russia. International Network News.

Moscow has erupted in celebration as Russian armies
make strong headway against the imperialist invaders.
Russia's acquisition of Norway places the Baltic Fleet in
a strong position to thrust against England. In a
statement yesterday, the foreign minister declared that
an "iron curtain shall fall over the north." INN will keep
you posted as this prediction unfolds.

Meanwhile, in the east, Russian armies make several
valiant maneuvers against China, and are setting for a
well positioned extinguish the Rising Sun in the Pacific.
Russia's Deputy Minister for War expressed his gratitude
to the well-trained Russian artillery crews that are
making the advance possible. Nonetheless, Japan's
small but rugged army is supported by a vast naval
flotilla, and its firepower should not be underestimated.
Japan is expected to continue it's offensive in mainland
China.

England suffered a significant loss of the HMS Victoria in the Andaman Sea as the result of a botched radio system. The unfortunate communication led the French squadron under Rear Adm. Berryblah to mistake the Victoria for an Indian warship, leading to its torpedoing and sinking. The loss of the Victoria leaves England severely underpowered in the region where it still holds two significant areas rich in natural resources. England suffered a second stunning defeat at the hands of the Austrian-Ottoman navies in the Mediterranean Sea. The loss of this fleet will not be easily replaced. The Undersecretary for the Navy was sacked following these incidents.

Further in SEA, India remains in a strong position, unhindered by China, where the Indian army is successfully containing the combined Anglo-French forces. Without help, however, the Indian navy is outgunned.

Italy suffered a major loss as the Sudanese capital fell to Ottoman forces. It is reported that three dozen of the finest women in the land were transported back to Istanbul to join the Sultan's harem. Italy is now left with its flagship and is surrounded by the Turkish navy. There is little hope Italy's last remaining supply port will withstand a Turkish siege.

France has eagerly repositioned its forces following the German capture of Belgium from England. INN has learned that France has begun conscription to provide men to reinforce the Ruhr river where they expect to stop any invaders.

(New Delhi, January 23, 1906) Despite the pending naval actions, the Prime Minister wishes to assure the Emperor of Japan that he bears no ill-will towards him or his brave sailors. If we squash the annoying English and French bugs in SouthEast Asia, we could divide and demilitarize it. Please ignore any snide remarks from the "popular press" about how the Prime Minister has a greater chance of flapping his arms and flying to his office than for a peace settlement.

Tunis Tattler: Rumors of an imminent gate to the sunken city of R'lyeh opening due to the efforts of a few remaining Italian cultist sent the Turkish Armies heading into the Sahara Desert and beyond, into the trackless wastes of NW Africa -- Allah only knows where they will end up. The city defenses were abandoned all Spring, with no forces available to oppose a possible barbarian incursion from the West -- however, Austrian peacekeepers have been asked to take over security duties for the region, and may have landed on the Libyan shores. If so, any occupation of Tunis by the colonial barbarians should be brief. And in other news, Tunisian smugglers have been working overtime securing cargos from French smugglers, crates of champagne being sent "the long way around" by way of

Turkish couriers to agents of the Tsar located in Iran, destined for further transport into Russian-held Central Asia where the officers of the Imperial Russian Army need additional compensation to relieve their long service in such forbidding lands.

Istanbul Inquirer: The Sultana decreed recently that the citizens of Magudisco would be given a season of reprieve before Turkish forces moved in to bring order out of the chaos left behind by their renegade Italian overlords. She indicated that the reprieve would give the people of that region time to show their true loyalties, and to put their affairs in order -- to root out any remaining cultists of the Great Old Ones on their own, so as not to be as badly impacted as the people of Tunis. Also, she has decreed that the native dance and music of that province, 'Disco, would heretofore be allowed in Turkish dance halls, which were to be decorated with mirror-balls constructed of the finest reflective glassworks of Venice and Vienna. In honor of the upcoming liberation of Magudisco, 'Disco clothing and other curiosities would be imported, and the women of the ex-Sultan's harem, now leaders of government and commerce, have taken to the new styles with glee. Some conservative imams have cried out against this 'Disco craze as yet another cult, akin to worship of the Great Old Ones, but most younger imams seem to be taking it all in stride.

Petropavlovsk (Late Spring, 1906) With the successful evacuation of the last of their Imperial Marines detachment the Russian naval forces here have begun a strategic withdrawal in the face of a strong Russian advance. Where the fleet is headed remains a mystery.

Turkey -> India: My great navy is coming to your rescue! To assist you against the Japanese hordes and their western allies. Have no fear! Trust me!!!

Osaka (This morning and afternoon.) Headline from the Osaka 2'em Times: TRUTH REVEALED AS CONFUSION GRIPS COUNTRY The country was in a state of confusion this morning as it reacted to the news that what was first reported to be the call up of a new Third Army was in fact an order for the construction of a new fleet. Army Headquarters in Tokyo insisted the original announcement was correct while Navy Headquarters in Yokohama insisted that it was a fleet that had been ordered. As the Cabinet met to discuss the situation the Osaka 2'em Times sent a special team of investigative reporters to local military headquarters to uncover the truth, something rarely read in the Japanese press. Here's what they found, based on reports from Army and Navy headquarters in Toyko, information gathered here, and a report from our special correspondent Fareed Zakaria in Zebole, Persia.

First, both reports from the Army and Navy headquarters were part of an elaborate scheme to divert attention away from the real purpose of ongoing activities in Osaka where officials at the military construction center refused to talk to reporters. However, a bartender and geisha at a local "courtesan's house" that caters to management types from the center had no qualms about talking to us. They reported that while construction continued at the Osaka facility the main emphasis on the project, code named Top Ramen, had shifted to Zeole, Persia, a small town in eastern Persia just across from the Afghani border. The isolated area is known for four things: 1) rice production, 2) rice wine production, 3) lovely women, and 4) usually calm winds. A team of forty designers, engineers and scientists posing as workers from the Toyoda/Toyota Company arrived with several hundred poorly disguised members of the Imperial Japanese Army for the final testing of a new weapon intended for the Army. Also accompanying the group were two white men from the United States that we have identified as Samuel Franklin Cody and Capt. Nathan Algren Jr., USA ret. Cody is believed to be the chief designer of the new weapon and Algren has been appointed as Colonel in Chief of the new Japanese force, called the Imperial Japanese Flying Samurai Regiment, that will use the new weapon. Algren, a graduate of the US Military Academy and veteran of the Spanish-American War, where he served with Col. Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, is the son of Capt. Nathan Algren, known as "The Last Samurai." Details on the new weapon system or its intended purpose are hard to come by. One source reported it as an advanced version of Cody's "Man-lifter War Kite." Another claimed it was more like a flying "cruise bomb." The fact is, nobody knows for sure, but both Cody and Algren said the weapon could well be the "balls buster" of the current war in Asia.

In the meantime, workers here are busy inside the large construction bays and large numbers of soldiers can be seen practicing their martial arts by day and their marital arts by night.

Peking (Mid Spring, 1906): Units of the Imperial Japanese Army have occupied the Forbidden City and central Peking according to Army Headquarters in Tokyo.

At Sea in the Bay of Bengal (Early Spring 1906): Buchanan woke early and dressed in the typical US Navy uniform worn in the Pacific, which was nothing like what the British RN officers wore. Ten minutes after he donned his whites he felt like he'd been in a sauna for the last 24 hours, as indeed he had. Still it wasn't time for the Northeast Monsoons and they were still far enough north of the Equator to be out of the Doldrums. But as for where they actually were he had no idea. Perhaps he'd find out at the morning officers' meeting. After one last check of his jig line and cap angle he

paused for a second and wondered about what had happened during the night to cause the Kentucky to slow down almost to a dead stop. He soon found the answer as he made his way along the deck toward the bridge. Most of the main deck on the starboard side of the ship was covered with stacks of bamboo poles that looked to be about 30 feet long and 1.5 inches wide in bundles of 25 or so. There were also some large coils of some kind of rope and what looked like heavy duty cable wire. Finally, there were a dozen or so wooden boxes carefully covered with unmarked waterproof and lead sealed canvas --- all being carefully watched over by a senior chief and a couple of armed Marines. Strange, he thought, as he climbed up to the bridge.

When he entered the captain's office he the ship's senior officers gathered around the same large plot map of the Indian Ocean he'd seen last night in the navigation compartment, only this time it was covered with various flags and symbols. As the door behind him opened Buchanan was surprised to see the ship's captain rise from his chair at the head of the plot table. He turned around himself and adjusted his line of sight a bit lower so he could see a short Asian gentleman dressed in an all white suit standing in front of him. From his bearing Buchanan assumed he was a Navy man of younger middle age. The man drew himself up to his full five foot height and bowed a bit to Buchanan before turning to the captain and making a deeper bow. The captain, looking at Buchanan's face, introduced the latest arrival as, "Commander Suntory Hibachi of the IJN." Hibachi looked at Buchanan, nodded and said in perfect English, "Commodore, it is a privilege and pleasure to meet you. I've heard much about you." Buchanan smiled and nodded, and tried his best to avoid winching as his hand was engulfed in a grip worthy of a Samurai warrior."

The captain grinned as he noticed Buchanan's surprise, and then said, "Gentlemen, we'll have a social chat later, but business first. For security reasons no one knew Commander Hibachi was joining us last night with some of his assistants. They will be with us for the remainder of our mission, which my orders tell me has the highest security classification and has been approved at the highest...and here he paused and looked around....I repeat, the highest levels. As you have heard from the scuttlebutt in the wardrooms the Indian Ocean is about to explode. At the moment there is one Turkish fleet in the Indian Ocean and five more headed that way. The last remaining Italian fleet is somewhere in the Arabian Sea. There are three Indian fleets in the Bay of Bengal and Ceylon. The French have a fleet in the Andaman Sea. The Japanese have two fleets in the East Indian Ocean and the Malay Sea. And the once mighty British Navy has one fleet in the Gulf of Thailand. In addition there are four armies in SEA.

Washington is very concerned about this, of course, and wants the best possible intelligence as quickly as

possible from this entire area so it can evaluate the situation and decide what, if anything, we can do to prevent the war from spreading. Although we are a neutral and non-belligerent power we believe our national security depends on our clear understanding of what is happening now.

Therefore, our orders are to proceed to a position in the Chagos Archipelago near Diego Garcia Island which is about as central a location in the Indian Ocean as we can find. More importantly it is nearly equal distant from Durban, Reunion Island, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Darwin and Perth in terms of radio communications.

The Kentucky's mission will be to serve as a temporary radio transmitting and receiving relay station between these bases and Washington, Tokyo, London and Paris.

Commander Hibachi is not only a skilled Japanese naval officer he is also a skilled radio engineer and studied with Alexander Graham Bell while he was doing his Ph.D. at Princeton University some years ago. The Commander has brought with him a complete, highly capable radio system which can only receive and send transmission to the bases I mentioned, but also maintain direct contact with our senior leaders. Those piles of bamboo, coils of rope and wire, and black boxes may not look like much now but 24 hours after we reach Diego Garcia we will have the ability to communicate with all of the places I mentioned. The advantages are obvious. So is the need for absolute secrecy both now and in the future about this operation and particularly this equipment. You will all give Commander Hibachi your full cooperation at all times. Commodore Buchanan will be in charge of all communications and is cleared for access to any messages sent or received at any time. He is also in charge of determining which communications are sent and to whom and with what priority. Questions? No? Good. Dismissed.

Off Diego Garcia (Two Weeks Later): After a surprisingly uneventful voyage, except for a close encounter with the remnants of the Italian Navy, apparently heading west into the Central Indian Ocean, the Kentucky had reached Diego Garcia (Surely one of the most God forsaken spots on Earth Buchanan had ever seen.) and assembled its huge antenna that consisted of a base line from the ship's bow to stern and an even longer bamboo tower amidships that could be extended on a temporary basis even further by using some inflatable balloons. It didn't look like much but the test showed it worked. In fact, on the last day of testing they had maintained 10 minutes of uninterrupted contact with the US Navy base in Pearl Harbor. Hibachi had brought six of the best key operators in the Japanese Navy with him and in a series of "friendly" competitions with some of the Kentucky's key operators the Japanese had demonstrated their far superior skills in high speed accurate transmissions, although the Americans seemed

to be better at receiving signals; a fact Buchanan could not explain.

Diego Garcia (A Week Later): By now his radio crew had determined the location and general operational patterns of most of the major naval ships operating in the Indian Ocean but Buchanan had sensed a subtle change in the pattern of messages coming across his desk, particularly from the Italian, Turkish and Indian fleets. Something was going on.

Diego Garcia (16 April 1906): Buchanan walked into the office he shared with Hibachi, looked in the in basket, and promptly let out a yell that brought a Marine running. "Go find Hibachi now!" Minutes later the two were huddled in the captain's private dining cabin going over the message log for the previous 24 hours. It was clear that at precisely 0000 hours GMT the Italian, Turkish and Indian fleets had either shifted their signals frequencies or gone to a radio silence status. Either way, it didn't look good. The captain authorized an immediate alert message to Washington, London, Paris, and Tokyo with this information; and then ordered a carefully planned search of all radio frequencies to find where they had moved to. He also sent a coded message to key installations and at sea commanders informing them of the latest development. The next message would, he expected, be a "WAR ALERT" bulletin.

Diego Garcia (Dawn, 17 April 1906): As the sun rose over the Andaman Sea French naval ships began to engage Indian naval vessels moving east from the Bay of Bengal. At the same time other Indian ships began to fire on the Japanese forces in the East Indian Ocean. The commanding admiral of the Japanese Southern Combined Fleet sent an urgent message to Tokyo: "Where are the Turks and Italians?"

At Sea in the East Indian Ocean (Late morning, 17 April 1906) The reply from Tokyo Naval Headquarters was deafeningly silent. No news is not good news, the admiral thought as he tallied his successes and failures of the morning. He wondered if the reinforcements from the Malaysian Sea fleet would arrive in time to help him stop the, he assumed, three fleets headed his way. And still no word of the Turks and Italians.

Diego Garcia (Late Afternoon, 17 April 1906): As he read the messages pouring into his office, Buchanan could tell a major sea battle was underway. What he couldn't tell was which way it was going and who all was involved. He knew the French and Indians were slugging it out in the Bay of Bengal with heavy losses on both sides. He knew the Japanese fleet in the East Indian Ocean was being pounded by units from at least two fleets and if the other Japanese fleet did arrive soon they would have to retreat. But still, no word about the whereabouts of the Italians or Turks. As he paced around the bridge he thought to himself, "The one thing certain is that in the fog of war nothing is clear."

STOP THE PRESSES: DEMONSTRATING ONCE AGAIN THAT DIP&DIP GO HAND IN HAND, AS LONG AS ONE HAND IS HOLDING A DAGGER...

The press above was written on 17 July and the story below was received on 18 July! I kid you not. My original press may sound a bit far fetched but when you read the second story you'll see they really aren't that far apart. The chief difference seems to be that in 1906 high tech was designed and built by the Japanese out of bamboo, rope, copper wire and a few black boxes with a yen for it; and a hundred years later high tech was designed and built by the USA out of something called "The Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System on Diego Garcia tracks known man-made deep space objects in orbit around earth," with billions of dollars. Either way, it's still Peeriblah.

Mauritius Lobbies to Regain Control Of Diego Garcia, Site of U.S. Base

By Larry Luxner

Uploaded on June 26, 2014

Diego Garcia, a remote speck of land in the middle of the Indian Ocean, rarely makes news. But in recent months, the coral atoll has grabbed the attention of online conspiracy theorists who claim the missing Malaysian Airlines jet secretly landed there as part of some clandestine U.S. military operation.

A7.IR.diegogarcia.aerial.story

Photo: SRA Sarah E. Shaw / U.S. Air Force This 1998 aerial view shows the U.S. Naval Station on Diego Garcia, a remote speck of land in the Indian Ocean administered by Great Britain, which signed a 50-year treaty with the United States in 1966 allowing it to build a military outpost there.

The obscure island even got a mention in the latest installment of the Fox TV show "24," as super-agent Jack Bauer rushes to thwart terrorists who've hijacked a group of American drones at the exact time that the U.S. president is trying to convince Britain to extend a treaty allowing the use of drones on its base in Diego Garcia.

As dramatic as these references are, they do hint at the island's strategic value just as the United States, Great Britain and Mauritius prepare for talks on the future of the Chagos archipelago, which includes Diego Garcia.

At issue: Who, exactly, owns this tiny island 1,000 miles east of Mauritius and 2,900 miles northwest of Australia?

In 1965, three years before Mauritius won independence, Great Britain detached the Chagos archipelago from the rest of its then-colony and created the British Indian Ocean Territory to administer the

islands from London. The following year, it signed a 50-year treaty with the United States that allowed Americans to establish a military outpost on Diego Garcia; in return, it secured a discount on U.S. Polaris missiles. In the process, Britain kicked out about 2,000 native Chagossians to make way for the American outpost.

In the ensuing years, the Pentagon has spent untold billions of dollars turning Diego Garcia into a satellite tracking station, an enormous air and naval base with a 12,000-foot runway from which bombing raids on both Iraq and Afghanistan have been launched, and — some claim — a secret "black site" where CIA personnel detained and tortured suspected al-Qaeda terrorists.

At present, 1,700 military personnel and 1,500 civilian contractors live on the island, which is off-limits to tourists and requires U.S. government permission to visit.

A7.IR.diegogarcia.planes.story

Photo: Senior Airman Rebeca M. Luquin / U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers take off from Diego Garcia at the start of the war in Afghanistan in October 2001. The Pentagon has spent untold billions of dollars turning Diego Garcia into a satellite tracking station, an enormous air and naval base and, some claim, a secret CIA "black site."

The 1966 treaty expires in December 2016, but requires Washington and London to renegotiate the lease two years earlier — by the end of 2014. Mauritius is lobbying to be included in those talks and, ultimately, regain control of the island. At the time of the treaty, Britain said the Chagos islands would be returned to Mauritius when they were no longer required for defense purposes, a vague definition that's open to legal interpretation. So far, the United States has not indicated whether it would sideline Britain to give Mauritius a say in the talks.

"Our concern is about sovereignty," said Milan J.N. Meetarbhan, the Mauritian ambassador to the United Nations. "What we want is that after 2016 ... there would be an agreement between the U.S. and Mauritius on the use of Diego Garcia as a military base. The terms of that agreement would in no way be less than the terms of the present agreement with the U.K."

Meetarbhan, who is based in New York, spoke to The Washington Diplomat during a visit here arranged by Mercury Public Affairs, a PR firm representing the Mauritian government.

Despite its remoteness from Mauritius, the envoy said, "We believe the excision of Diego Garcia from Mauritius prior to independence in 1968 was a breach of international law. We've always said this was part of our

territory, and we've reached a point now where we think there's a very good window of opportunity to resolve this dispute."

The Chagos archipelago consists of half a dozen main islands; Diego Garcia is the largest and southernmost of the chain.

"Diego Garcia has no native inhabitants," Meetarbhan explained. "When the Americans first expressed interest in having a military base there, the British told them there was nobody living on the island. Subsequently, when the base was about to be set up, they found about 2,000 people there. All of them were forcibly deported to Mauritius."

To date, the indigenous population has kept up calls to be resettled on the island. Complicating matters is Britain's declaration of a 545,000-square-mile marine reserve around the archipelago. The reserve, announced in April 2010, is now the focus of a hearing by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), a United Nations-backed tribunal based in the Netherlands. The PCA plans to hold a series of proceedings in Turkey, but they will be closed to the public.

A7.IR.diegogarcia.sign.story
U.S. Air Force / SRA Sarah E. Shaw

A welcome sign stands on the island of Diego Garcia, which is home to 1,700 military personnel and 1,500 civilian contractors but is off-limits to tourists and requires U.S. government permission to visit.

Yet a British Foreign Office cable from 2009 that was exposed by WikiLeaks raised suspicion that the marine reserve declaration was just a ploy to keep the Chagossians from ever returning to Diego Garcia. The memo quotes a British official as saying that "former inhabitants would find it difficult, if not impossible, to pursue their claim for resettlement on the islands if the entire Chagos Archipelago were a marine reserve," contemptuously describing them as "Man Fridays." The memo also noted, however, that Mauritius's main interest in the territory was its economic potential as a fishery, not its environmental protection — and that U.S.-U.K. stewardship of the island, even though it came at the cost of expelling the native population, has preserved its "pristine" condition.

The British government, which receives no money for leasing Diego Garcia to the Americans, declined to comment on the dispute, calling it a confidential legal matter.

But J. Peter Pham, director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center, says Meetarbhan's argument is "absurd" and has no legal merit whatsoever.

"The fact is, Great Britain was the acknowledged sovereign of the British Empire's East Indian Ocean territories," Pham told us. "It chose to divide Diego Garcia and neighboring islands from the rest of Mauritius before independence, and then subsequently gave Mauritius independence and chose to lease Diego Garcia to the United States. Mauritius claims they had no right to redraw the border."

By that logic, Pham said, southern Somalia must be returned to Kenya — the country that territory once belonged to before Britain gave it to Italy as a reward for the Italians entering World War I on the Allied side.

"There's a domestic political agenda in Mauritius," Pham added. "A small group of people who are descendants of those evicted by the British has formed a vocal constituency, which plays well domestically. Two, Mauritius is largely irrelevant, but this raises its profile considerably."

Pham says there's "no realistic chance" of Mauritius getting what it wants, no matter how hard it lobbies the Pentagon or Congress.

A7.IR.diegogarcia.mauritius.story
Photo: Larry Luxner

Milan J.N. Meetarbhan, the Mauritian ambassador to the United Nations, wants the United States to include Mauritius in the upcoming talks to renew a 50-year treaty between the U.S. and Britain that has allowed the Pentagon to build a military outpost on the island of Diego Garcia.

"If you accept the premise of what they're arguing, we'd be opening so many cans of worms around the world, there'd be no end to it," the Africa expert warned. "Diego Garcia, as our recent wars in the Middle East have shown, has been a critical part of the U.S. military infrastructure overseas. We're not going to turn on an ally such as Great Britain because of the domestic political considerations of a country that doesn't even maintain an embassy in Washington."

Mauritius does, in fact, have a Washington embassy on N Street, though the dispute over Diego Garcia is being handled by the country's U.N. mission in New York.

A prosperous nation of 1.3 million inhabitants, Mauritius is Africa's highest-ranking country when it comes to good governance and ease of doing business. And its annual per-capita GDP of nearly \$10,000 is among the continent's highest.

"We've come a long way since independence, when our economy was nothing except sugar. We've diversified and now sugar is less than 10 percent of our GDP,"

Meetarbhan said. These days, garment manufacturing, tourism and financial services dominate the economy.

Yet the ambassador says solving the Chagos archipelago dispute is “a matter of principle.”

“We are not talking about money. We think it was wrong and unfair to deport these people. It was wrong to detach part of our territory. Now that this agreement is going to expire, we think it’s an opportune time for the United States in particular to be on the right side of history,” he said, adding that “nobody’s living [on Diego Garcia], but obviously if this is part of Mauritian territory, the prohibitions applied by the U.K. on visiting these islands will be lifted.”

Meetarbhan insists that it is in Washington’s interests to resolve the matter, especially because that would enable it to avoid legal and political controversies at a time when it wants to enlist Africa’s help in the war on terrorism and other sensitive issues.

A7.IR.diegogarcia.base.story

U.S. Air Force Photo / Senior Master Sgt. John Rohrer
The Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System on Diego Garcia tracks known man-made deep space objects in orbit around earth.

“We want all three parties — the U.S., the U.K. and Mauritius — to start talking about what happens after 2016,” he said.

“The U.K. has always said the islands would be returned to Mauritius once they are no longer required for defense purposes. So if these defense purposes can be met by an agreement between Mauritius and the United States, there’s no point to continue this dispute.”

Meetarbhan said that ultimately, “it’s for the United States to decide” the fate of Diego Garcia, whose original inhabitants were offered limited compensation in the 1980s. The ambassador told us he doesn’t expect the Pentagon to give up its most important outpost in the Indian Ocean — just to respect the island’s original inhabitants.

“The Chagossians are asking for the right of return, to visit the graves of their ancestors. The African Union has adopted a unanimous resolution supporting us, and we’ve had a similar resolution adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement,” he said. “At the end of the day, it’s a matter of getting it right and putting an end to the last vestige of colonialism in Africa.”

About the Author: Larry Luxner is news editor of The Washington Diplomat.

Hotel Lambert, Quai d’ Anjou, Ile de Cite, Paris, France (11 March, 1906) Few Parisians and even fewer Frenchmen know that the famed Hotel Lambert, the center of Polish culture in France, was now owned by the French branch of the Rothschild’s’ banking empire. In a sign of goodwill and perhaps business acumen Henri Rothschild had made a large suite in the Hotel available as a private pied a terre to the Premier for his use when his official residence was, how to say, uncomfortable? And it surely was uncomfortable that night as Rouvier sat alone in his petit salon.

France was in turmoil in the spring of 1906 but there was nothing new about that; the Prime Minister, Maurice Rouvier, thought to himself. The year before the country, the National Assembly and the Government had been torn by the debate and vote on the disestablishment of the Roman Catholic Church in France. The Church would no longer have the official blessing of the Government, and vice versa, and the national educational system would no longer be controlled by the Church. More importantly, the vast remaining estates of the Church would be appropriated by local and national government agencies.

Now there was a new crisis, with word that the papers used to convict Dreyfuss 12 years earlier of treason were forgeries and he had been pardoned by the President. The old conflict between the Army and the civilian government was again at the center of political affairs. The country wondered if the Government would fall? Would a new IIIrd Empire and a new Napoleon (any of a dozen Army generals were mentioned as possible candidates) emerge? Foreign affairs were in no better shape, he thought, with the country involved in a war with Germany (Again!), Austria, and Turkey in Europe; and even with India in Southeast Asia.

Things were a mess he told himself as he chewed on his cigar stub and finished the last of the Remy Martin before retiring with his dispatches. Tomorrow’s vote in the National Assembly would decide whether he stayed in office or Ferdinand Sarrien and the Radical Socialists would take charge.

Hotel Lambert (Hours Later): While Rouvier tossed and turned in his bed in his pied a terre; Henri Rothschild slept comfortably in his chamber with his companion of the night, a name unknown ballerina from the Gautier Opera better known for her nimbleness than her beauty. Outside, one soldier from the Republican Guard stood duty outside the entrance to the Prime Minister’s apartment while four security men guarded the double doors to the Rothschild apartment.

Rue Daru, Paris Eglise Russe de Paris Saint Alexandre Nevski (A few hours later): It was late, very late, in the middle class neighborhood where most of Paris’s Russians, Poles, and other Eastern Orthodox

communities lived. The Church was small but very nice, after all it had been built as a gift from the Tsar of Russia to the hundreds of Russians who had voluntarily fled Russia or been exiled for crimes against the Tsar. The main doors were closed and only two side doors were unlocked. The moonlight caused the five onion domes, representing Christ and his four top apostles, atop the Church to gleam in the quiet night. The interior of the Church was barely lit by a few candles on the altar and votive lights in front of various icons and statues of saints long forgotten outside the Russian Orthodox faith.

Over the course of a half hour, by ones and two, a dozen or so men entered the Church after having their identity verified by a guard at the door. Inside they turned to the left or right chapel or moved around the center of the Church to the far chapel. When the guards had verified that everyone expected was present, and no one unexpected had arrived; they locked the doors from the outside and began making their rounds. One of the guards spoke briefly to a messenger who took off into the dark.

Out of the shadows a solitary figure stepped into the soft candlelight and began to speak just loud enough to be heard by those in the front of the various chapels. To his left, he knew, the English and Japanese ambassadors stood with the French Foreign Minister. To his right, he knew without looking, were the ambassadors of Austria and Turkey, In the middle chapel were the ambassadors of Germany, Italy, China and India. As they looked around the ambassadors realized that one of their number was missing. Where, they asked themselves silently, was the ambassador from Russia?

Ferdinand Sarrien had only met personally with a couple of the ambassadors, but they all knew him by reputation and the fact that he was head of the Radical Socialist Party. What most of them did not know was that if all went according to plan tomorrow he would become Prime Minister of France. What none of them knew was his deep personal abiding hatred of Russia and all things Russian, especially the Russian Imperial family. That hatred had begun during the battles of the last mid-century when three of his brothers had been killed fighting the Russians. Still, his purpose here was quite different. He wanted to make a peace out of the current wars waging in Europe, Africa, Asia, and on the oceans of the world. To his mind there was only one way to do that --- eliminate for once and for all Russians real and imagined claims to be a Great Power with its Pan Slavic and Fourth Rome ideas.

As the chimes softly marked the hour, slowly he began to lay out his case against the Russians and the Slavs.

93 rue de Crimee, Saint Serge de Radonege Russian Orthodox Church

As the chimes softly marked the hour, the watchman at the side door of the chapel offered a candle to the man cautiously making his way toward the door. He led him to a small side chapel across from the main altar but the man seemed comfortable in the atmosphere of domes, icons, candles and incense. Without even thinking he crossed himself in the Orthodox manner as he passed in front of the altar. Waiting for him in the chapel was a single man dressed in a dark overcoat and hat, although his face was uncovered so he could be seen. Although he couldn't identify him by name Count Romanovsky, rumored to be one of the Tsars many bastards as well as the current Russian ambassador in Paris, felt confident enough to approach him.

The man, Romanovsky realized, had only one arm with the sleeve of his right arm pinned back out of the way. Romanovsky made the mistake of dropping his guard which was to prove a fatal mistake indeed. The man looked him deep in the eyes and said, "Thank you for coming, Count. And now thank you for going." With that he pulled a dagger out from under his coat and plunged it into the heart of the hapless Romanovsky. The assassin carefully removed his favorite stiletto from the corpse, wiped and wrapped it, and put it away. In its place he very carefully inserted a Russian Cossack's ceremonial dagger that had come to Paris by way of Marseilles, Constantinople and Baklava.

With one last look around he took four votive candles from the icon of St. Vladimir the Great and placed them, two at the head and two at the feet, near Romanovsky. He then left by the same side door he had entered from, the chimes again marking the hour and the smell of incense hiding the smell of blood and gore.

Rue Daru, Paris, Englise Russe de Paris de Saint Alexandre Nevski (Concurrently.) Sarrien was not a great public speaker. His was a soft, persuasive almost hypnotic tone and he had his audience's full attention as he recounted the story of the Tsar's 1586 cannon, which even now sat in the courtyard of the Kremlin to remind all who saw it of Russia's power. Then he told the story of the Tsar's 1733 bell, the third one poured in an effort to make the world's largest bell that would not crack when struck. He told them of the so-called "mad inventor" who was making a Tsar's tank that would be the largest in the world and worked like a bicycle. Russian generals had told the Tsar that the tank would win them the current war, but French experts said it would be obsolete by 1914.

Then, he began to tell them of a strange encounter he had had on his last visit the previous winter to St. Petersburg where some friends took him to Tsar's Restaurant for an elaborate dinner and, they claimed, the best entertainment in Russia. Sarrien went along willingly enough, hoping he'd learn something about Russia's internal politics -- always a mystery in Paris.

After dinner, his host took Sarrien upstairs to a private dining room where he expected to either meet a spy or a femme fatale, or a combination thereof. Instead he saw a tall, long-bearded Russian monk with the most piercing eyes he'd ever seen. He was told that the monk Rasputin controlled the Russian imperial family and knew everything there was to know about what was going on at the imperial court. Rasputin simply stared at him for a good two minutes and then told his Russian host, "I have nothing to say to him because his heart is impure and he hates Mother Russia. Instead I will send him someone who can tell him about Russia's future greatness." With that Rasputin got up and walked out. A few minutes later a young, almost angelic looking girl, walked into the room and sat down, although not in the same chair where Rasputin had sat. She too stared at Sarrien for a good three minutes and then closed her eyes for several minutes. Finally she began to talk in a soft, almost inaudible whisper. She told him of even greater wonders to come for Russia

First she described what she called the Tsar's Bombe, a giant device of such power that it was brighter than the sun and could cause giant winds felt a hundred miles away. She said that only a disaster at its first test which killed all those watching it, would prevent its being used in war. Then she told of a giant balloon, longer than three football fields that would fly above any airplane and carry large loads of passengers or freight across the world's oceans. All this would be made possible by a gas as yet undeveloped and from a material found in every brothel in St. Petersburg and Paris as well. Finally she mentioned a special gaseous weapon that had been named for the Tsar and developed by two French scientists working in Russia named Van Cleeves and Arpel. The weapon would be disguised as a man's cologne and contain an addictive agent but would be inactive for a year or so before finally turning on its user who would die a terrible unnatural death due to no known reason. Finally, she bowed her head and softly said, "All of these things will happen if Russia wins this war. Russia must be stopped.

With that she got up and left the room. (Reports from the St. Petersburg Times two days later indicate her body had been found floating in the Neva River, that she'd been strangled so hard her head had been detached from her spine, and that she was Rasputin's only daughter.)

Sarrien closed by saying, "I have nothing further to tell you. Now it is up to you and your governments to decide what to do. As for France and her allies, we will fight Russia to the end. All those who join us will be our allies. All others our foes. Sacrebleu!" With that he turned and stepped back into the shadows.

By ones and twos the various ambassadors left: Austria and Turkey together and speaking quietly to each other;

India and Germany together but not saying much; England, Japan, and the French Foreign Minister left together out the main door of the Church; while the Chinese and Italian ambassadors left alone, speaking to no one.

From behind the main altar screen two men watched them leave. "Well, Mr. Brown, what do you make of it?" "Well," Mr. Clancy said, "I suspect what President Ryan is going to want to know is 'Where are the Russians?' " And the two walked out a side chapel door.

High above the altar, a young Russian Orthodox priest carefully unrolled the tube of parchment he had been using as a hearing bell so he could hear what had been said below. He smiled to himself as he made his way to the main floor, checked the candles and incense, and noted disapprovingly that none of the ambassadors had dropped a few coins in any of the candles, offerings, or boxes for the poor. "May their souls rot in Hell," he said to himself. As he made his rounds to check that all the doors were locked, he noticed a cigarette butt lying on the floor of one of the chapels. He sniffed it and noted that it was made from Turkish tobacco. Wars have been fought over lesser things, he thought, recalling the story he had learned from his studies of American history about how some lost orders wrapped around some cigars had cost the South the Civil War. With that he stepped outside to meet his college from Saint Serge Radonege. "How did it go," he asked. "He is finished." Was the only reply he got. The two walked a few blocks and he flagged down a cab to take him to the Gare De Nord to catch his train. His companion caught a cab to the Gare De L'est to catch his train. Hopefully the two would rendezvous in St. Petersburg in a week.

Palais Bourbon, Place de Concorde, Paris (Late Morning, 12 March 1906) The National Assembly met and the Radical Socialist Party, as expected, elected its leader, Ferdinand Sarrien, as Premier. The Duc de Rohan was named as Minister of War, and, in a big surprise to the Rightists, Henri Rothschild was named as Minister of the Treasury. The entire Cabinet list will be announced later.

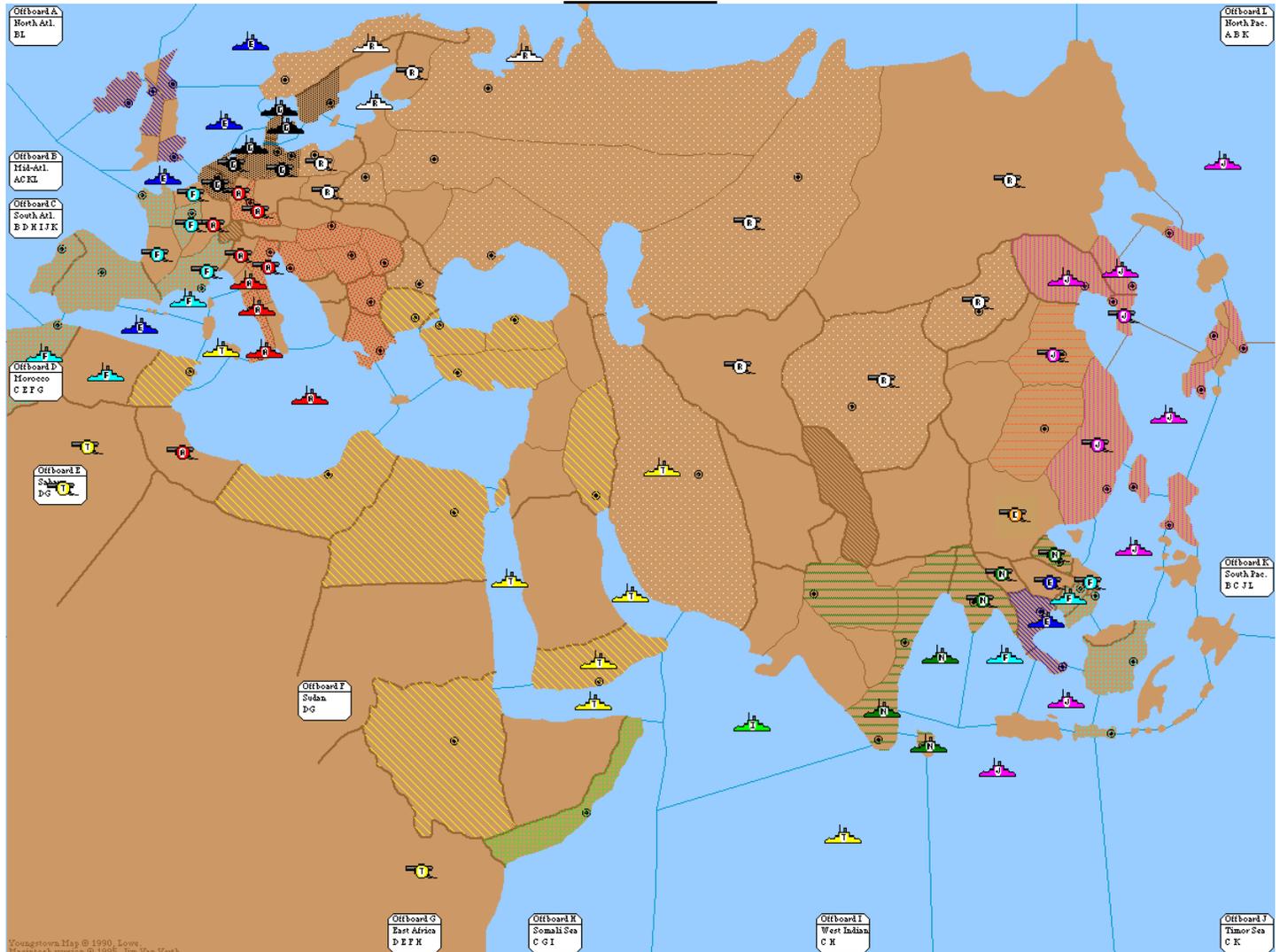
Hotel Lambert, Quai D'Anjou, Ile de Cite, Paris (Early Afternoon, 12 March 1906): Rouvier stood and watched as the wagon driver loaded Rouvier's few personal possessions into his wagon outside the Hotel Lambert. He noticed the number of Republican Guards had doubled to two and the number of Rothschild's security men had doubled to eight. Apparently they were expected trouble he thought to himself as he followed the wagon down the street. From behind a curtain in the Grand Salon Henri Rothschild, designated Minister of War, watched Rouvier go and prepared to meet secretly with his brothers, the heads of the Rothschild branches in London, Vienna and Frankfurt. His philosophy was simple: War might be more risky than peace, but it was

also more profitable. The return on the investment to build one mile of trenches was ten times the return on the investment to build one mile of underground in London or Paris. On the other hand, the return on their investments in De Beers had been one hundred times

greater! Even the Rio Tinto proposal couldn't compete with that.

TO BE CONTINUED

Summer 1906



Austria: Has A Burgundy, F Ionian Sea, A Libya, A Munich, F Naples, A Piedmont, F Rome, A Ruhr, F Tuscany, A Venice.

China: Disband F Peking..Has A Sikang.

England: Has F English Channel, A Laos, F Norwegian Sea, F North Sea, F Thailand(ec), F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Retreat A Burgundy - Paris..Has F Algeria, F Andamon Sea, A Annam, F Cambodia, A Gascony, F Gulf of Lyon, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Paris, A Picardy.

Germany: Has A Belgium, A Berlin, F Denmark, F Helgoland Bight, A Holland, F Skagerrak.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Has F Arabian Sea.

Japan: Retreat F Siberia - North Pacific Ocean..Has A Canton, F East Indian Ocean, F East China Sea, A Korea,

F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F North Pacific Ocean, A Peking, F South China Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Finland, F Gulf of Bothnia, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, A Omsk, A Posen, A Siberia, A Silesia, A Sinkiang, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Turkistan.

Turkey: Has A East Africa, F Gulf of Aden, F Iran, A Off Board E, F Persian Gulf, F Red Sea, A Sahara, F Tyrrhenian Sea, F West Indian Ocean, F Yemen.

PRESS

Canton (Late Spring 1906): REPRIS: Weeks after the fall of Peking reports now confirm what happened in that epic battle. Units of the Imperial Japanese Army moved north from Canton along various roads, canals and railroads meeting little resistance from the rag-tag Chinese forces. As they approached the capital and Forbidden City Chinese forces continued to retreat to the north and west.

Ba Hai Bay (Late Spring 1906): Units of the Imperial Navy y Marines landed on the coast and quickly moved inland to block escape routes for the routed Chinese forces, as units of the Manchurian Fleet prepared to transport units of the Imperial Japanese Army from Korea into China.

Canton (Late Spring 1906): Once again serving in a convoy and supporting role units of the Imperial Japanese East and South China Sea Fleets moved the 3rd Japanese Army from Osaka to Canton in preparation for its use in China.

East Indian Ocean and Malay Sea (Later Spring 1906): Units of the Imperial Japanese Navy in cooperation with Allied navies supported an Italian attack on Madras that failed; while at the same time holding off an Indian attack on the Fleet supported by Turkish forces. Observers were impressed with the skillful coordination shown by the multi-national fleet operation
Petropavlovsk (Latest Spring 1906): The Russian Fleet in Siberia withdrew from the area in the face of a strong Russian attack moving east along the Trans-Siberian Railroad line. The Japanese forces used some unusual tactics to delay the Russian advance. Every 20 kms they had put a large banner in Russian, Chinese, and Japanese along the railroad tracks that said "ENJOY YOUR BRIEF VISIT TO SIBERIA. NOW PLEASE GO HOME." Half-way between each banner the Japanese had left several large barrels of vodka, Mao Tai, and sake with a sign that said "DRINK, DRINK, DRINK! BUT REMEMBER THE NEXT CLEAN TOILETS ARE IN JAPAN!"

Peking (Early Summer 1906): Except for the damages from the fighting Peking does not look or feel like a conquered or occupied city. Chinese officials, including the police, continue to enforce laws and except for a strong presence in and around the Forbidden City Peking seems to be at peace. Rumors are circulating

that the plans are being made to move the Chinese Emperor Pi Yu to Japan and install a Japanese regent although this has not been confirmed.

Peking (Early Summer 1906): Newspapers and banners everywhere have proclaimed that the Emperor Pi Yu will indeed leave China for Japan and be replaced by a Japanese regent for the time being. The proclamations suggest Pi Yu will be treated as an honored guest in Tokyo and not as a prisoner. The Crown Prince of Japan will escort him with full ceremony and all honors on his trip. The identity of the new regent has not yet been announced.

Qingdao (Mid-Summer 1906): The Emperor of China, Pi Yu, accompanied by the Crown Prince of Japan Taisho left China for Japan early today. The Emperor and members of his court traveled aboard a Japanese battleship to Hiroshima Navy Base where he was greeted with full military honors including a parade before boarding the new train from Hiroshima to Tokyo. The five hundred mile trip took a week because the Emperor was greeted by friendly crowds in Okayama, Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya, before arriving in Tokyo. Newspapers in each city asked the same question, "Who conquered who?" As a mark of respect The Emperor Meiji greeted The Emperor Pi Yu at the train station. Among those present were various members of the royal family, government leaders and bureaucrats, and members of the diplomatic corps. Much ado was made about the fact that
/CENSORED...../

Canton (Mid-Summer 1906): During their two weeks in Canton so far the members of the 3rd Japanese Army have already made many friends in this city by helping to repair damage done in the recent fight and in joining the local police on patrols in the city's neighborhoods to maintain law and order.

Diego Garcia (Mid-Summer 1906): With the construction of a new permanent radio station on the island the need for the USS Kentucky has ended. Commander Hitachi will remain charge of the radio station, but the Kentucky is preparing to leave the area. Bound where, no one seems to know.

East Indian Sea (Mid-Summer 1906): Units of the French, British and Japanese navies continue to repair

battle damage, and refuel and resupply their ships in preparation for the fall campaigns. There is an unconfirmed report that a Japanese supply ship made a dangerous voyage into the Arabian Sea to bring badly needed supplies to the Italian navy units in the area.

Diego Garcia, Aboard the USS Kentucky (Late evening, 4 July 1906): The communications officer saw Buchanan standing on the bridge looking out over one of the most beautiful and unspoiled bays in the world. He sighed, as he turned to the communications officer who handed him a sealed envelope, saluted and withdrew a few paces away. Buchanan sensed who the message it was from as soon as he saw the 'EYES ONLY' on the front of the envelope. Inside the flimsy yellow paper bore a simple message. FORGET SINGAPORE FOR NOW. PROCEED PERTH ASAP TO MEET AND EVALUATE LEADERS THERE. THEN TO SINGAPORE VIA JAVA SEA AND SEA OF MALAYSIA. MEET AND EVALUATE LEADERS THERE. SAME IN HONG KONG AND CANTON. IF TIME ALLOWS, PEKING. OTHERWISE TO TOKYO. FALA SENDS REGARDS.

At Sea, Aboard the USS Kentucky (5 July 1906): The Kentucky was headed for Perth and although Buchanan hated the thought of missing the next sea battle in the Indian Ocean he knew the real battle would be fought and the war won or lost in the halls of power on land. Still, he thought, there were too many fleets in the Indian Ocean with nowhere to go. Sooner or later the Turks and Indians were going to start tripping over each other. In the meantime, it would take a coordinated, unified English, French and Japanese effort to hold them. And who knows, maybe the Italians would live to sing another day?

At Sea in the North Pacific (7 July 1906): The admiral in charge of the Northern Fleet and the captain of the Matsuyama were not impressed by the young commander who presented himself on the bridge bearing a sealed envelope that he had apparently received before they left Petropavlovsk. Why, they wondered, were they only getting the message now? The admiral opened the message, briefly scanned it, and handed it to the captain with a terse "Make it so." order. The captain's eyes opened wide as he read the message. Imperial Japanese Navy HQ was ordering

them to disregard previous orders to return to Yokohama and instead make for Simushir, a small volcanic island in the northern Kuriles. There they would rendezvous with several cargo ships and help construct a "MOST SECRET" shore facility for the support of future Japanese naval operations. When that was done they would proceed to Iturup in the lower Kuriles and do the same thing. From there the cargo ships would return home and the Fleet, after refueling and resupplying would head for the island of Attu in the Aleutians. The admiral and captain exchanged bewildered looks as the young commander observed with a smile. Both suspected the commander was carrying another envelope with further orders but neither dared ask. Commander Subaru was the son of the head of Fiji Industries, one of Japanese fasted growing industrial companies. More importantly, his father was a confidant and friend of the Meiji himself.

Osaka (Late Summer 1906): A pair of mid-sized Japanese freighters left Osaka early in the morning heading north at a leisurely pace. Only the presence of two white men in civilian dress in the ship's wardroom suggested something unusual was afoot. The ships passed Tokyo and stopped in several small ports for fuel and supplies as they continued north along the Kuriles. As the air and water grew cooler and the sea more choppy the crew wondered where they were headed. Perth (Late Summer 1906); Buchanan, accompanied by the Kentucky's captain and dressed in his white dress uniform (fruit salad yes, but no medals or sword) rode in the carriage to Government House escorted by a quartet of Royal Marines who looked most uncomfortable on their horses. As they arrived under the portico of the large white structure (Was it a palace or just a big white house, Buchanan wondered?) Buchanan observed a row of senior officers, a couple of civilians in Bond St. suits, and an imposing figure in a red jacketed uniform with enough gold braid to make a tennis net and a helmet with enough feathers to keep a dozen large birds in flight. Buchanan assumed the gentleman was the local military boss or perhaps the mayor. Only later did he discover he was being greeted by the Governor General of Australia.

TO BE CONTINUED

Spring and Summer 1906 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

I'll go East to West this time.

Hey - Japan got kicked out of Siberia! No biggie. Though the retreat is not where I would go. The tactics on the Korean peninsula are awful. He's got the army where a fleet should be and fleets where armies should

be. Seriously! If a fleet was in Korea and armies were in Vladivostok and Manchuria, all three units could work with together. But for some reason China removed a potentially pesky fleet. Why? Thanks to the disband, Japan can take the last Chinese SC in the Fall with no risk.

Yes, so China should be gone this fall, sometimes small powers in these large games essentially decide to give up. That is not ideal, but it happens. China made the choice that ensures his demise. So, I thought if Japan were serious about moving forward on Russia, he would have pushed fleets around to the north by now. He hasn't and as Rick suggests he doesn't really have much of a plan at all with them as far as we can tell. This is not going to be the most active of fronts, but as the rest of the board moves, then Russia also will have options here, possibly also using the Off-Board boxes to come in from behind as well. Japan's long term position is not good.

To the South, England and France are mucking about in SE Asia, and again they have useless fleets sitting on coasts where they can do nothing other than watch at the fights going on inland. Oh well.

This has been a trend since the beginning of the game. EFJ have been working together, but not effectively. Yes, China now is gone, but they are not ready for the onslaught coming, especially if Turkey and India stay allied.

Swinging around to India, it looks like Turkey is showing up in a big way. There is a question as to whether the Italian fleet in the Arabian Sea can do anything useful. Shouldn't be possible. Turkey can leave Iran if he wants to not take it from Russia. And Magudisco is going to fall. I see six Turkish fleets sweeping towards the Indian front. He'll probably be going to off-board boxes soon.

Italy possibly can be a bit of a thorn, but not much of one, and there is no one for him to work with. As

noted above the Turkish fleets are coming, and also can use the Off-Board boxes to come at Japan.

Swinging into Europe, there's not much to say at the moment. With Germany working with Austria and Russia and Turkey, England and France are going to be outgunned. They won't have enough forces to hold off the big alliance. I'm expecting the Germans to take the North Sea soon and Turkey will outflank the stalemate at Gibraltar.

Again, the key here was the flip in Germany, which we still don't know for sure whether it was a planned feint or not. But it really broke the situation beautifully, and right now slow but steady progress is coming against England and France on all fronts. If EFJ remains just that, very soon we will be talking about who in the big alliance stabs first and where.

I have nothing much to add to what Rich and Jim-Bob said except that I don't think Germany will survive the fall of England and France in Europe. I expect to see Austria and Russia swallow Germany up or at least neuter Germany by taking all of Germany's home centers so Germany will find it impossible to build new units.

In Asia it looks like India has been successfully integrated into the Russian-Turkish alliance so now it is a Russian-Turkish-Indian alliance. Japan would better served switching sides at his point.

To add on to what Jack says, Japan really should be trying to mend fences with India or Russia. E/F are not worthwhile allies at this point.

Fall 1906

Austria: A Burgundy - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Ionian Sea – Tunis, A Libya Supports F Ionian Sea – Tunis, A Munich - Burgundy (*Fails*), F Naples - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Piedmont Supports A Burgundy – Marseilles, F Rome Supports F Naples - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Ruhr Supports A Belgium, F Tuscany Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea - Gulf of Lyon, A Venice Supports A Piedmont.

China: A Sikang - Viet Nam (*Fails*).

England: F English Channel Supports F North Sea, A Laos - Viet Nam (*Fails*), F Norwegian Sea Supports F North Sea, ~~F North Sea Supports F Norwegian Sea~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to London or Edinburgh or Yorkshire or OTB), F Thailand(ec) Hold, F Western Mediterranean Sea Supports F Gulf of Lyon.

France: F Algeria Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea, F Andamon Sea - Bay of Bengal (*Fails*), A Annam Supports A Laos - Viet Nam, F Cambodia Supports F Thailand(ec), A Gascony Supports A Marseilles, F Gulf of Lyon Supports A Marseilles (*Cut*), A Marseilles Supports A Silesia - Saxony (*Fails*), F Morocco Supports F Algeria, A Paris Supports A Picardy, A Picardy Supports A Paris.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Munich – Burgundy, A Berlin – Posen, F Denmark Supports F Skagerrak - North Sea, F Helgoland Bight Supports F Skagerrak - North Sea, A Holland Supports A Belgium, F Skagerrak - North Sea.

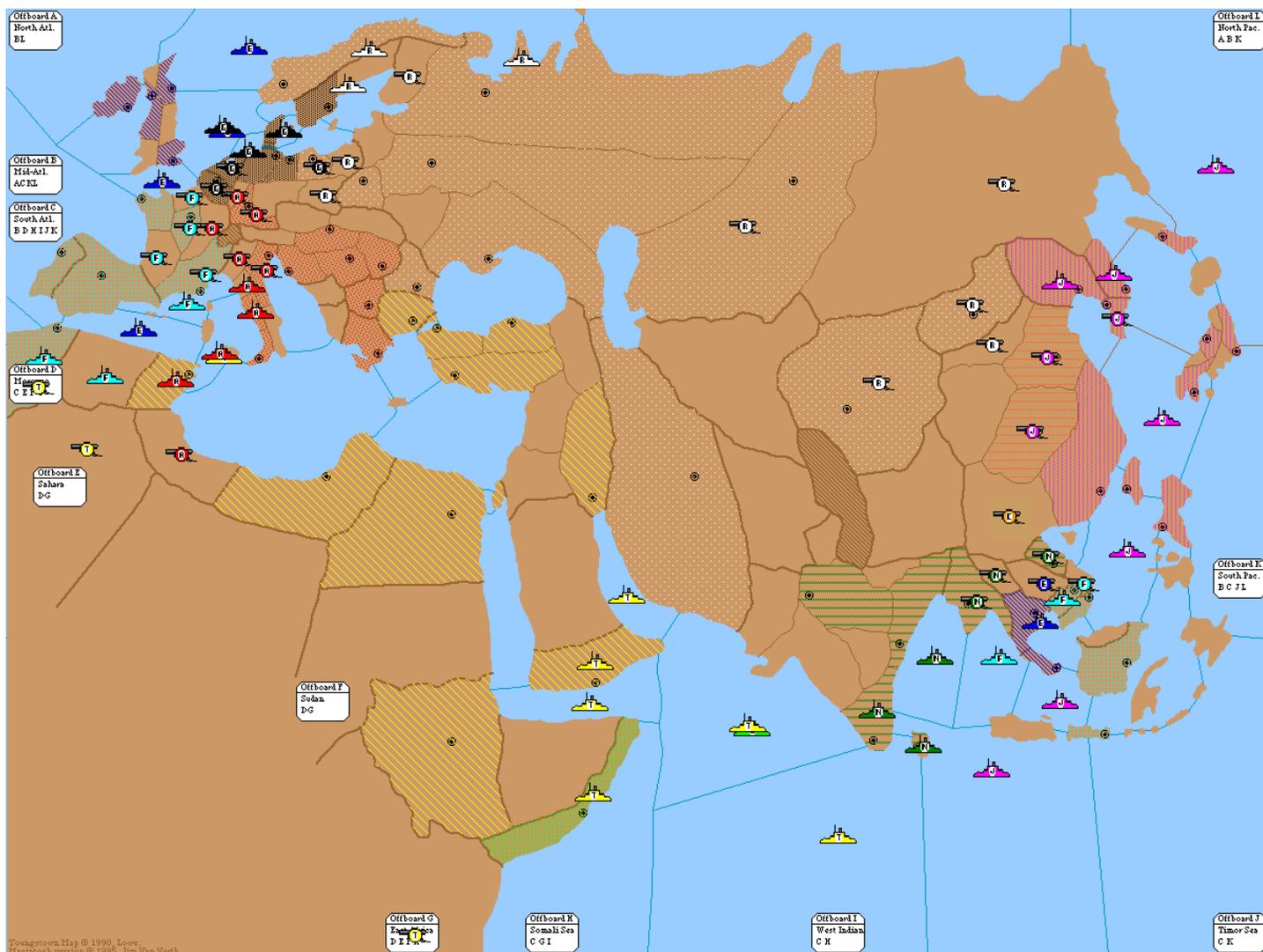
India: F Bay of Bengal - Andamon Sea (*Fails*), A Burma - Thailand (*Fails*), F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*), F Madras Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Cut*), A Shan Supports A Viet Nam - Laos, A Viet Nam - Laos (*Fails*).

Italy: F Arabian Sea - Madras (*Dislodged*, retreat to Somali Sea or Rajasthan or Sind or OTB).

Japan: A Canton - Hankow, F East Indian Ocean Supports F Arabian Sea - Madras (*Cut*), F East China Sea - Canton (*Bounce*), A Korea Supports F Manchuria, F Malay Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean, F Manchuria Hold, F North Pacific Ocean - Siberia (*Fails*), A Peking Supports A Canton - Hankow, F South China Sea - Canton (*Bounce*), F Vladivostok Supports F North Pacific Ocean - Siberia.

Russia: A Finland Supports F Gulf of Bothnia - Sweden, F Gulf of Bothnia - Sweden, F Norway Supports F Skagerrak - North Sea, A Outer Mongolia Supports A Sinkiang - Inner Mongolia, A Omsk Supports A Siberia, A Posen - Prussia, A Siberia Hold, A Silesia Hold, A Sinkiang - Inner Mongolia, F St. Petersburg(nc) Supports F Norway, A Turkistan - Sinkiang.

Turkey: A East Africa - Off Board G, F Gulf of Aden - Magudisco, F Iran - Arabian Sea, A Off Board E - Off Board D, F Persian Gulf Supports F Iran - Arabian Sea, F Red Sea - Gulf of Aden, A Sahara Supports F Ionian, Sea - Tunis, F Tyrrhenian Sea - Gulf of Lyon (*Dislodged*, retreat to Ionian Sea or OTB), F West Indian Ocean Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean, F Yemen Supports F Red Sea - Gulf of Aden.



PRESS

Tunis Tattler: In a surprise move, units of the Turkish West African Expeditionary Force in the Sahara Desert cooperated with the Austrian Security Force in Libya to bring the Austrian Ionian Fleet into Tunis, establishing Austrian control over its first non-European holding, elevating Austria to the rank of Colonial Power. Locals have complained that the somewhat benevolent rule of the Sultana's administration has been replaced by the Iron Boot of Austrian Will, imposed from the Imperial Capital in Vienna.

New Delhi, 4 August 1906. - Intelligence agents in Ankara recently intercepted a desperate-sounding transmission from Paris, seemingly inviting the Turkish Navy to "Come on down". Indian English isn't quite the same as other dialects - we interpret "come on down" to mean "wank on duvet". Silly French people - we do not play with ourselves in that way.

Magudisco Message: Once-oppressed citizens of this final remnant of the failed Italian state celebrated today as a Turkish fleet sailed unopposed into harbor, while the last flotilla of the Italian chaos-worshippers battled off the shores of India, being chased out of the Arabian Sea by overwhelming Turkish naval superiority, spearheaded by the squadron of new Sultana-class battle cruisers. Leaving the shores of Iran, still adjusting to Russian rule, the fleet honored the long-standing Turkish co-prosperity agreement with the Russians, though some had speculated that the battle cruiser Sultana, flagship of the squadron, would reestablish Turkish dominion over the region in the Sultana's name while supporting the Persian Gulf fleet southwards. In any event, no nation can debate Turkish naval superiority in the waters stretching from Africa to India, just as no nation can debate Japanese superiority in the Eastern seas -- for now, at least.

East African Tribal News Network: Rumors abound here as Turkish forces passing through the region continued into the uncharted lands to the south. One such rumor is that the Turkish Army is headed for the rich diamond mines to be found in places such as South Africa, so that the Sultana and all her Ministers can wear the largest, best cut stones in all the world. Other rumors claim that after passing beyond view of the local tribes, that army headed west, into Central Africa, seeking out some lost Temple of Solomon. (Local shamans believe the Turks are on the wrong track if that is what they seek, but are not saying where the Temple actually stands.) Other rumors seem to combine those rumors, indicating the Turks seek the legendary King Solomon's Mines, and have been joined by almost as legendary English adventurer Allan Quartermain...

Madras, May 18, 1906. - Ravi Shankar, Admiral of the First Indian Fleet based in Madras, is pleased to report

that the confrontation with the rogue Italian fleet in the Arabian Sea, was successfully resolved without loss of life on either side. Our spotters, equipped with telescopes supplied by our friends in Germany, could not help but notice the sad and sorry state of the ships, and the lean and hungry look of their crews. The fact that they were upwind only reinforced the observation. On Admiral Shankar's orders, the warheads of the shore batteries, torpedoes and main guns of the battleships were filled with curried meatball take-out containers and offers of amnesty and/or repatriation. The intense bombardment caused the Italians to fall out of formation as the hungry crew abandoned stations to collect the unexpected nourishment. A few real shells convinced them to withdraw to consider their options.

Istanbul Inquirer: Local imams were encouraged to hear that the Sultana would no longer put up with the smuggling of alcohol through the port of Tunis. Though some point out that simply handing the port to the Austrians so that the pipeline for French wines and champagne being sent to the Russians would be shorter is not exactly dealing with the issue. On the other hand, political insiders agree that Russians with a steady supply of alcohol -- in whatever form -- are happy Russians, and happy Russians make for good neighbors. Still, some were disappointed that the "loan" of Iran to Russian overseers has not been collected on, on top of the "loan" of Tunis to Austria. "What is the Sultana thinking?" they wonder -- but not too loudly!

Baghdad Business Report: The shipyards have hit a minor slump, with most of their work involving repairs and refits. Several older ships have sailed in from various Turkish fleets in the Southern Seas on a rotating basis, to get refitted with improved guns, new boilers and screws, and to take on replacement crewmembers. But in more surprising news -- Turkish women have begun working at the yards! Quoting the Sultana as to the duties of a Turkish citizen, regardless of gender, many have stepped in to take over the jobs of Turkish men, who have joined the navy to replace losses taken in bloody battles both in the Southern Seas and in the Mediterranean. The hot, steamy work environment has led to a relaxation of the traditional clothing for Turkish women, who it must be said, seem to be able to stand the conditions just fine, though perhaps at the cost of distracting some of the men...

Macau (Early Fall 1906): Vice Admiral Itti Bitti Tini Wini, Commander of the IFJ Southern Combined Fleets visited Macau recently with members of his staff. He was welcomed by the Portuguese Governor General Vino de Porto and representatives from the English and French legations in Macau. As part of his tour the Admiral visited the Temple of A Ma (built in 1488 and one of the largest and oldest Taoist temples in the world) where he

observed the famous "Unequal Treaties Table" where the infamous treaties between the western countries and China were signed some fifty years earlier.

Canton (Two Days Later): Continuing his tour Vice Admiral Tini Wini visited Canton and while there visited Dutchman's Island, traditional burial place of ex-patriot "round eyes" who died in the city. Tini Wini stayed longer than expected as he wandered through the cemetery seemingly looking for something. Finally he paused, stood at attention and saluted as one of his aides placed a small bouquet of flowers on one of the few graves that seemed to be well cared for. Later he told his aides that it was the grave of William "Pug" Peery, who had been one of his roommates at the US Navy Academy in Annapolis years earlier. When few Americans were willing to room with a "slant eyes", Peery had welcomed him; and even taught him how to box. Ironically, Tini Wini won the boxing title at Annapolis his senior year; while Peery got the nickname "Pug" for the fact that although he never won a single match for Annapolis he never gave up in the ring. Years later he resigned from the Navy, transferred to the State Department and became an official "delegation painter" and accompanied various US diplomatic missions on their journeys, recording official events as they happened. He died of some disease in Canton while attending the Unequal Treaty signing between the USA and China. Legends abounded about his travels and the rumors that he was really a "secret" cartographer for the US Navy.

Hong Kong (Three Days Later): Under the watchful eyes of Vice Admiral Tini Wini tens of thousands of mostly silent Chinese and a few hundred Japanese school students loudly cheering them on, a dragon boat race was held on Victoria Harbor waters between teams from the four Japanese fleets that make up the IFJ Southern Combined Fleets, the French and British Fleets, and loyal ex-pats flying the flags of the Italian and Ottoman communities. The crowds' only enthusiastic cheers came for the volunteers from the Aberdeen Bay volunteer lifeguard team --- all local Chinese. Whether the team was inspired by the cheers of their countrymen or the advantage given to them by their tight speedo swim suits we cannot say for certain. Certainly they gave their all and showed their all on the way to a splendid victory! Not to be undone, Admiral Tini Wini graciously awarded the Imperial Pee Pee Cup to the winning team and in turn accepted their gift of a bright yellow speedo swim suit. The Vice Admiral immediately took up the challenge, donned the suit and dived into Victoria Harbor headed for Tsim ShauTsui shouting over his shoulder, "Beat me if you can!" Under the watchful eyes of boat loads of IJN sailors and marines the Vice Admiral easily was first back on land.

Off the Coast of Hong Kong and In the Pearl River Delta (Days Later): Units from the 3rd and 4th Southern Fleets faced off in a friendly competition over the

weekend to demonstrate their skills in a series of maritime competitive events. After several days of various skill and gaming competitions, the Vice Admiral declared the competition a stand-off and draw. To celebrate the end of the event the ships of the two fleets lined up one on one no more than 5 meters apart with their crews manning the rails. Each sailor was armed with a single weapon, a watermelon. When a shot rang out from the flagship each sailor was charged with tossing his watermelon onto the deck of the opposite ship. The judges then counted the number of splats on each ship's deck, deducted the number from the crew roster, and declared a winner. When all the ship totals were added up, while the sailors enjoyed the watermelon, it was once again declared a draw!! Everybody was winner!!! And that explains how watermelon became one of the leading money crops on Hong Kong Island.

Siberia (Mid Fall 1906): While the main units of the IFJ Northern Combined Fleet remained at sea small destroyers and torpedo boats launched a surprise attack on Petropavlovsk recently. The results of the surprise attack are unknown at the moment. In the meantime main units of the Northern Combined Fleet carried out exercises with units of the USN Pacific Fleet in the Aleutian Island waters.

At Sea in the Indian Sea (Mid Fall 1906): Units of the IJN continued their efforts to support an Italian invasion of India and prevent any Indian or Turkish naval units from advancing into the Eastern Indian Ocean. Fighting is intense and casualties are heavy but the outcome remains in doubt.

Hankow (Late Fall 1906): Units of the Imperial Japanese Army advancing from Canton have taken the city and nearly completed a campaign to liberate the people of China from foreign aggressors. When the Indians and Russians realize that the lands of the Chin, the Han, and the Manchus don't belong to them; we can have peace in our time. Baron Tanka, of the Imperial Japanese Foreign Ministry said, "Siberia should not be a subject for contention between Japan and Russia. There's plenty of land and resources there for both of us. And as long as India stays behind the Tibetan Mountains and west of the Irrawaddy River we will have no problems. We have no claims in Southeast Asia but we do respect the claims of our good allies England and France."

Tokyo (Late Fall 1906): The Emperor of China, Pi Yu, has been received at the Imperial Palace by the Emperor Meiji. The differences between the two Empires were made obvious in the differences between their two emperors. However, it was the Emperor of Japan who went out of his way to receive his "guest" with full ceremonial honors and every respect for his position. After an hour of ceremonial chit-chat that seemed to

bore both leaders, the two retired for a private conversation (The Emperor Meiji speaks excellent Mandarin) without their ministers or aides. The ministers in the meantime retired for their own discussions while the aides twiddled their thumbs. Meiji informed Pi Yu that he has no intention of removing him from the throne of China and that Japanese interests will be represented by an as yet unidentified regent. The possibility of Pi Yu going into exile was also discussed. And finally, the option of his entering a monastery of his choice was also mentioned. Nothing was decided.

Tokyo (Days Later): The Meiji read the report from his spies and exclaimed, "He's just a boy. He's spending all his time tending to the garden of his villa. Doesn't he realize that villa and the garden are his prison? If he does as I say, I can make something out of him. If he doesn't, I can make nothing out of him. It's his choice. And that will be the future of China."

Perth (Early Fall 1906): (Correction: Recent restoration of B&W photographs of the Governor's House reveal that it was actually red and stone colors, from the red bricks and stones used in its construction. We apologize to all our color blind readers who couldn't see that in our prior press.) Perth (Early Fall 1906): Buchanan wasn't used to running into more imposing figures than he, but he had to admit that the Governor General in his boots (with high heels he bet) and his towering helmet with plume) must have stood a good seven and a half feet tall. Buchanan had seen his share of imposing residences in Washington, London, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Peking, etc. but there was something about the Governor's House he liked. Perhaps it was because it reminded him in a way of The White House and not Buckingham Palace, the Kremlin or The Forbidden City. As he discovered it had only 7 public rooms on the ground floor (The White House had 8.) and 16 rooms in all on the ground floor. That was the State Floor. The second, or Family Floor, had 25 rooms (The White House had 14.), perhaps because the Governor Generals had bigger families or because that floor also served the same functions as the "West Wing" of the White House. The Governor General escorted Buchanan into the Drawing Room where he met his official reception committee. Over tea there were the usual discussions of how his trip was going, the recent battles in the Indian Sea, Japan's triumphs in China and, almost as an after-thought, the situation in Europe where England seemed to be in serious trouble with the Russians and Germans and the French were in trouble with the Austrians and Turks. What to do remained the unasked and unanswered question? Buchanan tried to be positive and upbeat, knowing the tough talk would come in later meetings, but he wondered to himself, "Do they really know or care how serious the situation is "at home? Or is there a 'home' anymore?"

Perth (An hour later): Buchanan's bladder couldn't handle it any more. He needed relief and begged to be excused. Never a tea drinker anyway he just had to go. Again he admired the rooms as he wandered in search of an unoccupied toilet. Like most buildings of its age the Government House was long on large public rooms and short on toilets. Still, he thought the Australians had gotten good value for the 15,000 pounds sterling they had put into the house (But using slave labor to build it must have kept costs down.). Finishing his business in the W.C. he moved into the adjoining washroom where, to his surprise and shock, he discovered a young lady puffing on a cigar! She looked as surprised to see him as he did to see her, no doubt. He thought she looked young enough to be his daughter, which she was. She thought he looked old enough to be her father, which he was. But still, there was curiosity and a certain attraction. Not knowing what else to do she offered him a puff on the cigar and; not knowing what else to do, he accepted. And so the two of them, like two school boys caught in a prank, puffed away. She seemed to know who he was and why he was there. He, on the other hand, didn't have a clue as to who she was. Finally, he asked, "What's your name?" "Esmeralda," She responded with a sign. "And what are doing here?" he asked? "I live here," she replied "Oh, are you related to the Governor General?" he asked? "Not exactly," Was her answer. With that, Buchanan bade her good bye and went in search of his meeting.

Perth (That evening): Buchanan came down the stairs in the Governor's House to be greeted by various flunkies and aides. He walked down the long hall to the entrance of The Ballroom where he was greeted by more men in uniform and more women in diamonds than he'd seen anywhere, including London. The Governor General and his wife greeted him and Buchanan realized she was wearing a necklace of gorgeous diamonds including two matched blue ones the same size and color as her eyes. It was a typical Empire event, a low key but over-the-top attempt to wow as only the Empire could. Still, in all the fancy red uniforms and such Buchanan stood out in his dress whites and medals. Particularly impressive to the Australians were the awards from the UK, France and Japan. Ah, yes, an award from the Japanese Emperor himself. Wow.

Buchanan did what he was expected to do. Greetings and polite chit-chat before dinner as expected. Trying to avoid the barramundi, crocodile and kangaroo that the Australians seemed to thrive on at dinner was a personal choice. And after dinner making sure he danced with all the ladies, young and old, important and not, that he should and avoiding the ones he shouldn't. In other words, he was totally bored.

Then, half-way through the dancing part of the evening, Buchanan could feel eyes on him. He looked around but at first he couldn't tell where they were coming from. But, in a manner of minutes he felt the back of his neck

turning red from the intense heat of the gaze. Suddenly he turned and there, a few feet away from him was his cigar-smoking chum of earlier. In fact, he swore he could smell the smoke of the cigar where most women were drenched in one French perfume or another. The young lady was dressed in a different gown, this time of white, with no fancy decorations, and only a single perfect pearl necklace around her neck. But what a pearl, he thought, it's the size of my thumb tip and it's pure black.

As he debated approaching her she took the decision into her own hands and approached him. Smiling she said in a low voice, "We need to talk. Now." And moved away from him.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Hotel Lambert, Quai d'Anjou, Ile de Cite, Paris, France (1 April 1906): Rather than a meeting at the Elysee Palace as suggested by the President, or the Palais D'Alma as suggested by the Prime Minister, it was agreed that their meeting would be held at the Hotel Lambert, home of the Minister of the Treasury, Henri Rothschild who promised privacy and tight security, something that seemed to appeal to all involved.

Attending the meeting were: The 9th President of the Republic, Armand Fallieres (1906-1913) who had already caused a stir by pardoning Alfred Dreyfus and a group of murderers to demonstrate his opposition to capital punishment and to strengthen his support among the strong Socialist majority in the National Assembly; newly elected Prime Minister Ferdinand Sarrien of the Radical Socialist collation; The Duc de Rohan, Minister of War; Foreign Minister Leon Bourgeois; and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, PM of Great Britain who was traveling inognito as Sir Bangs Leslie Tapscott. Everyone present already knew what had happened and what would happen in the next few days. The question on all their minds was, "Who is responsible for the assassination of Count Romanovsky, and was he really the Tsar's bastard?" Nobody had the answers to either question, although it seemed, from the way the Russian Imperial Court was handling the matter that the answer to the second question was yes.

As they met Romanovsky continued to lie in state in the Paris Eglise Russe de Paris Saint Alexandre Nevsky. Only Sarrien knew that that was the very church where the ambassadors were meeting as Romanovsky was being murdered in the Saint Serge de Ragonege Russian Orthodox Church a few kilometers away. Thousands of Russian ex-patriots had lined up to enter the small church and pay their respects to a man few of them had ever met. Even the embassies of the other Powers had sent flowers and signed the condolences book.

The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister had met earlier in the day with the newly arrived Russian ambassador to

Paris, Count Ivan Orlofsky, rumored to be a former lover of the Tsarina and eager to get away from the court in St.Petersburg. The details for the return of the Count's body to Russia had been agreed on, no small matter in a continent at war, and it had been determined that Romanovsky would be accorded all the ceremony befitting a member of Victoria's "Little Family" as they referred to themselves.

Still, the question of who and why remained unanswered. Everyone present had a theory or two or three. Was it unhappy Royalists in Russia? The Socialists? Perhaps even the Communists? Could it be Followers of the False Dimitri? What about opponents to the modernization and secularization of Mother Russia (but not at the expense of the Supreme Autocrat's power, of course)? Was it the work of agents from France and England? Could it even be the works of Russia's allies: the Austrians, Turks or Germans? And what of the Chinese and Japanese? They were always looking for ways to cause trouble in Europe. Or, based on the Cossack dagger found in the body perhaps it was a Ukrainian/Tartar/Turkish group behind the killing?

As the men filed out of his Grand Salon, Henri Rothschild and Campbell-Bannerman remained behind over a bottle of Remy Martin and a humidor of Cuban cigars. After a sniffer and a puff or two, Campbell-Bannerman said, "I know the French police and intelligence agencies are doing their best to find the killer(s)? And Scotland Yard is doing the same. However, perhaps there is another way?" Rothschild suggested, with a slight smile, that there was indeed another, better way. "I have asked our agent in New York to contact Pinkerton's. They are already on the case. In addition, our Frankfurt branch has met with members of the intelligence arm of the Bavarian Illuminati to request their assistance. Finally, we have offered a 100,000 gold rubles reward for information on the killers to the best intelligence operation in Russia --- the corps de ballet of the Ballet de Russe. One of them will find us the killers I am sure.

Quai d'Orsay, Paris (3 April 1906): Just steps from the Pont Alexandre III, named for and dedicated by his grandfather Tsar Alexandre III, down the quai from the French Foreign Ministry and under the watchful eyes of that almost conqueror of Russia, Napoleon, finally at rest in Les Invalides, Count Romanovsky's coffin was placed aboard a French corvette for the voyage down the Seine to Havre. The coffin would be escorted by the Russian ambassador, the French Foreign Minister and various dignitaries including the British and Japanese ambassadors.

Banks of the Seine (3 April 1906): Encouraged by a day off from work with pay French workers lined the banks of the Seine downriver from Paris as the corvette Dasyatidae moved slowly down the river.

Le Havre, France (4 April 1906): French dignitaries lined the quay walls of the harbor as the Dasyatidae left the harbor and passed along a corridor of French naval ships as it headed toward the Isle of Wright where it would join an English naval flotilla for the next leg of the voyage home for the Count.

Off the Isle of Wright, England (4 April 1906): As the Dasyatidae passed by the royal yacht Victoria & Albert III His Majesty Edward VII saluted. Interestingly, His Majesty was not accompanied by the PM or members of the Cabinet since the event was billed as a “personal” one and not an “official” one which, considering that England and Russia were at war does make sense.

Isle of Wright, England (a few hours later): With a squadron of English navy ships on one side and a squadron of French navy ships on the other, the Dasyatidae began the voyage up the channel and into the North Sea.

Cuxhaven, Saxony (6 April 1906): The Dasyatidae and her escorting flotilla arrived this morning in Cuxhaven where the coffin of Count Romanovsky will be transferred to the German Imperial Yacht, the Hohenzollern, for the voyage through the Kiel Canal to Copenhagen. Ships of the German High Seas Fleet lined the route to the Canal as the French and English flotilla faded away. At the other end of the Canal the German Baltic Squadron greeted the Hohenzollern with lowered flags and appropriate music. The Hohenzollern docked in Kiel so members of the German branch of “Victoria’s Family” could join the mourning party.

Copenhagen, Denmark (8 April 1906): It was a lovely spring morning on the quay behind the Amalienborg Palace as the Hohenzollern docked just in front of the Russian Imperial Yacht Standart, at 5,500 tons and nearly 600 feet the envy of all the rulers of Europe. The Standart had been built in Copenhagen at such a huge cost that it almost broke the shipbuilders. However, Tsar Alexander III when he saw how much the Tsarina Maria (Former Princess Dagmar of Denmark) loved the ship agreed to pay all the excess construction costs, thereby saving the shipbuilder from bankruptcy. The Russian Empress Maria Feodorovna accompanied the Standard to Copenhagen to greet the return of Count Romanovsky because of the Tsar’s military obligations in the current war.

Copenhagen, Denmark (10 April 1906): Accompanied by a squadron from the German Baltic Fleet and the Russian Baltic Fleet the Standart left Copenhagen bound for St. Petersburg. Three additional passenger ships were required to transport members of the official mourning party and their entourages. As the Standart moved east along the Baltic coast it was greeted with lowered flags and gun salutes at each port.

St. Petersburg, Russia (15 April 1906): The Standart left its escorting squadrons in the Kronstadt Bay and made its way to a berth along the quay wall near the Admiralty. It was greeted by Russian dignitaries, the Metropolitan of Novgorod, and other officials. Behind it the three passenger vessels carrying members of the mourning party docked to much less ado. No one noticed the two non-Russian gentlemen disembarking the last of the ships and their greeters, two Russian Orthodox priests by their clothing but missing the long beards and generally unkempt appearance of strictly Orthodox clergy. The four made their way to a waiting carriage and disappeared in the crowd. The Count’s coffin was unloaded and moved to the Prince Vladimir Cathedral where it would lay in state until the day of his official funeral.

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Petersburg, Russia (18 April 1906):The entire Imperial Family, headed by the Tsar and Tsarina, attended the high solemn mass for Count Romanovsky this morning; along with members of the court, the clergy, the nobility, and the foreign diplomatic corps. Following the four hour, standing only, service the members of the Imperial Family entered the family crypt where the Count was interred along with the other Romanovs, thus lying to rest rumors that he might not have been of the imperial blood line.

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Petersburg, Russia (18 April 1906): Discretely positioned in one of the side chapels of the Romanov family crypt, Clancy turned to Brown and asked, “Well, was he or wasn’t he a Romanov? Brown pondered the question for a moment and then replied, “Based on the autopsy reports I would say he had as much Rasputin blood in him as Romanov.” Clancy sighed, “So you think he was the son of the Maria F. and not the Tsar?” I’d say it’s a good bet. She’d do anything to help the Tsarovich and only Rasputin seems able to do that. And, of course, there’s the other matter....” “What other matter?” Clancy asked? There are rumors that there was or is another daughter born to the Tsar and Tsarina earlier this year, but nobody seems to be sure who the father was.” Naval Cathedral of St. Nicholas (Later That Night): “It’s been too long, Father,” said the young Russian Orthodox priest as he entered the choir loft of the imposing Naval Cathedral that over-looked the Fortress of SS Peter and Paul. “Yes, well, we’ve both been busy. But now Romanovsky is tucked away and out of our hair, so we can get on with our work.” The two continued to talk under the watchful eye of The Messenger from Paris who had made his own way to St. Petersburg. “What is the plan now, Father?” said the younger priest. We will continue to do everything we can to destabilize Russia in an effort to bring down the Romanovs and their corrupt and incompetent rule. Whoever we have to

ally with, we will. Japan is already working with us, and England and France are our dupes. Now we must find a way to split up the Russian alliance with the Turks and Austrians. But first, we have to deal with the Germans," he said softly but with a powerful voice. Our agents in Constantinople have promised the Sublime Porte that we will renounce our claims to be the Fourth Rome if they join us. And we've promised the Austrians that Trieste will be the coffee capital of Europe if they join us. How can they resist?"

Ministry of War, St. Petersburg, Russia (21 April 1906):

It was late for a meeting of the Imperial War Council but the Tsar had insisted on it for reasons of security and privacy. "First," he said, "I want an update on the current situation. Tell me the truth, good or bad." He turned to his cousin, the commander of Russian armies. "Your Imperial Majesty, the situation is good over-all. In the west our fleets are moving into a better position to deal with the English fleets; and the Germans are holding them at bay. Our allies the Austrians are beating on the doors of Paris and the south of France. In the Near and Middle East we have no enemies as both Austria and Turkey are preoccupied elsewhere. The Indians are slugging it out with the English, French and Japanese; and so are not worried about us. In the Far East our only potential problem is the Japanese who have the strength to hold us at bay and, perhaps, drive us back. We have retaken Siberia but that battle is not over. China is lost to us, although we'll be able to pin down Japanese armies there. The real key will be in the Pacific where it will be us vs. them and perhaps not in the way they expect. However, I believe we will triumph in the end." The generals and admirals in attendance nodded agreement.

The Tsar's Restaurant, St. Petersburg, Russia

(Concurrently): The English, French and Japanese ambassadors and military attaches met for an informal tet-a-tet following reports of a meeting of the Imperial War Council a few hours before. "It's simple," said the French ambassador. "The Russians think they can win the war with help from Austria and Turkey, and their lackeys the Germans and Indians. And you know what, they're right?" He continued, "We have to do something on the military or diplomatic front to break up their plan. I think it's time for Operation Tsar. What do you think?" "I agree," said the English and, with some hesitation, the Japanese ambassador.

Café Verve Cliquot, St. Petersburg, Russia (Shortly thereafter.) "Your Imperial Majesty, what an unexpected honor....." the maître'd' sputtered as Maria F. entered the small café through a side door. "Silence, you fool! I'm incognito tonight. I am expecting guests shortly. They will ask for Le Grande Dame. Show them to my room" Within the hour a small room contained a half-dozen people, a motley collection if the Empress had ever seen one. She knew none of them personally and her own

identity was carefully hidden behind a large hat and a high scarf that covered her lower face. "I only want two things: 1) The thugs that killed Count Romanovsky and 2) The Grand Duchess Esmeralda. Find them and I will make you richer than you can dream."

Café Verve Cliquot, St. Petersburg, Russia (Later):

Michel Verne, 3rd Secretary at the French Embassy in St. Petersburg unrolled his listening tube and pondered what he'd heard in the small room next to his. Who was she? Who were they? Who cares who killed Romanovsky? And most important, who is Esmeralda? Is she the secret that can end this war?

The Amber Room, Berlin, Germany (22 April, 1906):

The Kaiser met with his General Staff away from prying eyes in the hopes that what transpired would not find its way to Moscow or Austria. Wilhelm loathed his Russian cousin and the Austrian KuK but he needed their support to hold off the English and French that he was convinced were out to get him. Doctors in Berlin and Vienna both agreed that Wilhelm suffered from a variety of phobias, mostly related to his deformed arm and his inability to get a mustache that grew in evenly on both sides of his face. Others claimed it was because as a youth he had practiced unsafe sex with a Pickelhaube, but no one knew for sure what made Wilhelm do what he did. Aboard the Standard in the Baltic (30 July 1906): The Imperial Family was having a good time as they always did on the Standard. Even the Empress seemed to enjoy the voyages to distant ports and getting away from the Imperial Court. The young grand duchesses were a problem of course because they fell in love with one of the ship's officers on every cruise and often it was the same poor new ensign that had three of the girls after his attentions, but that was easily solved by a promotion for the officer and a transfer to the Pacific Fleet. And the next cruise saw a new beau who would entertain and delight the girls. Only two were a problem, Esmeralda and Anastasia. Anastasia was too young to be more than a nuisance, but Esmeralda was turning out to be quite the beauty, intelligent, and very independent. The Tsar had solved the problem he thought several years ago by sending Esmeralda to Vladivostok, Siberia in care of her uncle, The Grand Duke Serge Romanov. Alas, she still seemed to be of a mind of her own and during the First Sino-Siberian War she had disappeared following the Chinese-Japanese attack on the city. Where she was now, who knew, but the Court Chamberlain continued to get wires asking for more money to be sent to ever increasingly strange destinations. The latest request had come from Darwin, Australia and asked that funds be sent to her care of the Russian Orthodox Church in Perth, Australia. However, a check with the Metropolitan's office revealed that no such church officially existed. What to do?

Perth, Western Australia, Australia (Unknown):

Esmeralda had arrived in Perth penniless with two

escorts, a lady in waiting and a yeoman from the Russian Navy who had been with her since she fled Vladivostok. Determined to return home she had headed south, stopping in Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Singapore before landing in Darwin. Lest we think she was suffering along the way she learned the arts of Ikebana, pearl diving, bamboo dancing and belly surfing, by the time she arrived in Perth she was a young lady of considerable beauty, many talents, and broke! On the advice of the local Russian Orthodox priest (the only one in Western Australia) she presented herself at Government House to the Governor General as a penniless refugee relative of Queen Victoria. The Governor General, impressed with her story and her youthful beauty, took her in, declared her to be his ward and queried the Foreign Ministry for guidance. Months passed. Then years. And all the time Esmeralda grew and blossomed.

Mariinsky Theater, St. Petersburg, Russia (Early Fall 1906): The Imperial Court and all of St. Petersburg were agog at the rumors that the Tsar personally had approved the first performance of the last opera written by the great Peter Tchaikovsky, *ESMERALDA IN PERTH*. Supposedly the work tells the story of a love child (but whose, the Tsar's or Tsarina's?) that flees the Imperial Court at a young age --- first to Vladivostok and then to more exotic destinations in Southeast Asia and Australia. Accompanied by a loyal lady in waiting and a faithful Navy yeoman, the young Esmeralda has many adventures before landing in Perth Western Australia; where she meets the man of her dreams ---a middle-aged American naval officer.

TO BE CONTINUED

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GAME OF DIPLOMACY BECOMES A GAME OF SITZKRIEG?

By Larry Peery

Sitzkriegs don't often happen in Diplomacy games, at least not in mine, but now I have one in each of my two games. Read on and you'll learn something about those two games and what a sitzkrieg is.

First, a sitzkrieg is not a stalemate, although gamers often think of it that way. When I tried to define the word for myself, based on my hazy recollection of what WWII was all about, the best I could come up with was: "A sitzkrieg is a conflict in which little movement takes place, usually but not always by design." A stalemate, on the other hand, implies that no movement is possible, usually because there is no room to maneuver

Second, my definition didn't satisfy me so I did a Google, Bing and Wikipedia search on the term. Most of the results dealt with sitzkrieg and blitzkrieg and the differences between them, with an occasional reference to the game of Chess and stalemates and checkmates.

What follows is the first page results of each of my three searches. Most of what you'll see is repetitive but occasionally you'll come across a real piece of true Peeriblah. For instance, who would have thought that sitzkrieg would lead to sitz krieg which would lead to sitz baths and hemorrhoids? I suggest you take a few minutes and scan through these listings and perhaps look at the ones that strike your fancy.

SITZKREIG ACCORDING TO GOOGLE

1. Phoney War - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoney_War
Contemporaneously, the period of the Phoney War had also been referred to as the "Twilight War" (by Winston Churchill), the Sitzkrieg ("the sitting war": a play ... Why Die for Danzig? - Saar Offensive - Operation Pike

2. Sitzkrieg | Define Sitzkrieg at Dictionary.com dictionary.reference.com/browse/sitzkrieg
slow-moving warfare marked by repeated stalemate. Origin: 1935-40; < German, equivalent to sitz(en) to sit! + Krieg war; modeled on blitzkrieg. Dictionary.com ...

3. Images for sitzkriegReport images
More images for sitzkrieg

4. sitzkrieg - definition of sitzkrieg by The Free Dictionary www.thefreedictionary.com/sitzkrieg
Definition of sitzkrieg in the Online Dictionary. Meaning of sitzkrieg. Pronunciation of sitzkrieg. Translations of sitzkrieg. sitzkrieg synonyms, sitzkrieg antonyms.

5. World War 2 History: Sitzkrieg- The Plan to Wait for Hitler hubpages.com › ... › Twentieth Century History › World War II
Jul 26, 2012 - When the Germans invaded poland Britain and France declared war on Germany and gathered 110 divisions arrayed against the 23 German ...

6. The Phoney War - History Learning Site www.historylearningsite.co.uk › ... › World War Two in Western Europe
Winston Churchill referred to the same period as the 'Twilight War' while the Germans referred to it as 'Sitzkrieg' - 'sitting war'. The Phoney War refers to what ...

7. Sitzkrieg - Merriam-Webster Online www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sitzkrieg
Merriam Webster
German sitz act of sitting + krieg war. This word doesn't usually appear in our free dictionary, but the definition from our premium Unabridged Dictionary is ...

8. Sitzkrieg dictionary definition | sitzkrieg defined www.yourdictionary.com/sitzkrieg
yourDictionary.com
Warfare marked by a lack of aggression or progress. Origin of sitzkrieg. Coined on the model of blitzkrieg : German Sitz, act of sitting; see sitz bath + German ...

9. sitzkrieg: Definition from Answers.com

www.answers.com › Library › Literature & Language › Dictionary

sitzkrieg n. Warfare marked by a lack of aggression or progress. [Coined on the model of BLITZKRIEG : German Sitz , ac.

10. Sitzkrieg: Definition from Answers.com

www.answers.com › ... › US Military Dictionary

Sitzkrieg [sitskrɪg] sitskrɪg 1. a derogatory term for the inactivity on the western front in Europe in the winter of 1939-40.

11. Blitzkrieg or sitzkrieg? - Collections

articles.baltimoresun.com/...12.../1990338122_1_kuwait-sitzkrieg-sadda...

Dec 4, 1990 - ... France and Great Britain declared war. The months that followed were known as the "sitzkrieg," or "phony war," with the British and French.

SITZKRIEG ACCORDING TO BING

• Phoney War - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoney_War

Terminology . Contemporaneously, the period of the Phoney War had also been referred to as the "Twilight War" (by Winston Churchill), the Sitzkrieg ("the sitting war ...

- Terminology •
- Inactivity •
- Saar offensive •
- Winter War •

• German invasion of ...

• sitzkrieg: Definition from Answers.com

www.answers.com › Library › Literature & Language › Dictionary

sitzkrieg n. Warfare marked by a lack of aggression or progress. [Coined on the model of BLITZKRIEG : German Sitz , ac

• What was the Sitzkrieg? | Answerbag

www.answerbag.com › ... › Social Sciences › History › World War II

Apr 16, 2005 • What was the Sitzkrieg? The Sitzkrieg("sitting war", a pun on Blitzkrieg), German language, or in Winston Churchill's words the Twilight War, was the phase ...

• Definition of sitzkrieg (n)

Bing Dictionary

- sitz•krieg
- [sítz kreèg]
-

1. warfare with little fighting: a period in a war during which there is little offensive activity or change in the positions of the combatants

• World War 2 History: Sitzkrieg- The Plan to Wait for Hitler

hubpages.com › ... › Twentieth Century History › World War II

World War 2 History: During the Sitzkrieg, the Soviet

Union Was The Main... World War 2 History: The

Sinking of the Laconia and Its Effect on the War;

• sitzkrieg - definition of sitzkrieg by The Free Dictionary
www.thefreedictionary.com/sitzkrieg

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Phoney War

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Phoney War

Part of the Western Front of World War II

A British artillery position near the German border during the Phoney War

Date October 1939 – April 1940

(7 months and 4 days)

Location Maginot Line, Siegfried Line

Result Battle of France

Belligerents

Allies:

France

United Kingdom

Free Polish

Axis:

Germany

The Phoney War was a phase early in World War II that was marked by a lack of major military operations by the Western Allies (the United Kingdom and France) against the German Reich. The phase covered the months following Britain's and France's declaration of war on

Germany (shortly after the invasion of Poland) in September 1939 and preceding the Battle of France in May 1940. War was declared by each side, but no Western power had committed to launching a significant land offensive, notwithstanding the terms of the Anglo-Polish and Franco-Polish military alliances, which obliged the United Kingdom and France to assist Poland.

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Terminology[edit]

Contemporaneously, the period of the Phoney War had also been referred to as the "Twilight War" (by Winston Churchill), the Sitzkrieg[1] ("the sitting war": a play on blitzkrieg) and the "Bore War" (a play on the Boer Wars). In Polish, it is referred to as the Dziwna Wojna ("strange war"), and in French, as the drôle de guerre or "strange war".

The term "Phoney War" was possibly coined by US Senator William Borah who stated, in September 1939: "There is something phoney about this war." [2]

Inactivity[edit]

While most of the German army was engaged in Poland, a much smaller German force manned the Siegfried Line, their fortified defensive line along the French border. At the Maginot Line on the other side of the border, British and French troops stood facing them, but there were only some local, minor skirmishes, while in the air there were occasional dogfights between fighter planes. The Royal Air Force dropped propaganda leaflets on Germany and the first Canadian troops stepped ashore in Britain, while western Europe was under a period of uneasy calm for seven months.

People of Warsaw outside the British Embassy with a banner which says "Long live England!" just after the British declaration of war with Nazi Germany

When Leopold Amery suggested to Kingsley Wood that the Black Forest be bombed with incendiaries to burn its ammunition dumps, Wood - the Secretary of State for Air - amazed the member of parliament by responding that the forest was "private property" and could not be bombed; neither could weapons factories, as the Germans might do the same. [3] Indeed, the sense of unreality was maintained when some British officers imported packs of foxhounds and beagles in 1939, but

were thwarted by the French authorities in their attempts at introducing live foxes. [4] Civilian attitudes in Britain to their German foes were still not as intense as they were to become after The Blitz. In April 1940 a German Heinkel bomber crashed at Clacton-on-Sea in Essex, killing its crew and people on the ground. They were all laid to rest in the local cemetery which was provided with support from the Royal Air Force. Wreaths with messages of sympathy for the casualties were displayed on the coffins. [5]

Meanwhile, the opposing nations clashed in the Norwegian Campaign. In their hurry to re-arm, Britain and France had both begun buying large amounts of weapons from manufacturers in the US at the outbreak of hostilities, thereby supplementing their own production. The non-belligerent US contributed to the Western Allies by discounted sales, and later, the lend-lease of military equipment and supplies.

Despite the relative calm on land, on the high seas the war was very real. Within a few hours of the declaration of war, the British liner SS Athenia was torpedoed off the Hebrides with the loss of 112 lives in what was to be the beginning of the long running Battle of the Atlantic. On 4 September, the Allies announced a blockade of Germany to prevent her importing food and raw materials to sustain her war effort, the Germans immediately declared a counter-blockade.

At the Nuremberg Trials, German military commander Alfred Jodl said that "if we did not collapse already in the year 1939 that was due only to the fact that during the Polish campaign, the approximately 110 French and British divisions in the West were held completely inactive against the 23 German divisions." [6]

General Siegfried Westphal stated, that if the French had attacked in force in September 1939 the German army "could only have held out for one or two weeks." [7]

Saar offensive[edit]

A French soldier examines a German street sign during the Saar Offensive

Main article: Saar Offensive

The Saar Offensive was a French attack into that region defended by the German 1st Army in the early stages of World War II. Its purpose was to assist Poland, which was then under attack. However, the assault was stopped after a few kilometres and the French forces withdrew.

According to the Franco-Polish military convention, the French Army was to start preparations for a major offensive three days after the beginning of mobilization. The French forces were to effectively gain control over

the area between the French border and the German lines and were to probe the German defences. On the 15th day of the mobilisation (that is on 16 September), the French Army was to start a full-scale assault on Germany. The preemptive mobilisation was started in France on 26 August, and on 1 September full mobilisation was declared.

A French offensive in the Rhine river valley area (Saar Offensive) started on 7 September, four days after France declared war on Germany. Since the Wehrmacht was occupied in the attack on Poland, the French soldiers enjoyed a decisive numerical advantage along their border with Germany. However, the French took no meaningful action to assist the Poles. Eleven French divisions advanced along a 32 km (20 miles) line near Saarbrücken against weak German opposition. The attack did not result in the diversion of any German troops. The all-out assault was to have been carried out by roughly 40 divisions, including one armoured, three mechanised divisions, 78 artillery regiments and 40 tank battalions. The French Army had advanced to a depth of 8 km (5.0 miles) and captured about 20 villages evacuated by the German army, without any resistance. However, the half-hearted offensive was halted after France seized the Warndt Forest, 7.8 km² (3.0 sq mi) of heavily mined German territory.

On 12 September, the Anglo French Supreme War Council gathered for the first time at Abbeville. It was decided that all offensive actions were to be halted immediately as the French opted to fight a defensive war, forcing the Germans to come to them. By then, the French divisions had advanced approximately 8 km (5.0 miles) into Germany on a 24-kilometre (15-mile) long strip of the frontier in the Saarland area. General Maurice Gamelin, ordered his troops to stop no closer than 1 km (0.62 miles) from the German positions along the Siegfried Line. Poland was not notified of this decision. Instead, Gamelin informed Marshal Edward Rydz-Śmigły that 1/2 of his divisions were in contact with the enemy, and that French advances had forced the Wehrmacht to withdraw at least six divisions from Poland. The following day, the commander of the French Military Mission to Poland, General Louis Faury, informed the Polish Chief of Staff — General Waclaw Stachiewicz — that the major offensive on the western front planned for 17–20 September had to be postponed. At the same time, French divisions were ordered to withdraw to their barracks along the Maginot Line.

The Phoney War had begun.
Winter War[edit]
Main article: Winter War

A notable event during the Phoney War was the Winter War, which started with the Soviet Union's assault on Finland on 30 November 1939. Public opinion, particularly in France and Britain, found it easy to side

with democratic Finland, and demanded from their governments effective action in support of "the brave Finns" against their much larger aggressor, the Soviet Union, particularly since the Finns' defence seemed so much more successful than that of the Poles during the September Campaign.[citation needed] As a consequence of its attack, the Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations, and a proposed Franco-British expedition to northern Scandinavia was much debated. British forces that began to be assembled to send to Finland's aid were not dispatched before the Winter War ended, and were sent to Norway's aid in the Norwegian campaign, instead. On 20 March, after the Winter War had ended, Édouard Daladier resigned as Prime Minister of France, due (in part) to his failure to aid Finland's defence.

German invasion of Denmark and Norway[edit]
Main article: Norwegian Campaign

The open discussions on an Allied expedition to northern Scandinavia, also without the consent of the neutral Scandinavian countries, and the Altmark Incident on 16 February, alarmed the Kriegsmarine and Germany by threatening iron ore supplies and gave strong arguments for Germany securing the Norwegian coast. Codenamed Operation Weserübung, the German invasion of Denmark and Norway commenced on 9 April. From the 14th, Allied troops were landed in Norway, but by the end of the month, southern parts of Norway were in German hands. The fighting continued in the north until the Allies evacuated in early June in response to the German invasion of France; the Norwegian forces in mainland Norway laid down their arms at midnight on 9 June.

Change of British government[edit]
Main article: Norway Debate

British Ministry of Home Security poster of a type that was common during the Phoney War
The débâcle of the Allied campaign in Norway, which was actually an offspring of the never-realised plans to aid Finland, forced a famous debate in the House of Commons during which the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was under constant attack. A nominal vote of confidence in his government was won by 281 to 200, but many of Chamberlain's supporters had voted against him while others had abstained. Chamberlain found it impossible to continue to lead a National Government or to form a government of national unity (in Britain often called a "coalition government", to distinguish it from Chamberlain's existing national government), around himself. On 10 May Chamberlain resigned the premiership whilst retaining the leadership of the Conservative Party. The King—George VI—appointed Winston Churchill—who had been a consistent opponent of Chamberlain's policy of appeasement—as his successor, and Churchill formed a new coalition

government that included members of the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Party as well as several ministers from a non-political background.

End of the Phoney War[edit]

Most other major actions during the Phoney War were at sea, including the Second Battle of the Atlantic fought throughout the Phoney War. Other notable events among these were:

- 17 September 1939, the British aircraft carrier HMS Courageous was sunk by U-29. She went down in 15 minutes with the loss of 518 of her crew, including her captain. She was the first British warship to be lost in the war.
- 14 October 1939, the British battleship HMS Royal Oak was sunk in the main British fleet base at Scapa Flow, Orkney (north of mainland Scotland) by U-47. The death toll reached 833 men, including Rear-Admiral Henry Blagrove, commander of the 2nd Battleship Division.
- Luftwaffe air raids on Britain began on 16 October 1939 when Junkers Ju 88s attacked British warships at Rosyth on the Firth of Forth. Spitfires of 602 and 603 Squadrons succeeded in shooting down two Ju 88s and a Heinkel He 111 over the firth. In a raid on Scapa Flow the next day, one Ju 88 was hit by anti-aircraft fire, crashing on the island of Hoy. The first Luftwaffe plane to be shot down on the British mainland was a He 111 at Haddington, East Lothian, on 28 October, with both 602 and 603 Squadrons claiming this victory.[8][9] 602 Squadron's Archie McKellar was a principal pilot in both the destruction of the first German attacker over water and over British soil. McKellar went on to be credited with 20 kills during the Battle of Britain, as well as "ace in a day" status by shooting down five Me-109s; a feat accomplished by only 24 RAF pilots during the entire war.

- In December 1939, the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee was attacked by the Royal Navy cruisers HMS Exeter, Ajax and Achilles in the Battle of the River Plate. Admiral Graf Spee fled to Montevideo harbour to carry out repairs on damage sustained during the battle. She was later scuttled rather than face a large British fleet the Kriegsmarine falsely believed was awaiting her departure. The support vessel for Admiral Graf Spee, the tanker Altmark was captured by the Royal Navy in February 1940 in southern Norway. (see: Battles of Narvik, Altmark Incident)

The warring air forces also showed some activity during this period, running reconnaissance flights and several minor bombing raids. The Royal Air Force also conducted a large number of combined reconnaissance and propaganda leaflet flights over Germany. These operations were jokingly termed "Pamphlet raids" or "Confetti War" in the British press.

On 10 May 1940, eight months after Britain and France had declared war on Germany, German troops marched into Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, marking the end of the Phoney War.

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With that background let's go on and look at our two sample games. Each is quite different and the way a sitzkrieg has effected them is also very different. First up is 2013A, "Sweet Spot" in ETERNAL SUNSHINE which is being run by Doug Kent. Spring 1908 is the last season completed and the Fall results are due out on 26 August. The game started out as a fairly normal one with a solid IRT alliance. Austria soon fell to that but the Italian player was always a sort of loose cannon in the alliance. The west remained in a state of flux for years until Germany was finally hammered down by France, who had joined the RT alliance while at the same time fighting Italy. At this point the four powers FIRT agreed on a four way draw after the English were eliminated. In spite of a lot of ups and downs that agreement has survived, partially because of a new Italian player who quickly agreed to take a quarter of a cake over nothing □

You can find all the moves, maps and press for 2013A at <http://www.whiningkentpigs.com/DW/es91.pdf> if you scroll down to page 23.

Which brings us to the current situation. Here are the results of the Winter 1907 and Spring 1908 moves. Diplomacy "Sweet Spot" 2013A, W 07/S 08
England (Harold Zarr - skip1955 "of" hotmail.com): Disband A Edinburgh.. A London Hold, F North Atlantic Ocean Supports F Western Mediterranean - Mid-Atlantic Ocean (*Void*).
France (Melinda Holley – genea5613 "of" aol.com): A Burgundy Supports A Marseilles, F English Channel – Belgium, F Holland Supports F English Channel – Belgium, A Kiel Supports A Munich, A Marseilles Hold, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean Hold, A Munich Supports A Kiel.
Italy (Hank Alme - almejh "of" alumni.rice.edu): F Gulf of Lyon Supports A Marseilles,

A Portugal Supports F Spain(sc), F Spain(sc) Supports A Portugal, A Trieste Supports A Vienna,
A Tyrolia Supports A Trieste, F Tyrrhenian Sea Supports F Gulf of Lyon, A Vienna Supports A Trieste, F Western Mediterranean Supports F Spain(sc).
Russia (Chris Babcock – cbabcock “of” asciiking.com): NMR, plays 1 short.. A Berlin Hold,
F Denmark Hold, A Edinburgh Hold, F North Sea Hold, A Norway Hold, F Norwegian Sea Hold, A Silesia Hold, F Skagerrak Hold, A Warsaw Hold.
Turkey (Larry Peery – peery “of” ix.netcom.com): F Aegean Sea Supports A Greece,
A Albania Supports A Serbia, A Budapest Supports A Galicia, A Galicia Supports A Budapest,
A Greece Supports A Albania, A Serbia Supports A Budapest, A Syria Hold.

All Draw Proposals Fail
Now Proposed – E/F//R/T, E//R/T. Please vote.
NVR=No

So what’s going on? It’s a classic case of sitkrieg with Russia, who NMRed, supposedly taking out England who still hasn’t got it quite together. In the meantime France, Italy and Turkey basically did nothing while they waited for England to be eliminated and a draw declared. The only remaining questions are: 1) Will England convince the others he deserves to be part of the draw; and 2) Will the four way FIRT agreement survive? Stay tuned.

My second example is 2013Cxm03, “Reasonland” which is being run as a demo game in DIPLOMACY WORLD under Doug Kent. Reasonland is based on the Youngstown IV 10 player game that adds a bit of Northern Africa, the Near and Middle East, and Asia to the regular board; with the addition of three new powers: China, India, and Japan.

Previous moves, press and maps can be found in back issues of DW. The Fall 1906 orders are due on 9 August. You can also read commentary on the play from no less than three “experts.” Take a look at it.

With a board this big and ten players you’d expect a fluid game and Reasonland has certainly been that. Although its only 1906 two of the powers, Italy and China, should be gone this year. A couple of others are marginally viable and even two of the larger powers face serious challenges, so there’s a lot of play left in the game.

The sitkrieg in this game takes place right where you would expect it to, on the French-German border although you could argue that it actually extends along the entire traditional western stalemate line because of the two concentrations of fleets, one in the North and one in the Mediterranean. However, the center of it all is Burgundy, where an Austrian army sits along with Austrian armies in the Ruhr and Munich. A German army in Belgium and yet another Austrian army in Piedmont complete one side of the picture. On the other side France has four armies in Picardy, Paris, Gascony and Marseilles with a fleet in the Gulf of Lyon

The breakthrough probably won’t come in the center but on the flanks where the stronger ARGV forces will eventually push the EF forces back unless, somehow, they manage to split up the opposition coalition. At the moment the RAT seems dominate and unstoppable as long as they stick together but if Germany and India shift their positions the balance of power could quickly change. In the meantime the sitkrieg in eastern France continues as the Champagne bottles in the cellars of Reims shake in their racks.

What the end result of either game, or both, only time can tell. I certainly don’t know and I’m playing in both of them.

Autumn 1906

Austria: Has A Burgundy, F Tunis, A Libya, A Munich, F Tyrrhenian Sea, A Piedmont, F Rome, A Ruhr, F Tuscany, A Venice.

China: Has A Sikang.

England: Retreat F North Sea – London..Has F English Channel, A Laos, F Norwegian Sea, F London, F Thailand(ec), F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, F Andamon Sea, A Annam, F Cambodia, A Gascony, F Gulf of Lyon, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Paris, A Picardy.

Germany: Has A Belgium, A Posen, F Denmark, F Helgoland Bight, A Holland, F North Sea.

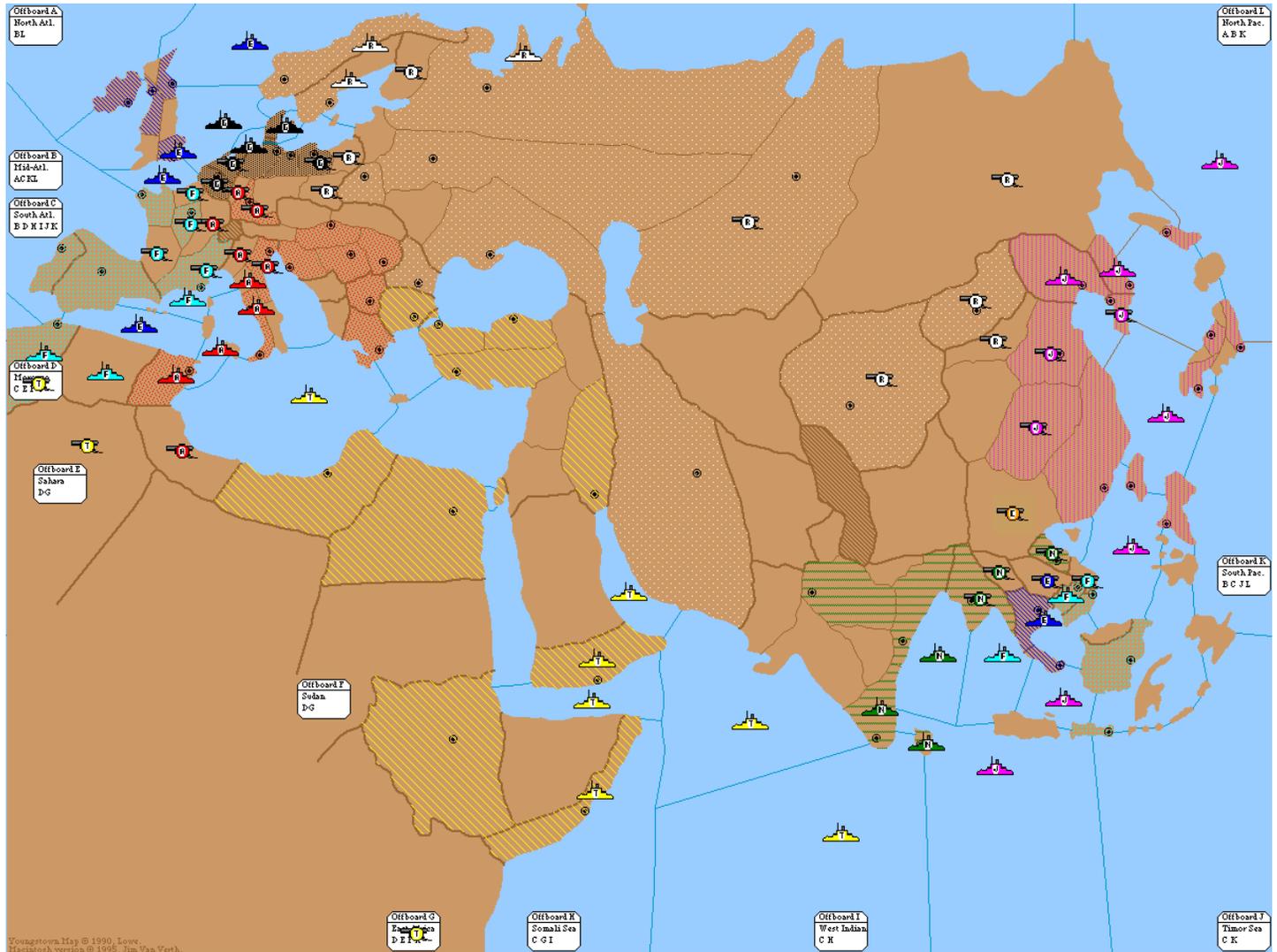
India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Italy: Retreat F Arabian Sea – OTB..No units.

Japan: A Hankow, F East Indian Ocean, F East China Sea, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F North Pacific Ocean, A Peking, F South China Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: A Finland, F Sweden, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, A Omsk, A Prussia, A Siberia, A Silesia, A Inner Mongolia, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Retreat F Tyrrhenian Sea – Ionian Sea..Has F Ionian Sea, A Off Board G, F Magudisco, F Arabian Sea, A Off Board D, F Persian Gulf, F Gulf of Aden, A Sahara, F West Indian Ocean, F Yemen.



Supply Center Chart

- Austria: Budapest, Greece, Klug, Munich, Naples, Rome, Serbia, Trieste, Tunis, Venice, Vienna=11, Build 1
- China: None=0, OUT!!
- England: Edinburgh, Ireland, Joharra, Liverpool, London, Thailand=6, Even
- France: Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Java, Marseilles, Morocco, Paris, Portugal, Saigon, Spain=10, Even
- Germany: Belgium, Berlin, Denmark, Holland, Kiel, Posen=6, Even
- India: Burma, Calcutta, Ceylon, Delhi, Madras, Viet Nam=6, Even
- Italy: None=0, OUT!!
- Japan: Canton, Formosa, Hankow, Korea, Kyoto, Manchuria, Osaka, Peking, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=12, Build 2
- Russia: Iran, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Warsaw=11, Even
- Turkey: Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Magudisco, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Yemen=10, Even

Fall and Autumn 1906 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

PRESS: First off, Larry REALLY goes off the rails this time with the whole Sitzkrieg thing. First off, I don't think we have a sitzkrieg, but did we really need pages and pages of Peeriblah on it? I'll let the reader decide, but I would assert we don't have a sitzkrieg here and that things will keep moving. We will see. The rest of the press (also mostly, or even all, Larry?) is more classic Golden Age press of the type that we've not seen much of for three decades. The denseness and extent of it represents that standard of the late 1960's and 1970's that you saw in pretty much every game. Enjoy it; go seek out archival szines to see more of it from different writers.

Jim reads Peeriblah so we don't have to. :) But the readers must!

Austria: Maintaining the French front and reorganizing units to be prepared for the big breakthrough next year, Andrew continues to be patient and this will pay off big time very soon. Austria and Turkey also traded Tunis, which is better to keep the alliance going. Turkey is ready to gain elsewhere next year as well.

France is going to collapse relatively soon. Austria is going to face a question of what he wants to do when that happens. Is Austria just playing for a mega-alliance "draw"? If not, he needs to make plans for the AfterMath. What will he end up getting from France? At least Paris and Marseilles, though Paris could take a while. Assuming the game continues from there, does Austria want the alliance to revert to ART? That would mean going after Germany, but there's really not all that much gain for Austria there. It should be more tempting to go after Russia or Turkey. But not soon.

China: Tim meekly retires from the game, this didn't have to happen, but Tim didn't appear to want to stay in the game enough to find a niche to keep going.

England: Loses North Sea and his entire northern front collapses next game year. As long as the alliance against him is maintained Graham is in big trouble, again, nothing like a sitzkrieg.

Unless Russia doesn't use as much force as he can, England should be collapsing quickly. More on that in a bit.

France: Larry claims not to know how things are going to go, but he and Graham are surrounded and trapped in Southeast Asia, and as noted above, Austria is ready to collapse his main home front as well. It is true that their Japanese ally is still gaining, but how does that work once there is pressure on the Pacific side as well? France is not going to hold that line. Again, no sitzkrieg here.

France is about to lose his fleet in Algeria. The army in the Sahara is an uncuttable support and the fleets in Morocco and Western Med can both be cut. After Algeria, E/F will lose Western Med, Gulf of Lyon, and Morocco in quick succession. I'm presuming that the Turk will push fleets into the Off-Board boxes off SAO and MAO - if he does that, the French front will collapse.

Germany: Germany is one of the smaller of the alliance powers, but David will be key in what happens in the game once France and England collapse. I think it is in everyone's best interest to keep going, so I don't see a stab within the European alliance until England and France are down, but then? We'll see.

David's usefulness is that he can build northern fleets quickly. I'm sure Dave doesn't want the game to devolve to an ART triple, so we'll see what kind of ideas he has to prevent that. My preference for Germany here would be to work with the weakest of the other three, namely Austria.

India: So, India is pretty well stuck and didn't move anything this turn. Still, it is better to be in the winning alliance than the losing one, so as we move forward we'll see if India becomes important. At this point, there is no choice but to keep attacking and supporting until things break elsewhere. I suppose maybe this part of the board is a sitzkrieg. Maybe.

The question for India is what will happen next. With Turkish help, Japan has been stopped. But it's not like India can invade Japan or take Japanese holdings. So how is India going to get new SCs? Is there a future that doesn't entail being a minor afterthought for the R/T alliance?

Italy: Italy made the attempt to stay in the game, but no, it was not to be. Again, we lose two players this time.

Japan: We will see, but Japan could have reached his high point. Yes, China is finally out, and yes Japan is keeping England/France trapped in SE

Asia, but when your allies are collapsing, what do you do? I don't think there is a line that Japan can hold all on his own here, so I think the long term outlook is quite poor.

Japan really needs a change in the alliance structure. We haven't seen any evidence that things are headed that way. If not, then we're going to see a slow collapse - the first steps will take very long to achieve, but once R/N/T crack SE Asia the Japanese position will be untenable.

Japan has two builds, and they should be interesting. An army build would allow him to put more land force into the Korean peninsula and get those fleets in more useful positions.

Russia: Also had a good game year of setting up for what comes next. Russia will help the attack into the English homeland now and then be able to flank Japan across the entire top of the board. I think once Russia does that, Japan will begin getting knocked back.

If I were Russia here, I'd move a fleet to the Barents Sea and take the Norwegian Sea. He needs at least one more fleet moving. I worry that he wants to send it to Omsk. It may not be obvious to the readers, but in this variant it's possible to push a fleet from St. Pete's north coast through Omsk and out to Siberia. The problem with that strategy is that an army in Siberia is much more useful than a fleet.

Turkey: Turkey also did some good consolidation of position to set up for the next game year, using the Off Board Boxes, there is a strong outlook for Turkey too.

Turkey has a fabulous position. The question for Turkey is what to do now that Italy has collapsed? I would imagine that he'd like to see E/F be reduced even more, preferably extending Turkish influence into the Atlantic. After that Turkey will want to see Japan contained, but he might want to poach dots from India or Austria-Hungary.

And that's the way things are going.

Winter 1906

Austria: Build F Trieste..Has F Trieste, A Burgundy, F Tunis, A Libya, A Munich, F Tyrrhenian Sea, A Piedmont, F Rome, A Ruhr, F Tuscany, A Venice.

England: Has F English Channel, A Laos, F Norwegian Sea, F London, F Thailand(ec), F Western Mediterranean Sea.

France: Has F Algeria, F Andamon Sea, A Annam, F Cambodia, A Gascony, F Gulf of Lyon, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Paris, A Picardy.

Germany: Has A Belgium, A Posen, F Denmark, F Helgoland Bight, A Holland, F North Sea.

I'm impressed with Nathan's play as Russia--I thought Russia was in trouble early but he's done quite well for himself despite being attacked by England and Japan early on. Of course, Japan didn't build any armies nor did she ally with an Asian power like China to supply said armies so that limited Walt's reach into Asia.

Turkey and Austria are also in excellent positions--neither has to bother to keep any units back since neither is facing any type of threat near its homeland.

Although France did manage to break into the Tys this turn, that 's a strategic dead end as E/F have no way to go any further east. Meanwhile up north, Austria breaks into Bur and Russia into the Nth so both E/F will soon begin to lose centers in north of the Med. E/F hasn't shown any improvement over the last several turns--unless they can break up R/G/A, they won't be around much longer.

I also agree with Rick, Germany's ability to build fleets in its home centers means David has a future with R/A for now--of course this begs the question, what happens when R/A no longer need an ally who can build fleets in the Baltic/Atlantic?

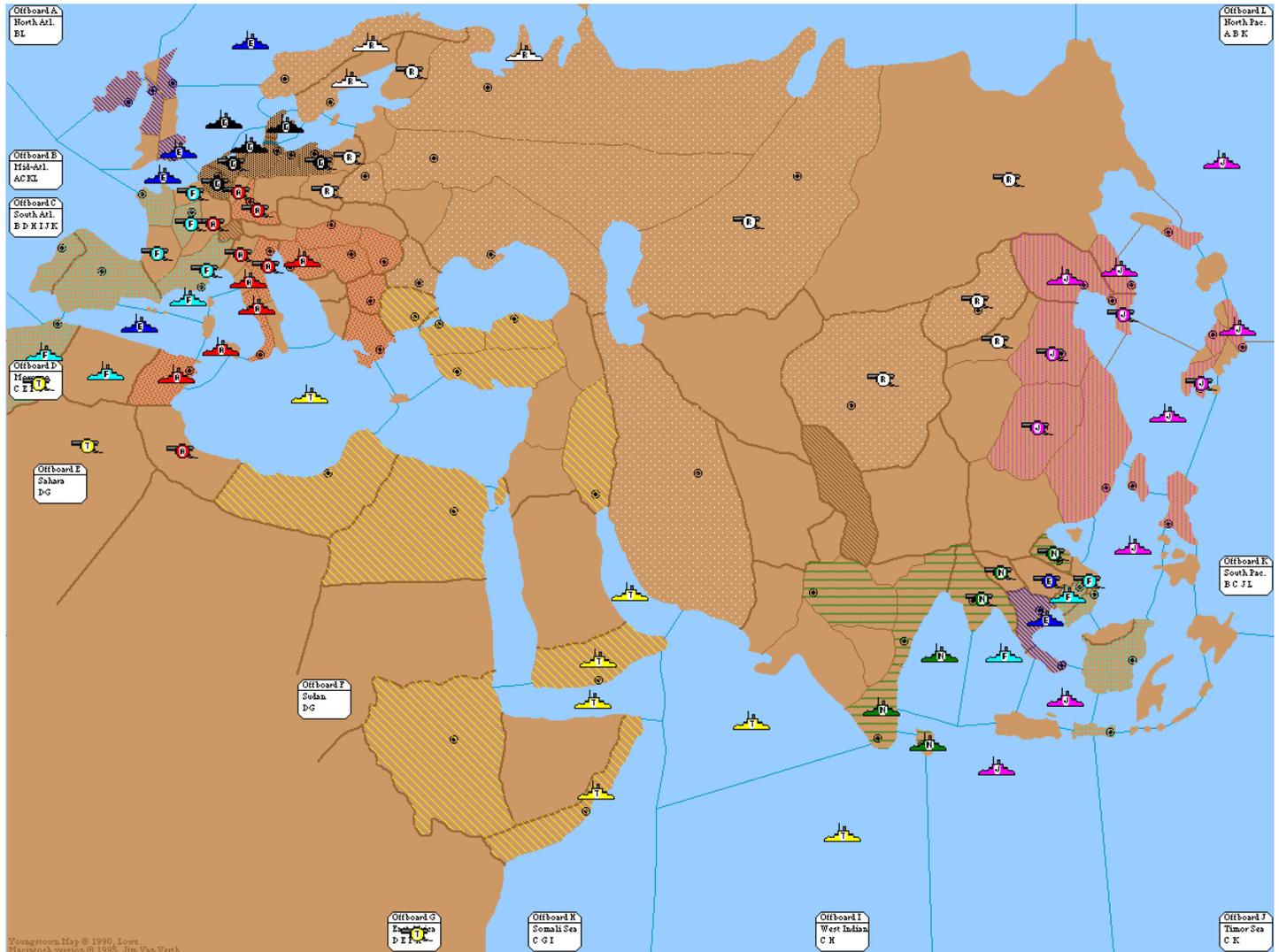
I actually think India is a more useful ally to R/T than Germany is to R/A, neither Turkey nor Russia can cover the gap that would be left if India collapsed and India's navy is quite useful against all the J/E/F naval units. I don't see Germany surviving much past the demise of E/F but I do think India can grow into a moderate size power that will be too much effort for R/T to take out. India also serves as a useful buffer to R/T in South East Asia as well.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Japan: Build A Osaka, F Tokyo..Has A Osaka, F Tokyo, A Hankow, F East Indian Ocean, F East China Sea, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F North Pacific Ocean, A Peking, F South China Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Finland, F Sweden, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, A Omsk, A Prussia, A Siberia, A Silesia, A Inner Mongolia, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Has F Ionian Sea, A Off Board G, F Magudisco, F Arabian Sea, A Off Board D, F Persian Gulf, F Gulf of Aden, A Sahara, F West Indian Ocean, F Yemen.



Winter 1906 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

The builds are just as expected. Japan could have tried to build two armies and get them both onto the continent, but it might be too late, and he probably needed the fleet. Austria, of course, built another

fleet and they will start to break through the Mediterranean shortly.

I just notice that Turkish fleet in the Off Board box D, E/F are in serious trouble as that fleet can debouch into NAO or MAO.

As for the builds, I think tis far too late for Japan to building armies--he should be building fleets---he'll need them at this point far more than armies, whether he stays with E/F or jumps ship and ties to cut a deal with R/A/T/G.

Austria's fleet build was expected--after all what does he need with armies? He's going to need to get more fleets to get out into Asia and Africa.

Austria has five fleets now. Bwa-ha-ha-ha!

Japan has fleets, he's just got them in the wrong places. I've been harping on that for a while. But he's got a problem that the fleets in Vladivostok and Manchuria won't help him cover the OB flanks, so yeah, I guess the F Tokyo build was necessary. It is important that Japan have some strategy here other than playing defense. He needs a diplomatic strategy to break R/T/N. Maybe help from G or A? They cannot take the permanence of this alliance for GRANTED.

Jack, the unit in OBD is an army, so France's issues aren't as immediate as they would be if that were a fleet. But I'm expecting Turkey to move to OBI this move,

which will get him to the all-important OBC by the Fall. Japan might want to jump to OBL right away and move the fleet from Tokyo to South Pacific and then OBK.

The off-board boxes don't offer a lot of tactical possibilities, as they take few fleets to block. But what they do do is force a defender to use valuable fleets in a few more locations. E/F don't have fleets for that task. Japan doesn't either, but it'll take much longer for that to become an issue.

Rick, thanks for catching me on the Army in the OTB...I didn't realize you could move armies into them as well--I've only seen fleets in my previous games but I guess it makes sense although the fleets have a lot more possibilities.

I also disagree about the OTB not offering many possibilities--I think they do...the problem is the Youngstown map simply has too many possible stalemate lines--if that issue were addressed the boxes would add a lot more to the game. To overcome this and enhance the boxes usefulness, I would allow more than one unit per box and allow multiple units to support out of the box--this would make the boxes much more difficult to block and unhinge most stalemate lines.

Spring 1907

Austria: A Burgundy Supports A Piedmont – Marseilles, A Libya - Tunis (*Fails*), A Munich Supports A Burgundy, A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Rome Supports F Ionian Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea, A Ruhr Supports A Burgundy, F Trieste - Adriatic Sea, F Tunis - Western Mediterranean Sea (*Bounce*), F Tuscany Supports F Tyrrhenian Sea - Gulf of Lyon, F Tyrrhenian Sea - Gulf of Lyon, A Venice – Tyrolia.

England: F English Channel – London, A Laos - Sikang (*Bounce*), F London – Yorkshire, F Norwegian Sea – Edinburgh, F Thailand(ec) Hold, F Western Mediterranean Sea - Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

France: F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea (*Bounce*), F Andamon Sea - Bay of Bengal (*Fails*), A Annam - Viet Nam (*Fails*), F Cambodia Supports F Thailand(ec), A Gascony Supports A Marseilles, F Gulf of Lyon Supports F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea (*Dislodged*, retreat to Spain(sc) or OTB), A Marseilles Supports A Piedmont – Switzerland (Impossible), F Morocco Supports F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea (*Cut*), A Paris Supports A Picardy, A Picardy Supports A Paris.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Burgundy, F Denmark Supports F Helgoland Bight - North Sea, F Helgoland Bight - North Sea, A Holland Supports A Belgium, F North Sea - Norwegian Sea, A Posen – Berlin.

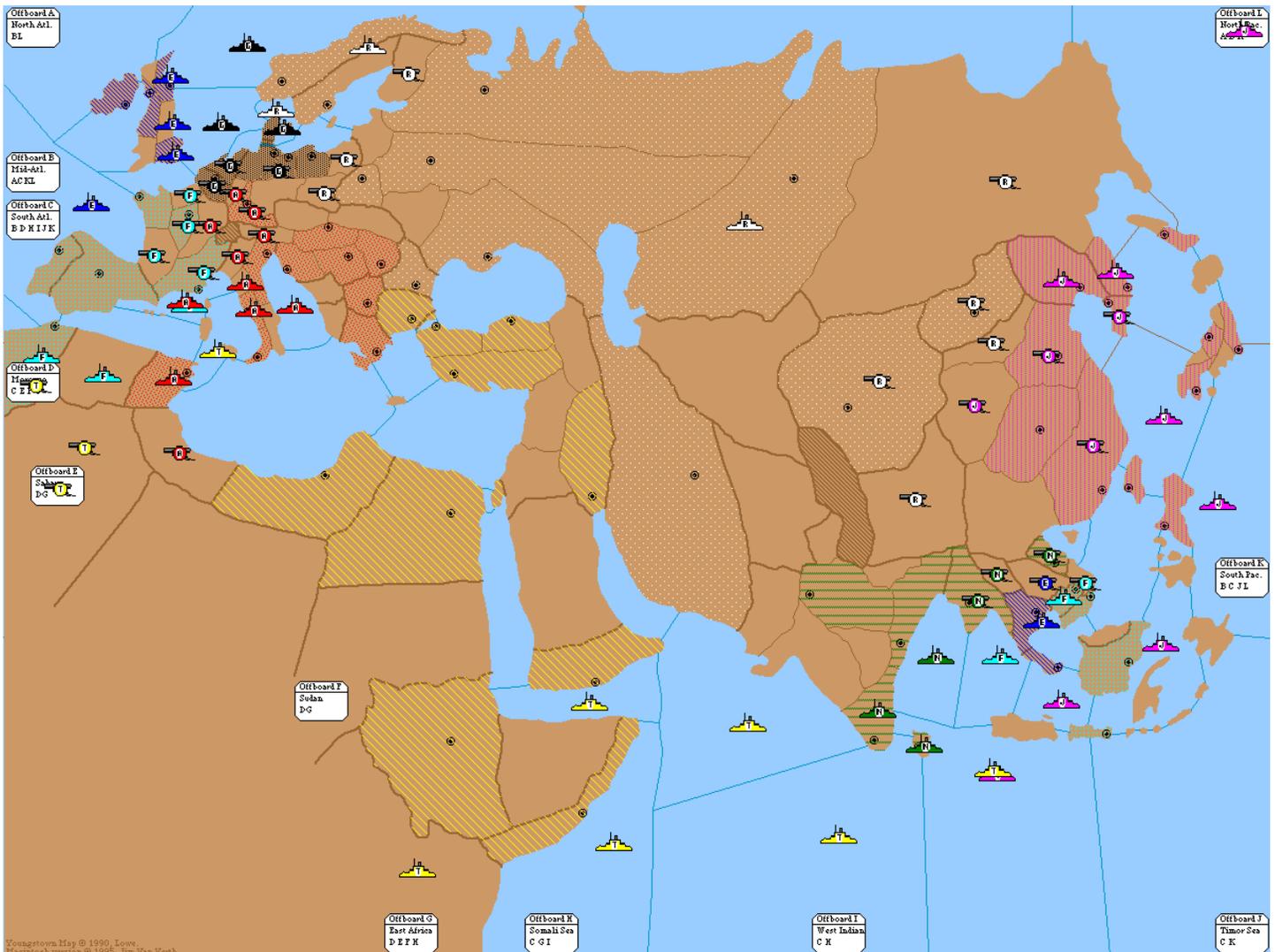
India: F Bay of Bengal - Burma (*Fails*), A Burma - Shan (*Fails*), F Ceylon Supports F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, F Madras Supports F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, A Shan - Laos (*Fails*), A Viet Nam - Sikang (*Bounce*).

Japan: F East Indian Ocean Supports F Andamon Sea - Bay of Bengal (*Dislodged*, retreat to Timor Sea or Java or Sumatra or OTB), F East China Sea Convoys A Osaka – Canton, A Hankow – Kansu, A Korea Supports F Manchuria,

F Malay Sea Supports F East Indian Ocean, F Manchuria Supports A Peking, F North Pacific Ocean - Off Board L, A Osaka – Canton, A Peking Supports A Hankow – Kansu, F South China Sea - Celebes Sea, F Tokyo - South Pacific Ocean, F Vladivostok - Siberia (*Fails*).

Russia: A Finland Supports F Norway, A Inner Mongolia - Kansu (*Fails*), F Norway Supports F North Sea - Norwegian Sea, A Outer Mongolia Supports A Omsk – Siberia, A Omsk – Siberia, A Prussia Supports A Silesia, A Siberia – Sinkiang, A Silesia Supports A Prussia, A Sinkiang – Tibet, F St. Petersburg(nc) – Omsk, F Sweden – Skagerrak.

Turkey: F Arabian Sea - West Indian Ocean, F Gulf of Aden - Somali Sea, F Ionian Sea - Tyrrhenian Sea, F Magudisco - East Africa, A Off Board D - Morocco (*Fails*), A Off Board G - Off Board E, F Persian Gulf - Arabian Sea, A Sahara Supports A Libya – Tunis, F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, F Yemen - Gulf of Aden.



PRESS

Istanbul Inquirer: The Sultana announced today that the last vestiges of Italian cults worshipping their dark gods had been eliminated from the heart of darkest Africa, and the last fanatics wiped out at sea by the new battlecruiser squadron led by her namesake flagship. Over the Winter, several ships had been refitted in the shipyards of Baghdad and sailed back to their respective fleets, and Imperial Turkish forces prepared to put

additional pressure on the AngloFrank barbarians in the Mediterranean and Northern Africa. The Admiralty informed her that the southern seas had been cleared of pirates as well, and the fleet would be sailing for new waters soon. One fleet sailed down the coast of East Africa heading for the Cape of Good Hope to see whether Turkish ships could actually reach the South Atlantic through those waters. Another sailed into the

Somali Sea, to keep piracy suppressed, and with all fleets at sea, support vessels to assist in refueling those fleets on their long journeys were ordered south with coal in abundance, though some stops along the way at neutral ports would still be required. In other news, a shipment of saris and other exotic fashion from India was well received by the Sultana and her Ministers, who like most women, do appreciate additions to their wardrobes.

The 5 stages of losing at Diplomacy

Stage 1: Denial

"I'm doing fine! I've got supply centers, I'm making headway, and I've stalled my opponent's advance."

Stage 2: Anger

"How dare he turn on me! I'm going to make some friends and stomp him...."

Stage 3: Bargaining

"How did I get so out of position? Maybe I can trick someone into helping me survive? What if I turn on my ally to help them?"

Stage 4: Depression

"I'm going to lose....I can only survive for another _____ turns. Make a number of mis-orders."

Stage 5: Acceptance

"I played a good game. My opponents outplayed me, and there will come a time I'll turn the tables on them."

Calcutta, May 18, 1907. Local chef Bahbie Phlay is becoming a local celebrity with innovative cuisine. "Rumors that Hurry Scurry got its name because the first batch had tainted chicken are entirely untrue!" Chef Phlay insists. Local citizens continue to pack his restaurant for this and other dishes, including the tongue-tingling dessert Peppermint Chapattis.

Paris (1 April 1907) The French Government has proposed and the Parliament has approved the creation of a new national French holiday which henceforth will be known as HOLLANDE DAYS and the proper greeting for it is "HAPPY HOLLANDAISE!" except in Quebec and New Orleans, where it will be "HAPPY HOLLANDE DAZE."

Canton (1 April 1907): Welcomed by Shinto priests and thousands of newly arrived Japanese residents, Canton turned out to cheer the arrival of the 4th IJA in the city this morning. Thousands of Japanese soldiers marched ashore from their troop ships after an uneventful voyage from Osaka under the watchful eyes of the escorting fleet. After the official welcoming ceremonies, the troops and sailors headed off for Wan Chai and its world-famous bordellos. The officers, on the other hand, headed for the race track at Happy Valley where the first

Japan-Canton Cup was awarded to the winner of the last race, Bonsai Chop Chop.

Hankow (1 April 1907): Units of the 3rd IJA, after a winter of training and resupplying in Hankow, moved into Kansu this morning to secure the western Chinese province amidst rumors that Russian troops are headed in the same direction. Army units from the 2nd Army in Peking supported the advance, with further supports from the fleet in Manchuria and the army in Korea. The local press is following the lead of the Japanese press and has avoided using words like occupation and victory in describing the Japanese arrival in China.

Vladivostok (1 April 1907): The 1st IJA is celebrating the arrival of Spring in this God-forsaken desolate city where winter lasts 11 months of the year and the other three seasons last only a single month. Still, morale is good and the troops are confident that they will soon return to Siberia where many had established small but profitable businesses dealing in smuggled goods, with furs and lumber going one way, and liquor and beer going the other.

On the High Seas (1 April 1907): Units of the 3rd IJN Fleet have literally disappeared off the face of the earth, or at least news media maps, as Spring replaced Winter in the Far Northeast Pacific. The purpose of the movements is as mysterious as their direction.

At Sea (1 April 1907): The IJN 8th Fleet left Tokyo this morning. Once again a Japanese fleet is on the high seas with no known destination. Last reports were that the fleet was headed for Truk in the Carolinas. Truk is a major IJB base and has been called the Japanese Gibraltar or Japanese Pearl Harbor. Interestingly, the Fleet, in its first major operation, is escorting a convoy of 55 Japanese cargo and passenger ships.

At Sea (1 April 1907): The battle for the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian waters continues with IJN units supporting the English and French navies in their battles with the Indians and Turks. The Government has authorized the dispatch of additional forces to the area in the anticipation of further fighting as the Turks continue their probing attacks.

Yokohama, Japan (1 April 1907) Commodore Buchanan stood on the bridge of the USS Kentucky (BB-6) as the battleship sailed into Tokyo Bay proudly flying the American flag and firing a 21 gun salute as the ship sailed past a Japanese fleet headed out to sea. Many eyes on the Japanese ships, numbering nearly 60, noticed the American naval officer who had become known as "Golden Round-Eyes" among Japanese sailors for his gold braid and blue, round-eyes. Only two pairs of eyes noticed the slight figure dressed in a simple yeoman's uniform standing behind Buchanan. The two Japanese commanders looked at each other and

nodded and move to have a word with the ship's captain. In all the excitement of the sailing, no one noticed the small frigate pull up alongside the Japanese flagship and two figures transfer from it to the frigate that immediately turned and headed back to port.

Aboard the Kentucky (Minutes later): Only Buchanan and the captain of the Kentucky, who had almost had a heart attack when he discovered who Buchanan had smuggled on board the Kentucky as it sailed away from the dock in Freemantle, the port of Perth, knew the identity of the young sailor he had with him. Buchanan explained the reasons for the gross violation of naval etiquette (not to mention regulations) as "matters of state" and left it at that. He simply identified the youth as "Ernie" and promised he would remain in the Commodore's cabin or by his side for the rest of the voyage.

And so he had. Very few of the ship's crew ever saw Ernie except sometimes late at night when he could be seen walking on the bridge or radio deck of the ship, usually alone but sometimes in the Commodore's company. Other than that he remained in the cabin and never ventured out, even when the Kentucky ported in Singapore, Hong Kong or Okinawa. Inside the small cabin it was a different story. Buchanan had laid out a list of rules and a schedule he expected Ernie to follow. Ernie, of course, had other ideas. He accepted most of the rules and schedule with no objection until Buchanan informed him that he would have to take his weekly bath in a five gallon tub in the cabin with Buchanan present. At that Ernie's eyes widen to full circles and his mouth opened as he started to protest. Buchanan looked at him and said, "Would you prefer the alternative? That's a weekly hose down with the rest of the crew on the deck from the ship's fire hoses." Eventually the two found a rapport based mostly on their common tastes in whisky, cigars and chess. Ernie even rigged a curtain room divider out of a couple of blankets Buchanan had told Ernie he would have to leave the Kentucky in Tokyo and find his own way home, but said Ernie would not be totally alone and he (Buchanan) had arranged for an escort to help him on his way. If truth be known Buchanan had become fond of his cigar-smoking, whisky drinking ward that had a way with knights and an air of royalty about himself that never failed him. And, Ernie had come to see in Buchanan the father figure he had never known.

However, Buchanan had a different kind of father figure in mind for Ernie in the person of Ivan Dimitrievich Kasatkin (St. Nicholas of Japan). He had been in Japan since 1861 and would spend most of the next fifty years of his life as the head of Russian Orthodox Church in Japan. He began with three converts and a few Japanese believers who had joined the Church while in Russia. Apart from brief trips, Nicholas stayed in Japan, even during the Russo-Japanese War the two countries were

then engaged in and spread Orthodoxy nationwide, being appointed as the first bishop of the Church of Japan. Nicholas founded the Cathedral of Tokyo in Kanda district and spent over fifty years of his life there; hence "Holy Resurrection Cathedral (Tokyo, Japan) was nicknamed "Nikolai-do" by Kanda citizens.

Yokohama, Japan (7 April 1907): Buchanan made his way from the Kentucky to the Amur Restaurant on Ku'fukutomi Co which Father Ivan had told him would be a safe meeting point. When he entered the small café he noticed that the polite Japanese customers had glanced his way and then gone back to their noodles. Buchanan took the seat offered and the glass of tea and waited. He felt he was being observed, but he couldn't tell by whom. After a good fifteen minutes, the waiter appeared and handed Buchanan a note that said, "Please follow the waiter. E" so Buchanan dutifully followed the waiter down a side hall and up a flight of stairs to a small, private dining room. When he entered, Buchanan noticed the waiter gave a deep bow and then promptly disappeared through a side door. As Buchanan entered he came face to face with Ivan, whom he'd never seen before. If there was ever a stereotype of a Russian Orthodox priest it was Ivan. Still, he was impressive as he sat and gazed at Buchanan. It took a moment for Buchanan to realize that there was a third person in the room, seated at the table where she could see both the priest and the door. She nodded and the priest appeared to relax.

He knew the voice before he recognized the face as she said, "Welcome, Commodore. And thank you for coming." Ernie was no longer his whisky drinking, cigar smoking cabin companion but had morphed into Her Imperial Highness Esmeralda, Grand Duchess of Tasmania by the grace of Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of England and her distant relative. Ernie's hair had grown out and the yeoman's uniform was now a conservative black dress, but there was no mistaking that she was who she was. Buchanan wondered if the black pearl necklace was still around her neck, but decided he'd better not ask.

The priest spoke no English so Esmeralda did double duty as hostess and translator. Still, the conversation, like the meal, flowed smoothly, as did the whisky which both Buchanan and the priest drank in copious quantities while Esmeralda occasionally sampled a taste.

The conversation brought all of them up to date on what was going on. The War was continuing and although it appeared Japan was winning there were signs the Allies would get the upper hand sometime in the future. Russian forces had recovered most of Siberia, but not yet captured Vladivostok. Japan had conquered most of China, but Russia continued to advance in the countryside. Getting Esmeralda home would be difficult,

whether they picked a land route or a sea route. Various options were explored but no decisions reached.

Finally, to break the verbal impasse, Esmeralda whispered a few words to the waiter and within a minute a humidor appeared on the table. Each of the three carefully examined the cigars offered, as they did the brandy decanter; and each appeared happy.

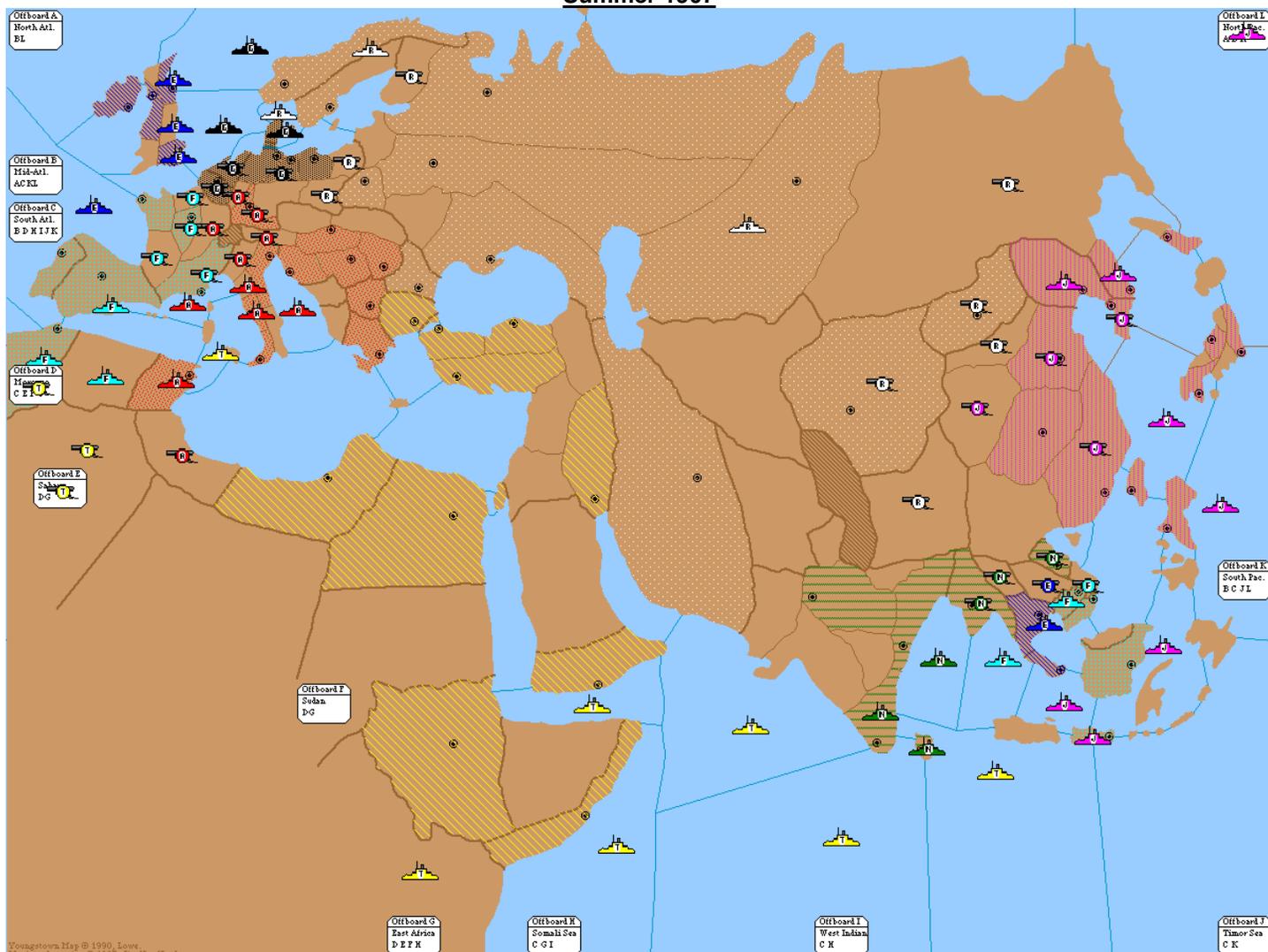
By the time the cigars and brandy were consumed it was obvious that the priest was up past his bedtime, or perhaps he was just being polite. Anyway, he excused himself, offered his blessing and disappeared. Buchanan and Esmeralda sat and looked at each other as they debated the merits of another cigar and brandy. Finally, he signed and said, "You know. We could go on like this all night. There are so many stories to tell. But I think

we'd better get our rest because we both have long and dangerous journeys ahead." "You're right, Commodore," she said. He looked at her and replied, "Why do you always call me Commodore? You've never once called me by my name." "Well," she said, "You've never told me your name." "Oh," was his only response.

As Buchanan helped Esmeralda into her litter he noticed two things: her eyes were the most beautiful color, a cross between blue and purple, and he could see, just for a moment, the black pearl necklace she'd always worn. What he didn't see and neither did he were the two sets of slanted-eyes watching them from an alley nearby.

/To be continued/

Summer 1907



Austria: Has F Adriatic Sea, A Burgundy, F Gulf of Lyon, A Libya, A Munich, A Piedmont, F Rome, A Ruhr, F Tunis, F Tuscany, A Tyrolia.

England: Has F Edinburgh, A Laos, F London, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F Thailand(ec), F Yorkshire.

France: Retreat F Gulf of Lyon - Spain(sc).. Has F Algeria, F Andaman Sea, A Annam, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, F Morocco, A Paris, A Picardy, F Spain(sc).

Germany: Has A Belgium, A Berlin, F Denmark, A Holland, F Norwegian Sea, F North Sea.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Shan, A Viet Nam.

Japan: Retreat F East Indian Ocean - Java... Has A Canton, F Celebes Sea, F East China Sea, F Java, A Kansu, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F Off Board L, A Peking, F South Pacific Ocean, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Finland, A Inner Mongolia, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Prussia, A Siberia, A Silesia, A Sinkiang, F Skagerrak, A Tibet.

Turkey: Has F Arabian Sea, F East Indian Ocean, F East Africa, F Gulf of Aden, A Off Board D, A Off Board E, A Sahara, F Somali Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea, F West Indian Ocean.

Spring and Summer 1907 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

OK, let's see what we've got here...

Let's start with Asia. Japan continues to have his forces poorly positioned. Now he's sent a fleet to the OBBs - he kind of needs that there.

Let's take a look at Manchuria. A fleet in Manchuria is useless. And the fleet in Vladivostok cannot even support the fleet in Manchuria. A better line would have the army in Vladivostok and then that fleet could be in Sea of Okhotsk (spelling?) .

Okhotsk, I believe.... yes, Japan really needs to consider the wider strategic implications of his units. He COULD try to invade over the top of Russia, or he COULD send through OBBs help to his French/English allies, or he COULD focus on shoring up the Indian Ocean, but I think he can only do one of those successfully, and a fleet in Manchuria doesn't help any of them.

Japan shouldn't obsess about Manchuria. He could lose it and still take it back. It's not a province that the inland power can hold against a concerted attack.

Right, so I don't get what the point of Japan's moves there are.

Russia has moved his fleet in St. Pete to Omsk. I thought he might do this. I also thought it would be pointless, since Japan could so easily bottle up any Russian fleet in Siberia. But with the Japanese sailing away from NPO and ignoring SOO, this is a move that will bring more pressure on Japan. Japan has moved to Kansu, but cannot hold it. Russia will likely force Kansu and swing the fleet into Siberia. The clever thing for Japan to do here would be to see the fleet move and know that Russia isn't going to do anything with A

Siberia other than get it out of the way. That means Japan is free to order Vlad - SOO and Kor - Vlad. Also ECS - Yellow Sea would help shore up Manchuria. If he were to do that, he could seal the Vlad/Manchuria/Peking/Hankow/Canton line indefinitely, and that would put pressure on Russia to find a new strategy.

I would have moved the fleet to Omsk, partly being worried that Japan WOULD focus on trying to move over the top of the map. I didn't see Rick's last point, so maybe Russia didn't see it either. I like it for Japan, so let's see if it happens.

Switching to Indonesia, it seems that the Turks have forced EIO, and Japan has retreated to Java. Which was French. Oops. Well, let's look at this line: England can hold Thailand, thanks to the French support...but, let's see, the fleet in Andaman Sea is only secure until somebody moves into Sumatra. If T/N take Andaman Sea, Thailand will fall. Does that matter? It'll be a slog to get past the Joharra/Gulf of Siam/Java/Timor Sea mini-stalemate line. Ugh.

Very soon, Japan has to decide what to do with the French and English units as their homelands come under attack. I see this Indonesian line as being the least interesting, precisely since it seems like it locks up so easily. I don't think much is going to happen on this front until everything else around it falls apart.

Hmm...this is where the game should open up and alliances should change. I doubt it'll happen though.

I also don't see the alliances shifting at all quite yet. Japan doesn't really have any leverage to make any changes. This seems like a problem in any variant I

know with Japan hanging out on the eastern side of Asia. They get stuck and can't switch alliances easily. That's partly a design problem that Youngstown shares with other variants.

Swinging through India, the Middle East, Russia, the Balkans, and Italy...nothing is happening here at all. Well, I suppose Russia could stab the bejeezus out of India pretty easily.

I do think the "stab of India" is the next stab on the table, BUT I don't think it happens yet.

Moving to the Western Med: France is losing ground. He can't hold Algeria, and when that falls, Morocco is vulnerable. Wait - what am I thinking? France can't hold Morocco now unless the English support it from MAO, and that seems to be a very unlikely order for that unit. Well, taking Algeria first is the slow and steady approach, and then Morocco will fall. And once A/T get a fleet in Western Med, Marseilles will fall. But things will really fall apart as Turkey moves his fleets around Africa towards Off Board C and SAO. Turkey has fleets to spare for the Off Board battle, while E/F don't - they don't even have enough forces to hold back the attackers coming in from Europe.

I expect Austria to try to pick up the pace here and make some real progress quickly, since Austria doesn't want to be the power behind as the other members of his alliance grow. E/F are completely screwed and there is nothing they can do and they have zero leverage to make an alliance shift. I don't see any other way it can go (going out on the limb).

I'm expecting Germany to go for NAO, to threaten Ireland and Liverpool. Russia should slip fleets to Norway and Barents, so R/G can use the "retreat forward" tactic. By which I mean (this is for the readers) - let's say Germany and England bounce in NAO. If Russia attacks NWG from Barents and Norway, that German fleet could then retreat to Clyde, and be replaced by an allied Russian fleet. It's a neat trick (often used by A/I to fight Turkey in the original game).

I agree that Germany should go to NAO and try to outflank England while Russia moves fleets forward and agree we should see the retreat forward tactic next.

Let's see..aside from those tidbits, nothing much is changing here. E/F are losing, Japan is hoping for an alliance shift, and Turkey is about to become the Lord of the Off-Board boxes. If he does pull that off and the alliance continues long enough to crack Japan, Turkey should have the best position on the board, by a good bit.

I agree with Rick--Japan needs to deploy his units better, an army in Kor, really???? That's a waste of a unit. And Japan loses ground in South East Asia as Turkey takes the East Indian Ocean from Japan.

I'm not a big fan fo the Russian Fleet transferring to the Pacific via Omsk. I think Rick analysis is spot on, not only is it easy for Japan to counter this move, it ties up a Russian fleet for two turns. Only Japan's poor deployment makes this move look good.

Meanwhile back in Europe the British and French continue to be slowly ground down under the A/T/R/G alliance. Austria takes *GOL* which puts Mar at risk and the first E/F home center to be taken. Germany and Russia will soon be invading England, although I predict Germany will get no builds out of it as Russia will take Germany's home centers to keep Germany even.

I see no changes from the the last turn to the alliance structure in this game. Note the lack of units on any of the borders between A/T or A/R or T/R or I/R or I/T--this game has more trust than a car commercial.

Fall 1907

Austria: F Adriatic Sea - Ionian Sea, A Burgundy Supports A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Cut*), F Gulf of Lyon - Western Mediterranean Sea, A Libya - Tunis (*Fails*), A Munich Supports A Burgundy, A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Rome - Tuscany (*Fails*), A Ruhr Supports A Burgundy, F Tunis - Algeria (*Fails*), F Tuscany - Gulf of Lyon (*Bounce*), A Tyrolia - Piedmont (*Fails*).

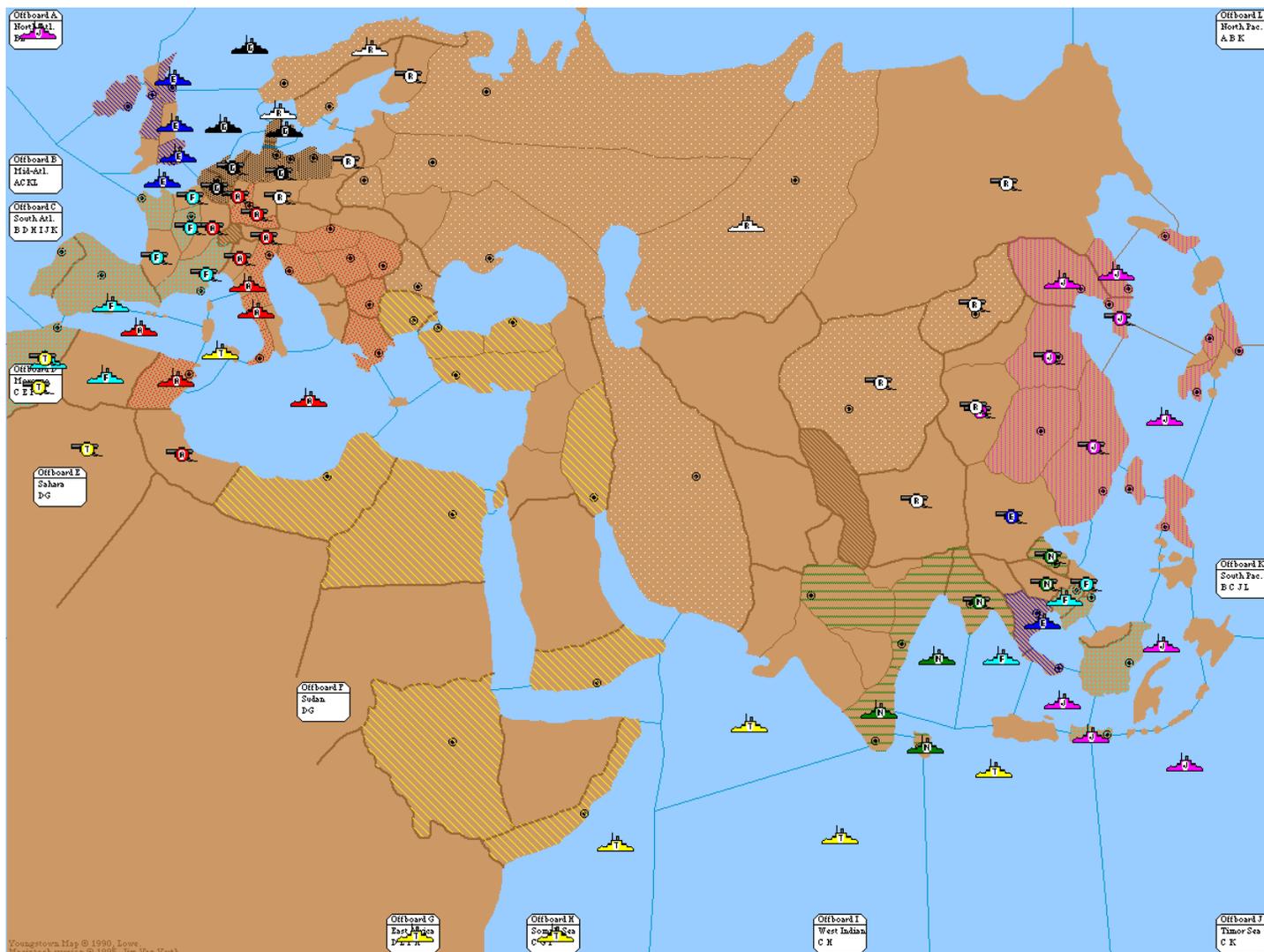
England: F Edinburgh - Clyde (*Bounce*), A Laos - Sikang, F London Supports F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - English Channel, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - English Channel, F Thailand(ec) provides moral support to the Japanese navy (Hold), F Yorkshire - Edinburgh (*Fails*).

France: F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea (*Fails*), F Andamon Sea - Sumatra (*Bounce*), A Annam - Viet Nam (*Fails*), F Cambodia Supports F Thailand(ec), A Gascony Supports A Marseilles,

A Marseilles Supports A Paris - Burgundy (*Cut*), F Morocco Supports F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea (*Dislodged*, retreat to Mid-Atlantic Ocean or South Atlantic Ocean or OTB), A Paris - Burgundy (*Fails*), A Picardy Supports A Paris - Burgundy, F Spain(sc) - Gulf of Lyon (*Bounce*).

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Burgundy, A Berlin - Posen (*Bounce*), F Denmark Supports F North Sea, A Holland - Clyde (*Bounce*), F Norwegian Sea Convoys A Holland - Clyde, F North Sea Convoys A Holland - Clyde.

India: F Bay of Bengal - Andaman Sea (*Fails*), A Burma - Thailand (*Fails*), F Ceylon Supports F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, F Madras Supports F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, A Shan - Laos, A Viet Nam - Annam (*Fails*).



Japan: A Canton Supports A Laos - Sikang, F Celebes Sea Supports F South Pacific Ocean - Timor Sea, F East China Sea Supports A Canton, F Java - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*), A Kansu Supports A Laos - Sikang (*Dislodged*, retreat to Hankow or OTB), A Korea Supports F Manchuria, F Malay Sea - Sumatra (*Bounce*), F Manchuria Supports A Korea, F Off Board L - Off Board A, A Peking - Inner Mongolia (*Bounce*), F South Pacific Ocean - Timor Sea, F Vladivostok - Siberia (*Bounce*).

Russia: A Finland Supports F Norway, A Inner Mongolia - Kansu, F Norway Supports F Norwegian Sea, A Outer Mongolia - Inner Mongolia (*Bounce*), F Omsk - Siberia (*Bounce*), A Prussia - Posen (*Bounce*), A Siberia - Outer Mongolia (*Fails*), A Silesia - Saxony, A Sinkiang Supports A Inner Mongolia - Kansu, F Skagerrak Supports F North Sea, A Tibet Supports A Inner Mongolia - Kansu.

Turkey: F Arabian Sea - West Indian Ocean (*Fails*), F East Indian Ocean - Sumatra (*Bounce*).

F East Africa - Off Board G, F Gulf of Aden - Somali Sea, A Off Board D – Morocco, A Off Board E - Off Board D, A Sahara Supports A Off Board D – Morocco, F Somali Sea - Off Board H, F Tyrrhenian Sea Supports F Gulf of Lyon - Western Mediterranean Sea, F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*).

PRESS

Calcutta, September 5, 1907: Rising star chef Bahbie Phlay's latest edible creation has caused a diplomatic flap. The delicious dish, consisting of deep-fried potato sticks covered in a light curry sauce and topped with optional cheese curds, is named "Ra Ra Raj Poutine". The Egyptian Ambassador objected to linking the Sun God with the late and not terribly lamented Rasputin, and the Russian Ambassador objected to any mention at all of Rasputin. After an exclusive dinner for the Ambassadors and their families and staff at Chef Phlay's Calcutta restaurant, which also featured his Heavenly Bread, a.k.a. Naan of the Above, all was forgiven.

Istanbul Inquirer: Rumors that Turkish fleets are attempting to circumnavigate the globe have begun to circulate around the tea houses and markets as word has come in that the Admiralty sent several southern flotillas even further south, leaving the shores of the Empire practically empty of any significant naval presence.

The Admiralty was quick to reassure the public that the shores of the Empire are well-protected even if not by capital ships, and that patrol craft are vigilant in their sweeps to protect commerce from piracy and to keep sea-going travelers safe from the dangers of international travel in these troubled times. Cooperation with the admirals of both the Austrian and Indian navies continues, in our efforts to keep pushing back the Anglo-Frankish barbarians.

As for skirmishes with the Imperial Japanese Navy, the Admiralty did admit that the Japanese had excellent ships, if somewhat untried in naval battles, as evidenced by their somewhat poor showing in maneuvers in the East Indian Ocean in the Spring. But Japanese fighting spirit is not to be denied -- just as we Turks have a long tradition of martial excellence as exemplified by the Janissaries, so too do the Japanese, with their legendary Samurai, have such a tradition. Future encounters with the IJN will be interesting, as both navies, each supreme in their own waters, test each other's strategic and tactical acumen, possibly in waters far from the sight of home...

Meanwhile, at the Sultana's palace, several individuals wearing the uniforms of a variety of countries from countries as far away as South America were admitted to an audience, attended by members of the Harem Guard. The subject of this audience was kept secret, but a source near to the Sultana implied that trade treaties were but one of the things to be discussed.

Though she wasn't sure that the discussion of the fine points of the cuisine and couture of Latin America would constitute state secrets...

Vladivostok (An early morning, Mid-July 1907): Except for a few dock workers at the harbor no one noticed the small flotilla of coastal freighters and fishing boats leaving the port under the watchful eyes of a IJN destroyer

Simushir Island

(<http://www.theoceanadventure.com/KIIE/KI8.html>) A week later, Broutona Bay seemed crowded as the small flotilla sailed through the narrow channel into the Bay after an uneventful voyage from Vladivostok. The crews and their passengers stayed to themselves and avoided contact with the local fishermen, and spent most of their time climbing the 682 meter mountain that dominated the island's northern end.

Yokohama (10 August 1907): Over a span of several days a variety of mid-sized cargo and passenger boats left Yokohama, usually with a single Japanese destroyer escort. Locals assumed they were more troops headed for China or perhaps even the South Pacific. No one noticed that once out of sight of land the ships gathered into a small convoy and headed north at their maximum speed of 10 knots.

St. Lawrence Island (3 September 1907): Buchanan paced the bridge of the USS Kentucky (BB-6) restlessly. Besides himself, only the captain and the exec of the mighty pre-dreadnought knew why the ship was anchored off the south coast of St. Lawrence Island, only 36 miles from the Chukchi Peninsula. The ship had actually arrived weeks before but had used the time since for conducting a variety of training exercises and charting operations around the Aleutian Islands and into the Bering Sea, even venturing into the Bering Strait during the dog days of summer. The ship's navigator had updated all the charts and maps on board; and was sure they'd be well received at the Navy Hydrographics Bureau in Washington. Buchanan just thought they were killing time until he received another "eyes only" telegram that obviously originated somewhere above the Navy's headquarters in Washington.

When they were just about ready to leave Yokohama and Buchanan had said his good byes to HIH Esmeralda and enjoyed a last cigar and whisky with her; he thought he was rid of her for good and she would make her own way back to St. Petersburg by land accompanied, no

doubt, by the watchful Father Ivan. However, as the ship tenders scurried back and forth with last minute supplies and a few barely sober crewmen, Buchanan observed from the bridge as a flag officer's barge approached alongside the ship. Buchanan thought that perhaps it was one of his friends from the IJN staff at the base coming to say good bye but he didn't see any officer's white uniforms on the barge. Instead, the crew men began to unload a variety of supply boxes, containers, and large steamer trunks all carefully marked in cyrillic from the barge to the ship. Finally, two figures dressed in semi-nautical style uniforms that looked vaguely naval in origin but definitely weren't Japanese or American, climbed the ladder up to the deck. The officer of the deck greeted the pair with obvious confusion and then looked up at the bridge where he saw Buchanan watching them. Moments later, Buchanan's eyes widened as Ernie, wearing a Russian naval cadet's uniform, and Father Ivan in a junior officer's uniform with a big pectoral cross, entered the bridge. Ernie smiled as if nothing unusual was happening and said, "Commodore. It's so good to see you again, even if it was unexpected."

Later, in the captain's office, the pair filled in Buchanan on their situation and explained that someone had let the Japanese know who and where they were. The pair, baggage and all, pretended to be leaving on a Russian freighter conveniently in port and then at the last minute, fled to the sanctuary of the Kentucky. Not knowing what to do with them, but horrified at the idea of sharing his cabin with the pair, Buchanan told the captain and exec who was on board. Both agreed they couldn't refuse the pair's request for assistance and, Buchanan was bumped from his cabin, which was taken over by Ernie and the priest.

Cables flashed between Yokohama, Washington, St.Petersburg, and points in between, as plans were changed. The Russian freighter left Yokohama passengerless and headed northward. In due course the Kentucky followed and then, because of the warship's much higher speed, arrived at St. Lawrence Island several weeks before the freighter. In due course the ships rendezvoused at St. Lawrence Island and Ernie and the priest were transferred, with their baggage to the freighter. Buchanan, happy to have his cabin back,

walked in and discovered that the pair had converted it into a Russian Orthodox chapel and it would be weeks before the smell of incense, garlic and onions disappeared.

Buchanan had not told Ernie why the pre-dreadnought was hanging around St. Lawrence Island and she didn't asked. But as the Russian freighter sailed away to the northwest, Buchanan could see a small flotilla approaching from the southeast. It was the Japanese mini-fleet he'd been waiting for.

Within hours the flotilla and Kentucky had met in a more sheltered bay on the other side of the island; and Japanese sailors and workers began moving men and equipment between the various flotilla ships and constructing a large flat platform on top of the rear turret of the Kentucky.

TO BE CONTINUED

Beijing (15 September 1907): Units of the IJA in Beijing began moving north out of the city early this morning into positions along The Great Wall, the symbolic border between China and Mongolia. In the meantime Imperial forces in Manchuria and Korea stood by on high alert in case of a Russian attack.

Canton (20 September 1907): Rumors swept the city this morning that a great battle was going on between Russian and Japanese forces in Kansu; and that a gigantic battle was raging between French, English, and Japanese forces and the Russian, Indian and Turkish forces across SEA.

SPO (25 September 1907): Japanese naval units in the South Pacific have moved into the Timor Sea and additional Japanese and French naval forces are fighting for control of the waters of the East Indian Ocean.

Jakarta, Sumatra (27 September 1907): A furious battle is raging around the island but the results are still fogged by the smoke of battle. This is the biggest battle in the war to date and its results may be decisive in determining how the war ends.

Autumn 1907

Austria: Has A Burgundy, F Ionian Sea, A Libya, A Munich, A Piedmont, F Rome, A Ruhr, F Tunis, F Tuscany, A Tyrolia, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Has F Edinburgh, F English Channel, F London, A Sikang, F Thailand(ec), F Yorkshire.

France: Retreat F Morocco - Mid-Atlantic Ocean..Has A Annam, F Algeria, F Andamon Sea, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Paris, A Picardy, F Spain(sc).

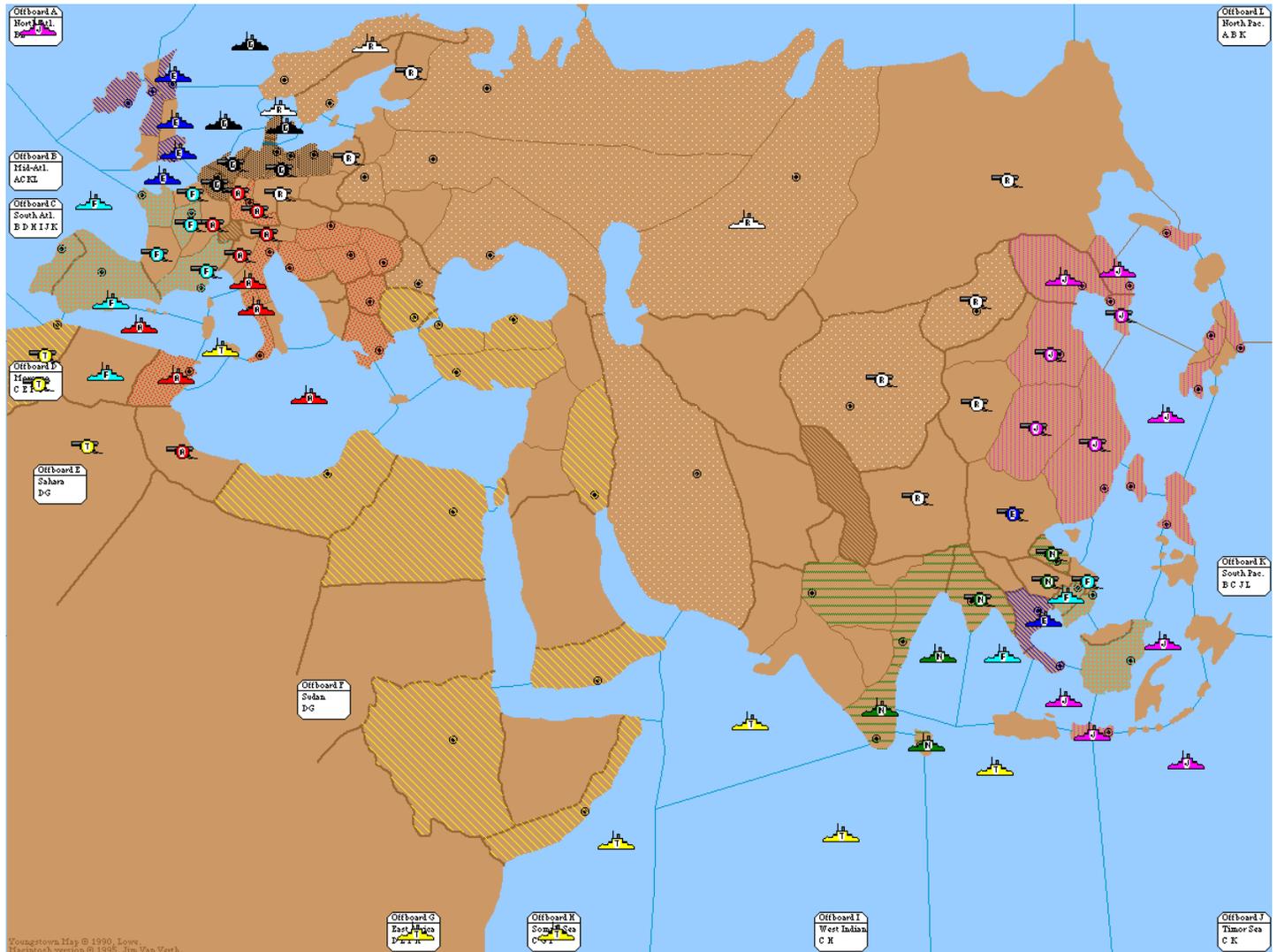
Germany: Has A Belgium, A Berlin, F Denmark, A Holland, F Norwegian Sea, F North Sea.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Japan: Retreat A Kansu - Hankow..Has A Canton, F Celebes Sea, F East China Sea, A Hankow, F Java, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F Off Board A, A Peking, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Finland, A Kansu, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Prussia, A Saxony, A Siberia, A Sinkiang, F Skagerrak, A Tibet.

Turkey: Has F Arabian Sea, F East Indian Ocean, A Morocco, A Off Board D, F Off Board G, F Off Board H, A Sahara, F Somali Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea, F West Indian Ocean.



Supply Center Chart

- Austria: Budapest, Greece, Klug, Munich, Naples, Rome, Serbia, Trieste, Tunis, Venice, Vienna=11, Even
- England: Edinburgh, Ireland, Joharra, Liverpool, London, Thailand=6, Even
- France: Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Marseilles, Paris, Portugal, Saigon, Spain=8, Remove 2
- Germany: Belgium, Berlin, Denmark, Holland, Kiel, Posen=6, Even
- India: Burma, Calcutta, Ceylon, Delhi, Madras, Viet Nam=6, Even
- Japan: Canton, Formosa, Hankow, Java, Korea, Kyoto, Manchuria, Osaka, Peking, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=13, Build 1
- Russia: Iran, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Warsaw=11, even
- Turkey: Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Magudisco, Morocco, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Yemen=11, Build 1

PRESS

Fez: Off with the Fezes! Bring on the Maderial!

Fall and Autumn 1907 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

AUSTRIA: So Austria really spins his wheels this turn, making no real progress, which is rather disappointing for him. But of course France has the two removals, so that will change next year. Still, in this game you always want to be growing. I think Andrew is still OK, but he had better take more centers next game year.

Yeah, Aus doesn't make progress this turn but Turkey does and as long as one of them is moving forward in the Med--its lights out for France...

Austria has to acknowledge that plowing forward to get Marseilles and Paris isn't going to be enough for him. If he sits back and lets Russia stab Germany, he'll be next.

ENGLAND: Managed to stay even while his similarly doomed French ally lost two, but this doesn't help much. There is a Japanese fleet coming to the rescue through the Off Board Box, but will it be enough? It does probably hold the line until the French collapse below him, although there is the guess around Clyde. England correctly determined that he couldn't let them into Clyde and bounced it. Even with the Japanese fleet, this turn, Germany might be able to sneak a convoy into Yorkshire with Edi-Cly, Yor-Edi, or if everyone moves, a fleet into the English Channel? That's the danger of moves that you WANT to bounce with. We will see. Spring is pretty important on this front.

This is just a guessing game...Russia is being very lazy here--he should be telling Germany to move F Nwg-NAO so he can slip his F Nwy-Nwg and then move his A Fin-Nwy so he can try and convoy into England as well...especially with a Japanese fleet on the horizon. Russia may regret his hanging back to keep Germany on such a tight leash if Germany can't land an army in the British Isles soon...

FRANCE: OK, so what does France remove? Algeria for sure, but then no good choices. Presuming NOT removing in SE Asia, then Austria should be able to advance next game year (which as noted above is crucial to him!). France still doesn't have diplomatic leverage yet either. I suppose he could try making

threats about collapsing on one front or another with these removals?

All France can decide at this point is who initially gets his dots as he won't be around for much longer, unless he can do the next to impossible--break up the A/T alliance or convince Germany to turn on Russia but that's only stop gap as Germany would collapse like a house of cards if Russia moves on Germany's dots.

I would suggest removing F Algeria (doomed in any case) and a force in SE Asia. Japan poached a SC there - let him plug the gap.

GERMANY: As we've been noting, at SOME point Germany has to worry about being the next stab, but I don't think now. The key in Spring is outthinking the Brit! That would make things SO much easier for him if David got into one of the English provinces!

Germany's inefficiency is actually helping him at this point...as soon as he breaks into England, that's Russia's cue to move on Germany's home centers. This is why, in my opinion Russia, needs to get involved here--if Germany sees Russia cleaning up on England's centers, Germany will have to start taking them or risk getting nothing from the collapse of England.

I don't like seeing the Russian move to Saxony. Also he's staying in Skag. That smells very stabby.

INDIA: Harold hangs in there and continues to make himself useful. If France DOES decide to remove a SE Asian unit, Harold is the big potential gainer.

This line is close to falling...we'll see how it plays out.

India has gone from being an associate member to a junior partner to a full-fledged member of this alliance. The lack of any armies protecting anyone's borders between T/I/R just goes to prove the "love

alliance" continues full bore from the Med to the Indian Ocean..

India still really isn't in very good shape. Right about now Japan should be making peace with him. (tick tock tick tock)

JAPAN: Lots of interesting press from Walt, I am enjoying it, and yes, moving the fleet over to help England was needed, but I'm not that excited by the other Japanese tactics. And certainly Walt is making no headway turning any alliances.

If anyone is spinning their wheels in this game its Japan--I admire Walt's devotion to his allies but if he doesn't start talking to the R/T/A/I alliance soon his days will be numbered....

RUSSIA: Rick and I are disagreeing slightly about the Russian Fleet in Omsk. I still like the idea, he can keep moving forward slowly and eventually get that fleet into Siberia. I suppose that is slightly dependent on the Japanese build and where it goes, but I think Japan will see more need to send it elsewhere. Elsewhere, the Russian army moved up into Saxony, what exactly does it do from there? Should David (Germany) be worried? Not sure. It may all be planned.

Russia has no reason to move quickly anywhere as nothing has changed in this game in several years.

Obviously his armies are positioned to ensure Germany gets no builds from any centers he picks up--this is not to say Germany will be wiped out, David may be allowed to survive as a rump state with no home centers, thus no ability to build any new units, that will be allowed to survive to serve the greater good of the larger alliance...

Russia's near-term goals should be the reduction of England and the containment of Japan. If he can have both of them held in check, he should eventually dominate the north.

TURKEY: So, Turkey gains this game year's single center gain, a bit less than you patient observers might have expected. There is a lot of patience and maneuvering going on in the central alliance. Turkey is making the most use of the Off Board Boxes, which I expect will continue. And what will Turkey build? There is the chance at the single unit stab since his allies have lots of open space. But don't expect to see it. Expect another fleet and staying as the big southern fleet power.

Turkey's cleaning up--he can refuse the build for all the difference it makes but I agree with JB--most likely another fleet to continue going around Africa or Japan to get to Europe....

Turkey's in great shape.

Winter 1907

Austria: Has A Burgundy, F Ionian Sea, A Libya, A Munich, A Piedmont, F Rome, A Ruhr, F Tunis, F Tuscany, A Tyrolia, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Has F Edinburgh, F English Channel, F London, A Sikang, F Thailand(ec), F Yorkshire.

France: Remove F Algeria, A Annam..Has F Andamon Sea, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Paris, A Picardy, F Spain(sc).

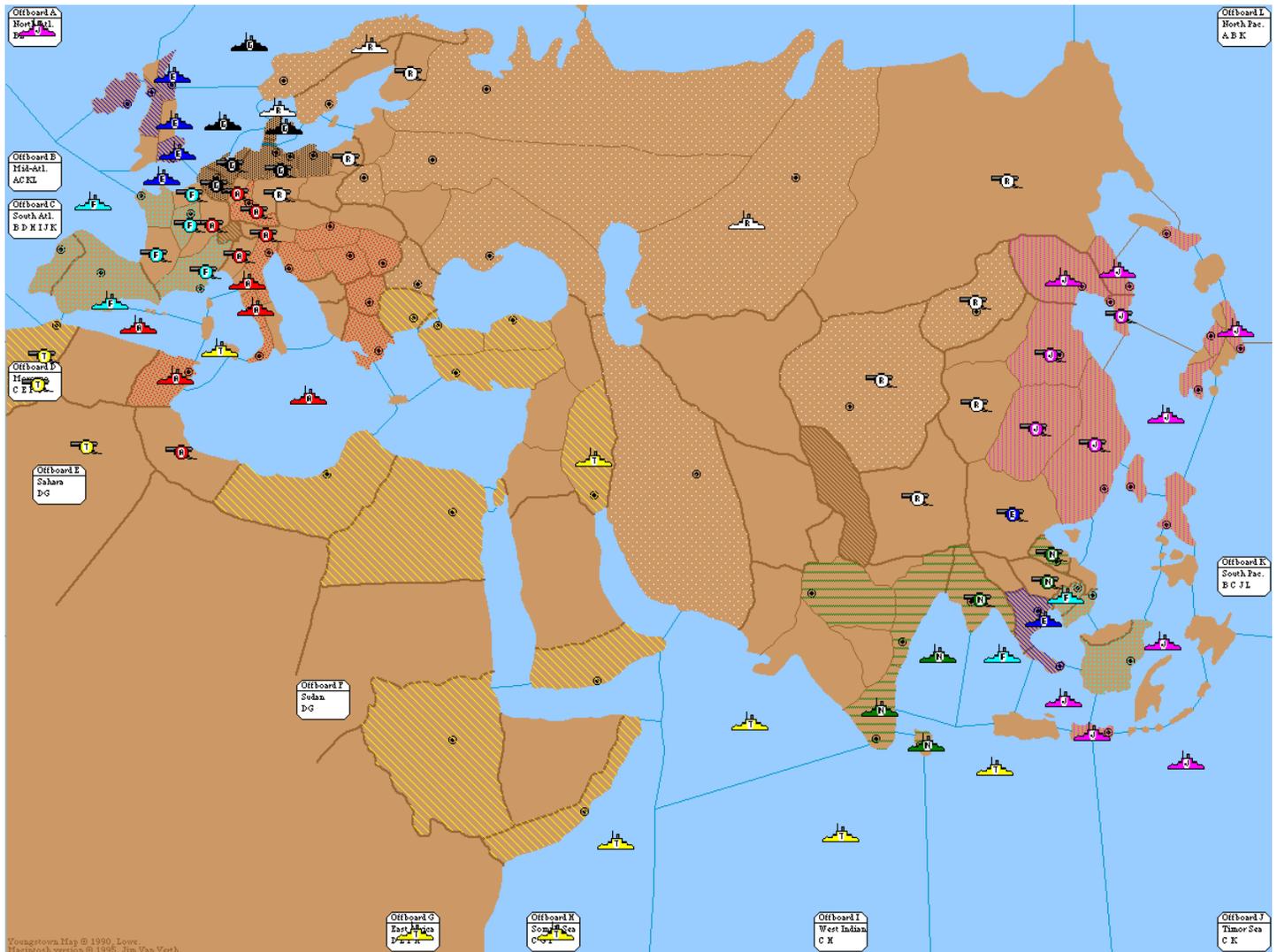
Germany: Has A Belgium, A Berlin, F Denmark, A Holland, F Norwegian Sea, F North Sea.

India: Has F Bay of Bengal, A Burma, F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Japan: Build F Tokyo..Has A Canton, F Tokyo, F Celebes Sea, F East China Sea, A Hankow, F Java, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F Off Board A, A Peking, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Finland, A Kansu, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Prussia, A Saxony, A Siberia, A Sinkiang, F Skagerrak, A Tibet.

Turkey: Build F Baghdad..Has F Arabian Sea, F Baghdad, F East Indian Ocean, A Morocco, A Off Board D, F Off Board G, F Off Board H, A Sahara, F Somali Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea, F West Indian Ocean.



PRESS

Baghdad: The shipyards are busy again! With the recent liberation of Morocco from Frankish oppression, new supplies of ore from the nearby mountains have begun to flow into Baghdad, and several new Sultana-class battler cruisers are being produced, as proud Turkish men and women work around the clock to get the new ships underway by the spring.

Saint Denis, Reunion Island (1 December 1907): The tattered remains of the once proud French 1st Asian Fleet sailed into Le Port, Reunion this morning after a remarkable voyage across the Indian Ocean during which it was relentlessly pursued by Turkish and Indian naval forces. One of the remaining French pre-dreadnoughts, De Grasse had only one gun in a back turret that appeared to be operational. All the others had obviously been damaged. Another French pre-dreadnought, Marquis de Lafayette, proudly flew a badly damaged ensign trailing a banner that said in Turkish and Arabic: DON'T MESS WITH US OR YOU'LL BE FRICASSEED IN COFFEE LIQUOR. The commander of

the fleet immediately went into a conference with officers from the local garrison. Loud voices could be heard from behind the closed and guarded doors as the two sides debated further action. One side apparently wants the fleet to go south around Africa to the French base in Brest. The other side wants to sail into dangers way and take the fleet north through Turkish controlled waters using cover from British naval bases in Aden, Suez, Cyprus, and Malta before returning to Toulon. In the meantime while the ships' officers argued for a longer stay on the island to repair and prepare for the voyage, the local garrison commander insisted they leave immediately before the Turks learned they were on the island. In the meantime the sailors from the ships had discovered the medicinal properties of the local pineapple liquor, rumored to be a great aphrodisiac, and the charms of the local girls and boys. The head of the local hospital in Le Port reported to the governor that he was already planning to build a large addition to the Hospital of the Blessed Virgin's pediatrics wing, due to be completed in nine months time.

Hue, Annam Protectorate: (1 December 1907) The last battalion of French Foreign Legionnaires in Annam left the city today en route for Saigon after running up a British and Japanese flag over the City Hall, a clear indication that the Battle for Hue was not yet over. A young boy named Vo Nguyen Giap stood next to his father, a clerk at the City Hall, and solemnly watched the Legionnaires watch away. As they disappeared down

the dusty trail he turned to his father and said, "Someday I will watch the last foreigners leave our land forever."

Tokyo (7 December 1907): After considerable internal debate the Cabinet today approved construction of yet another fleet for the IJN, in spite of protests from the War Minister that the nation needed more armies, not more fleets. However, with the Meiji's backing and the long tradition that the Navy gets 66.66% of military spending, the fleet will soon be underway. The question is: Where?

Winter 1907 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)



So, this time, it is worth taking a gander at the press since all of the builds and removals are commented on, sometimes in not especially helpful ways, but they are commented on.

France removes the A Annam, in addition to the expected F Algeria, which does create another hole in SE Asia. As noted last time, that could be good for Harold, although it is not a slamdunk that India can get a build from it.

Japan indicated he was waffling a bit on what to build, but it is clear that Japan means to try to

defend his allies, hold SE Asia and do less against Russia.

Turkey gets his fleet in Baghdad, which will be at the Indian Ocean front shortly.

Well, the French press was interesting. Apparently Turkey wanted a build that was as non-threatening to Austria as possible. I don't really think he needs another fleet in the Indian Ocean, though it can slide into position as the other fleets move into the Off-board boxes.

Austria should be able to set up the capture of Marseilles by the Fall. Ooh - the Japanese could be in the NAO soon! That will help the defense of England. At some point Japan is going to be hurt by the fleet strength differential, but that might take some time.

Hmm...that English army in Kansu is in trouble. If R/N try to destroy it, it might well be stuck without a retreat location. If that happens, the Colonial position in SE Asia will be very tenuous.

My only comment--if I were France I would have taken all off all of my units from Europe or Asia but not both--pick a spot and make a stand. Right now I'd say Asia looks more viable than Europe simply because Japan is closer than most of the T/R/I/A alliance....