

## THE ARMISTICE DAY NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 6

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[stephen@armisticeday.com](mailto:stephen@armisticeday.com) This issue is free!

This is a disaster issue of the first magnitude. Although this issue was always going to be late (mainly for reasons concerning my new job), it should have appeared 10 days ago. Indeed, it was 95% finished – all the games adjudicated, maps prepared, letter column full and bursting, a couple of articles and a new variant. Perhaps not one of the best issues I've ever produced, but certainly of average to above-average quality.

The first signs that something was going wrong were slight. When I started the odd program on my PC the Hard Disk whirled away for a couple of seconds before the program opened. Over a couple of days, the couple of seconds grew longer, until it was taking 5-6 seconds to find files on the Hard Drive. Hmmm, I thought – this looks like an imminent Hard Disk failure, I'd better do backups. So I backed-up my "Diplomacy" directory which included all things Diplomacy-related on to a CD. This takes quite a bit of time, so I left it doing it after I went to bed. In the morning everything looked fine, so I switched the PC off. I came back in the evening expecting to finish the issue off... and nothing happened. The Hard Disk was dead, the PC didn't seem to think it even had one.

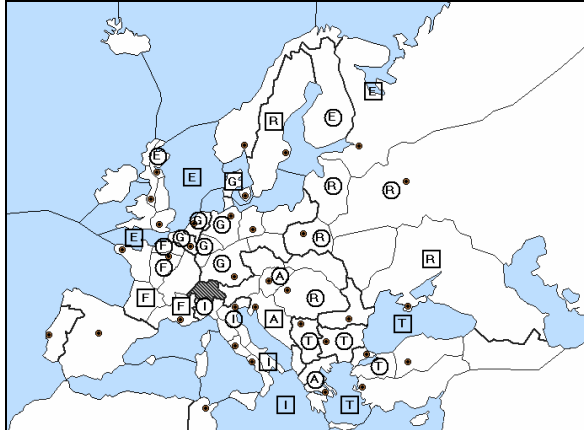
This really pissed me off, as the PC is only 3 months old. The manufacturers (Maxtor) offer a no quibble replacement, and no doubt in time a new 60Gb Hard Disk will turn up. In order to get things running again I bought a new 30Gb hard Disk and installed it myself. No problem. Installed Windows 2000, which took ages as I had to get my Internet connection up and running again and then go hunting for the Windows 2000 drivers I needed. Then I decided to restore the back-up of my Diplomacy directory which I had been so clever to back-up just in time... You guessed it, the bloody CD was unreadable. It appears that the Hard Disk wasn't up to reading and backing-up 700Mb of data. So I had lost everything!

Well, not quite. I did manage to find a complete back-up on 5 CDs which dated from early May – but everything to do with *Armistice Day* (or indeed everything else) since then has gone for ever. I can't tell you how crushing it is to face the thought of reconstructing an issue which I have already done once before. By good fortune, I had printed off all the orders for the games before adjudicating them – and as the bin in my study hadn't been emptied recently I was able to retrieve the orders. However, all the letters have gone, as they were overwhelmingly by email, which has vanished along with everything else.

So this is a games-only issue. You will be denied my review of Elvis Costello at the Royal Festival Hall and drunken recollections of my college reunion a few days earlier. Even my attack on Ryk Downes for spreading silly "make easy money" schemes through his hobby contacts will not now strike home. And the letter column really was quite good this issue, honest. So I need your help – please contribute something to the next issue to enable me to make issue 7 worth reading, even though there is no real content in this issue to spark debate. Write to me about anything you like. Are the Anti-Globalisation protesters misguided or evil (and didn't it serve him right)? Is Ian Duncan-Smith the best thing that ever happened to the Labour Party? Why does no one ever make back-ups until it is too late? Why are all chocolate bars now available in Extra Large sizes? And why do I keep buying them?

**DEADLINE : FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2001**

## GAMES



### MONS (Autumn 1902) Regular Diplomacy

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Steve Ade)

[steve@hollowlane.co.uk](mailto:steve@hollowlane.co.uk)

A(Vie) s F(Tri); F(Tri) Stands; A(Gre) Stands; A(Bud) s A(Vie)\* (CUT, DISLODGED TO Gal)

ENGLAND (Dave Clark)

[daveclarkdiplomacy@ic24.net](mailto:daveclarkdiplomacy@ic24.net)

F(Nwy) - StP nc; A(Fin) s F(Nwy) - StP nc; F(NTH) - Nwy (FAILED); F(Wal) - ENG

FRANCE (Jimmy Cowie) [J.Cowie@icscotland.co.uk](mailto:J.Cowie@icscotland.co.uk)

A(Gas) - Par; A(Bel) - Pic; F(Bre) s A(Bel) - Pic; F(MAO) - Gas; F(Spa) sc - Mar

GERMANY (Richard Scholefield)

A(Hol) s A(Bur) - Bel; A(Bur) - Bel; A(Ruh) s A(Hol); A(Sil) - Mun; F(Den) Stands

ITALY (Nick Parish) [nick.parish@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:nick.parish@bankofengland.co.uk)

F(ION) - AEG (FAILED); F(Apu) - ION (FAILED); A(Tyr) - Pie; A(Ven) Stands

RUSSIA (Bruce Edwards) [Kactusjak@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:Kactusjak@tinyworld.co.uk)

A(StP) s F(Swe) - Nwy\* (DISLODGED TO Lvn); A(Gal) - War; A(Rum) - Bud; F(Sev) Stands; F(Swe) - Nwy (FAILED)

TURKEY (Tim Deacon) [gamesmaster@mr-gm.demon.co.uk](mailto:gamesmaster@mr-gm.demon.co.uk)

F(AEG) s A(Bul) - Gre (CUT); A(Bul) - Gre (FAILED); A(Ser) s RUSSIAN A(Rum) - Bud; F(BLA) - Bul ec (FAILED)

#### Autumn 1902 Adjustments:

A: Vie, Tri, +Gre, -Ser, -Bud = 3; Loses 1. GM removes A(Gal).

E: +StP, Nwy, Edi, Lon, Lpl = 5; Gains 1. Builds A(Edi).

F: Par, Bre, Mar, Por -Bel = 4; Loses 1. Removes F(Bre).

G: Hol, +Bel, Mun, Den, Ber, Kie = 6; Gains 1. Builds A(Kie).

I: Ven, Tun, Nap, Rom = 4; No change.

R: War, +Bud, Sev, +Swe, Rum, Mos, -StP = 6; Gains 1. Builds A(Mos).

T: Bul, +Ser, Con, Ank, Smy = 5; Gains 1. Builds A(Con).

#### Press:

**Tsar-HRH:** Sorry, but I'm not convinced as to your motives. I could, of course, be wrong...

**Tsar-Kaiser:** Although I understand your concerns, I really cannot make that promise. I doubt you would either in my position.

**Germany-England:** No one is that clever, it's all bullshit.

### TANNENBURG (November 1914) Abstraction II

AUSTRIA John Colledge, Dunroch, 24 Brunstane Bank, Edinburgh, EH15 2NR

[dunroch@pop.dial.pipex.com](mailto:dunroch@pop.dial.pipex.com)

A(Zur)-Obe; A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Rum; A(Tra)-Rum; A(Mac)-Bul; F(ION)-Gre; A(Gal)-War; A(Vie)-Gal

ENGLAND Chris Martin, 444 w49th #1AG, New York, NY 10019, USA [tremewanc@earthlink.net](mailto:tremewanc@earthlink.net)

F(NTH) S GERMAN A(SKA)-Nwy; F(ANG) load GERMAN A(Hol), A/F(ANG)-SKA, F(SKA) disembark GERMAN A(SKA)-Nwy; F(Bre)-MAO; A(Ire)Std.; F(IRI) S F(Bre)-MAO; F(HBS)-NWG

FRANCE John Boocock, 25 Melrose Drive,

Peterborough, PE2 9DN [JohnandDiana@tesco.net](mailto:JohnandDiana@tesco.net)

F(GoL)Std.ulo; A(Lor)-Lyo; F(NAO)-Ire

GERMANY Dave Clark, 74B Chester Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, B36 9BU

[daveclarkdiplomacy@ic24.net](mailto:daveclarkdiplomacy@ic24.net)

A(Hol) board ENGLISH F(ANG), A/F(ANG)-SKA, A(SKA) disembark Nwy; A(Bel) S A(Ruh)-Lor; A(Ruh)-Lor; F(Swe)\* S A(SKA)-Nwy [F(Swe) retreats to Den]; F(BAL)Std.u/o; A(Ber)-Pru

ITALY\_Bruce\_Edwards,\_29\_Aeron\_Close,\_Barry,\_South

Glam,\_CF62\_7PX [Kactusjak@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:Kactusjak@tinyworld.co.uk)

F(WMS)-And; A(And)-Por; A(Cat)-Cas; F(Nap)-TYS; F(CMS)-AEG, A(Rom) board F(TYS), A/F(TYS)-MAS, A(MAS)-Tun

RUSSIA\_Bob\_Pitman,\_19\_Honeysuckle\_Close,

Locksheath,\_Southampton,\_Hants,\_S031\_6WF

[bob@p1tman.demon.co.uk](mailto:bob@p1tman.demon.co.uk)

A(Cou)-StP; A(Ode) S F(Rum); F(Rum)Std.; A(Lap) S F(Nwy)-Swe; F(Nwy)-Swe; A(War)Std.; F(BAR)-NWG

TURKEY Nick Gladstone, 1 Rosemary Terrace, St.

Agnes, TR5 OUF [nlgadstone@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:nlgadstone@cornwall.gov.uk)

A(Bul)-Ser; F(AEG) S A(Con)-Mac; F(EMS)-CMS;

A(Lib)-Tun; A(Con)-Mac; F(Smy)-Con

#### DECEMBER 1914

A: Vie, Bud, Pec, Zar, Zur, Ser, Gre = 7. No change.

E: Edi, Lpl, Ply, Lon, -Nwy, Bre, +Ire = 6. No change.

F: Par, Lyo, -And = 2. GM removes F(NAO)

G: Kie, Ber, Mun, Dre, Hol, Den, +Nwy, +Bel = 8. Builds A(Kie), A(Mun)

I: Ven, Rom, Nap, Sic, Mor, Tun, Mar, +Por, +And = 9. Builds A(Ven), F(Sic).

R: StP, Mos, War, Ode, Arc, Swe, Rum = 7. No change.

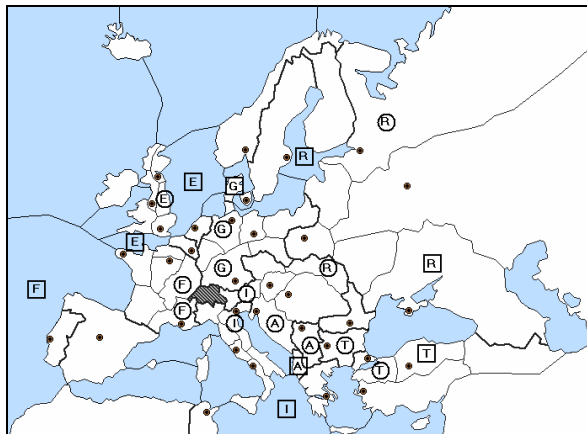
T: Con, Smy, Sin, Dam, Egy, Bul = 6. No change.

**Press:**

**Austria-Russia:** What can I say? I was weak when I should have been strong. You obviously found that fence so comfortable I had to see what it had to offer, (apart from the splinters in the bum that is)! I do hope you did the decent thing and moved out of War?

**Austria-Europe:** Sorry for lack of correspondence folks. Rather more important things to worry about on the home front I'm afraid. Will be in touch soon.

**Rom - Par:** Sorry, was there a fence?



**MARNE (Spring 1901)  
Regular Diplomacy**

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Howard Bishop)

[latics@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:latics@globalnet.co.uk)

F(Tri) - Alb; A(Bud) - Ser; A(Vie) - Tri

ENGLAND (Garyth Wright)

F(Lon) - ENG; A(Lpl) - Yor; F(Edi) - NTH

FRANCE (Tim Deacon) [tim@mr-gm.demon.co.uk](mailto:tim@mr-gm.demon.co.uk)

F(Bre) - MAO; A(Mar) s A(Par) - Bur; A(Par) - Bur

GERMANY (Neil Hopkins) [neil\\_hopkins@hotmail.com](mailto:neil_hopkins@hotmail.com)

A(Mun) - Bur (FAILED); A(Ber) - Kie; F(Kie) - Den

ITALY (Jeremy Tullett)

[Jeremy.D.Tullett@btinternet.com](mailto:Jeremy.D.Tullett@btinternet.com)

A(Ven) - Tyr; A(Rom) - Ven; F(Nap) - ION

RUSSIA (Mike Dean) [mike.dean@bigfoot.com](mailto:mike.dean@bigfoot.com)

F(StP) sc - GoB; A(Mos) - StP; A(War) - Gal; F(Sev) - BLA (FAILED)

TURKEY (Ellis Simpson) [ellis@golds.co.uk](mailto:ellis@golds.co.uk)

F(Ank) - BLA (FAILED); A(Con) - Bul; A(Smy) - Con

**The First Battle of the Marne**

At the end of August 1914, the three armies of the German invasion's northern wing were sweeping south towards Paris. The French 5th and 6th Armies and the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) were in retreat. General Alexander von Kluck, commander of the German 1st Army, was ordered to encircle Paris from the east. Expecting the German army to capture Paris, the French government departed for Bordeaux. About 500,000 French civilians also left Paris by the 3rd September.

Joseph Joffre, the Commander-in-Chief of the French forces, ordered his men to retreat to a line along the River Seine, south-east of Paris and over 60km south of the Marne. Joffre planned to attack the German 1st

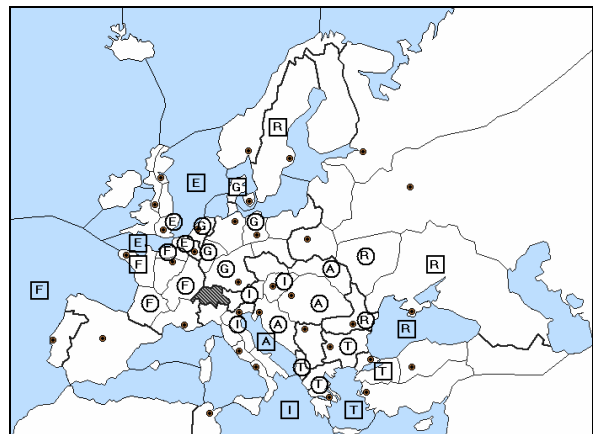
Army on 6th September and decided to replace General Charles Lanrezac, the commander of the 5th Army, with the more aggressive, General Franchet D'Esperey. The commander of the BEF, Sir John French, agreed to join the attack on the German forces.

General Michel Maunoury and the French 6th Army attacked the German 1st Army on the morning of 6th September. General von Kluck wheeled his entire force to meet the attack, opening a 50km gap between his own forces and the German 2nd Army led by General Karl von Bulow. The British forces and the French 5th now advanced into the gap that had been created splitting the two German armies.

For the next three days the German forces were unable to break through the Allied lines. At one stage the French 6th Army came close to defeat and were only saved by the use of Paris taxis to rush 6,000 reserve troops to the front line. On 9th September General Helmuth von Moltke, the German Commander in Chief, ordered General Karl von Bulow and General Alexander von Kluck to retreat. The British and French forces were now able to cross the Marne. Despite encountering little opposition, the advance was slow and the armies covered less than twelve miles on that first day. This enabled Kluck's 1st Army to reunite with Bulow's forces at the River Aisne.

By the evening of 10th September, the Battle of the Marne was over. During the battle, the French had around 250,000 casualties. Although the Germans never published the figures, it is believed that German losses were similar to those of France. The British Expeditionary Force lost 12,733 men during the battle.

The most important consequence of the Battle of the Marne was that the French and British forces were able to prevent the German plan for a swift and decisive victory. However, the German Army was not beaten and its successful retreat ended all hope of a short war.



**HELIGOLAND (Spring 1902)  
Gunboat Diplomacy**

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Emperor Franz Josef)

F(Tri) - ADS; A(Ser) - Tri; A(Bud) s A(Ser) - Tri; A(Vie) s A(Ser) - Tri\* (CUT, DISLODGED TO Gal)

ENGLAND (Caveat - NMR!)

F(ENG) Stands ; F(NTH) Stands ; A(Bel) Stands ; A(Lon) Stands

FRANCE (Petit Chou)  
 F(Por) - MAO; A(Bur) s A(Par) - Pic; A(Par) - Pic;  
 A(Spa) - Gas; F(Bre) s F(Por) - MAO

GERMANY (Visigoth)  
 A(Hol) s A(Mun) - Ruh; A(Mun) - Ruh; F(Den) - NTH  
 (FAILED); A(Ber) s A(Hol) (MISORDER); A(Kie) - Mun

ITALY (Greenslade)  
 F(Tun) - ION; A(Boh) - Vie; A(Tyr) s A(Boh) - Vie;  
A(Ven) - Tri (FAILED)

RUSSIA (Agar)  
 F(Fin) - Swe; A(Gal) - Rum; A(Ukr) s A(Gal) - Rum;  
 F(Rum) - BLA; F(Sev) s F(Rum) - BLA

TURKEY (The Great Panjandrum)  
 A(Gre) - Alb; A(Bul) - Gre; A(Con) - Bul; F(BLA) –  
Rum\* (FAILED, DISLODGED TO Con); F(Smy) - AEG

**Press:**

**Germany-England:** OK! Snails it is.  
**StP (Govt.)-Rom:** It does look lovely, unless you're Austrian, I guess.  
**Germany-French:** Fancy going me against the English? You know it makes sense.  
**Petit Chou-Visigoth:** Let's squash the caveat = caveat expired indeed!  
**Italy-Austria:** Sorry about this, you are probably a really nice chap and totally undeserving of this attack, but then again, how am I to know?  
**Paris (Govt) – Italy:** I am impressed with the action, but I am among the 5% for whom your action merely leaves me baffled. But women will understand you perhaps...  
**Greenslade-Petit Chou:** Je ne suis pas Wallace, mo ami, et mon avenir se trouve a l'est.  
**StP (Govt.)-Vie:** Thanks for Rum. Versailles - just trying this one on for sized  
**Istanbul-All:** If this works, I'll receive your plaudits and offers of support with magnanimity.  
**Austria-All:** Well that was a short game for me. I wish you all well for the future. So long for now, you warmongers you!!!  
**AGAR:** Move west young man - no swedes, no norway, are you playing with us or just an old softie, in which case you can't be agar in anyone of his manifestations.  
**StP (Govt.)-Ber:** I've proven myself friendly – how about some reciprocation over Swe?  
**Paris(Govt) - London:** Let's not quarrel - turn left at the channel and we can both do well - keep heading right, and for the honour of france we shall fight you on the beaches, we shall fight you...  
**Anon:** First sift your flour finely, and add the grated carrot

The mailing list for this issue will be somewhat hit and miss, being based on a mailing list which is two months out of date. I would be grateful if other editors could explain my problems to their readers and suggest that if they were expecting to see issue 6 and it hasn't turned up – then they should write to me ASAP.

This issue has been knocked out in three hours flat. A very short playlist then: **The Glory of Gershwin** – Various Artists; **Jump Up!** – Elton John; **Bare** – Barb Jungr; **Let It Be** – The Beatles.

**LETTERS**

**Mike Dommett**

I still found it kind of depressing that so many people were not bothering to vote - not so much that they felt it was a sure thing, but that they are all as bad as each other. It's a great distrust of politics - the Conservatives seem to have convinced people that Labour's no better than they were, and Labour favours business like the Tories do.

**SA:** *Are you sure that's why many people didn't vote. I know many people who couldn't be bothered because they thought the result was a foregone conclusion. This was the first General Election I haven't voted in since 1979.*

It would be nice to discuss the euro, and the pluses and minuses. It would be nice, but I can't see it ever happening with the lot we have. I suspect that the referendum would vote no - why not, aren't we allowed to decide? Self government must include the right to make bad decisions - an idea you would think was natural conservative thought, were it not for that parties historic inability to extend that right to people whose skin is not white. Even now that tendency isn't purged from the party.

**SA:** *At the risk of sounding distinctly non-PC, while I have no problem with living in a multi-racial society, I am not at all sure I want to live in a multi-cultural society – in the sense that we have several distinct cultures all trying to co-exist and rubbing up against each other. I think the move towards more state-funded religious schools is a backwards step, which will encourage even more ghettoisation in places like Bradford, and will eventually lead to the sort of tribal behaviour that typifies Northern Ireland.*

I'd like to see discussions based on hypothecations - but no one would vote for social workers -that was a theme I missed "you've paid the taxes, where are the social workers?" Isn't trickle down theory wonderful? If you espouse it, you can be wealthy and consume all you want, because trickle down will ensure that you doing what you want benefits the poorer people. And if you ever do feel that perhaps life at the bottom of the heap isn't all a barrel of laughs the Daily Mail will dig up a family on benefits who go to Spain for their hols and will state they have no intention of working, they're too well off on the dole.

**SA:** *I constantly thank God (or whoever) that I am on a good salary, with reasonable employment prospects. I think it must be hell to be at the bottom of the income scale, and particularly difficult for those with children. That's why I don't object to paying my fair share through taxation.*

But I know people a little closer to the breadline than me, and none of them seem to have this life of Riley. I'd like to see the Lib Dems replace the Conservatives as an opposition. Not pretending that you can have something for nothing. Consistently pro-Europe - since 1952 - and as far as I'm aware, being in favour of referendums for important things. Perhaps we should have more referendums.

**SA:** *So we would have capital punishment (with which I do not personally have a problem – but many liberal types do) and no doubt lots of other right-wing laws beloved of the general populace.*