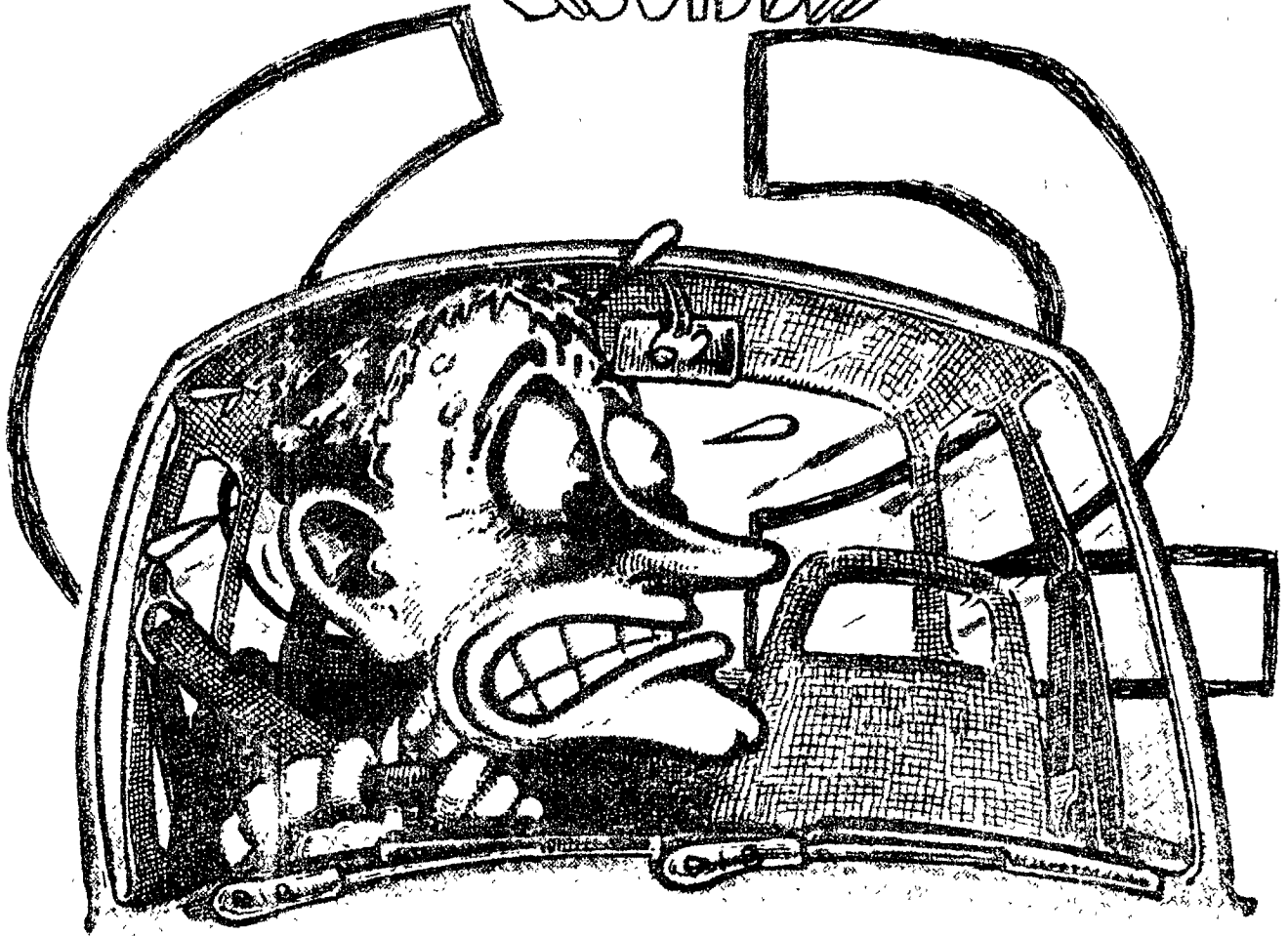


DIB DIB DIB



Wherever you go,  
Whatever you do  
People have a nasty habit of  
spotting Dib readers!

Welcome to the 62nd issue of Dib Dib Dib - a zine dedicated to games, games players, loonies, but mostly, to the civilised game of Diplomacy. The cost is a fixed rate of 45p per issue in the UK and 28p + postage overseas. Send money, to Tom Tweedy, 29 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks., HP7 9BD. Tel. 02403 4513

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Comes from George North's zine, Spanner. "Down the years one contributes to different zines, and since I can only afford half a dozen different ones I have to be fussy and choose which to receive and which to participate in. It should have been Dib Dib Dib but I don't think Tweedy caters for humourists."

((There you have it - George thinks Dib is too serious! Good ol' George.))

~~~~~

'OLWEN' GAMESTATEMENT

GAME: 1984B0

ZINE: DIB DIB DIB

GM: Tom Tweedy

Game Commenced: Issue 36 (February 1984)

Game Ended: Issue 61 (Aug 1986)

|                             | 00 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07  | 08 | 09  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13           |         |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|--------------|---------|
| AUSTRIA (Mick Bensted)      | 3  | 5  | 6  | 5  | 3  | 0  | -  | -   | -  | -   | -  | -  | -  | -            | Out A05 |
| ENGLAND (Grahame MacLennan) | 3  | 5  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 0  | -  | -   | -  | -   | -  | -  | -  | -            | Out A05 |
| FRANCE (Colin Pickard)      | 3  | 5  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 10 | 10* | 9  | 12* | 13 | 10 | 14 |              | DRAW    |
| GERMANY (Kenny Adams)       | 3  | 5  | 6  | 8  | 8  | 8  | 9  | 9*  | 9  | 8   | 6  | 7  | 1  |              |         |
| ITALY (Nick Lourie)         | 3  | 3  | 3  | 4* | 5  | 7  | 6  | 5   | 6  | 6   | 4  | 2* | 0  | Drop-out A10 | Out S12 |
| RUSSIA (Nicholas Whyte)     | 4  | 4  | 5  | 3  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 3   | 4  | 4   | 5* | 7* | 10 |              | DRAW    |
| TURKEY (Ian Winstanley)     | 3  | 4  | 3  | 4  | 6  | 7  | 7  | 7   | 6  | 4   | 6  | 8  | 9  |              | DRAW    |

(\* denotes number of units short)

France (Colin Pickard):

"Firstly I would like to thank you Tom for all the effort involved in this game. It is the first game I have been in at the finish and in balance I am satisfied with the results although I think had I been more experienced or perhaps as skilled as Ian I would have won.

The early game was dominated by the two early departures Graham MacLennan in the north made the great mistake of making two builds in 1901. Frightened into attacking him his two NMRs turned what should have been an easily parried attack into a death blow. A great pity since Graham was much more communicative than Kenny who couldn't be bothered to avail himself of a support when he asked for it.

In the South Mick "never to be believed" Benstead make quick progress to six centres by 1903 before the wrath of Nick, Nicholas, and Ian snuffed him out in 1905.

1905 was also the year in which I took control of the German unit which meant that I was ordering 18 units as well as having a solid alliance with Italy. Having promised Kenny second place if he left me with his units I felt I had no alterantive but to attack Nick. This was I think, my biggest mistake. Reaching too quickly for what I naively beleived to be certain victory I was caught completely unawares by my loss of control over the German Units.

In my darkest hours the only things to save me were the forgiveness of Nick and a timely NMR by Ian and Nicholas in 1909.

At this stage Ian showed his true class by giving me fairly large concessions in the hope that I would be sensible enough to back him against Nick in the following seasons. Unfortunately he did not trust me sufficiently to break with Nicholas and go for a 2 way draw, not that I blame him, I would have probably been too strong had he done so.

All credit to Nicholas in his heroic comeback. Since the middle game we

did not communicate very much. I wrote for four consecutive seasons without a reply although this may have been due to his travelling way of life.

Ian, in my opinion was simply the best player in the game. Nick, a faithful ally and regular correspondent. I enjoyed his letters very much. His NMR late in the game precluded any possibility of being in at the finish deserved though it may be. He suffered more than most from Mick's lies. Kenny showed very little interest in the game from the outset. It is unfortunate that he is placed higher than Nick. Once again, many thanks to Tom, Ian, Nicholas, Nick and Graham for a very enjoyable game."

Turkey (Ian Winstanley):

"The first move was very successful. I had got the alliance I wanted with Nicholas (Russia), Mick (Austria) hadn't gone for Greece and Nick (Italy) had moved against him. At this point I blew the game. I didn't agree to help Nick take Trieste. I got greedy and tried to get Greece.

I didn't get Greece, I had alienated Nick and Mick successfully counter attacked. Nicholas has launched an unsuccessful attack on Germany so we were both on the defensive.

Mick grew stronger but he didn't include Nick in his plans. This gave Nicholas and myself the opportunity of talking Nick into changing sides. After a couple of false starts (Nick initially changed his mind about twisting me and we had some problems getting the moves right) we started to crush Austria.

Having got the situation under control with Austria the rest of the board thrust itself into the ring. Grahame (England) was virtually out of the game and Kenny (Germany) was paying Nicholas back for his initial attack. Colin (France) moving west in a big way with little resistance alerted us. He had control of Kenny's units and was close to winning the game.

We tried to get a stalemate line Nick, Nicholas and myself while finishing off Mick to give us the necessary builds. Meanwhile I tried to talk Kenny out of Colin's hands, I succeeded. Colin only wanted Kenny for his supply centres and to disrupt us. Kenny, although not wanting to play anymore didn't want his country to fall and I needed intact to stop Colin, so got control of the German units.

We checked Colin in the North with the German units while Nick and I counter attacked in the Med.

Colin was pushed back in the North, evicted from Italy and forced to retreat in the Med. Nicholas wasn't doing much because of travel and work. I started to consider the possibilities for a sole win. At which point Nick changed sides. He didn't trust me with the control of the German units.

However, I could regroup my units in the Balkans and was about to break through in the North with the German units. With a bit of co-operation from Nicholas we could get rid of both Colin and Nick. Then we both NMR'd.

I should have been forced out of the game. The NMR had not only destroyed my planned counter attack but my defence as well. So I wrote to Colin (and swallowing my pride) and Nick. Nick didn't listen but Colin, much to my amazement and relief, did. He agreed to a draw, dropping Nick and Kenny. He wanted to drop Nicholas as well but I stalled by pointing the difficulty of arranging a two way draw.

The German units were pulled back, I gave a bit more ground and Colin came up with the knife. Having been stabbed Italy rolled over died. We started to pick up the Italian centres and prepared for the three way draw.

However, Nicholas moved to Germany (literally) and NMR'd. Colin sensed his opportunity I wrote to me to suggest I concede the game to him.

That didn't have shake me out of my complacency. Having talked my way out of trouble I thought I was safe. I checked the position. I had indeed left the German units too weak and if Nicholas dropped out Colin would win. I was certainly lucky, Colin had written too soon.

Alerted to the danger I managed to get word to Nicholas. He was still in the game so it wasn't over yet. We started to push Colin out of Austria and Italy while I renewed the diplomatic offensive to talk him into a draw.

We succeeded in pushing Colin back in the South but I ran into a bottle neck around the Ionian. Meanwhile, although we had had to give ground in the North the position was turning in our favour, as Nicholas was able to build

fleets in St. Petersburg to counter and outflank the French position.

Finally, Colin agreed to the draw but Nicholas thought we should push for a two way finish as we would soon be in a position to do so. However, he was prepared to accept a three way draw. Seeing the opportunity for an unwanted convoy I stalled. Having successfully made the move Colin dropped a bombshell.

Due to pressure of work he was forced to pull out of the game and was signing his units over to me. At this point I contacted Nicholas to end the game.

So with control of all those units why did I stop the game like that? Basically the game was over, there was no Diplomacy left in it. Forcing a win wouldn't prove anything. From that position Nicholas couldn't stop me and Colin wasn't able to try.

Why that particular three way draw? Nicholas was my ally and had stood by me right through the game and was still an active player. Colin wanted to carry on playing but couldn't for the present. Kenny had told me earlier that he wasn't for the present. Kenny had told me earlier that he wasn't really interested in the postal games hobby and was dropping out. So there seemed little point in including him in the draw.

Finally my thanks to all three players. My particular thanks to Nicholas for being such a loyal ally, to Colin for being such a good opponent and to Mick for putting up a good fight at the beginning. My thanks, of course, to Tom for all his hard work.

I felt that this was a really good game, I enjoyed both the diplomacy and the tactical side and I'm glad I played in it."

LUTON AIRPORT: Phew! There's nothing more I can add to this really, other than the fact that Ian could easily have won, being as he was ordering all the units towards the end. However his sense of fair play meant he should offer a draw to the others. Not the way I would have done it - but he enjoyed the game so I suppose that's all it should be about. An unusual game. My thanks to you lot for seeing it through.

'Lamfhada' (1983EE)

Autumn 1914

[21]

HE HASN'T WON YET! STILL TIME TO STOP 'IM...

AUSTRIA (James Cowie) [[A(Smy) S ITALIAN F(Con)]], A(Tri)-Alb, A(Bud) S A(Vie), A(Vie) S A(Bud), A(Ser) S A(Bud)  
 FRANCE (Alan Sharples) F(Pic)-Bre, F(Por)-Spa-sc, F(IRI) S RUSSIAN F(MAO)  
 GERMANY (R.J. Lampard) A(Ruh) S RUSSIAN A(Nor)-Bel  
 ITALY (Paul Donley) F(Bre)stands, A(Par) S F(Bre), A(Bur)-Bel, F(Spa-sc) S F(NAF)-WMS, F(NAF)-WMS, F(WMS) S F(Spa-sc), F(ION)-AEG, \*F(Con)-Bul-sc, F(Bul-sc)-Gre  
 RUSSIA (Mike Close) A(Nor)-Bel, F(NTH) C A(Nor)-Bel, F(Hol) S A(Nor)-Bel, A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Boh) S A(Mun)-Tyr, A(Sil)-Mun, F(ENC) S F(MAO), F(MAO) S FRENCH F(Por)-Spa-sc, A(Gal)-Rum, A(Ukr) S A(Gal)-Rum, A(Rum)-Bul, F(BLA) S A(Ank)-Con, A(Ank)-Con, A(Arm)-Smy

Retreats: ITALIAN A(Con) dies

Winter 1914 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud, Ser, Tri, Smy, (Gre), Vie = 5 No Change

FRA: Por, Lpl, Lon = 3 No Change

GER: Ber = 1 No Change

ITA: Ven, Rom, Nap, Tun, Mar, Par, Bre, Bul, (Con), Spa + Gre = 10 Builds: A(Ven), A(Rom)

RUS: StP, Mos, Nor, Sev, Swe, Ed1, Den, Hol, Kie, War, Rum,

Bel, Mun, Ank + Con = 15 Builds: F(Sev)

'Quadri' (1984DX)Autumn 1910

[23]

## FRANCE SHOTS INTO THE LEAD -- HAS RUSSIA MET HIS MATCH?

AUSTRIA (James Steele) NMR! Has: A(Ser)  
 FRANCE (Alan Powis) F(Edi)-NWG, F(NTH)-Nor, F(SKA)-Swe, F(Den) S  
 F(SKA)-Swe, A(Yor)stands, A(Ruh)-Kie, A(Hol) S  
 A(Ruh)-Kie, A(Mun)-Ber, A(Bur)-Ruh, A(Mar)-Spa  
 GERMANY (Richard Wernick) NMR! Has: \*F(Kie)  
 ITALY (Martin Clifford-King) F(TYS)stands, A(Ven)-Pie, A(Tri)stands, A(Gre) S  
 A(Bul), A(Bul) S F(AEG)-Con, F(AEG)-Con, F(ION)  
 stands, F(ADS) S A(Tri), F(Smy) S F(AEG)-Con  
 RUSSIA (Richard Downes) F(BAR)-NWG, F(Nor) S F(BAR)-NWG, \*A(Swe) S F(Nor),  
 A(Pru)-Ber, A(Sil) S A(Pru)-Ber, A(Vie) S A(Bud),  
 A(Bud) S AUSTRIAN A(Ser), A(Rum)-Bul, F(BLA) S  
 A(Con), A(Con) S A(Rum)-Bul

Retreats: GERMAN F(Kie) dies; RUSSIAN F(Swe) dies (NRO)

COA: Martin Clifford-King, 11 Lordsbury Field, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9PE

ENDGAME PROPOSAL: =1st R/F; =2nd G/I was defeated

New proposals have been put forward:

(a) =1st I/F/R

(b) 1st F; 2nd R; 3rd I

(c) 1st F; 2nd I; 3rd R

(d) 1st F; =2nd I/R ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

Winter 1910 Adjustments:

AUS: Ser

= 1 No Change

FRA: Par, Bre, Mar, Spa, Por, Lpl, Bel, Lon, Hol,

Edi + Swe, Den, Kie, Mun = 14 Builds: F(Bre), A(Par), A(Mar) (1 SHORT)

GER: (Mun), (Ber), (Kie), (Den) = 0 OUT

ITA: Rom, Nap, Ven, Smy, (Con), Bul, Tun, Tri, Gre = 8 Disbands F(TYS)

RUS: StP, Sev, (Swe), Rum, Nor, Ank, Mos, Bud,

Vie, War + Ber, Con = 11 Builds: A(StP), A(War)  
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PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Alan: I checked, my computer didn't make a mistake - slight typing error, sirrah; that's all.

'Setanta' (1984BF)Spring 1909

[24]

## RUSSIANS IN RETREAT!

ENGLAND (Anarchy) Has: F(Lpl)  
 FRANCE (Robert Lozynskyj) A(Yor) S ITALIAN F(Edi), F(Lon) S F(Bel)-NTH, F(ENC)  
 S F(Bel)-NTH, F(Bel)-NTH, \*F(HEL)-Den, A(Hol) S  
 A(Ruh)-Kie, A(Ruh)-Kie  
 ITALY (Alan Powis) A(Mar)-Bur, F(Edi) S FRENCH F(Bel)-NTH, A(Ven)-Pie,  
 A(Tri)-Ven, A(Nap)-Apu, F(Rom)-TYS, F(TYS)-ION  
 RUSSIA (Paul Finch) F(NWG) S F(Nor)-NTH, F(Nor)-NTH, F(NTH)-HEL, F(Den)  
 S F(NTH)-HEL, \*A(Kie) S A(Mun)-Ruh, A(Mun)-Ruh,  
 A(Boh)-Mun, A(War)-Gal, A(Ukr) S A(Sev)-Rum, A(Sev)-  
 Rum, \*A(Ser) S A(Sev)-Rum, A(Bud) S A(Sev)-Rum,  
 A(Mos)-Sev  
 TURKEY (Victor Hall) A(Arm)-Sev, F(BLA) S F(Con)-Bul-ec, F(Con)-Bul-ec,  
 A(Rum)-Ser, A(Gre) S A(Rum)-Ser, F(AEG) S A(Gre)

Retreats: FRENCH F(HEL) dies; RUSSIAN A(Kie)-Ber; RUSSIAN A(Ser)-Tri

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:

(a) =1st R/I/F; 4th T.

(b) 1st R; =2nd I/F/T.

(Cont'd over.....)

(Setanta endgame proposals cont'd.....)

(c) =1st I/F; 3rd R; 4th T.

(d) 1st I; =2nd R/F; 4th T.

(e) =1st R/I/F/T

(f) 1st R; 2nd I; 3rd T; 4th F ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as 'NO'))

PRESS:

France (Govt) - Russia Italy & Turkey: Gentlemen, upon resolution of this season's moves, one of the foregoing results will be the ultimate conclusion of this game (as it has been since Autumn 1902). Can we consider calling it a day?

Roma - Moscow: O.K. Alright. I own up. I lied.

'Taronis' (1985BG)

Autumn 1907

[25]

ITALY TAKES ON RUSSIA AND GERMANY, AND ADVANCING ON FRANCE

|                            |                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENGLAND (Dave Fish)        | F(BAL)-Swe, F(NTH)-Bel, F(Den)-NTH, A(Lon)stands, F(NAO)-Lpl                                                                                               |
| FRANCE (Neil Parkin)       | A(NAF)-Wal, F(MAO) C A(NAF)-Wal, F(ENC) C A(NAF)-Wal, F(IRI) S F(MAO), A(Mar)-Bur, A(Ruh)-Hol, A(Bel) S A(Ruh)-Hol                                         |
| GERMANY (Luke Clutterbuck) | F(Hol) S ENGLISH F(NTH)-Bel, F(Kie)-Ber, A(Swe)-Den, A(Nor) stands, A(StP) S A(Nor)                                                                        |
| ITALY (David Abbott)       | [[F(NWG) S ENGLISH F(NTH)-Nor]], A(Mun)-Ber, [[A(War) S GERMAN A(StP)-Mos]], A(Gal) S A(War), A(Rum)-Sev, F(Gre)stands, F(Tun)-WMS, F(TYS)-GOL, F(ION)-Tun |
| RUSSIA (Ulf Jiretorn)      | A(Pru)-War, A(Mos) S A(Pru)-War, F(Ank)-BLA, A(Arm)-Ank                                                                                                    |
| TURKEY (Ken Haywood)       | F(AEG)-Smy, F(Bul-ec)-Con                                                                                                                                  |

Retreats: None.

LUTON AIRPORT: Yes, sorry about the readjudication, not really my fault, just some late orders complicating things. Just to re-cap: The English F(Swe) went to BAL; Turkey F(BLA) went to Bul-ec; and the Russian F(Bul-ec) died.

Winter 1907 Adjustments:

|                                              |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ENG: Lon, Ed1, (Swe), Den, Lpl               | = 4 Disbands F(Lpl)                 |
| FRA: Bre, Par, Mar, Por, Spa, Bel, (Hol)     | = 6 GM disbands F(IRI)              |
| GER: (Mun), Kie, Ber, StP, Nor + Hol, Swe    | = 6 Builds: A(Ber)                  |
| ITA: Ven, Nap, Rom, Tri, Tun, Ser, Vie, Bud, |                                     |
| Gre + Mun, War, Sev                          | = 12 Builds: F(Nap), A(Ven), A(Rom) |
| RUS: Mos, (Sev), Rum, Ank, (War), Bul        | = 4 No Change                       |
| TUR: Con, Smy                                | = 2 No Change                       |

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PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Ulf: Sorry I can't take over the Bourse; I don't know how to play it, and can't take the time out to learn. As for the En Garde, I have no control over it whatsoever - I get on to Pete when I can. It should be included in this issue though. Important point about the Diplomacy rules though: a fleet in Greece CAN support another fleet into Bul-ec; the same as a fleet in Gascony can support a fleet into Spa-sc, and a fleet in GOB can support a fleet into StP-nc. The ruling is you see, a unit can support another unit to a space adjacent to it. North and south is treated as the SAME space.

Russia - France: If you intend to give the game to Italy and be satisfied with second place, why don't you submit an EGP immediately just as well?

France - World (other than Italy): Don't panic lads! Good old France won't run out on you. I've got something up my sleeve - it's called second place!

Italia - World: I'm a pacifist really.

(Taranis press cont'd...)

Casual Observer - LUTON AIRPORT: When the time comes for a game end statements there will be at least one player who will say that throughout this game he didn't have a clue what was happening most of the time. ((That's okay then, 'cos the GM will probably say the same thing!))

Italia - LUTON AIRPORT: So, what's wrong with my little fleet - it's on a secret mission to find... aha, if I told you, it wouldn't be a secret, would it?

Turkey - Russia: It's not often I resort to invective, but your latest moves convince me that you are a silly billy!

Italy - You bum who are not fit to lick my shoes: Do you wanna give up, or are some of you jerks masochists?

'Uther' (1985DV)

Spring 1906

[26]

I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T MENTION THIS, BUT HAS ANYONE HEARD OF... 'JUGGERNAUGHT'?  
Sssccchhhh....!

ENGLAND (Piers Shepperson) A(Yor)-Nor, F(NTH) C- A(Yor)-Nor, \*F(Swe)-Fin,  
F(Nor)-SKA, F(BAR) S A(Yor)-Nor  
FRANCE (Daniel Brooks) \*A(Mun) S GERMAN A(Kie)-Ber, A(Bur) S A(Mun),  
A(Par)-Gas, F(MAO)-NAf, F(WMS) S (MAO)-NAf, F(GOL)  
stands, F(Pic)-Bre  
GERMANY (James Cowie) F(Den)-BAL, A(Kie)-Ber, A(Hol)-Kie  
ITALY (Anarchy) Has: F(Nap)  
RUSSIA (Kris Morris) A(Ven)-Pie, A(War)-Pru, A(Ber)-Mun, A(Sil) S  
A(Ber)-Mun, A(Boh) S A(Ber)-Mun, F(GOB) S A(Fin)-  
Swe, A(Fin)-Swe, F(StP-nc)stands, A(Mos) S F(StP-  
nc)  
TURKEY (Kath Collman) F(ION)-TYS, F(Tus) S F(ION)-TYS, F(Tun) S F(ION)-  
TYS, F(Gre)-ION, F(Con)-AEG, A(Tri)-Tyr, A(Ser)-  
Tri, A(Rom)stands, A(Alb)stands bemused by the sea.

Retreats: ENGLISH F(Swe)-Den; FRENCH A(Mun)-Ruh

PRESS:

Tsar - LUTON AIRPORT: Quiet game? Just you wait.

Russia - France: Okay, I can see your logic, but I thought you could at least drop me a line, after all there are other things to talk about besides the game.

Russia - LUTON AIRPORT: Good lord Tom, do you realise that I can hardly think of a single thing to say in the press this season, things must be getting bad, ((A Morris stumped for words! I think I'll go for a lie down.))

Russia - Germany: See, I was right, he didn't give Munich back to you did he, so much for him being an ally, eh?

Russian Admiral - Sultana: I do, trouble is we're such a long way from each other. See you in the Atlantic perhaps.

Alice - Tsar: Please send me details under cover, c/o The mad Hatter, 19 Hawks Park, Lower Burraton. ((Well, don't say I didn't warn you.))

Sultana - Luton Airport: Well, OK, middle aged if you insist.

Turkey - Rupert Bear: Because you don't growl at me any more.

Turkish Daily Wail: The Sultana has just returned from an official state visit to Coventry. Upon being interviewed, she said that it is a pleasant place, though her modesty was offended by a certain statue in the City Centre and visitors are also warned to beware of lurking Teddy Bears.

Turkey (Govt) - France (govt): Oh come on! What else do you expect if you can't be bothered to answer my letters?

Sultana - Tsarina: I think it's time you looked under his pillow.

Sultana - Tsar: Sorry, I'm unable to carry out the research you requested. My consort doesn't fancy it.

(Uther press cont'd...)

Kath - Kris: What a cheap insinuation! I can do it all by myself, thanks.

Anon - England: Watch your back mate. I notice you had to disband a unit last time, while Froggy built one. But I'm sure he's harmless really.

'Vortigern' (1985GA)

Spring 1906

[27]

AUSTRIA SLOWED DOWN

|                          |                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUSTRIA (John Piggott)   | A(Tyr)-Pie, A(Ven)-Rom, A(Vie)-Tri, F(Tri)-Alb, F(Tun)-WMS, A(Rum)-Bul, A(Ser) S A(Rum)-Bul, A(Bud)-Gal, A(Gal)-Ukr, A(War) S A(Gal)-Ukr, F(ION)-Nap |
| ENGLAND (Michele Morris) | A(StP) S A(Nor)-Fin, A(Nor)-Fin, F(NWG) S F(Edi)-NTH, F(Edi)-NTH, F(NTH)-Nor                                                                         |
| FRANCE (Bob Watson)      | A(Bel)stands, A(Ruh)stands, A(Bur) S A(Ruh), F(Mar)-Pie, F(GOL)-WMS, F(TYS) S F(GOL)-WMS                                                             |
| GERMANY (Alan Frost)     | F(Den)-NTH, F(HEL) S A(Kie)-Hol, A(Kie)-Hol, A(Ber)-Kie, A(Mun)-Ruh                                                                                  |
| RUSSIA (Per Von Gavel)   | A(Mos)-War, A(Ukr)-Sev, F(Swe)-Den                                                                                                                   |
| TURKEY (Jon Moss)        | F(BLA) S A(Bul)-Rum, A(Bul)-Rum, F(EMS)-ION, F(AEG)-Bul-sc                                                                                           |

Retreats: None.

ENDGAME PROPOSALS:-

(a) 1st A; =2nd G/E/F; =5th T/R

(b) 1st A; =2nd G/E/F/T; 6th R ((Votes for next time please - failure to vote counts as NO))

PRESS:

England - Russia: If you don't write we can't negotiate and I'll go my own sweet way instead.

Germany - Ethilfrog Studios: Gert Frobe? Who showed you my photograph?

Germany - England: Who mentioned love? I understood that it was lust. Anyway, you've kept me hanging round so long that I'm past it now. Tom will tell you about menopause. ((Why me, all I understand about it lust?))

England - LUTON AIRPORT: You ex-military types are all the same. Cowards at heart and always preferring someone else to do your dirty work for you.

Germany - Russia: Who's giving up? It wasn't me that NMR'd.

England - Russia: You could order my units too, but I can NMR for myself.

England - Germany: Ba-a-a-a-a.

Russia - Turkey: Thanks, I'll take good care of it while you're gone, tell me when you want them back. But don't tell anyone that I've taken over TURKEY. OK?

Tsar Zeitung Aristokratisches Reich (Tsar): In an official statement, the Tsar announced that due to his unofficial visit to Germany, his troops decided to have a rest. Especially as Rasputin took official documents to another country.

SLUM-UNITED LETTER TRASH ANONOUOUS NEWS (SULTAN): The visit to Germany, by the Tsar was only an excuse as to organise a coupe against thw Turkish government, and his fources were unable to participate in combat, as most had been called in for the Turkish takeover. It as also been announced that unless the S.U.L.T.A.N. stops writing against the Tsar it will be terminated. There is farther speculation that the exiled Sultan is arranging a reinstatment and that the S.U.L.T.A.N. should become Turkeys main newspaper if he comes back.

Per - Tweedybird: (That should annoy him) waht do you mean we're not able to hold back Austrian forces, just watch how they stumble all over us. As to my orders, I give you a chance to play with your new computer, and you don't take it. Anyway wasn't £50 enough or did I miss out a nought on the cheque.

((Piggott press cont'd over.... read it at your peril.))



(Vortigern press cont'd...)

ETHILFROG ENTERPRISES:

Ethilfrog Enterprises

"We do anything, anywhere, anytime"

Dear Mr Tweedy,

In accordance with your instructions we have today administered spankings to the Morris household, situated in a bijou Cornish residential location including easy access to schools, public baths and the A38.

On arriving at the indicated address our operator discovered a scruffy, oily-fingered person who was tinkering with a motorised tricycle in the back garden. In a trice he was secured to the kitchen table and treatment was carried out as per your valued specifications.

While the work was proceeding a green-eyed autochthone, wearing hexagonal specs and accompanied by three children, called at the house. Our operator assumed she was collecting for the Lifeboat Appeal, gave her 50p and sent her on her way.

We take pleasure in presenting our Invoice herewith and would respectfully remind you that our terms require immediate payment to our Usury Division. Otherwise you may be assured of our very BEST attention at all times.....

|                                                                                    |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| To receiving instructions and administering spanking in accordance with directions | 200.00  |
| First-class rail fare, Paddington to Plymouth return                               | 78.40   |
| Honeymoon suite, Hotel Excelsior, Plymouth, 2 nights                               | 339.80  |
| Hire of car, Mercedes 350 SEL                                                      | 65.00   |
| Excess petrol for the above 450 miles                                              | 63.75   |
| Wear and Tear on Spanking Brush                                                    | 14.35   |
| Lifeboat Appeal                                                                    | .50     |
| TOTAL                                                                              | £761.80 |

|                                                                 |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Value added Tax                                                 | 114.27 |
| VAT on the VAT                                                  | 17.14  |
| Accidental arithmetic error                                     | 100.00 |
| You've got to pay VAT on that, too                              | 15.00  |
| Rounding up, cos we can't be bothered with odd pounds and pence | 991.79 |

TOTAL PAYABLE £2000.00

((And worth every penny I'm sure. However there is one small thing I should bring to your attention:-

TWEEDY & Son, Subcontracture Division:

Dear Mr Piggott,

We enclose a cheque for the amount specified, but have had to debit £34.70 for damages. Whilst your operative carried out instructions diligently, we have to inform you of an unfortunate minor omission on Mr J. Piggott's part. It was no doubt an accidental oversight, but we do feel that perhaps in future before any action is taken on domestic premises, the identity of the punishmentee should be ascertained, if at all possible. It would appear that Mr Howard Marshall, of Exeter, had, unfortunately developed a puncture on his rear tyre and had stopped his vehicle in Hawks Park, merely to effect repairs.

We have also been contacted by a Mrs Ethil Frobisher of Stoke Newington who was unable to contact your operative after his stay in the Honeymoon Suite of the Hotel Excelsior. She had forgotten to give the change of 52p from the two luncheon vouchers, which Mr Piggott gave her in payment for services rendered. She also writes, that happily she managed to get a lift home from Plymouth to Stoke Newington, a kindly HGV driver was able to transport her nearly all the way home. She feels her wooden leg probably gave her sympathetic support in obtaining the lift but reminds your operative that she will be unavailable for other services for 3 months as she has to go into hospital to have her hip replacement operation.

Trust this finds you as it leaves us....))

## ITALY PUSHING OUT ON ALL FRONTS WITH RUSSIAN ALLY

ENGLAND (Per Von Gavel) F(ENC)-IRI, F(NTH)-Edi, F(Nor)-Swe  
 FRANCE (Pete Mason) A(Lpl)-Yor, F(IRI)-Wal, F(Por)-MAO, A(Bel)stands,  
 A(Bre)stands, A(Par)-Bur, F(Mar)-GOL  
 GERMANY (Alan Powis) A(Pie)stands, A(Hol) S A(Mun)-Kie, A(Mun)-Kie, F(BAL)  
 S F(Swe)-GOB, F(Swe)-GOB  
 ITALY (Kris Morris) F(TYS)-GOL, A(Rom)-Tus, A(Ven)-Pie, A(Tyr) S A(Boh)-  
 Mun, A(Boh)-Mun, F(ION)-AEG, F(Gre)-Bul, A(Alb)-Tri,  
 A(Bul)-Con  
 RUSSIA (Danny Collman) F(StP-sc)-Fin, \*F(GOB) S F(StP-sc)-Fin, A(Ber)-Kie,  
 A(Sil) S ITALIAN A(Boh)-Mun, A(Rum)-Gal, F(BLA) S  
 ITALIAN A(Bul)-Con, A(Ank) S A(Arm)-Smy, A(Arm)-Smy  
 TURKEY (Rowland Goodman) \*F(Con)-Smy, F(EMS) S F(Con)-Smy

Retreats: TURKISH F(Con) dies; RUSSIAN F(GOB)-Lvn

PRESS:

England - Germany: If I owed him money, I wouldn't care, but he owes me.

Mole: Thanks for the letter Alan, sorry I didn't reply. I agree with your assessment. It's all too late. You should have helped Austria. I should have helped Austria. You should have helped me.

German (Govt) - World: The leaders of the German people would like you all to note how the German forces, having dug their own graves, now lay themselves inside the said graves with such consummate skill and precision.

Russia (govt.) - Germany: Thanks for continuing to give me the most superb fight. Rowland was unlucky - he organised well, but found himself up against an equally well organised stab.

Italy - Germany: Did someone mention money? If there's any going spare then I'll have it. ((Typical of you Morris, going after a bit of spare.))

Russia - Per: Your NMR last season was unfortunate, but certainly not beyond the pale: but why have you not (15th Sep) answered my letter? Remember your orders do affect me.

Rome - Munich: Yes, I did believe you. If only you had believed me, then things could have been different. Sorry for not writing, I'll try to get a letter off to you this season.

Bystander - Russia: That was cryptic press to Turkey, would you care to enlighten everyone as to what it was about?

Bald Eagle - Kermit: Charlotte was a married lady,

A stripper once was she.

She tore a strip off him so hard

It set his assets free.

The sight so roused the twinkle in her eye.

England - All: Starting this before my exam wasn't a clever thing, hence I didn't make the game as exciting as it would have been, forgive me.

St Petersburg (Govt.): to Scappa Flow, or whomsoever it may concern: I was not responsible for the press last season attributed to me. But did "Scappa Flow" the previous season (Spring 03) really mean 'trustworthy', or should it have been "trusting"?

Russia - Luton Airport: Would you kindly explain what you meant by 'cartels'. I'm hoping you didn't mean what I think you meant because if you did then thick-skinned as I am, I feel insulted: I play for enjoyment and I diplome, order and stab with honesty and, I hope, integrity, because that's the way the game is played. ((You can't bait me with that. It doesn't matter about your thick skin, or who's insulting who. As GM it's my job - other than that I'm totally impartial. Would you expect me check other people?))

WITHAM BOURSE: I have refunded the money for the full amount to: Ulf Jiretorn, Steve Gregory, Ian Winstanley, Heiko Schafer, James Steele, Matthew Wright, Rowland Goodman and Roberto Della-Sala.

'Xanten' (1986BS)

Autumn 1903

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## RUSSIA GIVEN THE CHOP

AUSTRIA (Colin Kinsella) A(Vie) S A(Bud)-Tri, A(Ser) S A(Bud)-Tri, F(Alb) S A(Bud)-Tri, A(Bud)-Tri

ENGLAND (Stephen Cloves) F(Wal) S F(Yor)-Lon, F(Yor)-Lon, F(NWG) S A(StP)-Nor, A(StP)-Nor

FRANCE (Heiko Schafer) \*F(Lon)stands, F(ENC)-Bel, A(Mar)-Bur, A(Par) S A(Mar)-Bur, A(Gas) S A(Mar)-Bur

GERMANY (Chris Sandow) A(Lvn)-StP, A(Fin) S A(Lvn)-StP, F(Swe)-Den, A(Ruh)-Hol, F(Bel) S A(Ruh)-Hol, A(Bur)-Ruh, A(Mun)stands

ITALY (Andy Mansfield) [[F(TYS) S F(ION)], A(Ven)stands, A(Tri)-Tyr, F(ION)-Gre, A(Gal) S RUSSIAN A(War)

RUSSIA (Tony Reynolds) NMR! Has: F(NTH), \*A(War)

TURKEY (Rowland Goodman) A(Mos) S A(Ukr)-War, A(Ukr)-War, A(Sev)-Ukr, A(Rum)-Gal, F(BLA)stands, F(AEG)-Gre

Retreats: FRENCH F(Lon) dies; RUSSIAN A(War) dies

COA: Heiko Schafer, Hulme Hall, Oxford Place, Manchester, M14 5RR.

## Autumn 1903 Adjustments:

AUS: Bud,Ser,Gre,Vie + Tri = 5 Builds: A(Bud)

ENG: Lon,Lpl,Edi,(StP) + Nor = 4 No Change

FRA: Bre,Mar,Par,Por,Spa = 5 Builds: F(Mar)

GER: Mun,Kie,Ber,Bel,Hol,Den,Swe + StP = 8 Builds: A(Kie)

ITA: Rom,Ven,Nap,Tun,(Tri) = 4 Disbands A(Gal)

RUS: (Mos),(War),(Nor) = 0 GM disbands F(NTH) OUT

TUR: Smy,Ank,Con,Bul,Sev,Rum + Mos,War = 8 Builds: A(Con), A(Ank)

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## PRESS:

Germany - Rest of the World: Why has everything gone ominously quiet? What are you all plotting against me? Am I becoming paranoid? ((Yes, like all good Diplomacy players.))

Male: "Don't cry for me Andy Mansfield,

The truth is,

I'm not on your side!

Don't kill your babies!

Don't beat your wife up!

I've broken my promise,

I haven't helped you...

Don't cry for me Andy Mansfield."

K - M: Did you enjoy your sing-song?

LUTON AIRPORT - Rowland: Rotten post between us (even though it's only a few miles) - although you posted your orders on the 15th, they didn't reach me until Monday 22nd. Good job Dib is a little late!

Gare du Sud - GM: That's i-m-p-e-r-t-a-n-t-e-n-c-e, thank you. ((Quite))

Mr Glide - Chay: How did you enjoy your camping holiday with Scott in that tent, ALONE. There are a lot of rumours going around that I dread to think of.

Gare du Sud - Italy: You wouldn't, would you?

North of Luton: What have Andy Mansfield, Colin Kinsella, Stephen Cloves, and Rowland Goodman got in common?

Answer: All four have had extensive advice on this game from Danny Collman.

Austrian - Henry Root: That's the first I've heard about "A day trip to Berlin" society. Also the price is a bit steep, couldn't you lower it to "nothing under £1" even though I'm not interested "yet".

Austria - Italy: You can go round any way you like but just don't expect me to follow (you kinky devil)

Austria - Russia: This is an official public apology I'm very sorry it had to happen like this but it was Dog eat Dog I'm afraid.

ALL NEUTRAL CENTRES GONE - BUT NASTY ITALIANS ATTACK UNSUSPECTING KRAUTS!

AUSTRIA (Barry Raynes) A(Tri)-Ven, F(Alb)-Gre, A(Ser) S F(Alb)-Gre  
 ENGLAND (Paul Street) F(NWG)-Nor, F(NTH)-Den, A(Yor) stands unordered  
 FRANCE (Kevin Baker) [[A(Bur)-Bel]] ((NO SUCH UNIT)), A(Spa)-Por, F(MAO)-  
 Spa-sc, A(Par) stands unordered  
 GERMANY (John Cavanagh) F(Hol)-Bel, A(Kie)-Hol, A(Mun)-Bur  
 ITALY (Mike Close) A(Tyr)-Mun, A(Ven)-Tri, F(ION)-Tun  
 RUSSIA (Rowland Goodman) A(Ukr)-Rum, A(Mos)-Sev, F(Sev)-BLA, F(GOB)-Swe  
 TURKEY (Kris Morris) A(Bul)-Gre, F(Ank)-BLA, A(Arm) S RUSSIAN A(Mos)-Sev

Retreats: None.

Autumn 1901 Adjustments:

AUS: Tri, Bud, Ser + Gre, Ser = 5 Builds: A(Vie), A(Bud)  
 ENG: Lon, Lpl, Edi + Nor, Den = 5 Builds: F(Lon), F(Edi)  
 FRA: Bre, Mar, Par + Por, Spa = 5 Builds: F(Mar), F(Bre)  
 GER: (Mun), Kie, Ber + Bel, Hol = 4 Builds: F(Kie)  
 ITA: Rom, Ven, Nap + Mun, Tun = 5 Builds: F(Nap), A(Rom)  
 RUS: Mos, War, StP, Sev + Rum, Swe = 6 Builds: A(War), A(StP)  
 TUR: Smy, Ank, Con + Bul = 4 Builds: A(Con)

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PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Barry: Don't worry about builds - the motto is if in doubt build everywhere in the order you want (that way you cover the occupied centres as well) e.g. "Build F(Tri), A(Vie), A(Bud)".

Mole: Yes, Kris: Yes... (Close creeps up behind Mole [Mole is being played by Grace Kelly... the film is 'Dial M for Murder']).

Turkey - Mole: Who are you calling treacherous - It takes one to know one.

England - Italy: Thanks for the compliment regarding the puzzle in Dolchstoss. It was particularly nice coming from "One of our top players over the years" to quote Bedbug in issue 100. ((Good grief, Paul, TRY not to give Close compliments will you? It leaves a sour taste in the mouth.))

Turkey - France: Aren't you talking to me? I write a nice, friendly letter to my best mate and you don't bother to answer it. What have I done to upset you?

Sultan - Mr Matthews: MOTOR MECHANIC!!! I am NOT a moter, mechanic. How dare you.

Sultan - LUTON AIRPORT: Devious, sly, with an urge to maim and kill. You can't be talking about me surely? ((Why not? You're a Diplomacy player aren't you?!!))

~~~~~  
 GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTART GAMESTAR  
 ~~~~~

AUSTRIA: Heiko Schafer, Hulme Hall, Oxford Place, Manchester, M14 5RR.  
 ENGLAND: Tony Reynolds, 17 Catton Place, Hadrian Park, Wallsend, NE28 9UG.  
 FRANCE : Richard Wernick, 247 Huntingfield Road, Roehampton, London, SW15 5EW.  
 GERMANY: Colin Kinsella, 68 Coldbath Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B13 0AQ.  
 ITALY : Steve Kirk, (Home) 54 London Road, Copford, Colchester, CO6 1BJ.  
 : (Uni) High Hall, Church Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3SZ  
 RUSSIA : Ralph Baker, (Home) 3 Summit Close, Jericho, Bury, Lancs, BL9 7TS.  
 : (Uni) St. Chads 13B, 48 Grange Road, Cambridge.  
 TURKEY : Steve Thomas, 57 Bedford Street, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SU.

Another line up from a couple of you returning for another game - you must be gluttons for punishment. As before just a few more rules: please check to see if you have enough credit after the £1.75 deduction. All orders must have the (Cont'd over...)

name of the game; preferably dated and with the game season; and most certainly clearly signed. A map and a copy of my house rules should be included with this issue. My call sign is LUTON AIRPORT, I would request you not to misuse it as all official missives (rejudications etc) will come under this heading. And last and most definitely least, don't forget to send Provisional Autumn 1901 orders in with your Spring 01 orders (it's ONLY for the 1901 season) as it insures the game gets off to a smooth start. I wish you all the best of luck in the game, and may the dirtiest man win.

| <u>Sopwith (T067DD)</u> | GM Tom Tweedy             | <u>Albatross</u> | <u>Turn 12</u> |     |       |      |     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----|-------|------|-----|
|                         | MOVE 1                    | MOVE 2           | MOVE 3         | HEX | F/HEX | AMMO | DGE |
| THE PINK PANTHER:       | RT - F0,                  | RT - F0,         | RT - F0        | C7  | C8    | 5    | 9   |
| Richard Downes          |                           |                  |                |     |       |      |     |
| KAMEE KAZEE:            | A - F0, LANDS and reloads |                  |                | J19 | ??    | 16   | 11  |
| Ian Tillson             |                           |                  |                |     |       |      |     |
| PINK POTATO FLY:        | A - F0,                   | A - F0,          | A - F0         | 08  | P9    | 4    | 12  |
| David Abbott            |                           |                  |                |     |       |      |     |

DAMAGE (DGE): None. And all clouds gone, leaving a clear field of fire. If Panther and Fly got together I'm sure they could 'sort out' this upstart Ace Kazee...

CLOUD POSITIONS: All move towards S19

(1) Gone forever.

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT - Richard, David: Can I have your airfield hex numbers?

| <u>SOPWITH (T084DD)</u> | GM Tom Tweedy                | <u>Great Tit</u> | <u>Turn 8</u> |     |       |      |     |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----|-------|------|-----|
|                         | MOVE 1                       | MOVE 2           | MOVE 3        | HEX | F/HEX | AMMO | DGE |
| MACHINE-GUN JOE:        | ALPHA, A - F0,               | A - F0,          | RT - F0       | D12 | E12   | 16   | 2   |
| Stuart Tweedy           |                              |                  |               |     |       |      |     |
| SAUER VON MESSERSHIP:   | LT - F0,                     | LT - FL+A,       | A - FL        | G11 | H11   | 4    | 2   |
| Per von Gavel           |                              |                  |               |     |       |      |     |
| FLYING MANIAC:          | A - F0,                      | RT - F0,         | LT - F0       | Q11 | R12   | 7    | 7   |
| David Daw               |                              |                  |               |     |       |      |     |
| PHANTOM PHART:          | NMR! Moves A,A,A - no firing |                  |               | L13 | K13   | 7    | 3   |
| James Steele            |                              |                  |               |     |       |      |     |
| WOODY WOODPECKER:       | RT - F0,                     | RT - F0,         | RT - FR       | P16 | Q16   | 8    | 5   |
| Daniel Brooks           |                              |                  |               |     |       |      |     |

DAMAGE (DGE): None

CLOUD POSITIONS (beginning of Turn 9): All move towards A1

(1) C4,D4,E4,D3,E3

(2) I10,J10,K10

(3) I4,J4,J5A

(4) I13,J14,K14

(5) M9,M10,N10,O10

(6) C7,D7,E8,F8

PRESS:

LUTON AIRPORT: Please note that as Terry Dibden has dropped out of Dib, David Daw has taken his place as standby - he is not an ace.

LUTON AIRPORT - Daniel: PLEASE put game name at the top of your orders.

| <u>SOPWITH (T0??DD)</u> | <u>'Tinamou'</u> | <u>TURN 10</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|

GM: Matt Quartermain, 76 Wilwood Road, Priestwood, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1SN

|                   | MOVE 1   | MOVE 2   | MOVE 3  | HEX | F/HEX | AMMO | DGE | RAT |
|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|-----|-------|------|-----|-----|
| MAJOR I. SWOTTER. | LS -*FA, | RS - F0, | RS - F0 | I5  | H4    | 12   | 12  | 17  |
| Dave Tant         |          |          |         |     |       |      |     |     |
| STONE EAGLE:      | RT - F0  | DEAD     |         |     |       |      |     | -2  |
| Jake Cheung       |          |          |         |     |       |      |     |     |

(Damages cont'd over.....)

(Tinamou cont'd.....).

DAMAGE (DGE): Major I. Swotter blips Stone Eagle's final point away at full range, as Eagle has no choice but to turn into it (or fly off the board). A good, exciting game in which two styles of play could be seen - diving in and blasting everyone (for a good rating) as seen by Brian Moore, and hanging around and finishing off the debris (for a high position) as seen by Dave Tant.

Mike Deans was ultra unlucky - three times in a row he phoned in his orders the day after I'd adjudicated. Same problem with Jake Cheung - his penultimate move being an NMR was the last fatal slip.

### LETTERS

MIKE CLOSE: "What does the Dib cover mean then? "More Mature Reader"? Who can you mean - surely not me? People keep asking me when I will emerge from my second childhood, so I inform them that I haven't finished my first yet. Perhaps you should have asked George North - he's more mature than most. I think it is because he's worked in a brewery for many years.

Nice to see the lettercol back, although the assumption that it won the Best Lettercol Award because of the contributions of Johnnys (and Jennys) come-lately such as the Morrises and the Collmans is beyond belief!!! You wait until the likes of North and Allen start writing again!!

Anyway it's about time we had an interesting subject to talk about. First of all, how many people do you know who go abroad and then admit they had a terrible holiday? And secondly why do women enjoy taking their clothes off and burning themselves red for hours a day on the beach - the most boring (and painful) exercise I have yet to come across?! (Apart from bingo, but that's another experience entirely.)"

((You dare call this an interesting subject?! Mind you, I see nothing wrong with women taking their clothes off (unless of course it was the likes of Phylis Diller or Mollie Sugden) - but I shan't dwell too long on this subject.

I agree with you, the cheek of these Morrises and Collmans, where were they when you were still nauseating everybody with your chameleon debates? Where were they when you introduced the subject of suspenders and skiffle groups? Nowhere, that's wot I say. Probably keeping their heads down like the rest of us!

As for the cover, blame Jan - most of my problems are her fault anyway. I mean, it was her idea that I join this hobby in the first place. Not content with that she had the nerve to suggest I start producing this mill-stone I'm lumbered with.. There's one consolation (she says)... I've got to know you lot...! What do you mean, think for myself? I'm married!))

Now the next letter IS an interesting subject... TEABAGS.

BERNARD EMBLEM... "Congratulations on your Gladys success, and thanks for the praise. Though I don't exactly go out of my way to agree with most of your correspondents, I do have a heart, and was delighted to know someone likes Marvin's Bit!

So, while I'm in a temperate mood, let me admit to having second thoughts about Martin le Fevre as the Ideal Zine Poll Organiser. I mean, where is he? Though I still have reservations about the way named exceptions have been made this year, I'll keep my mouth shut now - don't want any votes to go astray, do we? Hi, John!

Now, I know you don't want anything serious in the lettercol, but there is something on which I'd like the advice of your readers. Can anyone suggest an acceptable alternative to Sainsbury's Red Label Tea? As the relevant OS map will reveal; Ramsbottom is a good eight and a half miles from the nearest Sainbury's, so we only make it there once a month