

ARMISTICE DAY No.15

A Diplomacy zine from Stephen Agar, 47 Preston Drive, Brighton, BN1 6LA.
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This rather thin issue is free to current subscribers

Editorial

Well, this issue is already two weeks late, so faced with the choice of delaying it by another 10-14 days and doing a full issue, or putting out something immediately as a games-only issue, I have opted for the latter. Don't worry, I won't be charging anyone for this issue – I just didn't want any of you to think I'd folded or something like that.

Since the last issue two things of significance in my life have happened. One is we are in the process of moving house and have had an offer accepted on a detached house in part of Brighton called Patcham. Of course there's lots that can go wrong and the move might never happen – but we put our house on the market a couple of days ago (at £455,000 – aren't house prices ridiculous?) and there seems to be a lot of interest.

The second event is that my job will almost certainly disappear in the next three months – and it will be a while before I know whether I have a job or not. The unit of which I am a Director is being merged with three other units (to form a new Royal Mail letters division)– and you don't need to be a genius to see that they don't need four sets of Directors... Time will tell, and being an optimistic soul I am trying to look on this as an opportunity rather than a threat. However, it is rather unnerving. If the worst comes to the worst I guess I should know in time to pull out of the house move.

All players who don't have Internet access will find their game report(s) attached to this sheet. Those who do will have to look at <http://www.armisticeday.com> where there are up to date game reports for all games.

DIVERSIONS

Volume II : Issue 3 : July 2002

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Deadline: Thursday 15th August

A Foreshortened Issue

Verifying DMI Data Pool. Anyone who has ever come across these dread words writ large across a frozen screen will know that I have been experiencing the most frustrating of computer problems. For the uninitiated, the problem appears to be the result of incompatibilities between an overly-upgraded computer and an uncooperative operating system. The suggested fixes range from a new motherboard, Bios chip or power supply to reinstalling Windows. None of these options is available to me, so every day I simply have to switch on my stepdaughter's fragile machine with as much trepidation as I can muster, in the hopes that this will be one of the occasions when it chooses to cooperate. I think it probably has more to do with the weather than anything else.

Today is June 24, and the last time I managed to type anything was June 18. The weather is currently cool (about 23°) and relatively dry. The past week has alternated between hot and humid (up to 32° with a Humidex in the mid-40s) and thunderously wet. With the prospects for the rest of this week tending towards another hot spell, I am charging through the preparation of this issue in the expectation that the few short evening hours are all I have.

It's terrifically bad form to be apologising with only two issues under my belt, but it is my fervent hope that the situation will not drag on too long. Now that I have secured employment which commences on July 2, the likelihood that a new (or at least a reliable, refurbished) computer will grace the Gooch study very soon has gone from negligible to probable.

Let's talk

Regrets. I have so many tantalising topics to cherry pick from Ontario's rich history, it saddens me to report that I simply cannot take the risk of working on disposable editorial instead of the essential game reports. With the thought that the computer might decide to reset and thereby render itself inaccessible for another week remaining uppermost in my mind, I must proceed to the important stuff. Next time around I shall have given myself adequate preparation time to provide you with a few gems to engage your interest.

By way of context, I'll tell you that Pat and I spent last weekend in Montreal witnessing an embarrassing 3-game sweep of the Blue Jays by the powerful Expos. We thought we'd take this opportunity to be present at what might be the final meeting between Canada's two major league teams in Olympic Stadium, given the promise of contraction next season. Next month Montreal visits Toronto, and we'll be in the Skydome for this historic event.

Yesterday I was attempting to play cricket in Kincardine again. I'm still struggling with my bowling, and the freshly recruited South African youngster mustered the necessary mix of bravado and foolishness to place himself at silly mid-off just in time to take a stunning catch from the fourth ball I faced. It looks as though my role will continue to be in the field or behind the stumps for some time to come. I have resolved to enlist Pat's help with my bowling. She's very good with her baseball glove, and a cricket ball is only a little bit bigger than a baseball. All I have to do is persuade her that she'll be perfectly safe acting as my target. Your wishes of good luck would be appreciated.

On Canada Day (July 1), we shall be bopping to Mike Love and Bruce Johnston's Touring Jukebox (or the Beach Boys, as they insist on calling themselves) at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre. Since it's also my mother-in-law's birthday, I am working on some way of lessening my guilt and her annoyance at being placed second in importance to a raucous pop band (her words). I can get Mike Love's autograph easily enough, but choosing the words I'd like him to write is a tricky task. After all, Myra is scarcely going to be impressed by the fact that I can get backstage and chat with the Lovester and his comrades. We shall see. The concert will be fun. The Amphitheatre is an excellent open air venue, and Canada Day is always celebrated well here. I hope the Boys attempt a rendition of "O Canada"! Seeing the Beach Boys should go some way towards adequate compensation for not having Brian Wilson on tour this year. But we have been spoilt. The Pet Sounds tour in 2000 and the tandem concert with Paul Simon last year should suffice after all. I'm so glad Brian finally gave in to demands that he visit the home of his greatest fans in the UK. I trust everyone grabbed the opportunity to witness his band's stunning recreation of the Greatest Album of All Time!

THE GAMES

RR1868IW - Isle of Wight Atikokan - Round 1

Many thanks to Charlie for sending a copy of the original Railway Modeller map. This game gets off to a mercifully clean start. The die rolls for Round 2 are relatively kind. Don't expect this to remain the case. A reminder: there are only two throws in Rounds 3, 4 and 5!

BUM, Jim Reader, Yellow:

1a: (Newport) [Blackwater](#) Q8.
1b: (Q8) T9.
1c: (T9) [Shanklin](#); (U10) V9.
20 + 12 = 32

GWR, Charlie Wilson, Brunswick Green:

1a: (Newport) O5 N5 [Carisbrooke](#).
1b: (Carisbrooke) N7 L8.
1c: (Carisbrooke) [Blackwater](#);

(Carisbrooke) M6.
20 + 6 = 26

HANTS, Bruce Edwards, Purple:
1a: (Newport) R4 Whippingham.
1b: (R4) Haven Street U6.
1c: (U6) W5 Ryde.
20 + 18 = 38

Build allowance for Round 2: **3, 5, 4**

**RR1869NL – Netherlands
Bobcaygeon – Delay!!**

Kevin Lee, Brad Martin, Allan Stagg and Charlie Wilson. Stephen has only just emailed your snail mail addresses. I guess he's been otherwise engaged. If you all supply your start preference information immediately, there's a chance that we might have Round 1 orders received and adjudicated in time for the next issue. Sorry about the delay, guys! Brad has already supplied me with orders; he has a copy of the map which, I trust, is the same version as mine.

Bobcaygeon sits on three islands formed by the Little Bob and Big Bob rivers and the Trent Canal at the junction of Pigeon and Sturgeon Lakes. The community was founded as a mill center in 1832, but now thrives on summer tourism due to its picturesque location and attractive lock in the town centre built in 1833 to connect the Pigeon and Sturgeon lakes. The name derives from the Indian Bob-ca-je-won-unk, meaning "shallow rapids". Bobcaygeon has recently gained fame thanks to a song by Canadian band The Tragically Hip. Visit <http://www.thehip.com/pp-seven.htm> for a look at the lyrics.

**RR????SWE – South Sweden -
Couchiching - Gamestart**

Mads Clauson-Kaas, Philip Honeybone, Brad Martin, and Charlie Wilson. We have enough for a start on this map. Please supply your postal addresses to me immediately so that I can send your maps. Brad probably already has one, but unless he says otherwise I'll still send a copy in case there are later versions doing the rounds. Mine is dated 1986 (emulation 3). Hopefully we'll have this game underway

next time. So far that's one gamestart per issue. Not bad. I hope we can keep it up!

Couchiching is an Ojibway-Chippewa Indian Reserve on the Western shore of Rainy Lake in the Rainy River district, 4 km North of Fort Frances. Its name is derived from an Indian word meaning "at the edge of a whirlpool". Simply using the term "Indian" is significant, indicating that it is unclear from which of the many native languages the name originates. The prominent tribes in the area were Ojibway, Cree and Algonquin, but guides employed by the early trappers and hunters came from many other tribes (the Mississauga, Delaware, Odawa, Potawatomi and Iroquois all dwelt in Upper Canada), so it is no surprise when specific origins of words cannot be identified. The present day aboriginal grouping is an amalgamation of the Ojibway and Cree, whose language has mutated into a hybrid known as Oji-cree. Rainy River is well named, as the area is green and picturesque. The town of Rainy River also has a major claim to fame. It is at the extreme Western end of the longest street in the world. Yonge Street starts at the waterfront in Toronto and extends all the way to the US border at this point in North Western Ontario. I'll write some more on this topic in a forthcoming issue.

Trans-Canada Map Experiment

Nothing. No progress this time around, I'm afraid. Unless this computer decides to let me type later in the week, I shall hold over the debate. If anyone has thoughts on format or content, please let me have them. I really shouldn't need to start the ball rolling, after all. Take a look at a map of Canada, identify the main population areas and terrain, and ponder the best approach to constructing a sequence of maps which can be linked together in one final grand hoorah. Simple, what?

Railway Rivals Waiting Lists

South Sweden Map SWE: Mads Clauson-Kaas, Philip Honeybone, Brad Martin, Charlie Wilson. **List Full!! See Gamestart announcement above.**
Northern Italy Map P: Christian Bien, Bruce Edwards, Philip Honeybone, Brad

Martin, Charlie Wilson. 1 wanted for the optimum 6-player game, but will start next time with 5 if no other takers come forward.
Austria Map AUS: 4 players wanted.
Spain Map SP: 5 or 6 players wanted.
Trans-Canada Map Experiment: Ryan Congdon, Kevin Lee, Jim Reader, Charlie Wilson.

Playlist

The Fillmore Concerts – The Allman Brothers Band, The Circle (1968-1972) - Spirit, Life Is Sweet – Maria McKee, Barnstorm – Joe Walsh, Sweet Insanity – Brian Wilson (Boot), Dumb Angel - Sean MacCreavy

Next Time - Armistice Day Issue 16

I do have a few things planned for next issue:

- The Genesis of Diplomacy – a discussion on a very early draft of the Diplomacy rules sent to me by Allan Calhamer (when the game was called *Realpolitik*)
- Taking Germany Out by David Malinson
- A review of all editions of Diplomacy produced for the UK market
- A Variant Bank update and a variant based on Northern Ireland (tasteful!)

There wouldn't have been much of a letters column this issue anyway ☺ So please write and help make next issue a good one!

THE ARMISTICE DAY NEWSLETTER No.15
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DEADLINE: Friday 16th August 2002

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