

After observing a spaceship crash on a desolate Scottish isle where he was taking photographs, Nick Morgan has been attacked by a slime exuded from the dead body of the ship's solitary occupant.

NOOK FOR
by Paul Willey

PART TWO

A cool breeze fanned Nick's cheek, and he became aware that he was lying on a hard surface. Puzzled, he lifted his head, and saw the pale blue corpse, with the wrecked spacecraft beyond. Instantly, memory came flooding back. Panic-stricken, he desperately looked at his hands. There was no sign of the gelatinous slime which had come out of the alien's corpse. He looked down at his clothes where it had adhered when he stood up. Not a trace. Had he imagined it? He recalled the feeling of it sliding across his skin, and his stomach heaved. That was not imagination! He rolled to one side to vomit, but he felt his insides soothe themselves, so, instead, he climbed to his feet.

The sun was low on the horizon, and the day was cooling rapidly. He looked at his watch. Almost seven-fifteen. The Scottish fisherman who had brought him across to the island had promised to meet him on the beach at seven o'clock. Nick gathered up his camera, photographed the alien and his wrecked ship from a couple of different angles, which finished off the cassette of film, then set off for the beach at a run.

It was almost half-past seven when he arrived, and the boat was nearly a mile away on its way back to the mainland. Nick filled his lungs, and shouted at the top of his voice. The distant figure of the helmsman showed no sign of having heard. He shouted again, and in fact several times, until he was hoarse, but the fishing boat continued steadfastly away from the island.

Nick wasted some two or three minutes scolding and heaping invective upon the head of the fisherman, casting unwarranted aspersions upon the marital status of his parents. At length, he turned and walked away from the pier's edge. He was going to have to find somewhere to spend the night, for it was already getting very chilly, and by the time it was dark it would be extremely cold. He was also feeling ravenously hungry. He had brought a packed lunch with him which, of course, he had eaten earlier in the day, and he would not have expected to feel as hungry as he did. Coming to the conclusion that it was a psychological feeling brought on by the knowledge that he would not eat that night, he set out to try to find some shelter.

He was not hopeful, for he had covered the island during the course of the day, and had seen nothing which would give him shelter for the night. Nevertheless, he began a careful study of the place in the hope that there might be an old crofter's cottage or a war-time gun emplacement he had formerly overlooked. Nick did not have as much as a box of matches to start a fire and, although he knew the friction principle of two dry sticks, he had severe doubts as to whether he could, in fact, start a fire that way.

An hours walk was enough to convince him the island was bare of any cover. Except for...

The thought popped into his mind as if from nowhere. Yes, why had he not thought of it before? The spaceship. He walked back across the heather to the hillock where the wrecked ship was lying. By now, the sun had set, and it was getting darker with every passing minute. It was also getting very cold.

Nick glanced at the dead alien on the ground, and wondered whether he was himself turning a similar hue with the temperature dropping as it was. He stepped inside the ship. It was no warmer in there, and a lot darker. He turned to close the door, but changed his mind. The door would presumably be a hermetic seal, and he did not want to suffocate himself. He stood for a moment, undecided, wondering whether he could stand spending a night in this place, with the dead extra-terrestrial immediately outside the door.

Suddenly, he stepped forward. He had not intended to, so he stopped. Or, rather, he tried to stop. His legs just carried on walking, as though they were somebody else's. He reached the control panel and, unbidden, his hand reached out to a switch and pressed it. Dim red lights came on. He pressed another switch,

and felt a heater come to life somewhere. He turned a valve, and the air immediately became fresher. The lights gradually became white, and bright enough for him to be able to see clearly.

Still without intending to, he walked back and closed the door, then returned to the seat. He pressed a lever on it, and it flattened out into a bed. It was a short bed, no more than four feet long (for it was built for the little blue alien), but if he curled up on it - Who was he kidding? He would never be able to sleep with his body acting without his control, and furthermore showing intimate knowledge of something it could not possibly know. Although he had not intended to, he lay down on the bed, and curled up.

Huh! he thought. You can take a horse to water, but you can't make him drink! And, with that thought, he fell fast asleep.

-- continued next issue.

And hows about a mensh of a coupla new zines?.....

Gallimaufry: This is from Marcus Umney-Foote (3 Exeter Place, Guildford, Surrey) and is mainly concerned with running his new variant, Cities of Nowhen. A few sentences here would hardly do justice to this variant which is a bit of a cross between Hyperconomic, Para-Time, and goodness knows how many others with a good many new ideas thrown in just to liven things up. Let's just say it's big, with all sorts of nasties like nuclear explosions which create mutant armies impossible to control, underground caverns, travel between worlds and the prospect of additions like sky-forts, gravity webs and laser cannon for the future. Marcus is looking for lots of players for this one and he's sent me a dozen or so copies of the first issue which I'm passing on to a few likely enthusiasts. I don't know details of costs of Gally, but being xeroxed on his firm's machine it's likely to be only a few pence plus postage. Variant freaks are advised to write and ask for a sample if I haven't sent you one with this. Oh, and I think he's willing to run a few more ordinary games in the thing as well as the big variant. I think he's keen to trade with lots of people too.

Changes: This is the name of the St. Andrews Diplomacy Magazine, and is run by Pete Lindsay (Haig 46, David Russell Hall, St. Andrews, Fife). There is one local game being run in it at present, but Pete says he might be prepared to run a 2-week deadline game for outsiders if there is enough of a demand (the zine is now running with weekly deadlines for the local game!). He warns that it is likely to hibernate during exam times and vacations however. Cost is 1/2p per printed side (three issues of two sides each so far) plus postage and he asks for a 50p refundable deposit by way of a game-fee.

And with a great crashing of gears let's nip back to the Roktor story a minute, because Jonathan Palfrey reckons he's got a better version for part 6 o....

Kokkup

PART TWO

As Nick awoke he became aware firstly that there was a sharp Scottish rock sticking into his back, and secondly that there was a pale blue face with a turquoise scar on the forehead hovering over his own. Then he remembered where he'd seen such a face before, and he rolled over rapidly and scrambled to his feet.

"I'm so glad you're all right," said the alien, with obvious relief. "I wondered if there was something wrong."

"There certainly was!" said Nick with feeling, still shaky on his feet. "What was all that grey slime?" He realised as he said it that the slime had disappeared while he was unconscious, leaving him only slightly sticky.

"Slime?" repeated the alien, bewildered. "What slime?"

"When I moved you out of the door," said Nick, "I got covered in it. In fact that's what knocked me out."

"Slime." The alien considered. Suddenly an idea occurred to him. He looked

guilty. "Oh. Oh dear. How very embarrassing. I must have been dreaming. I believe you people have similar dreams sometimes? I'm afraid I'm rather prone to them - I do apologise most unreservedly. It's the loneliness - in space, you know - all that time drifting around learning your language from your TV broadcasts." His face had gone a deeper blue. "I'm surprised it had any effect on you, actually - you're not female, are you? -- no, there shouldn't be any lasting effects, anyway. But I am most apologetic. Is there anything I can do by way of compensation?" He looked up at Nick anxiously.

Nick suddenly began to find the situation amusing. He grinned. "Yes, I suppose there is. Could you answer a few questions and let me take some photos?"

"Oh, certainly," said the alien eagerly. "Go ahead".

"Well, for a start," Nick began, "you seemed to have trouble landing. In fact, I thought you were dead when I moved you out. You didn't seem to be breathing at all."

"Oh, no, I don't need to breathe," said the alien airily. "The atmosphere of my home world is mostly made up of toxene, you see, and there's none of that here. So I have a lump of noxium tritoxide implanted in my left arm, which releases a steady flow of toxene into my bloodstream. Fortunately your atmosphere is not actually harmful to me." He turned to contemplate his battered spacecraft. "As to the landing, I'm used to it by now - I always land that way. I'm a rather careless pilot." He was walking up and down poking at bits of twisted metal, which were by now cool enough to touch.

"What's your name?" asked Nick. "Mine is Nick."

"My full name is Kokkinkup Bikkun," admitted the alien. "But most people just call me Kokkup."

"Hm," said Nick.

((And "Hm..." said the editor - thankyou Jonathan...))

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'0' Game Final Report

1974BE. Zine: Mad Policy. GM: RJW. Players: A- Pete Lindsay (out A08). E- John Coombe (out A08). F- Pete Birks (dro A10), Ron Kelly (drew A15). G- Charles Burton (drew A15). I- Terry Knowles (out A10). R- Mick Bullock (out A15). T- Conrad von Metzke (dro S06), Gacif Challenger (dro A11), Phil Murphy (drew A15).  
 Started: 16-4-74. Finished: 29-9-76.

|   | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08  | 09 | 10  | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A | 3  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 3  | 4+ | 2  | 2  | -   |    |     |    |    |    |    |    |
| E | 3  | 4  | 6  | 5  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 2  | -   |    |     |    |    |    |    |    |
| F | 3  | 5  | 6  | 6  | 6  | 7  | 7  | 8  | 9+  | 10 | 9   | 9  | 10 | 9  | 9  | 9  |
| G | 3  | 5  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 6  | 7  | 7  | 10+ | 11 | 14+ | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| I | 3  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 5  | 4   | 1  | -   |    |    |    |    |    |
| R | 4  | 6  | 4  | 5  | 5  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 3   | 3  | 4+  | 5+ | 4+ | 2  | 1  | -  |
| T | 3  | 4  | 5  | 5  | 5  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 8   | 9  | 7   | 6  | 6  | 7  | 8+ | 9  |

F/G/T draw by player concession (though note a F/G/R/T draw was voted and agreed between S15 and A15).

German Summary: So there you go - you can't win them all. For a long time I thought I could actually win this game having tried to go it alone from 1908 onwards with only intermittent sortics into Russia's good books. Up to that date an incredibly intricate game had seen all 7 countries still in the running. But in that year England and Austria finally succumbed and I struck out on my own.

I must confess to finding the idea of a draw, especially a multi-player draw, unsatisfactory. A two-way draw does have some virtue in that it can be seen as the reward for two players exhibiting a degree of skill and mutual trust - trust that can only be based on a strategy of mutual suspicion, i.e. units placed so as to make it not worthwhile to double-cross one another. But draws involving more than two players smack of taking the easy way out.

In this game votes for a draw came thick and fast (since 1906 I think) and



1974BT ('Q') -- Autumn 1913

Turkey ready for a roasting?

ENGLAND (Knowles): A Mos - Sev, A Ukr S (GJRLA) A Bud - Rum, A Nap - Apu, F TyS - Nap S by F Rom, F WIS - TyS S by F Col, F Naf - WIS, A Lpl - Spa C by F NAO & F MAO, F Tun - Ion.

GERMANY (Prevot): A War S (ENGLISH) A Ukr, A Bud - Rum S by A Gal, A Vic S A Tri, A Pic - Ven S by A Tri A Tus & A Tyr, A Mar stands, F Bel stands, A Boh stands, F Nvy stands ((it's in Swc!!)).

TURKEY (D.Black): F Ven - Tri S by F Adr & A Alb ((Tri lives to try again!)), F Apu - Ven, F WIS S F Ion, F Bla S A Sev, A Sev S A Rum, A Ser - Bud S by A Rum.

Retreats: German A Tri - Ser. Turkish A Rum - Bul.

Winter 1913 Adjustments

E:12 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nvy, StP, Bre, Por, Spa, Tun, Mos, Rom, Nap. No change.

G:14 Centres: Bcr, Kie, Mun, Den, Hol, Swc, Par, Mar, War, Bel, Vie. ~~Wid~~, +Rum, +Ven, +Ser. Builds A Mun A Ber.

T: 8 Centres: Ank, Con, Say, ~~Wid~~, Sev, Gre, ~~Wid~~, Bul, Tri, ~~Wid~~, +Bud. Removes F Adr F Apu.

1974EF ('R') -- Autumn 1913

BLAM! SPLAT! POW!! Batian and Robin win again...

ENGLAND (Meadon): A Rum - Bul, A Ukr - Rum S by A Sev, F Bal - Den, F Lon - Eng S by F Nth, A Pru A War A Gal A Wal & F NAO all stand.

FRANCE (Nathan): F WIS - Aog, F Alb - Gre S by F Ion, F Apu - Nap, F Adr - Alb, A Tri - Ser S by A Bud, A Vic S A Bud, A Pic - Tyr, F Naf - MAO S by F WIS, F Pic - Eng, A Bol stands, A Hol stands, A Kie S A Ber, A Boh - Sil S by A ...

TURKEY (Morris): NAF! F Gre, F Con, A Ser, A Bul, A Arm all stand unordered.

Retreats: Turkish F Gre & A Ser both annihilated.

Winter 1913 Adjustments

E:11 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nvy, Den, Swc, StP, Mar, Mos, Sev, Rum. No change.

F:19 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Bel, Spa, Por, Kie, Mun, Hol, Tun, Ber, Ven, Rom, Nap, Tri, Vic, Bud, +Gre, +Ser. Builds F Mar A Par LND WINS!!

T: 4 Centres: Ank, Con, Say, Bul, ~~Wid~~, ~~Wid~~. TBF - 1 unit short.

A strange miss by Duncan - particularly as he sent in orders for his other games - but fortunately the Anglo/French moves are such that it would have been impossible to stop Norman winning this time no matter what Turkey did. Well done Norman, and thanks to the others for making him fight for it. Statements for the final summary by next issue? Pa.

1975DD ('S') -- Autumn 1909

Piggott Buys a Chinese Helmet! (And finds he has a chunk in his armour?..)

ENGLAND (D.Black): F Bar - Neg.

FRANCE (Piggott): A Nvy - Lon C by F Nth, A Fin - Nvy, F StP(NG, dissimulates, F Lpl dissimulates, F NAO - MAO, A Pic - Tyr S by A Mun, A Bur S A Mun, A Ber subquasicontradissimulates ((blimey that takes me back a bit - '09 game, wasn't it? Sweet days of innocent youth...oops, back to the story), A Naf - Spa C by F WIS, F Tun S F TyS, F Rus - Rom S by F TyS.

ITALY (Holborn): A Tyr - Mun, A Ven - Pic, F Nap S F Rom, A Ser - Tri, A Bul ...

RUSSIA (Kelly): A Sil - Ber S by A Pru, F Wal - Lon.

TURKEY (Vickers): F Gre S F Ion, F Adr - Tri, A Rum - Ser S by A ... F Bla - Bul(LC), A Ukr - Rum, A Gal - Bud.

Retreats. French A Ber - Kie, Italian A Tyr - Bon, Italian A Ser annihilated.

Adjustments on next page...

Winter 1909 Adjustments

E: 0 Centres: ~~W.P.~~ Eliminated. Removes F Nrg.  
 F: 17 Centres: Bro, Har, Par, Spa, Por, Bel, Lon, Kie, Hol, Edi, Mun, Den, Swe,  
                   ~~W.P.~~, Navy, Pun, +StP, +Lpl. Builds F Bre, A Mar.  
 I: 5 Centres: Nap, Ven, Vic, Tri, ~~W.P.~~, Rom. No change.  
 R: 3 Centres: Mos, War, ~~W.P.~~, +Ber. No change.  
 T: 9 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Bul, Scv, Gre, Rum, Scr, +Bud. Builds A Con.

And now there's just a teeny bit of press to pop in. Ready 'Walkerdig'? Take a deep breath. Here we go....

Ankara: Prime Minister Hasha Pasha of Turkey surprised the world today when he announced that Turkey would not declare war on Italy. Foreign correspondents summoned to a press conference in the prime minister's palace early this morning fully expected to find the fiery Armenian to be in a towering rage because the Italian army of Trieste had invaded the Turkish protectorate of Serbia. But instead the prime minister was in a conciliatory mood.

He announced that the Italian government had presented documentation, which the Turkish government unreservedly accepted, that the treacherous occupation of Serbia had been a plot hatched by disaffected officers of the Trieste army and piggotiose agents provocateurs.

The prime minister announced that Turkey and Italy had reaffirmed their Mutual Alliance Pact and revealed details of the agreement.

Italy reiterated its recognition, publicly announced a few years ago, of Turkish hegemony over Serbia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece, the Ionian Sea and Tunis, and the Italian army in Serbia would be withdrawn immediately to Trieste. Italy has further agreed to prosecute the war of liberation against France 'with the total resources at its command'. A Chiefs of Staff of Joint Operations is to be set up (including Russia) under the command of a Turkish general. Italy has further agreed to launch an immediate attack against the French forces in Munich to support the Russian assault on Berlin. In exchange Turkey has recognized the sovereignty of Italy over Trieste, Budapest and Vienna. Both nations have undertaken to recognize the territorial sovereignty of Russia and will continue to co-operate with that nation in the struggle against piggotiosis on the same basis as before until a Tri-Partite Pact can be negotiated.

To formalize the new agreement the prime ministers of Turkey and Italy plan to meet this Autumn in Budapest. The Turkish premier will be accompanied to Budapest by a goodwill mission composed of elements of the Turkish army of Galicia. He will be received by an honour guard of the Italian army of Budapest.

Even so political observers here were skeptical of the Italian protestations of innocence and Turkey's hasty reconciliation. They pointed to more pragmatic possible reasons for the patching up of the Turko-Italian alliance:

By last spring France had virtually won the war by the occupation of Liverpool and St. Petersburg. The only hope the allies have to snatch victory away from the French is the occupation of Berlin. The Russians can capture Berlin if the Italians co-operate by attacking Munich. So in effect the choice is up to Italy as to whether to continue the war or throw in the towel.

Further, it is well known that Prime Minister Pasha has higher aims than to establish his nation as the second power in Europe - above all he wants to prevent the piggotiose from gaining still another crown of laurels. Thus the political observers here are speculating that the prime minister was forced to believe the Italian story of a piggotiose plot with its Trieste army in order to gain the all-important co-operation of Italy to attack Munich this coming Autumn.

Does the fiery Turkish prime minister plan some treachery in return? Few observers here think he does. They recall that although the Armenian was a rebel leader who overthrew the Turkish government a few years ago, even his enemies concede that he is a man of his word. 'If Pasha says he will respect Italian territorial sovereignty, then he will,' affirmed a former Turkish minister who knew Pasha well. 'Providing,' he added, 'that the Italians keep their side of the agreement one hundred percent.' The ex-minister then grinned grimly. 'But the Italians can count on it that Pasha won't be caught napping again.'

This affirmation, and Pasha's undoubted reputation, has bowused observers here







1976GJ ('Z') -- Autumn 1903

Suddenly, they're talking - but about what?

AUSTRIA (Crouch): A Bud - Fun, A Ser - Bul S by F Gre, F Tri S A Ven.

ENGLAND (Nathan): A Lon - Hol C by F Nth, F Eng S (FRENCH) A Bol, F Nwy - Swe.

FRANCE (Herlihy): A Bel S (ENGLISH) A Lon - Hol, A Par - Bre, A Bur - Ruh, A Spa - Mar, F MAO - WIS, F Por - Spa(SC).

GERMANY (Lindsay): A Mun - Bur, A Ruh - Bel S by A Hol, F Den - Swe, F Hel - Don.

ITALY (Tant): F Gol - Pie, A Pie - Ven S by A Rom, F Alb - Tri.

RUSSIA (Berlin): A Ukr - Rum S by F Sev, F Sve - Don, A StP - Fin, A Gal - Bud.

TURKEY (McDonald): A Rum - Ser, A Bul - Gre S by F Adg, F Bla S (RUSSIAN) A Ukr - Rum, F Con stands and watches the merry-go-round.

Retreats: Austrian A Ven - Apu, F Gre - Ion.

Winter 1903 Adjustments

A: 4 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, ~~Bel~~, ~~Tri~~, Bul. Removes A Bud.

E: 4 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Nwy. No change.

F: 6 Centres: Bre, Mar, Par, Bel, Spa, Por. No change.

G: 5 Centres: Ber, Kic, Mun, Den, Hol. No change.

I: 4 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Fun. No change.

R: 6 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, Sve, +Rum. Builds A War.

T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, ~~Adg~~, ~~Bel~~, +Ser, +Gre. No change.

Dear Claire: You cannot spell - it should have been c-o-n-t-i-n-u-o-n-t.

1976GZ ('LA') -- Autumn 1902

1 gone, 1 going and perm any 3 from 5?

AUSTRIA (Baker): F Adr - Alb, A Ser - Rum, A Bud - Gal ((it's in Vie, not Bud)).

ENGLAND (Dean): F Nth S F Nwy, A Wal - Bre C by F Eng.

FRANCE (Charlton): F Por - Spa(SC), A Bre - Par S by A Gas.

GERMANY (Orr): F Pic S (ENGLISH) A Wal - Bre, A Bur - Par, A Mar - Spa, A Kic - Hol, A Ruh - Mun, A Don stands and visits the famous entertainment spots ((you'll go blind, I tell you...)).

ITALY (Potts): A Tri - Vie S by A Tyr, A Ven - Tri, F Apu - Adr S by F Ion.

RUSSIA (Collins): A StP stands, F Sve stands and prays ((it works - next time it can stand and prey, eh?)), A Sev - Bul C by F Bla & S by A Rum, A Gal - Bud.

TURKEY (Scgal): A Bul - Ser S by A Gre, F Con - Bul(SC), F Ank - Con.

Retreats: Austrian A Ser & A Vie comprehensively squelched!

Winter 1902 Adjustments

A: 0 Centres: ~~Bud~~, ~~Vie~~, ~~Bel~~. Eliminated. Removes F Alb.

E: 5 Centres: Edi, Ion, Lpl, Nwy, +Bre. Builds F Lpl.

F: 2 Centres: ~~Par~~, Par, Per. Removes F Por.

G: 7 Centres: Ber, Kic, Mun, Den, Bel, Mar, +Hol. Builds A Kic.

I: 6 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, Fun, Tri, +Vie. Builds A Ven.

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

T: 5 Centres: Ank, Con, Smy, Gre, +Ser. Builds F Smy.

Spa, Bul still neutral.

England - Russia: I don't mind you having the status quo as long as you don't get a build for it.

A.N.Other to Insecure Schizophrenic: Silly boy! Of course they're not after me they all love me too much. and even if they were they'd never catch e.

Insecure Schizophrenic to A.N.Other: I wish to deny the rumour that I love myself. We are merely good friends.

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Now in it's 45rd issue, this epic of the typewriter is produced by one John Morrison, of 9, Highfield Avenue, Inskip, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 0UL. Printing is done in Larrayr.

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1975FL('w'): Autumn 1906..... WILLY NIN, PERHAPS YES, PERHAPS NO, PERHAPS PERHAPS. WHO CALLS?

AUSTRIA(Black): A Gal-Sil, A Boh-Mun S by A Tyr, A Tru S A Tyr, F Ion S (L...), F Nap-T, S, A Rum MS A Jul.

ENGLAND(Kelly). F Hth-May S by F Ing, F Edi-ith, F U, S-Col.

GERMANY(Willet): A Bur-S A Mun, F Kie-hol S by F Bel & F Hol, A Bre-Pic, F Nwy MS A Sve, A Por, A Mar, A Man all stand, F Den stands unordered.

ITALY(Plöter): Rom-Tru S by A Ven, F Nap-TyS, A Pic-Mar, F Con-Meg, A Ant-Smy.

RUSSIA(Lindsay): A Ukr-Tru, A Mos MS A Sev. ((Actually Pete, you've got an A War, on A Lvn, and the one in Sev is okay.))

Retreats: None!

WINTER 1906 ADJUSTMENTS:

AUSTRIA: 7 Centres: Bud, Tri, Vie, Gre, Ser, ~~W~~, Rum, bul. No Change.

ENGLAND: 4 Centres: Edi, Lon, Lpl, Man. No Change.

GERMANY: 13 CENTRES: Ber, Lie, Mun, Don, Sve, Bel, Mar, Par, Hol, ... Bre, Spc, +Por. Changes: Ber, A Lie.

ITALY : 6 Centres: Mar, Poi, Ven, Smy, Anl, Con. No Change.

RUSSIA : 4 Centres: Mos, StP, Sev, + ar. No build requested-C... C...

Bundestag HQ, Berlin: The Kaiser looked at the name of the Austrian chancellor with a pursed brow. Vaguely he recalled another life in which the same person was the King of England, and he was President of France. There was also yet another life in which the same man was proving to be a thorn in the side.

"The time has come," he said to his aides "to liberate Austria. Start building armies."

Trieste: "The Grand Duke is dead, long live the Grand Duke"-the cry rang again and again through the crowd-thronged square.

"Well, dearest, how does it feel to be Grand Duchess at last?" "Better than I had anticipated-and I'm surprised to see that you are so popular in spite of the news from Warsaw." "But I've already explained that to you, darling. It is only right and proper to allow the Tsar to re-occupy Warsaw. I'm sure it was only an oversight on the old Grand Duke's part that we were ever there at all."

"Humm, but why allow the garrison to be annihilated? Why didn't you send them to the Western front to help protect us from that power-mad pervert?"

"Ah yes....that was, er, an oversight on my part. Such a thing will never occur again. Still, at least it proved the Tsar's determination to regain his lost city. And why do you call the Kaiser a pervert?"

"Because if half the rumours circulating Europe are true he is besotted with his jarser! It makes me shudder to think that this unnatural creature controls a third of Europe."

"Indeed, which is why I am pursuing a policy of non-aggression towards my neighbours. The sooner they will awaken to the true threat and unify against it, the better, but first they must quickly cease to fear us. By the way, I'm thinking of having a purge-I believe there are some of the Kaiser's relatives in our court. It's time I sent them packing.."

MARY MARY THIRTS to ANTHONY DAWSON for the un-used standby orders for Italy. Keep trying though. In the meantime, where can I get a chicken that has grown up on a proper farm for Christmas?

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1975D1('U'): Spring 1907.....CM TAKES A JOCK-UP.

Yes, well, actually it isn't all that bad, but the snowball effect could be a lot bigger. You see, I forgot to say that ITALY had gained control of Portugal last Autumn, and hence as allowed one will. Now that wouldn't have been too serious, if not Kelly (who spotted it) hadn't have gone and assumed the wrong side. As it is, his orders are based on this wrong assessment, and I have judged this to be significant enough to hold the game over to next issue. Italy in fact is FROM, so would you please re-assess your orders now, and send in. If anyone else wants to enagother's please do. Sorry about the Fo Hum!

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1976ARbb ('AB' - Multiplicity) -- Autumn 1901

Hammon being hampered?

AUSTRIA (Hammon): 2A Bud SPLIT = 2A Tri + A Ram.

ENGLAND (K.Black): 2F Nth - Nwy, F Eng - Nth.

FRANCE (Willey): A Spa - Por, A Mar - Spa, A Gas - Bro.

GERMANY (Morris): A Hol S (ENGLISH) F Eng - Bel, F Den stands, A Mun - Bur.

ITALY (Lettice): F Ion - Tun, 2A Tri - Vie.

RUSSIA (Buckell): A Nwy stands, A Ukr - Run, 2A Art SPLIT = A Ank + A Smy.TURKEY (Dawson): A Con - Smy, 2A Bul SPLIT = A Scr + A Ecl; A Bul S (AUSTRIAN)  
A Bud Run.

Retreat: Russian A Nwy - Swe.

Winter 1901A: 3 Centres: Bud, Tri, ~~Vid~~, + Run. No change.

E: 4 Centres: Edi, Lon, Ipl, + Fvy. Builds 1.

F: 5 Centres: Bro, Mar, Par, +Spa, +Por. Builds 2.

G: 5 Centres: Ber, Kie, Mun, +Den, +Hol. Builds 2.

I: 5 Centres: Nap, Rom, Ven, +Vie, +Tan. Builds 2.

R: 6 Centres: Mos, Sev, StP, War, +Swe, +Ank. Builds 2.

T: 4 Centres: ~~Ank~~, Con, Smy, +Bul, +Ser. Builds 1.

Builds only needed for next time please. Builds on file for L, G, R, T, which may of course be changed if you wish.

Grateful thanks to Pete Lindsay for the unused standby orders.

In answer to a players query the fact that Pete Lindsay's Winter 1900 placements were used for Italy does not mean that the standby request last time would have resulted in him playing two countries. The Winter 1900 orders were as a result of him providing back-up orders for all countries in the first season, not a specific country, and I don't consider that to mean that he was actually asked to play any one particular country.

Russia to Turkey: Letter received and misunderstood.Damascus: Continuing ~~Treatise~~ Treatise - PHILOSOPHY.

1. Explanation of reducto ad absurdum: "The proof of the proposition is begun by supposing something which is impossible.. the proof ends up wrongly."
2. A theorem (= theos - a god, + ros - a thing) is a problem needing Divine intelligence
3. A metaphor is a strong way of saying polite things, such as would be called swearing by uneducated people.
4. Be kind to your sisters and all other dumb animals.
5. An anachronism is a thing a man puts in writing in the past before it has taken place in the future.
6. Science is material; religion is immaterial.

The exploits of Nizarn: (Vol MIDCLIL) AD ?

...HELP! (Nizarn had become folded in on his head, forming a stasis-barrier. Powerless, he has watched the last n millenia flash by, whilst gradually growing greater in his mind until...he emerges - civil - a SUPERGROSS) cue music (as revealing for a slight he has infected a chance enemy, Loudmouth Wanywhite, with a peplorn disease. This disease is easily conquerable given a certain degree of bodily control (Wanywhite lives incontinent of Africa) and an understanding of the basic effects of the malady...) (You can either guess it my way or try to escape despite my press releases)

Rome: Prime Minister JIM CALLAGHIARI today personally authorised the transfer of a division of troops to the Rome Stock Exchange after the recent run on the Lira. He took this action, he said, to boost...ah...confidence.

Loudon Wainwright VII of the Intergalactic Dippy Zine Corps: episode 3; Terra.

Loudon quickly realised who must have been responsible for this dastardly attempt on his life. As an agent of the IDZC he had been assigned the task of

tracking down the alien called (as closely as Terra can approximate) Aarjhay D'Ubbleyev, one of the organizers of the sinister and wholly-divisive Intergalactic Dippy Anarchists. This alien must surely be behind the fell deed.

Loudon had yet one desperate hope. Terra's Asimov Foundation led the galaxy in neuro-robotics. The videofax had recently made a great fuss over the successful transplant of a dolphins brain into a minsub. It was obvious what the next step in the Foundation's program could be, so Loudon immediately videophoned his superior. With the help of the LDZC, he would be the first human to have his brain transplanted into an android...

-- to be continued.

Which brings us, fairly neatly, to....

'As' Case Source

| <u>Autumn '01 Dealings</u> | <u>CROWNS</u> | <u>POUNDS</u> | <u>FRANCS</u> | <u>MARKS</u> | <u>LIRA</u> | <u>ROUBLES</u> | <u>PIASTERS</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 'Larry Greenberg'          | -500          | -500          | -500          | -500         | +3300       | 0              | -500            |
| Andy Davidson              | -500          | -500          | -500          | 0            | +3000       | -500           | -500            |
| 'Deranged Links'           | -500          | -500          | -500          | -500         | +3500       | -500           | -500            |
| 'Aries'                    | 0             | -500          | -500          | 0            | +2896       | -500           | 0               |
| 'Avenger'                  | -500          | 0             | -500          | -500         | +1500       | +400           | -500            |
| 'Southsea Bubbles'         | +500          | -500          | -500          | 0            | 0           | +500           | -500            |
| Steve Pratt                | +4000         | -500          | -500          | +2000        | 0           | -500           | +1000           |
| 'Rhubovia Misers'          | 0             | -500          | -500          | +2500        | +2500       | -500           | 0               |
| David Thorby               | -500          | -100          | -100          | +200         | +100        | +200           | -200            |
| Selena King                | -300          | -500          | -500          | +600         | +700        | +700           | -300            |
| 'Titan'                    | -500          | +336          | +300          | 0            | 0           | -500           | 0               |
| 'Healey'                   | -500          | -400          | -300          | +545         | +891        | +411           | -400            |
| 'Last India Co.'           | 0             | -500          | -500          | 0            | +2800       | -500           | 0               |
| Bill Orr                   | +1510         | -500          | 0             | 0            | 0           | 0              | 0               |
| Rhithfrog Finance          | +1100         | -500          | -500          | +1000        | +500        | 500            | +500            |
| Peter Berlin               | -500          | -500          | -500          | -500         | -500        | -500           | -500            |
| <u>Nett Trade</u>          | +2800         | -6164         | -6100         | +4845        | +21187      | -2289          | -2400           |
| <u>Old Value - \$/unit</u> | 0.45          | 1.36          | 1.14          | 0.64         | 0.63        | 1.15           | 0.63            |
| <u>New Value - \$/unit</u> | 0.73          | 0.75          | 0.53          | 1.12         | 2.74        | 0.93           | 0.44            |

| <u>New Holdings</u> | <u>Cr</u> | <u>Po</u> | <u>Fr</u> | <u>Ma</u> | <u>Il</u> | <u>Ro</u> | <u>Pi</u> | <u>£</u> | <u>Nett Worth (£)</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| 'Deranged Links'    | 0         | 1500      | 0         | 500       | 4000      | 1500      | 0         | 505.00   | 14545                 |
| 'Rhubovia Misers'   | 500       | 0         | 0         | 3000      | 3000      | 0         | 500       | 2150.00  | 14315                 |
| 'East India Co.'    | 1000      | 500       | 500       | 1000      | 3800      | 500       | 1000      | 61.00    | 13868                 |
| 'Larry Greenberg'   | 0         | 2000      | 0         | 0         | 3800      | 2000      | 0         | 56.00    | 13823                 |
| Andy Davidson       | 0         | 1500      | 0         | 500       | 3500      | 1500      | 0         | 1000.00  | 13670                 |
| 'Aries'             | 500       | 0         | 3500      | 500       | 3396      | 0         | 500       | 0.52     | 12305                 |
| 'Avenger'           | 0         | 2500      | 0         | 0         | 2500      | 1400      | 500       | 50.00    | 10297                 |
| 'Healey'            | 200       | 800       | 400       | 1645      | 1891      | 1611      | 700       | 0.22     | 9732                  |
| John Piggott        | 2100      | 500       | 500       | 2000      | 1500      | 500       | 1500      | 35.00    | 9683                  |
| Steve Pratt         | 4500      | 0         | 0         | 2500      | 500       | 0         | 1500      | 1565.00  | 9630                  |
| Selena King         | 500       | 700       | 700       | 1500      | 1500      | 1500      | 500       | 459.00   | 9125                  |
| Bill Orr            | 2510      | 500       | 1000      | 1000      | 1000      | 1000      | 1000      | 0.50     | 7967                  |
| David Thorby        | 0         | 1000      | 1000      | 1000      | 1000      | 1500      | 1000      | 290.00   | 7265                  |
| 'Titan'             | 0         | 1436      | 1225      | 1050      | 1050      | 750       | 1125      | 1.04     | 6972                  |
| 'Southsea Bubbles'  | 1000      | 0         | 2000      | 500       | 500       | 1000      | 0         | 2290.00  | 6940                  |
| Peter Berlin        | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       | 500       | 3025.00  | 6645                  |

Personnel changes. Stephen Hatfield resigns and Peter Berlin enters with 1000 units of each currency.

In reply to a players query you may spend as many of your dollar holdings as you like at one time (as long as you don't let them go negative). There is no limit of 500 on the dollars as you aren't selling them - you are spending them!

Larry Greenberg says: It was great to be first in the lead. My thanks to those of you (such as Andy and Kern) who thought along similar, albeit more conservative lines as myself (I'm Labour anyway ((traitor!!))). My congratulations to whoever

has overtaken me, as I rate my chances of still being top no higher than Piggott's chance of finishing with a nett profit. Remember, you have to speculate to accumulate - so get speculating!

(( 'AB' game is builds only next issue so you won't need to send in bourse orders for two issues. No, I've phrased that wrongly. You won't need to send in bourse orders next time but they will be wanted the issue after that. But send them in early if you wish of course.))

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1976HY ('AC') -- Spring 1901 New boy springs Balkans surprise...

A note first of the change of player for Austria. Stephen Hatfield withdrew from all his games a few weeks ago due to lack of time etc. at about the same time, Eddie Horsup came looking for a game. So a quick insertion of Horsup settled the problem of what would otherwise have been a 4-week delay to the start of this game. All players were informed in good time I hope.

AUSTRIA (Horsup):	A Bud - Rum, F Tri - Ven, A Vie - Gal.	1.0%
ENGLAND (K.Black):	A Lpl - Yor, F Lon - Nth, F Edn - Wrg.	34.0%
FRANCE (Konedy):	A Mar - Spa, A Far - Pic, F Bre - MAO.	16.7%
GERMANY (Palfrey):	F Kie - Den, A Ber - Kie, A Lun - Ruh.	45.3%
ITALY (Berlin):	A Ven - Tri, A Rom - Ven, F Nap - Ion.	12.3%
RUSSIA (Canham):	F StP(SC) - GoB, F Sev - Bla, A War - S.L, A Mos - Ukr.	2.3%
TURKEY (Dawson):	A Con - Bul, F Ank - Bla, A Smy - Arm.	34.5%

No retreats, naturally...

%s taken from Mick Bullock's survey of Spring '01 openings published in 1901, issue 62, showing the proportion of times that opening has been used in 313 UK games.

London - Paris & Moscow: All together now, one, two, three....

London - Berlin: Need any help with that paper bag?

Welcome, Mr. Berlin, Sir: ...to your second no-communications game in Mad Policy!

The Commies: I think I have an alliance with all of you, so somebody's gonna have to go...

Vaduz: Hi there, folks! Right here in downtown Vaduz, we're all set for Liechtenstein's own answer to Rollerball. Yes, it's - The European Game!! People have come here to the stadium tonight from all over the country - must be about a dozen of them. They're gathered round one of those no-fangled wireless sets, listening to reports of what's happening around the continent. We've arranged for some guy to get knocked off in Sarajevo or some place, so what're you waiting for? Let's get started!

Tales From The Twilight of a Once-Powerful Court: Part 1.

In the dingiest Royal Apartment to be found anywhere in Europe, the world's indisputably most degenerate monarch had, with characteristic fervour, seized upon yet another unlikely scheme for raising his unremarkable country together with its apathetic, hungry populus (some observers suggested the apathy stemmed from the hunger) to their rightful (according to the demented despot) position of dominance over all Europe.

Ignorant that he had just inspired a contender for the title of longest and worst constructed sentence in the history of Diplomacy press, the sorry product of many centuries of fastidious inbreeding sat surrounded by a large pile of photographs and paintings of the various European rulers.

His Insane Highness was fumbling with a fist-size lump of lukewarm wax, and he was apparently in great fear of losing (literally!) his crown, for it was held firmly in place by an excessive number of long, sharp hatpins...

--- to be continued.

((Don't forget your Winter builds with next season's orders!))

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