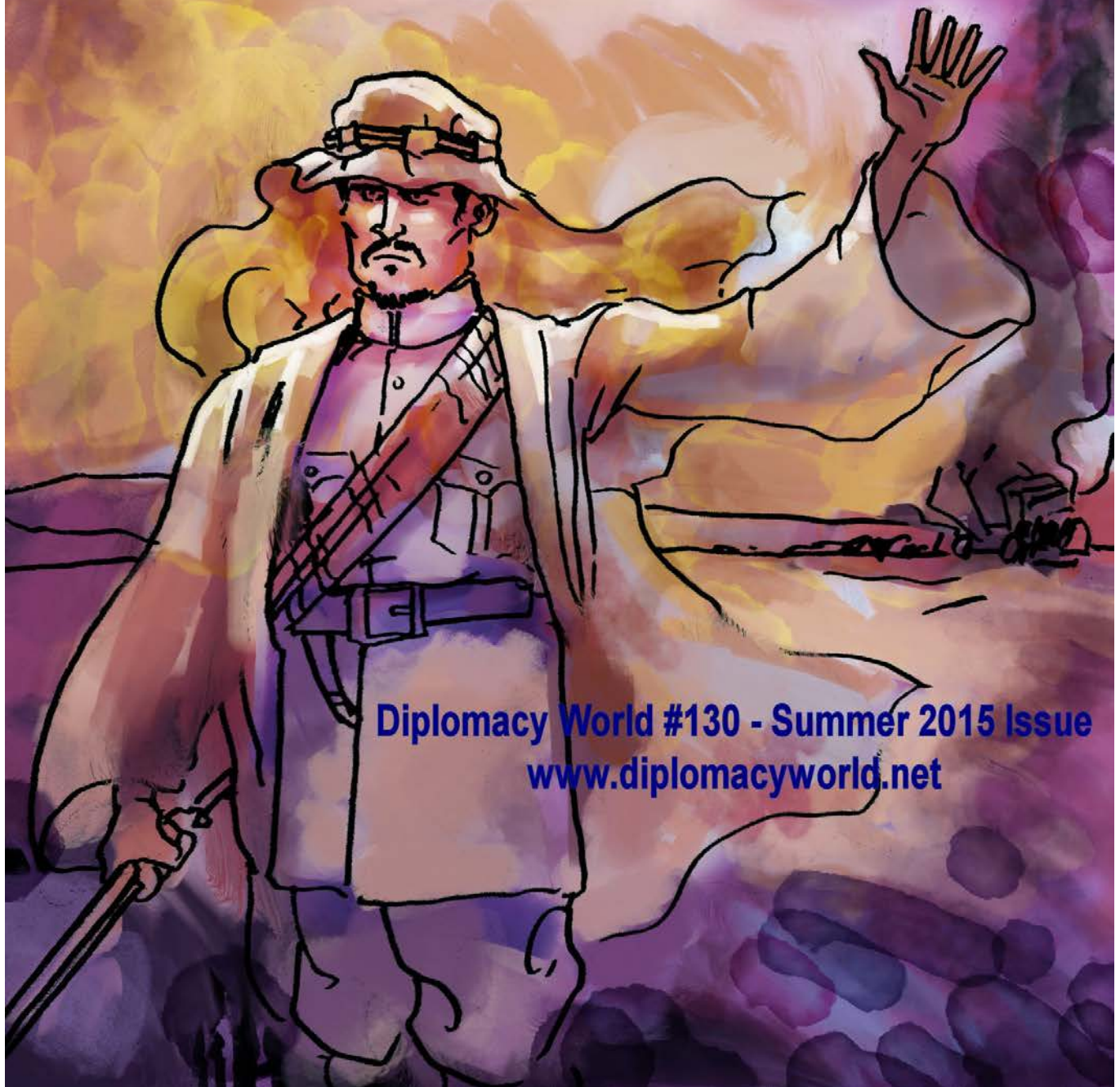


Diplomacy *World*



Diplomacy World #130 - Summer 2015 Issue
www.diplomacyworld.net

Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the latest issue of **Diplomacy World**, Issue #130. It has now been over eight years since I began my second stint as Lead Editor (at the urging of Jim Burgess). I have a tendency to be very overly-critical of anything I produce, whether it is my own writing or simply editing and compiling. So as each individual issue begins to take shape I am not able to see much of the good; I just see the flaws. But if I take a step back and examine the body of work we have all produced since Diplomacy World #97, even *I* have to admit I am a bit impressed.

First of all I am amazed we've managed to keep it going this long. I don't mean the zine as a whole, which has been around **for over 40 years now**. I just mean these last eight years. Some issues have been weaker, and some better, but I don't think any of them have been "bad." It is ~~hard~~ impossible to please all the people all the time, but we have made a concerted effort to provide a wide range of articles every three months.

In a way I miss being able to pull off a "theme" issue as easily as we once could. It was hard enough coming up with the topics to begin with. But then to get enough submissions to match the topic was a real struggle. Sometimes I felt like people held off writing because their ideas didn't fit the theme...that was a disappointment, because an issue with a theme still needed material on many other topics to give it depth. Do you think we should try to resume doing "theme" issues?

Then again, maybe having themes helped motivate contributors because it gave them a topic to start off with. What is your opinion?

I sometimes forget a lot of Diplomacy World readers have not been following the zine for that long. So this is the perfect opportunity to urge you to visit www.diplomacyworld.net and peruse the back issues. Just about every issue, all the way back to #1, should have something of interest. If you'd like to see the "theme" issues we did, check out Diplomacy World #100 through #112.

Everybody has their favorite kind of articles. Is it time for me to revive the "writing contest" competitions, where I award prizes for the winning entries that fall within a given article type or category? I'm willing to give it a go if you think there is enough interest out there.

Switching focus back to THIS issue, it turned out to be a much longer one that I expected. Of course the Youngstown Demo Game takes up a chunk of space, and I hope you've been following the game and the

commentary. There is something to be learned from every detailed game of Diplomacy, variant or otherwise. Actions, reasons behind them...and even mistakes; you can learn just as much from watching other players screw up than you can from watching a game played flawlessly.

There is a concentration of World DipCon this time around, as there should be. As far as I'm concerned there can never be TOO MUCH convention and tournament coverage. But there's plenty more to read. Strategy and Tactics, a special crossover mystery with The Diplomatic Pouch, and even the beginnings of a new section called Meet the Dippers. Be sure to read that and consider participating. The more of a community we can build, tying various hobby regions and playing avenues together, the more opportunities you will find to enjoy the hobby as a whole. Oh, and of course that also means more opportunities to make new friends. It is no exaggeration to say that I have some friends from the Diplomacy hobby that I've known for over 20 years, but still have not met in person. But I count them among the closest friends I have, and we would do just about anything for each other.

Like any hobby, that is the true strength of Diplomacy: bringing people together with a common interest, in the hopes that friendships and relationships will grow far beyond that initial similarity. We have such an amazing range of cultures, nationalities, religions, ideas, beliefs, occupations, and knowledge bases in this hobby. I think it is safe to say that – if you let yourself and if you give of yourself in the same way – it is impossible not to grow as a person by participating in this hobby. Diplomacy is the game that brought us together, but as a collective we form Dipdom, a community with so much to share. Even if it is something as simple as discovering new books, music, movies, other games...take every opportunity to learn what you can about the PERSON across the board from you while you plan their demise. Within the game they may be your enemy, or your ally, or more likely both as the game goes on...but it is the ability to stand up from the table when the game has ended and go enjoy a meal, a drink, or a discussion with that former enemy that makes it worth your time.

I'll close by reminding you the next deadline for Diplomacy World submissions is October 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 fall, and happy stabbing!

And help me get the Interview Editor position filled!

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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



David Cohen – WANTED - VARIANT COLLABORATOR/MAP EXPERT

I have a variant that I have been developing. A global variant as of 1700 with several bells and whistles. High Seas provinces allowing multiple units in them, to make stalemates less likely. Colonial provinces and Asian Powers with initially half strength units (or if you prefer, there are double strength units in Europe), with conditions for building full strength units in non-European

areas. Different victory criteria for each Power. Possibilities of gaining additional home provinces.

There will be many provinces which will be very small on the global scale of the variant, and wrapping/projection difficulties. I have a few ideas about this, but the mapping involved is beyond my meager skills. Your job would be to work with me to bring this variant to life. Candidates please contact me at zendip18 AT optonline DOT net.

Selected Upcoming Conventions

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

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

China Diplomacy Tournament I – Saturday August 1st 2015 – Sunday August 2nd 2015 - Huangpu District, Shanghai, China - www.yunspatadise.com

DIPCON at the Philadelphia Massacre - Friday August 7th 2015 - Sunday August 9th 2015 - Philadelphia, PA - <http://philadelphiamassacre.com/>

Necronomicon 2015 – Friday October 9th 2015 – Sunday October 11th 2015 – Grand Hyatt Hotel, Tampa Bay, FL - <http://www.necronomicon2015.com>

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

Ask the GM

By The GM

Dear GM,
I am having trouble keeping up any interest up in Diplomacy—I can't ever seem to win while playing Austria. Any ideas as to what I can do keep my interest up?

Sincerely,
Burnout Austrian

*Dear Burnout,
Simply—play an easier country like France or Turkey. Get your friends to play and have them throw you the game.*

*Your Pal,
The GM*

Dear GM,
I can't seem to get enough people to write for DW or to tell me they love me enough.

Signed,
Your Editor.

*Dear Editor,
I write for you and offer to have your baby and you still complain. There is just no pleasing some people.*

*Your Pal,
The GM*

Meet the Dippers – A New Diplomacy World Section

Diplomacy World reader Fang Zhang sent in a suggestion in May for a new section, which we have decided to implement.

The purpose of the section is for Diplomacy players throughout the world to introduce themselves to the rest of the hobby, and then to recruit another player to do the same. His letter below gives a more thorough explanation:

Have you ever considered setting up a new section in the DW zine? It would let individual Diplomacy players from all over the world introduce themselves. They could provide stuff like personal pictures, phone numbers, email addresses, where they live, how they gets into the hobby, where they play, what they do, their likes and dislikes...everything they want to share.

You would do it like a game. Each player who introduces himself or herself in Diplomacy World should find another player to do the same thing. Just like the ice bucket challenge, it will continue.

Each year, DW could publish an extra issue, listing all the player introduction information according to country or region.

So there you have it, folks: a new section for Diplomacy players from all over the world to introduce themselves. It doesn't matter if you play face-to-face, on the Judges, on websites, postally, or in any other format...you're more than welcome. You just send whatever information about yourself you want to share to me at diplomacyworld@yahoo.com AND commit to recruiting another player to do the same the following issue. **Ready to give it a shot?**

Club and Tournament Report

By Will J. Abbott

I will keep this issue's column short, as most of what I have to say I hope to see elsewhere in this issue – like a discussion of hobby organization, reports from World Dipcon in Milan, and hopefully much more.

Weasel Moot has recently concluded. Congratulations to Peter McNamara of Australia for winning this year's tournament. Next year's Weasel Moot will be June 24-26. Not only will it be the tenth Weasel Moot tournament, but it will be the World Dipcon! Current world champion Toby Harris has already pledged to be there. Why not join him?

A new tournament is taking place as I write in Yorkshire. I don't have results as yet, but hopefully it will happen again next year.

There are also several tournaments you haven't missed already: Manorcon, the Philadelphia Massacre, Gencon, Tempest in a Teapot, Necronomicon.... find a tournament and come join us! We only stab during the game.



In Diplomacy Truth is Sometimes Stranger than Fiction

By Larry Peery

If you listened to the DiplomacyCast.com Episode 35 (4/1/2015) you may recall Nathan and Eric's April Fool's story about the Ukraine replacing Belgium as a supply center, all part of an elaborate story about a 60th anniversary edition of Diplomacy that Hasbro was going to publish. If you haven't listened to it, I suggest you do. I admit that they had me going for a while. However, just six weeks later reality showed once again that it can be even more fascinating than fiction when The Christian Science Monitor published a story, "As Russian bear stirs, Finland reconsiders its neutrality."

A Dipper couldn't have written a better headline.

The story suggests that because of Russian adventurism in the Ukraine Finland is considering a partnership with NATO, much as Sweden is doing.

This has arisen because of the discovery of yet another Russian sub exploring Finland's territorial waters (e.g. Helsinki Bay); which was, apparently, scared away by small Finnish coast guard cutters dropping hand grenade size depth charges. This follows a similar incident in Swedish territorial waters near Stockholm last October. Who's next? Will the Danes catch a Russian sub taking close-up photos of The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen?

The subs may have been phantoms, although I don't think so. What are very real are these small countries concerns about Russia's intentions and what further actions it might take. All the Scandinavian countries are thinking hard about this.

In Diplomacy: Denmark, Norway and Sweden are

already supply centers in play between Russia and the NATO countries of England and Germany. Only Finland is not a supply center and is usually considered within Russia's sphere of influence. However, history shows a long hostility between the two countries. In 1808 and 1809 Sweden and Russia fought a war, the result of which was Finland becoming an independent duchy under the rule of Russia. In 1939-1940 Finland and Russia again went toe-to-toe, only this time it was perhaps more because of the West's fear of communism than anything else. In spite of help from other neighbors Finland was defeated and forced to give up territory to Russia ---land that the Russians wanted as a security zone to protect St. Petersburg. Eventually, the Russians pulled out of Finland in exchange for a Finnish pledge of "friendship and neutrality".

During the Cold War years Finland served as a useful buffer between Russia, NATO and Sweden. It was also a significant trading partner and a useful gateway to the West when the Russians needed one. All in all the Russians found Finland more useful as a neutral than it would have as a satellite.

All that is changing as I write this. The Finns are concerned about their security, although they're not so sure an alliance with or in NATO is the way to go. Rather they seem more inclined to do what they can themselves and increase their bi-lateral links with Sweden, the other Baltic neutral. Whether that will be enough to keep the Russians out of Helsinki Bay or not only time will tell. In the meantime, we may yet see a black dot in Finland in that 60th anniversary edition of Diplomacy that Nathan and Eric were dreaming about.

What's the Hardest Thing for Diplomacy Players to Find? Someone Who Wants Their Stuff

by Larry Peery

One doesn't normally think of the Wall Street Journal as a source for inspiring articles about Diplomacy, but the 24 June 2015 issue had an article, "What's the Hardest Thing for Collectors to Find? Someone Who Wants Their Stuff." Fans worry about masses of matchbooks, menus and postcards, but keep acquiring more." Reading the article reminded me that this is a subject I've written about before, but I think it deserves another go at it because it is so important to us Dippers.

First I suggest you read the original article that inspired me. You can find it here

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10377601820344704643704581052192921577246>

Let me highlight the key points the article made:

1) We collect a wide variety of "stuff."

2) We collect a lot of it.

3) We worry that no one will want it when we leave the hobby or die; whichever comes first.

4) Meanwhile, we keep on collecting it.

5) Younger and new hobby members, collecting seems to be less of a priority. One line pursuits take up much of the time once given over to collecting things.

6) "The hunt for that rare original Allan B. Calhamer copyrighted Diplomacy game is less interesting now that it can be found instantly on eBay," said Dr. Montana Miller, an associate professor of popular culture at Bowling Green State University. Note that BGSU's Library is the home of Walt Buchanan's Diplomacy Archives, a treasure house of early Diplomacy publications (Walt, if you didn't know, was the founder of DIPLOMACY WORLD.); which is good. The problem is that the collection is almost unavailable for use because the library lacks the staff and facilities to make it usable.

Fortunately, The Diplomacy Archives which is as old as the hobby, has survived a journey from Rod Walker's hands, to mine, to TR Haffey's, to Edi Birsan's and finally to Doug Kent's; who has spent a lot of time and effort posting thousands of back Diplomacy publications online. But two worries arise: 1) What happens to the collection (which fills a good hundred boxes, I think) when Doug can no longer deal with it? 2) What happens if his online site crashes and disappears? Hopefully, it's got a back-up somewhere.

Diplomacy collections have a way of growing from a bookshelf in the corner to an icon wall, to a Diplomacy man cave, to an entire room, attic, basement or garage. And still we keep adding more. Today, of course, there are fewer hard copy zines to collect but the size of trophy and award collections has grown, at least for some of us.

7) But counting on a museum or library to take your irreplaceable and valuable collection of Diplomacy artifacts is a dangerous idea, as I've found out. I offered my personal Archives to three different local university libraries and they all said, "We'd love to have it but we have no space. Or, we'd really like to take them but can you provide the funds to sustain (e.g. provide shelf-

space) for your collection?

8) Let's face it, our hobby, like so many others, is an aging one; and it's harder and harder to recruit new players and keep older ones on their feet long enough to hobble over to a corner for a quick tet-a-tet. We've aged, grown old together and are dying together. Still, it's the comraderie that keeps us together.

9) Let's face it; our wives, kids, and loved ones rarely care about our hobby or our collections. It's usually the first thing that goes when you go; often with no thought of where it is going or whether it will be preserved or not.

10) "I'm trying to pare down," is the mantra most often heard when you approach someone about taking over your collection. Not everybody needs or wants 17 different editions of Diplomacy; and even if they do, where would they put them? "I'm going to be 60 or 70 or even 80 years old and I'm not going to live forever," although we may act and live like it.

11) Still, some of us keep collecting because they enjoy the hunt. "I'm still hoping to find things I don't have."

12) "Even though I know I'm going to be selling them, giving them away, or my heirs are going to be trashing them, I'm still collecting them. It makes no sense," as one hobby Old Fart said.

So, what to do? Let me repeat my suggestion that we pool our resources and ourselves into "donors and collectors". Donors are those who have stuff they are willing to sell or give to another hobbyist who promises to "preserve and protect it." Collectors are those who are willing and able to accept such items as a temporary custodian and responsibility to be passed on to another in the future.

If you're interested in taking on either of those roles, please email me at peery@ix.netcom.com and don't wait until your heirs have to try and track me down.

[[I'll just point out that I STILL have numerous boxes of zines to scan and post into the Postal Diplomacy Zine Archives at <http://www.whiningkentpigs.com/DW/>. Also that site is being redesigned and updated so it is better organized, more accessible, and faster-loading.]]

China Diplomacy Convention I

Dragon Cup Tournament

This will be the first Chinese face to face diplomacy convention ever. The aim of the tournament is to gather the hobby members face to face, make friends, have fun and what's more, open the gate of face to face diplomacy play in China.

- **Date**

August 1st and 2nd , 2015

- **Site**

L319, Hong Kong City

489, South He Nan Road, Huangpu District,
Shanghai, China

- **Accommodation**

Players from all over the world are welcomed. During the tournament, I will provide two nights' free 4-star hotel rooms for oversea players. (If there are more than one foreign player come, sharing a room might be expected).

The "Yun's Paradise" Hotel, located in the very central of the city, has fashionable and European style, 3 minutes' walk to tournament site, few minutes' walk to the Old City God's Temple and Metro station, about 40 minutes' metro to the airport.

See website to get more information (Go to the homepage and click to switch to English language):

www.yunsparadise.com

- **Transportation**

I will provide a public transportation card for you to skip buying ticket in case you need to take metro and bus during the tournament, and it's also for free.

- **Food**

Buffet dinner at Saturday night with a birthday cake for the birth of China Diplomacy Convention. You can also try all kinds of Chinese food near the tournament site as you wish.

- **Tournament information**

✓ The tournament is partly sponsored by Asmodee China and is 100% free to join.

✓ **Structure**

Two rounds on Saturday and a top board on Sunday. Best seven players of the first two

rounds will qualify to the top board. Top board's score will be doubled. The score of the first two rounds and the top board will be added and the highest scored player wins the tournament.

There will also be a special game and special prize for those who fail to make it to the top board.

✓ **Game set**

Game ends after 1907, open ballot and draw include all survivals, 20 minutes per turn, central clock and drop deadline. Each game each player has but one opportunity to submit orders 90 seconds after deadline.

✓ **Scoring system**

$P(1^{st}), P(2^{nd}) \dots P(7^{th})$: Points each player gets for each game

$SC(1^{st}), SC(2^{nd}) \dots SC(7^{th})$: The number of supply centers each player control when game ends in decreasing order, regardless of how the game ends(solo, draw or else).

$$P(1^{st}) = [SC(1^{st}) - SC(2^{nd})] + [SC(1^{st}) - SC(3^{rd})] + [SC(1^{st}) - SC(4^{th})] + [SC(1^{st}) - SC(5^{th})] + [SC(1^{st}) - SC(6^{th})] + [SC(1^{st}) - SC(7^{th})] + 1$$

$$P(2^{nd}) = [SC(2^{nd}) - SC(3^{rd})] + [SC(2^{nd}) - SC(4^{th})] + [SC(2^{nd}) - SC(5^{th})] + [SC(2^{nd}) - SC(6^{th})] + [SC(2^{nd}) - SC(7^{th})] + 1$$

...on through:

$$P(6^{th}) = [SC(6^{th}) - SC(7^{th})] + 1$$

$$P(7^{th}) = 1$$

- **Teaching Lecture**

A 90 minutes' teaching lecture by Edi Birsan together with all the players after Saturday.

- **Prize**

A small ceremony will be held right after the top board ends. All kinds of prizes are waiting for you to win. During the tournament, we will send specific prizes to players right after each board ends.

Please email me as soon as possible if you confirm to come.

I need to book the Hotel in advance which can't be canceled.

- **Contact information**

Fang Zhang truballer59@yahoo.com

Come and have fun!

Diplomacy at Necronomicon

Announcing a new tournament: Diplomacy at Necronomicon 2015

Come play Diplomacy in southwest Florida! Necronomicon is an annual science fiction and gaming convention. Taking place this year October 9-11 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, the tournament features three preliminary rounds and a final board. Qualifying for the final board is based on the best single results from the earlier rounds, so if you want to do other things at the convention, feel free to miss a round.

Tournament rounds are Friday at 4PM, Saturday at 12PM, Saturday at 6PM, and Sunday at 12PM (the final round).

A three day badge is \$35. For further information

On the convention: <http://www.necronomicon2015.com>

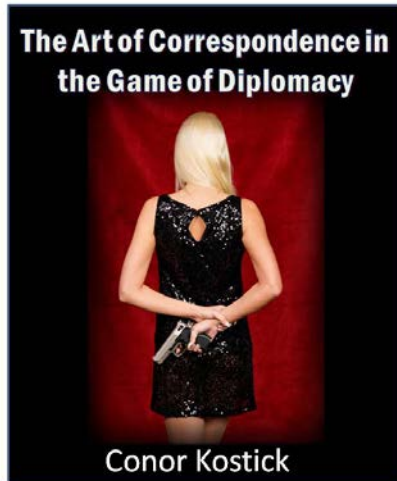
On the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay: <http://grandtampabay.hyatt.com>

On the Diplomacy tournament: CentralFLDip at gmail dot com

The Art of Correspondence in the Game of Diplomacy: Forging Alliances

A Sample Chapter from the Forthcoming Book

By Conor Kostick



Chapter 2.

Forging Alliances

It is not possible to win at Diplomacy without making one or two alliances that last for a great part of the game. How do such alliances come about? Well, it's a game, not real life, so don't worry about smiling and shaking hands with a firm but-not-too-firm grip and making eye contact for no more than seven seconds. You are not out to win friends, although all of us in the hobby have of course made good friends through it (despite, or perhaps because of, our having stabbed each other at one time or other). Certainly, there is no harm in being polite and warm even in your correspondence, but making alliances is all about proposing and playing moves of mutual benefit. I tend to be garrulous, but some of my most effective alliances have been with players who have said almost nothing more than to propose a joint set of moves each turn that look attractive to me and that I believe they will follow through on, because it is to their benefit too. I've seen many games where the winning players only wrote brief messages, but what they did write was very effective.

It is relatively easy to get an alliance going with a partner where you both can make clear gains from working together. In most positions, however, especially early in the game, there are all sorts of possible combinations of mutual benefit to the players concerned. Taking the northern triangle in their starting positions, is it going to be England/Germany or England/France or Germany/France that emerges, or even a northern triple? All three pairings have win-win early moves they could play early on and they are all pretty much equal. Suppose you are England. You are not simply going to

establish the alliance you want by saying to France, 'let's get Germany', or to Germany, 'let's get France', because what you have to offer is not intrinsically any more advantageous to your potential ally than them saying to each other 'let's get England.'

In a position – such as the opening – where the various options do not make it easy for you to win over an ally, you can tip the balance in your favour by making a more attractive offer than your rival. How? There is no writing style that can give you an edge. Nor would declaiming that you want to work with your potential ally forever and ever, without stabbing, through thick and thin to the end. Any early and unproven statements about your loyalty will be considered as simply froth, if not downright cynical, given the rules of the game.

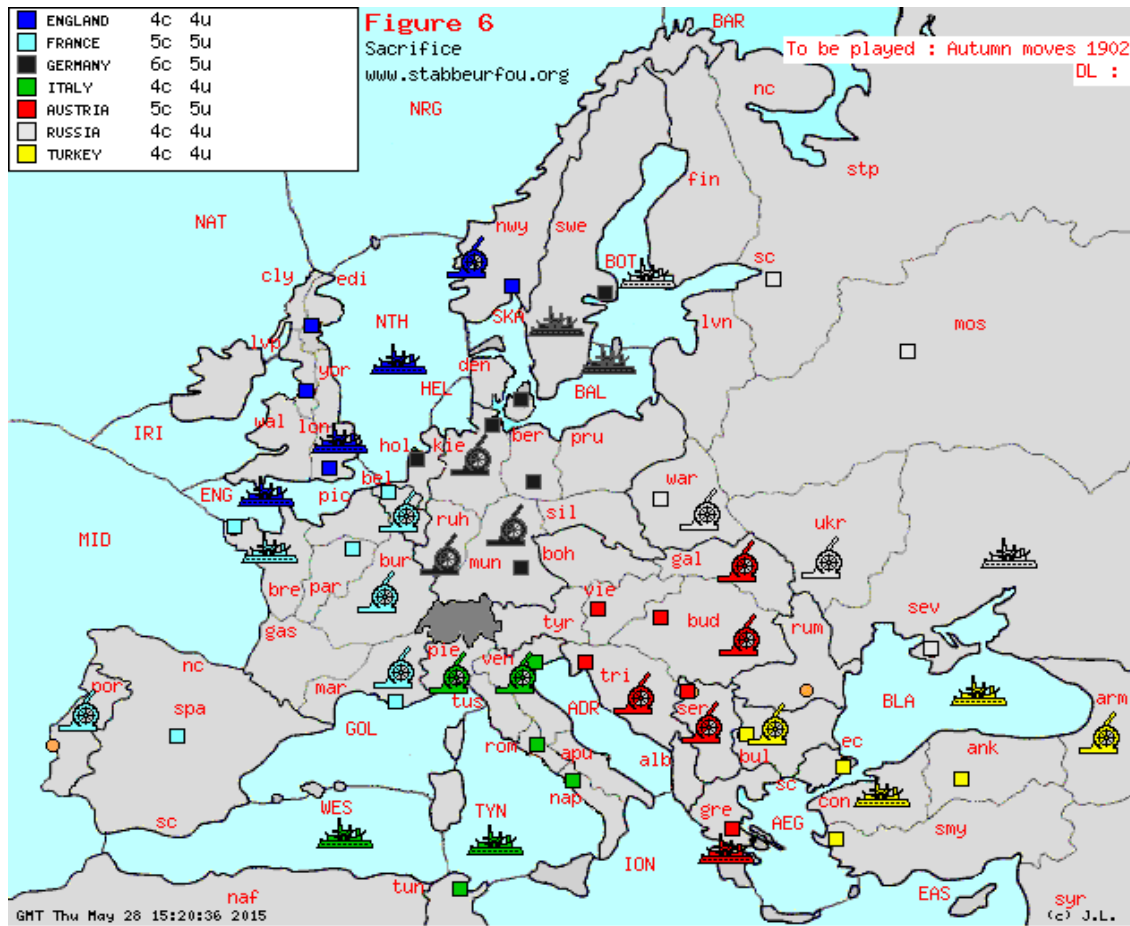
No, there is only one way to secure an alliance in an equal position and that is by offering your prospective partner a generous share of the cake that you intend for both of you to eat. In this regard, you have to outbid your rival, in a plausible and concrete fashion. It is very important to maximise your chances of forming an alliance by being crystal clear about what you are proposing and what you expect in return. I appreciate that there are many players who prefer vagueness and caution, so as to keep their options open, but in my experience that kind of approach tends to work only when someone needs you much more than you need them.

In a situation where you absolutely need to establish a partnership, I believe you should grasp the nettle and a) make some definite proposals and b) make proposals that are genuinely a little more favourable to your ally than to you. 'But', you might object, 'won't I lose if my new ally does better than me?'

My reply: 'The most important objective right now is to start an alliance that ensures you are not going to be taken down. Once it is underway, there will be plenty of opportunities to subtly or not so subtly tip the balance of the alliance back towards you.' Furthermore, if your initial diplomacy is too evidently self-interested, you will run the risk of alienating your potential partner, who might get the impression that you will prove to be hard to work with. By contrast, demonstrating that you are the kind of player who is flexible and willing to give a little in order to gain a lot will make you much more attractive to your hoped-for ally.

One of the interesting features of games of Diplomacy involving experienced players is that playing 'moves of mutual benefit' is not the same thing as playing moves that always advance your immediate short-term interests. Sometimes strategic advantage overrides immediate considerations. Being aware of this is

important and has the potential to lift your game to a whole new level. I learned myself that I don't just have to claw my way forward, seeking advantages with every move, thanks to some very smart diplomacy by the Austrian player in this position, after Spring 02, when I was Italy.



It is very hard for Italy to defeat France in Diplomacy and this does not normally happen unless Germany and England are beating a way through France in the north. Usually, this also means Italy's gains in Mar and Spa are short lived. Here though, even if France were to get a build, I have quite good chances of breaking through to Mar or Spa after TYN moves to GOL. Meanwhile, Austria is encouraged by the conflict between Russia and Turkey and reckons he can make progress in the east on his own. So even though only three seasons have been adjudicated, Italy and Austria have the potential to dominate the board, providing we can come to a successful understanding. We do so, thanks to Austria appreciating that my main concern in this position is to grow faster than a possible England - Germany alliance. Austria and I are discussing this, when Austria writes:

'Why don't I loan you Tri? You can build a fleet and get around to MID.'

Of course I say yes. And then the plot thickens. Not only is this a smart way to convert a unit that is relatively idle into one that will soon be in a critical position on the front line, but it's a way of completely misleading the rest of the board as to what is going on.

In order to maximise the obfuscation that Austria and I can create by our plan, I write to Germany to say that I'm going to need his support against France, but would that be endangered if I were – hypothetically – to fall out with Austria? After all, it seems like he and Austria have an understanding. Germany, briefly, replies that attacking France is a good idea and that he doesn't mind what I do in regard to Austria.

To Turkey I say that I'm worried about how strong Austria looks. That's all I say at first. But when Turkey replies agreeing and saying if I attack Austria, he'll assist, I thank Turkey and reply that I'll see what I can do. Now I check in with Austria again. He's told Turkey that he's playing Gal-Ukr so that Turkey can get Sev

and that he's also going to play Gre-ION. Music to Turkey's ears. In fact, what Austria is actually trying to do is keep Turkey and Russia at war for one more season while he takes Rum and surrounds Bul.

When I say to Russia I'm worried about the strength of Austria, Russia says not to be, Austria is going for Turkey and that it will be a long time before this attack succeeds. Russia, who is no fool, understands that a strong France is his best hope in the face of an E/G invasion of his north, also recommends I form an imaginative alliance with France, so that I bring my fleet WES to MID to attack England (and TYN to ION to help Austria against Turkey). I thank him for the suggestion and say I'll look into it.

So off to France and I make that proposal, knowing that Russia will be urging the same plan to him. France is very positive on the idea of my moving through MID towards England, so it seems, but my intuition is he doesn't believe me. Finally, I have to say something to England. Ideally, I'd like England to steal Den from Germany (to break up the E/G that might otherwise control the northern half of the board and stop a possible solo), but that's not going to happen and if he were in fact thinking of it, my mentioning the move would actually make things worse (it's the sort of stab that people only do if they believe it to be completely safe because it is unexpected). All I say, therefore, is that I hope Austria stays tied up long enough for me to team up with England against France.

So, we are all set for the adjudication.

England: F ENG-Bel (failed); F LON-ENG (failed); F NTH s F ENG-Bel; A Nwy-Stp (failed).
France: A Bel s A Bur (cut); F BRE-ENG (failed); A Bur s A Bel (cut); A Mar-Spa; A Por-Spa (failed).
Germany: F BAL-Den; A Hol s A Ruh-Bel; A Mun-Bur (failed); A Ruh-Bel (failed); F Swe s F BAL-Den.
Italy: A Pie-Mar; F TYN-GOL; A Ven-Tri; F WES s FRANCE A Mar-Spa.
Austria: A Bud s A Gal-Rum; A Gal-Rum; F Gre-Bulsc; A Ser s A Gal-Rum; A Tri-Alb.
Russia: F Bot-Stpsc (failed); F Sev h; A Ukr s F Sev; A War-Gal.
Turkey: A Arm-Sev (failed); F BLA s A Arm-Sev; A Bul-Rum (failed); F Con-AEG.

Ta-Daa! The game is ours. Germany and England clearly did not trust each other enough to arrange to capture Bel and instead of racing into the north east, Germany came back to cover Den. Better still, I guessed right over Mar. It seemed likely that France would try the self-bouncing trick, especially given that he was hoping for WES-MID. Now I've excellent prospects for getting in to Spa and then around to MID. My ally, Austria is well set to get Bul.

Moreover on the diplomatic front, the danger represented by our alliance to the rest of the board is very hard to spot. You'd have to be an experienced and rather sneaky player in order to suspect that we had carried out such a manoeuvre by agreement. And just to ensure no suspicion arises, Austria now complains about me to his neighbours, while for my part, when I write to the others I allow a chortling tone to creep in at my success in stealing Tri from Austria. For the next few moves too, we keep up the dissimulation with moves that make it look like we are fighting tooth and nail but which actually leave our units exactly where we want them.

You'll probably want to know what happened in this game. It did run on to a position where we comfortably controlled the whole board. The interesting question should have been: at what point did the alliance break down as one of us went for glory? Did our alliance break down too early and let someone else catch up? I'd like to be able to discuss that point in regard to this game. But,

unfortunately, this game was part of a tournament in which I did not have to win to advance, just gain a big score, so I was happy to agree a 17 / 17 and we rolled up the board without any tension between us. This means the example isn't a pure one: Austria would have much less confidence in loaning me Tri in a game where only one person could win. Even so, I think the example is very important. The main point here is that sometimes by sacrificing a centre you can create a victorious alliance. Not that this kind of position arises often, perhaps one in five games. But when it does, it's very useful to have this kind of manoeuvre in your toolkit of Diplomacy skills.

"The Art of Correspondence in the Game of Diplomacy", to be published in 2015 by Curses & Magic, Dublin, ISBN 978-0-9576320-8-0, is the third book to be published about the game of Diplomacy and the first since Calhamer's book of 1999. You can buy your e-book copy when available at Amazon.com and Ibooks.

Works by Kostick already in print include The Siege of Jerusalem: Crusade and Conquest in 1099 (2009); The Crusades and the Near East: Cultural Histories (2010); Strongbow: The Norman Invasion of Ireland (2014); The Easter Rising: A Guide to Dublin in 1916 (with Lorcan Collins, 2000); the Epic series of novels (2008-12); and several others. The Art of Correspondence is Kostick's first book about the game of Diplomacy.

Dixiecon 29 (2015) Report

by David Hood

There are few things one can count on in this world. Chaos reigns supreme, after all. But one thing you can be sure of – that every Memorial Day Weekend, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, there will be a Diplomacy tournament. The 29th annual Dixiecon finished up several weeks ago, with the winner joining a select few, two others in fact, who have won the event three times.

As usual, the event begins with early arrivals playing whichever games they fancy on Thursday evening. Since some arrived too late to game, however, the fort had to be held down by two-player gaming between David Maletsky and David Hood. After the inevitable arguments about politics, Diplomacy scoring systems, and the politics of Diplomacy scoring systems, they got down to business with both Titan and San Juan.

Friday morning and afternoon were full of open gaming with various participants, including board of St Petersburg, Nations, Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Small World, Dixit and Five Tribes. Due to construction, the tournament was held in the basement of a different building than usual, which actually turned out to be a nicer venue – we hope to be there in the future. Unfortunately, the construction has also killed the basketball courts at Granville, which is quite a shame. People like Michael Jordan and Jerry Stackhouse have played on that court. More significantly, people like Doc Binder and Andy Bartalone have played on that court. But I digress...

The Diplomacy tournament began on Friday evening with a Round One of three boards, which excitingly included nine completely new players to Dixiecon! In Game 1A, the players decided that after killing Bartalone's Russia, they had pretty much accomplished what they wanted to and declared a 6-way draw in 1909 (to be serious there was a lot of play here with an immediate Western Triple, so this was interesting board to watch.) Game 2B saw England/France take a 4-way draw with two of our new players, Molly Kelly as Turkey and Emily Pollock at Italy, with England also being new player Dariusz Murakowski. France was just some dweeb named Tom Kobrin, three-time Dixiecon winner or some such. In the third game, a 3-way draw resulted from Bill Hackenbracht's failed but glorious attempt at a win with Austria. He got to 15, stopped by Tony Bilzi's 11-center England and Graham Woodring's 8-center Italy.

In other action on Friday evening, the annual Iron Man tournament began with games of Here I Stand, Twilight Struggle, Terra Mystica, Avalon, Innovation, Galaxy Trucker and Splendor played by 18 gamers not in Round One of the Dip tournament. GM Dan Mathias presided

over this tournament, which scores results from the weekend's non-Diplomacy to crown an Iron Man Champ on Sunday afternoon. By the end of the event, 23 different players participated in this tournament, playing 11 different titles.

Saturday morning saw Round Two of the Dip tournament get underway, which also doubles as the Team Tournament. Three-person teams add their scores together to see who can pick good team members and who, well, can't. This year the team calling itself "The Brick Is a Hard Muther" or "Affirmative Action" took the medals as top team, consisting of Tim Richardson, Hudson Defoe and Brian Ecton. All three Dip games this round ended in 3-way draws, as EFI (Game 2A), IFT (Game 2B) and AEI (Game 2C.) Indeed, through the end of Round Two, Italy was included in every single draw result. Somewhere out on the Left Coast, there was a Nathan Barnes channeling his pro-Italian mojo or something – it's the only explanation that makes logical sense.



In Iron Man gaming during Round Two there were again large numbers of non-Dip gamers kicking the living something out of each other. Some of the games played including Outpost, Illuminati (blast from the past!), Napoleonic Wars and more Here I Stand. Then everyone broke for the traditional barbeque dinner at 5pm before getting back to business Saturday night for more gaming. Once all the Dip games were over, the

Iron Man really heated up – with new titles played including Britannia, Founding Fathers, Battlestar Galactica, and Resistance, as well as more playing of other games like Nations, Settlers, Twilight Struggle, and Splendor.

The only timed Diplomacy round at Dixiecon is the third one, beginning Sunday morning. Otherwise the games have an unlimited time limit and no central clock (people in the South take their sweet time, drinkin their sweet tea and gorgin on their sweet banana puddin, don't y'all know.) The Dip results from Sunday included an RAT in Game 3A, an FGI in Game 3B and an EFRT 4-way in Game 3C. Adam Sigal's German result in 3B catapulted him to Dixiecon champ, beating out Bil Hackenbracht in second and Tom Kobrin in third. In Iron Man gaming, Sunday saw boards of Acquire, Nations, Puerto Rico, Small World, Paperwork and Founding Fathers before the tournament ended with Bruce Duewer repeating at Iron Man champ for the umpteenth time, with Jim Yerkey taking second and Lori Wheeler coming in third by half a point over Michael Lowrey.



The 2015 Player's Choice award was no contest – with Emily Pollock being the favorite of most. She and her dad Dan Pollock were a wonderful addition to the Dixiecon family, as were all our new attendees this year.

As you may have noticed, next year is the 30th Anniversary of Dixiecon – so you just KNOW there will be some cool new features, don't you? Of course there will. Why don't you come to the 2016 Dixiecon and find out!

Diplomacy Tournament Results:

1.	Adam Sigal	356
2.	Bill Hackenbracht	348
3.	Tom Kobrin	344
4.	Tim Richardson	332
5.	Ike Porter	328
6.	Randy Lawrence-Hurt	296
7.	Tim Crosby	285.67
8.	Emily Pollock	276
9.	Chris Martin	269.67
10.	Dan Pollock	253.67
11.	Tony Bilzi	194
11.	Brian Ecton	194
13.	Dariusz Murakowski	184
13.	Graham Woodring	184
15.	Mark Franceschini	172
16.	Andy Bartalone	166
17.	Molly Kelly	138
18.	Joe Wheeler	111.67
19.	Zachary Jarvie	44
20.	Greg Myers	42
21.	Hudson Defoe	27
IN	Jim Yerkey	182
IN	Tom Filopoulos	107.67
IN	Dan Mathias	20
IN	Jimmy Koehler	10

Best Countries:

Austria	Bill Hackenbracht	3w-15
England	Tim Crosby	3w-13
France	Adam Sigal	3w-12
Germany	Adam Sigal	3w-12
Italy	Brian Ecton	3w-11
Russia	Tim Richardson	3w-10
Turkey	Tom Kobrin	3w-15

Team Tournament:

The Brick is a Hard Muther, or Affirmative Action – Richardson, Ecton, Defoe

Golden Blade – Tom Kobrin

I Got Hammered – Zachary Jarvie

The Brick – Joe Wheeler/Greg Myers

Death With Dignity – Hudson Defoe, Zachary Jarvie, Joe Wheeler, Bill Hackenbracht

Players Choice – Emily Pollock

Iron Man Tournament:

1.	Bruce Duewer	31
2.	Jim Yerkey	23
3.	Lori Wheeler	18

The Last Man Standing

by Mario Huys

"Last Man Standing" is a puzzle game on the Diplomacy board, whereby the goal is to reduce the number of units on the board to just one in the least number of turns possible. This type of amusement appears to have been in vogue in the European Diplomacy salons in the 1920s, after the end of the Great War. It was rediscovered for the first time in the S2012M issue of the Diplomatic Pouch Zine (<http://www.diplom.org/Zine>) in the Sherlock Holmes story "The Costly Case of the Last Man Standing", with a reprint of the first part in the S2015M issue.



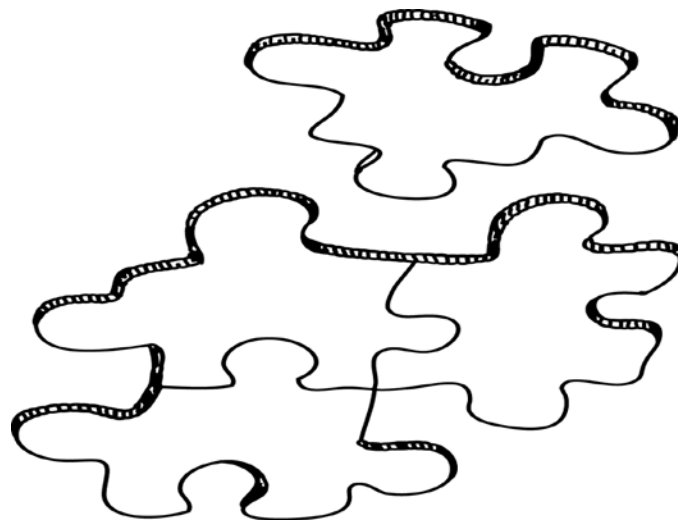
In the next issue, when we finally get to know the solution of the first of two such puzzles, we are told that Sherlock Holmes, not obstructed by the contractual obligations that bind Dr. Watson, his chronicler, to the Pouch Zine, has sent off a batch of solved puzzles to a rival Zine, called "Diplomacy in Kent". Little is known about this mysterious publication, except from what Dr. Watson tells us. Apparently it had some notoriety at the time of the events, when its editor-in-chief was an ex-convict called Douglas Waltman, a friend and informant of Holmes himself.

Readers of Diplomacy World will not be misled by the similarity in the magazine's title or its current editor-in-chief, Douglas Kent. First names usually do not indicate any family bond, and the modern American prison ward has little in common with the dirty English gaol from a century ago. Besides, the founding editor of Diplomacy World is Walt Buchanan, no relation to Mr. Waltman.

Be as it may, we do have an incredible scoop to offer to our faithful readers, the aforementioned 6 Holmes puzzles, in full color and complete with an accompanying commentary.

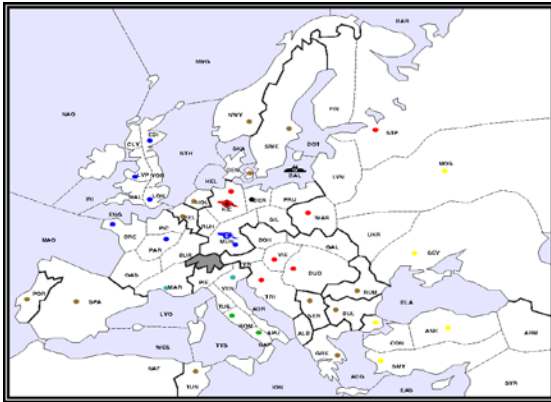
We will present these on the next pages in the form that we believe is the most adequate, as a puzzle. For the impatient, the solutions are scheduled to appear in the next issue of Diplomacy World. If that's not fast enough, there's no other recourse than to challenge yourself to try and solve any or all of them. A unique opportunity to sharpen your tactical skills, in the same way as chess players study checkmate problems.

The setting is as follows. You start with the Standard Diplomacy board in its normal starting position. You then proceed to expeditiously eliminate unit after unit from the board, either by dislodging them or by taking centers to force a power to disband units. In every respect the normal rules of Diplomacy are used, including the ability to build, although waiving builds is the more common option, and dislodged units invariably retreat off the board.

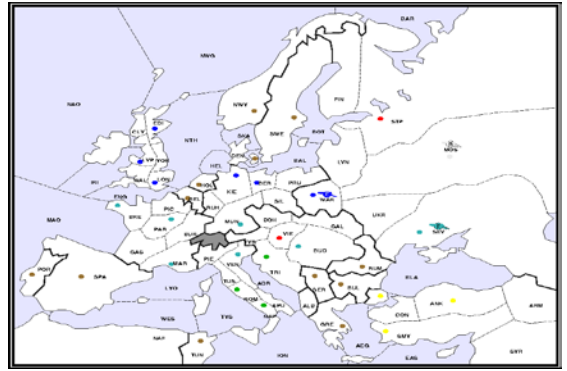


The puzzles presented here reach their end position in exactly 4 game years without taking a single neutral center, and with every power still having at least one unit on the board after the Winter 1902 Adjustments (thus at the start of the third game year). In each case the destination is the capital of a Great Power, and the Last Man Standing is the English army from Liverpool.

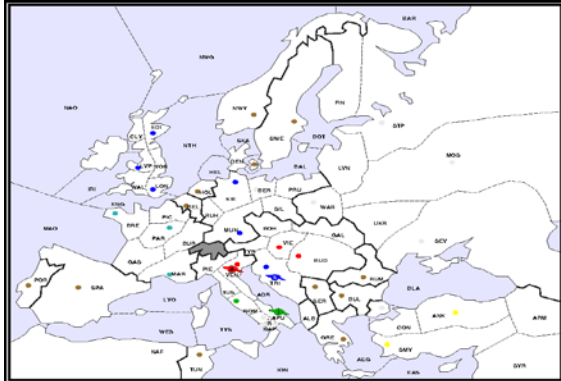
The maps show the situation after the Winter 1903 Adjustments, at the start of the final year. It's your task to prove firstly, that army Liverpool can reach its destination as the sole remaining unit; and secondly, to reconstruct the game whole game from Spring 1901 to the end. "Elementary, my dear Watson."



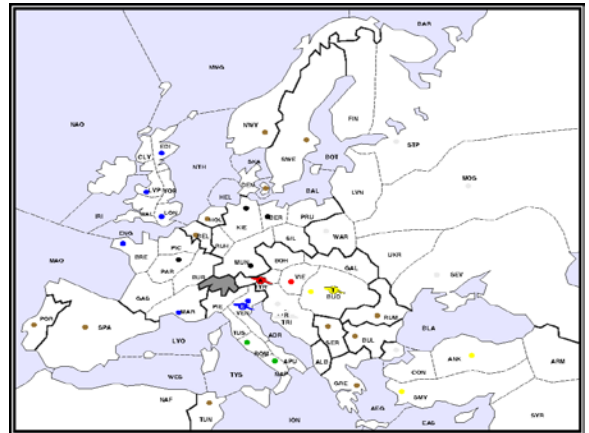
To Berlin



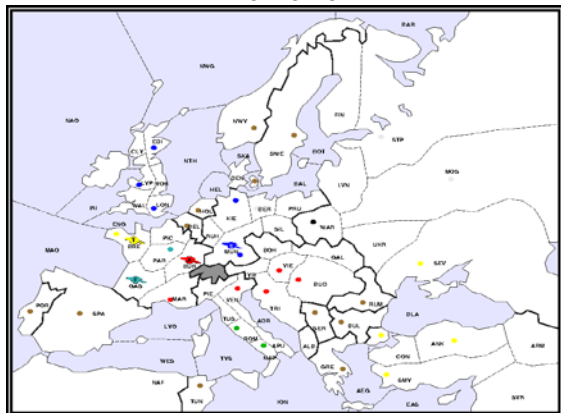
To Moscow



To Rome



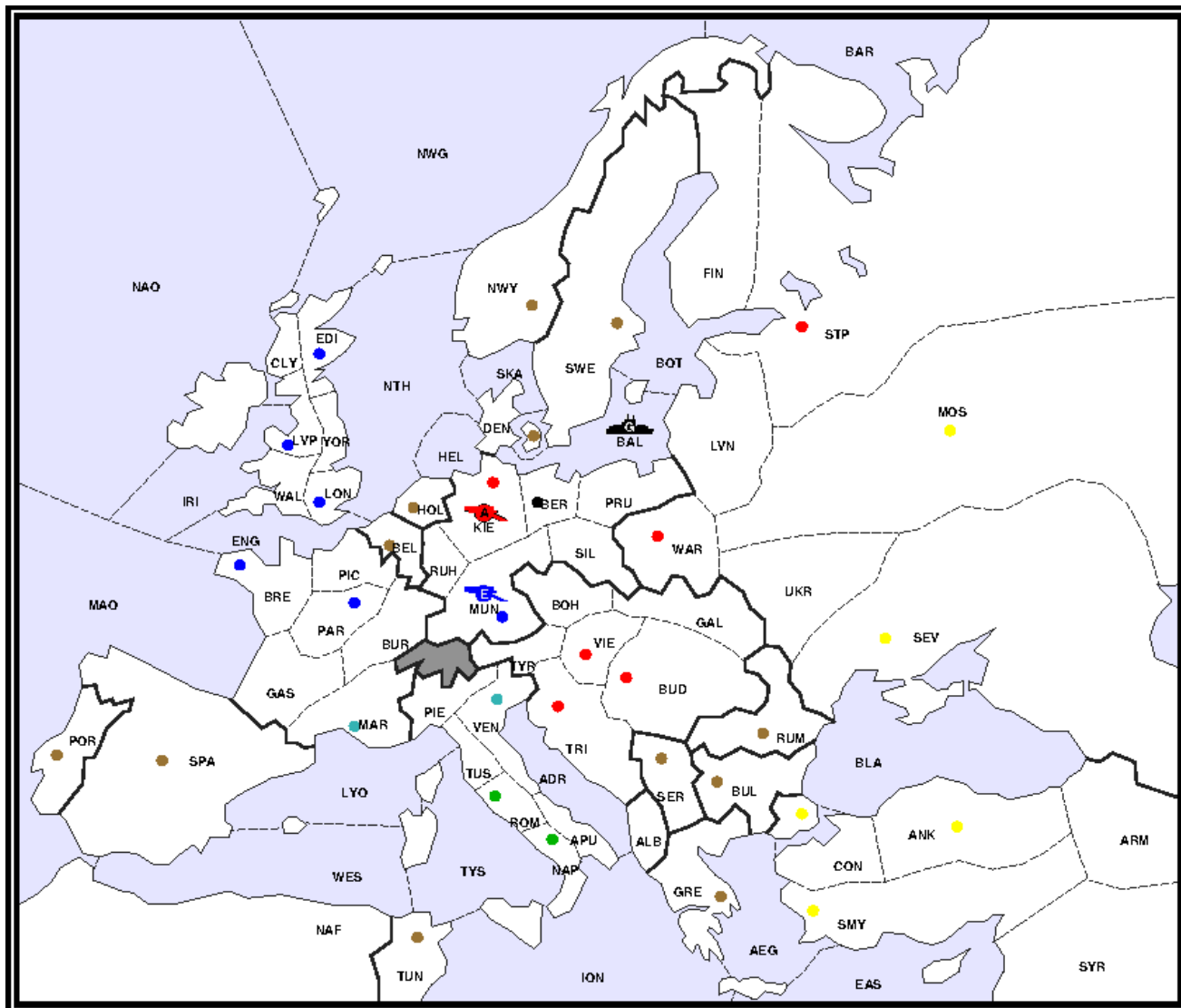
To Vienna



To Paris



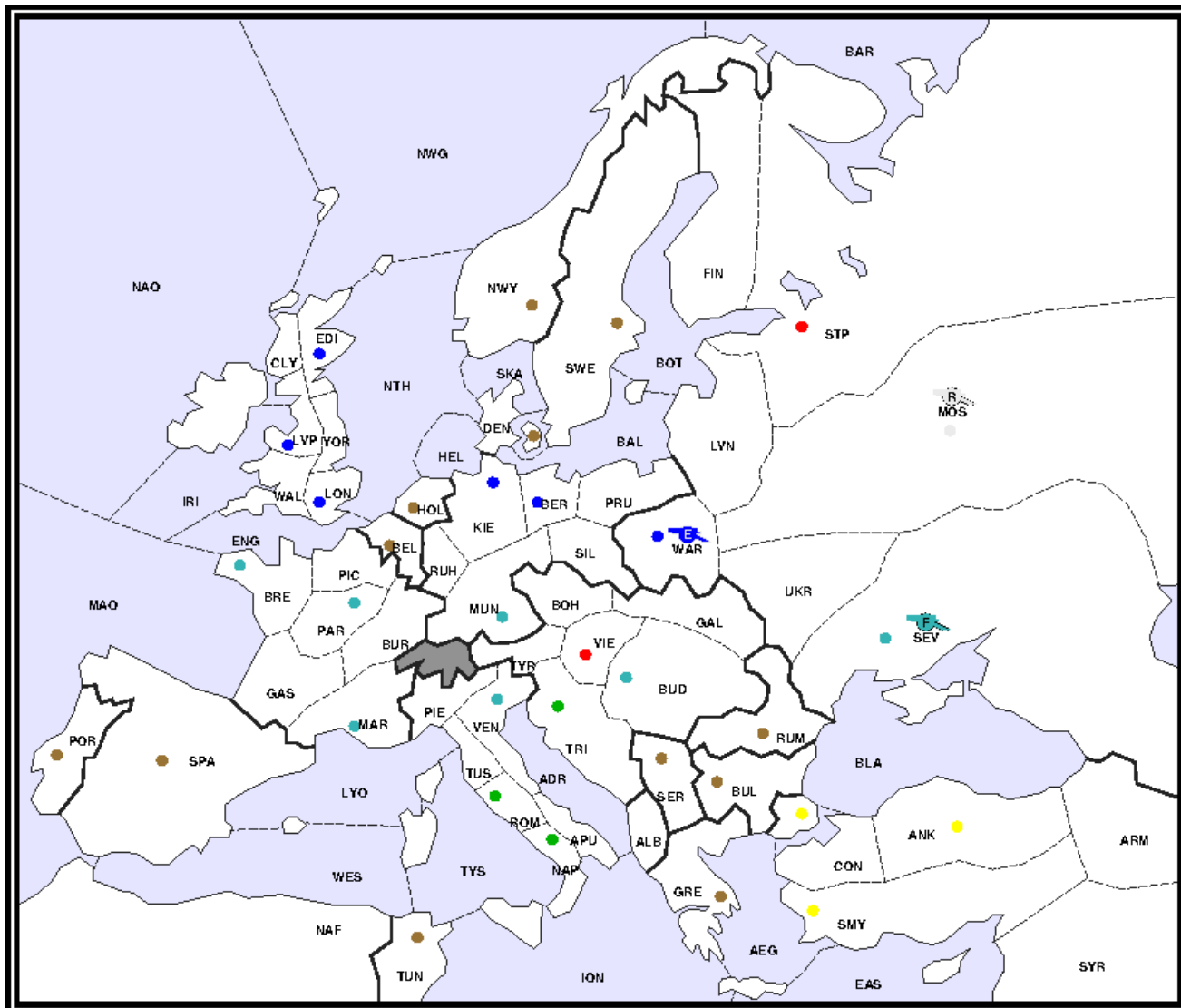
To Ankara



Army Liverpool to Berlin, After Winter 1903, Rating: ☆

Austria	(1/6)	Bud Kie Stp Tri Vie War	Has: A Kie
England	(1/6)	Bre Edi Lon Lvp Mun Par	Has: A Mun
France	(0/2)	Mar Ven	
Germany	(1/1)	Ber	Has: F Bal
Italy	(0/2)	Nap Rom	
Russia	(0/0)		
Turkey	(0/5)	Ank Con Mos Sev Smy	

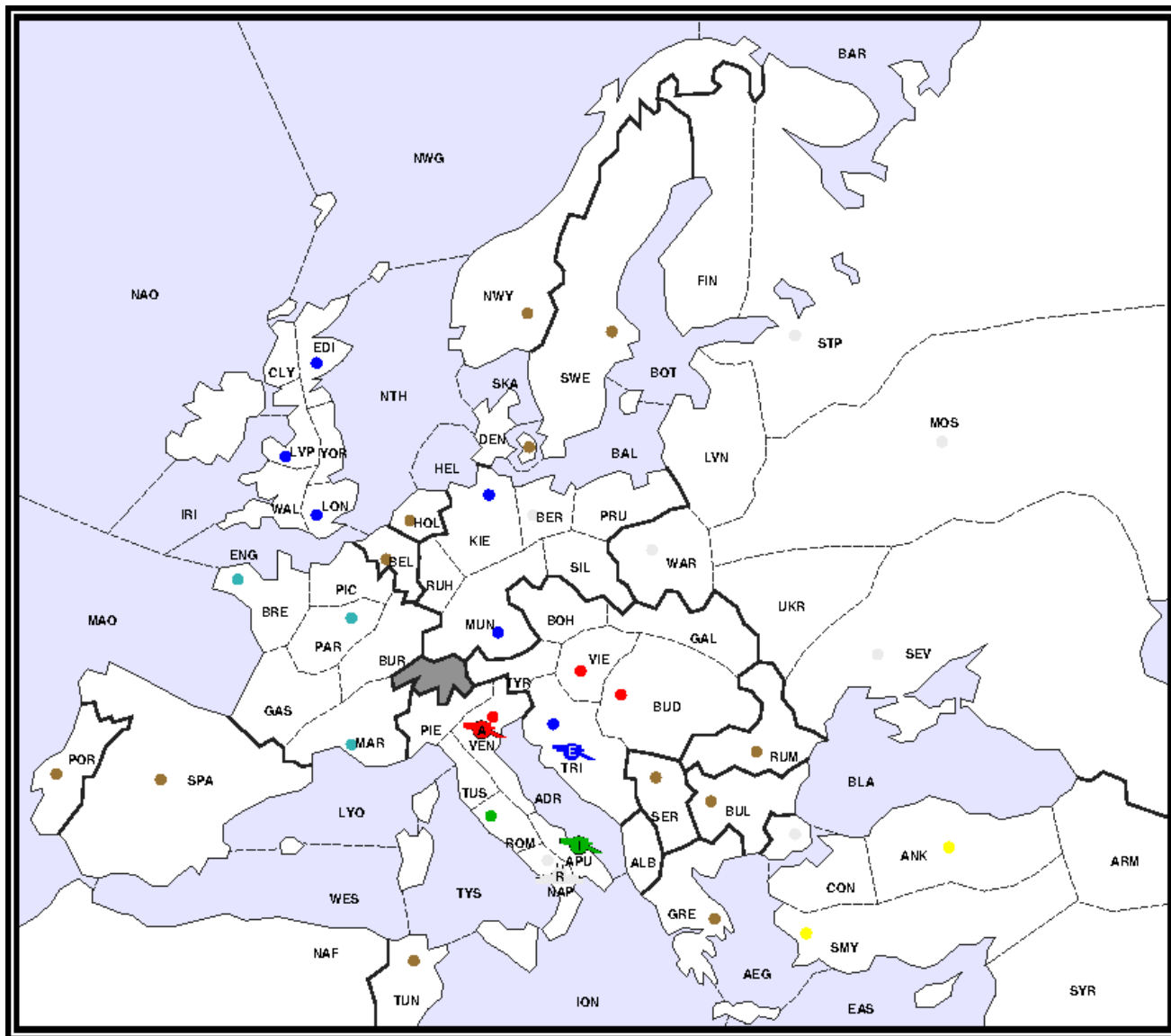
The game that served as a blueprint for the Sherlock Holmes story. Russia has been completely eliminated by the end of 1903. Only three units remain, encircling Berlin, the final destination. Making the English army the sole survivor after dislodging the Austrian and claiming Berlin is pretty straightforward, but what went on before? Carefully take note of the captured centers to reconstruct the entire flow. Consulting the solution article in the Pouch is considered cheating (*wink*).



Army Liverpool to Moscow, After Winter 1903, Rating: ☆

Austria	(0/2)	Stp Vie	Has: A War
England	(1/6)	Ber Edi Kie Lon Lvp War	Has: A Sev
France	(1/7)	Bre Bud Mar Mun Par Sev Ven	
Germany	(0/0)		
Italy	(0/3)	Nap Rom Tri	Has: A Mos
Russia	(1/1)	Mos	
Turkey	(0/3)	Ank Con Smy	

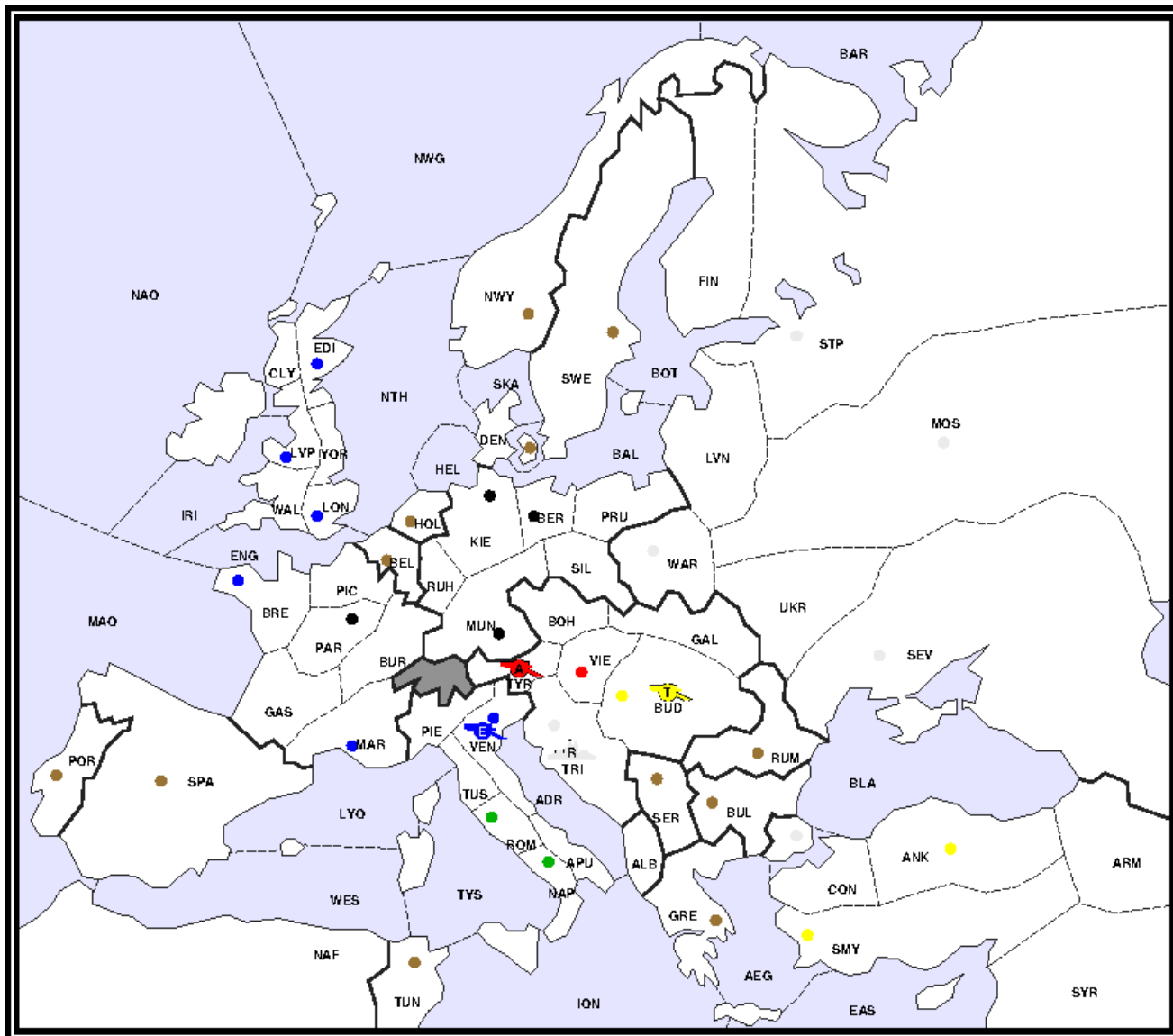
Russia is staunchly protecting its capital and sole remaining home center like an Old Guard. A bottle of vodka might make him change his mind. There's a striking resemblance with the previous map with Austria again in possession of St. Petersburg, but without a trace of the Turks. This time Germany served as a doormat for the French and English steamroller that appears to have left Italy decapitated as well. But what was the true story?



Army Liverpool to Rome, After Winter 1903, Rating: ☆☆

Austria	(1/3)	Bud Ven Vie	Has: A Ven
England	(1/6)	Edi Kie Lon Lvp Mun Tri	Has: A Tri
France	(0/3)	Bre Mar Par	
Germany	(0/0)		
Italy	(1/1)	Rom	Has: A Apu
Russia	(1/7)	Ber Con Mos Nap Sev Stp War	Has: F Nap
Turkey	(0/2)	Ank Smy	

There are four of them now, heading for the Holy City. Pilgrims? Their armaments speak a different language. Everywhere they passed through they left a path of destruction. The bodies however have been efficiently disposed of by the grieving populaces. Retrace their steps and find the graves of their fallen comrades. I'm sure the Pope is willing to consecrate a Mass to the memories of the fallen soldiers.



Army Liverpool to Vienna, After Winter 1903, Rating: ☆☆

Austria	(1/1)	Vie	Has: A Tyr
England	(1/6)	Bre Edi Lon Lvp Mar Ven	Has: A Ven
France	(0/0)		
Germany	(0/4)	Ber Kie Mun Par	
Italy	(0/2)	Nap Rom	
Russia	(1/6)	Con Mos Sev Stp Tri War	Has: F Tri
Turkey	(1/3)	Ank Bud Smy	Has: A Bud

The Habsburg capital and city of music is ready to welcome the blue soldier at their border after surviving another siege of Vienna from the obstinate Turks. That is all well, because the Russian fleet will have difficulty reaching Vienna, unless it digs out a canal to the Blue Danube. More clues? I leave it to you to discover the full history like a true archaeologist.



The Paris nightlife has attracted people from far and wide. Even from as far as Turkey?! What is the Musulman doing on the Quai d'Orsay? Planning a visit to the Basilique du Sacré-Cœur? It's a long trip to travel, especially for an army. And it has only been 3 years since the start. Yet "The stranger the case, the easier it is to solve". Says the great Sherlock Holmes, who further cautions the reader that "Continuous reduction is not always the best approach". What would he mean by that?



The final challenge. The furthest corner of (or off?) the continent. The cradle of humanity. It is here that England must prevail once more. They have wiped the floor with Russia. But the Russians took many down with them. How? And why is Edinburgh French? Did they answer a call for Scottish independence? Or is there more to it than meets the eye? A true Turkish puzzle box.

By Andrew Leavey

of the Bosphorus and Dardanelle Straits. For both nations, the Black Sea and its role in Russo-Turkic relations has a strong parallel with the Black Sea's role in the game of Diplomacy as a natural flash point. Given the similarity between these situations, can they be reconciled?

Russia's history is full of events that have reinforced a sense of insecurity. Its topography and location exposed

Russia to a number of invasions it was unable to prevent; and in many of these forays, Moscow was burned. To give a quick recounting, Moscow has been invaded, sacked, or burned by the Mongols, Swedes, Poles, Crimean Tartars, French, Bolsheviks, and Nazis. Although that is a gross oversimplification, the product of this repeated vulnerability has been Russian expansionism aimed at acquiring direct sovereignty of land leading to a regional sphere of influence to envelop and insulate the "heartland."

The second crucial aspect of Russian history was its long lack of accessible ports, especially to "warm" waters. Prior to Imperial Russia's acquisition of the Crimea, its Baltic ports were only usable part of the year, as the waters would freeze precluding trade and travel. Once the Crimean Khans fell to Russia in 1783 she gained access to the Black Sea opening year-round trade between Russia and the world, but brought Russia and the Ottomans into closer proximity (8).

The article makes the argument that Russia expands when its neighbors are weak (see 5). Russian expansion has derived from a classic *divide and conquer* strategy. For example, in the 1700s it took advantage of a dysfunctional Poland-Lithuania and tribal divisions among local warlords and petty kings to expand. This type of expansion was only checked when faced down by unified and focused Great Power politics. Some examples include the numerous wars against Sweden and Denmark in Lithuania and the Baltic, the Anglo-French support for the Ottoman Empire in the Crimean War to check Russia's Black Sea presence, and the Russo-Japanese war in 1905.

But even with access to northern and southern ports, the Russian navy has almost never been strong enough to achieve decisive superiority against a major rival, such as France, Gustav's Sweden, or England. Against the Ottomans, however, Russia has enjoyed uncontested supremacy, discounting outside support. Due to this disparity, the strategic use of the Russian navy has generally been in support of land operations and to project economic power by deterring challenges to its shipping (6).

Across the pond, Turkey's history produced a radically different nation. Where its period of innovation and decline came well before Imperial Russia's, the history of Ottoman Turkey and Crimea was of loose connections between the Sultan and the tribal Khans (7). Where thin political affiliations were underpinned by religious and cultural ties, Ottoman Turkey was able to utilize the Khans as a buffer against southbound Muscovite movements. The loss of this buffer in 1783 upset a geostrategic imbalance and cost Ottoman control over the Black Sea.

A rising Imperial Russia conquered Crimea amidst Ottoman stagnation and decline. After the height of its power in 1683 the next hundred years saw huge secessions of land along the Danube and in the Balkans to Euro-Slavic states. Long pressed by a series of wars, (at best) mediocre rulers drove the Ottomans into a rut that hamstrung them from individually arresting Russian advances. The loss of Crimea was a blow to an already ailing state, and it immediately spawned an additional pain-point among ongoing insecurities: foreign expansion into its own historically sovereign Sea. With Russia's position on the peninsula secure, Turkey was largely left to fend for itself. That is until the larger balance of power swung in Russia's favor, tipping the larger political see-saw in Europe and peaking with the Crimean War. Since that war Turkey has been a "helped" power; two examples come to mind. First was the transfer of the Goeben from Germany in World War I, and second, the U.S. basing of Jupiter missiles in Turkey during the Cold War. In each of these instances, the Ottoman Empire / Turkey required outside assistance to rebalance its strategic equation. No doubt this has shaped modern security considerations and pride as a member of NATO and aspiring EU member. The one positive thing that survived the Ottoman Empire's decline and transition has been that Turkey retains control over the straits, and has resisted domestic threats to its sovereignty, like extreme religious groups or political coup.

In modernity, Turkey has been an odd bridge between the middle-east and Europe and remained independent from Russian influence. In this position, Turkey has been an under examined (but not uninvolved) player in regional policy. Turkey's geographic security has relied consistently on neighbors and stable regional politics. While Crimea has long been lost, Turkey neighbors several former Warsaw Pact states: Bulgaria, Romania, and Georgia. This leaves Turkey as the oldest major, independent, nation to sit right outside the sphere of Russia's influence. Turkey is also one line which Russia won't cross without further isolation it and instigation of a larger global crisis due to its NATO membership.

The last, but not least, actor is collectively the "west": the EU and NATO. The EU has expanded its membership to several Eastern European states, and NATO membership is held by others – some nations belonging to both. With the exception of Belarus and Ukraine, Russia is surrounded by either NATO or EU member states!

The thing about democratic institutions is that they are significantly more constrained than mono-cratic ones. Where Russian leadership has downplayed its worsening economy without threat to its political security, the Ukrainian crisis sparked an immediate concern over energy supplies within EU member states. This concern was compounded by significantly reduced military

budgets in favor of civilian economic support, and the EU seems to have a rotating list of members that need to be buoyed by Germany and France. The effect is that the EU is sensitive to civilian demands and wary to upset its civilian quality of life. NATO is unburdened by civilian concerns, but has been strongly criticized as being unable to effectively counter Russia's annexation of the Crimea. While it is a major influence in the region, and American rhetoric has strongly reinforced its commitment to NATO, the alliance is hindered by two things. First, as much as Russia's sphere of influence has receded since 1991, Russia's immediate neighbors are politically charged states. This limits NATO's influence, for NATO's more effective measure of containment is by expanding its membership. While its military is qualitatively superior (by accounts), NATO is, except for its member count, quantitatively inferior. By increasing its collection of member states NATO makes it more difficult for Russia, or any adversary, to act without generating a large outcry, but requires strong American guarantees to reassure her allies. Even assuming Russia could win a land war, the One-versus-Many perception would pin Russia as the aggressor since NATO won't act aggressively, which is the second hindrance. Since inception, NATO has stood as a defensive alliance, and without Ukraine being a member, NATO is powerless to provide direct military aid against the 'rebels' in the east. The summation is that democracy and mutual defense treaties constrain the west from acting to head off Russian overt actions.

The past year and a half can be characterized by, first, an uncertainty of the continued challenge to the existing post-Cold War, 1990s, international norms. The most obvious is the challenge to the territorial integrity of sovereign nations, which has historically made expansion of nation-state borders difficult. While territorial questions around the globe remain – Korea, Kashmir, Sudan, Georgia, and Tibet – those under the old Iron Curtain held historical integrity as mostly autonomous actors who sought economic independence and to unburden themselves from autocratic-bred political fear. By and large, neo-liberal norms and institutions continue to prevent common 19th century territory-based imperialism. Russia's successful annexation of Crimea and the defeat of the Ukrainian army is the first major change in sovereignty of land since World War II. It is unlikely any of us have a Cardinal in the Kremlin to tell us exactly what Putin's thinking is, but the result is that Russia engineered a crisis in a weak neighbor for territorial gain. Unlike Iraq in Kuwait, NATO cannot push back against Russia's position, just as Russia has been using proxy forces to navigate NATO's politicking. This precarious dance is the likely reason Russia hasn't openly sanctioned expanded operations in Ukraine (or Georgia). The issue is further complicated by Russia's support of the Assad regime (further threatening Turkey's security), and has the ability to block western support for rebels there both

militarily via its navy in Tartus and diplomatically in the U.N. Security Council. We're in the midst of history, which will see if Russia can legitimize its claim to Crimea, or whether it is compelled to relinquish its direct claim to sovereignty there. Though I fear the latter will not come to pass.

The second characterization is over energy resources and the immediate and daily impact that supply has. Since last summer this is the one point which has flipped over on itself. Whereas I initially saw the annexation having the greatest impact on energy transfers from eastern suppliers to western consumers, the recent plummet in oil price has undercut the threat Russia poses to the EU's supply. Crimea's annexation may still threaten current western deals over Black Sea drilling with Exxon, Chevron, and Shell. At the time, Unver's piece offered the idea that France's sale of its Mistral-class assault ships would dramatically upset the naval balance in the Black Sea, and that those ships could be used to launch raids on Turkey to disrupt energy supplies (5 & 8). While that sale is on indefinite hold, and Russia's recently demanded a formal answer on the issue, Unver's argument would at best position the use of those ships in economic warfare, and at worst place Russia in a state of open hostility with a sovereign member of the NATO alliance. It would be highly unlikely Russia would act so overtly against a nation with the backing that Turkey has, and even if the sale were to go through the assault ships would never be used given the publicity surrounding the sale (their use would likely lead to a blanket embargo of arms sales), and more significantly, Turkey would still remain in control of Russia's only egress from the Black Sea!

Ultimately, nothing will change in the Russo-Turkic relationship. Turkey will continue to feel threatened, and Russia will pursue its agenda to maintain access to warm water ports. The current crisis was orchestrated by Putin for a limited goal to guarantee direct sovereign access to Black Sea waters (something that could have been threatened had Ukraine joined NATO before 2013) and solidify his domestic position. Stripping away all the ancillaries the situation is fundamentally rooted in 21st century great power politics with Russia testing its domestic solidarity and the extent of its foreign influence through regional crisis while navigating its constraints vis-à-vis NATO in the west and China and Japan in the east. Turkey's NATO affiliation will stop Russia from pressing it, but given Russia's predisposition to bullying its neighbors, so too is NATO unable to further the alliance by expanding membership to Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, or any other border state.

So what does this all have to do with Diplomacy? In original Diplomacy, Eastern Europe starts off with the same map as was accurate on July 28, 1914. The advantage to Dip is that its disconnected from the realities of bloodlines, cultures, religious identities, and

ethnic loyalties, while keeping the Balkans as much a powder keg as that which blanketed Europe in war in July of 1914. Russia, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottomans stand directly opposed to one another as they contend over the region's four neutral supply centers, and three bordering home centers across each nation. Italy, too, isn't without interest in the region.

Russia begins with its army in Warsaw and a navy in Sevastopol. The army is a flexible unit, and easily positioned to gain advantage based off the alliance-objectives of the Russian player. The Sevastopol fleet, however, is directly aligned against Turkey. Its usefulness is limited against Austria, as the fleet may only aid Russia in Rumania, but otherwise threatens no home centers. Russia must balance three-theaters: Scandinavia with the Germans and English, central Europe with Austria and Germany, and the Balkans with Austria and Turkey. Its wide geographical area and four starting units means it plays a role in shaping the whole board, arguably more so than any other nation. Unable to ignore any theatre for sake of another, Russia's southern strategy hinges on the negotiation over the Black Sea.

The Black Sea borders the five supply centers of Sevastopol, Ankara, Constantinople, Bulgaria, and Rumania meaning control of the Sea allows power projection in any direction. With social and political factors subtracted from Diplomacy's great power-equation, Russia has many options in her negotiations with Austria and Turkey. Russia may standoff Turkey in the Sea indefinitely, or she may allow Turkey in as part of an alliance, or vice-versa. A least chosen possibility is an alliance with Austria, leading to Turkey's quick elimination. However, the edge of the board hems Turkey and Russia in and is a big factor to any Russo-Turk alliance. Since they cannot go any way but west, the "Juggernaut Option" is obvious. The resulting number of opening possibilities need more than my fingers and toes can count, and are as nuanced as any human interaction and instinct, but nonetheless, (and I can't remember where I saw it) Russia and Turkey statistically ally far more often than almost any other alliance combination on the board. The reason, I presume, is because of the Black Sea.

Where Russia has a choice of four immediate frenemies, Turkey has 2.5 (Italy being the half). Russia's position is immediately contentious as her only fleet's possible first moves are to Constantinople, Black Sea, or Armenia. Two of those three possibilities signal hostile intentions toward Russia, absent a pre-1901 agreement. Meanwhile, Turkey's armies can move to an anti-Austrian or anti-Russian opening; they could do both, but I'd regard that the (unwise) exception, not the rule.

Like Russia, controlling the Black Sea gives Turkey immense leverage against a number of supply points –

all of which may be considered vital to Turkey's survival. Unfortunately for Turkey, her grand-strategic position places her in a corner. Whereas Russia is big and must deal with a number of potential enemies on multiple fronts, Turkey only has two real options: west, or north. This does give Turkey clearer options about its first moves though! After negotiations, who does the Turkic player trust more: Austria or Russia? Deciding this dictates the opening plays of the Ankara fleet. Trusting Russia often means a demilitarized Black Sea, and on the other hand, trust in Austria means pushing the Black Sea while Smyrna flanks Sevastopol.

Nonetheless, Turkey's early gains come from dividing the neutral Balkans, and cooperation with Russia or Austria is vital to Turkey's expansion and survival. Where Russia may negotiate control over Rumania and then focus elsewhere, Turkey is locked into a paradoxical dynamic that compels her to continually navigate the intentions of Austria and Russia. While Italy may be Turkey's pocket ace, a Russo-Austrian alliance is easily the biggest threat.

In my opinion, Austria is quite possibly the most difficult country on the board, with Germany a close second. Unlike Russia and Turkey where defined theatres and directions exist, Austria stands adrift in Europe, and that lack of direction leaves Austria (and Germany) the most vulnerable. The Austrian player's survival depends on allies and, almost always, a favorable Germany. As David Smith commented, "No country gets eliminated faster in Diplomacy than Franz Josef and friends." (4) Looking at the board, the reasoning is fairly obvious. Turkey, Russia, and Italy all have an interest in getting Austrian lands.

Austria's influence in the Black Sea question is indirect. Diplomacy directly creates an awkward triangle between Russia, Turkey, and Austria over the Balkans. However, the supply center distribution alleviates certain roadblocks to compromise among aligned-minded players. Where the tension between Russia and Turkey over the Black Sea is positional, Austria's opening units are placed very flexibly, and may be used in any number of ways depending on the alliances she forges. In the dynamic of the Black Sea, Austria becomes a pawn – to side with Russia gives the white giant a distinct advantage by threatening Turkey's Mediterranean access and expansion points in Bulgaria and Greece. Whereas siding with Turkey means melting the Russian winter in northward battle.

Italy is the only component of the Balkan triangle that can tip the equation in one direction or the other. An aloof Italy leaves the tripod precariously balanced. An involved Italy can easily be to Austria's detriment, but can be one of the few sources of strength that can prop Austria up. Taken together Austria, Italy, and Germany is a formidable tripartite.

How do these two things, Dip and dip, reconcile. In Diplomacy, Italian and Austrian influence in the Black Sea is analogous to Europe's ability to interfere in the Crimea - indirect. In diplomacy, the Black Sea and Crimea is the point of contention between Turkey and Russia, and Europe's options for direct involvement are, too, extremely limited.

So ultimately the Black Sea quandary remains a bi-polar struggle in both cases. Even with Turkey's membership in NATO, Russia maintains the ability to project a stronger degree of regional power in Anatolia and Europe than the United States does. Home field advantage in war provides a significant advantage – and the importance of Russia's territorial integrity to its national security correlates to its recent regional pushes to secure or expand its strategic position. In this same respect, the 4-nation agreement on Ukraine was brokered without direct US involvement. Europe facilitated the deal because it's their regionalism that makes peace and stability so important to them.

At the very last, I want to mention game theory. If Diplomacy is played an infinite number of times, eventually every manner of cooperation and defection will occur. Given such repetition, the consequences of one's actions are low – you are eliminated from the game or go on to solo the map; but regardless of the outcome, another game can always be played.

Real life is played once. As far as we know, time is linear and the power to redo an action is constrained to the romances of science fiction and wishful thinking. This means a war between Turkey and Russia is very unlikely. What is more likely is a sub-state conflict between Russian forces and western forces, as is happening now in Ukraine. Any offensive action of Turkey's would be unilateral, as NATO's commitment is to the defense of its members and would disavow one member's irrational visions of offense. Ukraine is a weak state, and was politically and militarily vulnerable to manipulation by Russia, a condition inapplicable to Turkey or NATO-member countries. The Black Sea should be no question for Turkey or Russia. Commerce benefits both nations, and Russia's Black Sea fleet remains based at Sevastopol. While Russia now directly controls Crimea, the only practical change is for mapmakers. Russia will continue to maintain its access to the straits. Turkey, however, will watch Russia's future movements warily, but will not close the straits without rational cause, and NATO's permission. Russia will be less provocative the further from its borders it tries to influence domestic politics. (1) (2)

The board game will always inevitably bring Turkey and Russia into conflict over the Black Sea, but the comparison between Dip and dip are superficial at best because of the consequences. It is hard, if not

impossible, to measure the effect of a real war between Russia and Turkey over the Black Sea; such a war where real blood is shed and real treasure is lost, and where the historical influences cannot be truly understood by many Dip players. The decision to contest the Black Sea is much easier where the pieces are wood blocks, and betraying an ally costs nothing; where animosity and alliances result from quick decisions and short acquaintances. There certainly are parallels for reconciliation, but the disconnects between Dip and dip are also wide.

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Youngstown IV: A Flawed Variant

By Jack McHugh

Doug is currently running this variant game as a commentary game elsewhere in this issue of DW. I recommended it to Doug and felt it would be a good game for us to comment on.

It's a one map variant with 10 players and uses off board boxes to allow players to transit around Europe, Asia and Africa. This game uses Asia, Europe and the north and east parts of Africa. The map of Europe/Africa is not adjusted from the regular Diplomacy map which makes the variant more accessible. The rules are identical to Diplomacy with the only additions are to handle certain map changes such as off board boxes and the Suez Canal.



The lack of differences with regular Diplomacy and the fact that it is one map with only ten players were the main factors behind my recommending it to Doug. In addition I heard good things about this variant and thought it would be a fair amount of diplomatic maneuvering between the players—which would make for some interesting commentary.

While the variant has a high playable quotient due to its similarities to regular Diplomacy, the map has some serious flaws. While the off map boxes do allow the players to maneuver around to prevent sea stalemate lines—the lack of land provinces in Asia make it too easy to set up stalemate lines.

All of Siberia is covered by three provinces and one of those is a relatively small one for Vladivostok just north of Korea. This also makes it easy for a power to slide

fleets along northern Russia from Europe to Asia. Russia has only one province more than Germany at eight provinces for Russia to Germany's seven, even though the map extends all the way to Pacific.

There is also a lack of powers between Asia and Europe—the game adds three new countries in Asia: China, India and Japan and adds a few centers for England and France in south east Asia. I don't think its enough to offset the advantage Russia and Turkey get from having all this extra space. Turkey does have to deal with some Italian units in East Africa but given the fact that Italy is still one of the weaker powers in this variant, just as she is in regular Diplomacy, it's not much of a barrier to Turkey.

I would like to see another power—say Ethiopia—added to East Africa as well as expanding Africa a bit more. This would force Russia and Turkey to pay more attention to that area. The way the map is set up now, it makes very little sense for Russia and Turkey not to ally as they have much more to gain from allying. Why? There are simply too few centers to be gained by stabbing since most of the centers are on the periphery of Asia and Europe—other than the usual motherlode in the Balkans—the path of least resistance is for R/T to ally. They simply turn outward and guard each other's backs and the centers are there for the taking.

The one thing I hate about bad variants is they don't offer players strategic choices or, as in this case, they offer such one sided "choices"; thus no realistic choice at all. Adding more provinces and centers in Asia between Turkey and Russia would heighten their rivalry and give other powers a chance to move around in Asia and Africa. This must be done carefully—too many dots could easily make Russia or Turkey an unstoppable juggernaut.

My verdict is Youngstown IV is a good but flawed variant that needs work. It's playable but unbalanced.

[[Editor's Note: Youngstown has been revised many times by various designers since Fred C. Davis Jr. introduced Youngstown IV. Later versions, such as Youngstown XII by Jeff Suchard, eliminate the off-board boxes and become global variants with the addition of more map pages and additional powers. Youngstown IV remains a popular "classic" version, but not the most recent by far.]]

The Fractured Form of the Diplomacy Community

by Will J. Abbott

Once there was a time when the big deal in the Diplomacy hobby was creating central organizations. There were custodians, polls, services, and whatnot. There were various attempts to create some sort of all embracing, single structure that would join the whole hobby. Those days are past.

Today, there are two major forms of Diplomacy: email/Internet and face to face. In the former, there are websites, judges, and even zines – the latter representing what remains of the old postal hobby. In addition, there are no doubt privately adjudicated games by email, and probably various social media such as Facebook and Twitter. To try to unite all of these under one banner would be impossible – how would we even know when all of the private games are brought in? Even attempting to bring the public forums together would be difficult, as new ones can emerge whenever someone wants to launch one, and old ones can shut down at any time. The best that might be done is some sort of networking place, probably over email, IRC, or social media, where the various leaders of the various playing forums might be able to exchange information, tips, or whatever else. It is not clear to me that much more can be effectively created, nor that anything more administrative or governing would even be a good idea. Fundamentally, I don't care how, say, USDP or WebDiplomacy run their sites, except inasmuch as they affect how I might play on those sites. If a website or zine treats its players unfairly, then the players will simply go elsewhere. Rather than governing the various forums for online play, any network of site leaders would be dedicated to the exchange of information: announcements, tips, or other things, which various site leaders might find useful or interesting.

The second major form of Diplomacy is face to face. Here, too, the hobby is divided. There are various hobbies at different levels, as well as local face to face games among friends with no larger connections. As in online play, there is no way to be sure that all the groups of friends playing amongst themselves are connected to the wider hobby, nor is there any reason for them to be.

In face to face play, however, there is more organization. Indeed, there is a hierarchy of various hobbies. Local hobbies gather the players in an area. These local hobbies are gathered together then in larger groups, often on national lines. Thus we can speak of national hobbies as well. These national hobbies then are organized into continental hobbies. Currently there are three of these, in Europe, Oceania, and North America, but there are beginnings being made for Asian and African hobbies as well. These higher level hobbies

gather to organize their own continental championships as well as World Dipcons when they are held in their areas. Finally, the assignment of the hosts for World Dipcons is handled by the worldwide hobby. These various hobbies, together with the flagship publications of the hobby, serve to connect us.

It is telling, however, that the further up this hierarchy one goes, the less and less activity and responsibility there is. In a sense, the higher level hobbies are governed by those from lower level hobbies who choose to participate. Not everyone who comes out to local house games or the local tournament will travel to other tournaments, even national championships. Not everyone who will play in national tournaments will play in international ones. And this is okay: let everyone participate on the level that works best for them.

It also means that there is already in place a kind of informal network of players from various local, national, and continental hobbies. These players know each other and relate to each other in various ways, and not always or only on the topic of Diplomacy. They already allow for exchanges of ideas, news, and other tips such as proposed for the online section of the hobby above. And as above, not much more need happen. That there are projects such as the NADF and the World Diplomacy Database is great, but they do not need to be replicated unless people wish to step forward to run things like them for different areas or topics.

The heart of hobby organization, in both its online and face to face forms, is thus not some formal body setting forth rules. Rather, it is a network of people (sometime s the same on both sides) who love the game and enjoy each other's company. It is people who share news of new events and discuss games already played. We might point to a board and seven sets of pieces (real or virtual) when saying what the game is. The hobby, however, is just as visible in the bar after a game, or in a Facebook group, as it is around that board.

What makes this particularly special is that this informal network is a form of organization which is likely to increase in the world. It offers flexibility in customizing activities to local conditions while still providing for support for these local activities from a wider base. Furthermore, it allows for the various members of the network to take roles which suit their own circumstances, instead of choosing between predetermined roles and non-participation. It is a form of organization which many activities of various sorts are seeking to use. And we have created it spontaneously!

A Paean in Three Parts to French Diplomacy

by Larry Peery - /aka/ Duc de Peeriguernx & Peerigord (from 1948), Lorenzo Cardinal Peericelli , of Peerijavo (from 1966)

DEDICATION

To Christophe Barot and Bruno-Andre Giraudon, who set the bar so high no one has been able to pass over it since.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

I must confess that I've never had so much fun writing anything having something to do with dip&Dip as I have writing this piece. It was also a fascinating journey through time and space as I explored the world of French dip&Dip.

We begin with words, without which any Frenchman is lost. The French have always had a love for words, especially in their own language; and even today writers are more revered than politicians or generals in France. All you have to do is look at the names of the Metro stations in Paris to see what I mean.



A plethora of quotations about France, the French and their diplomacy is followed by a couple of specific examples of relevance to this effort. Elan isn't a word one normally associates with diplomacy, but it works; just as flexibility is a word that doesn't always come to mind when discussing Diplomacy, although it should.

A simple question: "Richelieu or Talleyrand: Which one was better?" leads into an evaluation of some real French diplomats: the 1st Duke de Richelieu, Cardinal Mazarin, Cardinal Dubois, Cardinal de Fluery, Cardinal de Rohan, Talleyrand (He's such a star he doesn't need a title or a name.) and the last of the Richelieus who went out with great elan.

In their entries Wiki and the Catholic Encyclopedia usually discuss the life (youth, prime and old age) of the subject; followed by remarks on his major accomplishments, an assessment of his influence on history and popular culture and a variety of research tools.

What I have tried to do here is mention some of the career highlights of each diplomat, especially in the area of foreign affairs and diplomacy, and a list of "key words & phrases" that describe him or his work.

Just for fun I've attempted to evaluate the performance of these members of the French diplomacy pantheon.

Another simple question: "Sevin or Clouet or Are There Better Ones to Come? Brings us face-to-face with the French Diplomacy hobbyists, some of whom go back as far as I do and some of whom are just making their names in the hobby. Again, we'll attempt, although it will be more difficult this time, to evaluate their performances to date. And, in the interests of flexibility, you'll get your chance to express your opinions. Who knows, you might help elect a member of the French Diplomacy Pantheon?

If you go to Paris for a holiday that involves a military parade, you'll see the famous "pooper-scoopers" that follow the horses, cleaning up as they go. That's what the last section of this little opus does.

Above all this is a story about power and wealth. Power cannot be measured except by the results, or the lack thereof, but wealth can be measured in the value of estates, dowries, diamonds (necklaces, loose, or earrings; take your pick), objects d'art, or a well-turned phrase. It's all here. All you have to do is find it.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Introduction

French is an amazing language. When it wants to, it can be amazingly precise; and when it doesn't, it can be maddeningly ambiguous. No wonder it's the language of diplomacy! Here's a collection of quotations in English to show you what I mean.

A pupil of diplomacy has to learn three things: to speak French, to speak nothing, and to speak falsehood – Ludwig Boerne (German)

France used to have the ability to inspire princes and kings, send her philosophers to the courts of Europe whose elites spoke our language...now no one listens to her anymore and the universe turns without her. – Dominique De Villepin (French)

De Gaulle was more responsible with his troublesome interventions into our domestic politics, for unifying our country than we will ever give him credit for. – Judy LeMarsh (Canadian)

I am old and good for nothing, but as the store-keepers say of their remnants of cloth, I am but a fag end, and you may have me for what you please to give. –

Benjamin Franklin (USA)

We have to develop preventive diplomacy. – Francois Mitterand (French)

An International Congress (Summit): the greatest of all Vanity Fairs...Each Prime Minister thinks that he alone is capable of representing his country's policy. Each Foreign Secretary thinks that the Premier knows nothing of diplomacy. Each professional ambassador thinks the same about his Foreign Minister...It is an orchestra of first chairs. – Andre Maurois (French)

I make a supreme appeal for the diplomatic intervention of Your Majesty's government to safeguard the integrity of Belgium. – Albert I

Everything ends this way in France. Weddings, christenings, duels, burials, swindles, affairs of state --- everything is a pretext for a good dinner. – Jean Anouilh (French)

Above all gentlemen, not too much zeal (elan). – Talleyrand (French)

Perhaps you will find me more agreeable. – Marie Alexandra Victoria (British, Queen of Romania to the French ambassador.)

(The Israeli Foreign Minister conveyed to the President the suggestion of French President De Gaulle that the "Four Great Powers" ought to get together.)

The Four Great Powers? Who the hell are the other two? – Lyndon Baines Johnson (USA)

The gap is widening between France's proud diplomatic rhetoric and the nation's ability to translate words into action. – Eric Le Boucher (French)

One can wink at certain things, but one cannot authorize them. – Comte de Vergennes (French)

In America we have no need of kings. – Benjamin Franklin (USA)

I desire to serve your country as if it were my own, and I hope to find in the friendship of a generous people the true reward of a labor that I consecrate to them. – Pierre Beaumarchais (French)

You do not understand the honor of France! – Theophile Delcasse (French)

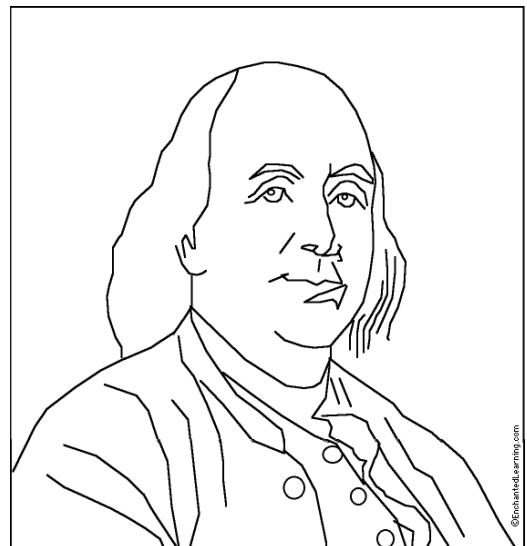
I live on civil terms with Mr. Adams but not on intimate ones. – Benjamin Franklin (USA)

I'd rather eat French shit for two years than Chinese shit forever. – Ho Chi Minh (Vietnamese)

The French, in 1763, gave up Canada rather than Guadeloupe to the British, who accepted the former instead of the latter with hesitating reluctance. – David Hunter Miller (USA)

That a man should, but a few months since, confine himself from his creditors, and now on this occasion be able to advance half a million, is so extraordinary that it ceases to be a mystery. Everything he says, writes or does, is in reality the action of the ministry. – Deane Silas (USA)

It's not up to the Americans to tell us how to organize our farm policy and the balance of our society. – Jacques Delors (French)



(Jefferson was appointed Minister to France and presented himself to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs who asked if he was replacing Benjamin Franklin:)

I succeed him. No one can replace him. – Thomas Jefferson (USA)

If it's just the same to you, Mr. President, I'd like to lie down and die. – Jean-Jules Jusserand (French ambassador to the United States to President Theodore Roosevelt after a robust exercise outing.)

It was difficult to contradict this artist ---this seducer. – Charles De Gaulle

His majesty the king of Cambodia accepts all the administrative, judicial, financial, and commercial reforms which the French Government shall judge, in future, useful to make their protectorate successful. –

Charles Thomson (French)

The commerce of the Europeans with China appears to be as simple, perhaps, as any in the known world. The Danes, Spaniards, Imperialists, Swedes, French, English, and Dutch, have regular establishments at Canton, and trade by companies. The Portuguese, although they are in possession of Macao, do not, in the manner of the other nations, keep an establishment ... – Samuel Shaw (USA)

You are either with us or against us. – George W. Bush (USA)

Even when they are right the French can be so infuriatingly perverse or incomprehensible. – Chris Patten.(UK)

Diplomats are only useful in fair weather. As soon as it rains they drown in every drop. – Charles De Gaulle. (French)

The injuries of Boston have roused and associated every colony from Nova Scotia to Georgia. Your Province is the only link that is wanting to complete the bright, strong chain of union. – Continental Congress (USA)



The small vessels authorized by Congress with a view to the Mediterranean service have been sent into that sea, and will be able more effectually to confine the Tripoline cruisers within their harbors and supersede the necessity of convoy to our commerce in that quarter. – Thomas Jefferson (USA)

It was a hair-trigger affair altogether, but thanks be to God everything has gone off admirably. I was obliged to abandon the plan of trusting the King in a fishing-boat from Trouville. The weather was very stormy; had he attempted to find the steamer, he might have failed, for the sea was in a furious state and the wind ahead. There was also ... - George William Featherstonhaugh (USA)

Mutual understanding would be immensely facilitated by the use of one universal tongue. But which shall it be, is

the great question. At present it looks as if the English might be adopted as such. – Nikola Telsa (Serb)

The Chinese are engaging in a huge amount of cyber-espionage...So do we...We can't ask the Chinese to stop doing something that we're doing. We can't ask them to obey rules that we don't ask France and others to obey...I think it's going to take a while even to figure out even the rules we would like everyone to adhere to that we ... - Ken Lieberthal (USA)

And here's that word elan.

Elan: Vigorous energy, spirit and enthusiasm permeate French diplomacy. Here are some quotations that illustrate that.

Peter (Jennings), of the three of us, was our prince. He seemed so timeless. He had such elan and style. –Tom Brokaw

Do first things first, and second things not at all. – Peter F. Drucker

There are two kinds of failures: those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought. – Laurence J. Peter

The best way to predict the future is to create it. – Peter F. Drucker

And flexibility.

The Importance of Flexibility to French Diplomacy is the same as it is in any hobby, except that the French Dippers seem to show more of it. Witness:

Diplomacy is too complex a game for any pre-set plan to be assured of success. Flexibility and careful negotiation are essential requirements for any player. – Andrew England

What's the best country to play in Diplomacy? Online Strategy Games...Russia, France or Turkey – particularly the added flexibility of using fleets. – Unknown

The most important skill for a Diplomat is not: strategy, tactics or diplomacy; it's flexibility. – Larry Peery

[[Watch for Part II of the series, French Diplomats of the Highest Orders, in the next issue.]]

The Velvet Glove

By Rick Leeds

I've been an administrator on Playdiplomacy.com for a number of years now. I've been a cheater-hunter there for longer. I've played my Diplomacy on that site for longer still.

The online game, certainly played through websites, has its difficulties, certainly on the bigger sites. They seem to be plagued by the same kinds of difficulties common on all games sites: People find the site, try the game out, find they don't like it/don't have time for it/insert any other reason you want, and drop the game. In Diplomacy that means NMRs and surrenders, abandoning powers to civil disorder.

And then there's the people who come to the site with no idea about the game or the rules. Again, the bigger sites are most affected by this. When you see England order Liverpool to Brest in Spring 1901, your heart can sink.

Oh, and let's not forget the cheating. There are those who think having two or more accounts in the same game is fine. I had one player the other day tell me that the reason he had started a new account and joined the same game as his original account was that the site had removed a cheater that he was allied with and he wanted the orders he'd been promised to go through! Yep; "I cheated because someone else cheated." (He then went on to complain that, if cheating was likely to happen in games, he didn't think Diplomacy was for him. I needed the paper bag over my head for **that** one.)

Then there's the team play. The players who enter a game with a mate and are allied from the very start. No discussion about the alliance because they're mates. They're just allied. "What's wrong with that? Isn't Diplomacy about allies?" Again, I had a lawyer who told me he couldn't be bothered to read the site's rules (which ban this kind of action), that he didn't accept that entering a game with an already arranged alliance was wrong anyway and demanded that he be allowed back on the site or he'd take legal action. Give it your best shot.

With all this, it isn't surprising that the more dedicated or serious player has a poor impression of Diplomacy as played on websites. But, then again, any prejudice, any opinion based on a small sample, will be likely to be off the mark.

I **know** it's off the mark. Plenty of players on the various websites know it is off the mark. There are some excellent players who regularly play Dip on websites. There are opportunities to be involved in some demanding games. You might have to work at it and dive

further into the site than the superficial level of 'Find a Game' but the good stuff is there.

Online Dip is part of the future of Diplomacy. It isn't the whole of the future but it will be a big part of it. You can't replace the face-to-face game and online Diplomacy doesn't seek to do that. In fact, online Diplomacy seeks to **further** the FTF game. I know of a number of sites which have sections that are dedicated to advertising and encouraging players to meet and play FTF. And the conventions will, hopefully, always be around. But what online Diplomacy does is give us a way to play the game when mustering a full quota of players can be difficult.

There is another crucial aspect to online Diplomacy, though, that is often ignored by its detractors. All those newbs who don't know what they're doing, who have played the game before but have misunderstood the rules ("Why can't I destroy my fleet and build an army if I want?") and those who were simply looking for another game to play online and stumbled across a Dip site – the same ones that we shake our heads at and grumble about – **they** are the future of Diplomacy. The Dip sites are the place where the majority of new Dippyists are going to be introduced to the game.

The question is how they are going to be linked to the wider Hobby. It would be very easy for the sites to nurture their own membership – and they do! There is a not altogether healthy rivalry between some of the sites. But one of the things the Dip sites ought to be doing is widening the horizons of their members and introducing them to the older established Hobby.

With this in mind, I have set a couple of projects in place. One of them is the [World Diplomacy Forum](#). This has a double aim: to bring the various arms of the Hobby together and to share ideas about the game. I have to admit that I've let this slide. Illness at the beginning of 2015 put a stop to all my Dip activity. I need to get it going again.

The other project I put in place is [The Velvet Glove](#). This is a new Dip zine but one that is principally aimed at the online Hobby. Issue 1 was, like everything else, delayed as a result of my being ill but finally was published in May 2015. The second issue is coming out in August.

I've tried running a zine before. The first attempt was *A Fleet in Paris*. That ended by sinking. One of the problems was that I was finding articles difficult to come by and was putting more and more into it myself. Putting it simply, it was proving to be too difficult to put together and was eating up more time than I had.

Having dipped my toe in the water, however, I wanted to go further. This time, I have a small team of editors. I'd like to expand this team so that none of us are spending too much of our free time putting the effort in; producing a zine shouldn't be a toil. And, of course, we need contributors!

So, this time, *The Velvet Glove* has a wider target-base. *AFIP* was aimed mainly at Playdiplomacy.com members and, if anyone else got on board with it, all the better. *TVG* is aimed at the online Dip community as a whole. Other Dip sites have been made aware of it and I'm hoping for as wide an online readership as possible.

But I aim for more than this. Whilst *TVG* is designed as an online zine for the online Dip community, I'm also aiming to encompass a wider readership. What I'm looking to achieve, after all, is encouraging online players to look further than the site they play on and further than online play.

So much for the objectives of *TVG*. After all, when you set out such things you are setting yourself up for failure when you don't meet those objectives! And the most important aspect of a zine is that it is a 'good read'. I'd hope *TVG* is a good read and that it will improve as it goes along!

We publish a number of different articles. We have the typical strategy articles, of course. We also publish a 'feature' article which is about the Hobby but stays away from strategy. In issue 1 this is an analysis of Allan Calhamer's article on the Karma League from *Diplomacy World* #17 by W H Seward.

We run a series of articles. The first series is called 'The Seven Soldiers of Victory' and looks at each power in

turn. Which self-respecting Dip zine **doesn't** do this at some point! But we're also adding an article aimed at examining the history of each power and seeking to draw lessons from this for playing the power in Diplomacy. Issue 1 focused on Italy.

Most exciting for me is the 'New Talent' article. Each issue I'm looking to get an article from a Dip player who has never written for a Dip zine before. We run articles on Variants; issue 1's article was on Versailles, played as a Fog of War variant. We run an article called 'From the Archives' which re-prints an article from the archives of a Dip site's Forum. We also spotlight a different Dip website each month.

Due to issue 1's delayed publication some items were missing. Most notably, from what I want to do, was an interview with someone from the Hobby. I'm hoping to include this as a regular feature. And, as Dip cons happen fairly regularly, I'd hope to include a Con report each issue. No letters, of course, but hopefully they'll come in; probably a trickle or a drip, but I can hope for more! And, as the zine develops, I'll be looking to add other regular features, perhaps even a small number of non-Dip articles.

What I've found is that Dippyists are an opinionated lot! No-one will ever agree on how to play, what to do, what should and should not be allowed. And a good number are ready to share their opinions and thoughts with others. So why not put yours down and send them to *TVG*?

And enjoy the zine, of course.

[[The Velvet Glove can be found online at <http://thevelvetglovecont.wix.com/the-velvet-glove>]]

So What to Do if You Can't Make it to WDC?

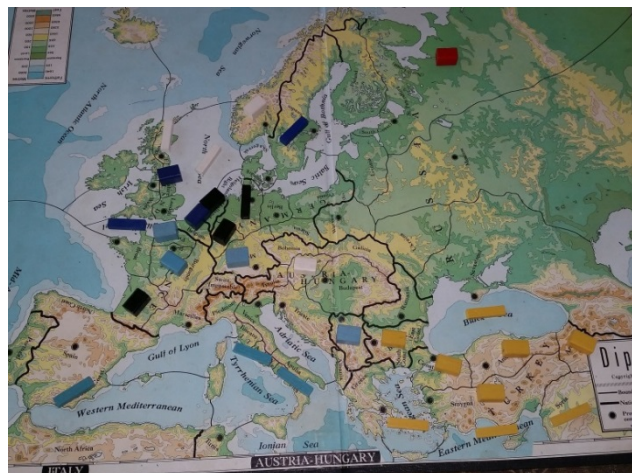
By Larry Peery

It's been 27 years since the first WDC in Birmingham in 1988; which means if you were in your mid-40s then your days of globe-trotting to attend a WDC event are either over or approaching that point. That can happen for one of two reasons, or perhaps both. First, you may no longer be physically or, God forbid, mentally able to make the trip. Second, you may not be able to afford it, even if you're physically and mentally able to do so. This is sad, but it's something we hobby Old Farts have to face. I see the same thing happening domestically as people who were once active in the hobby and still love the game can no longer make the yearly trek to DipCon, let alone a World DipCon across a sea.

What to do?

That's a question I've thought about a lot in the last few years as my own Dip travels took a nose-dive after 2003 and especially after my major heart problems in 2009. It took me four years to be physically able to do any further major Dip travel. DipCon XXXXVII in Seattle in January 2014, DipCon XXXXVI in Rosslyn in October, 2013 and World DipCon XXIII in Paris in August, 2013 marked both my return to hobby-wide FTF play and my "farewell tour". After fourteen thousand air miles, 14 flights, \$8,000 and some new memories and I knew it was time to retire. Although my 25/33 and 50/56 results in the two DipCons were poor, I was pleased with my 42/75 performance in Paris: not because I scored well but because I had managed to play in six of the seven rounds without making any technical mistakes such as

miswritten orders. I had proven to myself that I could still play, even if not well ☺



I really wanted to go to Milan for this year's WDC but I realized the trip was beyond me. I wondered if there was a way to participate in the event without actually being there? As I watched the Facebook site for the event grow an idea began to form in the back of my head. Was it possible to run a local FTF Dip event in conjunction with the Milan event for those, like myself, who could not make the trip to Milan? That was the beginning of WDC 2015.5. My goal was simple. I wanted to create an "affinity" event that would parallel as best it could what was going on in Milan, only adapt it to the local hobby. Could it be done?

I decided to hold my WDC 2015.5 the same weekend as the big event in Milan, although it would only be one day long as is customary with the Meet Up San Diego Diplomacy Group format. I wanted to use the same scoring system as Milan, but since we were having a one round affair that became a moot point. Finally, as I knew the Italians would be going all out to be good hosts

I opted for an Italian menu, Milano cookies for prizes, and a Pavarotti sing-a-long to add an "Italian" flavor to the event. And then I waited to see how the locals would react to my idea. Well, the response was less than I had hoped but the five of us who attended had a good time, I think; and I kept thinking about Fang, from Shanghai playing Dip in Milan and Michael, from Hong Kong, playing Dip in San Diego; and wondering where the hobby would be in another 10 or 20 years?



Although the WDC 2015.5 wasn't a great success in numbers I think we demonstrated that the concept of having off-shoot WDC or even DipCon events was a viable one and, perhaps, will happen again. As I said, the idea isn't to compete with the parent event, but to provide a way for those who can't attend the primary event to still participate in it.

As more and more hobbyists take to their recliners, wheel chairs, and walkers it may be something to consider.

Constant-Sum Scoring

By Thaddeus Black

Metagaming can mean trouble in the Diplomacy hobby. A standard style of scoring called *constant-sum* scoring can in some ways help. This article explains how. It explains a few other things, too.

A game's *scoring table* tells how much a win, a draw or other result of interest is worth. In chess:

TABLE 1: CHESS, STANDARD SCORING

Win	1 point.
Draw	1/2 point.
Lose	0 points.

In Diplomacy:

TABLE 2: DIPLOMACY, STANDARD CALHAMER SCORING

Win	1 point.
Survive in an N -way draw	$1/N$ point.
Lose	0 points.

The scoring tables of chess and Diplomacy resemble one another, for either table awards exactly one point in sum to a game's several players. Game theory calls this one point a *constant sum*.

The winner gets the point. If no one wins, then the draw's survivors equally split the point. Players struggle to claim shares as large as they can, each at the others' expense.

Constant sums are not necessarily a general feature of business or life, but in a competitive game like chess or Diplomacy, constant-sum scoring is a succinct device to inform players regarding the goals they ought to compete to achieve.

Elo rating incidentally wants a constant sum. Given constant-sum scoring, one can rate either chess or Diplomacy by Elo.

Alternate scoring tables for Diplomacy

Does a good scoring table necessarily have to reward only wins and draws, though? Does it even have to be constant sum?

No, it does not. In the pages of *Diplomacy World* for example, Doug Beyerlein has proposed an alternate

scoring table all the way back in issue 3. Robert Sergeant and Steve McLendon have proposed another in issue 22, and along with David Hood have proceeded to compile and report postal statistics by it through at least issue 60. In issues 120 and 124, Jim-Bob Burgess has reported Chris Babcock's online tournament, scored by yet another table. Kestas Kuliukas' WebDiplomacy (the German translation of which Tobias Florin has discussed in issue 129) defaults to quite a different table. In *The Diplomatic Pouch*, Joe Brennan in vol. 7, no. 3, and David E. Cohen in vol. 8, no. 1, have suggested disdain for the drawn result; as have Stan Johnson in issue 63, and Robert Staats in issue 64, of *Diplomacy World* (a discussion Bruce McIntyre and David Hood extend into issue 65). In *The Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy*, Rod Walker has expressed special approval of the drawn result, promoting yet another scoring table to favor it, though at the same time Walker too presents a very different table of nearly opposite effect. Allan B. Calhamer has written at length in *Erehwon's* issue 85 about what one could, with not too great a stretch, describe as scoring-table abuse. Face-to-face tournaments have long of practical necessity varied the scoring table. And then there is of course the well-known C-Diplo scoring table, about which much has elsewhere been said.

All the alternate scoring tables here mentioned or implied differ in one way or another from Calhamer's standard table. Not all are constant-sum tables.

Scoring-table theory: disdaining the draw

With so much having been written over the past five decades regarding Diplomacy's scoring table, and with so large a number of alternate tables having been tried, a brief overview here of the basic considerations of scoring-table theory might be of interest. Is one scoring table inherently better than another? Do different tables serve different uses? Can every table profitably be used in every instance?

The answers respectively are: (i) probably; (ii) yes; and (iii) no.

To understand why, let us consider chess, which (since chess has only two players) is a simpler game to score than Diplomacy. Suppose that you and I sat down to play a four-game match of chess. Suppose further that, disdaining the draw as Brennan, Cohen, Johnson and Staats do, we had agreed to allow the draw no credit.

TABLE 3: CHESS, HYPOTHETICAL, NONCONSTANT-SUM, DRAW-DISDAINING SCORING

Win	1 point.
Draw	0 points.
Lose	0 points.

Insofar as, by this draw-disdaining table 3, a drawn game awards less credit to the two players *in sum* (0 points) than does a won game (1 point), the table is a nonconstant-sum table. One might ask: Compared to the standard table 1, which always awards exactly 1 point in sum, how would such a nonconstant-sum table affect our play? Would it prompt us to abandon caution, taking unusual risks to avert the draw?

The answer is: probably not. To understand this answer wants some arithmetic as follows.

Suppose that during our four-game match, you won twice, I won once, and the fourth game were drawn. By the standard, constant-sum table 1, you would have taken the match by a margin of one point. By our modified, nonconstant-sum, draw-disdaining table 3, you instead have taken the match by a margin of ... *one point*.

The margin is one point, scored either way.

So there is no effective difference between the two tables in match context, is there? Our modification to the table has just had no effect. Quashing the draw's reward has not incentivized us to play to win. We have gained nothing by surrendering the principle of the constant sum. Logically, draws are neither less nor more likely than before.

The nonconstant sum in a club

A four-game match is not however the only context in which the draw-disdaining table 3 might be used. If used in the context of, say, a ten-member chess club, the draw-disdaining table might have substantial effect.

Imagine the scene in a ten-member club. Hoping to climb ahead of you and me on the club's ratings ladder, the club's eight other members might gather round our table as we play, urging you and me to trade off queens, to avoid midgame forays at the kingside, and otherwise to play for a draw. Contemptuously disregarding such timid advice, you and I instead play gambit after gambit, hoping to win early or perish in the attempt! Yet as we have seen, the draw-disdaining table 3 would have power to promote such excitement only in the context of the club—and only by giving players not in the game a *somewhat unnatural interest in the game's outcome*.

In what way does the draw-disdaining table 3 give players not in the game an interest? It gives them an interest in that, whenever you and I both fail to score, the

club's other eight players relatively gain against us. If the other eight wish to climb ahead of us on the club's ladder, then the best possible outcome for the other eight by table 3 is that you and I should draw, because table 3 affords the draw no points.

Whether giving players not in the game an unnatural interest in the game's outcome is good or bad is a matter one can discuss. It is however a factor of interest in any case. It is also a factor that arises only in a clublike context.

The constant sum in a club

Even in the context of the club, with its ten members, this weird-seeming table might be better:

TABLE 4: CHESS, REVISED (WEIRD?), CONSTANT-SUM, DRAW-DISDAINING SCORING FOR USE IN A TEN-MEMBER CLUB

Win	1 point.
Draw	0.1 point.
Lose	0 points.
Not play	0.1 point if the game is a draw.

This table restores the principle of the constant sum, but maintains too the principle of disdaining the draw, by awarding 0.8 of a draw's point to players not even in the game. By this table, if you and I draw, then you get 0.1 point, I get 0.1 point, and each of the club's other eight members gets 0.1 point. If you and I would rather not share credit with players not even in the game, then we must avoid the draw.

Nonconstant versus constant sums in a club

One can show that, in the context of the ten-member club, the two draw-disdaining tables 3 and 4 are identical in relative effect. To show this is left as an exercise for the interested reader, but the exercise is not too hard.

The weird table 4 at least more straightforwardly reflects the unexpected, draw-seeking interest the club's draw-disdaining policy has inadvertently given members who are not even in a game. Surprisingly therefore, one might actually prefer the weird, draw-disdaining table 4 over the earlier, nonweird, draw-disdaining table 3.

Indeed, it is not really the weird table that is weird, is it? *What is weird is the unintended side-effect of the club's policy of disdaining the draw.*

One might for this reason among others prefer the constant to the nonconstant sum. Moreover, all factors considered, unless special considerations intervene, the standard table 1 may be the best table for most

purposes in chess, even if one prefers daring, draw-avoiding play.

Scorning (and scoring) the stalemate in Diplomacy

Now, chess is chess and Diplomacy is Diplomacy. No Diplomacy scoring table is ever likely to capture all the reasons players play the seven-player game. In Diplomacy, aggressive players will often scorn the stalemate, and will often be admired for doing so, even if the game's standard scoring table blindly suggests that scorning the stalemate is suboptimal. One unlikely victory, after all, earns a greener laurel of glory than do any dozen prudent draws. Yet be that as it may, how is one to translate such glory to the scoring table?



Wagering as a conceptual device

The point this article makes is fundamentally a quantitative, numerical one. It is a cautious business to put too many tables and numbers in an article, though. If each table has shed half the readers, then after four tables, we've got 1 in 16 left. Let us try not to lose the rest. No more tables.

Suppose that you and I were to bet 50 cents on a game of chess. (I hear the last reader standing up, heading for the door. But stay. I'll make it worth your while.) Though actual wagering may not be your habit (mine neither), the 50-cent idea serves here to illustrate a

quantitative point. Here we are; you and I sit down across the board from one another, each of us tosses 50 cents into the pot, and then we start to play. If you win, then you take the dollar. If I win, then I take the dollar. But if we draw, then what are we to do? Just leave the dollar there? Not likely. Most probably, you'll take your 50 cents back and I'll take mine, and we'll save the money till next time. In other words, most probably, we will naturally play the game as constant sum.

One could in principle apply the same idea to Diplomacy. In Diplomacy, the arithmetic works better if each player tosses 60 cents into the pot (the reason is left as an exercise), but otherwise the idea is almost the same. The victor takes the whole pot; in a draw, survivors equally split the pot.

Constant sums against metagaming

Such considerations show why mathematicians tend by default to prefer to express scoring tables in constant-sum terms. A nonconstant-sum table either (a) does not differ in real effect from a constant-sum table or (b) invites maybe unwanted outside interests into the game. The constant-sum table tends to keep outside interests out! The constant-sum table is the anti-metagaming table. (See again Burgess in issues 120 and 124.) If you disapprove of metagaming, then the constant-sum table is probably the right kind of table for you.

Conclusion

Whatever might be its other virtues and faults, Diplomacy's standard Calhamer scoring table is at least constant sum. So, the standard Calhamer is best, right? But then, C-Diplo is constant sum, too. Also, this article has not asserted that constant sums were in all cases best.

What constant sums are is an idea worth properly understanding—especially in a game like Diplomacy, in which the proper valuation of survivorship remains such an interesting topic of debate, and in which the discouragement of metagaming remains such a constant topic of concern. Really to understand the debate and to master the concern, one ought to grasp the idea of the constant-sum scoring table. That is what this article has been about.

Turkey

by Joshua Danker-Dake

In all my years of hanging around this swell joint, I haven't written a dedicated article about Turkey. The main reason for this omission is that primarily because of Turkey's limited openings (openings being the number-one all-time most popular topic for strategy articles), there's very little to say about Turkey that hasn't been said before, and repeatedly. But now Peery says I can't have this kind of gap in my portfolio and I gotta write about Turkey, so let's do this.

Richard Sharp's disdain for Turkey is legendary. In *The Game of Diplomacy*, he wrote, "I find [Turkey] claustrophobic, inflexible and frustrating. On the other hand, Turkey is the most indestructible country of all, if you count that an advantage—to me, it just means I linger for hours (months in a postal game) under a moral obligation to submit orders, with no hope of winning. A country for tenacious, uncommunicative, unambitious tacticians, Turkey bores me to death."

That's a solid and concise (if jaded) overview of Turkey's strengths and weaknesses. But is it really as bad as all that? I actually like playing Turkey, and I say no. Let's consider.



Turkey is certainly the most limited country in terms of viable openings, edging out England for that title with, for my money, only two (which have 67% overlap): the flagrantly anti-Russian F ANK-BLA, A SMY-ARM, A CON-BUL and the let-me-keep-my-options-open F ANK-BLA, A SMY-CON, A CON-BUL. The latter is my go-to—it's much more versatile—while I tend to reserve the former only for situations in which I am relatively assured

of Austria's assistance against Russia (you can still do plenty against Russia with SMY-CON).

Some may see Turkey's lack of viable openings as a disadvantage; maybe that's true, but a plus is that it takes about eight seconds to put in your Spring 1901 orders. No other openings are worthy of my consideration because any opening that doesn't include ANK-BLA throws Turkey's only first-year tactical strength straight in the dumpster, and what else are you going to do with A CON?

It's well documented that my number-one rule of Diplomacy is "always go to the Black Sea," and that's especially true for Turkey. You can revisit DW #126 for an extended discussion of that topic from me, but the gist of it is this: the Black Sea borders five supply centers, including two Turkish home centers. It is one of the most important early-game spaces on the board, if not the most important. If Turkey bounces Russia there in Spring 1901, he still gets it in the fall when Russia goes to Rumania. Turkey should take no guff from Russia about going there—it's a lot worse for Turkey if Russia gets in than vice versa.

Turkey tends to be the hardest country to eliminate early on. Don't listen to Sharp on this point—that's a positive. That is, if Austria or Italy isn't coming after you early with fleets, you're going to be around for a while. That means that even if your position is unwinnable, you can still affect other players' outcomes, tie up other folks' resources, and generally make a nuisance of yourself. Do that long enough, and you may catch a break or be able to cut a deal (and don't forget that in Diplomacy, making a nuisance of yourself is a time-honored Plan B when Plan A, "win the game," falls through).

Diplomatic negotiation plays less of a role for Turkey early on than for other countries, as half the other players won't have anything meaningful to say to you until about 1903. But that doesn't mean negotiations aren't still vitally important, as what you can work out with Italy will be key in the mid-game and, more to the point, you need to make sure that in the southern Turkey/Austria/Russia triangle, you aren't the odd man out.

Sharp bemoaned Turkey's prospects for friendship, but I think he overstated the bleakness of Turkey's situation. Russia is, as he says, Turkey's best ally, and the effectiveness of the Russian/Turkish Juggernaut has been well documented—as has the tendency of Russia to obtain a growth advantage via such an alliance. If you go the Juggernaut route, insist on equal growth, and if Russia won't give it to you, bite him.

Alliance with Austria is possible, if more difficult. This involves Austria going full army and moving north, with Turkey going full navy and going west. It's not an ideal arrangement—Austria may eventually object to having his home centers encircled by the Turkish fleet, and Turkey may find himself going all the way to England for supply centers—but it can be made to work. Obviously, it's better to have Austria as a friend than to have no friends at all.

Sharp said, "Between Italy and Turkey there can be little but out-and-out hostility." I disagree. If Russia can be held in check, Italy and Turkey can split up Austria and the Balkans and establish a border that can be maintained with a minimum of resources (VIE-TRI-GRE for Italy and BUD-SER-RUM-BUL for Turkey, most obviously), one that allows Turkey to move north into Russia and Germany with armies while Italy goes naval. If this alliance gets off the ground, it can do pretty well—until Turkey runs out of non-Italian targets for his armies.

With its corner position and good growth potential in the mid-game, Turkey can be a great country for getting a three-way draw, but it can be fairly tough to solo with. Whatever friends you manage to scrounge up, keep the end in sight: where are the 18 supply centers you need to win coming from? In the vast majority of cases, you

need the Balkans, Austria, Italy, and either all of Russia or the southern halves of Russia and France, with maybe one or two of Germany's. Plan ahead.

In a perfect world, Turkey takes a bite out of Russia and then starts to push west by both land and sea; in reality, you take whatever you can get.

With its relative security and limited early-game diplomacy and tactical burdens, Turkey can be a great country for beginners to play while getting a handle on the game rules and strategy. But Turkey's not just a kiddie bike—hanging around until the end of the game is always nice, but actually winning is a worthy challenge.

One of the reasons I like Turkey is that it can be one of the most purely tactical countries to play. That is, sometimes the only way to get out of your corner is to out-tactics your opponents. Attacking unexpected targets, cutting unexpected supports, finding ways to break through enemy lines with equal or inferior manpower—these are challenges I enjoy. Of course, a lot of times, it doesn't work, and then you lose—but hey, that's Diplomacy.

In conclusion: Turkey may not be the most creative outlet in early-game Diplomacy, whether tactically or diplomatically, but you've got survivability on your side, and it's up to you to make the most of it.

Hic iacet Tobias, rex quondam, rexque futurus

By Toby Harris

One of the first things everybody does when they land is to hook up with another Dip player. I was fortunate to meet up with the current World Champion Tom Haver at the airport. Probably the most interesting character of all because Europe was virgin territory for Tom, whilst Tom was virgin territory for Europe. Not everybody transgresses the Atlantic well; some depart WDC with their tails between their legs, clutching an attendance ribbon for comfort during their flight home. So Tom was the one guy whose progress I was especially keen to follow at WDC.

We wasted little time getting into Milan central, dumping off our bags and joining the others for beer, followed by a wine-soaked lunch with some of the Italians, coffee, more beer, and later a group meal. It was a fun-packed first day and night of meet, great, drink & eat. In fact I would have been happy to make the flight just for this single day and evening - without any Diplomacy to follow.

Peter McNamara found a great apartment nearby the convention (sharing with Cyrille Sevin & Dave Simpson also), so we had virtually no walking distance the

following morning.

The tournament had two rounds per day on the Friday & Saturday, with the best three scores from those four rounds counting. Then there was a top table for the seven finalists on the Sunday. With five boards per round, several players gave an estimate on what was needed to reach the top table, but to my mind it would need a 1st place, a 2nd place and "any result" to be sure.

The trouble is that I cannot remember every game so well now. Only that I drew Turkey in round one, did my best but was well behind the game leader (Ruben Sanchez) at the end. But 2nd place was a good enough start to the tournament. Dan Lester got the best result of the day so was leading the tournament. At the start of the round (and every subsequent round), players could bet 50 cents on who they thought would win the round – the winning bet received a bottle of wine. Elsewhere, David Maletsky, Cyrille Sevin, Giovanni Cesarini topped their boards also.

In the second round I drew England. Cyrille's Germany

kept pushing me towards a Channel opening, and Masimo Iretti (the "Italian Italy who spoke only Italian") kept prodding at Piedmont on his mini-map. So I went for it, with the army going to Wales also. Poor Dirk as France; probably my only rotten lie of the whole tournament was to tell him I would convoy to Belgium if he supported me there. And that meant my new army in Brest (you guessed it) supported another to Picardy in Spring 1902. Getting off to a start like this is rarely good for the rest of the board, and I milked it well. The scoring system helped too; if you keep players on 3 centres then you get good bonus points. So I persuaded Dirk to push into the Med and I would leave Iberia alone. These centres soon became totally free to grab at any time as I followed him into the Med. This was no easy board, what with Edi Birsan and Nicolas Sahuguet working the South. Italy then danced to my tune for survival. And Cyrille lost ground too (as I covered the entirely vacated Western Front from just two armies in France) asking that I let him have 2nd place. He already had a 1st, so a 2nd was all he needed for the final. It was a promise I kept, grabbing from Iberia and the South. 13 centres to me, with 7 to Cyrille in 2nd. It was the tournament's biggest score, won "Best England" and for Cyrille it was probably the scrappiest 2nd place anyone could "wish" for (and not in fact good enough for the final without another result), but at least his wish was granted.

So then a big night out. This is what WDC is all about. This is why we come. The chatter, the food, the drink. All the best WDC's hinge around the social evening on the Friday and/or Saturday night. We were not disappointed, and ended the evening with a few others (totalling seven) back at the apartment for a game. Firstly a gunboat game without any board or units ... which got confusing for some after 1903. And during the second game some went to sleep instead, myself included. Hey, to catch my flight I was awake at 3:45am the day before, and these things soon catch up on you.

Starting the Diplomacy round three on the Saturday morning (and riding in 2nd place in the tournament), I probably only needed say three centres from either game to secure a place in the final. With a scoring system that rewards keeping players on three, it was a fairly safe bet.

In this game I was Austria, agreeing with Marco Nosedà in Russia that Gal should stay vacant. All Turkey (Gianmarco) wanted was a reward as best defender, and Italy (Christian Reichardt) was not too keen to commit to anything specific. A dream start; Marco built F(Sev) and from there I knew he would be a game-long ally. My Spring 1902 goal was (as always, when playing Austria) to take Albania and AEG. If I were to ever write a strategy article on Austria then this is it – get to Alb & AEG as quickly as possible, and never leave these provinces. The only exceptions to leaving would be to ION for the fleet and a convoy to Apu for the army.

Which, lol, is ultimately what happened in this game. Turkey was swiftly eliminated and the spoils shared fairly with Marco. His fleets were quickly sucked through into the Med to join my two. I built a second fleet in 1902, because by moving to ADS there was more chance of taking Venice than via Tyrloia; David Malesky's Germany was keen to bounce in Tyrolia a couple of times. Actually this game was over by 1903, with a crack at an 18 a possibility. In a single move I could have taken three from Russia (taking me to 13) and grabbed another 2-3 the following year, and with two years left to play. The only question was which centre to poke at for the 18? In reality this would have most likely been stopped, but I genuinely believe there was sufficient confusion and mistrust in the north to have a small chance.

It doesn't really matter; I held at 10, didn't stab and agreed the draw. Topping the table at 10 centres was enough to be 100% certain of a top table place tomorrow. I had thrown away "Best Austria", and massively weakened my chances of a podium place if it all went badly in the final. But I didn't come for best Austria, nor another WDC 2nd or 3rd place. It was all or nothing.

And best of all I felt happy that my loyal ally Marco ended the game happy too. Stabbing wasn't necessary, and I am pleased about resisting this temptation.

Round four didn't matter – elimination would be fine. Getting Germany with E & F the other two tournament leaders (Ruben Sanchez & Peter McNamara) all three of us would meet again in the final tomorrow regardless. So I invited Matteo Anfonzie's Italy to take Munich in 1902 and kept my promise to Gwen Maggi to take Sweden. The game never really worked out for me, bouncing between 3 and 5 centres for a couple of years. But what it did show was how nervous Ruben was; he clearly couldn't take his mind off what today's scores might mean in tomorrow's final. In fact it seemed he was already playing to protect a podium place, rather than worry about winning the final.

Ruben topped this board as well, so he had a mammoth score after round four, and was now fairly certain to be grabbing a trophy of some kind tomorrow.

The final table was announced. All four flatmates (myself, Cyrille, Peter & Dave), plus Ruben, Tom Haver and Alex Lebedev. So my earlier question had been answered about Tom ;-)

On Saturday night, a small crowd was invited back to Marco Ferrari's house for some home cooked Italian food, great company and lots of wine. Present was Marco of course, Gwen Maggi (who was staying there), the three Dutch guys (Bernard, Rene & Frank), Tom Haver and Cyrille. Marco did an amazing job of hosting,

truly amazing. Every aspect was wonderful.

Back at the flat, and meeting the other two guys, we were all pretty much ready for bed. So they went to sleep and I stayed out on the balcony with a beer to wind down with. Checking emails & Facebook, it seemed there was a lot to catch up on; cheers of support from Australia for Peter, cheers from America for Tom, and a few supports for some of the rest of us. It was about 1am now; I really didn't feel sleepy and the few large beers left in the fridge started singing like sirens. So I took one and started to tap away on Facebook & email. There was also some time to reflect on the following day, and I genuinely felt quite relaxed about playing in another final. Considering the others in the final, it felt like there was a realistic chance too. A couple of the others were nervous, no past WDC winner had successfully defended their title before, and who would want Cyrille winning WDC for a fourth time? So it made sense that the tide was in my favour.

As it began to get lighter and the birds started singing, the final drop of beer was finished. It was 5am. With three flat mates in the final, I was sure they would wake me. So I went to bed.

Wake me they did. Thanks guys. And thank you Cyrille for making some coffee.

The top table was played on an oversized canvas map. These are great – plenty of room for everyone to see what is going on. And the board allocation was a random “draw out of the box”. I favour this method too ... it is the rawest and most basic way of starting a game of Diplomacy. Drawing second I picked out a blue army. “Yes – France!” I thought, keeping the unit hidden in my palm, as the others drew their pieces. But on checking the board, the blue units are in fact English. Darned those alternative Dip sets. Ok, England. Not so bad. It will do.

With Cyrille as Germany I was confident that he would have challenges in this game, and this started from Ruben in Italy. He opened to Tyrolia and then took Munich. Dave Simpson's France forced Burgundy as well, and then bounced Cyrille from Belgium. Smelling some anti-Cyrille alliance here, I offered to work with him and attack Russia. I would convoy to Nwy and move to BAR but at a price – bounce Peter McNamara's Russia out of Sweden. I couldn't believe it; Tom Haver's Turkey opened to Armenia and poor Peter's game was virtually over; he got no builds and StP was now a guaranteed grab for me in Spring 1902.

From here I could have chosen a side (France or Germany) but opted to keep this open, force StP and

follow up to guarantee keeping it no matter what the Russian defence. This proved to be a good decision, because that one turn's delay gave Dave Simpson's France a season to send his fleets south. This opened up my attack on him; with a build in Lvp and fleets into ENG & NAO by Fall 1902, the Mid Atlantic was now a certainty. What a start! Cyrille tried to do something about my golden lead and built F(Kie), but ultimately he couldn't face too many enemies at once, so kept it at home in defence. We worked together for pretty much the whole game after that.

In the South, Alex Lebedev's Austria worked a solid alliance with Tom; they didn't fall out either, other than the well accepted centre-grabbing final year.

Although my game was solid and without errors, there was also a lot of luck. Luck in respect to a favourable starting position in relation to the others, and a good tide in so much as who everyone else had in mind to ally with or attack. And I worked hard to keep control of every strategic gain, not letting anyone “off the hook” once their position faltered. i.e., Peter, Dave & Ruben. That meant a four horse race at the end, with myself in the position of vantage. I took it, and ensured it. The only way to lose in the final turn would be if Alex would quite literally throw away all five centres that Tom could theoretically walk into. In those circumstances I would lose by one centre. Even a tie would go in my favour, due to the countback rule. Alex did lose a couple of centres, which was always a guessing game, but didn't throw any.

So I won WDC. Wow. After 39 years of playing. I turned up to WDC 1 in 1988 with a genuine belief I could do it then, and was 3rd, 1st, 1st and 4th at the four Manorcons which followed that WDC. Right place at the wrong time! So it was hard to keep the tears back because the endeavour has taken so long.

On the night before the final (the five hour solo beer-drinking session) I wondered what to do next if I did win? What else is there to achieve? What could be better than winning a WDC after so long? Do I really want to lose the title of being one of the best players never to win a WDC? Er, along with Dan Lester, Leif Bergman, Brian Dennehy, Edi Birsan and a few others of course ;-)

And then it occurred to me. If I won WDC (which I did) my goal is clear; succeed where all previous World Champions have failed, come back the following year and win the title again! And if I don't manage that, then try again the year after that and so on. So I guess you'll all be seeing me around at a future WDC, wherever that may be.

XENOLOGIC: An Occasional Journal of dip&DIP

Just in Case You Missed It...The Greatest Diplomacy Game Ever!!! Well, Certainly One of the Best Diplomacy Games of the Last Century!! OK, Certainly the Best Diplomacy Game of the Last Four Months!

By Larry Peery

PREFACE

First, I want to thank the dozen or so people who contributed to this article in various ways: Collectively they provided their own stories, quotations, answers to questions, photos

FOREWORD

"Those who can, do. Those who can't, play Diplomacy."
After George Bernard Shaw's Man and Superman.

INTRODUCTION

Now that you've digested the game reports and results from this year's WDC, and if you haven't --- do that before you continue --- consider this:

Some of the best Diplomacy games ever played didn't even take place across a Diplomacy board --- they took place during the infamous and historical "society meetings" that were and, in some cases still are, a part of various DipCon events. I remember in particular DipCon V (1972), WDC I (1988), EDC I (1993) and WDC IV (1994). Each of these events is remembered not for the game results but for the monumental events that took place in their meetings, both public and private. WDC 2015 in Milan was different from any of the above-mentioned events because it really was about having fun.

But hands down, the best Diplomacy game I've ever seen took place just a few months ago in Minsk, Belarusia. I'm referring to the marathon negotiations between Russia and the Ukraine and hosted by France and Germany which were intended to curtail, if not end, the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

This story doesn't pretend to tell the whole story of what went on in Milan or in Minsk; rather it attempts to show some of the similarities between the two events; and encourages you to make your own comparisons and contrasts between them.

The press reports, post-game commentaries, Facebook quips and even online videos sound like any other Diplomacy game, only this one was for real; and real lives and real spaces hung in the balance.

The big difference or similarity between the two, arbitrarily ending the game in 1907 vs. playing on until the game actually ends, is the difference between never knowing what would have happened and a sense of closure. Only time will tell us which was which.

THE SIX QUESTIONS

These Six Questions go back to the Greeks and survive as the basis of modern journalism. Questions require factual answers and no yes or no answers.

Who Participated? WDC's Top Board game in the final round (The only one being considered here.) attracted some of the best players in the hobby: Alex Lebedev (Austria), Toby Harris (England), Dave Simpson (France), Cyrille Sevin (Germany), Ruben Sanchez (Italy), Peter McNamara (Russia) and Thomas Haver (Turkey). The Minsk negotiations also attracted some world heavy-weight diplomats: Francois Hollande (France) and Angela Merkel (Germany) as hosts; Vladimir Putin (Russia) and Petro Poroshenko (Ukraine) as negotiators. In addition, various national leaders and international organization representatives participated in the meeting at various times.

What Happened ? What made it special? WDC ended in the proclaiming of a new "world champion," although... No doubt it will be remembered for marking the arrival of Italy among the major Diplomacy centers, the excellence of the event administration and the warm hospitality of the hosts. The Minsk negotiations ended in an agreement that was already being violated as it was signed. If its goal of a ceasefire holds it may be remembered as the beginning of the peace process in the Ukraine. If not, it will be remembered as another in a long series of futile efforts to turn a war into a peace. The thing to remember is that neither the WDC in Milan nor the Minsk negotiations really ended in a definitive victory for anyone. Toby Harris's ten-center England, while laudable, was a far cry from the traditional eighteen-center "win" the Rules of Diplomacy demand and neither Russia nor the Ukraine came out as "winners" in the Minsk negotiations.

Where was it held? WDC was held in a commercial gaming establishment in Milan, in a couple of rooms that totaled perhaps 150 square meters. The Minsk negotiations were held in an architectural monstrosity finished in 2013 that includes hundreds of rooms and over 50,000 square meters

When was it held? WDC was held in a gaming establishment in Milan, in a couple of rooms that totaled perhaps 150 square meters. The Minsk negotiations were held in an architectural monstrosity finished in 2013 that includes hundreds of rooms and over 50,000 square meters.

Why was it held? WDC 2015 was the twenty-fifth time in twenty-eight years that the international Diplomacy has met to try and answer the question, "Who is our best?" The Minsk negotiations marked the first time Minsk was the scene of a major international diplomacy event.

How did it happen? How did it turn out? WDC 2015 in Milan pretty much went as expected according to tradition, with a few modifications by the local hosts. The Minsk negotiations, on the other hand, were as noteworthy for their violations of diplomatic protocol as they were for their accomplishments.

As far as individual performances go, at WDC 2015 it was obviously Harris, Haver, Lebedev and Sevin who came out on top; while in Minsk it was Merkel, Hollande, Putin and Poroshenko .

How many bottles of beverages were consumed at WDC vs. how many lives have been lost in the Ukraine? I guesstimate that approximately 500 beverages were consumed during the game playing in Milan and some hundreds more in after-hours festivities. It's hard to estimate how many casualties have resulted from the fighting in the Ukraine and Crimea in the last year, but 5,000 deaths seems to be a commonly accepted figure.

Photos from WDC 2015 Facebook site



So, welcome to "Diplomacy in Europe".

The photo shows an American and two Australians, with prominent Diplomacy players from Italy, France & England.

We are actually just one big family. Nobody would stab you for a coffee ... but everybody would stab you for a centre.



Toby Harris "That centre - RIGHT THERE! <points> It's mio mio mio mio mio tutto mio"



"A fingernail-biting moment with



Another fingernail-biting moment



Another Davide Cleopadre moment



The Big Five In Minsk



Putin: "Who Me?"



Getting The Big Picture



Independence Palace, Minsk

ANGELA MERKEL'S WEEK OF DIPLOMACY: 12,500 MILES IN THE AIR IN ONE WEEK
By Andy Eckardt (NBC)

Mainz, Germany – German Chancellor Angela Merkel looked pale and tired when she met the waiting press with a friendly smile. The 60-year old politician was facing tough negotiations with Greece over the country's bailout package and had just flown in from Belarus, where Merkel had been engaged in complicated 17-hour overnight negotiations for a Ukraine cease-fire.

Media outlets in Germany were in awe.



Top Board with The Big Board

Die Welt (The World) heralded “Merkel’s unbelievable marathon program” and news agency DPA described “Merkel’s diplomatic week between war and peace” and described her week that took her from Berlin to Kiev, back to Berlin, to Moscow, back to Berlin, to Munich, back to Berlin, to Washington D.C. and on to Ottawa, back to Berlin, to Minsk, back to Berlin, to Brussels, and back to Berlin.

Over the course of only one week, the German leader had traveled to Kiev (Thursday), back to Berlin (Friday), then for talks with Russian President Putin to Moscow (Friday) before heading to the Munich Security Conference on Saturday. The visit to the Bavarian capital was only an interim stop before heading over the Atlantic to Washington, D.C. (Sunday) for negotiations with President Obama on Monday. Her meeting schedule was kept tight, so that she could include a trip to Ottawa, Canada, that same day, ahead of an evening flight back to Berlin. But that wasn’t enough: On Wednesday, Merkel attended a commemoration ceremony for former German President Richard von Weizsaecker before heading out to Minsk, Belarus, where all-night diplomacy left her without sleep.

In a rare interview about her private life in 2013, Merkel was asked whether she needs only four hours of sleep. “No,” the chancellor replied. “But I have a certain camel-like quality. I have a certain storage capacity. But then I have to recharge again.”

In an attempt to explain the mystery surrounding Merkel’s endurance, Die Welt newspaper wrote that “Merkel’s fitness secret has been known for years and is very simple: There is none.”

German weekly magazine FOCUS estimated that Merkel traveled nearly 12,500 miles in the past week, describing “Europe’s most powerful woman” as being of a “robust nature.”

Her “power of concentration rises with the challenges.” The magazine quoted an unnamed member of her circle as saying.

“If you promise not to tell Mrs. Merkel, I will admit that sometimes after a trip with her, when I awake from my coma back home, I wake up and see her on the news already in another town and a different time zone, wondering ‘how does she pull that off?’” Thomas Walde, deputy Berlin bureau chief for German public broadcaster ZDF, told NBC news.

Walde, who often travels with the chancellor on foreign assignments, says that Merkel’s trips are usually scheduled to avoid any appearance of downtime or leisure activities and have included “going to the U.S. or China and returning the next day.”

At the beginning of the 2013 question-and-answer session Merkel was asked, “Would you like to talk about ‘daily routine’ or ‘state of emergency’?” After a short pause, the chancellor answered “daily routine,” and then added “but sometimes that’s identical.”

CHRONOLOGY OF MARATHON NEGOTIATIONS ON A UKRAINE ACCORD

By Ania Tsoukanova and Herve Asquin (AFP)

The marathon talks in Minsk that led to Thursday’s Ukraine peace plan were punctuated with rumors, leaks, quips and arresting gazes by alternatively weary and incensed officials rotating in and out of negotiations.

Prior to Russian President Putin’s abrupt appearance before assembled reporters just after 1000 to announce the ceasefire beginning on Sunday, false starts, violated protocol, and grim asides had created the impression that the possibility of an agreement was growing more and more remote.

It all began inauspiciously around 2000 with Belarus President Lukashenko greeting diplomatic sponsors of the talks, German Chancellor Merkel and French President Hollande, as well as Putin and Ukrainian President Poroshenko --- who scarcely deigned to look up when a Russian journalist shouted, “Why is your army bombing civilians?”

Shortly after, the media scrum in Minsk’s vast post-Soviet Independence Palace waited for the leaders to line up for an official group photo.

Instead, they saw summit protocol go by the boards, when Hollande, Merkel, and Poroshenko continued huddling on one side of the room, while Lukashenko and Putin conversed on the other, the photo forgotten.

When Hollande, Merkel, Putin and Poroshenko finally converged before retiring to negotiate, the Russian and Ukrainian traded the briefest of handshakes, the latter’s face grim.

By 2200, with scores of diplomats amassed in the corridors of the palace, word circulated that talks had become very tense. Through cracked doors, Putin and Poroshenko were often visible standing, the Ukrainian leader making gestures with his hands.

After exiting the increasingly strained discussions, a passing Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov answered a request for an update by quipping to an AFP reporter, “Come with me to the toilet and I’ll tell you everything.”

At nearly the same moment, an angry-looking Poroshenko and several members of the Ukrainian

delegation left negotiations to general surprise and concern that negotiations might have broken off.

Once the president placed a secure call to the chiefs of Ukraine's armed forces, however, Poroshenko returned to resume discussions.

Three hours later, at 0100, the four leaders took a break, using the occasion to assemble for the group photo neglected at the outset.

When negotiations resumed, Hollande and Merkel periodically took aside Putin or Poroshenko to consult or cajole on certain points.

Occasionally, periodic group lunges of reporters towards an opening door or exiting diplomat produced a morsel of information on the progress of the talks.

"The feeling was rather optimistic at the beginning, but now that this is dragging on, Putin is bickering as usual," a diplomatic source confided.

"Work continues, but it still has a really long way to go," commented another.



At 0448, a telephone text message from a member of the Ukrainian delegation said, "Everyone is yawning, but they're still talking."

At 0530, another wild group lunge of previously sleeping reporters surged towards moving bodies, cameras at the ready and microphones aloft to capture an anticipated announcement. Instead bodyguards warned no statement was forthcoming --- the sortie was just Putin taking a bathroom break.

Three-and-a-half hours later, at 0900, presidential press attaches began speaking of signing ceremonies --- without any having information about who was supposed to be signing what kind of agreement.

At 1000, when Poroshenko exited to place another secure call to his military leaders, the Ukrainian president confided to reporters "the news isn't good," blaming Putin for insisting on "unacceptable conditions."

Soon afterwards, however, Ukrainian and French sources told AFP the problem was the refusal of pro-Moscow Ukraine rebels to sign a provisional agreement.

The representative of the OCSE, Heidi Tagliavini, then arrived to join the talks, amid leaked details describing a super-charged atmosphere, infuriated faces and whispered asides among participants.

Talks that began in hope Wednesday evening appeared to have bogged down in bitter contention as noon neared on Thursday.

Which was exactly when Putin beat his fellow leaders to the mark by exiting the negotiating room, walking before reporters, and announcing the peace accord.

ANGELA MERKEL QUOTES (modified)

Overcoming the Diplomacy battles of Milan required courage from the Diplomacy players of Central and Southern Europe and ...it also required the steadfastness of our Western partners on both sides of the Atlantic over many decades when many had long lost hope of integration of the European Diplomacy hobby.

The willingness to learn new hobby skills and techniques is very high.

Today's Russia is not to be compared with the Soviet Union of back then.

Whoever decides to dedicate their life to Diplomacy knows that earning money isn't the top priority.

As Diplomacy players we have to react to the fact that many people do not feel that they can relate to the Diplomacy game or hobby.

Diplomacy players have to be committed to hobbyists in equal measures.

I feel sorry sometimes for these Dippers who in just as much effort as the footballers. For example, Dippers train at least as hard as diplomats but have to be happy if they can earn enough to finance a decent education.

QUOTATIONS FROM WDC 2015

Marco Nosedà Pedraglio: "This is your lucky day. I don't need to stab you in this game." WDC 2015 R3T3

Toby Harris (Austria) to Marco Nosedà Pedraglio (Russia).

Vick Hall: "Not sure if you will find this classe...! Toby is surely a quick crapper."

THE ACTION WORDS

Now that you've read the WDC 2015 reports, the stories about the Minsk negotiations and seen the pictures from both let's see how much you've learned and remembered 9



WORDS AND PHRASES TO LOOK FOR:

Peace deal...if it holds...partial win...retains...regains control...strong...leverage...ever...unscathed...escape...complicated calculus...truly ahead...single, straightforward... cease-fire... escalated... will... discipline...ensure...huge will...clear support...the next step...buffer zone...knotty and volatile...the deal... special status...consensus...division and uncertainty...a highly fraught process...a huge question mark... uncertainties...step forward...glimmer of hope... brokered...major obstacles...on balance... significantly more hope...achieved nothing...agree on the main things... difficulties of the negotiations... pounded... skeptical of the deal...we will see...with your own

eyes...exerted pressure...get them to agree...no illusions...respect...trust...extraordinary length of the talks...hailed the agreement...surrender...not blocked... rumors...leaks...quips...arresting gazes...abrupt appearance...false starts...violated protocol...grim asides... continued huddling... handshakes... grim faces... very tense...visible standing... gestures...increasingly strained discussions... the toilet... angry-looking...consult...cajole...optimistic feeling... bickering as usual...telephone text message... yawning...agreement...without information...bathroom break...unacceptable conditions...refusal...leaked details...super-charged atmosphere...infuriated faces...whispered asides...bitter content...beat his fellow leaders to the mark...announcing the results.

All of the above words and phrases appear in the descriptions of the Minsk negotiations. My challenge to you is to see how many cases you can find where they can be applied to WDC 2015. (Hint: Read the reports on the Milan event in DW and TDP and online at the WDC 2015 Facebook site.)

CONCLUSION

Both the WDC 2015 in Milan and the 2015 Minsk negotiations are now history. Now we begin the process of rewriting both. Let the lies, half-truths and truths be told.

AFTERWORD

Hopefully after reading this and thinking about these two very different but so similar events, you'll have a better understanding of and appreciation for the links between dip&DIP.

FURTHER READING

For more information about WDC 2015 in Milan, Italy consult the articles about that event in DIPLOMACY WORLD and THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH; read the WDC 2015/Diplomacy In Europe Facebook web site and Facebook sites of individual participants. For more information about the Minsk negotiations do a web search of Goggle, Yahoo and YouTube on "2015 Minsk Negotiations" Be sure to look at the images and videos as well as the text reports.

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

The Players:

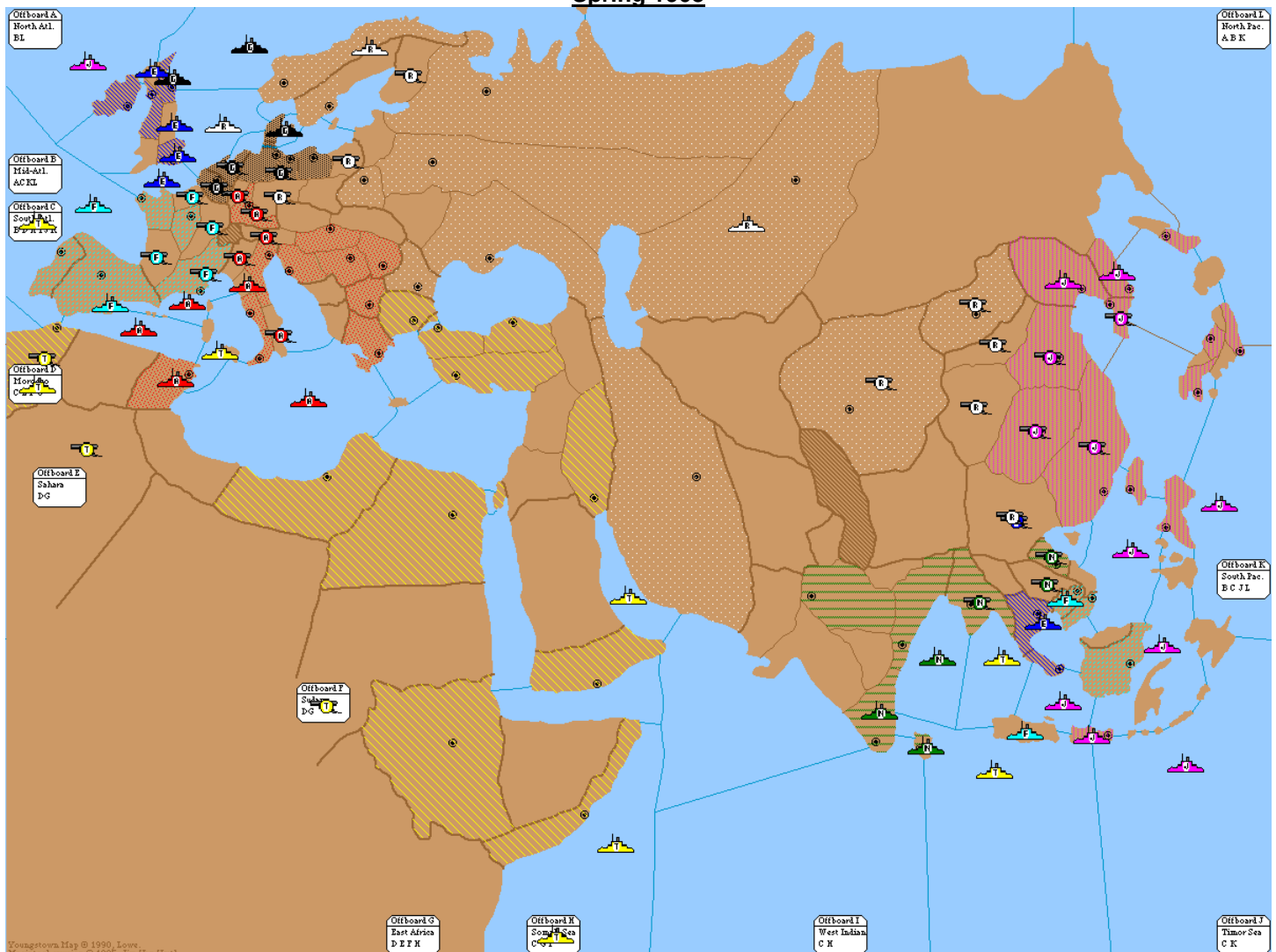
Austria: Andrew Leavey
China: Tim Haffey
England: Graham Wilson
France: Larry Peery
Germany: ~~Andy Bate~~/David Partridge
India: ~~Heath Gardner~~/Harold Reynolds
Italy: Brad Wilson
Japan: Walt Buchanan
Russia: Nathan Deily
Turkey: Ernest Hakey III

GM: Douglas Kent

The Commentators:

Jim Burgess
Rick Desper
Jack McHugh

Spring 1908



Austria: A Burgundy Supports A Piedmont – Marseilles (*Disbanded*), F Ionian Sea Convoys A Libya – Apulia, A Libya – Apulia, A Munich Supports A Berlin - Saxony (*Void*), A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Fails*), F Rome – Tuscany, A Ruhr Supports A Burgundy, F Tunis Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea, F Tuscany - Gulf of Lyon, A Tyrolia - Piedmont (*Fails*), F Western Mediterranean Sea Supports F Tuscany - Gulf of Lyon.

England: F Edinburgh – Clyde, F English Channel - Belgium (*Fails*), F London - North Sea (*Fails*), A Sikang – Viet Nam (*Dislodged*, retreat to Shan or OTB), F Thailand(ec) Supports F Cambodia, F Yorkshire - Edinburgh (*Fails*).

France: F Andamon Sea – Sumatra, F Cambodia Supports F Thailand(ec), A Gascony Supports A Paris – Burgundy, A Marseilles Supports A Paris - Burgundy (*Cut*), F Mid-Atlantic Ocean Supports F Off Board A - North Atlantic Ocean, A Paris – Burgundy, A Picardy Supports A Paris – Burgundy, F Spain(sc) Supports A Marseilles.

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Burgundy (*Cut*), A Berlin Hold, F Denmark Supports F Skagerrak - North Sea, A Holland Supports A Belgium, F Norwegian Sea Supports F North Sea – Edinburgh, F North Sea – Edinburgh.

India: F Bay of Bengal Supports F East Indian Ocean - Andamon Sea, A Burma Supports A Tibet – Sikang, F Ceylon Supports F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, A Laos Supports A Tibet – Sikang, F Madras Supports F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean, A Viet Nam Supports A Tibet – Sikang.

Japan: A Canton - Sikang (*Fails*), F Celebes Sea - Malay Sea (*Fails*), F East China Sea - South China Sea, A Hankow Supports A Canton – Sikang, F Java Supports F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean, A Korea Supports F Manchuria, F Malay Sea - Andamon Sea (*Fails*), F Manchuria Hold, F Off Board A - North Atlantic Ocean, A Peking - Kansu (*Fails*), F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*), F Tokyo - South Pacific Ocean, F Vladivostok - Siberia (*Bounce*).

Russia: A Finland Supports F Norway, A Kansu Supports A Outer Mongolia - Inner Mongolia (*Cut*), F Norway Supports F Skagerrak - North Sea, A Outer Mongolia - Inner Mongolia, F Omsk - Siberia (*Bounce*), A Prussia Hold, A Saxony Unordered (Hold), A Siberia - Outer Mongolia, A Sinkiang Supports A Kansu, F Skagerrak - North Sea, A Tibet – Sikang.

Turkey: F Arabian Sea - Somali Sea, F Baghdad - Persian Gulf, F East Indian Ocean - Andamon Sea, A Morocco Supports A Sahara, A Off Board D - Off Board F, F Off Board G - Off Board D, F Off Board H - Off Board C, A Sahara Supports A Morocco, F Somali Sea - Off Board H, F Tyrrhenian Sea Supports F Tuscany - Gulf of Lyon, F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean.

PRESS

December 28, 1907 - World Observer News (WON)

It seems that Japan has become the monster to fear in the east while Turkey is making considerable headway in the west and Middle East. Japan, by taking over China's center, now has the power to take over the entire east pushing out the English and the French and forcing India back into India. We note that China is also about to enter the North Atlantic Sea? Well, without China to hold him back it would seem that Japan can do whatever it wants. It is too late to stop him. It is the prediction of WON that Japan will win the war. Although, at some point, it will have to deal with Turkey.

Of course, it is not too late for England, France, Russia and India to team up into one big power house and cut Japan down to size. Will that happen? Not likely say our reporters in the area.

The new year will be very interesting to watch.

Baghdad Bulletin: As the new South Seas Fleet sailed out of Baghdad into the Persian Gulf, following in the wake of earlier fleets built at the thriving shipyards, workers, intellectuals, and suffragettes alike cheered on. While it was not expected that the fleet would see action

any time soon, it would serve as an envoy of Turkish naval prowess and international prestige, sailing along the coasts of India and Africa keeping the shipping lanes open and suppressing piracy. Trade with newly opened up markets and the flow of rich mineral and other resources from the Turkish protectorates in Africa would be increasing, although trade with the islands of Southeast Asia seemed to be having trouble getting past the blockage erected by the Imperial Japanese Navy. And according to rumors, trade would also soon begin with the Latin nations of South America, where Spanish and Portuguese refugees from Western Europe have had a chance to establish new enterprises over the past several years.

Istanbul Inquirer: The latest fashions at court now feature colorful costumes from West Africa! The Sultana and her Ministers are all wearing recently imported outfits from Morocco, where Turkish administrators are busy revamping the outdated French colonial apparatus and bringing the region into the 20th century in terms of infrastructure and industry, and the Moroccans, now free to join in governing their own land as well as to invest in these new opportunities, seem rather glad to throw off the yoke of French Colonialism and embrace the new Equality championed by the Sultana. Religious freedom

(and a lower tax rate) have revitalized that far outpost of Turkish expansion, and the people rejoice!

England -> Ger/Rus: Did I guess right again?

La Havre, France (20 March 1908): It had been almost two years since Marie's beloved husband Pierre had been killed in a needless street accident by a drunk Russian nobleman, the same Russian nobleman ambassador that had been assassinated a few months later in one of Paris's Orthodox churches. That, and the fact that she loved her homeland Poland even more than she loved her adopted country, France, had been her inspiration for the last year as she carefully planned and then executed a way to honor the memory of her dear Pierre. As she watched the dock workers carefully load her baggage and two small, but very heavy containers onto a small steamer ship that she had been told would have no problem making the long voyage to St.Petersburg with a stop in Berlin's port she could not help but think back over their years together as they researched the mysteries of radioactivity and rare minerals. Most of the publicity had been about the medical uses of her work, but only a few in the highest levels of the French Government and military realized the potential military importance of her work and that it had been assigned the highest priority by the Government. The end result was that she would personally take her cargo to Berlin and St.Petersburg for, as announced, a series of medical conferences. Only a handful of France's highest officials knew that awaiting her in both cities would be members of her staff and members of the French Army Bureau 69 would be there to meet her. She was determined, to honor the memory of her beloved Pierre, that the war going on between France and Germany and its ally Russia had to end soon; and if she could help make that happen she would.

La Havre, France (high tide, 21 March 1908): The steamer Ebola Gay quietly set sail this morning from the port with no one watching, apparently.

St. Petersburg, Russia (5 April 1908): The French ambassador (although the two countries were fierce rivals in the current conflict they were not actually fighting, hence ambassadors remained in place) looked up as his military attache, Col. de Moi, entered his office with a younger officer. "This is Capt. Peeriguerx, from the Bureau 69. He will be with us for a few months on special assignment. He has the highest authority signed by the Minister of War and the Cabinet Secretary," said de Moi to the ambassador. "Very well. We will cooperate fully."

Quai d'Orsay, Paris, France (6 April): The Foreign Minister looked around the conference table at his staff. "What is going on? We are occupied by the Austrians in Burgundy! The Turks have driven us out of Africa!! And

the Indians are causing chaos in SE Asia!!! The Japanese have had to come to the aid of Britain!!!! And without their help we would be canard comfit in Asia!!!! Is there no solution.?" From the other end of the table a young official from the Bureau 69 looked up and down the table with a slight smile, "Minister, we have a plan to end the war. It will ruin Russia and Germany, and then their allies will fall like a soggy soufflé. Trust us. We will make it happen." "Make it so," said the Minister as he rose and left the room.

Omsk, Russia (12 April): After a long trip across most of Siberia Ernie and the priest were in a sealed rail car en route to Moscow and then on to St.Petersburg, hoping they would arrive in time to prevent the disaster they knew was coming.....

Naval Headquarters, Yokosuka, Japan (12 April 1908): The Naval Minister and the Commander, Combined Fleets looked down the table at their admirals and their aids. The Naval Minister almost yelled as he said, "What's going on? We're struggling to retake Siberia, we're in a battle with the Russians over China's west, and the we're trying to support the French and English in SE Asia against the Indians and Turks! Oh, and did I mention a fleet wandering around somewhere between Greenland and Iceland? What are we doing???" From far down the table a young Japanese Naval commander softly said, "We have a plan. Actually we have a two part plan. One will bring certain defeat to Russia and Germany. And the other will surely bring the United States into the war on our side. I know it will happen." "Make it so," said the senior admiral as he rose to leave the room.

Naval Headquarters Yokosuka Japan (hours later, 12 April 1908): "How can you be so certain?" one of his colleagues yelled at the commander. "Because we have no alternative," he quietly responded. "If your enemies don't fight amongst themselves we must make them do so."

Midway Island, USA (20 April 1908) The USS Kentucky, finally on its way home, cruised slowly so its rag-tag band of freighters and miscellaneous ships could keep up with it. They carefully stayed out of sight, but the Kentucky knew they were not far behind. But why, Commodore Buchanan wondered as they passed Midway, the last US territory before Pearl Harbor. What were the Japanese doing sending a fleet of small ships that had been hiding in their northernmost ports for a year?" His orders, from the highest authorities, said they were to escort the ships to their final destination but did not specify what that destination was.

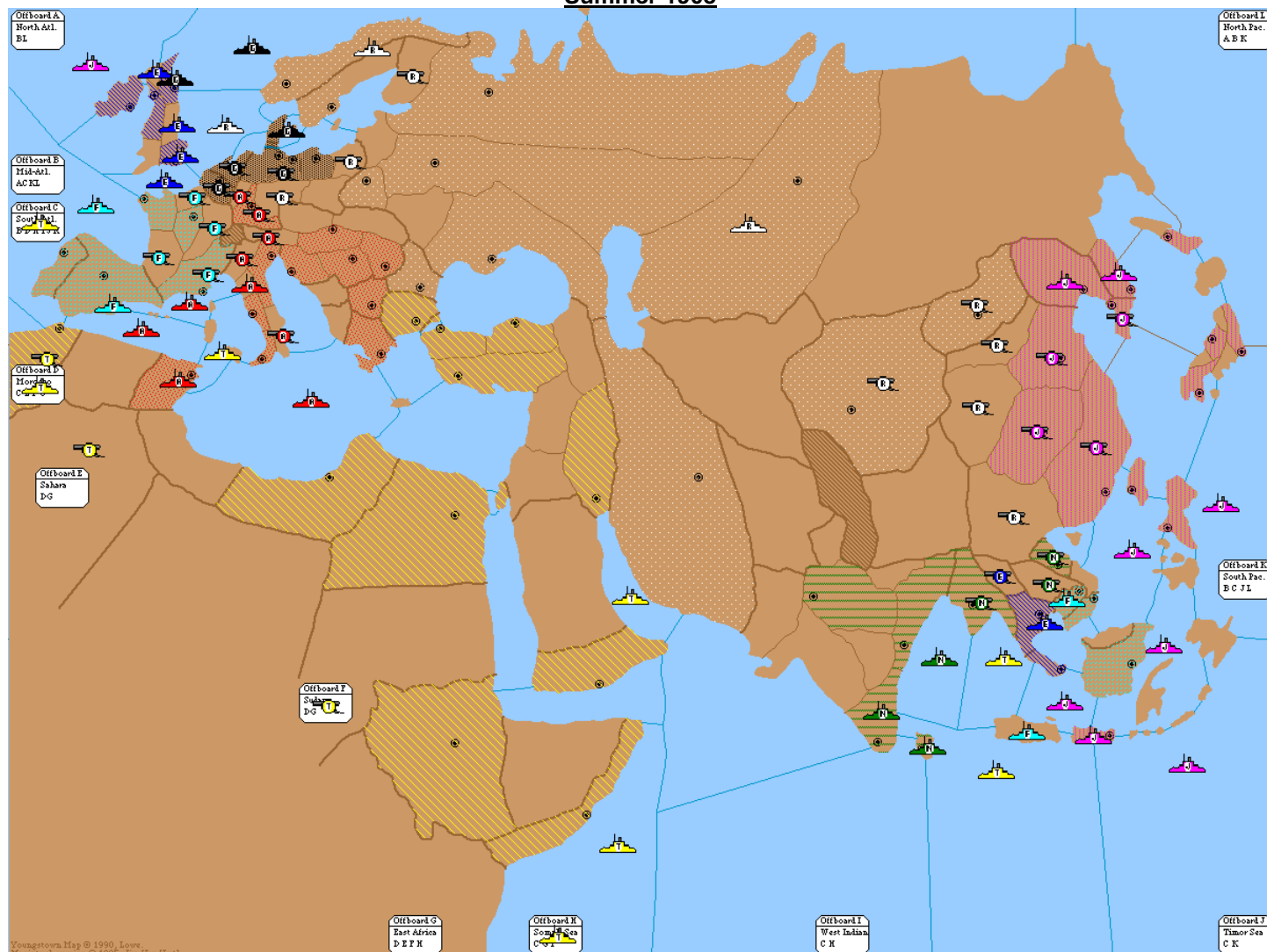
At Sea, West of Hawaiian Islands (24 April 1908): As he watched the mighty pre-dreadnought sail into the rising Sun, Buchanan wondered, again, what their Japanese escorts were up to? Had he been able to see

from where he was, sixty miles ahead of them, he might have been even more worried. The Japanese ships had outfitted themselves with temporary but sturdy, flight decks able to handle the Samuel Cody man carrying war kites that they had been perfecting over the last few years. Now the kits were preparing for their ultimate test as they approached Pearl Harbor. The flight crews, selected for their non-asian looks, had been issued their Russian naval uniforms, Orthodox crosses, and even

taught a few words of Russian prayers and such. Only a few officers aboard the flagship knew what was in a dozen small boxes brought on board at their last stop. If everything went according to plan when their mission was done the United States would be at war with Russia and its allies, and Pearl Harbor would no longer be a threat to Japan.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Summer 1908



Austria: Has A Apulia, F Gulf of Lyon, F Ionian Sea, A Munich, A Piedmont, A Ruhr, F Tunis, F Tuscany, A Tyrolia, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Retreat A Sikang - Shan..Has F Clyde, F English Channel, F London, A Shan, F Thailand(ec), F Yorkshire.

France: Has A Burgundy, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Picardy, F Spain(sc), F Sumatra.

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

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

Japan: Has A Canton, F Celebes Sea, A Hankow, F Java, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F North Atlantic Ocean,

A Peking, F South Pacific Ocean, F South China Sea, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Finland, A Inner Mongolia, A Kansu, F North Sea, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Prussia, A Saxony, A Sikang, A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Has F Andaman Sea, F East Indian Ocean, A Morocco, F Off Board C, F Off Board D, A Off Board F, F Off Board H, F Persian Gulf, A Sahara, F Somali Sea, F Tyrrhenian Sea.

Spring and Summer 1908 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

OK, well sometimes weird stuff happens. Just as Austria was about to have a position where Marseilles could be forced, we see nonsense like this:

A Munich Supports A Berlin - Saxony (*Void*), A Burgundy Supports A Piedmont - Marseilles (*Disbanded*)

Priorities! Major facepalm here. Now that he's finally got the fleets in place, he's lost Burgundy, and for no good reason. So instead of having Army Burgundy in a position where it can cut the support of the French army in Gascony, he's reduced to a 50-50 guess for Spain or Marseilles. Or he would be if Turkey had a fleet that could cut the support of F MAO. No builds this year!

This may be partly an attention, last minute before the deadline move submission problem. That is a problem with large alliances. For the most part this group has been pretty seamless, but a seam popped here.

Germany is doing a little better. He guessed correctly about Edinburgh and will pick up a build there, that is presuming Russia doesn't poach Posen.

Germany is the "little guy that could" in the big alliance. He REEEAALLLY needed to guess right this time, and he did. This could have long term positive repercussions.

The Japanese have made it to NAO but it's a bit late for that. He could poach Ireland, further destabilize England and hope that helps Germany (and Austria?) switch sides.

I don't think he will poach on England, but he is too late to make much of a difference, agreed.

If I were Austria here, I would stab the bejeezus out of Turkey. Convoy to Pentopolis, and with the rebuild from A Burgundy, that would be two new forces to swarm into Asia Minor which Turkey cannot defend. Seriously, it's a much better plan than blasting into France for two dots and then ending up as the meat in the R/T sandwich.

I'm pretty sure that would be at least a six-dot stab. DO IT!!!!

But I am REALLY not expecting it, but go ahead and scream at the wall, Rick.

Switching to SE Asia - India didn't pop the English army, leaving it a retreat to Shan. N/T guessed right and took the Andaman Sea, which means that Thailand could fall. Probably not yet, but once that English army has no retreat, Thailand falls.

Japan had the sense to bounce Siberia, which means he can sail F Vlad and move to SOO. I guess he should hold onto Manchuria, and he can hold the three Chinese dots indefinitely. I would say poach Borneo and Ireland, say Sayonarra to E/F and try to work with India, Germany, and Austria. E/F/J is a losing proposition so he might as well cut bait now.

You're right that NOW is the time to do it, to try to take the game to the next level with EF out ASAP. But I think he is drawn to the Peeriblah.... shame...

Still not impressed with all the coastal fleets being used by E/F/J in Asia. Dreadful stuff.

Boy, aren't you right. I can't even look at it, frankly....

I agree with Rick's assessment that there should be some alliance movement in this game but it appears the players have become quite lazy and comfortable in their alliances and there has been no movement for several turns. Although the T/A alliance is rapidly approaching a strategic dead end in terms of continued expansion as Rick correctly notes--there is no real threat to make either player worry about what comes next.

There is a shark survival school of thought in these large variants, you try to be part of the "big" alliance that takes everyone else out, and like the shark, you have to keep growing every turn to stay viable

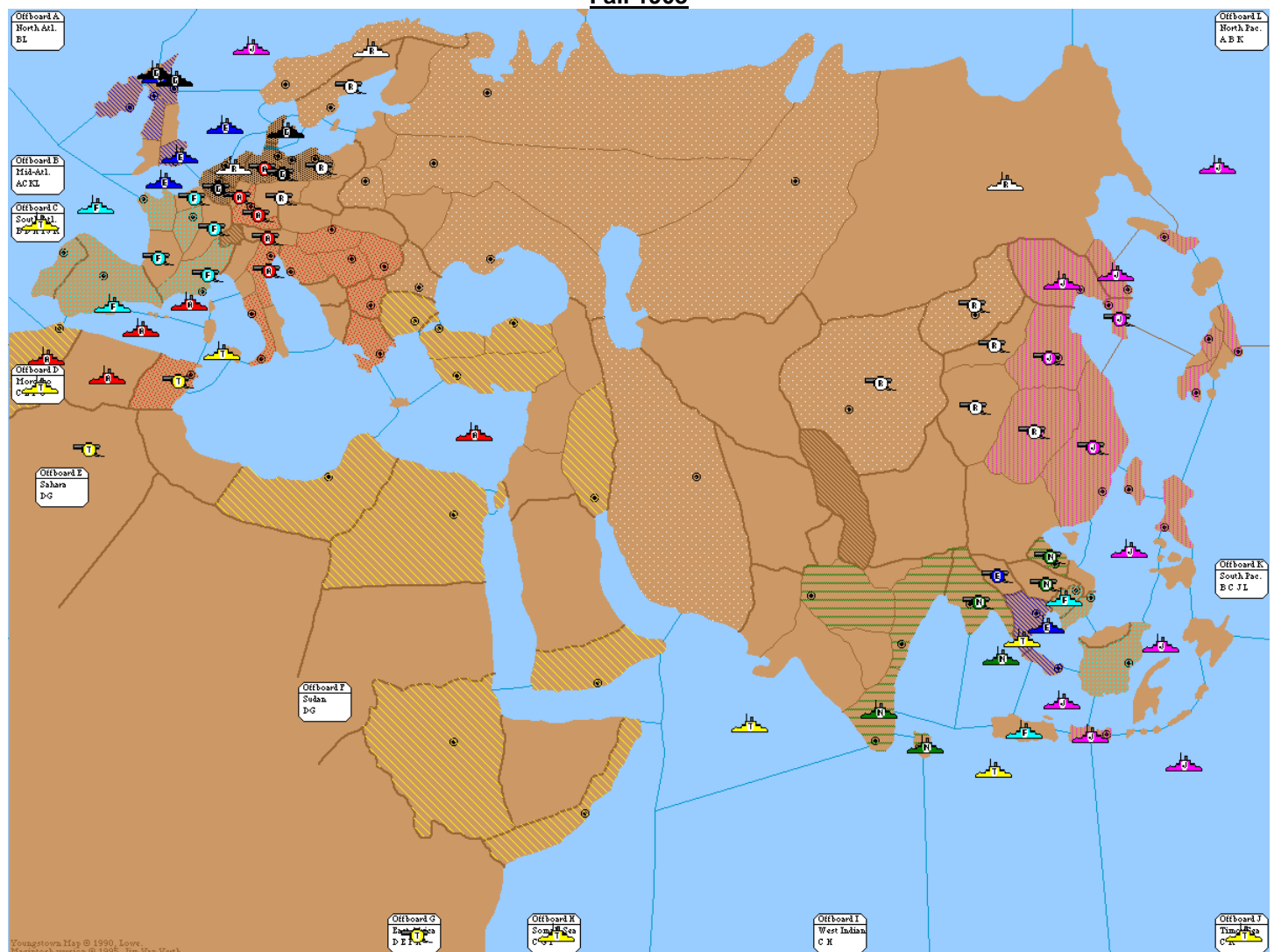
(though that has slowed down a bit here as the big alliance has had to battle tactically through some lines). Then you **ONLY** stab and move out once the other powers are gone or essentially gone (Japan still has some life for awhile yet before that happens, though France and England are going to start going down fast).

I've argued that the whole A/T/R/I alliance is a bit too cozy--I give Germany a pass because he is in no position to buck this alliance being surrounded by Russia and Austria. We've all said the same thing about Walt's Japan continuing to stick with E/F despite the downward trajectory of that alliance. The biggest knock I have on these players is they

seem to have stopped negotiating or even being aware of any strategic possibilities after the first game year or two which has lead to this being a dull game.

There is an argument too that these big games are more dull with less turnaround and alliance replay than the smaller games. My ongoing hypothesis is that you have to have a reasonably small odd number with enough powers to give options for three way alliances that don't immediately overwhelm the board. Seven is a pretty darn good number for the right balance, I believe. Once you go bigger, things tend to get stagnant for the reason we've identified. Five power or three power games are just too small to have enough options for stabs. Seven is **JUST** right.

Fall 1908



Austria: A Apulia – Venice, F Gulf of Lyon - Western Mediterranean Sea, F Ionian Sea - Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Munich – Kiel, A Piedmont – Tyrolia, A Ruhr Supports F North Sea – Holland, F Tunis – Algeria, F Tuscany - Gulf of Lyon, A Tyrolia – Munich, F Western Mediterranean Sea – Morocco.

England: F Clyde Supports F North Atlantic Ocean – Norwegian Sea (*Dislodged*, retreat to North Atlantic Ocean

or Liverpool or OTB), F English Channel Supports F Yorkshire - North Sea, F London Supports F Yorkshire - North Sea, A Shan - Thailand (*Fails*), ~~F Thailand(ee) - Joharra~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Gulf of Siam or OTB), F Yorkshire - North Sea.

France: A Burgundy Supports A Marseilles, F Cambodia Supports A Shan – Thailand, A Gascony Supports F Spain(sc), A Marseilles Supports A Burgundy, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean - Off Board C (*Fails*), A Picardy Supports A Burgundy, F Spain(sc) Supports A Marseilles, F Sumatra Supports F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean.

Germany: A Belgium Hold, A Berlin - Saxony (*Fails*), F Denmark - North Sea (*Fails*), F Edinburgh Supports F Norwegian Sea – Clyde, ~~A Holland Supports A Belgium~~ (*Disbanded*), F Norwegian Sea – Clyde.

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

Japan: A Canton Supports A Peking, F Celebes Sea - Malay Sea (*Fails*), ~~A Hankow Supports A Peking~~ (*Disbanded*), F Java Supports F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean, A Korea Supports F Manchuria, F Malay Sea - Joharra (*Bounce*), F Manchuria Supports A Peking, F North Atlantic Ocean - Norwegian Sea, A Peking Supports A Hankow (*Cut*), F South Pacific Ocean - North Pacific Ocean, F South China Sea - Annam (*Bounce*), F Timor Sea - East Indian Ocean (*Fails*), F Vladivostok - Siberia (*Fails*).

Russia: A Finland – Sweden, A Inner Mongolia - Peking (*Fails*), A Kansu Supports A Sikang – Hankow, F North Sea – Holland, F Norway Supports F Denmark - North Sea, A Outer Mongolia Supports F Omsk – Siberia, F Omsk – Siberia, A Prussia – Posen, A Saxony no move received (Holds), A Sikang – Hankow, A Sinkiang Supports A Kansu.

Turkey: F Andamon Sea - Thailand(wc), F East Indian Ocean Supports F Sumatra - Malay Sea (*Void*), A Morocco – Sahara, F Off Board C - Off Board J, F Off Board D Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea – Morocco, A Off Board F - Off Board G, F Off Board H - Off Board C, F Persian Gulf - Arabian Sea, A Sahara – Tunis, F Somali Sea - Off Board H, F Tyrrhenian Sea Supports F Gulf of Lyon - Western Mediterranean Sea.

Now Proposed – A/R/T Draw. Please Vote With Winter Orders, NVR=No

PRESS

Calcutta, August 5, 1908. No stranger to culinary controversy, Chef Bahbie Phlay's latest creation, "Bahbie Phlay Mignon", has aroused the ire of the local Hindus, who object to the consumption of cattle. "These are not the sacred cows we see wandering the streets of the city," Chef Phlay explained. "These are cattle originally imported from Texas and are about as unsacred as you can get. And that's no bull! Fear not, I will continue to offer all of the yummy Hindu-friendly dishes you have come to know and enjoy!" Faced with a probably barrage of annoying cow puns, and encouraged by a liberal supply of Hurry Scurry, the activists decided to let it drop.

Baghdad: A lull in shipbuilding has allowed workers to take vacations, all-expenses-paid as a generous bonus ordered by the Sultana, while resources are gathered from across Africa for the next phase of refitting and laying down new keels. The latest fleet fired a broadside salute as it sailed south out of the Persian Gulf for waters off the shores of Africa.

Ankara: A recent proclamation by the Sultana has opened up the Black Sea Port to Russian, Indian and Austrian folks to visit for sun, surf, gambling and drinking, as long as those activities are kept within specific resort areas recently established for that purpose. Vacationers from Germany are welcome as well, of course, as long as they do not try to impose Lutheran values upon other visitors. Many of the dealers and waiters seem to be of Italian descent, refugees from the early days of the current struggles, when their countrymen began to turn to the dark Cults which brought about their downfall.

Anon:

"Yet each man kills the thing he loves
By each let this be heard
Some do it with a bitter look
Some with a flattering word
The coward does it with a kiss
The brave man with a sword"
— Oscar Wilde, *The Ballad Of Reading Gaol*

Tunis: After a period of rule by the rather stuffy Austrian military, the people of Tunis celebrated the return of the liberal rule of the Sultana's Empire.

Morocco: Turkish engineers opened up the harbor facilities in Morocco to allow the larger, if somewhat slower, Austrian ships of the line to sail in and berth safely, while Turkish soldiers retreated back to their desert outposts in the Sahara. Local sources report that the Turkish navy's policy seems to be to get as many of the Austrian fleets out of the Mediterranean as possible

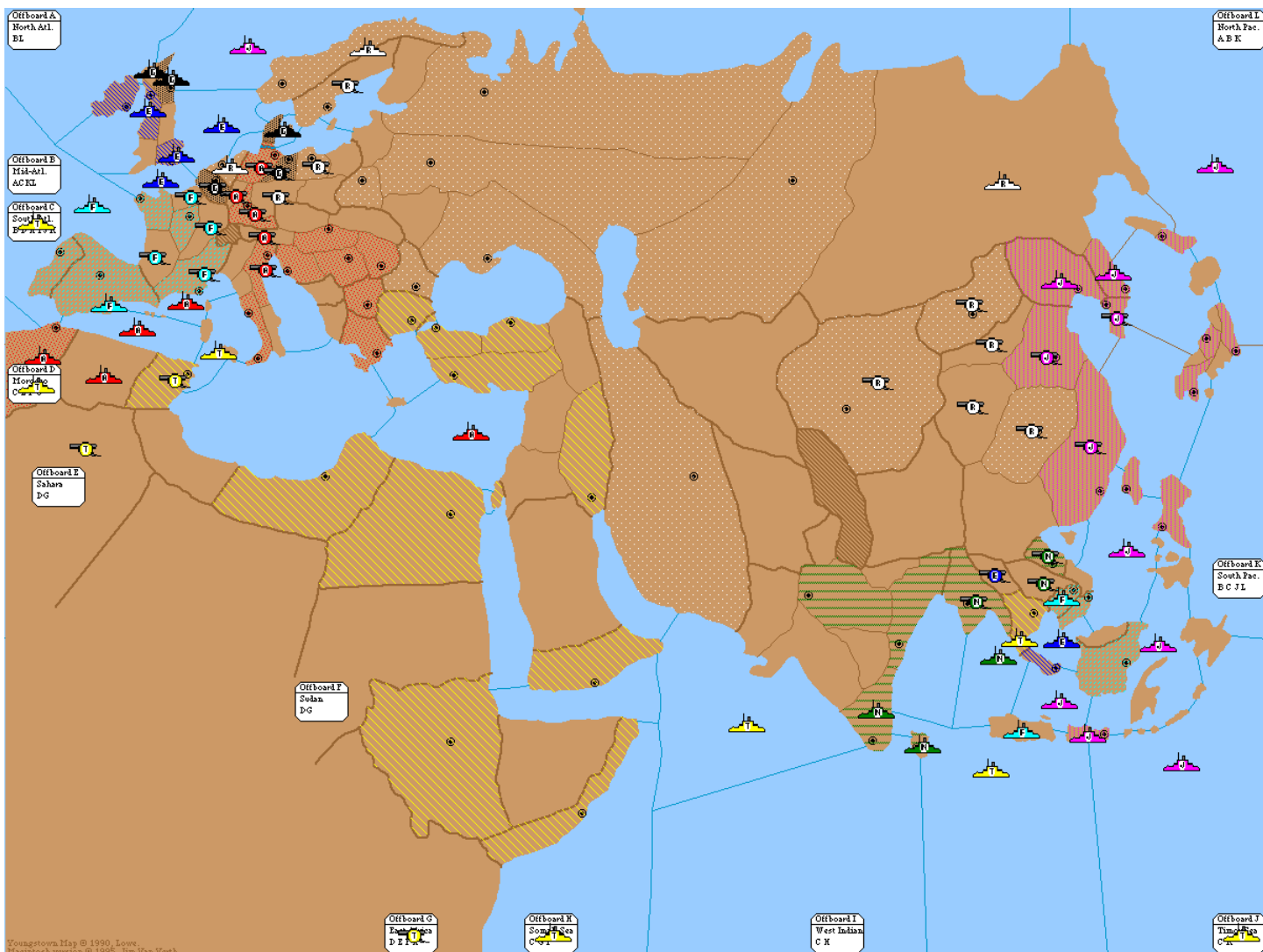
East Africa: Rumors of a return of the Turkish army to this out of the way province of the Turkish Empire may not be unfounded, as patrols were spotted at the

western edges of the province... Some local officials were heard quietly wondering if the Turks had a plan for that army, or whether it simply had gotten tired of marching around in the heart of darkness...

Turkey - Japan: Look! Undefended French colonial supply centers! Juicy sweet!

Larry: Since Jack wrote in DW #127, Fall 2014, Page 52 that "Larry's press continues to add nothing for me as he tends to point out what has already happened." I would not want to inflict that on him. Therefore, please disregard any press I may have written since that time and, further, I will write no further press.

Autumn 1908



Austria: Has A Venice, F Western Mediterranean Sea, F Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Kiel, A Tyrolia, A Ruhr, F Algeria, F Gulf of Lyon, A Munich, F Morocco.

England: Retreat F Clyde – Liverpool, F Thailand(ec) - Gulf of Siam..Has F Liverpool, F English Channel, F London, A Shan, F Gulf of Siam, F North Sea.

France: Has A Burgundy, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Picardy, F Spain(sc), F Sumatra.

Germany: Has A Belgium, A Berlin, F Denmark, F Edinburgh, F Clyde.

India: Has F Andamon Sea, A Burma, F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Japan: Has A Canton, F Celebes Sea, F Java, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F Norwegian Sea, A Peking, F North Pacific Ocean, F South China Sea, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Sweden, A Inner Mongolia, A Kansu, F Holland, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Siberia, A Posen, A Saxony, A Hankow, A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Has F Thailand(wc), F East Indian Ocean, A Sahara, F Off Board J, F Off Board D, A Off Board G, F Off Board C, F Arabian Sea, A Tunis, F Off Board H, F Tyrrhenian Sea.

Now Proposed – A/R/T Draw. Please Vote With Winter Orders, NVR=No

Supply Center Chart

Austria:	Budapest, Greece, Kiel, Klug, Morocco, Munich, Naples, Rome, Serbia, Trieste, Venice, Vienna=12, Build 2
England:	Ireland, Joharra, Liverpool, London=4, Remove 2
France:	Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Marseilles, Paris, Portugal, Saigon, Spain=8, Even
Germany:	Belgium, Berlin, Denmark, Edinburgh=4, Remove 1
India:	Burma, Calcutta, Ceylon, Delhi, Madras, Viet Nam=6, Even
Japan:	Canton, Formosa, Java, Korea, Kyoto, Manchuria, Osaka, Peking, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=12, Even
Russia:	Hankow, Holland, Iran, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Posen, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Warsaw=14, Build 3
Turkey:	Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Magudisco, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Thailand, Tunis, Yemen=12, Build 1

Fall and Autumn 1908 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

I guess somebody has to want draw. Usually the person who wants the draw most is its weakest participant, and the one who's most likely to veto it is either the strongest one left out, or the strongest one in it who really wants the game to proceed further.

Now is the Fall of England's discontent as she gets pushed back in Europe and in Asia. Meanwhile Russia cashes in his stock in Imperial Germany by taking Hol and Pos.

Yes, so this is where the ARTistry of the ART is revealed. Germany gets stabbed and ART attempt to declare a draw. I don't expect everyone to agree, and revealing that ART is the plan could mess up the board some if India and Germany join up with the

moribund EFJ to try to see if they can push ART back. It would make for some interesting tactics since India is in the middle of Asia and Germany and England are nicely intertwined.

The Ottoman continues to outflank E/F by moving into the off board boxes next to MAO and Off board box B. Austria and Turkey make slow but steady progress against the French and if the A/T can get fleets into MAO and NAO E/F will collapse fairly quickly.

It was interesting that ART stabbed right now (or at least A/R did) since France isn't QUITE knocked down yet and if Germany switches sides, there will

be some difficulties in finishing the English takedown.

Seems less than ideal to me. Why not wait until the English and French are much weaker? Tactically, this is a disaster in the North. Russia has two fleets, one of which is in Holland. If all of those black fleets switch sides, Russia is going to lose ground.

The Turks also continue their expansion into the off board boxes with an army in box G and fleets in boxes H and J to flank Japan and E/F.

Yes, and Japan doesn't seem to have the fleets to stop this, and Turkey and Russia get more builds to go on the Japanese attack.

Japan did manage to slip a fleet into NAO but one fleet alone isn't enough to save England or to disrupt Russia's plans. Russia still has two fleets (in Hol and Nwy) to Japan's one as well as armies in Swe and Pos.

I don't think the one NAO fleet is enough, especially has Russia gets three builds to Japan's zero.

One fleet alone isn't. But Germany has three fleets, too.

India has made himself to be a useful, if small--at only six centers, to the larger R/T alliance. Right he holds a critical position both on land and at sea and Turkey needs his fleets to help hold off the larger Japanese fleet heading down from home waters.

I agree, which is why how India reacts to the ART grab is crucial. Does India switch sides now, or keep playing on as a junior partner??

Still waiting on signs that India might consider working with Japan.

Still this A/T/R/I is coming to its natural denouement, once E/F is gone A/T/R will have no more enemies in Europe and the European positions won't last very long in Asia, even with Japan's help. The question then becomes where to A/R/T go in Europe?

I think ART tries to end the game in the three way, I take the draw proposal is highly indicative.

Asia will take longer to sort out because Japan has a much better position and will likely be part of any sorting out since I don't see how I/R/T can completely eliminate Japan, at least not with either R or T winning the game outright.

It will take a VERY long time, but it CAN be done. I forget, what is the victory condition? Isn't it something like 25 centers, they're all a long way off from that. Let's see what the next season brings on more changes.

The usual condition is 33 SCs. It can be dropped, but I don't think it has been for this game.

Winter 1908

Austria: Build F Trieste, A Vienna..Has F Trieste, A Vienna, A Venice, F Western Mediterranean Sea, F Eastern Mediterranean Sea, A Kiel, A Tyrolia, A Ruhr, F Algeria, F Gulf of Lyon, A Munich, F Morocco.

England: Remove F Gulf of Siam, A Shan..Has F Liverpool, F English Channel, F London, F North Sea.

France: Has A Burgundy, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Picardy, F Spain(sc), F Sumatra.

Germany: Remove F Clyde..Has A Belgium, A Berlin, F Denmark, F Edinburgh.

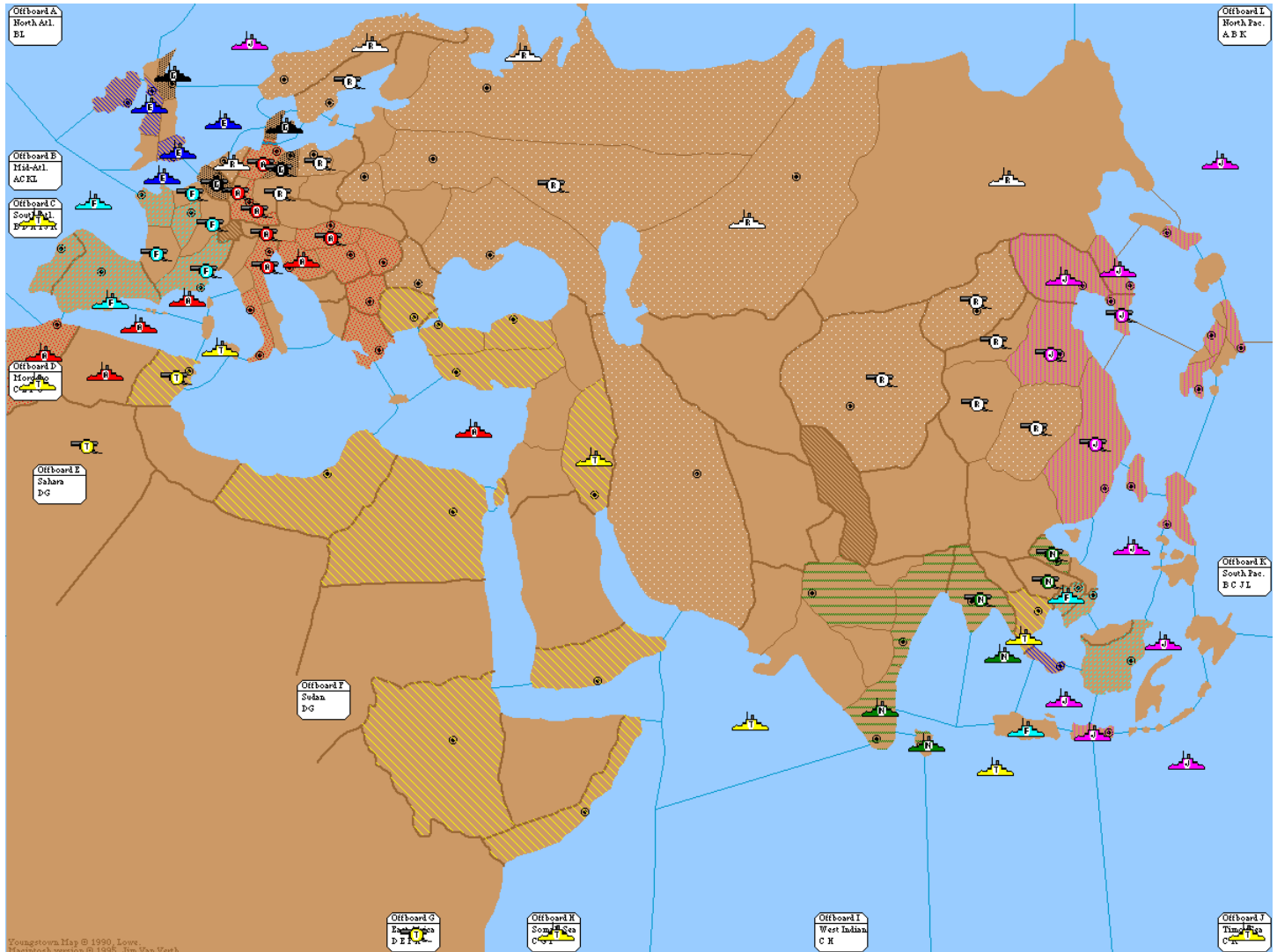
India: Has F Andamon Sea, A Burma, F Ceylon, A Laos, F Madras, A Viet Nam.

Japan: Has A Canton, F Celebes Sea, F Java, A Korea, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F Norwegian Sea, A Peking, F North Pacific Ocean, F South China Sea, F Timor Sea, F Vladivostok.

Russia: Build F St. Petersburg(nc), F Omsk, A Moscow..Has F St. Petersburg(nc), F Omsk, A Moscow A Sweden, A Inner Mongolia, A Kansu, F Holland, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Siberia, A Posen, A Saxony, A Hankow, A Sinkiang.

Turkey: Build F Baghdad..Has F Baghdad, F Thailand(wc), F East Indian Ocean, A Sahara, F Off Board J, F Off Board D, A Off Board G, F Off Board C, F Arabian Sea, A Tunis, F Off Board H, F Tyrrhenian Sea.

A/R/T Draw Fails



PRESS

Anon:

Undead Diplomacy's cool
Because of the following rule.
It says when your stabbed,
And your SCs are grabbed,
You get to come back as a ghoul.

"Trusting no man as his friend, he could not recognize
his enemy when the latter actually appeared."

— **Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter**

"Stars hide your fires; let not light see my black and deep
desires: The eyes wink at the hand; yet let that be which
the eye fears, when it is done, to see"

— **William Shakespeare, Macbeth**

Anon:

Each Diplomacy game is a tale

Of deceit and defeat and betrayal,
Where being too nice
Is considered a vice
And results in your exile to Wales.

France: We will fight on the fields of Agincourt.
We will fight on the cliffs of Dover.
We will fight in the jungles of PerDiemPoo.

We will fight on the plains of Poltava.
We will fight in Red Square.
We will scarem in the harem of Istanbul.

We will make a pest of ourselves in Buda.
Shalimar will weep when we repeat,
The Linden trees of Berlin will fall.

Bad puns may fly, Bad buns may fry.

Remember our last words to All!
We will never surrender!

India: The commentator's gripe about Larry's press may have a point about its repeating what has already happened, but the press is made for the purpose of entertaining the game's players at which it (and especially the Commodore Buchanan tale) excels. I wish I could be half as creative as Larry. (Puns and limericks are creative, I suppose, but not nearly as engaging, and require little skill!)

Brisbane: Port officials were taken by surprise when supply ships flying the Turkish Flag sailed into port in the early hours on New Year's Day. Apparently, off to the East, elements of the Turkish Imperial Navy had been sailing from the late Autumn months, having sailed through the Straits of Magellan and remained in the cold Antarctic waters until nearing Australia. The supply ships, carrying gold, diamonds and other valuable goods brought from the coasts of distant Africa, traded them for coal, food and fresh water. The captains conferred with local officials and confirmed the presence of units of the Imperial Japanese Fleet in the nearby waters of the Timor Sea, and left the impression that engagements between the two nations could soon ensue, but were not guaranteed.

In any case, the Turkish captains reassured the Australian authorities that despite Australian support for the British Commonwealth, that no hostile acts were intended against Australian soil or citizens provided they did not interfere with Turkish naval operations in the region. It was suggested that the Australians report to their British counterparts that it seemed wiser not to deny provisions to the Turkish fleet, for while no overt display of aggression occurred, it was known that the British fleet had failed to defend Thailand and that kingdom had been secure by the Imperial Turkish Navy, with support from several elements of the now-independent Indian Empire. Plus, rumors of peace talks had been circulating for weeks, apparently from multiple sources. Other rumors had suggested that the English would be withdrawing their forces from SE Asia completely, ceding their remaining holding there to the Indians or the Japanese, leaving France as the only European colonial power active in the region, while Russia and Japan work to settle the administration once more of the vast resources and people of China, with Japan negotiating to hold on to the coastal provinces while Russia solidified its hold on the inland provinces.

France: New Photos from RAT Summit Meeting in Ebola, TX held recently.

- 1) RAT members in conference.
- 2) Sword used by Germany to stab England and France.
- 3) Austrian Army Prepares to Invade French Africa
- 4) Austrian Fleet at anchor in Agadir

- 5) Map of China's Game Plan
- 6) English Army in SEA
- 7) First Sino-Japanese War 1894





Winter 1908 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Notice that England has abandoned SE Asia completely.

I agree that England's abandonment represents a significant choice. If we have Germany switching sides, there is a chance of pushing Russia back, and if Turkey takes all of SE Asia, including India too, he has the best shot at later making a solo stab.

ART are being pretty blatant about how they want this game to end. There remains a question about whether Germany and/or India is going to oppose this ending. If neither does, and none of the big three stab, that's how it will end.

I bet, in the talking finger sense, that Germany switches sides and India doesn't, but that is what we are waiting for.

Russia seems to continue to think that all he needs to do is build fleets and that will get him into the Pacific. Well, Japan has botched the stalemate line at Kansu so this might actually work.

I also agree here, that Japan should lock this up, but will he? Russia could be bottled up the easiest.

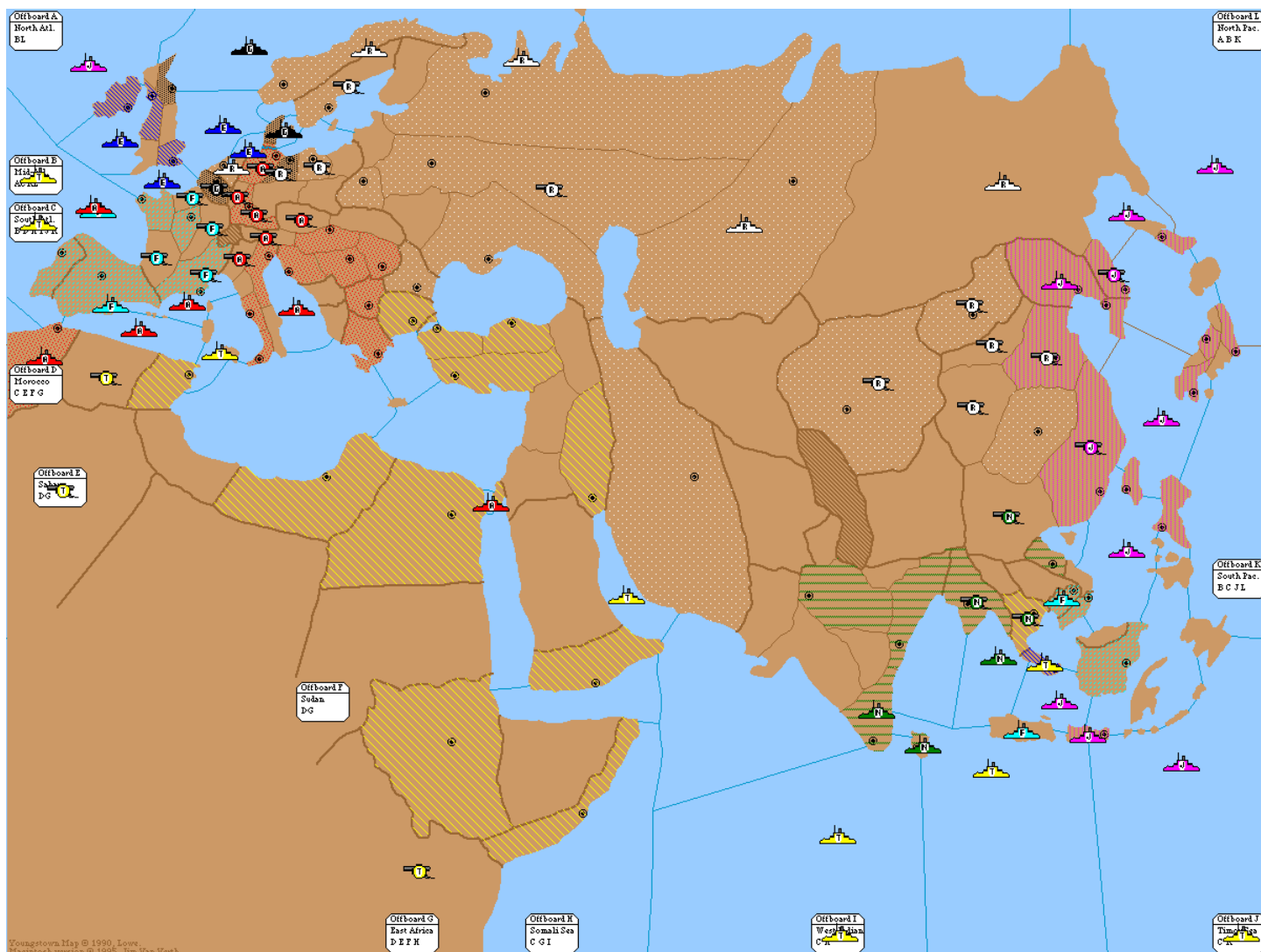
I don't have much to add....Russia and Turkey's fleet builds do not bode well for Japan but then we already knew this....Germany is toast...this game is pretty much over unless R/A/T want to stab each other or R/T want to take out India once Japan is gone....

Spring 1909

Austria: F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea, F Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Suez, F Gulf of Lyon - Spain(sc) (*Fails*), A Kiel Supports F Holland (*Cut*), F Morocco Supports F Western Mediterranean Sea - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, A Munich Supports A Kiel, A Ruhr Supports F Holland, F Trieste - Adriatic Sea, A Tyrolia Supports A Venice – Piedmont, A Venice – Piedmont, A Vienna – Bohemia, F Western Mediterranean Sea - Mid-Atlantic Ocean.

England: F English Channel Supports F London - North Sea, F Liverpool - Irish Sea, F London - North Sea,

F North Sea - Helgoland Bight.



France: A Burgundy Supports A Marseilles, F Cambodia Hold, A Gascony Supports A Burgundy, A Marseilles Supports F Spain(sc), ~~F Mid Atlantic Ocean - Off Board C~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to South Atlantic Ocean or Portugal or Brest or OTB), A Picardy Supports A Burgundy, F Spain(sc) Supports A Marseilles (*Cut*), F Sumatra - East Indian Ocean (*Bounce*).

Germany: A Belgium Supports A Burgundy, ~~A Berlin - Kiel~~ (*Disbanded*), F Denmark Supports F North Sea - Helgoland Bight, F Edinburgh - Norwegian Sea.

India: F Andaman Sea Supports F Thailand(wc) – Joharra, A Burma - Tibet (*Bounce*), F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean (*Bounce*), A Laos – Thailand, F Madras Supports F Ceylon - East Indian Ocean, A Viet Nam – Sikang.

Japan: A Canton Supports A Peking – Hankow, F Celebes Sea - South China Sea, F Java Supports F Timor Sea, A Korea – Vladivostok, F Malay Sea - Joharra (*Fails*), F Manchuria - Peking (*Fails*), F North Pacific Ocean Supports F Vladivostok - Sea of Okhotsk, F Norwegian Sea - North Atlantic Ocean, ~~A Peking - Hankow~~ (*Disbanded*), F South China Sea - East China Sea, F Timor Sea Supports F Sumatra - East Indian Ocean, F Vladivostok - Sea of Okhotsk.

Russia: A Hankow – Peking, F Holland Supports A Kiel, A Inner Mongolia Supports A Hankow – Peking, A Kansu Supports A Hankow – Peking, A Moscow - St. Petersburg (*Fails*), F Norway Supports F St. Petersburg(nc) - Norwegian Sea, A Outer Mongolia - Manchuria (*Fails*),

F Omsk Supports F Siberia, A Posen Supports A Saxony – Berlin, A Saxony – Berlin, F Siberia Hold, A Sinkiang - Tibet (*Bounce*), F St. Petersburg(nc) - Norwegian Sea (*Fails*), A Sweden Supports F Norway.

Turkey: F Arabian Sea - West Indian Ocean, F Baghdad - Persian Gulf, F East Indian Ocean - Timor Sea (*Fails*), F Off Board C - Off Board B, F Off Board D - Off Board C, A Off Board G - East Africa, F Off Board H - Off Board I, F Off Board J Supports F East Indian Ocean - Timor Sea, A Sahara - Off Board E, F Thailand(wc) – Joharra, A Tunis – Algeria, F Tyrrhenian Sea Supports F Algeria - Western Mediterranean Sea.

PRESS

Chef Bahbie Phlay, in cooperation with some refugee Italian chefs, has produced a new dish, "Give Pizza Chance". Sales were brisk while the rumours of peace talks swirled, but have declined as it became clear that the war would continue.

Turkish Imperial Diplomatic Announcement: Lah dee dah, hoe dee hoe, where do all the units go, hum dee dum, foe fee fie, probably going out to die... Rumor has it that Peery Publications will be working overtime this season, back due to popular demand despite the disregard of some of the pundits. The Sultana looks forward to an interesting read this turn! Are there cracks in the coalition? Will Turkish forces advance? Well, of COURSE they will advance, the question is will they advance to the front or the rear... :-). In SE Asia, preparations are underway to turn control of Thailand over to the Indian government, while rumors that the Turkish Fleet there will be heading for the scrapyards run rampant. It was with some concern that the admiral of that fleet saw his newest cruisers and battlecruisers pulled back to Baghdad over the winter to form the core of the new fleet, being replaced by older ships that may be approaching the end of their service. When asked about the immediate future, the admiral indicated that the Sultana had become enamored of the idea of building a canal across the narrowest portion of Thailand and might be mustering resource to that purpose, for which apparently some fleet personnel might be ideally suited, having traversed the Suez. And recent news from the Americas had indicated that construction of the Panama Canal was well underway and despite many set-backs did look to be feasible. Apparently the Sultana had been overheard to say that the Americans had proven that a canal across a tropical isthmus full of jungle and natives could indeed be constructed. When asked why one needed to be built across Thailand, given the relatively short time it took to sail around the peninsula from one side to the other, she had not answered...

DIPLOMACY AT THE WATERGATE or

[http://ts3.mm.bing.net/th?id=HN.608043189068828366](http://ts3.mm.bing.net/th?id=HN.608043189068828366&pid=15.1&P=0)
&pid=15.1&P=0 (Massie and Reagan at WH)

"Trust But Verify"
"doveryai no proveryai"

By Larry Peery

It was 1988 or 1989. I don't remember which. Passing time has a way of blurring details like that, but those were heady days for a middle-aged Dipper in his prime. The new WDC was doing well, and national Diplomacy events were happening almost monthly in Europe. I'd already attended both kinds in Birmingham, Chapel Hill, Paris, Vienna, The Netherlands and Belgium; and more were coming. But first I had to go home to attend to some family business and since I had to make a stop on the east coast anyway, I decided to make my connection in Washington, DC. Besides, that would give me a few days to visit with Jamie and other friends.

I called Jamie from the first class lounge at Heathrow (Yes, those were the days when First Class on British Airways 747s was the only way to go, if you could afford the almost USD 8,900 airfare. The limo ride; and it was a real limo not a jazzed up 12 seat coach, from the Park Lane Hotel had been smooth and fairly quick thanks to a driver who had been making the round trip for years. Registration, customs and immigration had all gone smoothly, as expected when one travels first class. Jamie had learned, and her first question was, "Where are you?" She breathed a sigh of relief when I told her I was on my way to Dulles and would be arriving on flight 217 at around 1430. She said that was fine with her since she was in DC for a month. She said she'd call the Watergate and get my usual room on the 8th floor, right under the presidential suite that really was for presidents or guests of the president. She mentioned she was having dinner with friends and she'd change the plans so we could have dinner at the Rotunda at The Watergate; which was one of our favorite spots. It was convenient for her as well since she lived in a co-op across from the Watergate and next to the Saudi embassy in DC. Security was never a problem for her. The Saudis provided a uniform police guard service around the embassy and one of the guards was always available to walk her to the State Department building in Foggy Bottom where she worked; and if she'd worked late one of them was always willing to walk her home.

I'd know Jamie since college and I knew when we went job hunting in DC in the 70s she'd hit the jackpot after turning down a job offer from Henry Kissinger (She blamed me for that because I told her "He's a dirty old man at 47!" and she felt the same way.) Fortunately, one

of her mentors, Senator Scoop Jackson from Washington had got a job with the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, ACDA, which eventually became part of the State Department. She landed the job because of her brains and her linguistic skills (She could sight read and translate technical Russian and Chinese back in the days when most Americans could barely read a menu in Chinese.). She admitted her looks (a stunning blonde, even if it wasn't real) had helped but it was her skills in a field dominated by men that had got her the job and kept her there for over 30 years. I knew she'd been to Iceland and Helsinki and Moscow for various talks with high-ranking Russian arms negotiators but we never got into the details. I just read the newspapers and journals and watched as she moved from office to office in the State Building, always up a floor and closer to the Secretary of State's office suite. She was doing well, that's all I need to know.

I also knew she knew a lot of interesting people in Washington and was a much in demand dinner guest, although as a matter of policy she avoided socializing with Soviet or other Eastern bloc nationals except for big and approved meetings. She hadn't told me who we were having dinner with, but when she knocked on the door of room 807 I knew it was her. A hello kiss and hug, a corsage thanks to the Watergate's concierge (Thank God, I still remembered how to pin one on without sticking the lady.), a compliment on her dress (Although I'm sure she was thinking that as we hit our forties The Good Life was catching up with us.) and we went downstairs to The Rotunda. The maître d', the bartender, the captain, and the waiter all knew her, of course, and Ivan, her favorite waiter pretended to remember me. I definitely remembered him. He was tall and handsome and spoke with a bit of an accent and seemed to be especially popular with the Eastern bloc patrons that frequented the Rotunda on their way to or from The Kennedy Center just across the street. If there was a Russian orchestra, soloist, dance troop or what have you performing at the Kennedy that night you knew to stay away from the Rotunda because it would be filled with happy, drunk Slavs. Jamie told me later that Ivan's grandfather had been a White general in the Russian Civil War and that his father had died fighting the Communists in the post-WWII years. Who knows? Washington is filled with stories like that.

There was a couple already sitting at the table and after first name introductions, I nodded to the waiter and a minute later the bartender showed up with a full bottle of Laurent Perrier and four glasses and we had our little opening ritual that Jamie and I had started on our first dinner at The Rotunda. We always began with a split of Laurent Perrier while we decided what to have. We worked together well in that department. She'd study the menu in detail while I'd peruse the wine list with just as much interest. Usually by the time the Champagne was gone we were ready to order. The small chat

flowed as freely as the Champagne while we imbibed and nibbled.

We talked a lot about traveling and places we'd visited, and of course the rapidly changing situation in Europe. Jamie mentioned that I had done my thesis on the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and the Prague Spring and that led into a long discussion of Soviet bloc politics which both Robert and Suzanne sprinkled with references to pre-Soviet Russian history. I remarked that they both seemed to know an awful lot about Russian history and Jamie started laughing so hard I was wondering if the Champagne from the second bottle was catching up with her. Finally, she looked at me and asked, "Should we tell him?" They turned slightly red (More Champagne?) and grinned. Jamie looked at me, with a twinkle in her eye, and said, "Larry. This is Robert and Suzanne Massie." It took about ten seconds for that to sink in. I looked at him and grinned, "Good book." Was all I said. Then I looked at Suzanne said, "Got any new proverbs?" They both started laughing.

I mentioned I had actually read his other book Alexandra of Hesse (Just as I would later read Peter the Great and Catherine the Great.) and we had an interesting conversation comparing the Romanovs with some of the other great historical families of Europe like the Habsburgs.

I told him I had actually used the method he had used in writing Nicholas and Alexandra in 1967 for my thesis written in 1969. He just nodded as I explained how I had collected copies of thousands of newspaper articles, reports, magazine stories, and columns written by correspondents in Prague at the time; and then arranged them in chronological order in such a way I could literally recreate the chain of events as they happened. He had done the same thing with the diaries of the Romanovs and senior Russian court officials (They were all avid diary writers apparently and recorded everything --- never dreaming that somebody someone would read them all and put it all together.) That was how he recreated the story of Nicholas and Alexandra. He used much the same technique for his later works, although he admitted that Peter the Great was better for telling stories than writing them down.

Suzanne it turned out had turned her knowledge of Russian folklore into a mini-career as an unofficial advisor to US President Ronald Reagan who'd read one of her books, liked it and invited her to the White House. Suzanne is famous for encouraging President Reagan to learn the proverb used in the title of this story. He not only learned it but he used it over and over. Gorbachev got so tired of hearing him repeat it that he took to responding with quotations from Ralph Waldo Emerson that were probably lost on Reagan.

Unmentioned was the book *Journey*, the story of their hemophiliac son, that had won them a Pulitzer Prize and no doubt brought back the memory of the young Tsarovich who was also a hemophiliac.

It turned out to be the kind of evening Jamie can always come up with: good food, good drink, and stimulating company. We talked through dinner and after-dinner drinks and even a walk around the Kennedy Center's riverfront side; which has one of the best views of DC. After we said our good byes to the Massies, who were also staying at The Watergate, I walked Jamie back to her place, under the watchful eyes of two Saudi security guards, and said good night. Several times.

Before I left DC Jamie called and said the Massies had been delighted with me and wanted to do it again whenever I came back to DC. Years later, when I finally got around to it, and we were having lunch at The Rotunda, I mentioned them and she told me, with a rather sad look on her face, that they had split and that Suzanne had remarried a scientist, of all things, who specialized in artificial intelligence.

Dramatis Personae

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_K._Massie
<http://suzannemassie.com/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzanne_Massie
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seymour_Papert

XENOLOGIC AT 50

By Larry Peery

This press release is written in the old style of postal Diplomacy press that was very popular in the mid to late 1960s. Indeed, many of the early "movers and doers" in the first Golden Age of Diplomacy were involved in the hobby and game playing because of the press activity. For many of us the writing and reading of press, both our own and others, was even more important than the play of the game. A game with well written press, such as 1966AA, became a classic and was followed by scores, if not hundreds of hobbyists; and by the end of the game the total press could easily fill a good-sized book. Publishers of postal Diplomacy magazines vied to not only attract the best players but also to attract the best press writers; and, if they were lucky, that rare hobbyist who was both a fine player and a fine press writer. The plots were incredibly complicated. The characters were a cross between real world diplomacy, history and sci-fi (Many Diplomacy fans were also sci-fi fans.) and to this day I can look back and recall with fondness the antics of some of those press characters. Hobby legends like John Boardman, John Koning, Conrad von Metzke, Rod Walker and many others helped make it what was to become known as The First Golden Age of Diplomacy. So, come with me now and enjoy this trip back in time to that time when press was king in Diplomacy and then

another half-century in real time to our game's press story.

Enjoy the latest installment of *The Buchanan Story*.

PROLOGUE

"Admiral, the President will see you now," the President's butler said with a big grin on his face.

Buchanan straightened his tie, checked his gig line, squared his shoulders, and almost (After all, he was a Navy officer, not an Army...) marched into the Oval Office as it was already being called.

"Welcome, Walter, it's good to see you again. It's been over a year, right? Way too long. I hear you've had an interesting time in the Pacific. I can't wait to hear about it. Sit down and relax."

As Buchanan sank into one of the office's leather club chairs, the butler silently placed a tumbler, ice bucket, and decanter of Old Grand Dad next to the President. The President enjoyed serving his guests himself and, although he never mentioned it, it allowed him to control the flow of alcohol in the room. Buchanan had noticed that although the President was liberal in pouring the whiskey for his guests, his own glass was mostly ice, a bit of whiskey and a lot of water. Cuban cigars, wrapped in Connecticut cigar skin tobacco were offered and accepted.

"That will be all, James," the President told the butler; and Buchanan knew the two would not be disturbed short of a national emergency. The two men sipped and puffed and took the measure of each other. Buchanan had met the President a few times but stayed out of politics as a good Navy officer should, especially one hoping for higher command posts. The President knew Buchanan from what his Secretary of the Navy had told him and the reports Buchanan had sent back from his travels. He considered Buchanan to be a bright junior senior officer with potential to go a long way. Not only had he shown considerable skill as an officer and bravery to boot, but he seemed to have something most top military brass lacked, an understanding of real world politics and the uses and limitations of power in today's real world.

"Well, Walter, I'm all ears. Begin at the beginning and tell me what happened at Mamala Bay?"

THE BATTLE OF MAMALA BAY

<http://i.imgur.com/D0jLXi1.jpg>

The Admiral, paused a bit, looked around the President's new Oval Office that had just been completed. It seemed strangely simple compared to the offices of other leaders he'd seen in his travels in Europe and Asia. Indeed, most of the battleships he'd been on had a captain's

cabin bigger than this office. Still, he sensed the power in the room and the shape of it seemed to be sending a message that the man in this office would not be confined to any particular four walls.

Buchanan turned his gaze toward the President and began to speak in a calm voice filled with a certain gravitas.

"Things were quiet after we left St. Lawrence Island and headed slowly south. The Kentucky seemed more like a mother duck leading her goslings toward a pond than a powerful battleship as she moved slowly at about 10 mph. Her charges, a rag tag collection of Japanese cargo ship, freighters and one passenger vessel, were following about 60 miles behind the Kentucky, just far enough aft to be out of sight, although never out of mind. Buchanan and the Kentucky's captain had their orders and they knew better to question the instructions from the admiral commanding the Pacific Fleet.

"As ordered, two days out from Honolulu we began to make circles as if waiting for someone or something to happen. The Kentucky was informed by the commander of the Japanese flotilla that they would require a day for special training. I wondered what that training was, Buchanan told the President, but I didn't ask. So, as we sailed in circles, the crews of the Japanese ships were busy as small boats moved about shuttling passengers off their ship and onto the four larger freighters. Sailors and workmen scurried about doing their thing and quickly a platform appeared on the aft deck of each of the freighters. Crates were moved from the cargo ships and placed on the platforms on the freighters. Finally, Commander Subaru, IJN, boarded a small tender and made the rounds of the four freighters as he supervised the dispersal of a series of small boxes to each ship. By then the tenders had completed the transfer of eight men from the passenger ship to each of the freighters. All was prepared. Now they could only wait for instructions.

"Subaru consulted with his navigator and weather officers and issued instructions to Lt. Commander Izuzu, IJN, for a brief refresher launching and training flight for the crews. He wanted to see if they could do it within the time parameters the plan allowed. They only had one day left so everything had to be right the first time.

"Izuzu flashed a signal to the four freighters and the platforms began to look like a disturbed ant hill as men in black scurried about doing their assignments. Subaru and Izuzu, who had been with these men since the beginning thought back to that time that seemed so long ago but was really only less than a year in Afghanistan when they'd first seen the Samuel F Cody "man lifter war kites" that the Japanese military was interested in. After secret experiments in a hidden valley in Afghanistan they had returned to Osaka and begun constructing a fleet of the war kites at the instruction of the Imperial War Council. Crews, all volunteers, were recruited and trained; and eventually the kites and crews were covertly shipped to a secret base on Shimushir Island in the

Kuriles. From there they made their way to St. Lawrence Island where they joined up with their mother duck, the Kentucky.

"It was a difficult process, Mr. President. The Japanese apparently built 64 of the war kites and trained 100 pilots. By the time they were off Hawaii they were down to 24 kites and 30 pilots, but they were the best of the best. Subaru and Izuzu watched with pride as two-by-two the war kites took off from the four freighters and began doing increasingly difficult maneuvers high overhead. When all 24 were aloft they looked like a flock of seagulls rather than ducklings; and were strangely graceful although they looked more like flying dinosaurs than graceful birds. The kites flew at max altitude and barely touched the water's surface as they moved further and further away from their ships. Each pilot was carrying exactly the gear he would need for the mission, although ten pounds of sugar had been substituted for their real payload.

"Eventually Subaru and Izuzu retreated into the captain's cabin for a drink to celebrate their success. Neither had noticed that one of the kites had drifted away from the flock, apparently blown off course by a wind.

"After the allotted training exercises the command ship hoisted a flag that sent a message to the pilots indicating they were in a time of "free drill" when the pilots could show off the skills they had acquired. As they moved up and down and in circles of various complexities the watching ship crews were amazed to see these war kites doing things that seemed impossible.

"Eventually fatigue set in and the kites began to return to their ships where they made an ungraceful landing, more like a gooney bird than a duck or seagull. Eventually all the kites were back on board but one of the freighters signaled one of their kites had not yet returned. In a well-planned and trained maneuver the four freighters and other ships spread out, hoisted a large red flag and lighted oil drums to send up smoke to guide the kite back to the fleet.

"Subaru and Izuzu and the crews watched anxiously and waited until, almost when they were ready to give up hope, one observer saw the last kite, only 3 or 4 meters above the sea's surface slowly limping back to his freighter. Cheers rose from the crews as the exhausted pilot landed his war kite on the platform of his ship.

"As the sun set in the west the pilots returned to a simple meal and then more last minute planning and instructions."

"Amazing," the President said to Buchanan, "that they could pull such a complex exercise off without a casualty. I'm really glad we decided to send The Great White Fleet on its round the world cruise. Perhaps that will give the Japanese something to think about."

Buchanan looked at the President thoughtfully, "Perhaps, but it might just convince them to try even harder. The Japanese like us but they're not afraid of us."

"I'll go over their operation plan as we understand it. It's hard to be exact since it never happened, but we're pretty sure this is what they planned to do."

"The Kentucky was scheduled to arrive in Honolulu harbor and anchor early in the morning since the new Navy facility at Pearl Harbor could not handle a ship her size. Indeed, Buchanan knew but didn't mention, that the coral reef outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor was large enough to block any of the Navy's larger ships from entering the harbor; and the Navy's plans to remove the reef and deepen the channel had gone nowhere fast."

"By now the Japanese flotilla would be about 50 miles off the coast at the outer limits of Mamala Bay, but still out of sight of land."

"The four freighters would launch their 24 war kites in time to arrive over Pearl Harbor and Honolulu as the sun rose in the west over the coastal range to the east. The rising sun would blind the locals as the kites approached."

"Eight kites would fly over Pearl Harbor and 16 kites would fly over Honolulu, flying from west to east. Each pilot would wear special sunglasses to block the early morning sun as they approached. If the winds were from the wrong direction the kites would reverse their approach paths. Each kite would make one pass or one circular pass and then fly to the Punch Bowl or Diamond Head volcanos if conditions allowed, where they would crash tier war kits into the craters in a final kamikaze attack designed to poison the sacred craters forever."

"Each pilot would wear a backpack filled with ten kilos of highly toxic chemical poisons and types of bubonic plague and anthrax. Buchanan paused and looked at the President and took a stiff shot from his drink. He reminded the President of the 1900 bubonic plague in Honolulu that killed 61 people and shut down work on the base in Pearl Harbor for three months."

"Each chemical load would be dispersed by a simple but effective 33 meter tail hose barely visible from the ground. The chemicals would be slowly released through openings in the hose as it passed overhead at an altitude of 500 meters. At that distance, speed and altitude it was estimated that 85% of the population of the greater Honolulu & Pearl Harbor area would be dead within a week and most of southern Oahu would be uninhabitable for at least 25 years, perhaps much longer."

"The volunteer pilots were dressed in Russian naval uniforms captured in the taking of Vladivostok years before. Each wore a Russian orthodox cross around his neck and had a Russian flag hanging from the kite. Tests had shown the flag would be large enough to be seen from the ground, even if most Islanders wouldn't have a clue whose it was."

"As noted, if the winds were from the wrong direction the kites would come in from the Punch Bowl area and fly on to and crash their kites on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor."

"Mr. President, it was a brilliant plan and it would have worked except for the courage of one young Japanese-American Niesi born in Hawaii. His parents are loyal Americans and their only son volunteered to join the Navy in Honolulu, but the recruiters persuaded him to go to Japan, join the Japanese Navy and become in effect, a spy for the United States. He went, joined the IJN and because of his wind surfing skills and language ability was selected for the war kite program. Apparently the Japanese Navy officers couldn't comprehend that a Niesi could be anything but loyal to Japan if given the chance."

"He bided his time, went to Afghanistan, worked at the factory in Osaka, and made the trip to the Kuriles, St. Lawrence Island, and was one of the 24 final pilots chosen for the mission. In fact, he was the designated leader for his freighter's group of pilots. Apparently he found a way to write in English a brief outline of the plan, wrapped it around his IJN dagger, and then an American flag he'd hidden in his gear, and carried it with him on the training flight. Then, when an opportunity arose, he went AWOL, made a beeline for Honolulu, hoping to spot the Kentucky; which he did. He flew over the Kentucky, dropped his message on the deck and headed back, barely making it after being on the kite for almost six hours."

"Six hours? No food. No water. No nothing?," said the President."

"Actually he had a small water bottle and a couple of rice balls that the Japanese love to snack on," answered Buchanan. That's normal SOP for their pilots."

"Several crewmen on the Kentucky saw his approach. He was clearly flying below the top of the mast altitude and maybe 10 meters above the deck. He yelled something and dropped his message before he sailed off to the west. A crewman saw the flag wrapped message, picked it up and took it up to the bridge. The watch officer called the captain who called me. We both looked at the small package carefully wrapped in an American flag. I admit my hands were shaking when I opened it."

"All it said was: Tomorrow sunrise war kites attack Hon/PH with disease." The Captain and I looked at each other for a minute."

"I'll tell the officers," said the Captain, "but not the crew yet."

"I'll cable Washington," said Buchanan, "but not Honolulu or Pearl Harbor. They'd panic."

Within minutes a coded cable marked POTUS URGENT TOP SECRET was on its way to the only Navy communications sailor on Oahu, located as part of the Navy's Pearl Harbor coaling station (Note: There are now 600+ communications specialists based in Waikele.). It was his job to relay the message to the Navy's communications receiving station in Imperial Beach, California; which would in turn send it on to Washington. The only problem was the sailor at Waikele had never seen a message marked POTUS and had no idea where it was to go. However, he did know TOP SECRET so he assumed it was important. He went ahead and sent it to the Imperial Beach facility and sent an identical message to the Navy's Pacific Fleet headquarters in San Pedro, California. The Imperial Beach operator forwarded the message to Washington but failed to mark it URGENT. The San Pedro operator decided it should be routed through the Pacific Fleet commanding officer and sent it to his flag officer, who happened to be drunk at the base Officer's Club. It finally arrived in Anacostia at the Washington Navy Yard 12 hours later.

Fortunately, the Imperial Beach originated message arrived in Washington as the day watch was arriving at the Navy's communications center where the senior yeoman realized it was important, very important, as he worked to decode the message. He called the White House switchboard, ran outside, grabbed a taxi and headed for the White House. The Pinkerton's guard at first didn't want to let him in since he didn't have an appointment and wasn't an officer. Fortunately, one of the President's staff heard them arguing and stepped in. Within minutes he was outside the President's office arguing with a secretary who wouldn't let him in to see the President because he didn't have an appointment, wasn't an officer, and wasn't in the proper uniform. The President heard the shouting, came out of his Oval Office and beckoned him to enter. The yeoman handed him the POTUS message and watched as the President opened it, read it once, read it again, looked at the yeoman, sat down behind the Roosevelt desk, reached in the drawer and pulled out a bottle of Old Grand Dad and poured himself a stiff drink with no ice.

"The yeoman looked at the President and asked, 'Should I wait for a reply?'" The President scowled and barked "Yes." He looked at the message again, 'Tomorrow sunrise war kites attack Honolulu/Pearl Harbor with disease. Instructions? Buchanan.' The President looked at the clock and realized it was the middle of the night in Honolulu. He sighed and pulled a piece of White House

stationary in front of him and wrote "Buchanan Eyes Only. You deal with it. I trust you. POTUS." He handed it to the yeoman. Go send this now, son, and hurry but don't make any mistakes.

Buchanan looked at the President and for the first time grinned. "Apparently a message from the White House gets better than one going the other way. I had your reply 33 minutes after it was sent." The President also grinned and then laughed. Time for another?

In the meantime, Buchanan had returned to the wardroom of the Kentucky where the Captain and officers were waiting. He looked at them seriously and said, "While we're waiting for orders; we can't do nothing. Therefore, Captain get under way as soon as possible. Get us out of the harbor. Get the crew alerted. Tell them it's a surprise drill and to be ready for action on command."

Buchanan looked at the local charts and called for the morning weather forecast, especially regarding winds, clouds, rain, etc. He tried to guess how the war kites would attack Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. It was difficult because he really knew nothing about their capabilities. He realized his only real hope of preventing a disaster was to catch the kites while they were still on their freighters. Once they were airborne it would be almost impossible to stop them.

"Captain, I want the best men at every position in the gun turrets and fire control centers. You and I are going to go talk to them. Tell them what's happening. That there is a threat, a serious threat, to Honolulu and Pearl Harbor and we have to prevent it. We have less than 2 hours to get into position to stop them. As soon as we clear the harbor we'll head out into Mamala Bay. I expect the ships to be about 50 miles offshore of Pearl since wind conditions favor that approach. We'll have four freighter targets and a half-dozen cargo ships and one passenger vessel. That's eleven ships. We must sink them all. The four freighters first. We have 2 13 inch guns and 2 8 inch guns forward and the same aft. The 13 inch big guns will go for the freighters. The 8 inch guns will go for the cargo ships. When they get in range the 5 inchers will hit the passenger ship and anything still left afloat. Small guns will go for any war kites that manage to take off. We'll approach at an angle so we can use all possible guns. Each freighter carries 6 kites and they take off 2 at a time at about 15 minute intervals. Each gun will have a specific freighter targeted and you'll work in teams of two and two on two and two. We have to be fast and we have to be accurate. I know you can do it. I've seen your drills and scores. So, let's remember why we're here and let's do it."

"Walt, did you really think they could do it," asked the President?

"Well, if we got lucky and got one or two of the freighters fast then we could double up on the others. That would help. I knew we could do it. I just wasn't sure we would."

"Fortunately by the time we cleared the harbor and headed northeast we were on full steam ahead to get as close to them as we could as fast as we could. Within fifteen minutes we were in big gun range but I decided to hold back as long as surprise was with us. I had the best spotters in the mast posts and they hadn't seen any kites taking off yet, but it was still almost dark. Another ten minutes, I thought.

"Finally, I told the captain to give the command to fire. In less than a minute shells began to fly and the race was on. We could see the first kites in launch position. The first freighter was hit in the third volley and flames spread quickly across the platform. The second freighter tried to maneuver but it didn't have the speed to do much. It made a mistake and turned broadside to us and by then even the 8 inchers could hit it or at least send up water plumes tall enough to knock down a kite that did get off. Despite several hits on its target two didn't catch fire and continued forward but it was now being shot at by two turrets. Time was running out for that one.

"The third and fourth freighters had turned away from us, giving us a hard target to hit. There was so much smoke and water spouts everywhere that I couldn't tell if they'd launched any of their kites or not. The spotter signaled one kite had gotten off and another appeared to but then disappeared behind the freighter, probably crashed from water damage.

"Second freighter burning badly and sinking. Apparently no kites got off either of those two.

"Third freighter has taken several hits and is dead in the water. This after 20 minutes of gunfire. The fourth freighter is trying to hide in the smoke and water plumes but that makes launching its kites harder. Finally it breaks through and I can see two kites taking off, but are they the first two or later ones? One of the kites appears to be out of control and flies an erratic pattern headed out to sea. The second is hit by a lucky shot from a 5 incher. And by now both the third and fourth freighters are in serious trouble. By the end of 30 minutes all four freighters are burning badly or sunk. Only two of the kites are still unaccounted for.

"The guns then turned on the cargo ships and within 20 minutes they were all sunk or burning."

The Captain looked at Buchanan, a question in his eyes. Buchanan gazed back and said, "Sink it."

Guns roared and within minutes the passenger vessel was ablaze and sinking.

Like a vengeful war bird the Kentucky slowly cruised through the debris of the ships and the floating bodies but most of them appeared dead or dying. Some of the sailors even wore their headbands or had Japanese flags wrapped around their necks. Several of the pilots' bodies were spotted, most still attached to their war kite harness gear. They were easy to spot in their Russian naval uniform whites. They all looked so young, even innocent, Buchanan thought. He told the Captain to have several of the kite pilots' bodies retrieved, complete with kite and gear if possible.

Two hours after the battle started it was over. The Kentucky had five pilots' bodies, and one officer's body. It had to be Subaru or Izuzu, Buchanan thought. A few shells put the last of the ship debris under water and the currents were, fortunately, carrying the bodies and flotsam away from the island to the north.

"So, they were all dead," the President wondered?

"So I thought, although I did wonder about that one kite that got off the fourth freighter and disappeared toward the ocean?" Buchanan said.

He ordered one last circle around the outer rim of the battle site to look for any remaining bodies, etc. Finally he gave the order to bring the crew topside section by section. He spoke to each of them in the same words.

"Today was a tragedy that should never have happened but it did. Fortunately, it turned out well for us thanks to your bravery and your skills. I thank you for that. Unfortunately, at this time your country cannot thank you publicly. In fact, I must order you all to maintain the strictest secrecy about what happened today. Only by doing that can we truly win this battle and avoid becoming involved in the war waging in Europe, Africa and Asia. The Atlantic and Indian Oceans are major battlegrounds and the war may spread into the Pacific soon. Our best hope as the last bastion of freedom is to stay out of that war. We need your help. So, remember, whenever you're tempted to talk or brag about what happened and what you did, silence will keep you alive and us free."

In the silence following Buchanan thought he was hearing things as he heard a faint voice yelling, "Aloha! Aloha! Aloha America!!" He looked around but the entire crew was looking up at the sky. He turned his eyes skyward and saw one of the war kites flying toward the Kentucky at an altitude of perhaps 50 feet. The pilot kept yelling, "Aloha, Aloha!" and waving his arms as he tried to hang on to the kite. Buchanan realized that in one hand he was holding a small US flag as he waved. Several of the ship's marines had started to raise their rifles at the tempting target, but Buchanan yelled as loud as he'd ever yelled in his life, "Don't shoot. Don't shoot. He's ours." And the crew on deck took up the chant,

"Don't shoot! Don't shoot!! He's ours!!!" followed by cheers.

The kite pilot made a not very graceful landing on the forward deck of the Kentucky, almost hanging itself up on one of the big gun turrets. I almost laughed at his landing, Buchanan told the President. He looked so clumsy in his Russian uniform, carrying that little US flag, and smiling the biggest smile I've ever seen. I walked down to the deck where he was walking in circles and doing exercises to get the blood flowing after his flight. When I approached, he straightened up, gave me a Japanese style salute and said, in perfect English, "Permission to come aboard, sir?" I saluted back and then grabbed his hand, shook it, and then hugged him as hard as I could, lifting him a good foot off the ground."

"What's your name, son?" I asked. He drew himself up to his full 5 foot 3 inches and proudly said, "William McKinley Yamamoto, sir. U.S. citizen at birth."

"Welcome home, sailor It was a great thing you did for your city, your territory and your country. We're proud of you. Now, how about a shower, something to eat and some sleep?"

"Yes, sir!"

"Admiral? Captain? Sailor? How about a picture for the history books?"

"Well at least for William's parents, I think." Said Buchanan as he stood patiently.

"Captain, I have a cable to send." Buchanan said as he disappeared.

In the wardroom Buchanan thought and then wrote, POTUS. URGENT. TOP SECRET. Problem dealt with. Thank you for the trust. Details to follow. Buchanan."

An hour and a half later Buchanan received the following message: BUCHANAN. EYES ONLY. TOP SECRET. Good. You are ordered to Honolulu with Kentucky for R&R and repairs if needed. On arrival of Great White Fleet on or about 16 July 1908 you will assume command of the fleet and complete its voyage. Kentucky to join fleet. Return and report to me on or about 22 February 1909. POTUS.

That evening, as the sun set in the west, Buchanan, the Captain, the ship's chaplain and a Marine honor guard took part in a somber ceremony on the aft main deck. William McKinley Yamamoto explained the Japanese naval burial at sea ceremony to the officers, listened to the chaplain's words, translated them into Japanese and then said a few appropriate prayers in Japanese as the five Japanese war kite pilots and one officer were buried at sea in a solemn ceremony. Their personal effects, ID,

and a picture of the burial were kept and eventually turned over to Japanese officials years later. Over dinner Buchanan told the Captain he was recommending his promotion to Commodore and informed Yamamoto that he was being promoted to a Yeoman Flag Writer (E-7) and would be attached to Buchanan's staff of one – he, Yamamoto, being the one.

THE GREAT WHITE FATHER SENDS THE GREAT WHITE FLEET ON A MISSION OF GREAT WHITE POWER

The President refilled both their glasses and waited patiently for Buchanan to continue.

When the Kentucky docked in Honolulu early the next morning within hours only a skeleton crew remained on board. By late afternoon everybody in Honolulu knew something big had happened the day before, but nobody knew exactly what. Still, the rumors began to fly and by the next morning cables were on their way to London, Paris, Berlin, St.Petersburg, Vladivostok, Singapore and, no doubt, Tokyo.

In the aftermath of the Spanish-American War and the USA's acquisition of an "empire" in Asia the President had decided to let the American people, the world and, in particular, the Japanese know that the USA had arrived as a Pacific power. And so was born the idea of a voyage by what became known as The Great White Fleet around the world.

The purposes of the voyage were: 1) to impress Americans; 2) to impress America's friend; 3) to give America's potential enemies cause for pause; 4) to make sure the Republican President was re-elected in 1908 and the Republicans kept control of the Congress; and 5) to make sure Roosevelt was the Republican of the people in 1912.

The numbers were impressive: 14,000 sailors, 16 battleships, plus escorts and supply ships would make the 43,000 nautical mile voyage to 20 ports on 6 continents.

The voyage would consist of four legs: Hampton Roads south through the Straits of Magellan and up the Pacific coast of South America and to San Francisco; from San Francisco to Puget Sound and back; from San Francisco across the Pacific to New Zealand, Australia, Manila, Yokohama, Amoy, China, and back to Manila; and the last leg from Manila to Ceylon, Suez, Gibraltar and home to Hampton Roads, Virginia.

The sixteen battleships were divided into two squadrons and four divisions, each of four ships. The Fleet, 1st Squadron and 1st Division were commanded by Rear Admiral Charles Sperry in his flagship Connecticut. The Kentucky would join the Fleet's second squadron and

fourth division under its Captain, William C. Cowles. Buchanan, now officially a Rear Admiral, would remain aboard the Kentucky, even though he would become Fleet Commander in Honolulu.

The Navy brass were bent out of shape about two things: 1) Buchanan was technically the Navy's junior Rear Admiral and yet he was promoted over three senior Rear Admirals to be Fleet commander; and 2) The Connecticut, one of the Navy's newest battleships, was being supplanted as de facto Fleet flagship by the Kentucky, the Fleet's oldest battleship.

The voyage was about much more than just showing the flag: 1) It provided practical experience for the crews in long-range operations and large group fleet maneuvers; 2) The lack of major mechanical mishaps and battle action may have hurt the fleet's preparedness for battle. 3) Revealed design flaws improved future capital ship design; 4) The cruise also helped improve formation steaming, coal economy and gunnery efficiency; and demonstrated the Navy's lack of adequate coal supplies where needed. Fifty of the fifty-two colliers used on the voyage were foreign flag vessels including from potential US opponents at sea.

A Big Gun Factoid

Eighteen inch guns on the Japanese WWII Yamato super-battleship were the biggest ever built. The largest US guns were the 16 inchers on the Iowa class. The Kentucky class battleships (pre-dreadnought) carried 13 inch, 330 mm cannons with barrels 20 times longer. Turrets were not attached to the ship (they revolved on a bed of ball bearings and wheels) so if it rolled over they fell out; which explains some of the films you may have seen of sunken battleships. Gun barrels usually lasted around 290-300 rounds. A turret of three guns would usually hold from high 300s to low 400s rounds. Two types of shells were used, anti-armor and high explosives. Normal payload was up to a ton. Crews usually numbered 70 men or so. A barrel cost about \$1.5 million and a complete turret about \$4 million. The normal rate of fire in the old days was 2 rounds per minute and the fastest would be 8 rounds per minute. Usually the crew tired out or shells and propellant supplies ran out before the barrels became unusable. French guns were considered the best, but also the most fickle. German guns were solid and dependable. US guns were known for being slow but accurate because of better range finders.

The first two legs of the Great White Fleet's voyage had been nearly perfect with large, welcoming crowds at each of the port calls which usually lasted a week. I've included some stories about their stops in San Diego (which my grandmother remembered vividly fifty years later, although that didn't keep her from marrying an Army officer) and Honolulu.

<http://www.navy.mil/gwf/sandiego.htm> (fleet stop in San Diego)

<http://legacy.utsandiego.com/news/military/20080413-9999-1n13fleet.html> (moored off Coronado Strand, just a mile or so from where ADM nuclear mines and 400 nuclear weapons were stored during the Cold War)

<http://www.navy.mil/gwf/hawaii.htm> (link with arrival and departure details from Honolulu)

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/glimpse-hawaii-history-great-white-173800193.html> (Molakai review) video

Finally, on 22 July the Great White Fleet sailed out of Honolulu under command of Rear Admiral Walter Buchanan. Most of the population of Honolulu and a good portion of the population of Oahu came down to Waikiki Beach and lined the beach to see them off. Several hundred brave souls climbed Diamond Head to the rim to get the best view. And, to the Navy crews' delight, some giant Hawaiian war canoes escorted them out of the harbor with the rowers making better time than the coal powered ships.

Auckland, Sydney and Melbourne all tried to out-do each other in trying to welcome the sailors with their enthusiasm and even little Albany in the far southwest of Western Australia turned out to welcome the visiting fleet. Adelaide, which wasn't even on the ports of call list, topped everybody by creating a fleet of chocolate replicas of the 16 battleships and escort ships and delivering them by yachts as the fleet steamed by. Total weight of the chocolate confections came out to ½ kg. per crew member, almost 7,000 pounds of chocolate!

Manila brought no liberty because of a cholera epidemic but there was plenty of mail from home to make up for it. Sailing up the coast of China passing Taiwan the Fleet ran into the worst typhoon ever seen in the area. The waves were so high that a battleship in the bottom of a trough could not be seen by one in the next trough.

Everyone, especially Buchanan and the Captain of the Kentucky were worried about the reception they'd get in Yokohama, Japan's major naval base, as stories had begun circulating that something had happened in Hawaii. Still, the officers of the IJN that toured the ships seemed impressed and were chillingly formal and polite in their ceremonial welcoming activities. But nothing could disguise the real warmth of the greeting of thousands of young Japanese students chanting "A-MER-E-KA!" in a rhythmic sing-song patter.

Resuming his narration, Buchanan continued:

"I even had a chance to meet up with some of my old Japanese Navy friends and saw some welcome promotions among officers I knew to be both professional and reasonable men. The generals were another matter and their looks could have melted the coldest ice. Still, a private meeting was arranged with

Mutsuhito, Emperor Meiji, who had taken a liking to me on my earlier visit. Still, ever the diplomatic host, the Emperor invited all the flag officers of the fleet to stay in the Imperial Palace and while the others were being wined, dined and entertained by the best geishas from Kyoto, the Meiji was having a private Tet-a-Tet with Buchanan. Buchanan was surprised when the Meiji brought up the war kite incident and blamed it on overly enthusiastic young officers influenced by super-patriotic, anti-modernist senior officers. He apologized and said no more of the incident would be said in Japan and, he hoped, Washington. "I had no choice but to agree," Buchanan told the President as the President nodded his head.

The President roared with laughter as Buchanan looked slightly confused.

Looking thoughtfully at the President, Buchanan remarked, "The Japanese are remarkable people and the country is leading Asia into the 20th century with an exuberant vengeance, and an abundance of exuberant vengeance can be a dangerous thing in a country without a strong leader to guide or control it."

"True, true," the President replied.

Buchanan reported, "A stop in Amoy by half the Fleet was an amazing contrast to Yokohama and the city seemed to have gone backwards in time as far and quickly as Japan had progressed. The locals were fascinated by the sailors and lined up to get their photos taken with blonde or red-haired sailors, but they had no interest in our ships or technology. About ten percent of those who went on shore leave admitted to having tried opium, but most admitted it made them sick and they'd never try it again."

The President thought to himself, "I'm glad I made the command change when I did. Buchanan was the right man for the job. The fleet's Japan visit had the desired result: it generated good will between both countries and eased tensions that might otherwise have led to open conflict. Much of the credit goes to Buchanan, whose skill as a diplomat and professionalism as an officer were crucial."

"After more training exercises off Manila which were designed to let the locals know that Uncle Sam was indeed now their boss, the entire fleet head south into the Indian Ocean," Buchanan said, continuing his travel log.

"We stopped in Columbo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) where each member of the Fleet's crews was presented with a package of local tea by the English tea merchant, Sir Thomas Lipton. Legend had it that the tea cost almost nothing but Lipton made a fortune off selling over-priced, second quality tea pots and cups to the eager sailors.

"Two weeks of steady sailing saw the entire Fleet in Suez as 1909 arrived. Just as the Fleet left Port Said a terrible earthquake hit Sicily and the Connecticut and another battleship rushed at full speed to the island to render aid in Messina, which had been especially hard hit. The other ships divided up and stopped at ports as diverse as Malta, Naples, Algiers, etc. before finally gathering off Gibraltar for a coaling stop. As the sixteen battleships sailed through the Straits the ships' bands struck up "Home Sweet Home" as they headed home for the last 3,500 miles of their trip back to Hampton Roads.

"All in all it was an amazing demonstration of naval skills and even the British naval attaché admitted he was impressed. The German naval attaché casually mentioned at a reception that a new world class naval power had arrived; which got him a dirty look from the Russian naval attaché, Buchanan said as he finished his report.

On 22 February, 1909, a Monday, with the USS Connecticut as the flagship but the Fleet commander on board the Kentucky, the Great White Fleet finished its round the world voyage. At 1100 in the morning, the sixteen battleships and their escorts arrived at Hampton Roads, Virginia, where the fleet had departed more than a year earlier on December 16, 1907. President Roosevelt almost fell when his foot slipped while climbing up to a barbette on the USS Mayflower to address the Navy men as "the first battle fleet that has ever circumnavigated the globe."

Roosevelt then broke protocol and passed the Connecticut with its row of Navy brass waiting to greet him and headed for the last ship in the column, the Kentucky, where he suspected Buchanan was.

Piped aboard with all the ceremonies and cheers from the crew lining the rail, the President greeted Buchanan warmly and returns his salute. His first words were, "Where are your stars?" Buchanan grinned and remarked, "I didn't bring any with me, sir." Roosevelt glared and remarked, "And none of those SOBs had an extra set to loan you? Hmmm, well, I happen to have a pair with me. Just in case." And proceeded to remove Buchanan's Commodore star and reached into his pocket and pulled out another set.

"Oh, my, I seem to have brought the wrong ones. Well, nothing to be done about that," he said as he pinned three stars on each of Buchanan's epaulettes. As the sailors cheered, no one heard the President tell Buchanan, "Good job, Admiral. I appreciate it and the country does to, even if it doesn't know it yet. Actually two good jobs --- in Honolulu and on the cruise."

"I'm inviting all the senior officers to the White House for a dinner Friday night. Junior officers will also be wined

and dined. And the crews will have their own mess at Anacostia with plenty of grog and beer.

"I'll see you then," and the President made his leave to the cheers of the crews as he reboarded the Mayflower for the cruise back up the Potomac.

THE ROSE ROOM

Friday came quickly and the week was filled with various meetings, lunches, dinners, and celebrations all over Washington. The only rough moment was when Buchanan entered a meeting of the Navy Board at the Washington Naval Yard. The other Rear and Vice Admirals just glared at him as he took his place.

When former commander of the Asiatic Station, Admiral of the Fleet and President of the Navy Board George Dewey entered the room all eyes were on him. He took his place at the head of the table and glanced briefly at each of the admirals present before sitting down.

Once the formalities and normalities of a Board meeting were concluded, Dewey paused and looked at Buchanan. "Admiral, you've done some amazing things in the last year and a half, not least being promoted from one to three stars. However, I am sure the President had his reasons for doing so and it is our job as his officers to accept his decisions. Personally I was a bit surprised at his actions but when I learned the facts, all the facts (and here he paused to look at each officer present), some of which some of you may not be aware of, I understood why he has done this; and I concur whole heartedly. I trust that will be the end of this discussion. I look forward to seeing you all at the White House dinner tonight," and he got up and left as the admirals stood by silently.

Protocol strictly regulated arrival order at the White with the lowest ranking flag officers first and the senior ranking officer last with the single exception that any Medal of Honor recipients always entered last.

Buchanan entered alone, although most of the senior admirals had their wives with them. He was seated according to his rank and seniority.

The banquet was a typical White House dinner with a few military flourishes and Buchanan enjoyed it except for the too many, too long, and too boring speeches that the politicians indulged in as they sought to outdo each other with their praise for the Great White Fleet voyage and the officers present. Rear Admiral Sperry, Buchanan's predecessor as Fleet Commander was highly praised for his role in the voyage and although Buchanan got his share of compliments he could sense there were more polite than heartfelt. From time to time he'd glance up and he noticed that the President seemed to be watching him with interest.

Finally, as the last of the toasts were offered and the port and cigars cleared away, the President and First Lady rose and said good night and left. Within minutes the officers begin to leave in the reverse order to their arrival. As Buchanan stepped through the doors of the East Room into the hall way one of the White House butlers approached him, smiled, and gestured down the hall, as if indicating where the rest rooms were. Buchanan took the hint and walked in the direction pointed at. He turned the corner, only to be met by another butler who led him down a service corridor and up some stairs to the second floor of the White and into the President's private sitting room. where he found the President signing papers.

"Walter, thanks for stopping by," the President said informally as if addressing an old friend. "I wanted to have a private chat with you. I was watching you and the other admirals at the dinner tonight and I know what you are going through. Only Dewey and one other senior admiral know what you did at Mamala Bay and for now it must stay that way. If word got out officially it could ruin our relations with Japan. As it is the rumors won't do us any harm and they've certainly increased our credibility with some of the European and other Asian countries.

"However, I've been thinking about what to do with you. Perhaps it would be best if you got out of Washington for a while and let a few of these Old Farts retire to their pseudo country farms. However, you're too young and too valuable to waste on some ceremonial position out of harm's way. I have an offer to make you. It may not sound like much but, trust me, it's as important a job as any in the Navy right now. In fact, it may be the most important job in the country for the country. I want you to go back to Honolulu.

At that Buchanan almost choked and splattered a bit of whisky the President had poured him. "Sir?", "he replied incongruously. "You want me to go back to Honolulu? Why?"

"For one thing the people there love you. If they could elect a King today you'd win hands down. But seriously, the Navy needs you there and so do I. The work at the new Pearl Harbor base is a disaster. The dredging of the channel through the reef into the harbor is going nowhere. We can barely get a rowboat into there now and it needs to be ready for the big ships and the sooner the better. The big new dry dock that's supposed to be able to hold a battleship 50% larger than any we have now has collapsed twice because of poor construction. The new wharves are already falling apart because they used the wrong kind of wood. The Army told the Navy that since they control the only source of potable water in the area the Navy is there at the Army's convenience. Even the Agriculture Department has leased half of Ford Island to cattle ranchers. It goes on and on. The place needs a good shaking up and a person in charge who

can get things done. You're that man. I'm convinced of it."

"But...but....Mr. President. I'm a sailor, not an engineer!," Buchanan spluttered.

"Walter, you can do both. Best of all you're a born leader and a born commander; and that's what Pearl Harbor needs right now. So, I don't want to order you to take this assignment. I prefer you accept it and think of it as a way of justifying that third star," he said with a big grin on his face. "No, it's not a bribe, it's a down payment."

Buchanan looked stunned. "Very well, sir. I accept."

"Good man, Walter. I knew I could count on you. And the country knew it too."

Now that that's settled., we have one other matter to take care of. I noticed at the dinner that you were the senior naval officer, in fact the only naval officer, present without a wife. That is not acceptable, especially since you're going back to Hawaii and we know how tempting that can be. After all, didn't we both read "Mutiny on the Bounty?" He grinned. Buchanan grinned.

"Well, I haven't exactly had time to do much wife-hunting in the last few years," Buchanan said looking slightly wistful.

"No problem," the President said. I've solve that problem as well.

This time, Buchanan did choke and spill his whisky; and the President's grin got wider and wider.

Why don't you step into my bathroom and brush your teeth, comb your hair, and freshen up a bit. I'll wait.

Bewildered, Buchanan did as he was told. A waiting butler took his uniform to freshen it up while Buchanan showered, shaved, etc. Most importantly he got rid of the smell of whisky and cigars.

A soft knock brought in the butler and a uniform that looked like new. The butler carefully watched as Buchanan dressed and he noticed even his shoes had a spit-shine. Ever watchful, he noticed that his dress uniform had two more ribbons on it that he didn't recognize, but he didn't have time to ask about them.

The butler led the way back into the President's sitting room and this time he literally was speechless. The President was now dressed in formal attire and had been joined by Alice Roosevelt and her husband Nicholas Longworth. Buchanan recalled that their 1906 wedding in the White House had caused a national sensation. In addition the room was crowded with the

Captain and Chaplain from the Kentucky and William McKinley Yamamoto, his personal yeoman.

The President watched Buchanan's face turn redder and redder before starting to turn white. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a ring box with three rings in it, including an engagement ring with a pink diamond the size of, well you know, and two wedding rings. He handed it to Buchanan and told him, "It was my mother's so take good care of it.

"Now, the only missing is the bride.

"OK, the butler will lead you to her; and we'll be waiting for you in the Yellow Room."

A stunned Buchanan followed the butler down the hall to the Rose Room sitting room. The butler opened the door and stood back and motioned for Buchanan to enter. Buchanan squared his shoulders, felt the ring box in his pocket to make sure he wasn't dreaming all this and entered the room.

Three steps in and he stopped and stared. Standing in front of him in a traditional Russian wedding dress and wearing the most beautiful tiara and enough diamonds to cover a large Faberge Easter egg was....a lady so beautiful he gasped. She grinned and laughed and as soon as he heard the laugh he exclaimed, "Ernie!" and without thinking grabbed her in his arms.

"Why didn't you tell me you were here? What are you doing? How have you been? Where's Father what's his name?"

"She smiled, much more serenely than she felt. I just got here. I'm getting married, of course. I've been fine, but busy. Father is in the Yellow Room waiting."

"Did you know about this? Why didn't you warn me?, he demanded.

"Well, I had an idea when the dressmakers showed up before I left St.Petersburg. It was a race to finish the dress and make the arrangements before my father could say no. Fortunately, mother and my sisters were on my side. Love rules all, even in the Tsar's family. If I'd told you, you might not have asked me. This way you're on the hook. So, just ask me."

"Will you marry me? He spluttered.

"Yes, Walter, I will."

"And everybody's OK with it," he asked?

"Of course. They think you're quite a catch for me. Baby daughters in a large Russian family aren't a hot commodity, you know."

Walter was speechless and just hung on to her. A long embrace and a warm kiss...

"OK, we better join them or they'll think we got cold feet," she said.

She pointed him toward one door and disappeared out another.

Walter opened the door and found himself in the Yellow Room that was decorated in yellow roses, of course, and filled with his party and a few family members and Russian expat nobility from Washington. The Russian Orthodox priest hovered in the background. He briefly explained to Walter that their wedding here was valid in the USA and he would conduct a brief engagement ceremony and blessing of the rings; but they would not be formally married until they were married in a Russian Orthodox Church ceremony.

"OK, OK, Father. Let's do it," Walter said.

The Chaplain was performing the wedding and was used to "rush jobs" for guys going overseas in the morning. He was the coolest one in the room. The Captain was Walt's best man. And Yamamoto was usher, ring bearer, etc. Ernie was being given away by a man in a Russian officer's uniform and he found out later that he was a brother of the Tsar, the Grand Duke Michael. Matron of Honor was the Countess Yusupov from one of Russia's oldest and richest families. Her gift to Ernie had been a string of matched perfect pearls a good 2 meters long.

Following the US Navy approved ceremony, the Russian Orthodox priest that Walter had first met in Paris and then in Japan, took over and did the Russian blessing of the rings and the couple to be; while all the non-Russians tried not to gag from the smell of burning incense. A nice touch was as the Russian priest chanted the door to the hall opened and a small choir of Russian children outside sang a Russian hymn and then a very spirited folk song.

During the entire ceremony the President, Alice and Nicholas had stood in the back of the room smiling. As the ceremonies concluded White House ushers began to circulate passing out flutes of Dom Perignon, as popular in the States as it was in Russia and various traditional Russian wedding pastries.

The President moved to the front of the room and told the wedding party and guests, "Well, this is my second White House wedding and it's just as special to me as my first. Now I feel like I have two daughters instead of just one. We know you'll be happy together wherever you are; and I'm sure this surprise wedding won't be the last surprise for you in the years to come. Now, let's let

these newlyweds enjoy themselves before they head off to their next adventure. With that the President and his party left the room, followed shortly by the members of the wedding party and their guests..

Walter looked at Ernie and smiled as he bent slightly to kiss her, first on the forehead, then the cheeks, and then the lips in an embrace that got more passionate with each breath. She grinned at him and said, "And were you planning to spend the night here?" Walter looked a bit sheepish as she moved to the door by which she'd entered. "Come along," she said, and they passed through another sitting room, across the hall and into a vestibule leading into the Rose Room, the official lady's guest room across from the Lincoln Bedroom. The room was, as to be expected, painted a rose color and decorated in various rose fabrics and such.

"The President said we could stay as long as we liked and to ring for breakfast when we're ready or maybe lunch. I'm going to freshen up a bit," as she moved into the bathroom. Walter sat in one of the room's dainty chairs and wished he had a whisky. He looked around the room and discovered some of his civilian clothes in the closet including a well-used robe. He got out of his uniform, carefully hanging it up in Navy fashion, and put on the robe. As he finished Ernie came out of the bathroom wearing a simple nightgown that barely concealed what was underneath. She moved toward Walter slowly but with confidence.

An embrace that became more and more confident as he held her tighter and tighter. Then, just as he was about to carry her to the large pedestal bed in its own alcove, their moment of pre-marital bliss was broken by a loud cry that wouldn't stop. Buchanan looked stunned and Ernie looked, well, pained. She quickly moved to the only other door in the room, opened it as the crying got louder, and motioned for Walter to join her. They both walked into the adjoining sitting room that had been converted into a nursery for their visit.

Ernie moved to the crib, lifted the baby inside to her breast and began to make cooing noises.

"Honey, are you hungry," she asked? She glanced over the baby's head as she pulled the blanket away from his face and looked at Walter with a mother's natural pride.

"Walter, I want you to meet Walter Nicholas Romanov Buchanan."

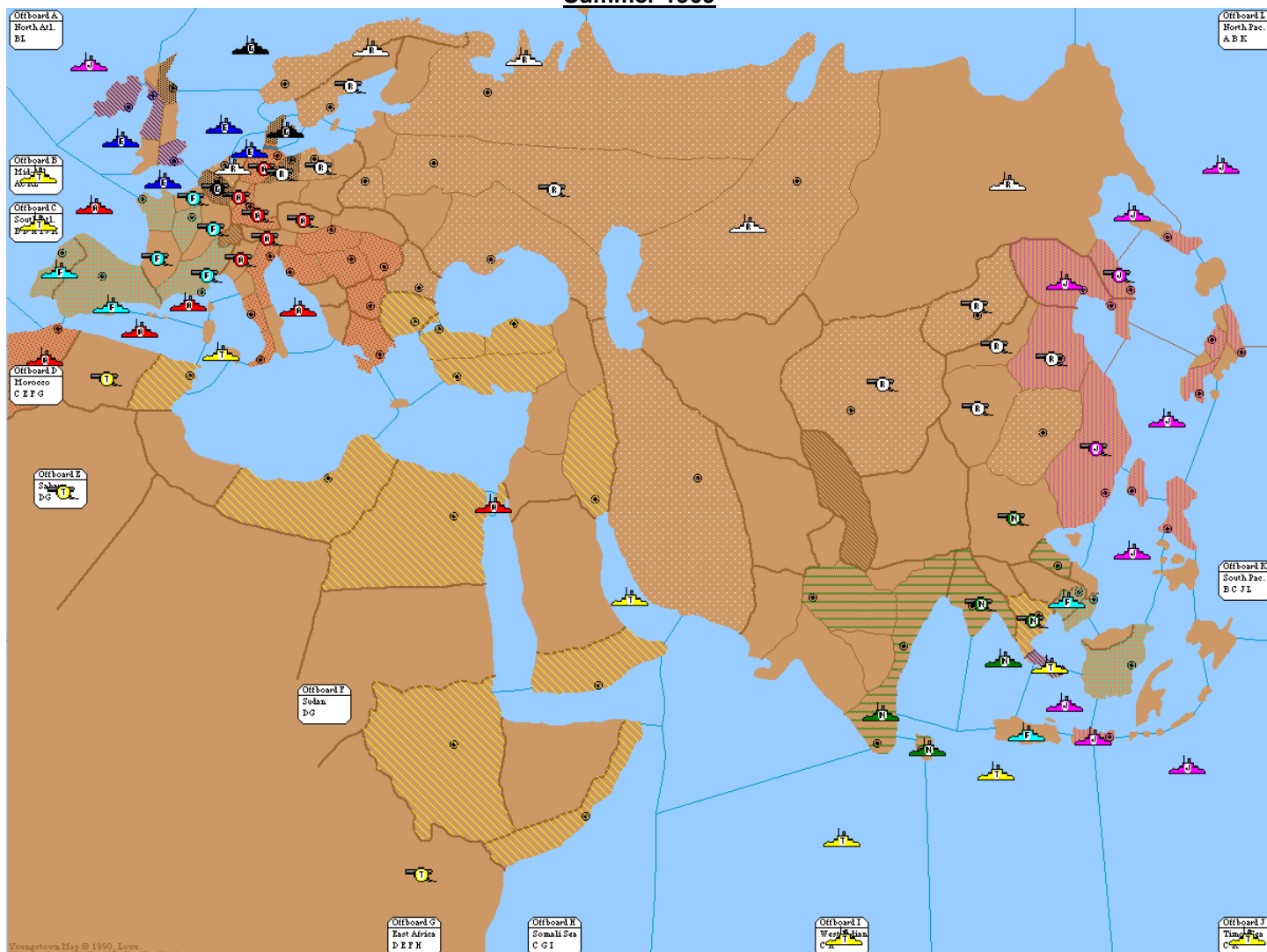
TO BE CONTINUED...

POSTLOGUE

"Walter? Isn't it your turn to change the baby?"

"Yes, dear."

Summer 1909



Austria: Has F Adriatic Sea, A Bohemia, F Gulf of Lyon, A Kiel, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F Morocco, A Munich, A Piedmont, A Ruhr, F Suez, A Tyrolia, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Has F English Channel, F Helgoland Bight, F Irish Sea, F North Sea.

France: Retreat F Mid-Atlantic Ocean – Portugal..Has A Burgundy, F Cambodia, A Gascony, A Marseilles, A Picardy, F Portugal, F Spain(sc), F Sumatra.

Germany: Has A Belgium, F Denmark, F Norwegian Sea.

India: Has F Andamon Sea, A Burma, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Sikang, A Thailand.

Japan: Has A Canton, F East China Sea, F Java, F Malay Sea, F Manchuria, F North Atlantic Ocean, F North Pacific Ocean, F South China Sea, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Timor Sea, A Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Berlin, F Holland, A Inner Mongolia, A Kansu, A Moscow, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Peking, A Posen, F Siberia, A Sinkiang, F St. Petersburg(nc), A Sweden.

Turkey: Has A Algeria, F East Indian Ocean, A East Africa, F Joharra, F Off Board B, F Off Board C, A Off Board E, F Off Board I, F Off Board J, F Persian Gulf, F Tyrrhenian Sea, F West Indian Ocean.

Now Proposed: A/R/T Draw. Please vote with your fall orders. NVR=No.

PRESS

Anon:Diplomats say it's a crime
To call it the Eater of Time.
Time isn't wasted
If you're enemy's pasted
Into primordial slime.

22 June 1909 (Washington DC): The President and Alice Roosevelt Longworth accompanied Walter, Esmeralda, and "Ernie" to Union Station in the president's carriage with three more carriages carrying William McKinley Yamamoto, Mrs. Buchanan's maid, and two nurses for Ernie and a ton (actually two tons) of luggage for their trip across country by train. At the request of the White House J. P. Morgan had made his private railroad car (Not to worry, he had four more.) available to the Buchanan party for their cross country train ride. The trip would take approximately a week with brief stops in Cleveland, St. Louis and Denver before the train arrived in Emeryville, California. Rather than take a ferry across the Bay to San Francisco Admiral Dewey had "requested" the Commander of the Navy's San Francisco naval district to make a launch available for the trip across the bay.

Even in the luxury of Morgan's personal car the Buchanans had difficulty sleeping as the train rolled west. However, Ernie adapted right away to the rhythm of the train's movement and the smooth clack-clack-clack of the wheels on the track. He slept almost the entire trip, except when it stopped when he let it be known he wanted to get going again. Buchanan thought to himself as he watched his son sleeping one morning. "I don't know what kind of sailor he'll make, but he's got a fall back career as a railroad engineer in him for sure."

26 June 1909 (Denver, CO) Things went smoothly until they got to Denver where they were staying at the Brown Palace as the guests of James and Molly (Margaret Tobin) Brown (She would later become world famous as "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."), owners of the largest silver mine in Denver. The Buchanans had accepted a dinner invitation from the Browns at the Brown Palace for the evening of their day of arrival, not knowing that the morning Rocky Mountain Oyster Express News, had "War" headlines broadcasting the carefully guarded secret that Esmeralda was in fact the daughter of the Tsar of Russia, and hence a Tsareva or Grand Duchess, and Walter Jr. was in fact Walter Nicholas Romanov Buchanan, a grandson of the Tsar and Grand Duke in his own right. Within hours every book store in Denver was out of etiquette books. Fortunately, between Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Buchanan everyone at the banquet, for such it was, was at ease and a great time was had by all. When the train pulled out of Union Station the next morning a crowd of locals showed up to cheer as the train pulled out of the station.

29 June 1909 (San Francisco, CA) Arrival in Emeryville, CA, across the bay from San Francisco, was a let-down but there was still a crowd to meet the train and see the Russian royalty. The transfer by admiral's launch, with a navy tender bring their party and baggage, turned in a minor flotilla as dozens of yachts lined the route across the bay. A short carriage ride to the Palace Hotel and the Buchanans settled in for a well earned rest on solid land. A luncheon hosted by the Mayor and local Navy brass drew more attention and crowds who wanted to see the Grand Duchess and Grand Duke.

30 June 1909 (Mare Island Navy Shipyard) While Esmeralda and Ernie were still sleeping; Walter slipped away and boarded the admiral's launch once again for a voyage across the bay to Vallejo and the Navy's premier west coast shipyard. He knew the yard had been contracted out by John Holland's Union Iron Works to build the Navy's first two submarines built on the west coast in 1901 and he hoped to see one of them. He'd also heard rumors in Washington of a top secret project being planned for the yard and was curious to find out what was going on (In 1916 Mare Island would launch its first battleship, the 32,000 ton USS California.). He was also aware that a new shipyard was under construction south of San Francisco at Hunters Point with a dry dock 1,000 feet long and capable of building any ship the Navy might need. As he sailed back to The City after a tour of Mare Island and lunch with the shipyard commander, who he peppered with questions for answers that might prove useful in Pearl Harbor, Buchanan thought to himself that The President and the Secretary of the Navy were obviously expecting trouble in the Pacific sooner or later.

As the launch pulled up to the pier saw his party waiting for him with luggage already on the tender. Looking over his shoulder Buchanan was surprised to see the Kentucky approaching up the bay moving directly at them. So that was the surprise the Pacific Fleet commander had alluded to earlier, he thought. The efficient crews of the launch, tender and Kentucky wasted no time in transferring the Buchanan party and their luggage to the battleship for the trip to Honolulu. Normally they would have traveled by passenger liner, but then Buchanan realized that would mean either taking a P&O liner (British) or worse a NYK or OSK liner (The Japanese equivalent to Cunard or Holland America.) and he knew the President would rather have him swim it, towing his family on a life raft, than have him seen on a Japanese liner going from San Francisco to Honolulu.

Buchanan tried to greet the officers and crew like the old friends they had become, but he noticed the three stars on his shoulder had created a barrier that one star didn't.

Still, he was happy to be in his old cabin and was glad to see that Yamamoto had arranged to have a double thick curtain dividing an area off with space for Ernie's crib. At least he and Esmeralda would be able to get some sleep. Some how in the time and space it took from them to board the battleship to get to their quarters Buchanan was sure that almost every sailor on board had managed to get a look at the Grand Duchess and Grand Duke. He had already sent word to the captain that they were to be treated politely but informally on board and not to let anything interfere with the crew's duties. He'd also invited the ship's officers to dinner a few nights later.

All went well on the crossing and Esmeralda had captured the crew's hearts with her smile and kind words during her morning and evening walks. Motherhood, even at a young age, had agreed with her and given her a new kind of beauty. Ernie (Nobody called him Walter, Jr.) also proved popular and one of the ship's carpenters had made him a rolling crib for use on deck or in the cabin and his first baby stroller, complete with nautical symbols and the name of the Kentucky carved into it. He'd also been at work in his shop in his free time but wouldn't let anybody see what he was making.

The Kentucky would arrive in Honolulu three days late because Buchanan, frankly, didn't want the cruise to end, so he asked the Captain if they could extend the training cruise a bit and sail through and around all seven of the other islands before arriving in Honolulu. The Captain readily agreed (Captains, even of battleships, do not tell a Vice Admiral no. Ever. Period.).

3 July 1909 (Honolulu, Hawaii) Finally the voyage was at an end as the Kentucky slipped into Honolulu harbor. The captain and shore commander had offered to arrange a tender to transport them to the Pearl Harbor base by boat, but knowing what he did about the troubles they were having clearing a channel through the coral reef approach to Pearl, Buchanan opted for carriages and wagons for his party to get to the Commandant's Quarters on the base where they would live, assuming they were suitable for a new family. As the crew began off loading their luggage they said their thank yous and good byes to those who had taken care of them during the voyage. Just as they were about to

debark Buchanan and Esmeralda heard a huffing and puffing behind them. They turned, while the nurse carrying Ernie paused to see what was going on. Coming around the superstructure of the ship was the ship's carpenter and Yamamoto carrying a large wooden box that looked to be about four feet long by two feet wide by three feet high. It had rope handles on both ends and a row of round holes about 2 inches wide on each of the longer sides. It also had a lid that was hinged and designed to peak in the middle where it was divided down the center of the box. It reminded Buchanan of something but he couldn't think of what.

The two men put the box down carefully in front of Esmeralda and the ship's carpenter told her, almost bashfully, that it was a gift for Ernie from the crew. The two then opened the lid like a pair of double doors and then used a pair of ropes inside to lift out a wooden tray; and then a second one underneath. Carefully nested in each tray was a beautifully carved wooden animal such as might have been on Noah's ark; which in fact is what the box represented. There was a lion, a tiger, an elephant, a giraffe, etc. etc. on the top tray, and down below were domestic animals like a cow, lamb, chicken, goat, etc. etc. All carefully carved and painted and all with their own space in the box. The carpenter looked at Esmeralda and Ernie for a bit and then said, "He's too young to appreciate it now but someday he will when he studies his Bible and his animals and hear's the story about Noah and the Ark." With Buchanan, Esmeralda and Ernie looking on, the crew on the deck filed by to see and admire the carpenter's work. As they loaded the box onto the wagon Buchanan noticed some carving on its bottom but forgot it as first Esmeralda and then Ernie started crying as they walked down the gangway from the ship.

It took three carriages and four wagons to carry the party as it made its way to the Navy base at Pearl with its escort of sailors and marines. They moved slowly so as not to disturb Ernie who was fast asleep in his crib. Several people had gathered to watch the procession go by as it passed the Iolani Palace, the home of Hawaii's last king and queen.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Spring and Summer 1909 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Just counting things...the S09 PDF has two pages of results and fourteen pages of Peeriblah. Amazing!

There is lots of press here in both Spring and Summer, so I want to comment on that first. The initial thing to say is "welcome back"...

Welcome back, Larry, Your dreams were your ticket out.

Welcome back, Larry, To that same old place that you laughed about.

Well the names have all changed since you hung around,
Maybe the Germans have become more friendly and turned around.

Who'd have thought they'd lead ya (Who'd have thought they'd lead ya)
Back here where we need ya (Back here where we need ya)

Yeah we tease him a lot cause we've got him on the spot, welcome back,
Welcome back, Larry; welcome back, Larry;
welcome back, Larry!

This pundit was NOT the one that wanted to see the Peeriblah go away, so seriously, I'm glad it's back, and if Ernest Hakey, our Turk, was part or all of the push, that's great to hear. If Larry's coming back, is there ANY way he is not going to use it as an opportunity to drop Henry Kissinger's name? No bleepin' way!!! So, we have a story (of which I think I've heard another version before) in the late 1980's in a visit through DC coming back from playing Diplomacy in Europe. But, not only that, we have a Scoop Jackson reference bonus!!! Jamie liked Scoop better than Henry, how could that be??? But the real key to the story is his meeting Robert K. Massie and his wife Suzanne. If you've never read Robert K. Massie's encyclopedic tome, "Dreadnought", you need to. Dreadnought has an honored place in my thousands of books library right between Lord "Jacky" Fisher's First Edition 1919 Memories and Records (two volumes, most known in fun as the first known originator of the social media popular OMG abbreviation) and Paul Fussell's Great War book (the latter, you've all read, but the first two are great too!!!). Massie's book, which I've reviewed in full before someplace (as an exercise to the reader, you can go find it!) is one of the essentials of understanding the full complexity of the Diplomatic life leading up to and through WWI that is the essence underlying the Diplomacy game. Yes, welcome back, Larry!

The rest of the press, tied in with the Buchanan solicitation of the Americans... continues through both seasons. Now to what most of you are more interested, where were the big moves in the game. First, Austria finally dislodges France from the Mid-Atlantic, to retreat to Portugal. Japan makes no attempt to defend SE Asia, so India (still working with the alliance!) works to help take the leftover centers out, while Germany does switch sides and works to move English fleets forward.

India is grabbing dots, which is what he has to do regardless of future plans. If he wants to turn around,

now is the time. Take Thaliand and Joharra from Turkey and turn.

I'm not a big fan of press but I like the photo press...that RAT alliance meeting made me laugh out loud, that was hilarious.

Austria: Moves to Suez, presumably with approval from Turkey, we're not sure what he's up to with that, but the noose around the French neck tightens as the Fleet in Western Mediterranean Sea gets into the Mid-Atlantic.

Yes, Admiral von Trapp is headed towards the Red Sea. There's some kind of Plummer/Heston joke there, but I can't find it.

France: As that noose tightens, France will be able to keep a center in SE Asia for at least one more year, but like England, could take a unit off in SE Asia first, since Sumatra is not accomplishing much anymore (though it could be annihilated in the fall). Otherwise, France isn't doing much creative, so is probably still on the road to elimination.

"France isn't doing much creative." 14 pages of press would beg to differ.

England: Now, with the German reversal, I actually think France could be eliminated before France, and though Germany will be crunched badly, England may be able to make some progress against Russia. Russia really didn't want that English fleet to get into Helgoland Bight.

It was the Bight or Skaggerak, and neither was good. And Russia's got a bunch of land-bound fleets trying to blast their way into the Pacific. The resistable force meets the movable object. Wait - Russia tried to order STP - Norwegian Sea? Well the map is so bad he might not have realized that the Barents Sea is in the middle.

Germany: I think Germany, once cut out, did the only thing he could do and switch sides. Since Dave Partridge is one of the best tacticians around, this is a double loss for the RAT alliance. The immediate question is whether England lets him keep Edinburgh, that's not what North Sea should be doing, and won't be doing. Germany could quickly begin to lead the RAT opposition, even though he has fewer centers.

I wouldn't have stabbed Dave until the Russian fleets were in a better position. Come to think of it, I probably wouldn't have stabbed Dave at all. Good guy to have in a tight spot.

India: Come on, Harold, if you haven't convinced them to let you into the final draw, you should join

the opposition too. I didn't expect you to do so, but perhaps you will soon. If and when will Turkey stab you? You've probably had really good relations so far, but at some point RAT rises to the fore.

He might be waiting for the proper moment. Or he might be so angry at the colonial powers that he chose this path long ago.

Japan: Oh, Walt, Walt.... can't you be a little bit more aggressive? I wouldn't have thought that F Nwg would have backed into North Atlantic, but that was clearly a deal to get Germany into the action. In the east, Japan did move into Sea of Okhotsk. We'll see if he locks up the Russian move forward in the right way, but this is evidence he sees that he needs to do it.

I'M SO HAPPY A KOREA WENT TO VLADIVOSTOK FINALLY!!!!

Russia: I still think Russia stabbed too soon and that he has a chance to be locked up both East and West, but right now he's doing fine. The Fall will tell on both fronts what's going on.

I hate the Russian position because he's got stupid fleets in two of his home SCs, and another SC is occupied by the Japanese. There is no path to solo from where he is. And isn't that the "Object of the Game"?

Turkey: I really think Turkey is the guy who could solo this thing if it keeps going, let's see....

Turkey has the best chances, certainly. He needs another patch of SCs - either from India or Austria, if he wants to solo. But it's way too early to stab Austria.

Austria needs for France to fall so he's left with only Russia as a land rival in Europe. If that works, he could head into Russia and try to win with the Euro center block, along with a few in Africa. Austria does have a path here, esp. since Turkey has no significant land force. If Turkey is stabbed by Austria, he'll find that all those fleets in the OBBs are pretty much useless.

Well, I hope something other than a negotiated three-way draw is in the cards here.

This game is going pretty much the way this has been going for the last several years....the fact that Germany switches sides had all the impact i expected it would...virtually none...Germany was a "captive" ally from day one.

Other than a solo from one fo the big three R/A/T-- I disagree with Rick—I think any of the big three can do it..not just Turkey....the only thing interesting left in will the Indians be allowed to live and can Walt finish is redoubt defense before the allies arrive in time to try and kick him out of the game.

Fall 1909

Austria: F Adriatic Sea - Ionian Sea, A Bohemia – Saxony, F Gulf of Lyon – Marseilles, A Kiel Supports F Holland (*Cut*), ~~F Mid-Atlantic Ocean – Gascony~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to South Atlantic Ocean or Off Board B or OTB), F Morocco - Mid-Atlantic Ocean (*Fails*), A Munich - Burgundy (*Fails*), A Piedmont Supports F Gulf of Lyon – Marseilles, A Ruhr - Belgium (*Fails*), F Suez - Red Sea, A Tyrolia - Munich (*Fails*), F Western Mediterranean Sea Convoys A Algeria – Spain.

England: F English Channel - North Sea (*Bounce*), F Helgoland Bight Supports F Denmark – Kiel, F Irish Sea Supports F North Atlantic Ocean - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F North Sea - Holland (*Fails*).

France: A Burgundy Supports A Marseilles (*Cut*), F Cambodia - Gulf of Siam, A Gascony Supports F Spain(sc) (*Cut*), ~~A Marseilles Supports F Spain(se)~~ (*Disbanded*), A Picardy – Brest, F Portugal Supports F Spain(sc), F Spain(sc) Supports A Marseilles (*Cut*), F Sumatra - East Indian Ocean (*Bounce*).

Germany: A Belgium Supports F North Sea - Holland (*Cut*), F Denmark - Kiel (*Fails*), F Norwegian Sea - North Sea (*Bounce*).

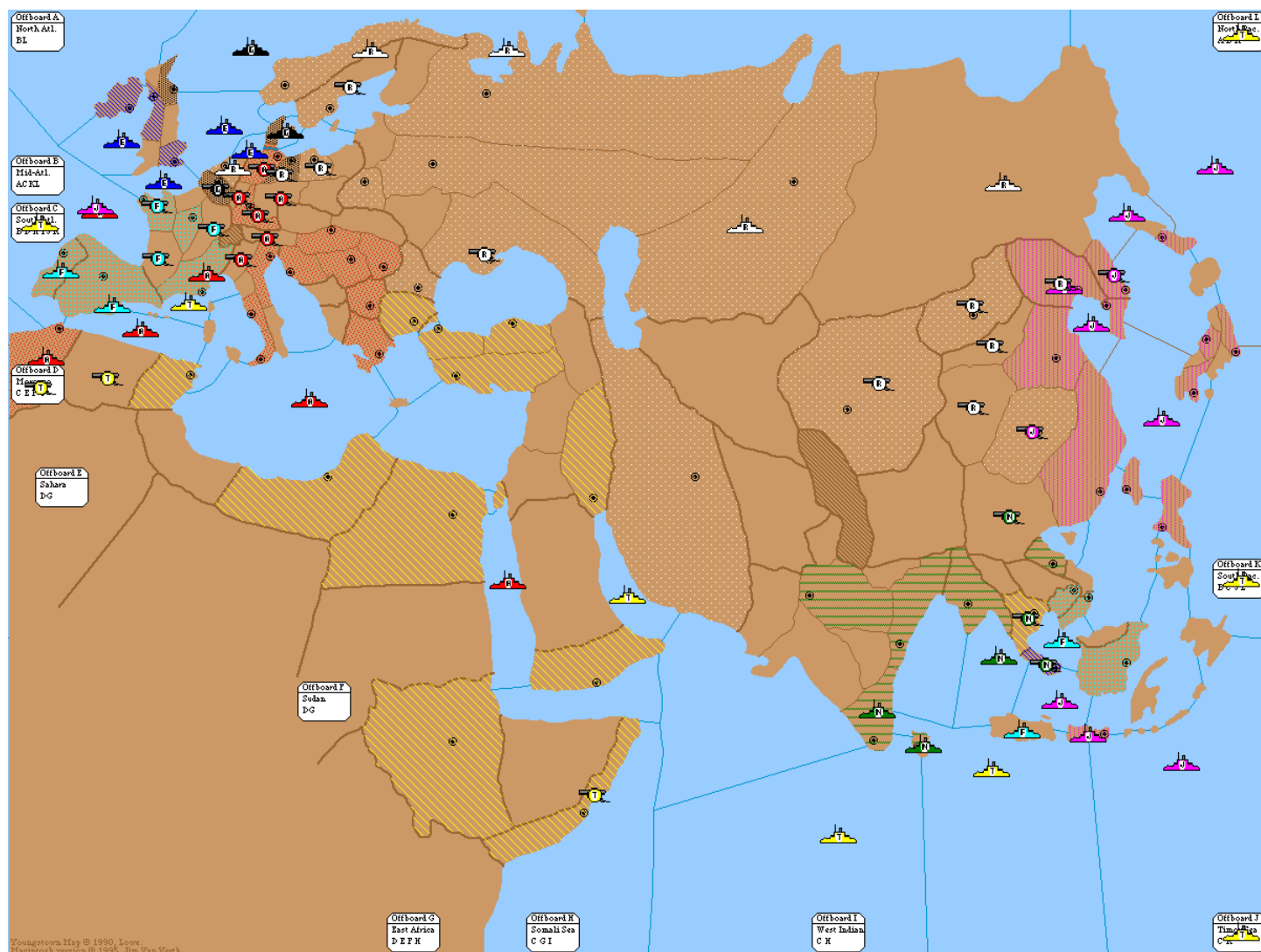
India: F Andamon Sea Supports A Thailand – Joharra, A Burma – Thailand, F Ceylon - West Indian Ocean (*Fails*), F Madras - Arabian Sea (*Bounce*), A Sikang Supports A Canton – Hankow, A Thailand – Joharra.

Japan: A Canton - Hankow, F East China Sea - Yellow Sea, F Java Supports F Timor Sea, F Malay Sea Supports F Ankara - Joharra (*Void*), ~~F Manchuria – Peking~~ (*Dislodged*, retreat to Korea or OTB), F North Atlantic Ocean - Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F North Pacific Ocean - Siberia (*Fails*), F South China Sea - East China Sea, F Sea of Okhotsk Supports F North Pacific Ocean – Siberia,

F Timor Sea Supports F Sumatra - East Indian Ocean (*Cut*), A Vladivostok Supports F North Pacific Ocean – Siberia.

Russia: A Berlin Supports A Kiel, F Holland Supports A Ruhr - Belgium (*Cut*),
A Inner Mongolia Supports A Peking – Manchuria, A Kansu – Hankow, A Moscow – Sevastopol,
F Norway Supports F St. Petersburg(nc) - Barents Sea, A Outer Mongolia Supports A Peking – Manchuria,
F Omsk Supports F Siberia, A Peking – Manchuria, A Posen Supports A Berlin, F Siberia Hold,
A Sinkiang Supports F Siberia, F St. Petersburg(nc) - Barents Sea, A Sweden Supports F Norway.

Turkey: A Algeria - Spain (*Fails*), F East Indian Ocean - Malay Sea (*Fails*), A East Africa – Magudisco,
F Joharra Supports F East Indian Ocean – Malay Sea (*Disbanded*), F Off Board B - Off Board L,
F Off Board C - Off Board K, A Off Board E - Off Board D, F Off Board I - Off Board C,
F Off Board J - Timor Sea (*Fails*), F Persian Gulf - Arabian Sea (*Bounce*), F Tyrrhenian Sea - Gulf of Lyon,
F West Indian Ocean - East Indian Ocean (*Bounce*).



A/R/T Draw Proposal Fails

PRESS

Anon: As the Germans were crossing the Rhine,
They said "We're just here for the wine.
We'll enter Burgundy
At twelve o'clock Sunday
And see you in Paris by nine."

Anon: The fat lady hasn't sung yet, but I hear her
warming up down the hall...

Anon: The Indian chef Bahbie Phlay

Likes to cook a great meal every day.
He makes a chapatti
While dressing real natty
As long as the customers pay!

Suez Canal: Throngs of Egyptians, Turks, and Arabs lined both sides of the canal today as the last battleship of the mighty Austrian fleet sailed south into the Red Sea. before getting under full steam, the battleship entertained a swarm of dhows bringing a variety of native foods to the vessel, and returning with souvenirs from the Austrian sailors, who looked to the south with pride, prepared to show the flag along the eastern shores of Africa and perhaps the western shores of India, depending on arrangements with the Turkish navy for combined fleet maneuvers and operations.

Joharra: Units of Turkish marines swept through the local towns and markets, on a mission for the Sultana herself -- the selection of new and different clothing fashions. Imperturbable, but unsure of just how long they would be in port to carry out this mission, the marines force marched from market to market, seeking the most colorful and best made garments and accessories to ship back by fast courier ship to Baghdad, where the garments would be loaded onto an express train and sent directly to Ankara, where the Sultana had recently constructed a fashion palace for women of the Empire and its allies only -- eunuchs allowed, of course, but no uncut men...

Y4 Demo Game Reasonland Fall 1909 Press Japan

The Parade

4 July 1909 (The Commandant's House, Naval Station, Hawaii): Only Yamamoto's head's up earlier that morning had reminded Buchanan that during the welcoming ceremonies at the pier in Honolulu the day before he had accepted the port captain's and mayor's invitation to serve as reviewing officer at the day's Fourth of July parade in downtown Honolulu (The city has just completed its first high-rise building, a four story wonder of steel and brick complete with an elevator ---the only one between San Francisco and Tokyo the locals were claiming!) so he carefully shaved, put on his dress uniform and climbed into the horse-drawn carriage with Yamamoto, two sailors and four Marines as outrider escort; and headed off for town.

During the ride out and back he actually used the time alone with Yamamoto to get a regular week's worth of work done, including what would be known in naval annuals as The Buchanan Plan to Conquer Hawaii, a manifesto of how he planned to turn this tropical paradise into the first line of America's defense in the Pacific.

The parade in Honolulu went well with large crowds wearing leis, colorful native shirts, and, most importantly, waving as many American as Hawaiian flags. Even the detachments of sailors, marines, and soldiers in the parade drew cheers from the crowd and he proudly returned their salute from the reviewing stand which he had invited the senior Army officer on the island, a rather stout, blah, colonel, to share with him.

After the parade and making his excuses (With a lovely wife and a new son waiting at home, what excuses did he need?) Buchanan climbed into his carriage for the return trip.

He arrived to find that the Commandant's House had been decorated with flags and red, white and blue bunting; a ragtag band of musicians from the local Navy and the Kentucky were playing a combination of patriotic songs, Stephen Foster and the newest rage, Scott Joplin's rags. He was a bit taken aback to discover the contingent of sailors, marines and soldiers from the earlier parade had kept right on marching out to his House, thanks to a carefully unmentioned invitation from Mrs. Buchanan, and were enjoying some ice tea, lemonade and cake. They seem to be having a good time and their attention was equally divided between admiring Mrs. Buchanan and trying to get Ernie to laugh.

Eventually their units reformed and they marched off to their barracks, singing as they marched. Yamamoto grinned as he noticed that as the marching band heading from the Commandant's House back to the barracks got further and further from the House the lyrics to the songs they were singing got bawdier and bawdier.

On the Porch

Buchanan was delighted to see that, although by now everyone in Honolulu knew his wife was a Russian Grand Duchess, she had dressed in a fairly simple white dress with a red, white and blue bonnet; and that Ernie was wearing a baby's version of a sailor's uniform that he had never seen before. If anyone noticed, nobody commented that it looked more like a Russian sailor's uniform than a US Navy one. As the orderlies cleaned up the remains of the holiday party, the family found a quiet spot on the porch where the two of them sat in a swinging chair while Ernie napped in one of his cribs, with a nurse watching him and a nanny watching her and a sailor watching them both. Before long Esmeralda had drifted off into a nap of her own and Walter, never a one to waste a moment, started going through the stack of papers awaiting his attention. Most he could delegate out to his small staff but the ones he thought were important he looked over with care. He carefully reviewed the notes Yamamoto had made earlier in the day of his plan for converting Hawaii into the Navy's premier Pacific base. As he read he thought back to

what he knew about the short history of the base under his command.

From Pacific Gibraltar: U.S.-Japanese Rivalry Over the Annexation of Hawaii, 1885-1898, by William M. Morgan
Based on a sweeping re-evaluation of new and existing sources in three countries, Pacific Gibraltar is the first detailed account in a generation of Hawaiian annexation, the initial episode of U.S. overseas imperialism. The book clarifies murky episodes in the story of annexation, such as U.S.S. Boston's mysterious return to Honolulu just in time to land troops during the Hawaiian Revolution, President Cleveland's failed attempt to restore Queen Lili'uokalani, and the growing threat to the white rebel government from burgeoning Japanese immigration.

Though the U.S. annexed Hawai'i during the Spanish-American War of 1898, Hawaii was not a war spoil like the Philippines. Rather annexation was an old idea. It emerged not only from ideological and economic motives but above all from a quarter century of maturing appreciation for Hawaii's importance to defense of the west coast. When Tokyo's push to secure voting rights for its nationals scared the white oligarchy into restricting the inflow of Japanese, triggering a nasty dispute between the two countries in early 1897, the U.S. rushed to protect the strategic isles. When Japan deployed warships to Honolulu and formally opposed annexation, even before the McKinley administration endorsed it, the U.S. completed the first war plans against Japan and authorized the Navy to use force against Japanese landing parties. The Japan-U.S. crisis of 1897 put annexation on the front burner and created the votes that would pass a joint resolution of annexation the following year.

1887 Treaty ratified giving US exclusive access to Pearl Harbor. Hawaii gets duty free status and no taxes on sugar imported into the USA. Took 12 years to get the Treaty from signing to ratification

1898 Spanish American War and new US Empire in the Pacific (e.g. Guam Puerto Rico free as spoils of war, Cuba became independent, and the Philippines were bought for \$20 million) led to a decision to create a major US naval presence in the Pacific.

1900 Naval Station Hawaii established with one tug (Iroquois) and two coal barges. This marked the beginning of the fleet support and eventual basing missions of the Navy in Pearl Harbor.

1901 Congress funds first major improvements at Pearl Harbor including the Commandant's house and a 10 ton crane. Use of eminent domain law allows Navy to acquire land where Pearl Harbor base is now, including part of Ford Island. and Kauhua Island.

1901-1902 The first of many battles between the Navy and Army over rights to land use of facilities, including the main artesian well that supplied the entire area. War Dept. (Army), Labor and Commerce and Agriculture Dept. wanted land and facilities on Navy property. In the early years the Army, which was building its own installations on the island, used the Navy's piers and terminals more than the Navy did.

1903 First US battleship, the Wisconsin, enters the port of Honolulu for coal and water.

December, 1903: President Theodore Roosevelt Report to Congress (e.g. State of the Union speech equivalent)

I heartily congratulate the Congress upon the steady progress in building up the American Navy. We cannot afford a let-up in this great work. To stand still means to go back. There should be no cessation in adding to the effective units of the fighting strength of the fleet. Meanwhile the Navy Department and the officers of the Navy are doing well their part by providing constant service at sea under conditions akin to those of actual warfare. Our officers and enlisted men are learning to handle the battleships, cruisers, and torpedo boats with high efficiency in fleet and squadron formations, and the standard of marksmanship is being steadily raised. The best work ashore is indispensable, but the highest duty of a naval officer is to exercise command at sea.

The establishment of a naval base in the Philippines ought not to be longer postponed. Such a base is desirable in time of peace; in time of war it would be indispensable, and its lack would be ruinous. Without it our fleet would be helpless. Our naval experts are agreed that Subic Bay is the proper place for the purpose. The national interests require that the work of fortification and development of a naval station at Subic Bay be begun at an early date; for under the best conditions it is a work which will consume much time.

January 1905, gunboat Petrel enters the upper Loch

1906 US purchases 729 acres at Diamond Head for Army's Fort Ruger, Four batteries of giant mortars were installed but never used in combat in the next 50 years.

July 1908 Great White Fleet visits Honolulu

1908 US Navy Shipyard established with mission to build major dry-docks(s). First one collapsed in 1913 because of flawed design and faulty construction.

In light of this what Buchanan had been told at the White House by the President and at the Navy Yard by Admiral of the Navy (the only time that rank was used) Dewey made sense. His orders were:

- 1) Make Pearl Harbor the main US Navy base in the Pacific.
- 2) Do it as quickly as possible but do it for the long haul.
- 3) Spend what was needed to achieve 1 and 2.
- 4) Strengthen the ties between the Islanders and the USA
- 5) He was also told that although a normal tour of duty for a command like this was two years because of the importance of the task and the distances involved, he was expected to serve four years initially with the possibility of a second four year assignment.
- 6) He was also assured that the assignment would not in any way harm his chances for future promotion or better assignments later. He laughed at that, "What could be a better assignment than a chance to create a whole new major Navy base in a tropical paradise?"
- 7) Finally, he was promised that everything possible would be done to make sure his family was happy in their new assignment. In one of his first major decisions Buchanan interpreted that to mean that all the families of all the servicemen under his command would receive equal treatment.

On The Parade, 4 July Continued 4th of July Continued

As he thought about it WB realized that: 1) He could deal with the "Navy" part of the President's order, 2) Esmeralda was a perfect pick to handle the personal and personnel issues of dealing with the various communities that made up Pearl Harbor, Honolulu and Hawaii, and 3) Even Ernie had a role to play as a baby who would grow up in the island and represented the blending of two very different cultures. He would be the prototype of bringing together the best of the American, Russian and Pacific cultures in Hawaii. The future belonged to him.....

Esmeralda was surprised to see her husband walk over to Ernie's crib and gingerly lift him out of it. Usually he didn't bother the sleeping child. But he held him gently and placed his head on his shoulder. She could barely hear him whisper to his son, "Someday, son, this is all going to be yours." She didn't know exactly what he meant by that but she was sure he'd tell her sooner or later.

They had dinner on the porch and watched the sunset slowly over the Pacific. They were surprised to see the Iroquois and two coal barges moving into the Loch below the Commandant's House. What they didn't see was a small group of musicians returning from the day's party and taking up a place behind the house. Under the watchful eyes of Yamamoto various groups of sailors and marines moved about the property in a purposeful way, although doing what neither Buchanan nor Esmeralda could tell.

They would have been even more surprised if they knew that sailors and marines, and the crew of the Kentucky had been busy all afternoon getting ready for the evening's surprise. From Barber's Point in the west to Diamond Head in the east, a distance of some eighty miles, sailors and marines had been busy at work creating launch sites for the fireworks that the local merchants, aided by Chinese and Japanese locals who were very familiar with such things, hoped would light up the night skies and mark a new beginning for the islands that had gone through so much stress in the past dozen years. Their hope was the new base would give the island a new common purpose with its new Big Brother in Washington.

Promptly at 2000 the musicians at the Commandant's House at the Navy Base and at the band stand in Honolulu's central park struck up a Sousa march to get people's attention.

After a pause, the National Anthem was played, followed by more patriotic songs, along with music of Stephen Foster, John Phillips Sousa, and Scott Joplin.

One highlight of the evening was a mixed choir of the locals from the Honolulu Baptist Church that sang a medley of Hawaiian folk songs (in English) and US patriotic songs (in Hawaiian).

Another big hit with the audience was a surprise (mostly to Buchanan) when his wife stepped to the front of the porch and sang the Yablochko or "Russian Sailor's Dance" with the back-up of a more enthusiastic than skilled group of American sailors. She followed that with a rendition of the traditional Russian folk song "Dark Eyes" that had many in the audience crying along to the tune, even though they didn't have a clue what the words were about.

The two bands, one at the Commandant's House and one in Honolulu, also managed to play a couple of waltzes and for weeks afterwards the locals gossiped about what a graceful pair Buchanan and Esmeralda made as they waltzed around the porch (Although, if the truth were to be known, Esmeralda was seen walking with a limp for several days from the beating her feet took on the dance floor.).

The concert ended with what is said to be the first performance ever in the Pacific of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, written some thirty years earlier; and the "surprise" red, white and blue fireworks could be seen from Barber's Point to Diamond Head, and even over the mountains to the east at the little US Navy enclave at Kaneohe Bay. The encores went on for a considerable time until the small Marine band struck up Sousa's The Stars and Stripes Forever. That officially ended the concert.

Things to Come in the Future “Plan Now for Later”

Buchanan quickly realized that the Navy had acquired more land than it could immediately use so he looked for ways to make money off that idle land to either buy more land at a good price or buy things the base needed but Washington wasn't eager to provide. Over the years the Navy became a major landholder in the Pearl Harbor, Honolulu and Hawaii area. Lands that would later have been impossible to buy were already Navy property and merely needed to be converted into housing, base facilities like ammo dumps, fuel tanks, or off-site uses (e.g. Buying the highest point on the island that nobody wanted because it was inaccessible in 1910 turned out to be a God send 30 years later when the Navy needed a better site for its communications link to the West Coast and Subic Bay.) Today (in 2013) nearly a thousand military and civilian personnel still use that site for the same mission.

The Man Kites Return

Buchanan, Esmeralda and Ernie were sitting on the front porch of Commandant's House enjoying some rare family time when suddenly Buchanan heard, “Admiral, Admiral! Up here!!”

Looking up, Buchanan spotted one of the carpenter's homemade copies of the Man-Flying War Kites ---just as it sailed over the House and headed for a good (e.g. it didn't crash on impact) landing on the beach below the House.

Buchanan walked down to check it out and discovered the pilot was an 85 lb. ship's boy from the USS Kentucky, probably the lightest member of the crew that the carpenter had recruited as his test pilot.

The problem they had with the kite was the fabric used for the “skin.” It seemed to split its seams or tear easily and inevitably a crash soon followed. Buchanan picked up a piece of the fabric and carried it up the hill to the House's front steps where he and the pilot chatted about the problem. Esmeralda didn't appear to be paying much attention but she soon entered the House and returned with a tray of ice tea for the two men.

While Ernie slept under the watchful eyes of a nurse, Esmeralda watched and listened to the pilot's conversation with her husband. Finally she bent over and picked up a piece of the fabric. She looked at it, ran her hands over it, and even smelled it. Finally she asked the pilot if he had any of the original fabric from one of the Japanese built war kites. He reckoned that they must have some at their grandiosely titled “air flight operations center,” actually an old barn they had liberated from one of the local farmers in return for the rent of 1 barrel of grog a year, payable in advance.

Esmeralda told the pilot to bring her some of the fabric the next time he was in the area; and sure enough, on the following Sunday, his day off, he showed up at the front door carrying a package of the fabric. Buchanan and she carefully unrolled it and spread it on the deck of the porch. They noticed at once that it was a bit lighter, but it was also stronger than what they were using on their kite. After more examination and discovering that she couldn't rip the fabric no matter how hard she and Buchanan tried, she sat and stared at it awhile. Then, in one of those “Eureka!” moments she jumped up and ran into the House leaving Buchanan and the pilot with a puzzled look on their faces.

Minutes later she reappeared carrying an armload of fluffy material which she proceeded to spread on the deck. The pilot at first looked puzzled until it dawned on him that he was getting his first ever close-up look at a lady's undergarments. Buchanan turned red at first but quickly caught Esmeralda's enthusiasm as she displayed her private garments. She spread out a pair of bloomers, a corset and a petticoat and explained what each was for and how it was made. She paid particular attention to the stitching on the petticoat and the whale bone stays used in the corset. She even roughly demonstrated how they were worn to the young pilot's bewilderment and Buchanan's embarrassment.

She carefully laid out the petticoat on the deck with a piece of the Japanese silk fabric on top of it. She took another piece and wrapped it around the corset working the fabric in between the stays of the corset.

Then she went into the House, only to return with some cooking oil and a couple of candles. While the pilot and Buchanan looked on in wonder she lit the candles and then proceeded to warm the oil as she carefully collected the melted tallow from the candles. When the supplies were ready she first carefully dunked a square piece of silk fabric from one of her petticoats into the oil until it was good and soaked. Then she let the excess oil drip off the fabric before rubbing it all over with the melted tallow. She then placed that carefully on another piece of prepared silk and laid both on the deck.

She smiled and looked at the men and said, “Now we wait.” After a time she picked up a corner of the fabric square, shook it a little, and then put it down. “Not yet,” she said. More time passed while she explained how the squares would be draped over the stays and sewn into larger panels to fit the kite's frame. One of the maids brought out some more iced tea and sandwiches for the men; while she and the nurse went off to feed Ernie.

When she returned, she went straight to the fabric and this time when she lifted the corner she seemed satisfied, and lifted up the entire square of silk. It came off the deck as a stiff square that held its shape no

matter how she held it, moved it around and even shook it. It just refused to bend.

She looked at the two men, "Don't you see? If you use this as a fabric for the kite's skin it should be strong enough not to tear or come apart." Both replied with a loud, "Ooooooh....." "The only problem is we don't have enough silk to make one. Hmmm, let me work on that."

That week, at a meeting of the Episcopal Church's Women's Guild, Esmeralda requested help from her fellow members (Although a devout Russian Orthodox believer, Esmeralda found membership in the various church women's guilds in Honolulu to be a great way to make new contacts and gain information that her husband would never be able to.); and when the Commandant's wife asks for help in a Navy town she usually gets it. Within a few days a dozen packages were stacked up on the front porch.

The following Sunday the pilot returned, this time with the Kentucky's carpenter and a couple of "volunteer" sailors, including one old chief that actually remembered how to make sails. They had actually brought one of the original Japanese war kites with them that they had carefully disassembled into its various component parts of wood (bamboo), rice paper skin, framing wood and wires. While they, Buchanan and even Ernie for a bit looked on she began opening the various packages dividing them into petticoats, bloomers, corsets, etc. She showed the hesitant men how to disassemble the various pieces into their component parts.

Esmeralda and one of the maids brought out her Singer sewing machine, much to Buchanan's amazement because he didn't even know she could sew, and the two started carefully making a pattern based on the Japanese model. Buchanan would have been even more shocked if he'd known that the sewing machine was a wedding gift to the new bride from Mrs. George Dewey, whose husband was Buchanan's CO.

Hours went by as they patiently worked and it soon became obvious that they weren't going to finish the task that afternoon. With Buchanan's approval they agreed to meet on the following Tuesday morning and resume their work. It took two more days before they finally had a complete set of pieces of silk cut to size. By then the Kentucky's carpenter had come up with enough oil and tallow for their needs. With much effort they slowly prepared the material.

It took another two months before the material was ready, attached to the frame, the pieces assembled, the wires attached, etc., but gradually the man kite began to look like what it was, a kite that could carry a man.

By trial and error they had discovered that the best place to launch the kite would be across the Loch on Ford

Island where the winds blowing down the Waipahu Valley toward the Pacific would give the kite plenty of lift for a take-off, and so on the appointed morning they had placed their creation one of the Iroquois's coal barges and towed it over to the island.

Although it was supposed to be a "secret" several hundred locals had gathered along the Loch shore to watch the first flight of what the locals had named the Kaua Kanu (War Bird). With a team of marines pulling from the front and one on each side holding stabilizing lines and the pilot smiling bravely the Kaua Kanu made its first take-off in what was planned to be a 1,000 foot flight across the southwest end of the island. But once the Kaua Kanu got above 100 feet high, Lonomakua, the God of the Winds, took charge the rapidly lifted the man kite to an altitude of a thousand feet and headed it right toward the shallow channel that connected the Loch with the Pacific. Fortunately, the pilot had flown kites when he was a kid and had some idea of how they worked, although it is unlikely he was thinking about Icarus when he heading for the Pacific. Perhaps the seagulls guided him but he leaned to the left and forward and found that that brought the kite around and down and he headed back toward the base. Without even realizing it he aimed at the tallest point on the base, the widow's walk on the Commandant's House.

As the kite dropped in altitude it also slowed in speed so that by the time it was just off the beach in front of the House it was not more than 50 feet off the ground and moving about 10 miles an hour. Almost like a seagull or, perhaps more accurately, more like a gooney bird, the kite dropped on the beach in front of the Commandant's House to the cheers of the military personnel and the locals standing on the beach. In the air Kaua Kanu had looked surprisingly graceful but on land it just looked funny. While a semi-trained ground crew sought to gain control of it, the kite struggled as if it wanted to take to the air again. The pilot, who rapidly became known as Icarus through the fleet, disconnected himself from the kite and walked a bit unsteadily toward the porch were Buchanan, Esmeralda, the Kentucky's carpenter, and the rest of the builders of the kite were waiting. Buchanan thanked them all for their efforts on the project; and promptly awarded the pilot and carpenter with a promotion.

More ice tea and cake appeared and Buchanan noticed but said nothing about the ice tea seeming to be a bit stronger than normal. Afterwards he watched the carpenter and his crew carefully disassemble Kaua Kanu for the trip back to its nest on the other side of the hill. As the crowd of locals slowly drifted away no one noticed the pair of young Japanese men dressed in cotton whites taking pictures of the kite, the Commandant's House, Buchanan, the pilot and carpenter, and even the Loch and Ford Island in the distance. Within minutes they had disappeared into the crowd.

Later that evening as he sat on the porch with Esmeralda at his side he discussed with her the events of the day. He wondered if anyone there had realized how important those events were and would be for the future of the man kite, the Navy, and Pearl Harbor. And then he had his own déjà vu moment as he realized the answer to a problem that had been bugging him for weeks was right there in front of him.

He almost ran to his home office and began to write. Several hours later he had an action plan for himself, a carefully crafted telegram for the President, and an invitation to the local islander's chiefs for a meeting with himself. For once Washington responded faster than the locals and by the time the chiefs arrived for their meeting Buchanan had his plan carefully worked out. All that remained was to execute it.

Pearl Diving Day

Buchanan was surprised at how quickly the chiefs had agreed to his proposal, but they sensed there was money to be made by going along with it and the promised side benefits of medical care and education for their people told them this was the way to go.

Buchanan had been looking, as always, for a way to raise some money for the base and for his sailors who were woefully underpaid for the work they had been doing and all the volunteer efforts they had put in on their own time. Raises and promotions in a peacetime Navy, especially one trying to build a fleet of new battleships and the bases to house them, were hard to come by, but Washington was sometimes willing to go along with what they called "programs to improve morale," if they didn't cost it anything. Buchanan had watched the locals on their pearl diving expeditions in the various Lochs around the harbor and he realized that the locals were more interested in having a good time than in conducting a serious business. He also noticed that they spent a lot of time getting to and from the oyster beds where the best pearls were to be found. But it wasn't until that evening when he was sitting with Esmeralda on the porch that he put it all together and realized that the Navy's tug and two coal barges were often under-used. Why not make them available to the local pearl divers when they weren't needed? They could position them where the divers could do the best diving and then return them to shore in much less time. In addition they could teach some of the basics of pearl diving to some of his sailors who could then, on their own time, do a little freelance diving and hopefully find a few pearl bearing oysters. He knew it wouldn't be easy to get them working together but he thought it was worth an effort. He promised the chiefs he'd keep his sailors away from the prime diving areas. And to sweeten the pot he promised that a Navy corpsman would be available on a regular basis to the divers and their

families, and if the natives would build a school nearby the Navy would provide a teacher and supplies.

The first few months were hard and Buchanan never forgot what he called Pearl Diving Day, the first time a Navy diver actually came up with an oyster that had a pearl in it. One of the local divers gave him \$5 for the pearl (a month's pay to an average sailor) and then sold it to a buyer from Honolulu for \$15. Worse, he bragged about it. The sailor had already bought a keg for a celebration on his good luck with his buddies. Well, when he found out that the native had bested him things got a bit out of hand. Buchanan went down to the brig and recovered his sailors; and put them on shore duty for a month. The chief ordered his divers back to their canoes for a month; and ordered them to pay for a keg for a joint drinking session with their new American sailor partners. So it all worked out. Eventually Buchanan noted two things: the pearl divers had the best school on the island and its students consistently had the highest marks on Oahu. He also noticed that the corpsman was suddenly dealing with an influx of new patients, all babies with a paler skin and some with blue or green eyes.

The Sea Cadets Arrive

Buchanan knew that as the base grew and the number of ships visiting or even based at Pearl Harbor grew it would need more trained workers who, hopefully, would meld with the Navy mission. To increase contact between the Navy and the locals Buchanan started up a Sea Cadets program (a forerunner to the NROTC program that would come with WWI) for local high school students or graduates. The first two years of the program were more for cultural assimilation than anything else and when it was completed the cadet got a badge with a surfboard on it. The second two years were more Navy oriented and cadets got to visit the base and even take a cruise on a Navy ship. When they completed the program they got a new badge with a surfboard and a Navy anchor on it. The best of them were even offered jobs during the summer and the potential of a full time job when they graduated. When Buchanan started the program it had 24 students the first year. When he left Pearl Harbor the program had 4,000 sea cadets enrolled and over half the workers at the base had come through the program.

Beating Cannonballs into Plowshares

Mrs. Buchanan's Work

Buchanan had hoped Esmeralda would be a link between the Navy, the ex-pats in Honolulu and the natives and she gave it her best. The sailors loved her and treated either as a younger sister or even a daughter because they sensed she really did care about them and was ready to help if an emergency arose.

More than one sailor found himself on the way home aboard a Matson ship even if he didn't have the fare, due to her good influence with the shipping company bosses. In fact, a majority of the Matson ship crews and officers were ex-Navy. Probably to their surprise as much as hers, Esmeralda found herself accepted, if not loved, by the wives of the local officers; probably because she treated them as colleagues and was never a threat to their own marriages. The townspeople in Honolulu and the islanders also liked her because she managed to be not only the Commandant's wife but also a "go to person" when they had a problem. Still, it wasn't a perfect relationship as two groups didn't much care for her. Neither the wives of the Big Five executives nor the wives and daughters of the Missionaries took to her, perhaps because of her youthful beauty or her religion. Still, she got the job done.

The University of Hawaii

One of her proudest accomplishment was playing a part in the founding of what was to become the University of Hawaii. She begged and badgered the Governor for his support, and let him know that while he was a federal government appointee, she was a friend of The President. She went after the big landowners for land for a campus, and the wealthy businessmen for donations for buildings, equipment and books. Faculty she found where she could. Matson agreed to provide free transport to the islands and housing for what she called "our aloha professors," who would come over for a year and teach at the university. She wrote her father, the President, and anybody else she could think of looking for volunteer instructors. More than one of them went home not only with a tan but with a surfboard in their luggage. The University was only the 3rd in the USA to offer a program in Russian Studies, as well as programs in Japanese, Chinese (Manchurian and Cantonese) and Korean. Students were no problem and once it was agreed that classes were be suspended if it was an exceptionally good day for surfing grades improved a full point! Today, a hundred and ten years later the University of Hawaii has ten campuses and some 60,000 students.

Honolulu Zoo

The last king of Hawaii had a personal "petting" zoo at the Iolani Palace in Honolulu which basically fell into ruin when the Kingdom fell. All that remained were a few birds and snakes. But Esmeralda took an interest in them and once again when begging and badgering for "her animals." Slowly it all began to come together and the zoo because a veterinary clinic and animal shelter as well as a zoo. Navy ships arriving from the Far East and beyond often brought back some strange creature they'd adopted as a ship's pet, only to be told on arrival it had to go into quarantine and then into the local zoo. The freighters pulling into Honolulu's busy port learned the

same thing, as did the owners of yachts stopping over for a visit.

Medics training leads to tropical diseases research.

Although the weather was almost perfect on Oahu, because of its status as an international port Honolulu was often the first destination in the United States hit by foreign diseases. As recently as 1900 the bubonic plague had killed 61 islanders and shut down the Navy base for three months. Buchanan was determined that that not happen again so he reluctantly gave up a bit of land on his base to the Depts. of Agriculture and Commerce for use as a quarantine station and every person and animal coming into the islands had to go through it. To back-up the station and strengthen the University, Esmeralda promoted the establishment of a School of Medicine specializing in contagious and infectious diseases and saw to it that they worked closely with the quarantine station personnel, who often doubled as faculty and staff at the school. Today, the University of Hawaii's Tropical Diseases program is considered one of the best in the world.

The Tsar's Visit

What father, even a Tsar, doesn't miss his daughter? Esmeralda's did and as he read her letters' asking for help on this and that project he realized his dear little girl was growing up fast. And she was a mother and he hadn't seen his grandson, Walter Nicholas Romanov Buchanan, since he'd left Russia as a baby. He began to make plans and the Foreign Minister called the US Ambassador, William Rockhill, in for a personal chat. He asked the Ambassador to contact the President and clear the way for the Tsar to make a "personal" visit to Honolulu to visit his family. The President quickly agreed.

The Foreign Minister, Sergey Sazanov, arranged for the Imperial Russian yacht to make an international goodwill tour that would take it around the world with stops in Copenhagen (to visit the Tsarina's family), England, France, and then across the Atlantic to the United States, and down the east coast of South America and up the west coast until it headed for Hawaii. While it was making its journey; the Tsar would cross Russia on the Trans-Siberian RR, leaving one of his look alike cousins in the Kremlin to cover his absence. Somewhere in Siberia the Tsar and a few aides would detrain and make their way to the Siberian coast where they would be met by another ship for the voyage to Honolulu, a meeting with Esmeralda and the Grand Duke and, hopefully, a rendezvous with the Standart.

The Tsar and his staff were half-frozen when they finally reached the appointed meeting place on an isolated beach on the Siberian coast north of the Japanese forces in Vladivostok. A boat was prepared to transfer

them to a small launch waiting just offshore. It took three trips to get the Tsar and his party, and his luggage, to the launch which then headed out into the fog off the coast. Visibility was probably no more than 100 meters as the launch chugged along at perhaps 5 knots. Suddenly the fog shifted just enough that the Tsar could make out a large, gray eminence looming ahead. For some reason it reminded him of the Tsarina's latest confidant, the monk Rasputin. Ever the naval man the Tsar examined the ship waiting ahead. It didn't look like any of the English, French, Japanese or Russian large ships he'd seen, but as they sailed alongside he could see an American flag flying from one of the masts and, to his surprise, a Russian flag as well. He was actually piped aboard with all the formalities due a visiting monarch, greeted by the captain and then ushered to his (actually the captain's) cabin for the voyage to Hawaii. No sooner was he aboard than the ship roared to life and moved out to sea.

It took about a week for the Kentucky, for such it was, to make the trip to Honolulu and as it arrived off the coast the crew manned the rails and couldn't help but notice the ship awaiting them. It was obviously longer than the battleship and appeared to weigh half as much, as in fact it did. The ship carried the same flags as the Kentucky but in reverse positions with the Russian flag on the main mast and the American flag slightly below. As the Kentucky approached the Standart's saluting cannon let loose with a 21 gun salute and in due course the battleship replied with its own 21 gun salute from its 14 inch guns. Point taken.

The imperial yacht crossed the distance quickly and the Tsar and his party left the Kentucky after he thanked the captain, officers and crew for a safe trip; and presented the ship with a gold samovar half as tall as he was. Aboard his yacht the Tsar changed into his Admiral of the Fleet uniform and took his position on the yacht's bridge as the world's largest imperial yacht (Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany once told his cousin that the Standart would make a gift befitting a Kaiser, but Nicholas never got the hint.) as it sailed into Honolulu harbor.

Without assistance from port pilots or tug boats the yacht made its way through the reef challenge and to its pier where it made a perfect docking, a fact not overlooked by Buchanan or his staff. Buchanan waited beside the port captain, mayor and governor to welcome the Tsar, but all eyes were on the Tsar, Esmeralda and Ernie who had managed to sleep through the entire arrival.

Formalities over, the Tsar greeted his daughter and grandson the same way any father and grandfather would do. The daughter got a kiss on the forehead and a gentle hug. The grandson got a gentle, rocking hug but when he tried to give Ernie a kiss the baby let out with a yell, perhaps because of the beard his grandfather wore.

It was decided that the Tsar and his party would stay at the Moana Hotel (now the Moana Westin), Honolulu's first (1901) grand hotel, and that the Buchanans would also stay at the hotel during his visit to make it easier on all concerned.

During his two week visit the Tsar got the grand tour of the town, the island and, of course, the Navy base. If the locals were enthralled to meet a real Emperor, the Tsar was just as fascinated with them; especially when he saw his first demonstration of the native dances performed by natives. According to what Buchanan told Esmeralda later, the Tsar's only comment was "Thank God, the Tsarina isn't here to see this." At each stop on his various tours the Tsar spoke a few words and presented a gift: the University Library got a small library of Russian classics; the Russian language department received 500 textbooks in Russian for all levels; and the kindergartens received a complete puppet theater and puppets. The Zoo received a complete hospital suite for its veterinary clinic and two veterinarians to staff it. Finally, the Medical School received a complete scientific lab with instruments previously unknown in Hawaii, as well as six specialists in various areas of medicine to show the locals how to use them.

Still, in spite of his busy schedule the Tsar found time to spend with Esmeralda and Ernie each day. He made sure Ernie would be taught the Russian language, history, culture, etc. and said as soon as he was able to start learning the Tsar would be sending over teachers for him. (At that Buchanan's eyes started rolling; while Esmeralda tried not to laugh.) After attending a make-shift mass conducted by the Standart's priest in Esmeralda's home chapel, the Tsar announced that as he had built a Cathedral in Paris for the Russian ex-pat community a few years earlier, he would now build a church in Honolulu to serve the needs of all Orthodox believers on the island.

The day before his scheduled departure the Tsar got a special surprise. He was invited to lunch at the Commandant's House and arrived with his aides to be greeted by an honor guard of Marines from the local base and Kentucky, a band that played both national anthems, and a crowd of curious but friendly locals. Buchanan escorted the Tsar and his party to the porch and gestured for them to take a seat. While a Navy brass quarter alternated between American and Russian tunes; the Buchanans and their guests chatted, drank ice tea and had every kind of pineapple, banana and sugar cane confection you can think of.

During the morning the Iroquois and its coal barges had moved into their positions on the Loch, but nobody thought much of it. Then, right on time, the afternoon breezes began to blow out of the mountains toward the ocean. Those who had experienced the first

demonstration of the Kaua Kuna months before knew what to expect and as the crowd moved toward the beaches, Buchanan rose and motioned for the Tsar to join him as he headed toward the water.

A gun blast from the Iroquois (actually two Marine howitzers behind the House) signaled a start to the entertainment, the first air show ever held in Hawaii. First up, the original Kaua Kuna took off from the Island, made its traditional run toward the channel, and then circled over the House at about 100 feet altitude. Hanging from each wing was an American and a Russian flag. Cheers by all!

Second up, two identical, but newer man kites took off simultaneously and this time went higher and farther from Ford Island, doing an aerial pas de deux while the brass quartet played something by Tchaikovsky. Finally, the two separated with one going east and one west until they could barely be seen from the porch. The two climbed and speeded up as they turned and approached the House, with one passing overhead first and dropping a bag of white flour into a circle on the ground. The second kite, coming from the opposite direction and against the wind, flew over more slowly and deliberately as it approached the House. The pilot then dropped his load of blue flour and it landed right on top of the first load. The crowd cheered and the Tsar and his aides looked stunned at this display of accurate marksmanship.

A variety of other flights by various kinds of kites, some of which looked like they would never get off the ground, entertained the audience while the crew prepared for the show's grand finale. In addition to the kites groups representing the various ethnic groups that called Hawaii home performed for the Tsar and his group. The Japanese, Chinese, Koreans and other Asians; as well as kids from Europe and South America all performed their traditional kite activities, danced, and sang in their folk costumes. The Tsar looked at Esmeralda, "It's amazing. I thought Russia had a diverse population but this is truly remarkable --- and they all seem to get along so well. Why can't adults do that?" She looked at her father and said, "Father, you can if you want to."

Another gun shot, echoed from cannons placed around the Loch and as far away as Diamond Head, (where the Army desperately wanted to get in on the act with its 14 inch mortars), signaled the beginning of the last part of the show.

First, the original Kuau Kuna took off and this time make a perfect landing right on the spot where the flour remained from the previous display. Second, the pair of later man kites took off and circled Ford Island before disappearing in the direction of Honolulu.

By now everyone was on their feet and cheering as the combined Navy and Marine bands, plus a few enthusiastic locals playing their ukuleles chimed in, struck up The Stars and Stripes Forever as four newer model man kites took off in synchronized fashion (Well, more or less.) from Ford Island and headed east. Right behind them came four more even newer man kites featuring double wings that headed straight down the channel and out to sea where they headed off toward Honolulu.

The first team did their aerobatics to the amusement of the locals while the Tsar and his entourage watched. Then, as the Star and Stripes ended, there was a slight pause and the bands began to play a tune the locals had come to know well, The 1812 Overture. The first foursome approached Ford Island from out of the Waipahu Valley headed right for the Navy Yard and Commandant's House. The second foursome could be seen coming in from the west down the channel, also heading for the Navy Yard. The two foursomes met right over the Loch in front of the Commandant's House and engaged in a mock ferocious air battle while the band played on.

Then, in one of the few quiet moments in the piece, the two foursomes drifted over to the far side of Ford Island, and the first three man kites returned, flying over the Commandant's House trailing American and Russian flags.

At the end all eleven of the man kits flew by in front of the audience as the band played (OMG, there's been a change in the music program!!!) The Marines Hymn! With one last circle of Ford Island the eleven kites carefully landed on the beach in front of the Commandant's House. As the ground crews secured the kites the pilots rushed down the beach and jumped into the Loch in what the crowd thought was some kind of victory celebration. Little did they realize it was the way the pilots had to hide the fact that the fronts of their flight suits were all, well, a bit dirty after two hours in the air.

Never one to offend a superior officer, Buchanan quickly agreed when the Tsar asked to meet the pilots of the kites. As they gathered, the Tsar's chief aide could be seen walking up and down the ranks of his staff picking medals off of various chests. No one noticed one of Esmeralda's maids bringing a covered tray to her. And, as usual, Buchanan figured another promotion and raise would do the job; or maybe a week of pearl diving for the crews.

When everybody was assembled on the lawn in front of the porch Buchanan introduced the Tsar, Esmeralda and Ernie and took up his place at the end of the procession. As the Tsar approached each of the kite pilots he returned their salute, gave a brief nod, pinned a medal on them and moved on to the next one. Obviously, he

was a pro at this. Esmeralda presented each pilot with a pennant made from, as only they knew, a piece of silk from one of the island's ladies bloomers. And Buchanan, smiling widely, took the salute, returned it, and said, another stripe, sailor (or marine). Pretty soon you're going to out-rank me! Well done.

Esmeralda had arranged for dinner and entertainment for the pilots, ground crews, etc. on the side lawn of the Commandant's House. Inside, the dining room, reception hall and two front parlors had been converted into a dining room for the Buchanans and Tsar, with the Governor, Mayor, Army chief, and Tsar's aides tucked away in a corner. The Tsar asked Esmeralda to bring in Ernie and he and his rolling crib were placed next to the Tsar's place at the head of the table.

During dinner the brass quartet from the sailors and marines played on one side of the room; while the string quartet from the Standart played on the other. Esmeralda's greatest pleasure was seeing how well her newly recruited wait staff of sailors (to serve) and marines (to clear) did their jobs. And why not? She'd promised them all the leftovers they could eat afterwards. No one had known it but Hawaiian and Russian food go great together. Beef stroganoff with pineapple instead of mushrooms, pineapple Romanoff, breadfruit Romanoff instead of noodles, and caviar served in a pineapple boat with a little USA and Russian flag was a big hit!

After saying their official good byes the Buchanans saw their guests leave (only they knew the Tsar was returning in his personal carriage) and retreated to the upstairs sitting room. In due course the Tsar joined them and promptly found that Ernie had decided the Tsar's lap was his seat of choice. So while the Tsar bounced and burped Ernie (With six kids he'd had lots of practice.) the family talked about themselves, their countries and the future. The Tsar assured them that, no matter what the Tsarina thought, Ernie was and should remain with his family and if Esmeralda wished to stay with Walter in Hawaii or elsewhere, then so be it. He did ask for assurances, and they were given, that Ernie would be raised a good Russian Orthodox boy, whatever that meant, and would be taught to love his mother's country as much as his father's, again agreed. The Tsar and Walter both agreed that they hoped America would stay out of the war consuming Europe and much of Africa and Asia. Although things looked good for Russia and its allies at the moment, Walter stressed that the United States could and probably would enter the war to prevent an Anglo-Franco defeat; although whether the USA would help Japan was problematical.

With the family's and the world's problems resolved for the moment, the Tsar proceeded to give his family their parting gifts: Esmeralda received a tiara worth a grand duchess's ransom and the Tsar told her to use it to buy a

thousand or ten thousand hectares of prime American farmland. Ernie got a Faberge egg that, when opened, displayed the Russian and American flags. The Tsar looked long and hard at Walter before he finally said, "The President and I wrote extensively about you to each other. We both agree that our future relations as two great powers will be better off with people like you guiding them. The President is working to make this happen and I must do my part. With that, the Tsar reached into his pocket and pulled out a pair of three stars and the epaulets to go with them. Walter, since the President has no objection and I wish it to be so, I am appointing you as a Vice Admiral in the Russian navy, although we will, for the moment, keep that to ourselves, won't we?"

Buchanan's Work

Sept. 1909 work started on dry dock #1, designed to take any ship in the fleet plus 50% larger.

Naval Station, Hawaii established, across from Quarry Loch.

December 1909 Dredging began on channel into Pearl Harbor

December 1910 USS California CA-6 first ship to use the new channel

1910 Big Five Companies jointly invest in the Matson Navigation Company.

1913 US Navy headquarters officially transferred from Honolulu to Pearl Harbor.

August 1914 First four subs to be stationed there arrive in Pearl Harbor

1916 XIV Naval District opened in Hawaii, responsible for all naval construction, work continued from 1916-1936 and then tempo speeded up to wartime

1917 Ford Island opened for Army and Navy air forces

1919 Dry Dock finally filled with water.

Buchanan's Déjà vu Moment

On his last inspection tour of Pearl Harbor with Yamamoto and his staff, Buchanan offers him a chance to stay in Pearl Harbor, where he is from, or go with him....Buchanan notices the fuel tanks are next to the sub base and doesn't like it; suggests the tanks be moved (underground) and at least a two year supply of fuel be kept on hand. It takes almost 20 years but the Navy finally does what he requests. He also doesn't like the way the Navy is sharing Ford Island with the Army and wants them out, so planes can be dispersed and protected. It didn't happen until after 7 December 1941. In an offhand remark about the danger of "small subs" sneaking into Pearl. He senses the days of the BB are already over and the future belongs to aircraft carriers and big subs.

Looking Back and Ahead

1919 President Wilson orders Buchanan in a Top Secret cable to observe the Paris Peace Talks first-hand and report back to him personally. In an "eyes only" addition he tells Buchanan to travel via the Trans-Siberian RR) with his family and make stops in Tokyo, Moscow and Berlin to check on their reactions to the Paris Conference .

*Buchanan's Orders/Plan (2 parts, military and civilian)
aka The Plan to Conquer Hawaii

What the Navy needed for its mission. And its crews, support personnel, families, and community.

- 1) Bring Pearl Harbor facilities up to or exceed all standards.
- 2) Build a base that anticipates the future needs of the Navy, 25 years out.
- 3) Fueling, repairs, capital ships, escorts, subs, supply, aircraft, communications, command, intelligence, personnel support, medical, education and training
- 4) Make Pearl Harbor duty assignment sailors and marines would want (family housing, education, jobs...), 2 years for single, 4 year with family + conditions equal to home assignments.
- 5) Make Navy part of the community and community a supporter of the Navy.
- 6) Bring Pearl Harbor/Honolulu /Hawaii into the USA
- 7) Use locals to promote #2.
- 8) Use immigrants from USA to promote #2
- 9) Bring in foreigners (from Asia or elsewhere) to promote #2
- 10) Provide for growth and well-being of civilian population in areas of: employment, education, health.
- 11) Work with the Big Five and others to build the island's economy and infrastructure.
- 12) Make the island as self-sufficient as possible, provide needed imports from mainland with support of

Hawaiian Tax (25% mark-up in prices to encourage that), tax free profits.

13) Encourage immigration with low-cost housing for immigrants and subsidized retirement housing for military retirees.

14) Use local companies and skilled people to provide "extras" the Navy needed but couldn't afford.

15) Law enforcement.

16) Racial tolerance.

Afterwords

1 February 1933 . On 1 February 1933, the U.S. Navy staged a mock attack on the base at Pearl Harbor as part of a preparedness exercise.[citation needed] The attack "succeeded" and the defense was deemed a "failure". Three weeks later the US Navy launched its first "real" aircraft carrier, the USS Ranger.

Read or watch: Hawaii (1959) by James Mitchner, The Caine Mutiny (1951) and Winds of War (1971) both by Herman Wouk, Tora, Tora, Tora (1970), and Pearl Harbor (2001).

DECEMBER 7th (1943) – Although awarded the Academy Award for Documentary Short Subject, John Ford's "December 7th" is a dramatization of the attack on Pearl Harbor that contains several scenes of pure fiction. It is a tribute to Ford's abilities that many of the film's reenactments have often been confused for actual footage and used in other documentaries. The War Department aggressively cut almost an hour from the original release because of concerns that the film exposed the military's lack of preparedness for the attack.

<http://news.usni.org/2012/12/07/pearl-harbor-screen>

Autumn 1909

Austria: Retreat F Mid-Atlantic Ocean – Off Board B..Has F Off Board B, F Ionian Sea, A Saxony, F Marseilles, A Kiel, F Morocco, A Munich, A Piedmont, A Ruhr, F Red Sea, A Tyrolia, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Has F English Channel, F Helgoland Bight, F Irish Sea, F North Sea.

France: Has A Burgundy, F Gulf of Siam, A Gascony, A Brest, F Portugal, F Spain(sc), F Sumatra.

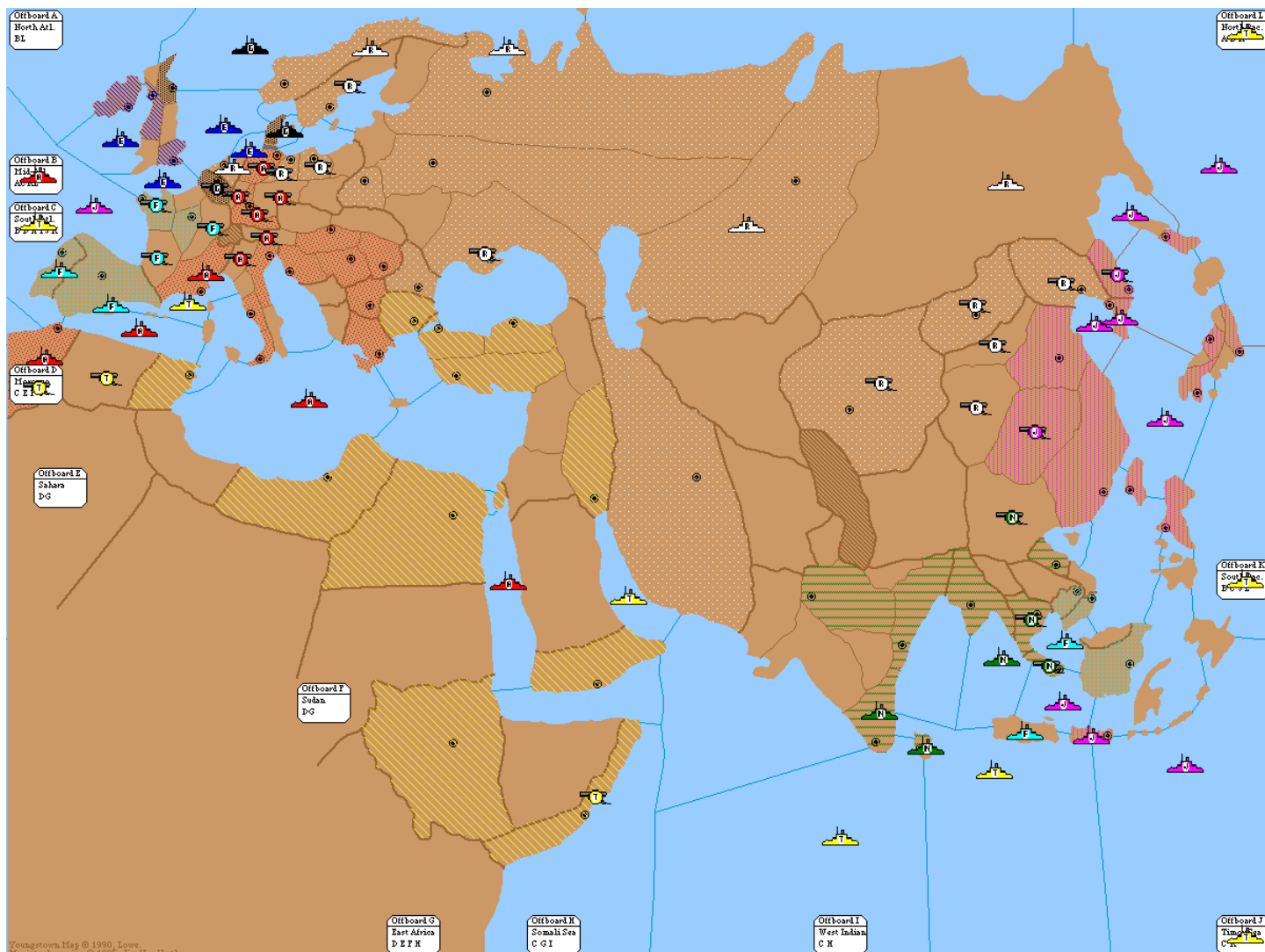
Germany: Has A Belgium, F Denmark, F Norwegian Sea.

India: Has F Andaman Sea, A Thailand, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Sikang, A Joharra.

Japan: Retreat F Manchuria - Korea..Has F Korea, A Hankow, F Yellow Sea, F Java, F Malay Sea, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F North Pacific Ocean, F East China Sea, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Timor Sea, A Vladivostok.

Russia: Has A Berlin, F Holland, A Inner Mongolia, A Kansu, A Sevastopol, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Manchuria, A Posen, F Siberia, A Sinkiang, F Barents Sea, A Sweden.

Turkey: Has A Algeria, F East Indian Ocean, A Magudisco, F Off Board L, F Off Board K, A Off Board D, F Off Board C, F Off Board J, F Persian Gulf, F Gulf of Lyon, F West Indian Ocean.



Supply Center Chart

Austria: Budapest, Greece, Kiel, Klug, Marseilles, Morocco, Munich, Naples, Rome, Serbia, Trieste, Venice, Vienna=13, Build 1

England: Ireland, Liverpool, London=3, Remove 1

France: Borneo, Brest, Cambodia, Paris, Portugal, Saigon, Spain=7, Even

Germany: Belgium, Denmark, Edinburgh=3, Even

India: Burma, Calcutta, Ceylon, Delhi, Joharra, Madras, Thailand, Viet Nam=8, Build 2

Japan: Canton, Formosa, Hankow, Java, Korea, Kyoto, Osaka, Peking, Philippines, Kar, Tokyo, Vladivostok=12, Build 1

Russia: Berlin, Holland, Iran, Manchuria, Moscow, Norway, Outer Mongolia, Omsk, Posen, Rumania, Sevastopol, Sinkiang, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Warsaw=15, Build 1

Turkey: Ankara, Baghdad, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Egypt, Ethiopia, Magudisco, Pentopolis, Smyrna, Tunis, Yemen=11, Even

PRESS

Anon: An anagram of "Russia Austria Turkey" is "I suit Ray's sauerkraut". I'm not sure why RAT would suit Ray's sauerkraut, and probably do not want to know!

Anon: The Black Sea is an oversized lake

Where Turkish and Russian fleets make
A battle each season
Without any reason
Except for some SCs to take.

Fall and Autumn 1909 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

OK, this is interesting.

Alliance switch! India shows resistance to the inevitable!

Apparently Harold didn't like the RAT draw proposal. And he wants something more than to be a Janissary who will eventually be eliminated in order to further the glory of Other Players.

OK, let's start in Asia. Japan has a mini-stalemate line that will keep Russia bottled up indefinitely. And he's been pushed back in China. All those fleets on the North Shore of Russia look pretty useless about now.

Completely, there is now no way Russia does more than wrapping up a few centers in China, I think it is going to be really interesting see where the lines are as India shifts. But be assured, we're headed toward MORE lines, rather than more movement, until and if RAT breaks.

Turkey's lost his influence in SE Asia, but he's hardly vulnerable to a naval attack. The line at WIO/Arabian Sea is very easy to hold. Have I mentioned recently how much I hate all the mini-stalemate lines on this map? The ratio of land spaces to sea spaces is way too high. And all of Asia can be sealed off from Europe by a handful of forces. We're talking about ASIA here! But Omsk/Turkistan/Iran crosses the entire range of the continent.

Right, amazing THAT much territory can be held with so little!!!

Presumably Japan and India will work together to block further R/T attacks into Asia. OTOH, it's easy for R/T to keep N/J bottled up in Asia. If things continue along this path, I'm foreseeing a 5-way draw after the Western Three are eliminated.

That is, if they are eliminated. R/A/T have botched this badly by prematurely stabbing Germany and prematurely pushing forth their draw proposal. Northern Europe is far from a Done Deal. The Russian fleets are, again, in useless places like Holland and St. Pete(nc). The Denmark/Sweden situation is dodgy - either side could make a mistake and lose an SC.

Yeah, I'm thinking that the "demise of the Western Triple" is not happening either any more.

The Japanese fleet in MAO relieves the pressure on E/F a little bit. The question now is which fleet England removes. F Nth definitely needs to stay. F Hel keeps

the action around Denmark and Holland and interesting. F Iri is the most useful for watching the back door. F Eng is the most flexible of the bunch. Tough choice.

At the very least, the path to an inevitable R/A/T is over. N/J can hold their continent as long as they wish, presuming there's no infighting. The next real question is whether any of R/A/T would want to make a deal with N/J. For the sake of our audience, I hope so. Russia doesn't have much flexibility, but either Austria or Turkey could cut a deal. Austria could go rogue and grow very quickly by going after Russia. Turkey has 11 forces and five of them are in off-board boxes. This will be a good lesson in how relatively useless off-board boxes are. Austria could stab the bejesus out of Turkey and all those forces would be trapped in useless positions.

I'm thinking AR stab Turkey next, but we'll see...

I agree with everything Rick said--I'm impressed with France's defense. The French are slowing the Austrians down but the weight of Austria's numbers--along with help from Turkey and Russia is slowing grounding down the French.

I agree, I wonder if the tactical efforts of the French are coming from David Partridge helping out here? Dave is one of the better tacticians around, and this is one thing that the RAT has lost when they stabbed Germany. But still the questions about where this line will end up remain. I have been thinking France eventually is dead, I'm less sure of that now. I think there are lots of little stalemate lines on this map, expect Dave to find them.

The British are going down much faster although they've managed to stabilize the front with the help of what's left of Germany. I don't see that front moving until the Turks/Austrians break through in the south to unhinge the British, although losing that fleet could change things, but as Rick points out, unlikely due to Russia's poor current dispositions.

So, here I think that Russia REALLY blew it by stabbing Germany since I think Russia is completely locked up on both fronts. If there is movement now, it may need to get to breaking up the RAT.

I'm not convinced India is not part of the R/A/T alliance at this point--he doesn't have to be but his

window to switch sides is rapidly closing as Turkey deploys more fleets around India. India has a year or two, at most, to get out of the embrace of Turkey--after that he becomes Germany East--a captive ally with no choice but to move in step with his allies/overseers or risk being eliminated like Germany was by his allies units moving into his undefended home centers.

I'm also in the camp that India has de-camped and that RAT is now alone. This is what happens in these big variants where you are too aggressive in revealing your desired endgame. That is looking like the story... RAT plays its hand too soon and loses German/Indian support and it could turn into a seven way or eight way. It would not surprise me if it ended up relatively soon like that. Or maybe we'll have lots of dynamics and bigger alliance shifts. I vote for the latter, of course.

I agree this map isn't the best--I'm kicking myself for suggesting this variant for a commentary game--I

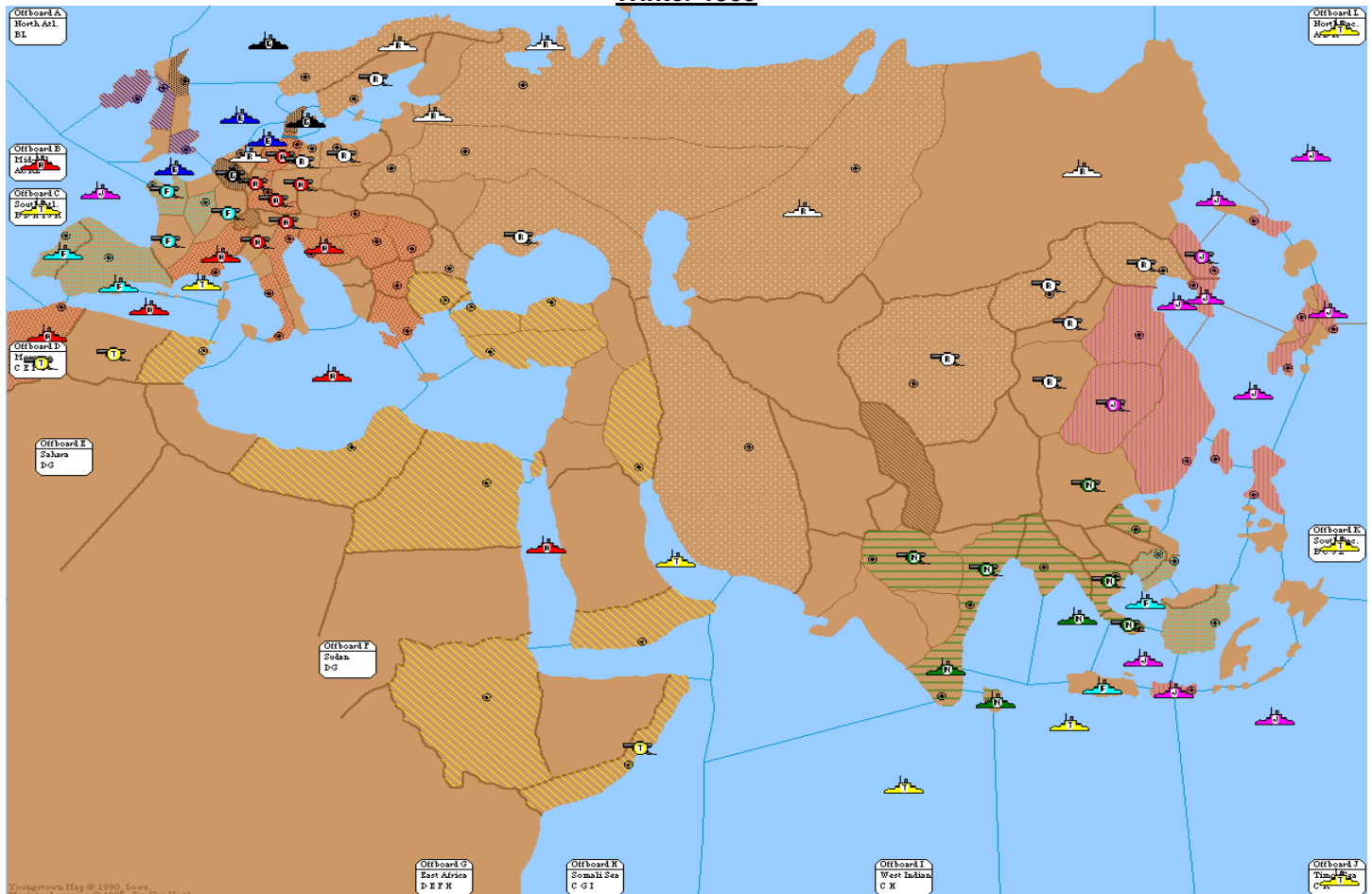
forgot how quickly stalemate lines can form over Asia. However, I do disagree with Rick about the off-map boxes. The boxes can be quite useful, the problem is as Rick pointed out: it's the map of Asia. There simply need to be more provinces to make it harder to form stalemate lines as well as to make the armies more valuable as I consider them undervalued in this game.

So Rick is against the off-board boxes, Jack is for them, I'm in between. I want to see what happens with these boxes in the next few seasons if India really has shifted sides.

Japan has done an excellent job of setting up a nice redoubt. The question can Walt spare any units to help out the allies in Europe?

I think the one Japanese fleet is proving to be crucial, is more needed? I'm not sure it is.

Winter 1909



Austria: Build F Trieste..Has F Trieste, F Off Board B, F Ionian Sea, A Saxony, F Marseilles, A Kiel, F Morocco, A Munich, A Piedmont, A Ruhr, F Red Sea, A Tyrolia, F Western Mediterranean Sea.

England: Remove F Irish Sea..Has F English Channel, F Helgoland Bight, F North Sea.

France: Has A Burgundy, F Gulf of Siam, A Gascony, A Brest, F Portugal, F Spain(sc), F Sumatra.

Germany: Has A Belgium, F Denmark, F Norwegian Sea.

India: Build A Calcutta, A Delhi..Has A Calcutta, A Delhi, F Andamon Sea, A Thailand, F Ceylon, F Madras, A Sikang, A Joharra.

Japan: Build F Tokyo..Has F Tokyo, F Korea, A Hankow, F Yellow Sea, F Java, F Malay Sea, F Mid-Atlantic Ocean, F North Pacific Ocean, F East China Sea, F Sea of Okhotsk, F Timor Sea, A Vladivostok.

Russia: Build F St. Petersburg(sc)..Has F St. Petersburg(sc), A Berlin, F Holland, A Inner Mongolia, A Kansu, A Sevastopol, F Norway, A Outer Mongolia, F Omsk, A Manchuria, A Posen, F Siberia, A Sinkiang, F Barents Sea, A Sweden.

Turkey: Has A Algeria, F East Indian Ocean, A Magudisco, F Off Board L, F Off Board K, A Off Board D, F Off Board C, F Off Board J, F Persian Gulf, F Gulf of Lyon, F West Indian Ocean.

PRESS

Anon: "I can't believe that The Times of India would publish a limerick, let alone a limerick about me!" complained Chef Bahbie Phlay, waving the offending newspaper indignantly at his friend Osman. It was just after 2:00 in the afternoon on July 18th and the two were standing in the restaurant near the foyer. It was a normally quiet time, with only two tables of diners enjoying a late lunch, made more so by the sounds of the wash of the monsoon rain through the open door and windows. "As long as the customers pay' makes me sound like a cheap whore!"

"Not necessarily a cheap whore," snickered Osman, dodging just out of reach of the swatting newspaper. "I hear the writer is an expatriate Canadian, of all things."

"This war has brought all sorts of people to Calcutta," said Bahbie. "Now I hear they're finally raising two more armies to fight off our former allies the Turks and Russians." There was plenty of evidence of the long, grinding war in the green hell of the mountains and jungle of Southeast Asia. Many of the beggars on the streets were clearly veterans, having come out of the battles missing various parts of their bodies, and often bearing scars of the body and the mind.

"You boys are horsing around again, I see," said a clear, feminine voice from behind them. They turned to see Bahbie's wife, Giana, striding through the dining area. She was wearing a light, multi-coloured, loose-fitting dress, suited for the steamy climate, covering enough to be decent but still allowing her to be as cool as possible. Her long, lustrous black hair was tied back and it looked like she'd come in from the office in the back, where she kept the business running. Bahbie made appreciative noises at his wife's appearance. Osman, knowing what she'd do to him if he were to be so forward, restricted himself to a

gentlemanly bow, managing to "accidentally" swat his friend with his straw boater hat. "You need to get a real job and quit distracting my husband from his work!"

"My business in exotic timber is doing very well, Mrs Phlay," replied Osman. "Despite the war, there is still a market for quality furniture, and someone has to supply the raw materials."

"Now that we're making nicey-nicey with the French and Japanese, I'm sure your job just got a whole lot easier," she sniffed. "I'd like to see you do an honest day's work cutting a tree, alongside those cannibals you exploit."

"Without an excellent manager, no business can prosper," interjected Bahbie. "Our restaurant is a case in point!" White teeth gleamed in his brown face in what he hoped was a placating manner.

"You can keep your smarm to yourself," Giana responded, poking him in the chest with an elegantly manicured forefinger. Bahbie was tall for a Bengali man, at just over six feet, but she was also tall for a Bengali woman, at about five-foot-nine, and frequently used it to her advantage. "I'm still waiting for you to remember what day it is." The sheen of perspiration on Bahbie's forehead could have been from the oppressive humidity, or it could have been a response to the basilisk stare from her beautiful, but dangerous-looking brown eyes. Osman snickered and backed out of harm's way.

"Ah, umm, hem," said Bahbie, theatrically pulling at his elegant shirt collar. "Let me see if I can recall..." He was going to play it out for as long as he dared, but was interrupted by the arrival of someone from the street into the foyer. "Welcome to the Shangri-La."

To be continued...

Winter 1909 Commentary:

Rick Desper (Normal Arial)

Jim Burgess (Bold Arial)

Jack McHugh (Comic Sans MS)

Well it looks like India doesn't plan to to quietly into the night, with that build of an army it looks like he plans on putting up a fight. Its only one army but there are no R/T armies nearby so that one army could be critical and it's a start.

And we don't know for sure who wrote it, but the press indicates that the split is complete and ongoing.

If R/T is smart they won't turn on India yet—in fact, they maybe still work with India and salvage the alliance. India has to get some more centers so she can get large enough to protect to herself as well as make India a more crucial member of the alliance, e.g. India becomes much too valuable to stab.

I think that's true, but in my opinion the die is cast and there is no going back on this one for the intermediate term. As I've been saying, I think the RAT overplayed their hand with whomever tried to end it with the draw proposal. Looking back, that will seem like the fatal error. And it is so fatal that I think at some point RT will be fighting. Maybe not yet, but sometime. But I do agree with you, Jack, India was too valuable to stab, so why did they do it -- implicitly with the draw proposal?

Austria's build of another fleet is expected—since Austria wants to be a fleet power and only has one port to build from, he has to keep building fleets every season he can. It is his only way to significantly expand his fleet.

Yes, this is the problem in the standard game as well, but at least here Austria has lots of space around the port with Italy gone.

The build of Russian F StP(sc) combined with England's removal of F Iri is going to make it difficult for E/G to hold out against A/R in the North and Norwegian Seas. I don't see Germany holding Den this year and after Den goes North and Helgoland won't be far behind.

Maybe, maybe not. I don't see it quite that way and see some complex support cuts. And I bet on Dave

Partridge and German led tactics to prevail. So right now I'll say, no, Germany holds Denmark this year.

Japan builds another fleet so Walt might be able to spare another fleet for Europe but I think E/G needs at least two more fleets to hold out—even then I don't think it will be enough once France finishes collapsing under the A/T assault.

Overall, these builds are more of the same R/A/T marches on with India showing some signs of stepping out into his own as he begins to build up his army.

I think Walt DOES have to send one more fleet to Europe, and with the Indian flip I think he can do this, Jack and I will disagree on whether that's enough. Now, country by country state of the game:

Austria: In many ways, Austria is in the best and worst position as this heads toward the endgame. Neither Russia nor Turkey are well set up to stab the open Balkan centers, but the question is whether France can hold some kind of line and with the neutral Switzerland in the way, can Austria get ARMIES into France. Right now, it seems that Austria could be a bit stuck until the Gibraltar line is sorted out. And will, with Turkish needs against India, Turkey be fully supporting Austria getting all the centers? As noted above, Austria wants fleets, but boy it would have been better to put an army in Marseilles!

England: Graham safely has his three centers, and his three fleets in the right place on the line. In the outfoxing tactical war, can Germany and England get England a build from Holland? I think that's possible if Russia focuses too much on trying to get Denmark (successfully OR unsuccessfully). There could just be a trade here. And if the Russian fleet is annihilated, that just further sets up a rebel line that could lock Russia up. That's the key question for England this game year.

France: Larry can be the conduit for some good tactical advice and hold the rest of the homeland this year, that's where I'll bet, that he can do that. A Brest is a bit out of position, but I think it can afford to move to Picardy in the Spring with holding ground, and then there is at least some hope of lockup. The mix in the Off-Board boxes is the only question here. Are the Off-Board boxes with Austria

in B and Turkey in C going to be decisive for a continuing RAT alliance?

Germany: Another key I've been harping on is Dave Partridge's tactical skill, this is one of those demo games taking a wide variety of people from different places in the hobby, but it isn't really jam packed with hard core tactical experts. Dave being on "the other side" is turning the tide in my view. For Germany, the idea of getting a build is unlikely though, so Germany is stuck being a supporting player, at least for quite a long time. I think a key this season and going forward is whether the rebels can hold Denmark, and thus if Germany can stay at three or will be forced to drop to two. There is disagreement in the peanut gallery, but I'm betting on Dave.

India: I'm probably the one who knows Harold personally the best. Harold is best known for fixing up the Mark Nelson project, Diplomacy AtoZ (<http://badpets.net/Diplomacy/AtoZ/Intro.html>). It's still a fascinating document even though Harold mostly is just letting it sit there with relatively little updating. The updating that is there, from the likes for Rod Walker and Edi Birsan, is fascinating though... still worth a wander. But I digress... Harold is not much of a Diplomacy player from experience, like most of us just because he's busy with job and family, but he does know when he's been wronged. It's fascinating to see how much the SE Asian part of the map flips just once Harold is on Japan's side! There isn't any way I see Turkey advancing there, and let's see if India can put one more army into the defense of the Chinese territories. I bet India has more fun on this side of the alliance.

Japan: I think working with India will reinvigorate Walt's game. He finally figured out how to stop Russia from advancing into the Pacific, he now needs to lock up the Chinese line. The SE Asia line looks secure. As noted, it would be better if Japan could send one more fleet to help tie up the Mid-Atlantic, I'm not sure if that is possible.

Russia: This is really Rick's argument, so I'll let him keep fleshing it out, but Nathan is near a crossroads. He will be stymied both East and West, I believe. So, is that the start of a final much larger draw, does he try to stab Turkey (or Austria) or what?

Turkey: Turkey has the most opportunity and the most risk. Was it Turkey who pushed for the three way draw proposal? I hope not because having

India flip was a big problem. I think it was Russia, who also decided at that same time to stab Germany. But Turkey perhaps was dealt that hand and then tried to figure out how to keep India on board. In any case, it failed. Will Russia be able to send enough armies through Asia to push on India from the north? Maybe. But I think Turkey now has to watch for more stabs.



India already turned on R/T. He supported Japan into a Russian SC while taking a dot from Turkey. Russia can slide an army into Iran right away. Sadly, all of his fleets stuck on the north coast of Russia are useless.

More generally, R/A/T have way too many fleets. Austria doesn't need yet another fleet - unless he wants to stab Turkey. Which would be fun.

Basically, the map doesn't have enough fleet provinces. Several land provinces were added to Europe, but no sea provinces were added except the SAO, which is just a bottleneck.

The Asian side is just as bad. There's some room in the areas of Indonesia, but the fleet provinces are just too wide. The WIO/EIO is too easy to block.

Japan still has fleets in the wrong places, but it's not as bad as it was.