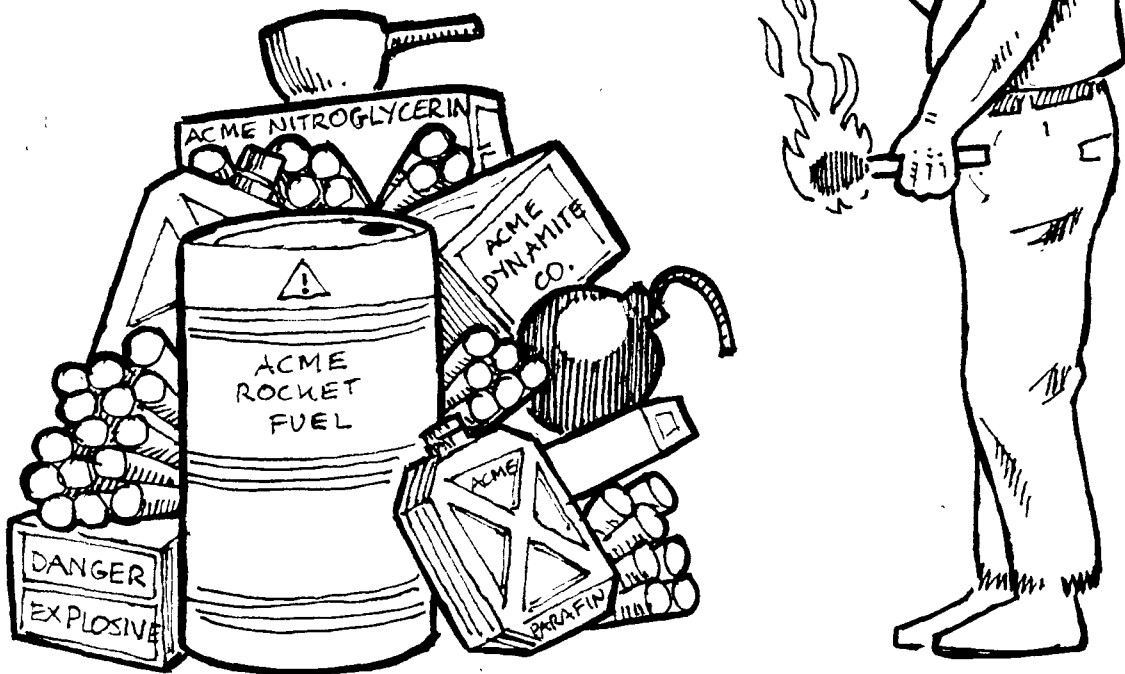


U P A R O U N D T H E B E N D

"...then Light Fuse
and stand real
close..."



D. Hoch 92

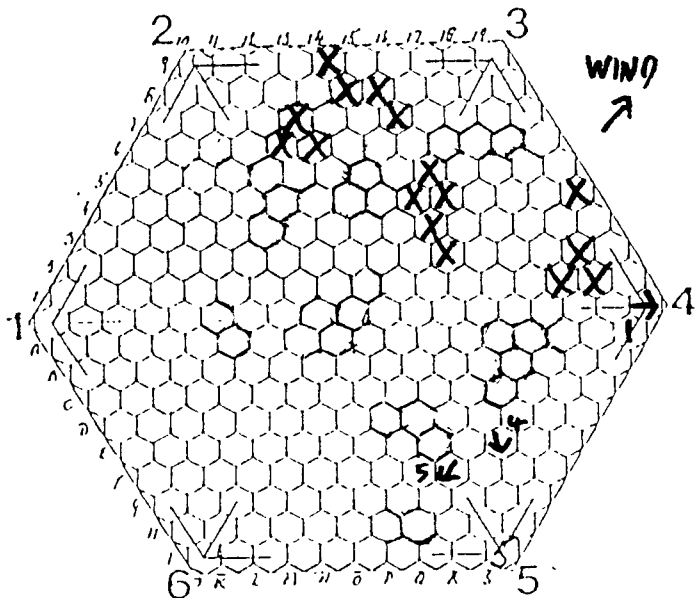
HARRY NEVER LEARNED TO COOK, SO DUNCAN PROFFITT
SENT HIM INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOILING AN EGG...

fourteen

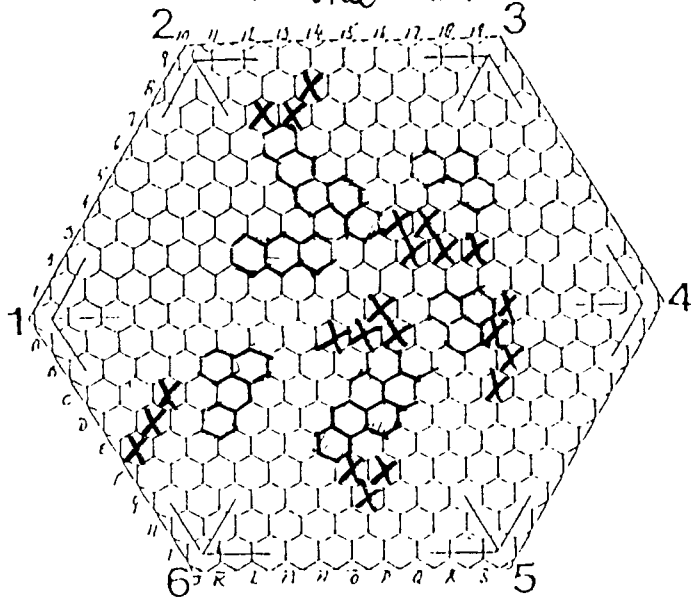
(font: capitalis rustica B)

SOPWITH MATS

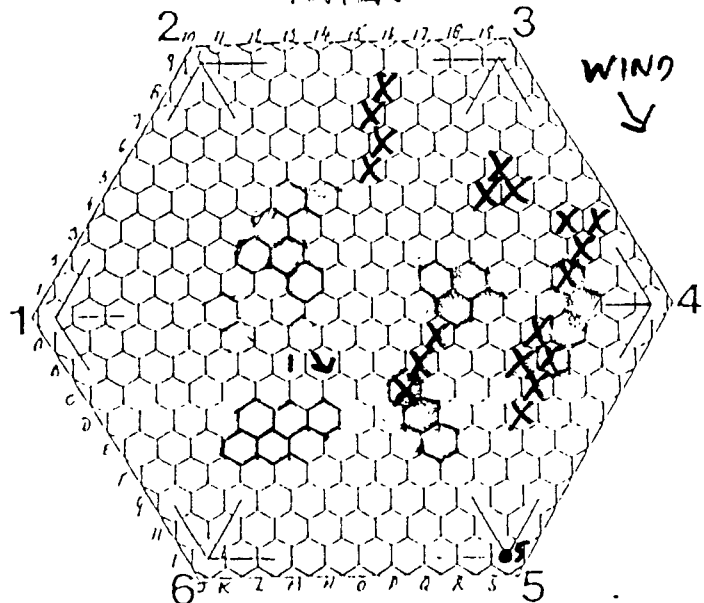
GRIFFIN



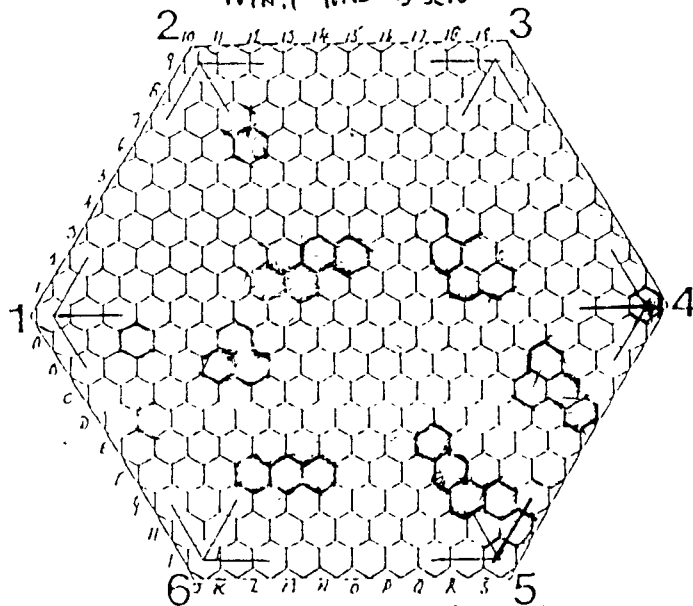
URQUHART



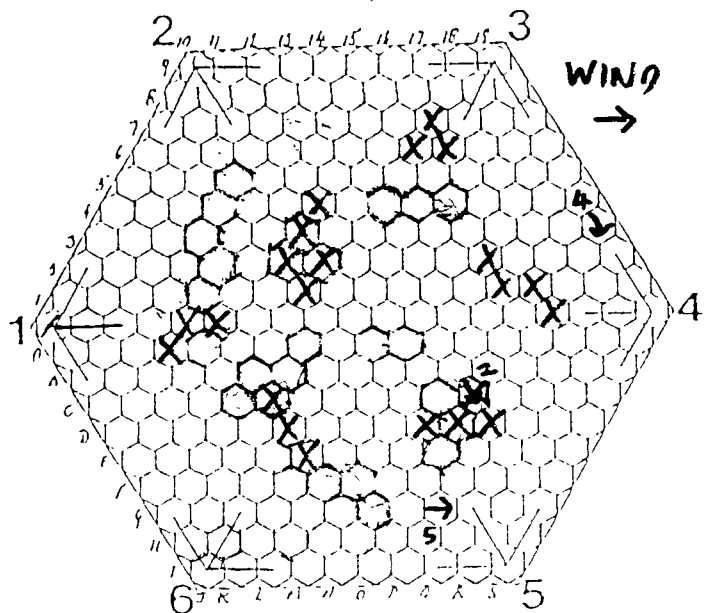
PEPPER



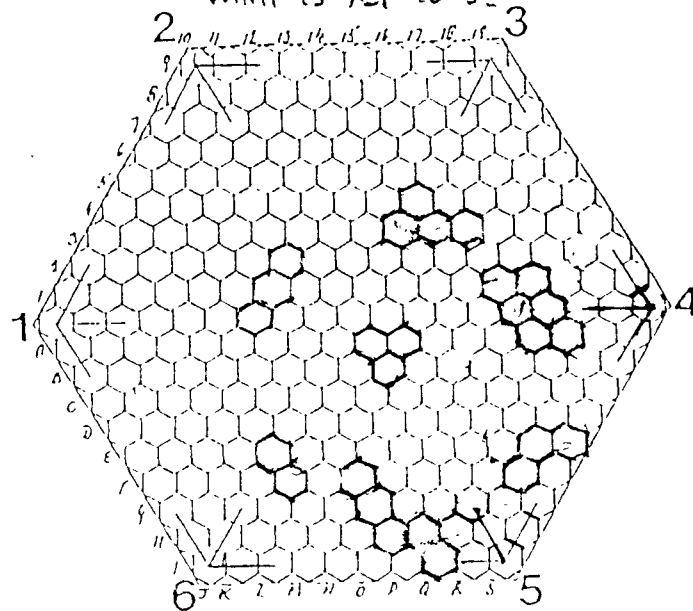
WHAT HAS BEEN



RUNCIMAN



WHAT IS YET TO BE



There was this Diplomacy player, see, and this United player, and this Railway Rivals player, and they were all in a railway carriage with a fly buzzing around. And the Diplomacy player picked up a zine and went BLAT, and squashed the fly to pulp.

'Golly gosh, what was that?' cried the United player and the RR player.

'Why, of course, it's

UP AROUND THE BEND issue 14,'

smiled the Diplomacy player, "the zine that appears 5-weekly, costing 30p plus postage and running a selection of postal games, which in addition means you need never spend another penny on flypapers again."

'Crumbs,' said the Railway Rivals player. 'I shall have to send off a sub.'

'Sniff,' said the United player, 'It doesn't run United, and this copy of Hopscotch isn't fat enough to squash a bacterium.'

'There, there,' said the Dippy player. 'You can always sign up for Chaos II.'

A Pretend Family Fanzine
Coldcom Press 34

Waiting Lists

Diplomacy: Steve Homer. Six wanted.

Railway Rivals: Gamestart inside; new list (last for a while) has John Breakwell and John Colledge awaiting 2-4 more. Map preferences, anyone?

Sopwith: Also the last for a while. Alex Richardson, Mark Stretch, John Breakwell; 3 wanted for this.

Atlantic Airlines (GM Dave Rowley, thank heavens): Alan Harvey, John Colledge; 2 wanted.

Chaos II Diplomacy: Roll up, roll up! Denis Jones, Nicholas Parish, Duncan Adams, Peter Ritchie, Rob Moore, John Breakwell, Steven Agar, Edmund Morgan, John Todd, Alex Richardson and Ian Harris have, but they need 23 more to kick off. Awww, do go on, it's a laugh.

Front Cover (with a likeness of me which is uncomfortably close to the mark) is by Dave Hicks this issue. Dave, incidentally, has written to apologise to players in 'Hershey' and 'McGruder' for dropping out. Well, I shan't be letting you back into games, Dave, but I have no objection to you subbing or contributing.

How do y'all like the classical fonts I keep inflicting on you via the cover? If you think these are bad, wait till we get to the Caroline Majuscule.

If the space below is empty, it means I've forgotten to write the deadline in it, which would be (a) disastrous and (b) just like me.

Tuesday, 29th
September
1992

EGOLAND

As those of you who are regular readers of this exquisite publication will know, I am a librarian (Message to Alex Richardson; DON'T DO IT! IT'S NOT TOO LATE!) and thus have to supplement my meagre income by ~~selling my books on eBay~~ ~~selling~~ data inputting at unsociable hours. This means that I have enough money to live in reasonable comfort. It also means that at periodical intervals I have to work twelve hour days and seven day weeks. This issue falls inside one of these periods. Hence there is not much of it, and frankly I reckon you're lucky to get a cover and four extra pages on top of the games. Next issue will, I hope, contain the letters held over from this one, plus some more decent coverage of hobby news and general semi-uncivil chuntering.

If you want to help a penurious lad on his way to fame and fortune, there is something you can do for me. Go to your phone and ring 0800 140140, and tell them your name, address and so on. By doing so, you will (a) earn me, or one of my fellow workers, 5 pence; (b) earn yourself a free packet of bog roll ("extra soft and extra thick, eachwipe is lightly pre-moistened and hypoallergenic for gentle and effective cleansing" -- maybe I could make it yet as a copy writer) and (c) cost yourself not one penny, since BT (or more likely, Andrex) pay for the call. A word of warning, though. You will be asked where you first saw the advert for this stuff. Whatever you do, do NOT say 'Up Around the Bend' or you will at best confuse the hell out of the data inputters, and at worst may get sent a sample of toilet cleanser instead. Say the TV Times or something.

I think that was the first mention of toiletrolls in U-Bend for nearly a year. How times change.

All this, basically, is why this issue of your favourite gameszine (NOT!) is thin. It is, at least, on time, thanks to the Bank Holiday giving me a chance to have a free day at it.

No, I haven't seen Wayne's World. Or should that be 'I've seen Wayne's World', NOT? Iain Bowen has seen it three times, but then, he has strange tastes in many areas.

There exist a hobby service post, namely the Orphan Games Rehouser (OGRe for short), whose aim is to make sure that games do not vanish without trace. If that fate seems to be befalling a game/zine you play in, a word to the OGRe will most likely ensure that the game is continued if possible, in another zine if need be. The OGRe will also have a shot at getting outstanding credit back, though he is wont to warn that he is not a debt collection agency (even though the present incumbent's bulk would make him an excellent candidate for a debt collector; sit on you and you're well done for!).

The reason I mention all this is that Peter Sullivan, he of the Manorcon top hat, is that incumbent, and he has just moved house. His new address is 55 Brunton Street, Darlington, County Durham DL1 4EN, so it's to that number that you should write if you need his services. Whether or not you do, a sample of his gameszine C'EST MAGNIFIQUE is well worth obtaining, as it's one of only two 3-weekly ones on the market and now that he's moved, he intends to return to that frequency with regularity. CMag offers Dippy and RR at 45p an issue and has the Haz Seal of Approval.

Advt.; is anyone out there interested in a near-complete run of NEW SOCIETY magazine, the pinko-leftie journal with many a contribution from the likes of Angela Carter, Laurie Taylor &c? I've got one which I'm looking to flog (Birks?) which goes from 1980-add right back to 1963, when it was founded, with few gaps. I am loath to advertise in the back of NEW STATESMAN & SOCIETY (as it now is) because it would cost nearly £20 and I don't see and similar ads in there. Seriously, they are fascinating political history; I've been having great fun browsing through. The college library was going to throw them out for recycling, would you believe... a crime!

Right, as I say, that's the lot for next issue. Not a great one this time, as the actress said to the bishop, but they won't all be like this.

UNCLE FESTER WRITES A LETTER EACH AND EVERY SINGLE DAY
HE BELIEVES THAT WRITING LETTERS KEEPS THE NMRs AWAY...
(the not-very-well-centred games section of U-Bend)

URQUHART (Sopwith T??UB)

Setup

Start A1: John Miller, 259 Leek Road, Shelton, Stoke on Trent ST4 2BU
Start A10: Edmund Morgan, 22 Meadow Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4NF
Start J19: Mark Wightman, 30 Willow Close, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe HP10 9LH
 Keble College, Oxford OX1 3PG (term) ((home))
Start S19: Mike Clark, Auchtydore, Longside, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire AB42 7YL
Start S10: Rob Moore, The Cedars, Ruskinville Bridge, Abbey Road, Dolton in
 Furness, Cumbria LA15 8LS
Start S1: Jeff Cattle, 5 Lilac Avenue, Thornes, Wakefield WF2 7RY

Mark starts the game as an ACE and can perform Immelmann turns and inflict one extra point of damage per hit. So watch it.

Clouds begin at: (D11, E12, E13):(F1, F2, F3):(J9, K10, K11, L11):(J13, K13, K14, L14,
 M15):(M7, N7, N8):(O14, O15, P13, P14).

Pilot names and initial orders for next deadline, right? Right.

So much for Tom Tweedy's theory that contact sheets will stop this rotten type-writer ripping stencils. Sigh. The very first one!

.....and you can't correct errors either:.....

VIRGIL (Railway Rivals map CH)

Setup

A gamestart here for:

Rob Moore and Jeff Cattle -- addresses as per Urquhart.
Peter Ritchie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent DA15 8JX.
Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL

For next issue I require company name/colour, and which hex of London to start from. We'll be having two from each.

+++++

ARMSTRONG (Lift Off! -- GM Dave Rowley)

Setup/1955

The players in this one are:

John Breakwell, 62 Shackleton Way, Woodsey, Reading RG5 4UT
Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH21 1TQ
Gary Lyon, Sinead, Church Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth NR31 8QW
Rob Moore (address as per Urquhart)

This is the setup turn for U-Bend's first game of postal Lift Off! Each player will submit a preference list for the nation of their choice. A postal turn will consist of one year, made up of:

- Purchase of hardware and new programmes
- Conduct research and development
- Declare next year's missions (but not actually which month)
- ((Declare to GM mission type to be launched next year))
- decide whether to rush any launches this year; if so, by how much
- Carry out missions in rushed/reverse budget order, and report results ((GM))
- Modification of budgets due to mission results ((GM))
- Collect budget and add it to any cash in hand ((GM))
- Draw event card ((done in budget order by GM))

This turn will be made up of only the last two steps, as the real game starts in 1956

ARMSTRONG continued

Player 1: JOHN BREAKWELL Cash 60 Budget 60
Scientific Breakthrough -- no effect as no rocket programme under development

Player 2: IAN HARRIS Cash 60 Budget 65
Defection -- a key scientist has defected from your nation to another.
((Subtract 1 from each R&D die next year)). Choose another player, who gets to add 1 to each R&D die.

Player 3: GARY LYON Cash 60 Budget 60
Military Support -- no effect as no astronaut programme purchased.

Player 4: ROB MOORE Cash 60 Budget 63
R&D Bonus! -- your space programme has managed to recruit a top scientist from a major corporation ((add 1 to each R&D die next year)).

Mission Control -- All: In the words of the Manfred Mann hit... 5 4 3 2 1.
If a player wishes to use nations (fictional or real) which are not in the ones supplied with the game, they can, but you must be prepared to be inventive as regards the names of their programmes and astronauts.

TEX (Diplomacy 92??)

Autumn 1901

Johnay Turk rampages unchecked through South

AUSTRIA (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)
F(Tri)-Ven, A(Ser) S Turkish A(Bul)-Rum, A(Gal)-War.

ENGLAND (Edward Ainsworth, 4 Park Avenue, Bedford MK40 2JY)
F(NWG)-Nwy, F(NTH) C A(Yor)-Bel, A(Yor)-Bel.

FRANCE (Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester le Street DH2 1TQ)
A(Spa)-Por, F(MAO)-Spa/sc, A(Par)-Pic.

GERMANY (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7YL)
A(Mun)-Ruh, F(Den)-Swe, A(Kie)-Hol.

ITALY (Keir Hodgson, 37 Shanklin Drive, Leicester LE2 3RH)
A(Ven)-Tri, F(ION)-Tun, A(Apu) H.

RUSSIA (Chris Sutton, 62 Ashbrook Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XB)
F(GOB)-Swe, A(Ukr)-War, A(Sev) S F(Rum), F(Rum) S Turkish A(Con)-Bul*.

TURKEY (Mark Underhay, 65 The Chase, Holland-on-sea, Essex CO15 5PZ)
A(Bul)-Rum, F(BLA) S A(Bel)-Rum, A(Con)-Bul.

Russian F(Rum) is annihilated nrp, poor thing.

Adjustments

AUSTRIA: Bud Vie Tri Ser = 4 Builds A(Bud)
ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy Bel = 5 Builds A(Lon), F(Edi)
FRANCE: Par Mar Bre Por Spa = 5 Builds F(Bre), A(Par)
GERMANY: Mun Ber Kie Den Hol = 5 Builds F(Kie), A(Ber)
ITALY: Rom Nap Ven Tun = 4 Builds F(Nap)
RUSSIA: Mos Sev War StP = 4 Rebuilds A(War)
TURKEY: Con Ank Smy Bul Rum = 5 Builds F(Smy), A(Ank)

Press

Sorry, Chris, hope you're still friendly with Doris.

Italy - Austria: Tell me again what I've got to do next.

Russia - Germany: I'll be interested to see if England is as isolated as I've been led to believe.

England - Russia: Every game has a strong, silent type; I'm working on the strong part of it.

France - All: Half what I say is total rubbish and the other half is rumour-mongering lies. Basically I talk a load of c**p.

Judge English - France: Crap, was that?

TEX Press (There's more, I'm afraid)

Italy - World: This is to everyone who has written saying that I must be their enemy because I haven't written. It's not true, it's just that at the beginning of the month I went away for a weekend in Leeds where I met a couple of attractive and available girls so didn't get back to Leicester till the 19th. Sorry, but depravity is my strongest suit.

King - Soothsayer: Things are not as you said. Why have you promised so much, and so little has happened?

Soothsayer - King: I'm sorry, Sire. It must have been a Stretch of the imagination.....

=====you boastful sod, Hodgeson=====

DREDD (Diplomacy 91DC)

Autumn 1905

French naval operations interrupted by Russian trawling ships

AUSTRIA (Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford E4 6AR)
A(Boh)-Mun, A(Tyr) S A(Boh)-Mun, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Tri) H, A(Bul) H,
F(ION)-TYS, F(ADR)-ION.

ENGLAND (Anarchy): A(Lpl)*, F(GB) H u/o.

FRANCE (Peter Dunnett, 328 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3NU)
A(Edi)-Lpl, F(Wal) S A(Edi)-Lpl, F(ENG) S F(NTH), F(NTH) H*, F(Den)-HEL,
A(Kie) S A(Bur)-Mun, A(Ber) S A(Bur)-Mun, A(Ruh) S A(Bur)-Mun, A(Bur)-Mun,
A(Mar)-Pie, F(WMS)-Tun, F(TYS)-Nap*.

ITALY (Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BW)
A(Ven)-Pie, A(Tus)-Rom, F(Nap) S Austrian F(ION)-TYS, F(Tun) S Austrian
...F(ION)-TYS, F(Con) H.

RUSSIA (Vick Hall, 49 Vartry Road, London N15)
F(Nwy) S F(SKA)-NTH, ~~F(NWG)~~ S F(SKA)-NTH, F(SKA)-NTH, A(Swe)-Den, A(Arm) H,
A(War)-Pru, A(Sil) S Austrian A(Boh)-Mun, A(Ank)-Con.

Run away! Run away! French F(NTH)-Hol, F(TYS)-GOL. English A(Lpl) dies.

Adjustments

AUSTRIA: Vie Tri Bud Ser Gre Bul Rum	= 7	n/c
ENGLAND: Edi Z Z	= 1	n/c
FRANCE: Par Mar Bre Spa Bel Por Mun Ber Hol Lon Kie Z Z <u>Lpl</u>	= 12	n/c
ITALY: Rom Nap Ven Tun Con	= 5	n/c
RUSSIA: StP Mos Sev War Nwy Swe Smy Ank <u>Den</u>	= 9	+ F(StP/nc)

Press

Gunner - Other Ditto: Okay, you write first this time.
France - Austria: OK, so I didn't quite tell the truth.
France - All: 3 against 1 is hardly fair, is it?
The Gingerbread Man: He raced on until he came upon a familiar figure. "Hello, Old Green Stump! -- still rooted?" Stump sighed wearily.
"All the time. If it's not you, I get that bloody Wide-Mouthed Frog squitting all over me. When're you gonna do something about him?" Ginge's currant eyes twinkled. "Why, Stumpy!... haven't you noticed? Freddo trusts me. Gotta keep him happy, haven't I?"

!!

SILVER (Really Lazy Bastard Dip) The End

Nobody bothered to vote in the game end statement (I'm proud of you boys) which of course means it is carried.

The game thus ends as a win for Joy Hibbert, with A/E/F/G/I/R/T in a joint second place.

Game end statements? Did somebody say game end statements?

Russian more popular dead than alive

ENGLAND (Dave Newnham, 80 Prince Edward's Road, Lewes, E Sussex BN7 1BH)
A(StP) S Russian A(Mos), F(BAR) S A(StP), F(NWG) looks for the North West
Passage, F(NTH) C A(Lon)-Nwy, A(Lon)-Nwy, F(Bel) H.

FRANCE (Mark Stretch, 2 Over Mill Drive, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7JL)
F(TYS) S F(WMS)-Tun, A(Pie)-Tus, A(Rom)-Nap, F(ADR)-ION, A(Gas)-Mar,
F(WMS)-Tun, F(Mar)-GOL.

GERMANY (Simon Cutforth, 4 Beer's Cottages, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7TL)
F(HEL) H, F(BAL)-Pru, A(Kie)-Mun, A(Ber)-Sil, A(Boh)-Gal, A(Tyr) S A(Vie),
A(Vie) S A(Boh)-Gal.

ITALY (Anarchy): A(Ven) H u/o! RUSSIA (anarchy): A(Mos) H u/o.

TURKEY (Chris Sutton, 62 Ashbrook Road, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2XB)
A(Con)-Bul, A(Ank)-Arm, F(ION)-TYS, F(Nap) S F(ION)-TYS, F(Alb)-ADR,
A(Tri)-Vie, A(Bud) S A(Tri)-Vie, A(Ukr)-Gal, A(War)-Pru, A(Smy)-Gre,
F(AEG) C A(Smy)-Gre.

Wot, no retreats?

Erratum: I typed 'A(Boh) S A(Tyr)-Ven' instead of '-Vie' last season. Everyone
twigged.

Draw Proposal (U-Bend's first!): 4-way draw. Votes next time. Abstentions count
against this time.

Press

Turkey - England: If you are serious about a two-way draw I think the mole
inspecting and soundings will have to end.

oo

QUINCY (Time Lords Dip III? -- can you confirm, Steve?) Spring 1903

"It's the only way to travel" claim Italians and Russians

AUSTRIA (Mike Allaway, 62 Herga Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 5as)
F(Tri)-Alb, A(Rum)-Bul*, A(Bud) H, A(Tus)-WARP.

ENGLAND (John Wilman, 2 Keillor Cottages, Kettins, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH139JT)
NMR! A(Lpl) H u/o. F(Lpl) W SQ2..

FRANCE (Laundryman Walkerdine, 6 Honeyborne Way, Wickwar, Wotton under Edge GL128PF)
F(Edi)-Cly, A(Par)-Gas, F(Mar)-GOL, A(Pie)-Ven*, A(Bre)-WARP, A(Spa)-WARP.

GERMANY (S. Diesduplex, back at Norton House, Whileden Street, Amersham HP7 OHU)
A(Swe)-Nwy, F(Nwy)-WARP-StP, A(Ber)-Sil, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Bel)-Hol, F(Kie)-Den,
A(Lon)-Yor, A(Tyr)-WARP.

ITALY (Fruppy Moore, The Cedars, Ruskinville Bridge, Abbey Rd, Dolton in Furness,
Cumbria LA15 8LS)
A(Rom)-WARP-Ven*, A(Ven)-WARP, F(Nap)-WARP, F(ION W A02)-Smy, F(Apu W A02)
-Gre.

RUSSIA (Pete Pixie, 241 Days Lane, Sidcup, Kent D15 8JX)
A(Con)-WARP-Bul*, F(Sev)-WARP-Rum, A(Gal)-WARP-Vie, A(War)-WARP-Mos.

TURKEY (Ded h'Ed Morgan, 22 Meadow Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4NF)
A(Mos)-WARP-War, A(Ank) H, A(Smy)-WARP-Con.

As ever, no retreats; as ever, asterisks by non-underlined moves mean that the
unit in question is destroyed by warp-exit reaction.

Press:

Alas for all saga fans, time forbids it. Next issue, he screamed*

NOXIN (Intimate Ia Dip)

Autumn 1903

MERCENARIES CARVED UP GOOD AND PROPER

- AUSTRIA (Italian): A(Ber) S Italian A(Boh)-Mun*, A(Gal) S A(Rum), A(Rum) S...
...Italian F(Gre)-Bul/sc*.
- ENGLAND (Mick Haytack): F(Nwy)-StP/nc, A(Kie)-Ber, F(Hol)-Kie, A(Bur)-Par,
F(MAO)-Por, F(IRI)-MAO, A(Lpl)-Wal, F(NTH)-Den.
- FRANCE (Neutral): A(Tyr) H u/o
- GERMANY (English): A(Mos) H, F(Pru) S English A(Kie)-Ber.
- ITALY (Nicholas Parish): F(Spa/sc)-Por, A(Mar)-Bur, F(GOL)-Spa/sc, A(Boh)-Mun,
F(TYS)-WMS, F(ION)-Tun, A(Ser) S F(Gre)-Bul/sc,
A(Tri)-Bud, F(Gre)-Bul/sc.
- RUSSIA (English): A(StP)-Lvn, F(BAR) H, F(BAL)-Kie.
- TURKEY (English): F(EMS)-AEG, F(Con)-Bul ((coast unspecified)), A(Sev) S...
...A(Bul)-Rum, F(BLA) S A(Bul)-Rum, A(Bul)-Rum.

Retreats and things: Austrian A(Rum)-Ukr, A(Ber)-Sil

Builda and things:

- AUSTRIA: ~~War~~ ~~Mos~~ ~~StP~~ = 0 Out
- ENGLAND: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy Bre Kie Bel Mar Swe StP Ber Par Den Hol = 14
Builds Fs(Lon, Lpl), A(Edi); 3sht
- FRANCE: ~~War~~ = 0 Out
- GERMANY: ~~War~~ ~~Mos~~ = 1 Lose F(Pru)
- ITALY: Rom Nap Ven Vie Tri Tun Spa Gre Ser Mun Bul Bud = 12 Build As(Rom,
Ven), F(Nap)
- RUSSIA: War ~~Mos~~ ~~StP~~ = 1 Lose Fs(BAL, BAR)
- TURKEY: Con Ank Smy Sev ~~War~~ Rum = 5 n/c

<u>Winter 1903 Bids:</u>	G	R	T	Credit balance:	England 16
	ENGLAND: <u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	16		Italy zip
	ITALY: 0	0	<u>27</u>		

.....

JACK (Five Italies Diplomacy) Spring 1905

AGAR, WHY THE THUMP DID YOU PUT THIS TURKEY IN THE VARIANTS PACKAGE?

ITALY A (James Nelson, temp. Room 2-15, Ashenden House, Stoke Mandeville Hosp., Aylesbury, BUCKS HP? ???)

F(ION A)-TYS E, F(Tun E) S F(ION A)-TYS E.

ITALY B (Toby Harris, 6 Durham Terrace, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BW)
A(Rom A)-Ven A, F(TYS A) S F(Tun A)-ION A, F(Tun A)-ION A, A(Ven B)-Pie A,
A(Ven C)-Rom C, F(TYS B)-ION C. F(Nap B)-ION B.

ITALY C (David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4XJ)
F(ADR C)-Tun C ((nso, and illegal anyway)), F(Tun C)-ION C, A(Rom C)-Ven C,
F(ION D)-Nap D, F(Nap D)-Rom D, A(Rom D)-Ven D, F(ADR D) H u/o.

ITALY E (Simon Cutforth, 4 Beer's Cottages, Kennford, Exeter EX6 7TL)
A(Pie D)-Tus D, F(TYS D) S A(Pie D)-Tus D, F(Tun D) S F(TYS D),
F(ION E)-Tun E, F(Ven A)-ADR A.

Game End Proposal: 3-way draw B/C/E.

This is legal under U-Bend house rules, which allow a player to vote themselves out of a draw for any reason they may have.

Judge English - Italy A: So when are you going to get roped into the Smodnoc team? All the other players in this game have been now.

McGRUDER (Deluge Diplomacy)

'We just can't turn it out fast enough!' -- Green Slime Ltd. manager

AUSTRIA (Paul Norris, TopFlat, 53 Ashley Hill, Montpelier, Bristol BS7 9BE)
F(Pie) H*, A(Boh) H*, A(Vie)=F(Vie), A(Tri)-Ser.ENGLAND (Tony Sait, 15 Alphington Green, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5LQ)
A(Mar)=F(Mar/wc), F(MAO)-Spa/nc, F(NTH) S F(FIN)-Nwy, F(FIN)-Nwy.FRANCE (David Tittle, 5 Penrhyn Crescent, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4XJ)
F(Por)-Spa/nc, F(Spa/nc)-Mar/wc, F(PAR)-Bur.GERMANY (Nicholas Parish, Monkmoor, 10 Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge KT13 9TE)
A(Mos)=F(Mos/nc), F(Gal)-Vie, A(Mun) S A(Sil)-Boh, A(Sil)-Boh, F(KIE)-Ruh,
F(NMG) S F(Nwy), F(Nwy) hopes that Swedish neutrality is upheld.ITALY (Allan Gordon, 3 Forest Avenue, Chingford E4 6AR)
A(Bul)-Ser, A(Alb) S A(Bul)-Ser, F(Con)-Bul/ec, F(Gre)-ION, F(VEN)-Pie,
F(GOL) S F(VEN)=Pie.

RUSSIA (Anarchy): F(LVN) H u/o.

Retraits Austrian A(Boh)-Tyr, F(Pie) disbands pro!Stay of Plate

AUSTRIA:	Tri Vie Boh Ser Tyr Boh	= 3	n/c
ENGLAND:	Edi Wal Ser Mar Boh	= 3	Disbands F(FIN)
FRANCE:	Por Ser <u>Spa</u>	= 2	Disbands F(Por)
GERMANY:	Ber Kil Mun Ruh Swe Nwy Ukr War <u>Mos</u>	= 8	Builds F(Ber)
ITALY:	Rom Smy Ank Con Tun Gre <u>Pie</u> <u>Ser</u> <u>Bul</u>	= 9	Builds F(Rom/ec), 2 short
RUSSIA:	Boh	= 0	Out! disbands F(LVN)

Now come SUMERGENCES... and don't forget multicoastal provinces! (Tri/Tyr/Sil)

On wash the waves: Ber, Bul, Gal, Gre, Mar, Mos, Por, Pru, Rom, Ruh, Ukr & Vie
are now inhabited only by fishes. No armies drowned, though.

Boh and Swi become new supply centres; the latter is now passable, or passably so.

Hmm, halfway to the finish and some people are still building!

Press

Green Slime: Now for the tricky bit! He was using the last of his generated glob.

From here on, he was going to have to spread the disgusting stuff a tad thinner -- he had to keep enough in reserve for the final push up the Matterhorn..... otherwise, the Black Death would have the Bourbons by the buboes.

Jim Ladd, a cautionary tale: Jim looked around, and rubbed his eyes. Was he still dreaming? What was reality? He could have sworn he

was part of a large army marching proudly to the Alps and Switzerland -- but here he was back on board a ship with Can'n Gordon smiling lopsidedly down at him. He tried to stand, only to be thrown back into his bunk by the pitching of the waves -- or did the captain order some of his soldiers to rock the mock-up cabin so he thought it was the waves? Now why would the captain do that? Who knows? He DOES move in mysterious ways, after all....

BEECHING

The inaugural round of this sees old stalwart PETER DUNNETT scoop a free issue for correctly diagnosing an error in game 'Omar!'. Trailing in behind come more stalwarts: Tom Tweedy, Dave Rowley, Dave Newhham....

Certain Other Zine Editors have been making snide remarks about the wisdom of someone running a zine who has to get his subscribers to run the games for him. To them I say; got too many worries about how much you'd lose to run this damage control system yourselves, sunshines?

N.B. I know 'Dunnett' is spelt thus, but my fingers don't. And no, it does not count towards this game next go.

STILL NO VODKA IN REEPERBAHN FOR RUSSKIES

Error here: Russian F(BAL)-Ber failed (it died nro). So much for last time(s) banner headlines. Sigh.

AUSTRIA (Tom Tweedy): A(Rum)-Sev, A(Bul)-Nap, F(AEG) C A(Bul)-Nap, A(Bud)-Tri, A(Tyr)-Ven, A(Vie)-Boh, A(Gal) S A(Vie)-Boh.

ENGLAND (Austrian): F(MAO)-Bre, F(Wal)-Lon, F(NWG)-Nwy, A(Swe)-Den.

GERMANY (Peter Dunnett): F(BAL) S A(Ber), F(Deh)-Swe, A(Boh)-Tyr, A(Bur) S A(Mun), A(Ber) S A(Mun), A(Mun) S A(Boh)-Tyr.

ITALY (Austrian): A(Tun)-NAF, F(ION) C Austrian A(Bul)-Nap, F(Ven)-Apu, A(Tri)-Alb.

RUSSIA (Austrian): A(Pru)-Ber, A(Sil)-Mun.

TURKEY (Austrian): A(Mos)-StP.

No retreats... Builds:

Table listing builds for various countries with columns for units and short descriptions. Example: AUSTRIA: Vie Bud Con Gre Smy Ank Ser Tri Ven Sev Nap = 11 Build A(Vie), A(Bud) 2 short

This gives Austria 13 ECUs and Germany 16. Bids quick, gentlefolk, and we can go to a split deadline.

Press

Austria - Germany: Shucks! -- not this time, but it is getting close! Peter - Tom: Close but not close enough. German War Correspondent: Press reports of cossacks appearing in Berlin night clubs were shown to be an error of judgment in high places. The bottle of vodka was hastily returned to the suppliers.

Separator line of @ symbols

KELSO (Intimate Ia)

Fin

Eddy Richards has said that he'd rather not carry on, so the game is definitely Mark Stretch's, even if it isn't the kind of victory he would most likely have preferred. Sorry, Mark.

Separator line of // symbols

GRIFFIN (Sopwith T174UB)

Turn 11

Final battle approaching

Table with 5 columns: Pilot, Starts, Moves, Ends, A : D : P. Rows include Baron von Boggles, Roger Ramjet, John R Todd, and Captain Condor.

Clouds go NE to: (E11,E12,F12):(E14,F14,G15,H15):(JT4,J15,K14,K15,L14):(O19):(P17,P18,Q18).

Much firing this time, but the only damage is once more caused by the skeleton in plane 1 flying through a cloud. Some Press:

Cpt Condor - Roger Ramjet: If you NMR this time you're dead. If not... ouch! Disgruntled: Eeeaaowww... dacka dacka dacka dack... oh dammit, why don't you bastards stay where you are?

Seginese generals too weak from starvation to order?

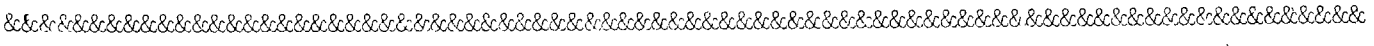
Arcturus	I/yellow	20a/4		
Andy Bell	I/yellow	20a/2		
Segin	O/yellow	3/3		
Rob Cullender	O/yellow	3/3	NMR!	
-----/-----/-----/-----				
C	/B	/A	/M	
Regulus)1R	o+ /Betelgeuse)1S	o /Mirfak	/Menkhib)1S	o
Alhena	/Bellatrix)1S	+ /Algol)1S	o+ /Miran)1S	+
-----/-----/-----/-----				
Avoir)1R	+ /Canopus	/Aldebaran	+ /Theemin	
Adhara)1R	o /Rigel)*A	o+ /Menkar	o /Zaurak)1aS	o+
-----/-----/-----/-----				
F	/E	/D	/N	
Merak)1aA	+ /Castor)8aA	o+ /Polaris)1S	+ /SEGIN)@	o+
Pollux)1aA	o /Capella	/Hamal)1S	o /Schedir	
-----/-----/-----/-----				
Alphard	/Procyon)2aA	o /Mira)*S	o+ /Alrisha)1S	+
Denebola)2aA	o+ /Sirius)2aA	+ /Archernar	/Mesarthim)1S	o
-----/-----/-----/-----				
I	/H	/G	/O	
Alkaid	/Gemma)2aA	+ /Alpheratz	/Homam)1S	o
ARCTURUS)62aA	o+ /Altair)1aA	o /Markab)1S	o+ /Matar)1S	+
-----/-----/-----/-----				
Acrux)1A	+ /Alpha Centauri	/Fomalhaut)1S	+ /Sandalmelek	
Spica)1A	o /Sol)5A	o+ /Algenib)1S	o /Sandalsud)*A	o+
-----/-----/-----/-----				
L	/K	/J	/P	
Thuban)1A	+ /Albireo	/Deneb)2A	+ /Sham	
Rutilicus)1A	o /Vega)2A	o+ /Alderamin)2A	o /Tarazed)1S	o+
-----/-----/-----/-----				
Antares)1A	o+ /Sargas)2A	+ /Enif	/Rukbat)1S	+
Atria	/Sabik)@	o /Pavo)1S	o+ /Dabih)1S	o
-----/-----/-----/-----				

((Key: a=advanced ship: *=mixed class fleet: @=siege))

Still the space round Segin is ablaze as the siege continues. Current ship counts a.re... 3aA, 4OS. At Sabik are still 1S, 1A.

Mixed Class Fleets: Rigel -- 8aA, 8aR; Sandalsud -- 1aA, 1aR; Mira -- 1S, 1aR.

Builds: Once again Arcturus builds 14 advanced ships, once more Segin is unable to build...



RUNCIMAN (Sopwith T189UB)

Turn 6

BLOODY HELL, LOMAS, THOSE CLOUDS ARE BIG ENOUGH

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
Magneto Tim Lomas	L12-L11	RT,A,A	C12-P12	12:07:05
<u>Retaliator</u> ACE Mark Wightman	M19-N19	A,A,A	P19-Q19	07:05:22
Zebedee ACE Rob Cullender(NMR!)	M6-N7	A,A,A	P9-Q10	11:12:10

Clouds rift E to: (E4,E5,P6):(G9,G10,G11,H9,H10):(I6,J6,K6):(I15,I16,J16):
(M15,N15,O16,P16):(N10,O11,O12,P12), and hit Magneto for one.
Magneto - Aces: Do we get to see how Aces fight each other now? Don't worry, I'll just watch and learn...

PEPPER (Sopwith T178UB)

Turn 8

RECULER POUR MIEUX SAUTER

Pilot	Starts	Moves	Ends	A : D : P
<u>Retaliator</u> ACE Mark Wightman	G8-H9	RT,A,A	J8-K8	13:12:02
Erik the Half-a-bee (Erik Eriksson)	S19-SE	A and vanishes in a puff of NMR		01
<u>Atsuko</u> ACE Dave Lomas	09-P9	LS,A,A and lands	S10	16:03:22

Clouds go SE to: (G14,F15,H13,H14):(L16,L17,M17):(M10,M11,M12):(O18,P17,P18,P19):
(P14,P15,Q13,Q14,Q15).

Erik's remaining points divided up come to one for each survivor.

Press

Atsuko - Retaliator: My demise was all a fishy plot to build up and then dash your hopes in an attempt to demoralise you and break your concentration. By the way, don't look now but your tailplane has just fallen off!
 Retaliator - Atsuko: OK, the competition's gone -- let's get some points.

XX

IZZARD (RR Dynamite map PN) Round 9

BRIDGE THAT GAP WITH A DYMANITE BAR

Race results

- 6) Portland - Yakima: WARPAT 20-8-1+3, GIT 10-5-3+1, TBNS +13.
- 15) The East - Wenatchee: HAND 20+5, GIT 10-5.
- 17) Worland - Medford; once more, no takers.
- 19) Casper - Billings: WARPAT 20-2, HAND 10-2+1, MICA 0+2+2, TBNS +1.
- 20) The East - Eugene: GIT 20-3, WARPAT +3.
- 21) Bend - Portland: WARPAT 20-6, TBNS +5, GIT +1.
- 22) Eugene - Everett: TBNS 20-1, HAND +1.
- 23) Miles City - Sheridan: HAND 20-3+9, TBNS 10-3+3, WARPAT 0-2-3+6, MICA 0-2-4, GIT 0-5+4.
- 24) Missoula - Walla Walla: HAND 20+5, MICA 10-5+4, GIT 0-4.
- 25) Cheyenne - Portland: TBNS 10-6, MICA 10-5 (jt run), GIT +6, WARPAT +5.
- 26) Yakima - Twin Falls: WARPAT 20+3, GIT 10-3.
- 27) Seattle - Helena: HAND 20-1, TBNS +1.

Naughty Things

WARPAT fixes G33-Grainger. Poor TBNS fixes T8-The Dalles but loses the bridge at T8-U8 and the cutting at S25-S26.

For next round: enter up to six new runs, plus run 17 if you wish; build up to six physical points.

- 28) TC-AD Wenatchee - Nevada
- 29) 8C-KS Longview - Lewiston
- 30) 4S-7D Great Falls - Bend
- 31) 7S-7H Billings - Gillette
- 32) JD-JH Sea Port - Cheyenne
- 33) AH-5S Boise - Sidney
- 34) 3H-5C Pocatello - Aberdeen
- 35) AD-AS Nevada - Canada
- 36) 9D-6C Klamath Falls - Olympia

Running Scores

GIT (Sait/green): 73+34-9-9= 89
 MICA (Hibbert/lilac): 39+12-6-9= 36
 TBNS (Cottage/blue): 96+53-6-18= 115
 HAND (Guest/orange): 68+105+2-9= 166
 WARPAT (Tittle/black): 103+78-9-9= 163

Builds

HAND: Nowt
 TBNS: Spokane-E66-H67
 GIT: Yakima-Z10-Z9-A59-A58
 WARPAT: Yakima-A60-A58
 MICA: A68**LEAP TBNS**-Spokane-B63

Press

TBNS - MICA: We knights in shining armour are always pleased to rush to the assistance of a danson in distress. Actually, dansons are more of a reddey colour, aren't they? Oh well -- you know what I mean.

BARRETT (RR map YO)

Round 7 3/4

Map problems have been sorted out, James Nelson is staying with us, and we are ready to go next time. Can James send in orders for round 8 runs and revised ones, if you wish, for race 2.

FARADAY (Atlantic Airlines) Not round 8 yet

But another sad story here of an unspotted error; I missed from the list of loads in flight the following rather crucial bunch of passengers --

AIR CRASH/TriStar Kano - Chicago 3/41/123:

This is likely to have a great effect on David Oya's orders, so... you get the picture. Holdover! Sorry.

I am fed up of this game. I enjoy running it, but it seems I cannot get two adjudications right on the trot. A solution presents itself:

DAVE ROWLEY will take over the GMing, whilst I run HYMEN till the end. Dave is a proven GM of AA and will doubtless make a much better job of it than I. Unless anyone has any deep objections and voices them to me by next deadline, that is what will happen, and we can all be happier little sunbeams for it into the bargain.

ENGLISH (RR map OH)

Round 7

SO WHEN ARE THEY BUILDING A TOWN AT h49, THEN?

Race results:

- 1) Gallipolis - Painsville: CCI 20-8, IDLE 10-6-5, AC +8, CCI +6, FF +5.
- 2) Findlay - Youngstown: IDLE 20-3+1, FF 10-7, AC 0-2, ORNATE +3, OSCAR +8.
- 3) Pennsylvania - Indiana: ORNATE 20-3, IDLE 10-9, AC +3, ORNATE +3, OSCAR +6.
- 4) Toledo - Martins Ferry: FF/ORNATE 10/10 (jt), AC 10-9, FF +8, IDLE +1.
- 5) L. Erie Port - Kentucky: AC 20, ORNATE 10, CCI 0.
- 6) W. Virginia - Canton: IDLE 20-8, CCI +3, ORNATE +3, OSCAR +1, FF +1.
- 7) Mansfield - Bryan: FF 20.
- 8) Youngstown - W Virginia: AC 20-4, ORNATE 10+2, OSCAR +2.
- 9) FF/ORNATE 10/10 (jt), AC 10-22, FF +8, IDLE +1, ORNATE +3.

((Oops, got names in 5 and 6 wrong way round; numbers right))

Builds

OSCAR (Bowen/pink): NTR! No builds.
 FRIENDLY FASCISM (Jones/black): (S10)-S6-Piqua; (Z13)-Z7-Lima
 ORNATE (Charles/blue): (R31)-R32; (Youngstown)-E73; (V8)-D52.
 CCI (Lomas/purple): (Y16)-H51-H49.
 ANNE'S CLIQUE (Parish/green): B49)-B47-Lima; (Q16)-P15-P9; (A55)-Marion.
 IDLE (Ritchie/red): (N71)-N72; (Findlay)-G49-H49; (Piqua)-T1.

Races (Enter up to 6; next, build up to 10 physical points)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10)3S-QC Cincinnati - L. Erie Port | 15)6D-9S Akron - Portsmouth |
| 11)AH-6S Bryan - Dayton | 16)6H-AC Columbus - Michigan |
| 12)3H-9C Lima - Cleveland | 17)4D-8H Youngstown - Marion |
| 13)8S-9D Chillicothe - Alliance | 18)2C-4H Michigan - Piqua |
| 14)9C-KD Cleveland - Marietta | |

Running Scores

IDLE: 44+32-10+4 = 70
 OSCAR: 40+17+3 = 60
 ORNATE: 47+71-17+2 = 103
 CCI: 59+21-13+1 = 68
 FRIENDLY FASCISM: 44+65-15+4 = 98
 ANNE'S CLIQUE: 57+44-17+2 = 86

Oh, Iain; I do not take kindly to people who ask for a holdover and who still NMR even so. Right? You better be here next time, or else.

Countdown On Spanner Campaign

"The courts must draw the line between what is acceptable in a civilised society and what is not." Judge James Rant (Trial Judge)

"The question of consent was immaterial." Lord Lane (Lord Chief Justice, Appeal Court)

"Lord Lane's ruling means that homosexual or heterosexual sadomasochistic acts between consenting adults in private are unlawful." The Independent

"This is about power and the power is ours to do with what we please. It was always ours and we have reclaimed it for our own use and our own pleasure." Michael Bronski in *Leatherfolk*

SPANNER vs SADMASOCHISM - A SEXUALITY TO CLAIM

In 1991 16 men were convicted for engaging in consensual SM sex acts. The law was rewritten around them so what was legal when they stood trial was criminal when they were sentenced.

That they were all consenting WAS NOT considered a defence.

Lord Chief Justice dismissed their appeal citing a 1934 case where consent was not considered a defence when a straight couple were prosecuted for spanking each other. Even though he reduced the sentences of these men, he did so on the basis that they were not aware that they had broken the law and 5 men were still left with prison sentences to serve.

During the case and the appeal, there wasn't one demonstration by the leather/SM community in Britain. We watched - in horror, in disbelief, in silence - whilst people like us were sent to prison for consensual SM sex.

Our sexuality has been criminalised and we are still silent, too afraid to come out or to demand our rights. Maybe we've swallowed so much self-hatred that we don't think we have any rights.

The Spanner Appeal to the House of Lords takes place on 1st December 1992. The SM community - straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual - owes it to these men to raise funds for this appeal and we owe it to ourselves as consenting sadomasochists to protest the removal of our right to choose or refuse to consent.

The SM community in Britain is a fractured mirror. Queer nationalism and heterosexual homophobia as well as ignorance of each others' lives and struggles to come out as sadomasochists divides straight and gay/lesbian SMers from each other. The law does not see these issues in the same light. Sadomasochists of all sexualities have been placed outside the "acceptable" line of sexual behaviour.

Now is the time to come out as sadomasochists, to claim our sexuality as a sexuality, to spit out the self-oppression and community oppression that we have swallowed and to see ourselves as beautiful sexual beings who engage in sensual sexual acts.

Now is the time to demand rights as sadomasochists. The right to enjoy consensual sex without state, community or individual harassment, the right to live in the form of relationship we choose, the right to walk down the street handcuffed to our lover.

COUNTDOWN ON SPANNER

The Spanner Appeal to the House Of Lords is the last chance under British law that we, as sadomasochists, and the Spanner men have to protest the criminalisation of our sexuality.

The outcome of the Spanner appeal affects more than the liberty of the five men appealing their case. If the appeal fails the civil and sexual rights of *all* SMers will have been destroyed.

Sadomasochists everywhere must get up and protest, demand our rights as consenting sexual beings, claim our sexuality, display our PRIDE in being sadomasochists.

We must stop seeing ourselves as dirty, wicked, sick, unacceptable, perverted, politically dodgy, fucked up people and learn to see ourselves as beautiful courageous people whose sexuality demands that we examine and explore our deepest fears. It is time we stopped tacking our sexuality on after other labels and identities as if SM were a hobby or fashion statement. We must find strength in ourselves and other sadomasochists - strength and Pride.

It may seem difficult to create a campaign or even a sexual identity when we appear to be divided across the homo-hetero sexual line and there are all the fears and realities of sexism and homophobia. But we have to try. Judge Rant and Lord Lane are not interested in these concerns. They see all sadomasochists as deviants and criminals. If the Spanner Appeal occurs in December without a sound from British SMers, then we will have sent a clear message to the judiciary and government, the media and the public: that SM is something to be ashamed of.

The following is an ad-hoc proposal. There is no political movement to organise this campaign - only ourselves. There have been no conferences where SMers can debate and discover their differences and similarities. Our history is obscure, our identity is ill-defined, our politics are defensive, our morale is low. But one thing is clear - the Lords Appeal will define the terms of our sexuality for years to come.

So do we stay silent and closeted - or come out proud?

AD-HOC PROPOSAL FOR ACTION AROUND SPANNER

The campaign must involve straight as well as queer SMers.

The campaign must have a fundraising element both to fund itself and the Spanner Appeal.

The campaign should use the parliamentary lobbying process to remind our elected representatives that SMers are voters and tax-payers.

The campaign should have a public demonstration both as opportunity for sadomasochists to be public in their sexuality and as public statement of Pride and defiance.

Ideally the campaign should encourage local SM groups to set up and take action as well as providing local educational, social and political support.

Whatever the outcome of the Appeal, the campaign should aim for a conference of sadomasochists in the spring and if the Appeal is not favourable, then the campaigning must continue.

The campaign should at all times try and gain support from European and US groups.

PROPOSAL: COUNTDOWN ON SPANNER

- September 11th, 18th, 25th: Weekly legal picket of relevant place eg The Law Courts.
- October 3rd: SM pride demonstration through London.
- October 2nd-5th: Weekend of Fundraising for Spanner Appeal. Encourage bars/clubs across Britain and Europe to hold benefits for Spanner.
- November 7th: Launch mass letter writing and lobby campaign.
- December 1st: Appeal begins Possibly mobilize lobby of parliament.
- Sometime in 1993: Possible conference for Consenting SadoMasochists? A space to discuss and debate ourselves, image, history, strategy, similarities and differences.

If you want to get involved, or just need more information, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Countdown on Spanner, 69 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP

HALWILL JUNCTION

Now this is interesting

- 1: Dave Rowley, Jeff Cattle
- 2: Nicholas Parish, Dave Lomas, Peter Dunnett
- 3: John Breakwell, Edmund Morgan, Ian Harris, Joy Hibbert
- 4: Peter Ritchie, John Webley
- 5: Alan Parr, Rob Moore, Mark Stretch

It takes no genius to deduce from that that no unduplicated number has been nominated, and thus no free issue won. Having considered various options, I hereby declare that this anomaly will be solved by the issuing to next game's winner of TWO free issues. And in the words of Alice Cooper, if that don't suit you, that's a drag.

More incentive for others to enter, mayhap?

=====

A word in your ears about this flyer which the majority of readers will have received with this issue.

Many of you will no doubt have chucked it away already, considering it irrelevant to you. But wait a moment.

The Operation Spanner precedent is bad news for everyone who does not live their life in the narrow, straitjacketed way so beloved of the Conservative party. Right; 'assault' is now an offence no matter what the circumstances or consensuality. Give the authorities a gay couple, one of whom is sporting a lovebite from last night, and a professional boxer, or a rapist; which to you think they will bring down the full force of the law on? Right.

It is all a rather clearer than usual case of nannyism by the Conservative government, and heaven knows we already have quite enough of that. I therefore urge you all not to dismiss this case as something that doesn't concern you; for infringements of civil liberties concern us all.

Otherwise it might be your sub-group of society that gets the law twisted round to criminalise it next.

Enough of this sad subject and let's have something chirpier. I am now able to bring you full details of MIDCON 1992:

At the Royal ~~XXX~~ Angus, Birmingham. Yes, the people have spoken (it seems) and the consensus is to give the Angus a second go. Registration fee is £8 per night (to Brian Williams, 30 Ryding Lane, West Bromwich, W Midlands B71 2HA); rooms are £24 pppn (or £29.50pppn if you're decadent enough to want a single bedroom), and the con will feature the usual attractions -- solo Diplomacy tournament, infamous quiz, etcetera. It may also feature the more unusual attraction of Me (I've not been up to now), but that depends on things like finances and whether or not I get struck dead by lightning or by Mark Nelson.

News from the world of zines...

Gordon McDonald has decided to fold Ac-Mong, after struggling for a while with vanishing spare time, at issue 50 in a couple of months. Ac-Mong was never my favourite of zines -- I always found it rather dry and visually unattractive -- but its history articles were always well done and its games meticulously adjudicated. Which makes me glad that after issue 50 it's to become a subzine in Ian Harris's Borealis, which is fast rising to the top of my fave faves in the zine stakes. I seem to plug the thing every other month, but what the hell, it damn well deserves it and is still short of players -- a crime! Ian is one of the very few players or editors today who can add a fresh slant to the hobby both in game design and in zine mechanics. The current issue features the idea of a central posting system for diplomacy games -- the GM of a game posts all the letters to a player weekly and saves stamps thereby. I am far from convinced this would work, but hellfire, it's an idea I've never seen, and in the hobby these are worth cherishing individually. (30p plus post from Ian Harris, 3 Abbotside Close, Urpeth Grange, Chester le Street DH2 1TQ).

QUISQUILIAE IN VERSO

You have just got to the back page of Up Around The Bend issue 14, the celebrated postal games zine (celebrated, that is, by all the other zine editors; compared to this, all theirs look like works of art). I am its editor, he said laughingly, and I attempt to beat this thing of darkness which I acknowledge mine into shape every five weeks:

HAZ BOND, 13 MERRIVALE ROAD, STAFFORD ST17 9EB

(Life Off 'Armstrong' GM: Dave Rowley, address and deadline as mine)

No need for separate cover for Armstrong orders as I'm not playing, by the way. Backissues are available from 6 onwards, should anyone be so curious and rash as to want to see them, at a measly 10p plus post a shot.

Now what can I stick in this space before the boxes?

I can say that Duncan Adams has come out with a second Laughing Roundhead, better in many respects than the first, with several gamestarts, and also containing proof that the lad can write on serious subjects with the start of a series on castles (33 Morgan Street, St Agnes, Bristol BS2 7LG).

I can say that there is still no sign of A Step Further Out 52, and that aficionados (aficionadi?) of Steve Howe's leathless prose up and down the country are wearing long faces, though it has been reported that a new source of silk screens for his duplicator has been found. Away with photocopied heresies! Down with Xerox! (Sorry, all that handle turning seems to have made me into a crank).

I might even mention that in the wake of Steve Agar's triumphant resurgence, hobby old timers might be interested to learn that Nick Shears is still alive and well and living in Wendover; an offer of old (SF) fanzines for sale had a familiar name, and a phone call confirmed that it was indeed the ex-editor of Down Alien Skies. Mr Shears was most impressed to learn that NMR!, the just-folded, was (almost) still around, as the first few issues were typed in his flat, on his typewriter, and run off on his duplicator.

And then again I could mention that I have received a letter from Andrew Moss disputing the events of the semi-recent past, as detailed about here on last issue's back cover. Well, I don't think I can lay hands on his original letter even if I still have it, but I certainly got the impression (whether stated in so many words or not) that the trade cut was universal, and I bloody well do remember the reason stated as being financial. Oh, sod it. I don't like Age of Reason, Andrew Moss doesn't like U-Bend, neither of us is going to change, subject therefore closed.

I suppose I could also tell you that Railway Rivals maps are now coming in three colours and looking very swish, due to acquisition of a fancy photocopier by David Watts' printer. The catalogue update is also in three colours and looks a right mess, but you should still all get it (Rostherne Games, 102 Priory Road, Milford Haven, Dyfed SA73 2ED) as it contains some of the best value games you will ever see unless you invent a time machine and go back to 1973 or so.

=====
===== **6 Free** =====
=====

credit box
(credit in ££; if figure red, renew sub)

well, what in hell can I do with this little space?

=====
=====

gamestart box
(name of your new game/s)