

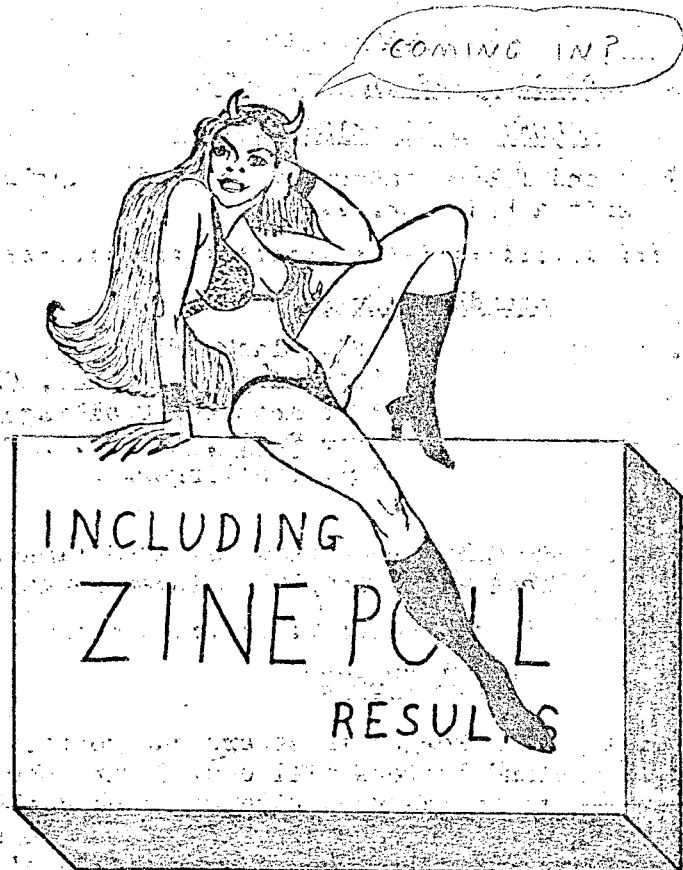
Committee meeting on March 15th is now a non-starter. Sorry. Move on such matters soon I hope.

pon

MAD

POLICY

ISSUE NUMBER 41



At the time of typing, this is the very latest, the most up to date of all, issue of MAD POLICY, a sort of postal Diplomacy zine perpetrated by Richard J Walkerdine of 'Cheriton', 15 Crouch Oak Lane, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 2AN. Number 41 in a series of infinity - though I might decide to fold when I reach issue umpteen.

For a mere 5p plus postage per issue you can receive this delectable delicacy on your very own doormat every four weeks, for the even more mere sum of 4p you can have a back issue, and for the ludicrous charge of 60p you might even be able to take part in a game herein! Aren't you lucky?

Today's date is the never-to-be-repeated Monday, March 10th, 1975.

Aha! Didn't know I could do photo-copied front covers as well, did you? I can't promise them with any regularity, but hopefully there might be one or two more in the not too distant future....

Let us proceed...

KONTENSE

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The Deadline

For all Mad Policy games: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND, 1975.

For the Annexe games : MONDAY, MARCH 31ST, 1975.

Hmm... looks as though John and I have managed to straddle April Fools day with our deadlines. Hope that isn't a bad omen.....

Standby Players

- 'C': Challenger, Prevot.
- 'I': Coombe.
- 'L': Challenger.
- 'N': Sargent.
- 'P': Black.
- 'R': Prevot, Black.
- 'H': Black, Pimley.
- 'J': Sargent, Prevot, Challenger.
- 'M': Knowles, Challenger, Prevot.
- 'O': Kelly, Meadon.
- 'Q': Challenger.

Orders requested from anyone who's name is underlined please. A few more volunteers would be much appreciated in a couple of those games up there....

POSTAL CHARGES

For goodness sake don't go and forget these are due to rise on March 17th. From that day on first class inland letters will cost 7p and second class will cost 5¹/₂p. If any player wishes to switch from first to second class postage on MP please let me know - a couple of you have already done so in fact. It's quite likely that I'll be sending out all trade copies second class from next issue, even if the trader is a player, unless I get a furious outcry from everyone.

That's enough for this page, let's get on with the zine.....

The Third MP Zine Poll -- Final Results

A total of 54 people had sent in their votes by the beginning of March, including some 20 of you who don't normally receive MP. To all of you I send my grateful thanks for making the poll such a tremendous success. All of you who voted are receiving this issue of MP for free, and to hell with my bank manager's already-weak heart!

And now, pop pickers, here's the new chart:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Zine</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>	<u>Voters</u>	<u>Av. Score</u>	
1	Dolchstoss	282	35	8.06	
2	Mad Policy	274	35	7.83	N6c
3	1901...	238	31	7.68	1178/1193
4	Fifth Column	151	21	7.19	
5	Hyperion	105	15	7.00	1158
=6	Greatest Hits	135	20	6.75	
=6	War Bulletin	135	20	6.75	6.10
8	Retief	134	20	6.70	
9	Lemming Express	141	22	6.41	121
10	Frigate	192	30	6.40	
11	Comet	89	14	6.36	
12	Bellicus	170	27	6.30	1792/296
13	Misteimer	117	19	6.16	
14	Courier	82	14	5.86	1776
15	Black Spot	97	18	5.39	1600
16	Hannibal	136	26	5.23	
17	Filibuster	78	15	5.20	6.05
18	Shelob's Lair	74	15	4.93	
19	Der Krieg	68	14	4.86	
20	E&OE	32	7	4.57	
21	The Norns	36	8	4.50	
22	Orbit	23	6	3.83	
23	Court Circular	11	3	3.67	
=24	Betelgeuse	28	8	3.50	
=24	Pendulum	56	16	3.50	
26	OJ	34	10	3.40	
27	TUCA	14	5	2.80	
28	Tarkus	11	4	2.75	
29	Our 'Enry	27	11	2.45	

Note that only British Dippyazines are included, there are no foreign zines, subzines, genzines or press-zines in the list. Zines which have definitely folded are also excluded.

Before commenting on the individual results I'll make some general comparisons with the previous Zine Poll (reported in MP31 last June). The average number of zines read by each contributing voter is 9.06, down from 12.47 last time, which brings out the fact that a lot of new players have now entered the hobby who, as yet, have only had time to subscribe to a few zines each. The overall average vote is 6.07, up from 5.33 last time, showing either a slight increase in standards or that subscribers are becoming easier to please - I hope it's the former! Of the twenty-six zines included in the previous poll nine have since folded, and the addition of twelve new names this time gives us the total of twenty-nine - it's worth noting also that of the nine zines that have folded eight were in the bottom half of the list last time, including all of the bottom six places.

Looking at the individual results the first thing that strikes one is the little group of three that are sitting comfortably ahead of the rest of the field. Dolchstoss of course is a very worthy, and probably natural, winner and though its lead has been slightly reduced since last time (when it came top with 8.25) it still has a very clear margin over its rivals. Congratulations to Richard

Sharp for a well-earned and thoroughly deserved second successive win. Mad Policy (admits your editor, blushing profusely) seems to have confirmed its comfortable little niche by achieving second place yet again, slightly closer to the victor than last time though its actual score has dropped a little (in the last poll it came second with 7.92). My thanks to you all for giving MP such a high position. 1901..., in third place, has made a spectacular leap to get into the same bracket as the top two. In the last poll it came fourth, but its score was only 6.75 and it was 1.50 behind the winner. It's now only 0.38 behind the winner - a tribute, surely, to the astounding efficiency with which Mick Bullock runs the zine as well as the light-hearted way in which he edits it - and methinks it would only need Sharp or myself to falter just a little to see it climb even higher. (Thinks: should I offer Mick an alliance against Richard in the hope of knocking him off the top, or should I offer Richard an alliance against Mick in order to keep out our nearest rival? Perhaps I'll do both...).

After the top three zines there's a bit of a gap, though a far smaller one than there was in the last poll. The next ten zines, from fourth to thirteenth, are all fairly closely bunched, with only 1.03 between them. Fifth Column, in fourth place, has made an impressive jump from its previous sixth position and ~~has increased its score by 1.09 from the 6.10 it achieved last time.~~ As in the case of 1901... I suspect efficiency is the reason for this, though Richard Scott has recently been including articles as well as games in his zine which might also have something to do with it. Hyperion, in fifth place, is the highest placed newcomer in the list and its position seems to reflect both Geoff's Challinger's obvious ability to run a large, complex game like Hypereconomic and - according to Geoff - a clique following for the game. Definitely one to keep an eye on for the future I would think. Greatest Hits is the second newcomer in the list. Pete Birks had had several years experience in the hobby as a player before he started his zine and this is clearly reflected in the way he runs it. An extensive and varied letters column and the series of SF reviews by Steve Doubleday which are to be found in it have undoubtedly contributed to its high placing. War Bulletin has moved up from ninth position last time and increased its score by 1.28, from 5.47 to 6.75. This strikes me as a little bit strange as my impression is that the zine has changed very little in the past year. Either I'm out of step with the rest of you or the success of the Parliament game that Hartley Patterson is running has had a large effect. Relief, in eighth place, is the third newcomer to the list. Craig Nye is a very enthusiastic member of the hobby - a fact that comes over strongly in his zine - and that, plus the general humour in the zine and the obvious hard work that he puts into it, seem to have been reflected in its high placing. Lemming Express, in ninth place, is another newcomer. As in the cases of some of those above it the general neat appearance, the extensive letters column and the other articles Jon Lovibond puts into it seem to have worked well in its favour. Frigate, in tenth place, ~~has dropped from fifth position last time though its actual score has climbed~~ from 6.24 to 6.40, reflecting not so much a drop in the standard Duncan Morris sets for himself as the even higher standards achieved by some of the newcomers above it. Comet has dropped from joint seventh place last time to eleventh place this. Its actual score has climbed from 6.00 to 6.36 however, indicating that Ken Jones, while maintaining or even improving his high standards of efficiency and neatness, has suffered at the hands of the newcomers in the same way as Duncan Morris. Bellicus, in twelfth place, is in the same position as in the last poll (where it appeared as Son of Bellicus). Its actual score however has climbed from 5.00 to 6.30. I wonder if this is a measure of the improved turnaround time Will Haven has achieved lately, or whether a lot of people really do like his Elsinor saga after all? Misteiner, in thirteenth position, is another newcomer. Although Doug Wakefield's humour is streets ahead of many other peoples', he'd probably either have to make the zine super-efficient or else include many more articles and letters in order to push his fairly average zine much further up the list.

I haven't really got the space to comment in detail on the remaining zines in the list, many of which are in fairly similar positions to last time anyway. The most notable point about the lower half of the list however is the

inclusion in it of five zines which have suffered a considerable decline. Hannibal has dropped from joint seventh place to sixteenth, Court Circular has dropped from tenth to twenty-third, Pendulum has dropped from thirteenth to twenty-fourth, OJ has dropped from nineteenth to twenty-sixth and Our Enry has dropped from fifteenth to twenty-ninth. OJ and Enry are perhaps not unexpected drops as both zines scarcely ever appear these days - and OJ is in fact due to have only one more issue before it folds. Hannibal's standards have certainly declined somewhat in the past year and its lower placing is probably at least partly due to its early promise failing to materialise. Pendulum is more puzzling, for although John Coombe has had more than his fair share of problems in recent months I wouldn't have thought that the standard of his zine had declined overmuch. Perhaps it's just that there was a general tendency to overmark it last time. Court Circular is another zine that has suffered from several long delays, though with only five people voting for it last time and only three this time the results are hardly meaningful.

Of the established zines, the biggest rise in position is that of War Bulletin, up three places, followed by Fifth Column and Shelob's Lair, both up two places, and 1901..., up one. The biggest fall in position is that of Our Enry, down fourteen places, followed by Court Circular, down thirteen places, Pendulum down eleven, Hannibal down nine and OJ down seven. The biggest gain in actual score is that of Shelob's Lair, up 1.31, followed by Bellicus, up 1.30, War Bulletin 1.28, Fifth Column 1.09, 1901... 0.93 and Der Krieg 0.86. The biggest drop in actual score is that of Our Enry, down 2.23, followed by Court Circular, down 1.73, Pendulum 1.40, Hannibal 0.77 and OJ 0.45.

One last point. People are forever arguing over the relative merits and demerits of NGC zines versus independants and games-only zines versus zines full of articles and chat. Of the 29 zines in the list eleven of them are NGC zines, fractionally more than one third. There are four NGC zines in the top ten positions, four in the next ten positions and three in the bottom nine positions - in other words they are perfectly evenly spread throughout the entire list. Also in the 29 zines in the list I can identify eight which are principally games-only zines, or slightly over one quarter. There are two in the top ten, three in the next ten and three in the bottom nine - again, a nice even spread throughout the list. Proof positive, I would have thought, that there is absolutely no point in trying to categorise zines in this way and then call the categories 'good' or 'bad' because no matter what categories one chooses it is possible to find just as great a spread of 'good' and 'bad' zines in all of them. Players will naturally tend towards the type of zine they personally prefer, unsuccessful zines will gradually fall by the wayside, and those zines which give their subscribers what they want will prosper and flourish. To call an NGC zine 'good' or 'bad' simply because it is an NGC zine is as stupid as calling a zine full of articles and letters 'good' or 'bad' simply because it is full of articles and letters. A 'good' zine is one that gives its subscribers what they want - be it games only, fast turnaround, lots of letters, articles and chat or whatever - and a 'bad' zine is one that fails to. This hobby of ours is now getting very large indeed, with plenty of room in it for zines of all types. Nobody would expect a single zine to appeal to everyone, but by the same token it should be obvious that with an ever-increasing number of players around almost any zine is bound to appeal to someone. Constructive criticism of details within a zine is valuable and worthwhile, but for an individual to stand on his soap-box and cry "all zines are rubbish because they don't appeal to me personally" is nothing more than a childish waste of time and the sooner a few more of us realise that the better the hobby will become.

Hm... sorry if that last paragraph sounds a bit like a sermon, but I happen to think it was worth saying. I hope to run the next Zine Poll in eight or nine months time and look forward to it being as big a success as this one. Thanks again for taking part.

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FtF at Snook's Nook

It was back in February, the 15th to be exact, that the notorious, silken-bra-waving (see Fifth Column for full details) Ellie Nye offered her ...er... house as a likely site for a FtF gathering - she even promised to get her scruffy, out-of-work husband (who's name escapes me for the moment) to act as host. So, after raiding the Walkerdine Wine Cellar for suitable fortification for the trials in store, Claire and I made the perilous journey through the wilds of Sussex and arrived at the Nye's Nook at about 7.30 - only to be told that the thing had started at 3.00 that afternoon and what the hell did the two star guests mean by keeping everyone waiting anyway?! Ah well...

Stepping over the quietly contemplative Andy Davidson, resting on a cushion in front of the door, we were immediately treated to a free glass of our own wine and the sight of the first Diplomacy game drawing slowly to its end. 'Who's winning?' I innocently inquired, only to be told that the game was about to finish as a seven-way (yes, I said seven. S.E.V.E.N.) draw. Ye gods, I thought, what have I let myself in for?

While waiting for the taste of our wine to disappear from my mouth (well, would you take good stuff to a collection of Dippy players?) I wandered about the place surveying the dirty pictures on the walls and indulging in my usual habit of bagging new faces. During the next hour or so I managed to collect a Ted Morgan, a Paul Simpkins, a Martin Rundle, a Pete Cousins and a Martin Hammon. Five in one day; I'm getting better, I thought.

Then the good, the bad and the ugly (or do I mean the long and the short and the tall?), in the assorted shapes of Sharp, Doubleday and Birks, rolled back from the local after losing their customary half dozen games of darts and we settled down to taste the culinary delights of Ellie's pet cook (I still can't remember that chap's name...). It was a sort of stuffed potato salad thing, and very good it was too - so much so that I even went back for a second helping. I got one too, and bearing in mind that 'stomach' Doubleday was there that's no mean achievement...

'Right then,' I said to my host (I do wish I'd written his name down at the time), 'go and get your Formula 1 set and I'll show you how to play.' 'But I thought you were bringing yours,' he whined. 'What's the point of me bringing mine all the way down here when you've got one of your own?' I riposted. 'But I haven't got one,' he cringed, 'didn't I tell you?' Yes, dear reader, it was turning out to be one of those days you dream about after eating too many pickled onions....

But Richard Sharp had brought his dog-eared copy of Speed Circuit along, so we all settled down to play that instead. It was my first experience of the game and I was quite impressed - not on a par with Formula 1 I would have thought but very enjoyable and probably the sort of game that grows on you. Sharp and Birks came in joint first, with Andy Davidson, yours truly, Martin Hammon, Rob Stevens, Richard Scott and Martin Rundle all following behind and wondering how they did it.

A short while later there was a minor earthquake as the enormous Steve Doubleday bounced into the room to announce that he had just trounced Claire at scrabble by a full twenty points and was now ready to try his hand at Diplomacy. 'What a good idea,' they all cried, and I started to slip quietly away for fear of getting Italy yet again. But that tousle-haired husband of Ellie (I wonder if he's down in my address book?) refused to let me escape and I was forced to take part. Just as well too, as it turned out, as I managed to miss Italy for once and ended up with Germany - and when I looked down and saw the diminutive figure of Birks struggling vainly to climb onto a chair and play France the happy memory of a notable joint victory by the pair of us in Amersham last year sprang quickly to mind and we soon agreed to repeat the event. Martin Hammon's England, Paul Simpkins' Italy and Pete Cousins' Russia were out of the way by about 1905 and we were left with the Walkerdine/Birks steamroller all set to crush the remains of Sharp's Turkey and Doubleday's Austria - we would have done too, but it was 2.00 a.m. and time for Sharp to disappear in the

direction of Richmond. So we had to agree to a four-way draw and leave it at that.

And leave it we did, fairly soon afterwards, for the delights of scraping ice off the windscreen and the long drive home. But despite what I might have said in this report it was a first rate meeting that we both enjoyed immensely - thank you, Ellie, for a most entertaining time. I'd thank your husband too, if only I could remember his name.....

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News and Stuff

Factsheet 3 has recently appeared from Tim Roberts, 85 Elers Road, Ealing, London, W13 9QB, giving an analysis of game victories by country, names and addresses of the officials of the IDA and the NGC, a complete list of Russian victories in British games and a list of recent victories. 2p plus postage from Tim and recommended to anyone interested in those sorts of statistics (like me for example).

The Owl And Weasel is the monthly newsletter of the Games Workshop and is intended to carry news and articles covering latest games information, puzzles, general gaming chat, rule interpretations and postal games facilities for all types of games of skill. It costs 10p plus postage per issue, will be published monthly, and subscriptions (of any amount over 30p) should be sent to Games Workshop, 15 Bolingbroke Road, London, W14. Judging from the first issue it looks pretty good.

1901...43 contains Mick Bullock's 'Spring 1901 Openings' survey; a complete analysis of all the different openings of every country in 206 British postal games showing the frequency with which each separate move and each set of moves has occurred. A mammoth task, immaculately presented and utterly fascinating to all statistics freaks such as yours truly. Write to Mick at 14 Nursery Avenue, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX3 5SZ, and send him 4p plus postage if you want a copy.

Yggdarsil 1 has now appeared from Phil Murphy, 41/43 Park Avenue, Belfast, BT4 1PU, Northern Ireland. The latest NGC zine and the first-ever Irish zine - and would you believe it's full of Irish jokes? Nicely printed too, and costing 4p plus postage (in the form of SAEs) per issue.

Science Fiction Monthly, Vol 2 No. 2, contains 'Behold The Man Called Moorcock' by Michael Ashley, the definitive biography of this author who has for a long time now been one of my all-time favourites. It's got lots of other goodies too, but it was the Mike Moorcock article that made it really stand out in my mind and is why I recommend it strongly here. Published by the New English Library and available in all good bookshops. (Thinks: If I asked them nicely I wonder if they'd let me serialise it in MP?).

Bumm, the new German Dippyazine from Walter Luc Haas (Postfach 229, CH-4018 Basel 18, Switzerland) that I mentioned last ish costs eight Swiss Francs for 10 issues. If you subscribe to both Bumm and Europa however, you can get 5 E's and 10 B's for SFr 13, a saving of SFr 3. Openings in a German speaking game and an English speaking International game at present. Bumm is also looking for GMs, preferably German speaking ones but Walter is prepared to do some translation work if necessary. For those people who don't want to send cash to Switzerland, Dave Watts, 32 Eastleigh Drive, Milford Haven, Dyfed, SA72 2LY, is now Walter's British agent for both Bumm and Europa.

Aha! I knew it would be a good idea to leave a bit of space here for late news. I've just received a note from Norman Nathan (3 Brooke Close, Bushy, Herts) about the NGC annual Con in June. It's going ahead and will include a Diplomacy Championship, an NGC meeting and annual election and facilities for playing almost any other games anyone wants with, possibly, a Chess and Scrabble Championship. Fees are likely to be £1 (i.e. your registration) for one day, £2 for more than one day. Paid volunteers will be needed for catering, the bar and clearing up afterwards. It is planned to send out a circular with Dolchstoss in May in order to let people book meals and enter the Championship. Any enquiries should be directed to Norman please.

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1974BD ('N') -- Spring 1906

FRANCE, GERMANY BATTLING FURIOUSLY.
While Italy goes rolling along....

FRANCE (Meadon): F Eng - Wal, F MAO - Eng, F Nth - Hol, A Edi - Yor,
F Nrg - Nth, A Par - Bur S by A Bel, F GoL - Mar S by A Gas.

GERMANY (Cousins): F Yor - Nth S by F Nwy & F Den, A Bur - Bel S by A Ruh & A Hol.
A Mun - Bur.

ITALY (Ball): A Ven - Tri, A Rom - Ven, F Nap - Ion S by F Tun, F TyS Stands,
A Ser - Bul S by F Gre & F Con, A Vie S A Bud.

RUSSIA (Waldie): A StP S (GERMAN) F Nwy, A Sev S A Rum, A Ukr S A Rum,
A Gal MS A Rum.

TURKEY (Swanson): A Bul - Smy C by F Aeg, A Arm - Ank.

Retreats: French F Nth - Hel, A Bel - Pic.

No press.....

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1973IQ ('M') -- Spring 1909

BOTH ALLIANCES DIGGING IN.
Looks like a long, grim struggle....

Error last time when I said that the German A War retreated to Gal. As Dave Black quite rightly pointed out, the attack came from there so it couldn't. It retreated to Sil instead - players were informed in (I hope) plenty of time. Sorry pardon.

AUSTRIA (Davies): F TyS - WMS S by F GoL & F Tun, A Pru - Lvn, A Tyr - Pie,
A Bud - Gal S by A Vie, A Tri - Tyr, A Ser - Bud.

ENGLAND (A.Davidson): F MAO - WMS S by F Naf, F Eng - MAO S by F Gas,
F Nth - Nwy, A Lvn S (GERMAN) A Ber - Pru, A StP S A Lvn.

FRANCE (Coombe): A Spa MS A Por.

GERMANY (B.Davidson): A Mar - Pie, A Bur - Mar, A Mun - Tyr S by A Boh,
A Ber - Pru S by A Sil, F Bal S (ENGLISH) A Lvn, A Hol - Ruh.

TURKEY (Black): A Mos & A War S (AUSTRIAN) A Pru - Lvn, A Sev S A Mos,
A Ukr S A War, A Con - Rum C by F Bla, F Ion - TyS, F Bul(SC) goes on strike.

Retreats: Austrian A Pru annihilated, A Tyr - Ven.

Darkest Cornwall: "C'est la vie....huh?"

Geneva: NEWS IS A NON-EVENT. The main news headlines tonight are that there is no news from which to make headlines. This is hardly surprising in view of the deadlock in the battle between England/Germany and Austria/Turkey. This deadlock is not expected to be resolved in the near future so there is no likelihood of any news for some time.

Imrryr: I tend to agree. If anyone can suggest any non-headlines I can use for future non-seasons of this non-event (preferably non-sensical ones!) I'll be grateful as I think I'm going to have trouble dreaming any up. A non-valuable non-prize is offered for any used...

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1974EB ('R') -- Autumn 1903

FRANCE'S SUPER-STAB ROCKS GERMANS.
Four-nation assaults ousts Austrians....

AUSTRIA (Challinger) A Tyr - Vie S by A Bud.

ENGLAND (Meadon): A Yor - Den C by F Nth & S by F Ska, F Nrg S A Nwy.

FRANCE (Nathan): A Hol - Kie S by A Ruh, A Bur - Mun, F Mar Stands,
F MAO Stands, A Bre - Pic.

P.T.O. for the rest.

'R' Game contd...

GERMANY (Pollard): A Vie MS A Boh, F Kie MS A Den, F Hel - Hol.

ITALY (Churchill): F Aeg - Gre S by F Ion, A Ven S A Tri, A Pie - Tyr.

RUSSIA (White): A StP - Nwy S by F Swe, A Fin S F Swe, F Sev - Rum, A Rum - Bud S by A Gal.

TURKEY (Morris): A Bul - Gre S by A Ser, A Con - Bul, F Smy - Aeg.

Retreats: Austrian A Bud annihilated.
German F Kie & A Den both disbanded.

Winter 1903 Adjustments

A: 0 Centres: ~~Zet, Tyl~~. Eliminated. A Tyr removed. Bye Geoff...

E: 5 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nwy, ~~Hol~~, +Den. No change.

F: 8 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Bel, Spa, Por, +Kie, +Mun. Builds A Bre, A Par...

G: 3 Centres: Ber, ~~Vie, War, Sev~~, +Hol. No change.

I: 5 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, ~~Bud~~, +Tri. No change.

R: 7 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, Swe, Rum, +Bud. Builds A War.

T: 6 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, Gre, +Ser. Builds A Ank.

DAVE POLLARD is now in permanent control of the once-mighty German Empire - thanks Dave. Paul Boymel is blacklisted unless I hear from him pretty smartish!

No press...

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1973BYbb ('I' - Multiplicity) -- Winter 1907

ITALIAN SHIPBUILDING EXPLOSION!
But England happy with armies...

Autumn retreats: English A Bre - Pic.
Italian 2A Mun disbanded.

ENGLAND (Doubleday): 13 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Hol, Den, Nwy, Swe, Ber, StP, Kie, ~~Zet~~, +Bel, +Mos, +Mun. Builds 2A Lon.

FRANCE (Morris): 1 Centre : ~~Ber, Par, Por, Bel~~, +Ven. Removes 3A Ven.

ITALY (Meadon): 13 Centres: Nap, Rom, ~~Ven~~, Vie, Ser, Tri, Bud, Gre, Mar, ~~Ven~~, Spa, +Por, +Par, +Bre, +Tun. Builds F Nap, 3F Rom (=A/3F Rom).

RUSSIA (Buckingham): 2 Centres: ~~Mos~~, War, Smy. Removes 1A Smy (leaving 1A Smy).

TURKEY (Davidson): 5 Centres: Con, Bul, Ank, Rum, Sev. No change.

Duncan Morris has complained that I gave his 3A Ven an NMR last season when in fact he gave me some orders for it at Norman Nathan's FtF last month. This is not the case, as I've told Duncan already, as all he gave me on that occasion was an order for his A Bel. However, he's still unhappy about it and says he wants to resign. I don't know whether he will or not, but just in case he does would JOHN COOMBE send in some standby orders for the French A Bur please? If I do get some orders from Duncan next time he'll be continuing as normal of course.

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And now I think it's explanation time. The more observant among you might well have noticed by now that the games are not in their usual alphabetical order this time. The reason for this is that there is currently a go-slow in operation by the Canadian Post Office, and all mail to and from Canada is being delayed rather badly. Terry Knowles seems to have been caught by this as it's now the day after the deadline and his orders still haven't appeared. I've therefor left his games to last in the hope that his orders arrive before I have to type them up. I'm finishing here for the day and the top of the next page, which will be tomorrow, should tell us if they've got through. Exciting, ain't it?

Looks like it worked. Today is now tomorrow (if you see what I mean) and Terry's orders came in this morning - the postmark was Feb 19th, so they took a mere 16 days to get here! Let's get on with the games....

1974BF ('Q') -- Spring 1904

STILL NO SIGN OF A STAB.

It must come soon though....

AUSTRIA (Samson): A Tyr - Mun, A War - Sil S by A Boh, A Vie - Gal,
A Bul - Ser, F Gre takes a nap.

ENGLAND (Knowles): F Por - Spa(SC), F Eng - MAO S by F Bre, F Edi - Cly,
F Bar S A StP, A StP S (RUSSIAN) A Mos, F Lon - Eng, A Lpl - Wal.

FRANCE (Buckingham): A Mar - Bur S by A Gas.

GERMANY (Prevot): A Mun - Sil S by A Ber, A Kie - Mun S By A Ruh, A Par S A Bur,
A Bur S (ENGLISH) F Bre - Gas, F Swe - Bal.

ITALY (Kelly): A Tun - Spa C by F WMS, A Pie - Mar S by F GoL.

RUSSIA (Pimley): NMR! A Mos Stands unordered.

~~TURKEY (Black): A Arm - Rum C~~ by F Bla, F Smy - Aeg, A Ukr - Mos S by A Sev.

Retreats: French A Mar annihilated.

Russian A Mos disbanded - NMR (remember my house rules state that: unordered units cannot be supported - hence the failure of the English support).

DAVE BLACK is now in permanent control of Turkey - thanks Dave. The fate of Paul Boymel is mentioned elsewhere.

Don't forget your builds and removals with your autumn orders.

Ankara: It not being the mighty midget who is in charge of Austria, the new Sultan would like to know who is. He considers it very distressing to hear that his emissaries to Austria and elsewhere have not been received by the hosts. If this state of affairs continues all out war will be declared soon as his highness cannot allow such an affront to his personage to go unpunished.

1974BE ('O') -- Spring 1906

WHILE FRANCE, GERMANY DAWDLE IN ENGLAND:...

....Italy's speeding up!

AUSTRIA (Lindsay): NMR! F Gre, A Rum, A Ser Stand unordered.

ENGLAND (Cocmbe): A Wal - Yor, F Lon S F Nth.

FRANCE (Birks): A Bel Stands, F MAO - Lpl S by F Iri, F Eng - MAO,
A Edi fication, A Mar ching orders.

~~GERMANY (Burton): A Pru - Lvn S~~ by F Bal, ~~A Sil - Boh,~~ ~~A Hol Stands,~~
F Den - Nth, F Swe - Nwy.

ITALY (Knowles): A Ven - Tyr, F Ion - Aeg, F Adr - Ion S by F Tun,
A Vie - Bud S by A Tri.

RUSSIA (Bullock): A StP - Lvn S by F GoB, A Ukr - War S by A Gal.

TURKEY (Challinger): F Aeg - Gre S by A Bul, F Con - Aeg, F EMS - Ion.

Retreats: Austrian F Gre disbanded.

GEOFF CHALLENGER is now in permanent control of Turkey, and Conrad von Metzke is in imminent danger of being blacklisted unless I hear from him soon. Would RON KELLY please send standby orders for AUSTRIA next time? - thanks, and thanks for the unused French set this time too.

Nearly forgot. One of the players has proposed a five-way draw between A, F, G, I, R. Votes with your next set of orders please - unanimity needed to finish the game in this way remember.

PTO for some press...

'O' Game contd...

Dear Imrryr: I'm hoping you can give me some badly needed advice concerning my love and sex (blush) life.

For several months, I have been in contact with two very virile and fascinating men -- one of them is called Skaro, the other Jamul. I have very real affection for both of them, but they are always fighting and bickering. And at times they are so busy tossing insults back and forth, I'm sure they don't even know I exist.

While Jamul speaks Spanish (which I find very sexy) and uses big words, I often wonder if I shouldn't concentrate on Skaro, who is perhaps more my type of person. What do you think? -- puta.

PS: next letter, I'll tell you about the other man in my life, Jeff Oliver...

Dear puta: So you're going with three of them are you? Not very choosy, eh? If I were you dear, I'd forget about all three of them and slink across to 'P' game - there's an old man over there who seems to get a real kick out of going with under-age little scrubbers. You should make a good pair. -- Aunty Imrryr.

N - KB7 x N: Will the real Professor Crinklecrud please stand up?

Imrryr: Oh dear. All six of them stood up....

1974F ('P') -- Autumn 1907

GERMANY EXPANDING STEADILY.

What a time to forget your builds!

ENGLAND (Buckingham): F Eng - Lon, F Edi practices its stiff upper lip ((and it's sure gonna be needing it!)).

FRANCE (Prevot): A Por - Spa S by F MAO.

GERMANY (Knowles): A Vie - Tri S by A Bud, A Mar - Pie, A Gas - Mar, A Lpl S (RUSSIAN) A Cly - Edi, F Hel - Nth, F Nth - Eng S by F Bel, F Bal - Kie, A Bre Stands, A Ukr S (RUSSIAN) A Mos - Sev.

ITALY (Meadon): F Spa(SC) MS F WMS, F Gre - Ion, A Tri Stands, A Alb - Gre S: by A Ser.

RUSSIA (Kelly): F Den S (GERMAN) F Hel - Nth, F Nrg - NAO, A Cly - Edi, A Mos - Sev, A Gal - Rum, F Arm - Bla.

TURKEY (Sharp): A Bul - Rum S by A Sev, F Bla S A Sev, F Con - Ank, F Aeg - Bul(SC).

Retreats: English F Edi scuttles itself.

Italian A Tri disbanded (no retreat space given).

Turkish A Sev annihilated.

Winter 1907 Adjustments

A: 0 Centres: ~~Spa~~, ~~Gre~~. Eliminated.

E: 1 Centre: ~~Edi~~, Lon. No change.

F: 1 Centre: Por, ~~Lpl~~. Removes A Por.

G: 13 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, Hol, Bel, Par, Bre, Vie, ~~Spa~~, War, Bud, +Lpl, +Tri, +Mar. No builds requested - 2 units short!

I: 7 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Tun, ~~Tri~~, ~~Mar~~, +Ser, +Gre, +Spa. Builds A Ven, A Rom.

R: 7 Centres: Mos, StP, Swe, Nwy, Den, Sev, +Edi. Builds A Mos.

T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Rum, Bul. Builds A Con.

ROLAND PREVOT is now in charge of the French fleet - thanks Roland.

Splendidhamstaffshire-on-Trentoncalf: "Now wait a minute," sighs Professor Crinklecrud, Mad Scientist, Outcast from Every Country, Enemy of All Mankind and ex-member of the IDA, "now even I am getting confused. I'm Crinklecrud, right? And that makes you Jamul, or is it Skaro? And that one over there must be the one you're not, yes? But two more have just come in the side door, and only one of them can be Jeff Oliver, surely. So who's the other one? Or is it me that's Jeff Oliver, and that one over there's Skaro, and this one here is....."

Congratulations to Stewart Buckingham on being the only person in this game (including the GM) who's still awake! He's quite rightly pointed out that I referred to the Japanese F SAO and F SAO(OBB) as F SPO and F SPO(OBB) last time and materialised a new unit, F NPO, from thin air! Pretty good, eh? Fortunately it didn't make a scrap of difference to anything, and all units are back in their rightful places this time (I hope!). Teach me to do typing at midnight....

AUSTRIA (Waldie): A Sev S A Arm, A Arm S F Smy, A Ank S A Arm, F Smy S F Aeg,
A Con S F Smy, F Aeg S F Ion, F Gre S F Ion, F Adr S F Ion, F Nap S F Ion,
F Rom S A Tus, A Tus S A Pie, A Ven S A Pie, A Tri yawns ((as do we all)),
A Pie S (GERMAN) A Mar.

CHINA (Buckingham): F Tun - Ion, F Alg - Tun S by A Sah, A Mor - Alg,
A Eaf(OBB) - Mor S by A Mor(OBB), A Syr - Arm S by A Bag, A Sib S A Oms,
A Tur S A Ira, A's Sah(OBB) Fez Sud Nej Yem & Can all stand.

~~ENGLAND (Meadon): A Wal stands, F Yor S F Edi, F Lon - Nth, F Bar S (JAPANESE)~~
F Nrg - Nwy.

GERMANY (Davies): E StP(NC) - Bar, A Fin S F Nwy, A Lvn - StP S by A Mos,
A Mar stands, A Bre - Gas S by A Bur & A Par, F Eng - Bre S by A Pic,
F Den - Nth S by F Hol & F Hel, F Nth - Nrg S by F Nwy.

JAPAN (Knowles): F EMS F Lib F Pen & F TyS all S (CHINESE) F Tun - Ion,
F Spa(SC) - Por, F Gas - Bre, F MAO - Eng S by F Iri, F MAO(OBB) stands,
F SAO - MAO, F SAO(OBB) - SAO, F Nrg S (ENGLISH F Bar, F NAO S F Nrg,
F GoL - Mar, F WMS S F TyS, F Egy(NC) & F Jor(WC) both S F EMS,
F NAO(OBB) stands, F ECS stands.

Retreats: Japanese F Gas - Spa(NC).

Bearing in mind my comments last season that looks very much like the end to me. However, one public-spirited person has proposed a 5-way draw again, so you can vote on that next time if you wish. Failure to vote will indicate acceptance of the proposed draw, though remember that unless someone can show me a sure-fire way out of the current deadlock (and the three of you who have commented to me about it so far have all agreed there isn't one) then the game will finish next season anyway.

.....

New Games (and fees!) in MP

I've been promising a few new games in MP for several months now, and with the Youngstown game almost certain to finish next issue and one or two others a few issues after that this seems like a good time to open the waiting lists.

What I'd like to do eventually is what I've wanted to do all along, start a new game every third issue. I know there are quite a few people who are waiting for another MP game at the moment, so I'll probably need to start at least a couple of games in quick succession. But once I've reduced the backlog a bit I intend to stick fairly rigidly to that rate, so although waiting lists should always be open in future there might still be quite a long wait for a game if they get fairly lengthy. We'll have to see how it goes.

So waiting lists for Regular games are now open on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to give everyone a fair crack of the whip I'll have to insist that a person's name can only be on the list once at a time - if you want an extra game you must wait until your first one starts and then apply again. I hope to announce the start of at least one game in MP43 and thereafter, I hope, at three-issue intervals.

The game fee will be 60p (\$1.50) payable before the spring 1901 moves. If you want a game you are requested to please send in a preference list of countries. In case you were wondering, I have no plans to start any variants - it might well be that MP becomes a Regular-games-only zine in future. When asking for a game could you please also let me know if you're willing to become a standby? Ta.

This seems to be the end. Hope you've enjoyed this issue. Bye.

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This the one and only sub-zine that comes free with MP, so you can see just how lucky you all are. It is produced in Khazad by John Morrison, 9, Highfield Avenue, Inskip, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0UE, and is printed in Imrryr by Addlestone's leading Press Baron.

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Disaster seems to have struck this issue, with only one game actually progressing (if you can call it that), coupled with the fact that I have a lousy cold, as has the rest of the family. So, let us get on with that magic game.

~~XX~~

1973EK('H'): Spring 1911.

AUSTRIA(Walkerdine): A Pie-Mar, A Bur-Gas, A Tyr-Mun, A Vie-Tyr,
A Bud-Vie, A Ukr-War, A Mos stands, F Tri-Adr,
A Tus-Pie, A Rom-Tus, F Nap-TyS, F Ion-Tun,
F Aeg-Ion, A Smy-Con, A Gre stands, ~~AN~~ A Pru-Ber.

ENGLAND(Pimley): F MAO-EnC, A Par-Bur, F Bel-Hol, A Hol-Kie,
F Kie-Bal, A Den-Swe S by F Ska, F Edi-Nwg S by F Nth.

FRANCE(Buckingham): A Spa S A Mar, A Mar S(ENGLISH) A Par-Bur.

GERMANY(Ovens): A Ruh-Bur, F Ber-Bal, F Nwy-Nwg, A Fin S A Swe,
A Swe stands.

ITALY(Black): F WMS-TyS.

Retreats: None.

Empire Stadium, Wigan: The World Heavyweight Wrestling Championship was due to take place between the English challenger and the World Champion from Turkey. The English trainer was giving his Briefing.

"The thing to watch for with the Turkish guy is his special hold called the Turkish Delight. If you get caught in that you might as well throw in the sponge. Nobody's ever got out of it."

The night of the fight arrived. As the end of the sixth round approached there was nothing in it. Suddenly the Turk rushed in and caught the challenger in the Turkish Delight. The English trainer, not wanting to see, trudged towards the dressing room. Then, just as he was disappearing down the tunnel, the crowd roared. He rushed back into the stadium to see the referee holding up the hand of the new English World Champion.

"Allright," said the trainer as soon as the crowds and the newsmen had disappeared. "How about telling me how you got out of the Turkish Delight?"

"Well," came the reply, "there I was with my face screwed up with pain. I opened my eyes and what did I see but a pair of testicles dangling in front of my face. I had nothing to lose so I opened my mouth and sank my teeth into them.....and, mam, when you've just bitten a chunk out of your own goolies you'd be surprised what you can do."

A Chemist's Shop in Addlestone: A local man, a notorious Dippy publisher and Greep-eater who wished to remain anonymous, entered the above mentioned premises, and asked for a deodorant.

"Ball or aerosol?", enquired the chemist.

"Neither," said the young man, "it's for under my arms."

1973DEfa('L'): Problem here is that there is a postal 'go slow' in Canada, which is on a par with the normal service here, and as a result, Terry Knowles's orders have yet to arrive, and therefore the game is being held over.

1973GI('J'): Another postal problem, but of a different nature. Les Pimley sent me 'Spot' with a note in it saying please find enclosed my orders for this game. Unfortunately, they were not there when they arrived at my residence, which meant that either Les had forgotten to enclose them, or that they had fallen out in transit. I have decided to give Les the benefit of the doubt, and as I have been unable to contact him, I am also holding this game over, particularly as the position in this game is so tight.

CLOSE: Sorry about the above, but I find myself in an impossible position again, so have taken the easy way out.

For those of you who have sent congrats on my new addition, I thank you all, and inform you that we have named her Tabitha Mae Marcia, so there. That's all for this issue, so bye for now.

.....taftan.....

MP41 & Annexe23

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