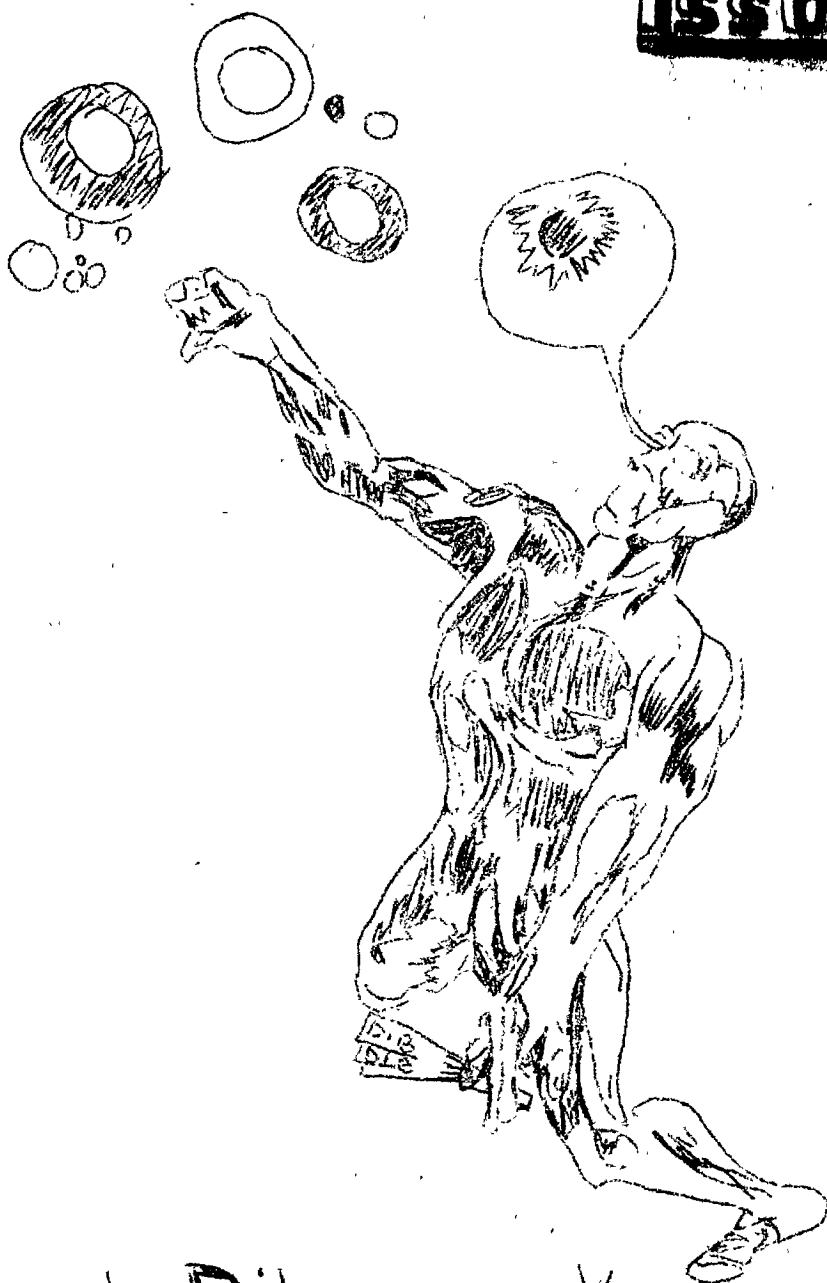


# DIB DIB DIB

**ISSUE**

**28**

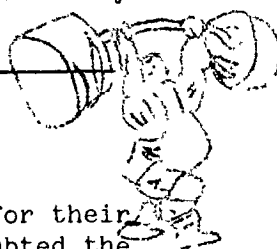


Too much Dib can make you go blind

This is issue 28 of that great and lovable wonderzine, Dib Dib Dib - Diplomacy orientated with just a touch of Sopwith, a sprinkling of chat and a pinch of this and a dribble of that. As always this is cheaply given away for a meagre crumb of an amount which is finely honed down to a remarkable 34p. Which is not that much for such a fun-type action-packed read, as I'm sure you will all agree. If you wish to subscribe, or perhaps just send an issue to a friend, then all monies must be sent to: Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513 ...who'll see that the money is put to a worthy cause.

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EDITORIAL



Before I start, my congratulations go out to Rob and Jean Chapman for their latest arrival, Horace II. This is why Putty Riffo is so late (you doubted the man, and thought OTHERWISE?). On the 14th March (at 4.40 am - a fine time) Jeffrey Graham Chapman was born weighing in at a hefty 9lbs. Mother and baby are reported to be doing very well - but the father is having a hard time. A likely story Chapman! Where's my Putty Riffo?

This looks likely to be a fairly rambling editorial this time as I've so many little things to say with no logical order to put them in. If it gets to be a bit of a strain keeping up then please bear with me for a little while. It won't help, but what the hell, what have you to lose? But, where to start....so many things....hurry brain and push SOMETHING out...

Ah, better get this out of the way first. As you all must know by now, the postal rates are due to rise yet again (it'd be cheaper going back to pony express I think) - first class will be going up to 16p. This should mean a price rise in Dib again. Yep, Dib will have to go up to 35p per issue as, I think, of next issue. Can't be helped I'm afraid. I'm sure you'll all find out soon enough though that other magazines will be doing the same.

Talking of other magazines (well I have to think of them sometimes) I have a couple of early results for some in the latest Gladys Awards. Well, I can only remember a couple. The Best Letter column category was won by Dib yet again (I can remember this one naturally), my thanks to all those that voted for me, tho' I don't know how I deserve it what with the kind of letters you lot write - must be a fix somewhere. Mind you, I only just pipped Greatest Hits to the post so I hear. The Best Diplomacy Zine was won by Fall of Eagles (I should have won this!). Best Diplomacy GM was won by Richard Hucknall (PAH, I should have won this also - it's only Hucknall's reputation that keeps him going). And Best New Zine I believe was a surprise win by Mercurius Aulicus.

It's all I've got from a quick chat with Mike who's still struggling to get the Gladys issue of PV out. Hopefully I'll get PV for next issue when I can print up the full Gladys results. Come along Michael, let's be 'aving them...

I see Pete Calcraft has given me a right good slugging in the latest Greatest Hits. I meant to try and write some sort of reply to it as I think Pete Birks let him off far too lightly on a few things, but as yet I'm sorry to say I haven't found the time. I STILL haven't received any stats yet even though I hear that some have been put out. I'm still sending Dib to Pete but perhaps he has ceased 'trading' with ME! Has anyone received anything - or am I being shut out?

And talking of stats (geez, sometimes I amaze myself the way I easily link up my paragraphs), Iain Singer has finally given up doing the Sopwith stats (his latest and last contribution can be found somewhere in the zine) and has handed them over to Richard Morris. A good choice I think, especially since Richard owns a computer which should easily be able to list and record such things. Richard has already been talking about doing a major reshuffle. I don't mind about that so much as long as I end up higher on the list than him. Any lower and I'll scream 'FIX'. Which should be enough of a threat to keep him in line I

Editorial (cont.)

think.

Seriously though, could all zines that traded with Iain pass over their trades with Richard? Though he'll probably get in touch with you all himself anyway. The zines that run Sopwith are: Blackmail, Putty Rippo, Hopscotch, Foiled Again, Acolyte, Thing on the Mat, DSM, Howay the Lads, Lokasenna, Road, Zine to be Believed. There's probably a couple more, but I can't think of them. Still, should be enough for Richard to catch up on.

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CENTRAL GAMESTART SERVICE

I think, after all this time, a few facts are in order in regards to the CGS since I took over from Richard Hucknall. The records don't tell that much, but it is interesting to see the frequency of the gamestarts and the number of novice players that have passed through my hands. Let me see now. I first took over from Richard in July 1981. The list of zines requesting gamestarts seemed to come in thick and fast (as did the request for games from novices). Anyway, the list of zines with the date the game was allocated is as follows:-

Home of the Brave (17th Jul '81), Puppet Theatre News (25th Jul '81), Duel Purpose (21st Aug '81), Last Stand (28th Aug '81), Bats (16th Sep '81), Diplomat (7th Nov '81), Perspiring Dreams (4th Dec '81), Dib Dib Dib (\*), Bohemian Rhapsody (8th Feb '82), Match Abandoned (8th Mar '82), Home of the Brave (5th May '82), Stick the Knife in (20th May '82), Walamalasia Gazette (26th Jun '82), Ode (26th Jun '82), The Acolyte (13th Jul '82), Dib Dib Dib (\*), Stick the Knife in (15th Aug '82), Perspiring Dreams (26th Aug '82), Bohemian Rhapsody (10th Sep '82), Panzerkreuser (25th Sep '82), Mad Policy (7th Oct '82), The Church Mouse (2nd Dec '82), Denver Glont (10th Dec '82), War and Peace (12th Jan '83), Watch Your Back (10th Feb '83), Watch Your Back (18th Mar '83). \*(I seem to have neglected to keep a record of the Dib games, so don't have the dates to hand. But games released are in the correct order so you should get a fair idea of how fast the games were filling.)

That's roughly 182 players placed in games that have gone through my files. Not bad, eh? It may also interest you to know that editors, such as Derek Caws (editor of War and Peace), Dave Thomas (editor of The Church Mouse), and Mike Sharpe (editor of Panzerkreuser) forced their way into the hobby via the CGS. Of course there are many others just as well known who have been seen in many a letter column, but I haven't the space to print them all here unfortunately.

I suppose there's probably lots more that a statistician could glean from my records (e.g. where players live, how many from abroad, how many at University, etc) but I don't have time to devote that much energy to such a project.

\*\*\*\*\*

Anyway, the waiting lists for games are as you see them below. Also below you will see a record of who has paid what. For those interested, I first started charging the £1 game-fee with the game I sent to Dave Thomas' Church Mouse (mind you, for some reason I neglected to charge the game-fee to Denver Glont - too late now though). From now on all CGS games will cost a pound each, which will be payable in advance. In other words PLEASE ENCLOSE MONEY WHEN MAKING YOUR REQUEST.

List Of Zines Awaiting Regular Starts:

The Drooling God, War and Peace, Panzerkreuser, Shellshock, Foiled Again.

List Of Zines Awaiting F(Rom) Starts:

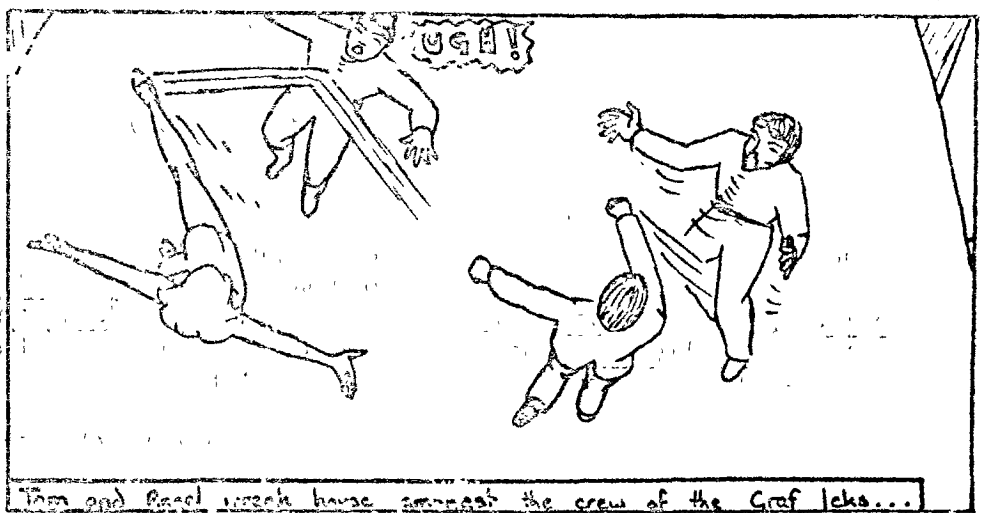
Watch Your Back, Panzerkreuser, Shellshock.

# Angel

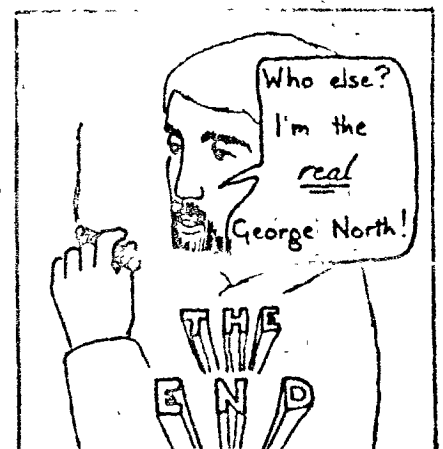
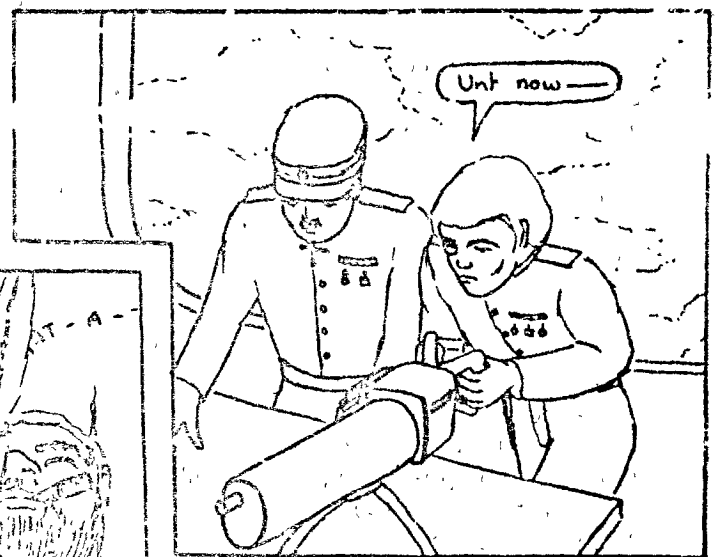
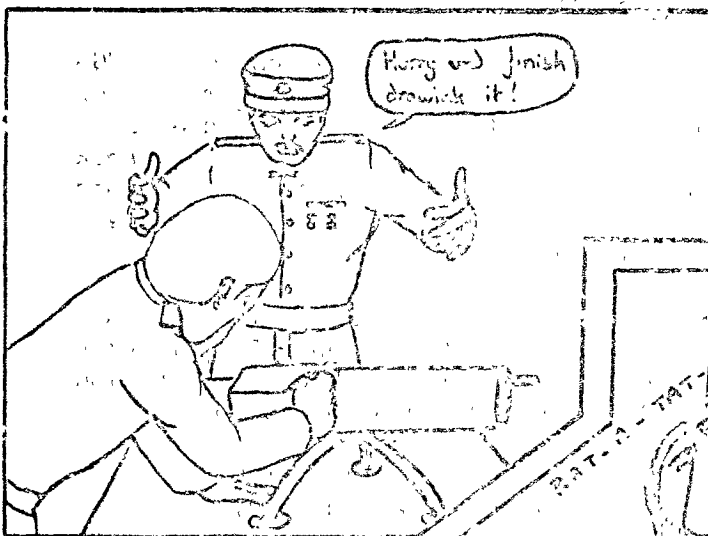
by  
Chris Sandow & Mark Newman

## Episode 10:

In which the authors finally get their comeuppance...



Tom and Angel sweep havoc amongst the crew of the Graf Zeppelin...



(CGS cont. from Page 3)

F(Rom) games really do take a long long time to fill. I wish this idea was dropped, but I can't as long as editors keep putting their names down on this list. All I can say is have patience if your wait is a long one. And please let me know if you're fed up with waiting and want your money changed over to a Regular game. A request I wouldn't blame you for in the least.

\*\*\*\*\*

Donations To CGS

Games filled:-

Dave Thomas £1, John Harrington £2 (a kind donation), Derek R. Caws £1, John Wilman £2.



Game unfilled:-

Derek R. Caws £2 (for 2 games), Mike Sharpe £2 (£1 for F(Rom)), Paul Segal £1, Tony Marchese £2 (£1 for F(Rom)), Alec Winton £1.

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ZINE POLL 83

Roll up, roll up, get ready to vote in the hobby's greatest, most newsworthy event of the year. Yes, once again it's the time of the year when everyone (editors that is) either intentionally, or unintentionally, perhaps even unconsciously, seem to put out their best efforts by way of producing bumper issues of their zines. In the vain hope of course of getting a good result in Richard Walkerdine's much loved (or, much hated, by a few stick-in-the-muds) Zine Poll. Hah! A popular belief. Actually it's not really like that, but that's the way it sometimes seems. Take last year for instance. Dib ran to 32 pages at a time when it was advertising the Zine Poll. Not my fault, honest. It just turned out that way. But no-one believed me. This year could well be the same. I hope not; it tends to be a little embarrassing. Still, I can only plod on and write the zine as I see fit - how many pages that come out at the end I never really know until I've finished.

But enough of my excuses to avoid the accusing finger (why should I feel guilty anyway?); and on to the Poll proper. The rules for voting are:-

1. Eligibility: Any European zine which is an amateur publication concerned with postal games-playing and which has published at least two issues since January 1st 1983.
2. Voters: To vote for a zine a voter must read it regularly. A voter must vote for at least two zines. Husbands, wives, girl and boyfriends may not vote for their partner's zine. Editors, co-editors, sub-zine editors etc. may not vote for their own zine.
3. Voting Method: Votes should be given to each zine in the range 1 (low) to 10 (high) to one decimal place.
4. Assessment: Results will be calculated by a preference matrix. The average votes method will also be shown, for reference only.
5. Inclusion: A zine must receive votes from at least 8% of the voters in order to be included in the results.
6. Deadline: All votes should be sent to: Richard J. Walkerdine, 144 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6PG. And must be in no later than Thursday, July 28th, 1983.
7. Results: Will be published as soon as I get Mad Policy 87 in early August. Voters who don't receive MP but are interested in the full results can have a copy if they send Richard some stamps and a large addressed envelope.

That's it then. There's a couple of points I still don't agree on regarding the

(Zine Poll cont.)

the rules. Things like: Wives not being allowed to vote in Rule 2 (which really helps me I suppose as Jan didn't vote Dib top last year) which assumes they don't think for themselves and can't judge on merit alone. And that voters should only be allowed to vote for a zine they subscribe to. Thus cutting out some of the chances of the tactical vote (or, to choose it's more popular name, 'the grudge vote'). But they are only minor points.

I hope all of you will vote - without forgetting to give Dib a high score of course. It came 7th last year, which was something I must admit surprised even me. Will I do better this year? Well that's up to you lot. Certainly there's quite a few zines which I would consider better than Dib. Still, I should have more people voting for me this time. Last year I only had 80 subscribers, and most of them were new and subscribed only to Dib (consequently they weren't allowed a vote because of the rules). This year I have 110 subscribers. Which should make a difference. Shouldn't it?

Only 101 people voted last year, but I expect it to be higher this year (hope it will be anyway) because it seems to me the hobby has grown that much bigger - that's if the growth of new zines is anything to go by. Why not give the Poll your support and get your votes in.

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LETTERS



MATT QUARTERMAIN:

"Greetings from 'that obvious pseudonym'. Okay, so Billeness spotted me pretty quickly - but he has no idea who I am! Who am I? Well, a few guesses have already been made; in fact somebody actually came up to me today suggesting that I was the man responsible ((?)) ..... then again there are those who don't believe that Matt Quartermain's a pseudonym at all, and they hold up a cheque I've signed as proof ... Well it's easy enough to open a bank account in whatever name you like. As for disguising writing - well, it's child's play once you've got the knack (I've got two)."

((Yes, but what's the point of going under a pseudonym - I can't understand? And this is the mystery man that's taking over 20 Years On from Simon Billeness?))

MATT (cont'd):

"Angel .... at last, I've got an issue where it's actually readable! Hey, does Tom Tweedy really look like that? ((Well...)) Ooh wotta smoothie ... bet you have all the birds (sorry Dave) hanging around you, specially that well-known succubus/servant of Ishtar Cathy Cunning (now there's a pseudonym...)"

((Yes, I've always thought that Cathy Cunning was a pseudonym - but then again, what's the point? Cathy's subscribing to dozens of zines - which must cost her a fortune from America. Why would she want to hide from the British hobby? Cathy?))

oo000oo

NICK KINZETT:

"Material for Angel: Well, most of your correspondents speak for themselves, so all they have to do is send Chris a photographic self-portrait and (providing he survives the ordeal) he's well away."

((Self-portraits of Dib subscribers? Hellfire, I wouldn't like to be on the receiving end of that little lot! Still, Chris could be made of much sterner stuff than me.))

oo000oo

DAVID HALL:

