

## That would be enough

This has been issue 35 of *To Win Just Once*, published 13h June 2003. It incorporates *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*, a postal game of *En Gardel*. Issues are published ten times a year, roughly every five weeks.

### Deadlines

Orders for *Odessa Steps* to Mike Dommett at 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD, UK or mike\_dommett@yahoo.co.uk by Friday 27th June.

Orders for *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses* to Pevans, 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK or LPBS@pevans.co.uk by Friday 4th July.

(Planned deadlines for the rest of 2003 are 1st/8th Aug, 5th/12th Sept, 12th/17th Oct, 14th/21st Nov.)

### Subscriptions

To play in any of the postal games in *TWJO* you must be a subscriber. For some of the games (see below) a start-up fee is charged, which is the equivalent of an extra issue. To subscribe or play in a game, send a cheque or postal order in pounds sterling (payable to Paul Evans) to 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK with your name, address and which games you'd like to play in. I also accept payment through PayPal (<http://www.paypal.com>) in either pounds sterling or US dollars (at the rate of \$1.5 to £1). My PayPal account is [twjo@pevans.co.uk](mailto:twjo@pevans.co.uk).

	UK	Other Europe	Rest of World
Single issue	£2.00	£2.50	£3.00
Subscription (11 issues)	£20.00	£25.00	£30.00
Start-up (inc. 4 issues)	£10.00	£12.50	£15.00
Start-up (inc. 10 issues)	£20.00	£25.00	£30.00

### Games played

If you are interested in playing any game, please let Pevans know. Games will start once there are enough players. You need to subscribe to *TWJO* to play in any game.

**Diplomacy** Neil Packer will run this if we have seven interested players. So far Pete Holland, Mike Dommett, Barry Townsend, Michael Martinkat and Bill Michell have volunteered. [free start-up]

**En Gardel** Pevans has room for more players in *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*. You will need the rules to *En Gardel* in order to play. [start-up fee payable]

**Railway Rivals** Timothy Hunt, John Harrington, Mark Jones, Nathan Richards and Gerald Udowczenko are interested in a game – room for one more. You will need the chosen map to play. [free start-up]

**Star Trader** A new game has started, but can take another player or two. Full rules will be provided. [start-up fee payable]

Published by Paul Evans, 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK

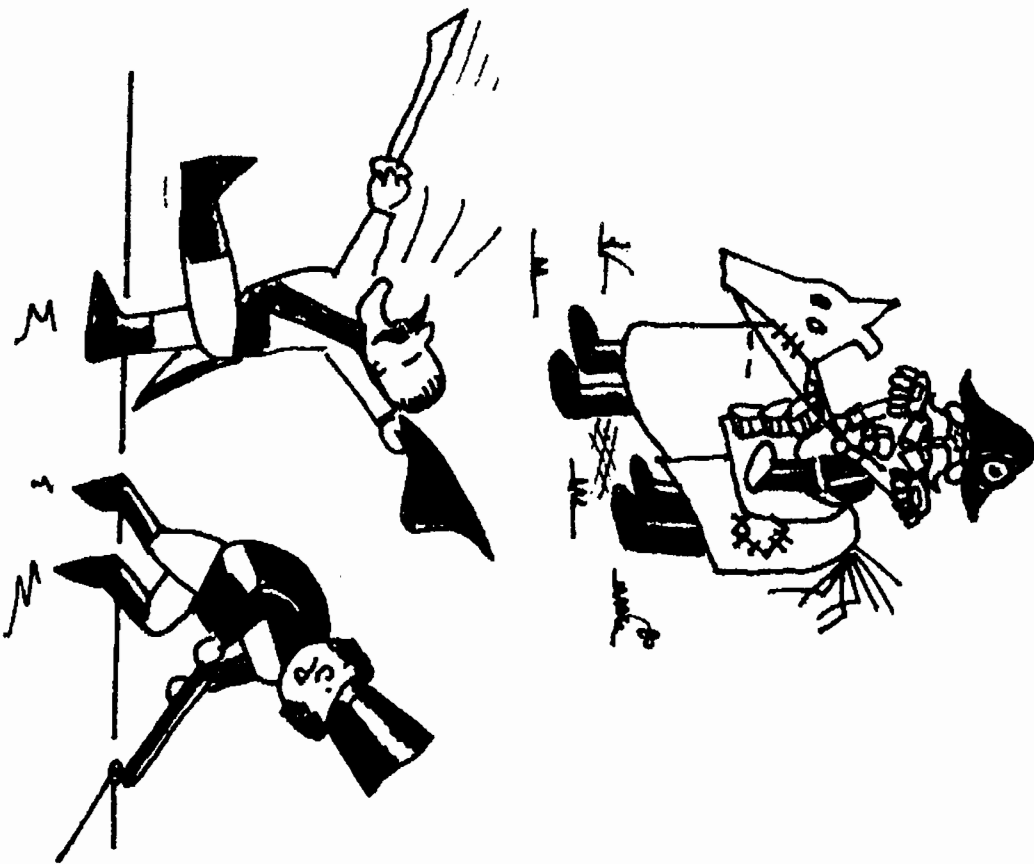
Tel: 07771 535690, E-mail: [TWJO@pevans.co.uk](mailto:TWJO@pevans.co.uk), Web: <http://www.pevans.co.uk/>.

Printed by Emjay Reprographics, 117 Harwill Crescent, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 5LA, UK.

# To Win Just Once

(incorporating *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*)

ISSN 1470-0247



Issue 35: June/July 2003

(LPBS 161: April 1657)

£2.00

(Europe £2.50, Elsewhere £3.00)

# Contents

Contents .....	Page
Chatter .....	2
Convention Report .....	3
Science Fiction .....	3
Letters .....	4
Games Events .....	5
Railway Rivals .....	6
Credits .....	7
The Bonking Game .....	7
Turn Nine .....	8
Star Trader .....	8
Odessa Steps - Turn 3 .....	9
News Chits .....	9
GM Notes .....	10
Press .....	11
Les Petites Bêtes Soyseuses 161 .....	11
April 1667 .....	13
Press .....	13
Announcements .....	19
Matters of Honour .....	19
Social .....	19
Personal .....	20
Poetry Corner .....	20
Points Arising .....	23
Announcements .....	23
Duels .....	23
Tables .....	24
Battle Results .....	25
Army Organisation and Summer Deployment .....	25
Brigade Positions .....	25
Regiments Organisation .....	26
Frontier Regiments .....	26
Hell Hath no Fury .....	26
Other Appointments .....	27
The Greasy Pole .....	27
The Guilty Parties .....	28
That would be enough .....	30
	32

- Nik Luker, 20 Portway, Faringdon, Oxon  
SN7 7DX, E-mail: nikluker@supanet.com [Out]
- Michael Martinkat, PO Box 1141, Latham, New York 12110, USA, E-mail: katman@albany.net [0 Bonks]
- Alan McTernan, 6 Brookfield Road, Hackney, LONDON E9 5AH, E-mail: amt@glaw.co.uk [Out]
- Bill Mitchell, 151 More Close, St Paul's Court, Kensington, LONDON W14 9BW, Tel: 020 8741 5548, E-mail: bill@miss.org.uk [Out]
- Nigel Monaghan, 15 Cwrt-Y-Vil Road, PENARTH, South Glamorgan CF64 3HN, Tel: 01222 705847, E-mail: nigel.monaghan@tesco.net [Out]
- Graeme Morris, 1 Casburn Lane, Burwell, Cambs CB5 0ED, E-mail: graeme.morris@ntlworld.com [2 Bonks]
- Mark Mortimer, 'St. Kilda', Thornbury Ave, Blackfield, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants SO45 1YQ, Tel: 023 8089 8550, E-mail: mark@mortimero.com [0 Bonks]
- Brian Niemi, 11 Hall Street, Soham, ELY, Cambs CB7 5BN, E-mail: bniemi@thecket.plus.com [Out]
- Tyn Norris, 197 Manor Hall Road, Southwick, W Sussex BN42 4NQ, Tel: 01273 418598, E-mail: heretic@mistral.co.uk [Out]
- David Oliver, Primrose Cottage, 7 Parbrook, Billingshurst, W Sussex RH14 9ET, E-mail: shadowsquid@hotmail.com [0 Bonks]
- Neil Packer, 7 Hawfinch Close, Lordswood, SOUTHAMPTON SO16 8HQ, Tel: 023 8049 4067, E-mail: neil.packer@talk21.com [Out]
- Colin Parfitt, 3 Station Walk, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 3HQ, Tel: 01278 782085, E-mail: colinparfitt@yahoo.co.uk [2 Bonks]
- Craig Pearson, 11 Rayners Close, Stalbridge, MANCHESTER SK15 1TJ, Tel: 0161-304 7414, E-mail: fuddster@btopenworld.com [Out]
- Nahan Richards, 66 Redruth House, Grange Road, SUTTON, Surrey SM2 6RU, Tel: 020 8642 4692, E-mail: Domino100@hotmail.com [Out]
- Wayne Rutledge, PO Box 16062, Dubai, UAE, E-mail: Wayne100@Emirates.net.ae [Out]
- Hajo Schlosser, Am Gengelstraesschen 3, Duesseldorf D-40468, GERMANY, E-mail: RedHajo@aol.com [Out]
- Matthew Shepherd, 18 Jacobs Court, Raglan Street, LOWESTOFT, Suffolk NR32 2LG, Tel: 01502 589866, E-mail: matt@homein-bed9.fsnet.co.uk [Out]
- Benjamin Sorrell, 11a Low Vennel, Wigdown, NEWTON STEWART, Wigtownshire DG8 9HW, Tel: 01988 402050 [Out]
- Jerry Spencer, 51 Elm Vale, LIVERPOOL L6 8NY, Tel: 0151-220 6630, E-mail: italia@gryphon33.fsnet.co.uk [Out]
- Dan Steel, Fir Cottage, 37 Medstead Road, Beech, ALTON, Hants GU34 4AD, Tel: 01420 544061, E-mail: dan@esdeviumgames.com [Out]
- William Steven, 9 Archery Fields House, Wharton Street, LONDON WC1X 9PN, Tel: 020 7837 4585, E-mail: william.steven@virgin.net [Out]
- Barry Townsend, 54 Hadland Road, ABINGDON, Oxon OX14 3YH [0 Bonks]
- Gerrald Udowiczenko, 31 Harewood Terrace, Norwood Green, Middlesex UB2 4JN, Tel: 020 8571 7730, E-mail: magestones@yahoo.co.uk [1 SelfBonks]
- Matthew Wale, 22 Lakeview, 131-133 New Bedford Road, LUTON LU3 1NB, E-mail: m.wale@ntlworld.com [Out]
- Francesca Weal, Hillside, 6 Hobbs Hill, WELWYN, Herts AL6 9DS, Tel: 01438 717017, E-mail: FWP.Welwyn@bhtnrt.net [Out]
- Graeme Wilson, 17 Cornrake Close, Stopsley, LUTON, Beds LU2 8EL, Tel: 01582 726435 [5 Bonks and out!]
- Paul Wilson, 17 Cornrake Close, Stopsley, LUTON, Beds LU2 8EL, Tel: 01582 726435, E-mail: black.dragonuk@yahoo.co.uk [Out]

This is a list of all current players showing their contact details and [current status in the Bonking Game]

## The Guilty Parties

Guy Arnold, 1a Ivy Hill Lane, Godstone, Surrey RH9 8NH, Tel: 01883 744314, E-mail: GNJ15A@netscape.net [Out]

Michael Blasehalk, Flat 2, 146 Craven Park Road, South Tottenham, LONDON N15 6AJ, E-mail: mlbasehalk@hotmail.com [Out]

Chris Boote, Cherry Tree House, 7 Albany Place, EGHAM, Surrey TW20 9HG, E-mail: julia-and-chris@compute-ability.demon.co.uk [Out]

Ben Brown, 7 Church Close, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1SQ, Tel: 01923 829731, E-mail: ben@fhsandben.forces9.co.uk [1 Bonks]

Simon Burring, 108 Shephall Way, STEVENAGE, Herts SG2 9RA, Tel: 01438 214251, E-mail: antony.howell@ntlworld.com [Out]

Pete Card, 4 Bourne Street, DIDCOT, Oxon OX11 8EH, Tel: 01235 816839, E-mail: peter.card@ntlworld.com [0 Bonks]

Robert Carter, 1 Garratt Close, Beddington, Surrey CR0 4PW, Tel: 020 8686 0346, E-mail: robert.carter@malotry.com [1 Bonks]

Terry Crook, 11 Laurel Close, Burniston, SCARBOROUGH, N Yorks YO13 0JQ, Tel: 01723 871290, E-mail: toppers@clara.co.uk [0 Bonks]

Peter Denison, 38 Willow Drive, BICESTER, Oxon OX26 3XA, Tel: 01869 601318, E-mail: ipbs@marshadder.ukiunx.net [0 Bonks]

Sean Devoy, 1 Pyrmont Road, Chiswick, LONDON W4 3NR, E-mail: engarde@devoy.ws [Out]

Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD, E-mail: mike.dommett@yahoo.co.uk [Out]

Jerry Elsmore, 143 Rock Street, SHEFFIELD S3 9JD, Tel: 0114 276 9055, E-mail: JerryElsmore@compuserve.com [0 Bonks]

Colin Forbes, 2A Guinea Street, EXETER, Devon EX1 1BS, Tel: 01392 420682, E-mail: ipbs@btinternet.com [Out]

James Gutton, 7 Hawthinch Close, Lordswood, SOUTHAMPTON, Hants

SO16 8HQ, Tel: 02380 494067, E-mail: jgutton@talk21.com [Out]

Robert Hallett, 33 O'Brien House, Roman Road, Bethnal Green, LONDON E2 0SE, E-mail: rhallett@commercial.fraser-williams.com [Out]

John Harrington, Zine Bank Custodian, 1 Churchbury Close, ENFIELD, Middlesex EN1 3UW [Out]

William Hay, 45 Warneford Street, Hackney, LONDON E9 7NG, Tel: 020 8986 8015, E-mail: wsh@dumain.com [2 Bonks]

Pete Holland, 9 Rockstone Court, Rockstone Lane, SOUTHAMPTON SO14 6HZ, E-mail: pete@hollandpm.freeserve.co.uk [0 Bonks]

Timothy Hunt, 11037 Oak Spur Court, Apt G, St Louis, Missouri 63146, USA, Tel: +1 314 989 0256, E-mail: games@timothy.org.uk [7 Bonks and out!]

Francesca Huskinson, 54 Hadland Road, ABINGDON, Oxon OX14 3YH [0 Bonks]

Martin Jennings, 2 chemin de l'Écharpine, Vernier CH-1214, SWITZERLAND, Tel: +41 22 341 1981, E-mail: jennings@kpnwest.ch [Out]

Mark Jones, 1 Albert Close, Northiam Street, LONDON E9 7EX, E-mail: mark@smithjones.demon.co.uk [1 Bonks]

Andrew Kendall, 39 Chamberlain Place, Walthamstow, LONDON E17 6AY, Tel: 020 8257 3941, E-mail: andrew.kendall@rws-group.com [0 Bonks]

David R Kennard, 3 Sandy Lane, Bramcote Hills, NOTTINGHAM NG9 3GT, Tel: 0115 967 7730, E-mail: drkennard@compuserve.com [Out]

Pam Lindsay, 31 Harewood Terrace, Norwood Green, Middlesex UB2 4JN, Tel: 020 8571 7730, E-mail: pamshooter@yahoo.co.uk [Out]

Benedikt Loewe, Bonner Talweg 29, Bonn D-53113, GERMANY, Tel: +49 228 732928, E-mail: loewe@math.uni-bonn.de [Out]

## Chatter

As you will have noticed, the *Star Trader* report was delayed again last issue and printed as a separate supplement. We are now back on track and I expect the *Star Trader* game to be an integral part of TW/O from now on.

Bear Festival alert! This year's Great British Beer Festival takes place over 5th - 9th August at Olympia in London. I'm planning to go along for the afternoon of the Thursday (7th) - getting there at the end of the lunchtime rush and leaving when it gets busy in the early evening. Anybody want to join me? Or for the Friday afternoon? Let me know.

Meanwhile I will be chilling out in Brittany (aka on holiday) for a couple of weeks at the end of June and the beginning of July. I'll be back in time for the LPBS deadline, but don't expect any answers to queries after 21st June.

I've been looking at March and April's statistics from my website. My review of *The Gothic Game* is still the most popular page on the site - and "Gothic Game" is the most frequent search term that finds the site. (I still have no idea why so many people are looking for this!) After which come my reviews of *Age of Steam* and *Puerto Rico* and my Toy Fair reports. Tuesday is the most popular day of the week for looking at the site. Not surprisingly, there are peaks in usage around the publication date of TW/O and the games' deadline dates. Fascinating stuff, eh?

## Convention Report

The first Maycon took place over the early May bank holiday weekend at the City Inn in Birmingham. It was good fun, with a decent turnout of board gamers and role-players. I took along was my copy of *Looping Louie*, which was a great hit. With both the little kids and the big kids! If you haven't seen this, Louie is a Dick Dastardly figure in a biplane that swings round on the end of an arm. Left to his own devices, he will knock one of your chips off its perch on each rotation - lose all three and you're out. But you have a flipper, with which you can bounce Louie over your chips and, hopefully, down onto the next player's. Keeps 'em occupied for hours.

Lots of recently-published board games were in play: *Annun-Re* and *Mare Nostrum* in particular. Plus lots of *Puerto Rico*. One of the things I particularly like about conventions for is the opportunity to play longer games. I missed out on the game of *Civilization* - it took place overnight and I'm getting too old for this! But I had a most enjoyable game of *Britannia*. There were two freeform (live role-playing) games over the weekend. I didn't participate in either, but everyone who did enjoyed themselves.

The major event was, of course, the SpielChamps tournament – formerly the UK Board and Card Games Championship or Intergame UK. I'm afraid the *To Win Just Once* team did not exactly cover themselves with glory. Despite an excellent performance by Bill Mitchell (two wins, one second place and a third), we came 10th equal out of 15. Yours truly was on particularly bad form: two fourth places and two thirds for six points.

The winning team was "Axis of Wibble" (made up of Alan, Dylan, Ian and Scott) and the prize for the highest-scoring individual went to Sami (three wins and a second place) of the Cambridge-based "M11 Marauders" team. The top teams also qualify to represent the UK at the European Championships, EuropeMasters (formerly Intergame). This takes place on the Sunday of this year's Spiel games fair in Essen, when UK team "The Uninspired" will be defending their European Champions' crown.

Maycon will definitely be happening next year over the same weekend. The location will still be in Birmingham, but probably at a different hotel. While the function rooms at the City Inn were adequate, they could be better – and certainly wouldn't manage a significant increase in numbers. Keep an eye on the website for the latest information: [www.maycon.org](http://www.maycon.org).

## Science Fiction

\*\*\* **Spoiler alert!** \*\*\* As promised last issue, I'm going to write a bit more about Peter F Hamilton's "Night's Dawn" trilogy. If you haven't read the books yet, I suggest you skip this as you may learn more than you want to!

Okay, now I've got that out of the way, my main issue was really during book 2 (*The Neutronium Alchemist*). Book 1 (*The Reality Dysfunction*) established that the souls of the dead are returning, taking possession of the bodies of the living. Their ability to manipulate energy and desire to bring more souls back threatens the whole of human civilisation. Everybody in the books is horrified that the afterlife is so terrible and that it's all they have to look forward to after death. I spent most of *The Neutronium Alchemist* screaming (mentally) at the characters: "they're coming from hell, you idiots!" Or Limbo perhaps. It's such an obvious, logical explanation. Hamilton does eventually have characters realise that not every soul is trapped in 'the Beyond', but doesn't really address the question of heaven vs hell.

What Hamilton does well is to start to differentiate between the returned souls: some are devil worshippers, some are just plain nasty and some are quite decent – though not unequivocally good. He also has fun bringing some historical characters back to life – notably Al Capone and Fletcher Christian. I wonder if this was just an opportunity to capitalise on research he'd done?

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
SC	Sirius Chien	9	6	OK		3		BG	4	Paul Wilson
MdZ	Marc de Zorro	9+	41	OK	Subaltern RFG	2	Betty	BG	5	Colin Parfitt
LdE	Lucien d'Escaillhuitaillement	9+	33	OK		3		BG	4	Nik Luker
PdG	Paul d'Geist	8	5	OK		3		BG	3	Graeme Wilson
OdC	Orson de Combat	8+	45	OK	Captain RM/LtGen's Aide (GdSM)	4	Ava	F&P	5	Francesca Weal
MM	Maurice Mineur	8+	34	OK		6	Marie	BG	5	Mark Jones
EH	Euria Humble	8+	33	OK	Major RM/Gen's Aide (AR)	7	Sue	BG	5	Matthew Wale
CdE	Charlot d'Evoir	8+	32	Comfy	Major ALC/Hvy Brigade Maj.	2	Deb	BG	1	Simon Burling
GdLi	Gar de Lieu	8+	27	OK	Lt.Colonel 4A	2		BG	4	Bill Hay
JoR	Jean ou Rous	7+	44	Poor	Lt.Colonel Gscn	2	Belle	F&P	2	Brian Niemi
JEKK	Jared E Kaph-Kophi	7+	30	Wlthy	Subaltern CG	6		F&P	3	Timothy Hunt
LR	Lothar Rio	6	14	Comfy	Lt.Colonel 53F	2	Angelina	F&P	3	David Kennard
JS	Jacques Shitacks	6+	50	OK	Major RM	3	Ulla	RP	4	David Olliver
JNG	Jacques N Gilles	6+	49	OK	Colonel 4A	4	Ingrid	RP	3	Nigel Monaghan
RdO	Revaulvin d'Or	6+	30	OK	Major 13F/2 F Brigade Maj.	7	Di	F&P	4	Jerry Spencer
X3	Xavier 3sup	6+	29	Poor	Captain RM/Bdr's Aide (1 F Bde)	4	Anna	RP	5	Mark Mortimer
GL	Gaston Lescroc	5	F	Wlthy		3		F&P	3	Hajo 'Red' Schlosser
MDES	Mon Dieu Ewe Swine	5	F	Comfy	Subaltern QOC	5			5	Wayne Rutledge
JdF	Jean de Florette	5+	38	OK	Captain 13F	4			4	Robert Carter
JdV	Joseph de Veevre	4+	24	Comfy	Captain 13F	3	Ada	RP	5	Andrew Kendall
JP	Jean Petit	4+	23	OK		3		RP	4	Pete Card
RdM	Rob d'Masses	2+	30	OK	Captain RM	3	Lois		4	Craig Pearson

An F under SPs means that the character was at the Front, RIP means that he died. + against SL means it went up this month, - means it went down. Cash: Poor = <500, OK = 500-1500, Comfy = 1500-5000, Wlthy = 5000-10000, Rich = 10000-25000, Flthy = 25000+  
Last seen is the lady the character was last seen with in public.

EC is Endurance Class: 1 = <60, 2 = 60-90, 3 = 91-120, 4 = 121-159, 5 = 160-200, 6 = 201+

### The Greasy Pole

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
AR	Count Abel Ringeur	26	59	OK	B.General/1st Army Commndr	11	Bette	Flr	4	Bill Michell
JIT	Count Justin Time	26	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General CG	34		Flr	5	Dan Steel
MLR	Count Marvin Leigh Rowbow	24	64	Comfy	Fld Marshal	11	Jane	Flr	3	Martin Jennings
HTC	Count Henry Thierry Christian	22	55	Rich	Colonel QOC/State Min.	12	Josephine	Flr	3	Matthew Shepherd
CWAE	Earl Co W. Ard Extrême	21	55	OK	General/2nd Army Commndr	5	Polly	Flr	3	Benedikt Löwe
DAV	Count D Arth Vader	21	44	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General DG/Justice Min.	11		Flr	6	Michael Blasebalk
CBY	Earl Claude Byacat	21	F	Wlthy	Lt-General/Fntr Div Commandr	5		Flr	4	William Steven
ZTMG	Viscount Zachary The Money Goes	20-	36	Comfy	Colonel KM/Min w/o Port	10	Kathy	Flr	4	Gerald Udowiczzenko
REYE	Viscount R Even d'Ypres d'Ete	19	50	Rich	Bdr-General/Gds Brigadier	12		Flr	2	Benjamin Sorrill
CaT	Baron Charles à Tanne	19+	69	Wlthy	Lt.Colonel CG/FMshl's Aide	9	Fifi	Flr	4	Alan McTernan
SDL	Stan Dandy Liver	18	48	Comfy	B.Bdr-General RM/1 F Brigadier	8	Bess	Flr	4	Guy Arnold
AQH	Sir Alfonse Qué Holique	18+	55	Rich	Colonel RFG/1st Army Adjutnt	5	Ella	Both	5	Tym Norris
CIG	Sir Charlemagne le Gosse	17+	51	Comfy	Major CG/Gds Brigade Maj.	6	Ophelia	Both	2	Neil Packer
BdM	Earl Beppe de Marko	16	45	Rich	Colonel CPC/Chancellor	14		Flr	2	Rob Hallett
LI	Baron Lokwot Isaw	14	39	Rich	Major RFG	9	Charlotte	Both	3	Barry Townsend
AdS	Sir Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger	14	31	Comfy	Lt.Colonel RM/1st Div Adjutant	2	Katy	Both	2	Pam Lindsay
HC	Sir Harry Covert	14+	51	Comfy	Lt.Colonel RFG	8	Jacky	Both	2	James Guiton
GdSM	Marquis Gaston de St Marque	14+	49	Comfy	B.Lt-General/1st Div Commandr	8		BG	2	Nathan Richards
SS	Sir Sean Sondamour	14+	44	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General ALC/1st Army QMG	3	Henrietta	Both	2	Pete Holland
DdR	Don de Rico	13+	43	OK	Lt.Colonel DG	6	Maggie	Hunt	3	Sean Devoy
JdB	Sir Jacques dans le Box	13+	42	Wlthy	Lt.Colonel ALC	2	Leia	Both	6	Ben Brown
BR	Sir Beau Romir	12	30	OK	Major KM/KM Regt. Adjt.	4	Mary	Both	3	Graeme Morris
GdL	Baron Guy de Lynes	11	F	Comfy	B.Bdr-General PLLD	5		Hunt	1	Colin Forbes
RdB	Sir Robert d'Bildare	11+	59	Rich	Major KM	2		Hunt	3	Terry Crook
OP	Omi Palone	11+	45	Comfy	B.Bdr-General 13F/2 F Brigadier	3	Lucy	Hunt	4	Mike Dommett
BdW	Bud d'Wiser	11+	37	Comfy	Colonel GDMD	8	Lotte	Hunt	2	Francesca Huskinson
DyB	Dan y Beauye	10	F	Wlthy	Lt.Colonel KM	5		Hunt	4	Chris Boote
RO	Rene Ouai	10+	33	Comfy	Colonel 69A	1	Frances	Hunt	5	Peter Denison

As I said last time, I didn't find the ending disappointing or a *deus ex machina*. I don't see that the 'Sleeping God' of the third book (*The Naked God*) can be classified as this. One of the main strands of the book's plot is the search for this, umm, thing, specifically in case it can provide an answer to the crisis. And several major characters are on the hunt, so you know it's important. That it turns out to be more or less what was expected is hardly a surprise. And I think it's a very logical resolution of the story.

Much more of a *deus ex machina* are the various human agents of the Kiint who pop up in *The Neutronium Alchemist* and save major characters' bacon on several occasions. Initially, the inference I drew was that another power was at work in opposition to the evil of the possessing souls. Hamilton just seems to use them to save important characters when he feels like it, which jars.

Oh, one last point: the language. Hamilton gets a bit transatlantic, referring to women's underwear as both knickers and panties in the same paragraph, for example. Was someone editing the text for a US audience but missed bits? Or is it just the author's inconsistencies? And then there are the counter-rotating spaceports. There is no spaceport in this story, be it ever so humble, that is not counter-rotating. And we, the readers, need to be apprised of this fact. So the counter-rotating spaceport is always described as a counter-rotating spaceport even when the counter-rotating spaceport has already been mentioned in the same paragraph. Actually, I only noticed this in *The Naked God*, where it got rather over-powering.

None of which changes my enjoyment of the 3,000+ pages of this story.

## Letters

A couple of responses to my Science Fiction column. Simon Burling is first.

Paul about your query on more stories in [the setting of] the "Night's Dawn" trilogy: try *The Confederation Handbook* or *A Second Chance of Eden*.

Thanks, Simon. A quick check on Amazon tells me that the first is notes and glossary to the trilogy, while the second is a collection of short stories (and one novella) set in the same universe, but written before the trilogy. According to Amazon, Hamilton has tweaked or re-written these stories to make them consistent with the "Night's Dawn" books. And Amazon's doing a special offer on both... Colin Parfitt has also written in.

You asked for some feedback on the science-fiction section and so I'm sharing my thoughts with you.

Unfortunately, of all the books you have reviewed I have only picked up one (or three) – "His Dark Materials". You did give away a couple of major plot twists in the review – the true identities of Mrs Coulter and Lord Asriel, the King of The Bears regaining his crown. Will becoming guardian of the Subtle Knife and the escape from the world of the dead – all twists that happened quite late on in the respective books. Perhaps it was because you tried to review each book separately and give equal space to each one. However, "His Dark Materials" is quite twisty enough that a couple of spoilers don't ruin the story. Also, I've no idea how I'd review it – I thought the final battle was anti-climatic – this is Arrangeddon and it effectively ends with Mrs Coulter bashing God on the head with a rock. And you see I have ruined the plot myself.

But I wouldn't have picked up the series without your review – and I thoroughly enjoyed it – part of BBC's 100 best books, too.

Thanks for the feedback, Colin. I think I shall have to try harder! And I'd appreciate further comments from anyone else who wants to chip – now or in the future.

## Games Events

The summer occurrence of Stabcon is at the end of this month: 27th – 29th June at Woolton Hall in Manchester. This is a Hall of Residence on the Fallowfield Campus of Manchester University and accommodation is available. This box concentrates on games events I expect to attend.

**Swiggers:** games club that meets Wednesday evenings (though December dates depend on venue availability) at the Bunch of Grapes, St Thomas Street, London SE1. Board games and occasional role-playing. No charges, all welcome. (<http://www.pevans.co.uk/Swiggers>)

**Games Games Days:** from noon on the second Saturday of every month (except August & December) at the Duke of York pub at 35 New Cavendish Street, London W1. Day of board games hosted by SFC Press. (<http://www.sfcg.co.uk/Events/>)

**Maycon:** a mixture of board games and role-playing at a comfortable hotel in central Birmingham, 30th April – 3rd May 2004 (bank holiday weekend). For more details: [www.maycon.org](http://www.maycon.org).

**Spiel:** the board games event of the year. Oct. 23rd-26th 2003, at the Messe (Exhibition Centre) in Essen (Germany). Contact Friedhelm Merz Verlag, Postfach 210950, Bonn, 53157 Germany, [http://www.merz-verlag.com/e/Spiel\\_e.html](http://www.merz-verlag.com/e/Spiel_e.html).

**MidCon:** board games plus the UK's National Diplomacy Championship. Nov 2003. The Birmingham City Hotel in central Birmingham. Contact: SFC Press, <http://www.sfcg.co.uk/Events/>.

## Hell Hath no Fury...

No	Name	SL	Attr	Last	No	Name	SL	Attr	Last
61	Bette Noire	19	W	AR	63	Carole Singeurs	11		
64	Etha Bucquette	18	W		20	Emma Roides	10	1	
3	Kathy Pacific	17	B	ZTMG	33	Anna Roides	10	1	X3
35	Katy Did	16	1	ADS	38	Pet Ullante	10	W	
42	Maggie Nifiscent	16	B	DDR	43	Di Lemmere	10	1	RdO
55	Jacky Time	16	W	HC	53	Angelina de Griz	10	B	LR
60	Polly Hydronne	16	W	CWAE	56	Ingrid la Suede	10		JNG
52	Guinevere d'Arthur	15	BW		51	Jane Lapocaire	9	B/WW	MLR
10	Frances Forrin	14	B	RO	57	Ava Crisp	9	1	ODC
48	Fifi	14	BW	CAT	59	May Banquet l'Idée	9		
16	Ophelia Derriere	14	BW	CAT	2	Betsy Kant	8	1	MDZ
26	Ella Fant	13	B	AQH	19	Jenny Russe	8	W	
27	Lucy Fur	13	B	OP	32	Sai Munnella	8	W	
30	Leia Orgasna	13	B	JdIB	41	Marie Ancoinette	8	B/I	MM
45	Cath de Thousands	13	B		47	Eve Ningalle	8	I/W	
8	Lotte Bortle	12	B	BdW	49	Mary Huana	8	B/WW	BR
12	Charlotte de Gaulle	12	LI		34	Freda de Ath	7	W	
17	Henrietta Carrotte	12	I/W	SS	39	Thomasina Tancerjin	7	1	
28	Vera Cruz	12			50	Ulla Leight	7	1	JS
31	Bess Otrede	12	I/W	SDL	5	Belle Epoque	6	B/I	JdR
1	Sue Briquet	11	B	EH	13	Josephine Buonoparre	6	I/W	HTC
4	Anne Tique	11	W		24	Violet Bort	6	I/W	
9	Deb Onairre	11	1		15	Ada Andabercor	5	B/I	JdV
40	Sheila Kiwi	11		CdE	25	Lots de Low	5	B	RdM

This table shows the mistresses in Paris: B=Beautiful, I=Influential, W=Wealthy, Last = Last lover seen with this month

## Other Appointments

King's Escort Ensign N	Captain N
Cardinal's Escort Ensign	Captain N
Aides: to Crown Prince N	to Field Marshal Cat
Provincial Military Governors: N/N/N/N/N	Adjutant-General N
City Military Governor N	of Infantry N
Inspectors-General: of Cavalry N	
Commissioner of Public Safety	
Chancellor of the Exchequer BdM	Minister of Justice DAV
Minister of War	Minister of State HTC

Shows who holds appointments outside military units: ID for Characters, N for NPC, \_ for vacant, CPS for additional posts held by the CPS.

Regiments Organisation																	
Col	RFG	CG	KM	DG	QOC	ALC	CPC	RM	GDMD	PM	13F	PLLD	53F	27M	4A	69A	Gscn
LCol	AQH	JiT	ZTMG	DAV	HTC	SS	BdM	SDL+	BdW		OP+	GdL	N8		JNG	RO	JoR
Maj	HC	CaT	DyB	DdR		JdLB		AdS			NI	N5	LR		GdLi		
Maj	LI	CIG+	RdB		N3+	CdE+	NI	EH	N4+		RdO+		N2	N6+	N1*	N6+	
Capt	N2*	N2	BR*		N3		N2	JS			JdV		N2	N3	N1	N1	N3
Capt	N4	N6	N6	N4	N5	N3	N2	N6	N6	N1	N6		N1	N5	N6	N1	N6
Capt	N2	N3	N1	N3*	N3	N2	N4	RdM	N3	N2	N4		N6	N5	N3	N1*	N5
Capt		N5*	N3	N3	N6*		N4	OdC	N2	N3	N4		N1*	N5	N3	N1*	N5
Capt		N4	N4	N3	N4		N3*	X3	N3*	N2*	N3*		N1*	N4*	N1	N1	N1*
Capt											JdF						N1*

Entries are Character abbreviations, N (+ Military Ability) for NPC, blank for vacant, \* shows the regiment adjutant. + shows ranks held by characters with a brevet rank or an appointment elsewhere.

Frontier Regiments					
(Siege for Mar-May)					
Colonel	F1 N3	F2 N4	F3 N6	F4 N2	RNHB N4
Attached	JiT MDES	I Bn KM	GL		CBy
Also at the Front					
Princess Louisa Lt Dragoons					

This table shows volunteers currently in action and their deployment.

available in the Hall. This event is a mixture of board games and role-playing of all types. Details from 17 Davenport Park Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 6JU or bookings@stabcon.org.uk. There's also an e-mail list, Stabconinfo, which you can sign up for at <http://groups.yahoo.com>.

Manorcon is next, taking place from 18th to 21st July. As always it's at the University of Birmingham Halls of Residence, with accommodation in the Halls. This is the largest board games event of the year and includes several formal tournaments, particularly a major *Diplomacy* tournament. More details from the website: [www.diplom.org/manorcon](http://www.diplom.org/manorcon).

Dicecon is a one-day board games event at the end of August: 24th, to be exact. It's held at the Quality Inn in Glasgow and includes several formal tournaments. Details from the website: [www.dicecon.com](http://www.dicecon.com).

And advance notice of Torch of Freedom, a weekend-long freeform role-playing game, which is taking place at the end of November (28th-30th). It's being held at the West Retford Hotel, Retford, Notts and more details are available at <http://www.flar.demon.co.uk/freeform/torchoffreedom.htm>.

## Railway Rivals

We have a game start with five players preparing to build railways over the Romania Map. The players' company names, colour and start town are: John Harrington: Trains Take You Further (TTYF), BLUE, starting from Satu Mare.

Nathan Richards: Romanov Railways (RR), RED, starting from Galatai.

Gerald Udowiczenko: Impaler Trains (IT), BLACK, starting from Timosara.

Mark Jones: Huge Engines Doing Great Excursions Honorably Over Ground (HEDGEHOG), GREEN, starting from Bucaresti.

Timothy Hunt: Ivor & Co (I&C), PURPLE, starting from Bucaresti.

The die rolls for building on the first turn are 6, 4 and 4.

Orders to Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD or by e-mail to [mike\\_dommett@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_dommett@yahoo.com) by Friday, 27th June.

## Credits

To Win *Just Once* issue 35 was written and edited by Paul Evans. The cover is a montage of drawings by Tim Wiseman, who also did the picture on page 15. The LPBS masthead (page 9) is by Lee Brimicombe-Wood and the illustration on page 17 by Nik Luker.

## The Bonking Game

The name goes back to more innocent times and the game has also appeared under other titles. Each turn, you can bonk (= nominate) one other recipient of this magazine. Anyone who gets a certain number of bonks in a turn (4 at the start, but now down to 3) is out of the game. Last man standing wins. The game is open to anyone who receives *TWJO*. All you have to do is send me the name of one other recipient – who's still in the game – and give your reasons. If you fail to do so, you bonk yourself (self-bonks are cumulative).

### Turn Nine

Barry Townsend bonks Timothy Hunt "because he has 2 self-bonks so with my bonk he's out, another one bites the dust." Robert Carter bonks Timothy, too: "the fewer Cardinal's Guards around, the better." Ben Brown bonks Timothy Hunt: "he only needed one more bonk last time, so I thought that I would help out." Terry Crook bonks Ben – "First one I saw with no bonks." Michael Martinhat bonks Bill Hay "for bonking damselfs in distress." Francesca Huskinson bonks Robert Carter, as "he has 2 bonks and one more just might finish him off" But that was last turn.

Jerry Elsmore bonks Graeme Wilson "before his random bonks get me and because he's last on the list and everyone else seems to be starting at the other end. Sorry, alma mater and all that, but the motto was 'Do Different.'" Mark Jones also bonks Graeme W "as he may bonk me by accident if he carries on bonking at random." And Pete Card says "bonk Graeme Wilson: you know it makes sense!" Pete Holland is not to be left out: "Graeme Wilson – anyone who gets someone else to pick their bonk deserves all they get."

Andrew Kendall bonks Mark Jones for "being unbonked so far." Pete Denison bonks Graeme Morris "as his name was inexplicably drawn to my attention when I opened the page." Mark Mortimer bonks Graeme "for absolutely no reason. Sorry, Graeme!" Graeme gets his revenge by bonking ... Timothy Hunt: "2 self bonks make you this month's 'rat in a barrel!' David Olliver bonks Colin Parfitt "because he seems to like stopping things and it's time he got a taste of his own medicine." Gerald Udowiczenko bonks Martin Jennings "as I never did get any of that Swiss chocolate he brought over (and promised me some) for Gen Con UK." That's what I like to see: petty vindictiveness (it was good chocolate, too!). Shame that Martin's already out of the game!

And with that out go Timothy Hunt and Graeme Wilson. I think we need a few more casualties each turn, so I may well drop the bonked-out score to 2 next time... Skill playing are: Ben Brown, Pete Card, Robert Carter, Terry Crook, Peter Denison, Jerry Elsmore, William Hay, Pete Holland, Francesca Huskinson, Mark Jones, Andrew Kendall, Michael Martinhat, Graeme Morris, Mark Mortimer, David Olliver, Colin Parfitt, Jacky Sharp, Barry Townsend, Gerald Udowiczenko.

Get your bonks to Pevans at 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF or [twjo@pevans.co.uk](mailto:twjo@pevans.co.uk) by 4th July 2003

rests) and Rene Ouai (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause as enemies. Robert d'Billare (Rapier) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, adv.) as he's not Noble. Rene Ouai (Rapier, adv.) and Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS) have mutual cause as enemies. Rene Ouai (Rapier, adv.) and Xavier 3sup (Cutlass) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Sean Sondamour (Sabre, Seconds CIG, adv.) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, 1 rests) as he's not Noble but higher SL. Don de Rico (Sabre, 3 rests) and Henry Thierry Christian (Sabre, Seconds AR, adv.) have mutual cause as enemies. Rob d'Masses (Cutlass, 1 rests) and Rene Ouai (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments. Gaston de St Marque (Rapier, 2 rests) has cause with Zachary The Money Goes (Rapier, adv.) over Kathy. Jared E Kaph-Kophi (Rapier, Seconds

CaT, adv.) and Lothar Rio (Rapier, 4 rests) have mutual cause over Deb. Orson de Combat (Cutlass, Seconds EH, 2 rests) has cause with Jean Petit (Sabre, adv.) over Ava. D Arth Vader (Sabre) and Henry Thierry Christian (Sabre, Seconds AR, adv.) have mutual cause as enemies.

"Adv." Indicates player with the advantage in Expertise: his first duelling sequence need only contain six Actions.

Duels held over until June:

Justin Time versus Gaston de St Marque.

All duels (including any to be voted on) must be fought next month unless held over due to one or other duellist being at the Front. Orders conditional on a challenge being voted cause are acceptable.

### Battle Results

Princess Louisa Lt Dragons: 5  
Frontier regiment 1: 5  
Frontier regiment 2: 4  
Frontier regiment 3: 3  
Frontier regiment 4: 4  
RNHB regiment 3

## Tables

Brigade Positions	
Guards Brigade	REYEN/CIG
Horse Guards Brigade	N4/N/N3
Heavy Brigade	N2/N/CDE
Dragon Brigade	N3/N/N4
First Foot Brigade	SDUX3/
Second Foot Brigade	OP/N/RdO
Third Foot Brigade	N4/N/N6
Fourth Foot Brigade	N4/N/N6

Entries as Army Organisation Table

Army Organisation and Summer Deployment	
First Army (Defence)	ARE/H/AQH/SS
First Division (Defence)	GDSM/ODC/ADS
2nd Foot Brigade (Defence) – PM 53F	
3rd Foot Brigade (Defence) – 27M 4A	
4th Foot Brigade (Defence) – 69A Gscn	
RNHB Regiment (Defence)	
Second Army (Siege)	CMAEN/N2/N
Frontier Division (Siege)	CBY/N/N5
Frontier Regiments (Siege)	

Organisation and Deployment for the Campaign Season plus Army and Division posts (CO/Aide/Adj'v/QMG):  
ID for chars, N (+ MA for CO and Adj'v) for NPC, \_\_\_ for vacant.

Dan y Beauve asks NPC Division Adjutant of First Division to resign  
 Dan y Beauve asks NPC Division Adjutant of Frontier Division to resign  
 Dan y Beauve asks NPC Division Commander of First Division to resign  
 Jared E Kaph-Kophi applies for

Ensign, Cardinal's Escort  
 Revaulvin d'Or asks NPC Lt. Colonel of 13th Fusiliers to resign  
 Zachary The Money Goes asks NPC Captain 1 of King's Musketeers to resign  
 Zachary The Money Goes asks NPC Captain 3 of King's Musketeers to resign

## Duels

Results of this month's duels:

Jean Petit (gains 1 Exp) beat Joseph de Veevre.  
 Beau Romir didn't turn up to fight  
 Charles à Tanne and lost SPs.  
 Don de Rico (gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Henry Thierry Christian.  
 Rene Ouai declined to meet Orson de Combat – under half Endurance.  
 Jacques Shitacks (gains 1 Exp) beat his enemy Rene Ouai.  
 Don de Rico (gains 1 Exp) beat Stan Dandy Liver (with ODC & SS, under half Endurance).  
 Harry Covert (gains 1 Exp) beat Stan Dandy Liver (with ODC & SS, under half Endurance).

Grudges to be settled next month:

Bud d'Wiser (Sabre) and Jacques dans le Box (Sabre, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.  
 Bud d'Wiser (Sabre, adv.) and Sean Sondamour (Sabre, Seconds ClG, 2 rests) have mutual cause as enemies.  
 Beau Romir (Sabre, Seconds RdB) and Charles à Tanne (Dagger, Seconds ClG) have mutual cause as enemies.  
 Beau Romir (Sabre, Seconds RdB, 2 rests) and Jared E Kaph-Kophi (Rapier, Seconds Cat, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.  
 Beau Romir (Sabre, Seconds RdB) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, adv.) as he's not Noble but higher SL.

Charles à Tanne (Dagger, Seconds ClG) and Robert dBildare (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause as enemies.

Charles à Tanne (Dagger, Seconds ClG, 4 rests) and Zachary The Money Goes (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Don de Rico (Sabre, adv.) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, 1 rests) as he's not Noble.  
 Eurria Humble (Cutlass, Seconds SDL & SC) and Rene Ouai (Rapier) have mutual cause for enemy regiments.

Harry Covert (Rapier, adv.) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS) as he's not Noble.  
 Jacques dans le Box (Sabre, adv.) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, 3 rests) as he's not Noble but higher SL.

Jared E Kaph-Kophi (Rapier, Seconds Cat, adv.) and Robert dBildare (Rapier, 2 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Jared E Kaph-Kophi (Rapier, Seconds Cat, 3 rests) and Zachary The Money Goes (Rapier, adv.) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.

Jacques Shitacks (Cutlass, adv.) and Rene Ouai (Rapier, 1 rests) have mutual cause for being in enemy regiments.  
 Lucien d'Escaillehuitaillements (Rapier) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, adv.) as he's not Noble but higher SL.  
 Lokwot Isaw (Rapier, adv.) has cause with Stan Dandy Liver (Cutlass, Seconds ODC & SS, 2 rests) as he's not Noble.

Orson de Combat (Cutlass, Seconds EH, 2

## Star Trader

### Odessa Steps – Turn 3

*"So what ships are they, out there at detection limits?"*

*"I'm not sure, it's hard to pick them out against the clutter. They seem to have high Delta V and it's hard to be sure of the readings. They've got military tech out there." The Federation Corvette Commander looked frustrated. If the equipment out here at Tau Ceti was more modern, then they could patrol much more effectively.*

*"They seem to be waiting for someone."*

*"But they've ignored people jumping in system."*

*"So they haven't seen their quarry yet."*

Trading for Alloys at Gamma Leporis was brisk. GRAND LARS THENI bought 10 Units for 6 HTs each, and were made Dealers. INTERSTELLAR METALS bought 4 at 5HTs from the left overs, while TOTAL TRANSIT 2070's bid of 4, and KATKORP's bid of 3 were too low.

TOTAL TRANSIT 2070 had more success in the same commodity at Epsilon Erdani, buying 6 for 7 HTs apiece, after THE UNIVERSAL had bought 2 for 8 HTs to fill their holds. GRAND LARS THENI also bid 7 to buy, but were way back on the initiative order. TOTAL TRANSIT sold 10 Liquors for 15 HTs each and a Dealership on the back of rising prices and the adulteration scandal at Alpha Centauri. TOTAL TRANSIT also sold 3 Isotopes for 8 HTs, and GRAND LARS THENI were left bidding too high to sell at 9 HTs.

THE UNIVERSAL was busy at Delta Toucanis but with mixed success. First they tried to buy Alloys for 6 HTs – with the starting price at 12 they got nowhere. Then they tried to sell Petroleum at 12 HTs, and were undercut by INTERSTELLAR METALS bidding to sell at 10 HTs. The market price fell to 8, and no one sold anything. A bid of 14 for Spice resulted in 8 units being purchased and a Dealership to THE UNIVERSAL. Tau Ceti saw SHYLOCKS selling 2 Isotopes for 4 HTs and KATKORP buying 2 Isotopes for 4 HTs.

SHYLOCKS suffered at Mu Herculis, trying to sell Isotopes for 9 HTs as the price fell and then trying to buy Liquor for 13 HTs as the price rocketed up. TRANS SOLAR TRADING tried to buy at 15 with similar lack of success. NEW EXPENSIVE WEAPONS BRING INDUSTRIAL EMPIRE bought 4 Monopoles at 14 HTs, BLAND & BRASS's bid of 12 and THE UNIVERSAL's bid of 13 being unrewarded. TRANS SOLAR TRADING INC. did buy 7 Petroleum for 13 HTs each and a Dealership, and INTERSTELLAR METAL sold 6 for 11 HTs each, but after last quarter's performance, nothing was being given to IM.

Sigma Draconis saw THE UNIVERSAL buying 6 Alloys for 8 HTs apiece. INTERSTELLAR METALS tried to sell Isotopes at 6 HTs but failed. TRANS SOLAR sold 10 Petroleum for 12 HTs and a Dealership, and then bought 6 Spice for 12 HTs and another Dealership. INTERSTELLAR METALS sold 2 Spice at 12 HTs

as well. No one traded at Beta Hydri and Alpha Centauri, despite the number of ships in the Spaceport, saw KATKORP selling 5 Alloys for 7 HTs and SWISS MERCENARY'S FLEET selling 6 Spice for 15 HTs - a quiet quarter in the system. TOTAL TRANSPORT 2070 bought a Light Weapon pod from TSTI and added it and a cargo pod to DX Goods. NEWBIE, retitled, took OP23, buying at least 5 units at Epsilon Erdani planetside, despite not having all the assistance they had expected. The connection with criminal elements didn't seem to affect them as they improved their Political Connections locally, doubtless greasing some palms.

TRANS SOLAR TRADING INC. were swapping pods and selling to all and sundry. BLAND & BRASS bought a Light Weapons pod and a Passenger pod at cost off of the Adam, and a Passenger Pod from Eve into KATKORP's GL warehouse in addition to the sale to TT2070. The new ship, Zorro, was launched at Epsilon Erdani, and cargo pods were bought for Eve. A loan of 465 HTs was taken out over 4 turns and money was spent on warehouses at Mu Herculis and Delta Toucanis, increasing Political Connections and laying down a new Phoenix hull at Tau Ceti.

KATKORP took out a loan as well, for 303 HTs over 4 turns. They spent it on increasing Reputation, laying down a new Phoenix hull - called Lion - at Tau Ceti, buying cargo and an Augmented Jump pod for the Tiger (launched this turn with an A class crew), buying warehouses at Sigma Draconis and Alpha Centauri and increasing their Business Connections. BLAND & BRASS were buying pods from TSTI and collecting passengers. THE CULTURE sold Light Weapon pods from both of their ships and transferred pods between the fleet. They were also hiring more A class crew for the Monarch Hull. Federation banking staff, who restricted THE CULTURE to a 247 HT loan last quarter, have been reprimanded and the loan increased to 274 HTs in total.

GRAND LARS THENI were quiet this quarter. INTERSTELLAR METALS increased their stock of agents, Percent being seen entering company offices at Gamma Leporis. TAU CETI EXPRESS collected their usual crowds of passengers and hired Dragon at Tau Ceti with some of the proceeds. They increased Business Connections and tried to increase Reputation, but this failed. THE UNIVERSAL bought a passenger pod for Tin Soldier and an Aug. Jump pod for Green Circles.

SWISS MERCENARY'S FLEET sold a Cargo pod from the Pike and bewailed the Liquor problem at Alpha Centauri. NEKEKAMI hired agent Fox at Tau Ceti and then sold Deca at Mu Herculis for 140% of list price. TAU CETI EXPRESS gave them 40 HTs and a warehouse and part of this was invested in increasing NEKEKAMI's Criminal Connections. Finally SHYLOCKS took out a 200 HT loan and beat everyone else to OP 38, loading the Ambassador into the Shylock.

### News Chits

Event 19 took place this turn.

There are 4 new chits this turn, shown in bold below. Current chits are:

Corporation G took OP 38 and Turn 5 Pg. **B6, P6**  
 Corporation B took OP 23. Turn 6 Pl. **B4**  
 Turn 7 C1.

Punish All Threats Diego Orders Revenge

### Poetry Corner

(All signed poetry submissions gain their author at least 1 SP)

It appears that Earl Byacat's Adjutant has been suppin' a little too deeply of the nightcaps and, for the fourth time, has slept through the Lt General's mornin' briefin' session. 'Tis a disgrace that the fine Lt General should have to put up with a sot like that as an adjutant, don't yer all think? Anon

Sean Dandy rhymes with manly,  
 But Art doesn't imitate life.  
 He also rhymes with Stanley,  
 But razor sharp he ain't!

+ JP

## Points Arising

Once again, my apologies for printing the wrong tables with last turn's report. I trust everybody got the corrected versions.

settled... " heading. If you're not listed, you cannot attend the duel - even if a principal invites you.

No orders were received from the following and they suffered accordingly:  
 GL Gaston Lesroc (Halo Red' Schlosser) has NMR'd. Total now 3 and is sent to a Frontier regiment.  
 JIT Justin Time (Dan Steel) has NMR'd. Total now 2 and is sent to a Frontier regiment.

**Reminders:** It is worth sending orders in even if they're a day or two late: I may be able to action the orders and will probably be able to use any press. It also reassures me that you're still out there.

That's the smallest number of NMRs for a long time - give yourselves a pat on the back.

You are welcome to submit orders and press by e-mail or on diskette (PC format) - disks will be returned with the next mailing. Getting your press this way is particularly helpful. E-mail orders to me at LPBS@PEVANS.CO.UK - remember to give your name and your character's name and specify actions in full (since it's without your character sheet). Attached files should have your character ID and the month in the name. If you want queries answered before the deadline, e-mail paul@pevans.co.uk. ◊ P

PDG (Graeme Wilson) and SC (Paul Wilson) have been floated at their request, due to the intrusion of the real world.

Come on guys, the rules on seconding are straightforward: a character can only turn up as a second if his name is listed in the duel details under the "Grudges to be

## Announcements

Claude Byacat asks NPC Division Adjutant of Frontier Division to resign

Claude Byacat asks NPC Aide to Lt.

General (CBY) to resign

Co W. Ard Extrême asks NPC Aide to General (CWAE) to resign

Co W. Ard Extrême asks NPC Army

Adjutant of Second Army to resign  
 Co W. Ard Extrême asks NPC Army Quarter Master Gen. of Second Army to resign

Dan y Beauye asks NPC Aide to Lt.

General of First Division to resign

Dan y Beauye asks NPC Aide to Lt. General (CBY) to resign

Dear Mum,

I am setting in nicely here in Paris. I have joined up with the Gascon Regiment and, when they found out about my background, they promoted me to be an Officer! My aide tells me that if I keep this up, I'll one day command the whole regiment. Personally, I think he is crazy, but I suppose stranger things have happened. I have met the most wonderful girl. Maybe I'll bring her home for Christmas, if the Regiment will let me off long enough to come home.

Your son,

† JGR

Overheard in the KM barracks...

**1<sup>st</sup> Trooper:** "I hear that the troopers of the Cardinal's Guard will follow their Colonel, Count J. Time, anywhere in battle..."

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trooper:** "Yes, but only out of pure curiosity!"

Lord Percy Percy says: as fashion is tending towards the unpleasant smell, the ALC barracks have got to be pretty fashionable!

Dear Lord Percy Percy

What is it about sheep that you find scary? Count Abel Ringeur also frequents the company of the quietest sheep only.

That General Byracat's a hero to French soldiers with his Field Ambulances, Bordellos and Bakeries. Who is Le Patrician d'Or anyway? A nobody, that's who.

To: B.Brdr-General SDL  
There was some error in communication last month. It meant that I was left waiting for transport. I am at your disposal in the future.  
† Captain RDM

Pervert Any Truth D'ons On Rampage

As Earl Claude, Viscount Zachary and Sir Alfonse show: the great and good show largesse and wines – the small man just whines. † JAV

To Skan Dandy Liver

Sir,  
I apologise most wholeheartedly for my rude comments about the 69 perverts who call themselves a regiment. Oh, the shame of it!  
Yours,  
† Jacques Shitracks

To: Omni Polone [sic]

Thanks for the invitation. However you talk complete crap about a situation you know very little of. The paperwork from my creditors was replaced without my knowledge to reflect a higher premium and a shorter term. They also added the Knee-Cap sub-clause, despite me paying for the Payment Protection Plan. Please keep these kind of comments to yourself in the future!  
† Rob d'Masses

To: The honourable Colonel Viscount

The Money Goes

From: Lieutenant Colonel Beuaye

PLEASE get promoted, you're not the only man who could be Colonel y'know. And I could do with the extra money to pay me drink and dry cleaning bills – green vomit is terrible hard to remove from me uniform...  
Ta, me good o' boy.

Part of annual report on Colonel Count J. Time:

... and I fear the Colonel will go through life pushing doors marked pull!  
... sets low standards and fails to achieve them...

Corporation letter & name	Conn'n Levels	Bus Crim	Pol	Init Bid	Turn Order	Cash Rep'n	Player
A Total Transit 2070	3	0	7	0	7th	155 30	Simon Burling
B New Expensive Weapons	1	7	1	5	8th	27 23	Peter Denison
C Bring Industrial Empire	5	7	2	0	11th	305 40	Jerry Eismore
D Trans-Solar Trading, Inc	5	5	4	2	4th	50 40	Paul Evans
E Interstellar Metals	6	0	5	6	3rd	175 30	John Harrington
F The Universal	2	0	9	5	5th	121 32	Martin Jennings
G Swiss Mercenary's Fleet	9	0	1	10	2nd	217 25	Andrew Kendall
H Shyllocks	1	1	7	0	13th	193 27	Michael Marinkat
J KatKorp	1	1	6	0	10th	113 22	Colin Parfitt
K Bland & Brass	3	0	7	0	9th	62 27	Nathan Richards
L The Culture	6	1	2	0	12th	152 24	Jerry Spencer
M Grand Lars Theni & T Heft	3	0	7	5	6th	245 31	Mike Wale
N Tau Cet Express	2	0	7	0	1st	298 30	Paul Wilson
N Nkekarni Corporation	2	8	0	13	1st		

\*N under Initiative Bid indicates No Move Received

**GM Notes**

Thank you all for orders on time.

Preferred way to word conditional buying orders: "Bid 6 to buy Alloys on Gamma Leporis: if ship arrives, buy up to 10 units, else buy 1 only." I know that is what various of you were trying to say, and I've interpreted it thus.

Please put your Corporation name and letter on the orders you send – it helps.

If you send in 2nd sets of orders (or 3rd or 4th!), please label them as such.

Press Releases for Trans-Solar Trading Inc.

**Press**

Draw "The Fisk" Vanderbilt-Scott, Chairman of Trans-Solar Trading Inc., vigorously denied rumours that TSTT have left their ships defenceless following the recent offering to the Market of several Light Weapons Pods.

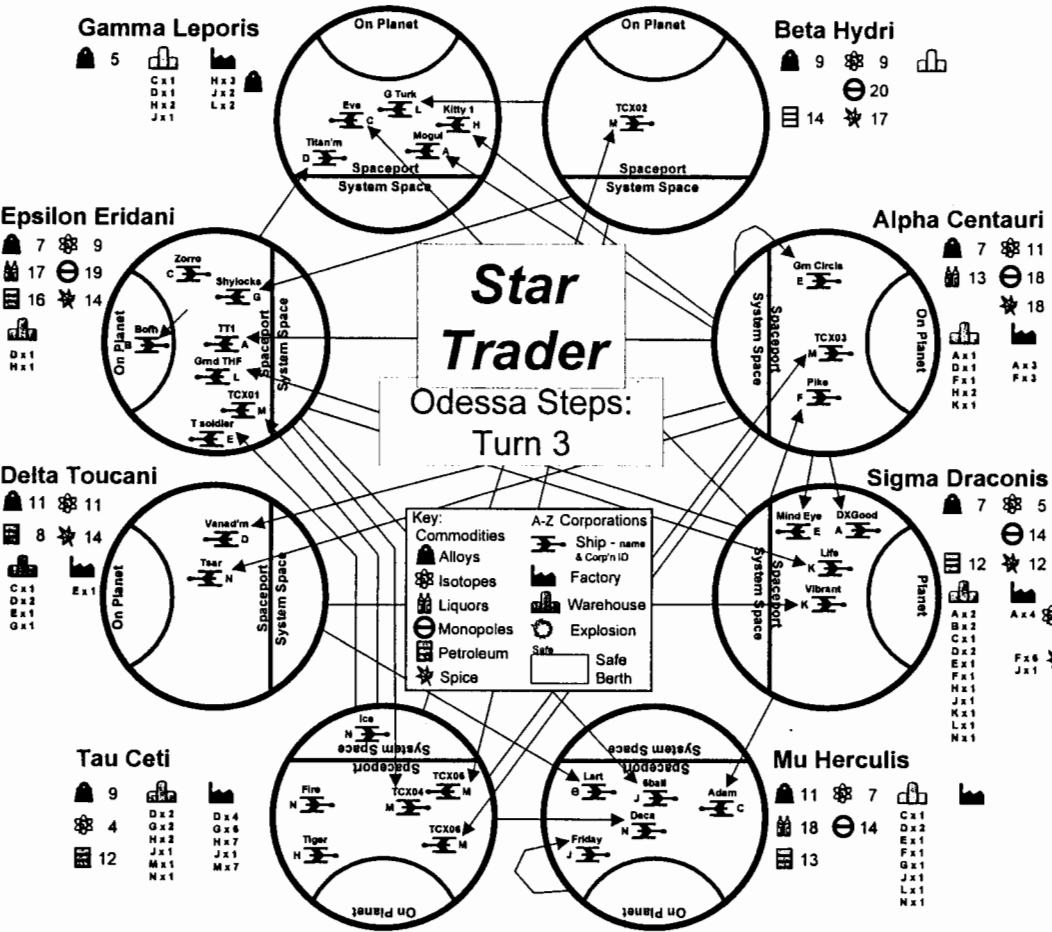
"I am confident that the recent formal agreements that have been signed are a guarantee that there will be no interference with our ships. There's no point in keeping a dog and barking yourself and the additional cargo space will bring increased dividends for our shareholders. There's more than one way to skin a cat and, as is well known, there are a number of heavily armed vessels in the Quadrant that will ensure any transgressions are dealt with in an appropriate manner."

Rumours are rife that Interstellar Metals have over-extended following an aggressive purchasing campaign last quarter. Shipping Analyst Richard Pickle of the

Vestal Group is predicting that IM "will be struggling with their current carrying capacity and the loss of a ship to the Pirates known to be operating in the Quarter could be a fatal blow." It is

believed that IM have attempted to subcontract the delivery of their Commodity Stocks, but have failed to find any carriers at the price offered.

Orders to Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD or by e-mail to [mike\\_dommett@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_dommett@yahoo.com) by Friday, 27th June 2003.



You seem to think that squabbles over women should be duels to the death. If that were the case, lusty French gentlemen and nobles would do the work of the enemy and annihilate our own officer caste and themselves within months. France would be populated by women, schoolboys and eunuchs. Perhaps that is what you want. Are you a Spanish agent, sent to undermine the French army before the Summer campaign?

As an effectively anonymous non-entity in Paris I'm not surprised that you don't appreciate how our society works. You ask "what does it matter that one branch is noble and the other of the bourgeoisie?" I'm flabbergasted! Are you a revolutionary? A bourgeois English shopkeeper or Parliamentarian? Even a pernicious Leveller? Our glorious Paris society and any man of character's *raison d'être* are both based entirely upon class distinctions. It matters the world whether one's immediate family is bourgeois or noble and whether one can succeed in advancing oneself by pleasing His Majesty in the service of France.

Lastly, if you believe that you have an issue with the Cardinal's Guard, take it up with them. I had the honour of appointing Major Baron Imathe d'Or to serve on my staff as Guards Brigade Major. By attempting to exploit this tragedy for your own ends, or more likely those of a foreign power, you are blackening his name and dishonouring the very chivalry that makes France respected as a civilised world power.

† Lieutenant-General Earl Claude Byacat, Frontier Division

From Rob d'Masses

My thanks to all my generous sponsors. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Stan Dandy Liver,  
Just what are you suggesting?  
† Rene Ouai

Orni Palone  
I meant no offence to you, serving the King in arms (delectable arms, I trust). It was your idiot clientele I was ridiculing.  
† La Plume Venom

Let us hope for a successful summer campaign for His Majesty. Three cheers for King Pevansi!  
† Orni Palone

*Ah, blatant sucking up - more please!*  
† Le Roi

Dan y Beauye wakes up in a tent...

By God, that's the last time I go drinkin' with those Monks! Woo, what a hangover. And someone appears to have stuck a piece of paper on me back sayin' <You've been Bonked>. What's THAT all about?

They swore that their Abbot drinks Benedictine - but, after a few pints of that green stuff, I was fair destroyed!

Now then, where am I. Hmm... I seem to have been cashered and sent off to the front. I wonder if I had a good time first?

The ABBOT drinks that stuff? No wonder they carry him around in a bloody chair...

Help! Someone is stealing our women. I would welcome any information regarding the disappearance from Paris of large numbers of potential mistresses. What is our government doing about this?  
† SS

Would the Minister please comment on the likely deployment of France's military forces next year and will he assure us that the Minister for War will be drawing up plans in the near future for their deployment?

My dear Rene Ouai,  
 Sir, There is a reason the enemy sings  
 "wine me, dine me, 69 me!" when he  
 sees the regiment coming!

I look forward to seeing your blood  
 on my cutlass.  
 Yours,  
 † Major Shitacks

Do you seriously think I would brawl  
 with the kind of crimson lout who  
 thinks that the epitome of gentlemanly  
 behaviour is to THROW one's weapon  
 (if one considers a dagger to be a  
 proper weapon and not merely an  
 instrument of assassination) and then,  
 presumably, to either surrender or else  
 resort to his feet and fists? I think  
 NOT! Perhaps the cool air of a lonely  
 April morning (I shall be abed with  
 May) will teach him some manners.

† BR  
*Jolly good show, sir. Keep the  
 ruff-raff in their place! I'm right  
 with you on this one. † Le Roi*

**Social**

Party for the Infantry with Palone in  
 week 3  
 All Infantry soldiers welcome to drink  
 with me prior to going to the front.  
 † Omi Palone

**Knights and Ruff-raff Ball**  
 Fancy Dress Ball to be held at the  
 Fleur de Lys in the fourth week of  
 May. Invitation open to all members of  
 the nobility and their errant sons. A  
 Prize of 300 Cr will go to the "Best  
 Dressed Ruffian".  
 † SDL

Dear Cardinals Guard,  
 What can I say? It seems my  
 manservant cannot understand a  
 simple order, again my instructions for  
 my party were mis-heard.  
 Again I will have to severely chastise  
 him.  
 † Zack

I have been in Paris for a few months  
 now and enjoyed the hospitality of a  
 number of you. I feel that I ought to do  
 my bit for morale. Therefore Marie and  
 I will be accepting guests at my club in  
 week 4 of May. Anyone who belongs to  
 a club may come along.  
 † Maurice Mineur

**Personal**

Viscount d'Elte,

A year on, no title and almost the  
 man you'll never be!

What do you think of the state of  
 play now then?  
 † SDL

To Le Patrician d'Or,  
 My courting of Major Baron Imathe  
 d'Or's mistress was an unfortunate  
 misunderstanding which would never  
 have occurred had I realised his prior  
 interest or had the lady in question not  
 been keenly amenable. How on earth  
 could I have known in advance that  
 Major d'Or would bump into and thus  
 have cause with four of his regimental  
 enemies that month?

As a General I am perfectly entitled to  
 use a sabre. Major d'Or also used a  
 sabre, even in his regimental duel,  
 despite it not being his regimental  
 weapon. Had he not been quite so  
 courageously ferocious in his duel with  
 me he might have realised that he was  
 vulnerable and prudently declined to  
 fight or offered his surrender after a  
 single slash. Both our seconds were  
 evidently thoroughly satisfied that the  
 duel was honourable and legal.

Of course I surrendered at first blood  
 in the following duel against Rene  
 Ouai, his tactics were excellent and  
 honour had been publicly satisfied.  
 Contrary to your ignorant libel, my  
 social standing actually increased as a  
 direct result of my duels that month.

**Les Petites Bêtes**  
**Soyeuses 161**

Being a postal game of *En Garde!* run  
 by Pevans since April 1986 and now  
 published as part of *To Win Just*  
*Once*.

If you'd like to play, you'll need to  
 subscribe to *TWIO* and pay the start-  
 up fee (see back page). You will also  
 need a copy of the rules to *En Garde!*  
 - or at least access to a copy.

*En Garde!* is published by SFC Press.

Next deadline is 4th July 2003



**April 1657**

Lt-Colonel Charles à Tanne of the Cardinal's Guard is not a man to be trifled with.  
 And he's not in a good mood, so anybody with any sense is staying out of his way.  
 The cause of his anger is King's Musketeers Major Beau Romir with whom he has a  
 duel this April. After pacing around at their appointed rendezvous for half an hour,  
 à Tanne stomps off (in best cartoon fashion a small, black cloud hovers over his  
 head). On the way he spots a page nailed to a tree. "*Poisson d'Avril!*" it says.

Jean Petit and Joseph de Veevre turn up for their duel. Petit has brought a sabre,  
 de Veevre a rapier. Petit has the advantage of greater skill, but de Veevre is the  
 (slightly) larger man. Strangely, for a man with a sabre, Petit starts with a furious  
 lunge. De Veevre jumps back and the thrust misses. Then he closes back in again,  
 just in time for Petit's cut to make solid contact with his midriff. De Veevre  
 surrenders immediately.

A heavily-banded Stan Dandy Liver has two matters of honour this month. He  
 has - and needs - the support of Sean Sondamour and Orson de Combat. He also  
 has his cutlass, as befits the leader of the Royal Marines. His opponent is Harry  
 Covert, whose slim build would put him at a distinct disadvantage were it not for  
 Liver's wounds. He has a rapier, but no seconds. The canny Liver expects a furious  
 lunge and jumps back. As the Marine regains his balance, Covert draws back his  
 arm and slashes. A palpable touch. And a victory as Liver concedes.

Next to face Liver is Don de Rico, who carries a sabre and would be a more even  
 match for a healthy Liver. With fresh blood staining his numerous bandages, Liver  
 squares up to his man and lugs his heavy weapon into place. Too late! De Rico  
 pinks him with a lunge and Liver throws in the towel. Well, Sondamour and de

Combat actually throw the towel as Liver has overbalanced and is flat on his back. The old warhorse is still able to get back on his feet, however, and is carried off in search of a good doctor.

Not so de Rico. He is now due to face Henry Thierry Christian, our Minister of State. Both men have sabres, but Christian is far more proficient with his. This is balanced by de Rico's slightly heavier physique. Not that it gets particularly physical. De Rico uses the same tactic as he did against Liver: the unexpected lunge with a sabre. First blood is enough for Christian and he concedes the matter to his opponent.

Most Marines are big bruisers – they have to be to wave cutlasses about. Major Jacques Shitacks is no exception. He's not as big as some, though. Such as his opponent, Colonel Rene Ouai of the 69th Arquebustiers. But Ouai has just a slender rapier to pit against his adversary's cleaver. The problem with this is demonstrated when Ouai successfully blocks Shitacks' first slash: his weapon breaks. As Shitacks recovers his balance and swings again, Ouai lunges and cuts furiously. To no avail: what's left of his blade isn't long enough. Thumped by the Marine's second slash, Ouai keeps going and manages to catch the next slash on the hilts of his sword. This just postpones the end, which comes from Shitacks' following cut. After which a very battered Ouai declines to meet Orson de Combat.

#### Musketeers for Fusiliers

Revaulvin d'Or petitions the Field Marshal to swap the Picardy Musketeers for the 13th Fusiliers through the summer campaign. Marvin Leigh Rowbow is pleased to agree, which means the 13th Fusiliers are now in First Foot Brigade and the Picardies in Second Foot. A side effect of this switch is that d'Or's application to be Brigade Major of Second Foot is refused as he's now part of First Foot!

Gaston de St Marque has a word in the ear of the Second Army QMG, but it's not enough to persuade him to resign. RFG Major Lokwot Isaw pressures the two senior Captains and the junior Major in his regiment to quit. Both Captains oblige, but the Major has the support of Omi Palone and stays in his post. One of his Captains is the target of ALC commander Sean Sondamour's pressure, but the man doesn't budge. Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger and Stan Dandy Liver join forces and successfully force out one of the Captains in the Royal Marines.

The only gap in the regiments that's filled is in the Royal Foot Guards. The CO, Alfonso Qué Holique, signs up Marc de Zorro, who buys himself the rank of Subaltern. First Division commander Gaston de St Marque recruits Orson de Combat as his Aide, but Stan Dandy Liver can't get anyone to take on the posts he's offering. Rob d'Masses turns down Adjutant of the Royal Marines and Jacques Shitacks is not interested in being First Foot Brigade Major.

General Abel Ringeur tries to fill the staff positions in First Army in preparation for the coming campaign. Sean Sondamour is made Quartermaster-General, Alfonso Qué Holique Army Adjutant (much to the disappointment of the men of the Royal Foot Guards, who like their booze ration) and Euria Humble takes over Holique's previous post as Ringeur's Aide. The Minister of State fills one of the gaps

## Press

### Announcements

To all the Gentlemen in Paris.

The Royal Foot Guards regiment is now recruiting. Only gentlemen of the highest standards need apply, but those who do will be guaranteed of a favourable reception.

Vive Le Roi!

† Col AQH

The local news sheet is running a search as they want to know who the gentlemen of Paris believe is the greatest swordsman in Paris. If you have an opinion or have first hand knowledge of such a man the people of Paris want to know. Who is the man others fear to face? Whose weapon is the deadliest? Who should be the King's champion? Who is this man? You decide! Tell us your tales...

69A Recruitment Drive!

I shall pay 100 Cr to any Man who

ground.)

† SLL

I have some minor favours sitting around doing nothing (two level 3s and two level 1s). If anyone can find a use for them, please contact me for some suitable arrangement.

† Maurice Mineur

To all Gentlemen of The Guards Brigade,  
just a note to let you all know that I intend to take us all to the front for the summer season. † Brg. Gen. REYE

Recruits welcome for the 13th Fusiliers: A good uniform, but expect to have to fight, rather than sit in the barracks.

† Omi Palone

Captains are invited to apply to serve as my Aide on campaign with the Frontier Division this Summer. Honour, glory, status, influence and valuable antiquities will be showered upon the successful applicant. Mutual seconding shall be expected.

† Lieutenant-General Earl Claude Byacat

### Matters of Honour

To the Honourable Viscount Zachary

The Money Goes,

Sir, Please forgive me for your "accident" during our recent duel. I most deeply regret the incident. I meant to duck as you lunged at me, but you slashed instead and my attempted parry made contact with you. This has all been a terrible mistake. Sue (beautiful but fickle) did not mention to me her previous acquaintance with your most

never have woveu det. I am weepy apologetic for stealing the woman of a man away at the Front serving France and King.

I see that you are holding a party to celebrate your return to Paris and I intend to bring Sue along. Hopefully the flame of love that once burnt for you in Sue's heart will be re-ignited when she sees such a dashing and handsome soldier, with many honourable (if recent) scars.

Once again, I am most contrite and beg for your forgiveness.

Yours,

† Euria (Ever So, Ever So) Humble

JoR, If u are still looking for a second I would be more than happy to assist. And I would be grateful if you could return the favour. † ZTMG

red light district (post-party). He attracts the attentions of the footpads, but has carefully spent all his cash. Two weeks with rapier round off his April.

Robert d'Bildare ends up at the bawdyhouses, a week's rapier practice filling in the gap after the end of Zack's party. Lucien d'Escallehuitaillements also finishes his month with a trip to the red light district, but he's been partying all three weeks before this. After partying the month away in the same fashion (at the same parties, in fact), Marc de Zorro has to carry out his regimental duties in week 4. Rob d'Masses is so carried away by his success with Lois and then visiting the Fleur that he forgets that he isn't actually the member of any club (none of them will have him!). He spends the second half of April in a bit of a daze.

This leaves us with the energetic types whiling away their time in the gyms. Chief of these is R Even d'Ypres d'Ete, who works out with his rapier for the entire month. D Arth Vader has already been mentioned, but there are plenty of others taking three weeks practice. Charlot d'Evoir puts in three weeks with sabre around Toadying to Arnaldo. Revaulvin d'Or does the same, but with rapier, and his excursion is to Omi's shindig. After their week at Zack's bash, Euria Humble and Xavier 3sup are practising their cutlass swings for the rest of the month – watch out, Rene Ouai! Having caught Kathy Pacific's eye, Gaston de St Marque builds up his biceps with three weeks of rapier training – leaving Kathy for Zack's attentions.

Omi Palone works out with rapier for two weeks either side of party. Several people split their month between Zack's party and the gym: Bud d'Wiser (sabre), Beau Romir (sabre), Jacques dans le Box (sabre), Lokwot Isaw (trapiet) and Rene Ouai (trapiet). And Jacques Shitacks wraps up his partying with his cutlass for a week.

#### Cashback at the front

After last month's fiasco, Bdr-General Guy de Lynes keeps the Princess Louisa Light Dragons in their stables this month. He is Mentioned in Despatches. This is enough to get him the title of Baron. Frontier regiment 1 is on the receiving end of an artillery bombardment that causes substantial casualties. CG Bdr-General Justin Time is assigned to this regiment and survives happily. QOC Subaltern Mon Dieu Ewe Swine is here, too. He has a narrow escape when he stops an almost spent cannonball with his breastplate. He suffers a large bruise, but nothing worse. And it doesn't stop him sending a few small monetary gifts back to Paris.

Lt-Colonel Dan y Beauye has brought his battalion of the King's Musketeers to join him and is assigned to Frontier Regiment 2. His astonishing bravery, personally leading his men into the field of fire, takes the enemy by surprise and every bullet misses him. Even so, the regiment is not successful and Lt-Colonel y Beauye has to make do with a couple of minor Mentions in Despatches and a couple of hundred crowns of loot. Private Gaston Lescroc survives another month with frontier regiment 3. Lt-General Claude Byacat takes command of a battalion of the Royal North Highlanders. He leads them in a charge – possibly just to get away from the skirl of the regimental pipes – for some personal success: his name appears twice in the Despatches. His men capture an enemy flag, for which his share of the bounty comes to 800 crowns. ❖

in his administration this month when he appoints D Arth Vader as Minister of Justice. Vader has been a Minister, albeit without a portfolio, for some time, so this doesn't exactly enlarge the cabinet.

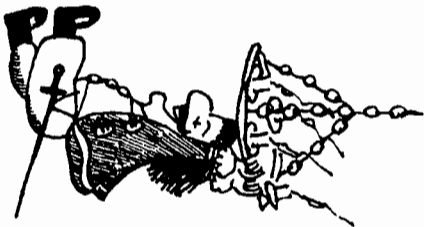
Lt-General Claude Byacat decides that he needs to "get back into the swing of things" before the summer campaign and volunteers for the RNHB. Dan y Beauye is already in action, but he sends orders back to mobilise his battalion. First Battalion of the King's Musketeers marches off in response.

#### Parties with pigs

Having issued a general invitation to Parisian society, Zachary The Money Goes attracts a lot of guests to the Fleur de Lys for the first half of April. It's more of a series of brawls than a party, but what do you expect when the army's in town? Abel Ringeur holds his own do in opposition, which certainly doesn't improve things. But let's start with other visitors to the Fleur. Co W Ard Extrême and Marvin Leigh Rowbow spend the whole month there, accompanied by their respective lady friends, Polly Hydronne and Jane Lapotaire. Although his Toadies only attend in the first half of the month, Abel Ringeur is present the whole time, along with Bette Noire.

Henry Thierry Christian appears in week 2 and has acquired Josephine Buonoparte to accompany him. Henry and Josephine then become a fixture in the club. They add to the entertainment when Henry's regimental enemy D Arth Vader turns up at the end of April. Arth has spent three weeks practising with his sabre and only appears in the club in order to make a wager. Unfortunately, the amount he is prepared to gamble does not meet the club's minimum stake. Henry is only too happy to heap ridicule on his head. Zack is back in the club at the end of the month, having won the affections of Kathy Pacific and brought her with him (that'll show Gaston de St Marque for not paying Kathy Pacific enough attention!) as well as Bessie. He is able to renew his regimental squabble with Charles à Tanne. Spending the second half of April in the Fleur on his own reconnaissance, Charles (together with Fifif) places a couple of big bets on the gaming tables. In week 4 he wins back the money he lost in week 3, but overall he gets lots of kudos.

Back to the fights. The best-known is, of course, between the Cardinal's Guard and the King's Musketeers. Abel deliberately stirs things up by inviting the Cardinal's men to Toady to him, rather than King's man Zachary The Money Goes. Charles à Tanne and Jared E Kaph-Kophi take up his offer and are joined by Stan Dandy Liver. Charles brings Fifif with him, Stan is accompanied by Bess Ottebe and Jared brings gambling funds. Wagering a few hundred crowns a time, Jared places nine bets, winning 5, losing 3 and cutting one. He comes out well ahead. Charles and Jared exchange challenges with Zack and the other Musketeers present (apart from war-pig Bessie): Beau Romir (Mary Huana is with him) and Robert d'Bildare – the other gambler, who wins his minimum stake wager.



Charles is back the following week to continue trading insults with Beau, Robert and Zack. Robert's second bet of the month sees him lose the money (and status) he won the week before.

Poor old Stan is on the receiving end of 7 challenges as blue-blooded guests realise the man is no noble. They come from Beau, Don de Rico (Toadying to Zack with Maggie Nifsent), Harry Covert (with Jacky Timne), Jacques dans le Box (and Leila Orgasma), Lucien d'Escallehuitalllements, Lokwot Isaw (with Charlotte de Gaultle) and Robert d'Bildare. As we know, Beau returns the following week. So does Stan and the challenge is renewed. Don, Harry, Jacques, Lucien, Lokwot and Robert are back as well, so Stan is just as popular. Don also exchanges challenges with his regimental enemy, Henry Thierry Christian, to set up another duel with him.

Stan is able to reciprocate only once. As a Marine, he is an enemy of 69th Arquebusier Rene Ouai, who is Toadying to Zack with Frances Forrin. Rene is the only member of the 69th in attendance, so he has to defend himself from the attentions of all the Marines. Apart from Stan, this means Eurra Humble, Jacques Shitacks, Orson de Combat and Xavier 3sup. All four have female company while they Toady to Zack: Eurra escorts Sue Briquet, Jacques Ulla Leight, Orson Ava Crisp and Xavier Anna Rexique. Rene and Frances are back in week 2, when they have to worry about Stan, Jacques (still with Ulla) and Orson (with Ava). Plus Rob d'Masses, who has arrived as the latest of Zack's Toadies now that he can bring Lois de Low with him.

Bud d'Wiser represents the Grand Duke Max Dragoons at Zack's party and has Lotte Bottle on his arm. Sean Sondamour is in the Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers - Bud's enemy regiment - and is accompanied by Henrietta Carrotte. Bud and Sean swap challenges and Jacques dans le Box joins in as a second member of the ALC. Bud returns with Lotte for week 2, but only has Jacques (and Leila) to worry about. Not all Zack's guests are part of the mayhem. About a third of the group socialise quietly and enjoy their drinks. They are: Alfonse Qué Holique, together with Ella Fart; Gar de Lieu, who's just bought the rank of Lt-Colonel in the 4th Arquebusiers; Jean de Florette; the new Colonel of the 4th Arquebusiers, Jacques N Gillies - with Ingrid la Suède for company; Jean ou Rous - now Lt-Colonel of the Gascons - accompanied by Belle Epoque; Marc de Zorro, who brings Betty Kant; Maurice Mineur; and Omi Palone, with Lucy Fur on his arm. Alfonse (and Ella), Jean de F. Jacques (and Ingrid), Jean ou R (and Belle), Marc (and Betty) and Maurice all return for the second week.

#### Just hangin' around

It's a bad month for Beppe de Marko. He spends the whole of April outside the Fleur, trying to attract Henry Thierry Christian's attention. Henry isn't even there in the first week and, after that, Beppe is not on his guest list. Stan Dandy Liver joins him for weeks 3 and 4. He was expecting Justin Time to be receiving guests, but there is no sign of the Cardinal's Guard's commander.

The only other party this month is hosted by Omi Palone in Hunter's during week 3. This is a more civilised affair. Lucy Fur joins Omi to welcome their guests. First

through the doors is Jean de Florette. He is followed by Joseph de Veevre and Ada Andabettoir. Jacques N Gillies arrives with Ingrid. Belle Epoque accompanies Jean ou Rous. Jean Petit is alone, but Jacques Shitacks brings Ulla. Lucien d'Escallehuitalllements arrives next. Behind him come Marc de Zorro and Betty. Ava Crisp is on the arm of Orson de Combat. Revaultin d'Or brings up the rear and brings Di Lemmere. The only other people in Hunter's are Don de Rico - recovering from his many challenges of earlier weeks - and Maggie Nifsent. This pair have the club to themselves for the last week.

Anyone who wants Charlemagne le Gosse during April can find him at Bothwell's. Ophelia Derriere is with him and is very disappointed to see him blow a few thousand crowns in a single wager at the start of the month (he could have spent it on her!). The only other witnesses are Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger and Katy Did, who are in Bothwell's for the first half of the month. In week 2 they are joined by a couple of Toadies: Charlot d'Evoir and Sean Sondamour. Sean brings Henrietta with him and Charlot has the company of Deb Estaround. Then Arnaldo and Sean are off for a couple of weeks' practice: with cutlass and sabre, respectively. For the second half of the month, Harry Covert - with Jacky on his arm - and Alfonse Qué Holique (still accompanied by Ella) can also be found in Bothwell's.

After the thrill of Zack's do at the Fleur, Maurice Mineur spends the rest of his month at Blue Gables with Marie. Jean ou Rous made it to Omi's do as well, but then hits the Frog & Peach with Belle. He fancies a little flutter and makes a series of 50-crown bets. He insists on cutting if the house has the edge and ends the week slightly ahead: 4 wins, 2 losses and 3 cuts. The Frog & Peach has one other couple drop in: Lothar Rio and Angelina de Griz start their April here. Lothar then heads off to visit Deb Estaround. She's out with Charlot, so Lothar is banging on the door of an empty apartment. Unfortunately, he is completely indiscreet about this and Angelina gives him his marching orders. Nothing daunted, he returns the following week with a fresh bunch of flowers. Mille Estaround is at home. But Jared E Kaph-Köphi has also come a-courting (he's been busy with regimental duties since Toadying to Abel Ringeur). Neither man will stand down to the other, so a duel will be required. But they both enjoyed themselves so much they come back and do it again the following week.

#### Practice, practice, practice

Joseph de Veevre takes Ada to Red Phillips to start the month. Then he takes a week to practice his rapier before Omi's party and concludes the month with another week's practice. By this time Jacques N Gillies is in Red Phillips, together with Ingrid. This is rather more relaxing than the previous weeks' partying. The bowdyhouses are first port of call for Jean Petit in April. Then it's a week practising with sabre, a week at Omi's party and off in search of more permanent female companionship. It appears his suit is successful - judging by Orson de Combat's peevish look when he finishes his cutlass practice! Gar de Lieu is next to visit the

