

That would be enough

This has been issue 37 of *To Win Just Once*, published 22nd August 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* and *Railway Rivals* to Mike Dommett at 119 Victoria Rd, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD, UK or mike_dommett@yahoo.co.uk by 5th Sept.

Orders for *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses* to Pevans, 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK or LPBS@pevans.co.uk by Saturday 13th September.
(Planned deadlines for the rest of 2003 are 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 pounds sterling, euros or US dollars (at the rate of 1.5 dollars/euros to £1), subject to a surcharge of £1 (or 1.50 dollars/euros) to cover PayPal's charges. My PayPal account is twjo@pevans.co.uk.

	UK	Other Europe	Rest of World
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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 the second game is in progress. Edward Walkington wants to play in the next. You will need the chosen map to play. [free start-up]

Star Trader A game is in progress, but can take another player or two. Full rules will be provided. [start-up fee payable]

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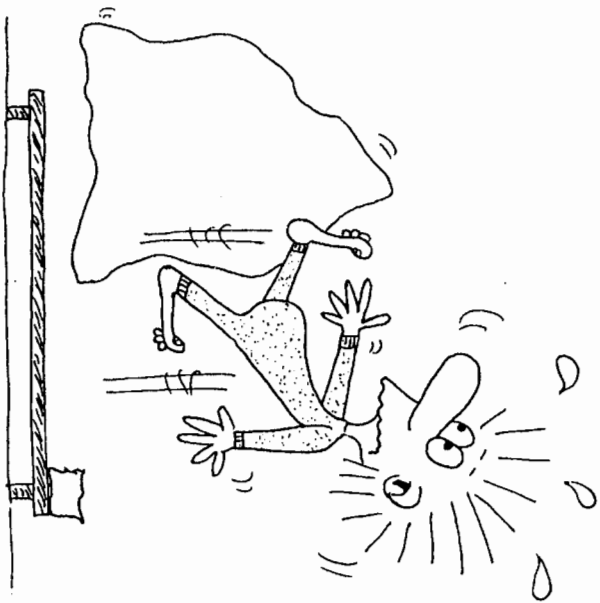
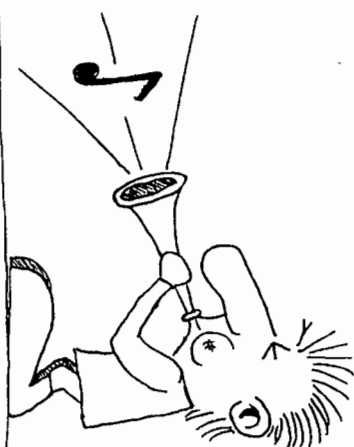
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To Win Just Once

(Incorporating *Les Petites Bêtes Soyuses*)

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Contents

Contents	Page
2	2
Chatter	3
Great British Beer Festival 2003	3
Science Fiction	4
Letters	6
Games Events	7
Credits	7
The Banking Game	8
Turn Eleven	8
Would you like some Pork Chop with that Garlic?	9
Railway Rivals 2 - Turn 2	9
GM Notes	9
Railway Rivals 2 - Turn 3	10
GM Notes	10
Les Petites Bêtes Soyseuses 163	11
June 1657	11
Press	17
Announcements	17
Matters of Honour	17
Social	18
Personal	18
Poetry Corner	19
Points Arising	20
Announcements	20
Duels	20
Tables	21
Battle Results	21
Army Organisation and Summer Deployment	21
Brigade Positions	21
Regiments Organisation	22
Frontier Regiments	22
Hell Hath no Fury	23
Other Appointments	23
New Characters	23
The Greasy Pole	24
The Guilty Parties	26
That would be enough	28

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Chatter

Enjoy report that the remaining stock of yellow card has spoiled. So, unless they manage to lay their hands on some fresh supplies, the rest of this year's issues will have a nice, white cover. I hope this isn't too confusing.

I'm taking another break early in September and will be returning on the 13th. I will adjudicate LPBS as soon as I can after that and I don't expect next issue to be published late. However, I won't be around to issue my usual e-mail reminder of the deadline or answer queries.

The *Star Trader* report hasn't arrived as I type this. I know Mike was having some problems and had to re-adjudicate the previous turn. We'll get the report to players as soon as we can.

Great British Beer Festival 2003

There was much pleading for a name check from some of those I was with at this year's do. So, the group was Neil, James and their mate Chris, Bill, Michelle and Mark and Hilary. Satisfied, guys?

As always, I started with a familiar beer: Gales's Best (brewed by Gales in Hampshire at 4% alcohol). The name has been changed to GB and it's a bit yellower than I remember – amber rather than brown. There was very little smell to it, and that was sour. Disappointingly, there wasn't much taste, either. But it was bitter and went down well with my 'Real Cornish Pasty'.

As it was convenient, I headed for the Bar Nouveau – a bar given over to newer breweries. The first beer I tried was Pacific (Bazens', Manchester, 3.8%). It was slightly lighter than my previous pint, a golden-yellow colour. The beer had a nice, fruity aroma and a smooth, fruity taste. I suddenly realised that there was no fizziness to the beer at all – despite the respectable head. It was definitely dry and bitter, though, so not bad.

Next was Golden (Winters, Norfolk, 4.1%). This was another golden yellow beer with a strong, pungent smell and taste. It came across as fruity, malty and not too bitter. Another decent pint.

Moving on to the Wales & West bar, I tried Gold Brew (Bullmastiff, Glamorgan, 3.8%). This was a yellow beer with little nose. The taste was very fruity and slightly nutty, with a nice, dry finish. Not bad at all.

Sticking to the same bar, I tried Wild Blonde (Sutton, Devon, 4.4%) in the mistaken belief it was a wheat beer. Despite the name, this was an amber

colour with just a faint aroma of malt. It was quite a refreshing drink with a nice amount of bitterness. But definitely not a wheat beer.

On the other hand, Wheat Beer (Beartown, Cheshire, 5%) definitely is. Found on the West Midlands bar, it was pale yellow, as expected, but otherwise underwhelming. It was certainly refreshing, but had disconcerting overtones of cat pee (or maybe blackcurrants). It grew on me after a while though, so not bad.

T'Other (Teme Valley, Worcestershire, 3.5%) was another brew off the West Midlands bar. It had a unquestionable aroma of coffee -- or at least something roasted! (I got a second opinion. And third...) It's a golden yellow beer with a musty, biscuity taste. Strange, but certainly not unpleasant. I don't understand why it has a Yorkshire name, though.

Even more simply named was Ale (Weatheroak, West Midlands, 4.1%). This had a very fruity nose after the last one. It tasted fruity, too and was nicely dry. (My tasting notes seem to be getting shorter as I go on. I wonder why?)

There was a large crowd round the Scotland bar, presumably because this year's Champion beer (Bitter & Twisted from Harriestown of Clackmannanshire) was only available here. I sneaked onto the fringes and tried MacIar (Okells, Isle of Man, 4.4%), another wheat beer. A pale yellow in colour, it had no smell and was completely flat. There was precious little taste, either. My only disappointing beer of the day.

Giving up on the Scotland bar, I went for an old favourite and previous Champion beer, Landlord (Timothy Taylor, West Yorkshire, 4.3%). An amber pint with lots of bitterness. Yummy! A classic.

All in all, a pretty good day's drinking. And I was still sober enough to find my way home without incident!

Science Fiction

Gwyneth Jones's *Bold as Love* has clearly got to me -- two days after I finished it, I'm still thinking about it. Or perhaps arguing with it would be a closer description. Thing is, it's a great story that kept me spellbound and the main characters are fascinating, but from early on I found the backdrop and some of the events just unbelievable. So the whole thing was a struggle with my suspension of disbelief. Perhaps that's what it's meant to be?

Anyway, some descriptive stuff first, so you can see what I'm talking about. The book is set in a near-future (or possibly alternate reality) England. This is an England suffering the climate changes of global warming: it's cold and

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank	Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
DyB	Dan y Beauye	10	F	Rich	Lt.Colonel	KM/Fntr Div Adjutant	5		Hunt	4	Chris Boote
OdC	Sir Orson de Combat	10+	F	Comfy	Captain	RM/LtGen's Aide (1st Div)	4			5	Francesca Weal
SC	Sirius Chien	9	9	OK			3	Emma	BG	4	Paul Wilson
LdE	Lucien d'Escaillehuitaillement	9	9	OK			3		BG	4	Nik Luker
EH	Euria Humble	9	F	OK	Major	RM/Gen's Aide (1st Army)	7		BG	5	Matthew Wale
CdE	Charlot d'Evoir	9	F	Comfy	Captain	RFG	2		BG	1	Simon Burling
MdZ	Marc de Zorro	9	F	Comfy	B.Major	RFG	3			5	Colin Parfitt
PdG	Paul d'Geist	8	F	Comfy	Private	RFG/Tpr.K's Esc	3		BG	3	Graeme Wilson
GdLi	Gar de Lieu	8	F	OK	Lt.Colonel	4A	2		BG	4	Bill Hay
MM	Maurice Mineur	8	F	OK	Captain	KM	6		BG	5	Mark Jones
RdO	Revaulvin d'Or	7	10	OK	Lt.Colonel	13F	7		F&P	4	Jerry Spencer
JS	Jacques Shitacks	7	F	Comfy	Major	RM/Gen's Aide (2nd Army)	3		RP	4	David Olliver
JEKK	Jared E Kaph-Kophi	7	RIP								Timothy Hunt
JoR	Jean ou Rous	7	F	OK	Colonel	Gscn	2		F&P	2	Brian Niemi
X3	Xavier 3sup	7	F	OK	Captain	RM/Gen's Aide (Fntr Army)	4		F&P	5	Mark Mortimer
JNG	Jacques N Gilles	6	F	OK	B.Bdr-General	4A	4			3	Nigel Monaghan
JdV	Joseph de Veevre	6+	23	OK	Major	13F/I F Brigade Maj.	3	May	F&P	5	Andrew Kendall
GL	Gaston Lescroc	5	3	Withy			3		F&P	3	Hajo 'Red' Schlosser
JdF	Jean de Florette	5	F	OK	Lt.Colonel	PM/2 F Brigade Maj.	4		F&P	4	Robert Carter
MDES	Mon Dieu Ewe Swine	5	F	Comfy	Subaltern	QOC	5			5	Wayne Rutledge
LR	Lothar Rio	5	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel	53F	2		F&P	3	David Kennard
JP	Jean Petit	5+	17	Poor			3	Ava	RP	4	Pete Card
RdM	Rob d'Masses	2	RIP								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, Withy = 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
JIT	Count Justin Time	26	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General CG	34		Flr	5	Dan Steel
AR	Count Abel Ringeur	26	F	Comfy	General/1st Army Commndr	11		Flr	4	Bill Michell
MLR	Count Marvin Leigh Rowbow	24	64	Comfy	Fld Marshal	11	Jane	Flr	3	Martin Jennings
HTC	Count Henry Thierry Christian	22	F	Rich	Colonel QOC/State Min.	12		Flr	3	Matthew Shepherd
DAV	Count D Arth Vader	21	34	Wlthy	Major DG/Justice Min.	11		Flr	6	Michael Blasebalk
CWAE	Earl Co W. Ard Extrême	21	F	Comfy	General/2nd Army Commndr	5		Flr	3	Benedikt Löwe
CBy	Earl Claude Byacat	21	F	Rich	B.General/Fntr Div Commndr	6		Flr	4	William Steven
ZTMG	Count Zachary The Money Goes	20	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General KM/Min w/o Port	11		Flr	4	Gerald Udowiczenko
SDL	Stan Dandy Liver	19	39	Comfy	B.Bdr-General RM/1 F Brigadier	8		Flr	4	Guy Arnold
CaT	Marquis Charles à Tanne	19	F	Rich	Lt.Colonel CG/FMshl's Aide	10		Flr	4	Alan McTernan
REYE	Count R Even d'Ypres d'Ete	19	F	Rich	B.Lt-General/Gds Brigadier	13		Flr	2	Benjamin Sorrill
AQH	Sir Alfonse Qué Holique	18	F	Rich	Colonel RFG/1st Army Adjutnt	5		Both	5	Tym Norris
BdM	Earl Beppe de Marko	17	35	Filty	Colonel CPC	14	Edna	Both	2	Rob Hallett
CIG	Sir Charlemagne le Gosse	17	F	Wlthy	Major CG	7		Both	2	Neil Packer
GdSM	Marquis Gaston de St Marque	15	F	Poor	Lt-General/1st Div Commndr	9		Both	3	Nathan Richards
HC	Sir Harry Covert	14	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel RFG	8		Both	2	James Guiton
LI	Earl Lokwot Isaw	14	F	Rich	Major RFG	11		Both	3	Barry Townsend
AdS	Sir Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger	14	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel RM/1st Div Adjutant	2		Both	2	Pam Lindsay
SS	Sir Sean Sondamour	14	F	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General ALC/1st Army QMG	3		Both	2	Pete Holland
DdR	Don de Rico	13	29	OK	Colonel DG	6	Maggie	Hunt	3	Sean Devoy
JdB	Sir Jacques dans le Box	13	F	Wlthy	Lt.Colonel ALC	2		Both	6	Ben Brown
OP	Omi Palone	12	F	Comfy	Bdr-General/2 F Brigadier	3		Hunt	4	Mike Dommett
BR	Sir Beau Romir	12	F	Comfy	Captain RFG	4		Both	3	Graeme Morris
GdL	Baron Guy de Lynes	12+	59	Wlthy	B.Bdr-General PLLD/2nd Army QMG	5	Thomasina	Hunt	1	Colin Forbes
BdW	Bud d'Wiser	11	20	Comfy	Colonel GDMD	8	Lotte	Hunt	2	Francesca Huskinson
RO	Rene Ouai	11	F	Comfy	B.Bdr-General 69A/4 F Brigadier	1		Hunt	5	Peter Denison
RdB	Sir Robert d'Bildare	11	RIP							Terry Crook

wet and wracked by vicious storms. It's also an England suffering from a lack of political leadership (or even talent – if I'm reading between the lines correctly). As the book opens it is Dissolution summer, just before the repeal of the Act of Union, which will separate the constituent countries of Britain.

We are introduced to Fiorinda, a precocious sixteen year old on her way to perform at Reading Festival. She has a suitably dysfunctional family background for a rock princess. Then she gets involved in an attempt by the Government to get into the good books of the 'counterculture' (Jones's catch-all for the hippies, travellers, rockers and others who are the most significant part of the English population in this story). Here we meet some other musicians, who, when things turn nasty, become the other heroes of the book – which is not, as I first thought, solely Fiorinda's story.

So here we have the eclectic triumvirate of Fiorinda, Ax Preston (guitar-playing lead of West Country group The Chosen Few) and Sage Pender (aka Aoxomoxoa, the wizard behind Grateful Dead-worshipping techno-band The Heads). In their own way, each is damaged and each is brilliant. The story essentially charts their rise to power as they overcome the obstacles that confront them and the nation.

But I just find it all unbelievable. For a start, where's the rest of the population? The only part of England that seems to matter is the counterculture. The rest are, presumably, content to follow the lead of this odd bunch (think Sting, Ozzie Osbourne and Kate Bush running the country!) and can be pacified with rock concerts. Then there's the way crises just erupt with no warning. The trio disperses to deal with things, then regroups and holds a celebratory concert (okay, I'm over-simplifying, but that's what it feels like).

And then it ends with: "The story continues in *Castles Made of Sand*".

All of which contributes to the strange feeling of dislocation I had reading this book. This is not the England I know. (The feeling of alienness is strangely reminiscent of Samuel Delany's *Dahlgren*, which is an altogether other story.) And the end result is to divorce me from the characters and the book. Was that the intention? At least one reviewer seems to think so (assuming the quote on the book cover represents his thoughts accurately).

Despite my carping, I found that I couldn't put the book down. The story had me gripped even as I griped about some of it. I guess so much of it feels so real that the bits that obviously aren't grate on me. I think I would prefer it to be all fantasy or all real. But I'll be back for the next book.

Letters

Neil Packer has some SF comments to add.

I sent you a review for *Revelation Space* some while ago (probably early last year) and mentioned that it had prompted me to buy the next instalment in the series, *Chasm City*. I can't really remember a hell of a lot about the book, except that I decided not to buy any more until someone told me they were worthwhile! So, if you get as far as the third one, let me know.

I did like your comparison between US and UK writers again. I think it's not so much the authors as the industry over there which insists on optimism. They know optimism sells and are less willing to take a risk on a book with downbeat themes. As an example (albeit a ten year old one), one of our biggest selling fantasy authors, David Gemmell, had real difficulty getting published and getting publicity over there. Hearsay has it that it's because he keeps killing off too many of his leading characters. US publishers believed that their public wouldn't like books like that. Not having been over there recently, I don't know if the Gemmell situation has changed, but I'm sure it's a fair bet that the industry hasn't changed its opinions of what the public wants.

Funnilly enough, the latest *Interzone* mentioned that one of Gemmell's books, *The Legend of Deathwalker*, had just gone into its eighth printing. "Gemmell evidently continues to sell well," the magazine comments. I can't imagine this is purely for the UK market, so I assume he's selling in the States. Neil moves on to films.

I saw *Terminator 3* last week and rather enjoyed myself. The acting level is right down there with the original. Looking good as the new terminatrix, Kristanna Loken demonstrates all of Arnie's acting skill – although Claire Danes does do a good Linda Hamilton impression. The action is as good as you'd expect, but with no real surprises. CGI showing up in every other movie that comes along these days means that it's hard to be impressed by it here. So, the film needs a story. And it's got one which, I think, hangs together well enough to make it worthwhile. Be warned, though – it's not much use if you haven't seen the first two instalments. It kicks off with our hero of T2, John Connor, a decade or so on, convinced that he and Mum didn't save the world and that it's all going to pot, just not at the previously scheduled time. Cue vaguely thought-provoking quiet moments for us to try to work out whether there are paradoxes galore to come or if there will, perhaps, only be one time-line to contemplate. Just as you're getting to grips with this, our two terminators turn up and from then on it's pretty much non-stop action. Of course, belief has to be suspended, but this is not a long movie and it keeps the interest right up to the final scene. 7 out of 10 from me.

Other films which I've seen since I last wrote (including the rather disappointing *Matrix Reloaded*) have disappeared from my local cinemas, but my favourite of the year so far has been *X-Men 2* – take a look if it's still showing. (Not essential to have seen the first one, but it helps a bit.) Also from Marvel was the *Hulk*. Lots of people in the media

Hell Hath no Fury...

No	Name	SL	Attr	Last	No	Name	SL	Attr	Last
61	Bette Noire	19	W		63	Carole Singeurs	11		
64	Edna Bucquette	18	W	BdM	20	Emma Roideas	10	1	SC
3	Kathy Pacific	17	B		33	Anna Reixique	10	1	
35	Katy Did	16	1		38	Pet Ullane	10	W	
42	Maggie Nifiscent	16	B	DDR	43	Di Lemmere	10	1	
55	Jacky Time	16			53	Angelina de Griz	10	B	
60	Polly Hydronne	16	W		56	Ingrid la Suede	10		
52	Guinevere d'Arthur	15	BW		51	Jane Lapotaire	9	B/WW	MLR
10	Frances Forrin	14	B		57	Ava Crisp	9	1	JP
48	Fifi	14	BW		59	May Banquet l'Idée	9	1	IdV
16	Ophelia Derriere	13			2	Betty Kant	8	1	
26	Ella Fant	13	B		19	Jenny Russe	8	W	
27	Lucy Fur	13	B		32	Sai Munnella	8	W	
30	Leia Orgasma	13	B		41	Marie Antoinette	8	B/I	
45	Cath de Thousands	13			47	Eve Ningalle	8	I/W	
8	Lotte Bortle	12	B	BdW	49	Mary Huana	8	B/WW	
12	Charlotte de Gaulle	12			34	Freda de Ath	7	W	
17	Henrietta Carrotoe	12	I/W		39	Thomassina Tancenjijn	7	1	GdL
28	Vera Cruz	12			50	Ulla Leight	7	1	
31	Bess Ortede	12	I/W		5	Belle Epoune	6	B/I	
1	Sue Briquet	11	B		13	Josephine Buonoparre	6	I/W	
4	Anne Triquet	11	W		24	Violet Bort	6	I/W	
9	Deb Chairre	11	1		15	Ada Andabettor	5	B/I	
40	Sheila Kiwi	11			25	Lots de Low	5	B	

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

New Characters

Timothy Hunt gets the Bastard son of a very wealthy Gentleman: Init SL 4; Cash 675; MA 2; EC 5 (X1).
 Terry Crook gets the Second son of a very wealthy Merchant: Init SL 3; Cash 500; MA 6; EC 2 (X2).
 Kevin Morgan gets the First son of a small Merchant: Init SL 4; Cash 28; MA 5; EC 4 (X4).

Regiments Organisation

	RFG	CG	KM	DG	QOC	ALC	CPC	RM	GDMD	PM	13F	PLLD	53F	27M	4A	69A	Gscn
Col	AQH+	JiT	ZTMG	DdR	HTC	SS	BdM	SDL+	BdW			GdL	N8		JNG	RO+	JoR
LCol	HC	CaT	DyB+		N4	JdIB		AdS+		JdF+	RdO	N5	LR	N6+	GdLi		
Maj	LI	CIG	N3	N3*	N3+	N2	N1	EH+	N4+	N2	JdV+		N2	N5	N1*	N2	
Maj	MdZ	N2+	N1*	DAV		N3		J5+					N6	N6	N3		
Capt	MdZ+	N6	N1	N4	N6*	N6*	N2	N6*	N6	N2*	N6	N6	N1	N4*	N3	N3	N5
Capt	N4*	N3	MM	N3	N5		N4	OdC+	N3	N5	N4	N1		N4	N2		N1*
Capt	BR	N5*		N6	N6		N4	X3+	N2		N3*	N2			N3		N4
Capt	CdE	N4		N1			N3*		N3*			N5*					
Capt	N5	N2															

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

(On Campaign for June-Aug)

	F1	F2	F3	F4	RNHB
Colonel	N3	N5	N4	N6	N8

Attached

Also at the Front

Guards Brigade (Royal Foot Guards, Cardinal's Guard, King's Musketeers)
Queen's Own Carabiniers
Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers

This table shows volunteers currently in action and their deployment.

I have finally confirmed the dates for this year's *MidCon*, which will be the middle weekend of November. I hope to make it along this year.

The only other news I have is that, apparently, a group of UK role-players has taken up Peter Adkison's offer and taken on UK Gen Con. That's all I know at present, but hopefully this means that something will take place.

Games Events

This box concentrates on games events I expect to attend.

Swigers: 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/Swigers>)

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.sfcpress.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.

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 210250, Bonn, 53157 Germany, http://www.merz-verlag.com/e/Spiel_e.html.

MidCon: board games plus the UK's National *Diplomacy* Championship. 14-16th Nov 2003, Thistle Birmingham City Hotel in central Birmingham. For details: <http://www.midcon.org.uk>.

Credits

To Win Just Once issue 37 was written and edited by Paul Evans. The cover picture is from an original by Nik Luker, who also drew the illustration on page 14. The LPBS masthead (page 9) is by Lee Brimmicombe-Wood. The picture on page 13 is by Tim Wiseman.

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 (to the number of consecutive self-bonks).

Turn Eleven

First off, my apologies: Francesca Huskinson was indeed bonked out last turn. I missed her off the list when typing it up and left her in the "still playing" list. Ben Brown tried to bonk Francesca, which doesn't count, but I've counted this as not self-bonking.

What has Barry Townsend been drinking? "Tble oble black boble," he starts. "You are the odd man out, Colin Parfitt." Colin retaliates by bonking Andrew Kendall for "not replying to my email." To complete the circle, Andrew bonks Barry Townsend as "it's clearly unreasonable that someone should still have no bonks." Umm, Andrew, your bonks are re-set each round.

"I'm still lovable! (Though I expect last month's piece has probably made me target no.1)" says a prescient Mark Jones. "I bonk Jerry Elsmore", he continues, "because he is really called Gxrde N'Grimxrke (pronounced as spelt), who is the exiled leader of a race of genocidal aliens living in disguise on Earth." I thought as much. Jerry bonks Mark in return: "I've started, so I'll finish." Ah, what memories! And what an excuse! Sorry Mark, but it has to be you." David Olliver bonks Mark as well "because lovable people make me sick." And Pete Holland bonks Mark "to help dispel his illusions." Graeme Morris bonks Pete Holland "cos his name is an anagram of "death pollen", so HE must be responsible for my hay fever!" Gerald Udowiczenko bonks Graeme "because he's got one bonk against his name already." Now he has!

Terry Crook bonks Ben Brown as he's "first on the list." Ben joins in by bonking Mark Jones like everyone else.

So Mark goes out, but the rest of the votes are shared around - get organised, guys. Still playing are: Ben Brown, Terry Crook, Jerry Elsmore, Pete Holland, Andrew Kendall, Michael Martinak, Graeme Morris, David Olliver, Colin Parfitt, Barry Townsend, Gerald Udowiczenko. Plus two new subscribers: Kevin Morgan and Al Tabbor. I'm sure you'll make them very welcome.

Get your bonks to Pevans at 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF or
twjo@pevans.co.uk by 13th September 2003

Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger as he was under half Endurance.
Stan Dandy Liver declined to meet Lucien d'Escaillehuitaillement as he was under half Endurance.
Rene Ouai declined to meet Stan Dandy Liver as he was under half Endurance.

Grudges to be settled next month:

None!

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

Battle Results

First Army: 2
First Division: 1
2nd Foot Brigade: 2
Picardy Musketeers: 5
53rd Fusiliers: 1
3rd Foot Brigade: 4
27th Musketeers: 2
4th Arquebustiers: 4

Tables

Duels held over until September:
Maurice Mineur versus Stan Dandy Liver.
Marc de Zorro versus Stan Dandy Liver.
Xavier 3sup versus Jean Petit.

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.

4th Foot Brigade: 2
69th Arquebustiers: 5
The Gascon Regiment: 4
RNHB regiment: 1

Second Army: 3
Frontier Division: 3
Guards Brigade: 2
Royal Foot Guards: 4
Cardinal's Guard: 2
King's Musketeers: 1
Queen's Own Carabniers: 1
Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers: 3
Frontier regiment 1: 2
Frontier regiment 2: 5
Frontier regiment 3: 3
Frontier regiment 4: 5

Brigade Positions

Guards Brigade REVE/N/N2
Horse Guards Brigade N4/N/N3
Heavy Brigade N2/N/___
Dragon Brigade N3/N/N4
First Foot Brigade SDL_/N/4V
Second Foot Brigade OP_/_/df
Third Foot Brigade N5/N/N6
Fourth Foot Brigade RO/___

Entries as Army Organisation Table

Army Organisation and Summer Deployment

First Army (Defence)	AR/EH/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)	CWAE/S/RO/GdL
Frontier Division (Siege)	CBy/X3/DyB
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't) for NPC, ___ for vacant

If we tête our tête
I swear by my neck
You'll lose your head over me too!

+ SDL

Betty Kant?
I bet I can!

Forty crowns
To your man
If I can't woo
Your gentle hand
And taste
Your nectar contraband.

+ SDL

Points Arising

A clean sweep this turn, with orders from everybody: thank you all.

GL (Hajo 'Red' Schlosser) was floated at his request.

We say goodbye to Craig Pearson this month, who has decided to call it a day. Thanks for your participation, Craig, and good luck with everything.

To encourage Press next month:

Her Majesty would like to hear tales of bravery and derring-do from gallant French soldiers in action. A class 8 favour will be given to the author of Her Majesty's favourite account.

The deadline is a day later than usual and I will not be around to answer questions before that.

Announcements

Joseph de Veevre applies for Brigade

Major of 1st Foot Brigade

Duels

Results of this month's duels:

Justin Time (with AR, gains 1 Exp)
beat Gaston de St Marque.
Gaston de St Marque (no Expertise)
beat Sean Sondamour (with CIG).
Rene Ouai declined to meet Euria
Humble as he was under half End.
Jacques Shitacks (gains 1 Exp) beat

his enemy Rene Ouai.
Orson de Combat didn't turn up to fight Rene Ouai and lost SPs.
Xavier 3sup didn't turn up to fight Rene Ouai and lost SPs.

Rene Ouai declined to meet Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger as he was under half Endurance.

Would you like some Pork Chop with that Garlic? Railway Rivals 2 – Turn 2

Buils

TTYF! continued their progress south-westwards along the valleys and, while IMPALER TRAINS network grew closer, they decided to run parallel and at a distance. HEDGEHOG built an arm to the east of Bucaresti and then headed north into the mountains, omitting to notice where they had finished their previous construction. ROMANOV RAILWAYS built south and west into the industrial heartland and oilfields of Romania. IVOR & Co. continued to radiate arms from Bucaresti, but appeared to decide to build north. Or west.

Trains Take You Further (TTYF!), Blue (T11) - W11 - X11 - TinguMires (+3) (X11) - A50 - Toplita - C51 - C52 (+3) (Dsj) - U8 - V8 Points: 23 +6 = 29	(L19) - L21 Points: 20 +18 = 38
Romanov Railways (RR), Red (Focsani) - L59 - L60 - L61 - K62 (K62) - Buzau - I63 - H63 - G64 - Ploesti (+6, 3 to Hedgehog) (G65) - G66 - Bucaresti Points: 32 +6 -3 = 35	Nathan Richards (V23) - Rannicu Valea does not happen has only built to W23 (Y23) - Z22 - Cimplung Points: 18 +3 +3 (RR) = 24
Impaler Trains (IT), Black (Q16) - Alba Uia; (+3) (S17) - Sibiu - V18 (+3) (V18) - W19; (G16) - Arad; (+6) (I17) - Lugoj - L18 - L19 (+6)	Ivor & Co (I&C), Purple (O68) - Cernavoda; (+6) (F65) - F64 (F64) - Ploesti - D62 - D61; (+6) (Bucaresti) - D67 (D67) - B68 Points: 31 +12 = 43

GM Notes

IMPALER TRAINS built Timisoara - G17 - G16 last turn.

the potential for loss is there.

Please check your builds. This turn someone built from a hex he hadn't reached. He only wasted one point but

Timothy Hunt has had to withdraw due to pressures of work, but Pevans is taking over Ivor & Co.

Die rolls for next turn are: 6, 3, 4

Mike adjudicated this turn before his holiday and e-mailed it to players. To keep up the momentum, he fitted in another turn once he was back.

Railway Rivals 2 – Turn 3

Builds

Apart from Ivor & Co, everyone built towards Brasov this turn. No great costs incurred by any player, but the potential for great expense exists. TTYFI connected a few more towns (with made up names, said an accusing proprietor). IMPALER TRAINS were first to Brasov, but further progress towards Buzau looks to be unlikely. ROMANOV RAILWAYS and HEDGEHOG look to be in competition building north from Brasov, but we shall see. IVOR & CO. built further west along the Danubian plain and then towards Brasov, the lure proving too strong, though their approach will be from the south.

Trains Take You Further (TTYFI), Blue John Harrington (C52) - D52 - D57 (D57) - E58 - Breicu (+3) (E58) - E59. (T11) - Cluj Points: 29 +9 -1 +1 (IT) = 38	(L21) - L24 (Brasov) - D58 - E59 (Simultaneous with RR, but 1 to TTYFI) Points: 38 +6 -1 = 43
Romanov Railways (RR), Red Nathan Richards (H51) - Patra Neamti: (+3) (Buzau) - I62- H51 - H60 - G60 - F59 (F59) - E59 (E59) - D58 - Brasov (Simultaneous with IT) Points: 35 +3 +1 (TTYFI) +2 (I&C) +1 (correction) = 42	(W23) - Rannicu Valcea - V20; (Cimmulpung) - A61 (A61) - A60 (A60) - Brasov Points: 24 +3 -1 (correction) = 26
Impaler Trains (IT), Black Gerald Udowiczenko (W19) - X18 - Y19 - A58- B58 - Brasov (+6)	Ivor & Co (I&C), Purple (B68) - Z29 - V27 (V27) - U27 - Craiova: (+6) (Z29) - Z30 (Ploesti) - I62 - Buzau Points: 43 +6 -2 = 47

GM Notes

RR built G64 - G66 as part of the second roll in turn 2.
Parallel builds only pay other railways at half cost if done in the same turn. Junctions remain as 1 point.
When two railways build alongside each other in opposite directions at exactly the same time I do not calculate payments to each other as they would be identical.
It costs 3 to build into and out of a mountain hex and 5 to build between two mountain hexes.

Die rolls for next turn are: 5, 5, 3

Orders to Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD or by e-mail to mike_dommett@yahoo.com by Friday, 5th September 2003.

Brigadier-General Viscount R. Even d'Ypres d'Ete, Commanding Officer, Guards Brigade

You are quite correct: it is better to die a Frenchman than to live as an Englishman! I wish you luck in attaining your goal, for I shall not disagree, you are most certainly French!

I, for my part, shall remain at my post, with my Brigade, in defence of Paris and Le Roi as God and the Field Marshal have decreed.

† Brigadier-General Stan Dandy
Liver, Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade of Foot

I am sure that the men of the 13th Fusiliers will not fail His Majesty King Pevans in this summer's campaign.
† Omi Palone

One fails to understand the comments about the Royal Foot Guards. It is well known that AQH only drinks warm milk with a little grated cinnamon in it. How he can pass out from drinking that is a mystery. Perhaps your correspondent is mistaking the 12 hours slumber that he needs to keep his childish complexion for the drunken slumbers that follow a typical evening at the tables of the Cardinal's Guard.

Dear Colonel The Money Goes Well, I've put a bit o' me weight behind the plan ter remove the lackwit Captains from our glorious regiment. But when are YOU goin' to get a move on up the spiral ladder to the position yourself SHOULD be holdin', instead o' wearin' yourself out as a mere Colonel? Yours faithfully an' all that,
† Dan y Beaye

Poetry Corner

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

SDL
Free form poet.
Certainly no scansion or rhythm.
This is at least as good.
† Omi Palone

- 1 You get me high
Whenever I sigh
At the thought of you,
Mary Huanai!
- 2 I no longer feel blue
When I think of you
My sweet little skunk,
Mary Huanai!
I'll go all to pot
If you say I should not
Be thinking of you,
Mary Huanai!
- 4 Oh, please let me in
To roll up my skin
Upon your silken thigh,
Mary Huanai!
- 5 For my love is true
I'd resin' for you
Let's roll in the grass,
Mary Huanai!
- 6 We'll go spliffing for two
Just me and you
Will you, please, be mine,
Mary Huanai!

† SDL
Very droll. † Le Roi
Well, well, well,
If it isn't Eve Ningalle
Who takes my fancy this week.
I'll beat on your door
As your street I patrol
Am I d'Officer de Liaison, you seek?
† SDL

Marie Antoinette
I love your fine neck
For I've quite lost my head over you.

when I am sufficiently healed of my injuries and, God willing, no longer your Colonel, then I shall gladly take my proper place at your side.
Your 'opponent',
† Stan Dandy Liver
† Le Roi

Eh?

Social

Omi Palone will be holding a party for all Infantry Officers Week 2 in October. He looks forward to vndering your jolly old eeks.

To all those concerned.

Please accept my sincere apologies for my unplanned absence last month. I had expected, when I joined the KM, to be at the front in June but had not anticipated the Brigadier's keenness to get us into battle. I hope to be holding a celebratory drink or two on my return and invite you all as guests of honour.
† Maurice Mineur

To all:

If anyone who is, like, not going off playing soldiers feels like chilling out in July, I'll be hanging out in my club weeks 3 and 4 getting cool and mellow. I've got the weed if you've, like, got the need.
† LdE

I wish to complain to the 'Minister of Parties' about the quality of the parties over the last couple of months. It just isn't good enough: there must be more parties and not a party that will only have a couple of people attending 'cause they ask for guests in the realms of SIL 20. It just isn't fair for the other people.

Personal

Primus: Lothar Rio wears a codpiece.
Secundus: And so what? Many men do.
Primus: But on his nose?

To: Major Marc de Zorro
From: Lt Col Dan y Beauye
Me dear old feller, I've had a word in the shell-like of that Captain of the King's Escort, pointin' out the huge advantages of quittin' his job and lettin' you apply for the post.

Hopefully, he'll be baskin' in the Partisan sunshine and watchin' the world go by slowly very soon now
Yours in comradeship,
† Danny

Lord Percy Percy says, as fashion is tending towards the unsignalled release of flutlence, Abel Ringeur's briefings are the most fashionable place to be seen (if you can hold your breath long enough, that is).

Count Abel Ringeur

This publication is read by ladies, young children and those of a nervous disposition -- to wit, the King's Musketeers. You surely cannot be expecting me to reveal the sordid nature of quiet sheep and yourself to them in print. You may not be ashamed of yourself, but you should be.
The doctor

Unfortunately, while Dandy Stan may amuse, he is not a muse. He inspires only doggerel in me. Thus...

Dandy Stan,
Barely a Man.
Afraid of your Shadow,
Best Hide while you Can
... Although with his generous behind he takes a deal of hiding.
† JP

Mon Dieu Ewe Swine has designs on Bessie, we hear (3, 5)

To JS, from RO:
I don't know what you're talking about. You obviously need to find a different manservant, if he's giving you clothes with old blood on to wear.

**Les Petites Bêtes
Soyeuses 163**

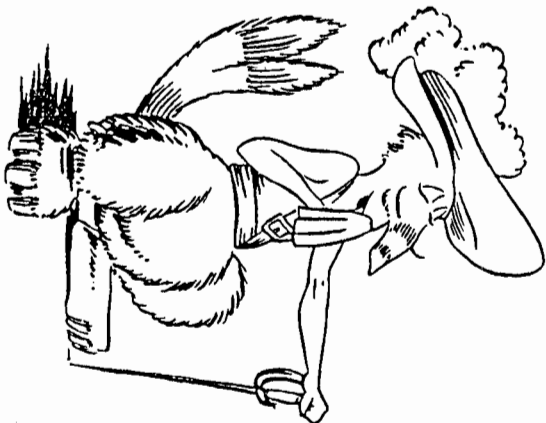
Being a postal game of *En Garde!* run by Pevans since April 1986 and now published as part of *To Win Just Once*.

If you'd like to play, you'll need to subscribe to *TWJO* 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 13th Sept 2003

June 1657



There is just time before the army leaves Paris for the summer campaign for a few old scores to be settled. Most of them seem to involve Rene Ouai, who is clearly not popular in Paris at the moment. Nearly as unpopular is Stan Dandy Liver. The best news for everybody is that they're due to fight each other. However, we shall start with Sean Sondamour and Gaston de St Marque. The two men appear to be evenly matched, but Sondamour has a sabre to his opponent's rapier. Charlemagne le Gosse seconds Sondamour, but offers his services as referee when he sees that de St Marque has no support. Sondamour gathers himself and swings his sabre right back for a slash. As he comes forward he meets de St Marque's boot coming the other way. Winded by the kick, all Sondamour can do is surrender.

Buoyed up by his success, de St Marque bounces off to meet his next adversary, Justin Time. The difference between the two men is obvious. Time is a big bruiser, while de St Marque is on the slight side of medium. So Time has size on his side, together with a sabre, greater expertise and a second, Abel Ringeur. Time opens with a furious slash. The slash is blocked by de St Marque, who jumps back from the following cut. He jumps again, avoiding Time's vicious rest, and then slashes on his own account. This strikes just as stand there as Time hits him with the first part of another furious slash. De St Marque concedes the fight.

Neither Orson de Combat nor Xavier 3sup arrive to fight Rene Ouai, so Jacques Shitacks is his first opponent. Shitacks has a large advantage in physique that wouldn't have been there had Ouai been uninjured. Marine Shitacks is, of course, wielding a cutlass – with which he is more skilled than Ouai is with his rapier. First blood to Ouai, though, as his sword flicks out for a (furious) lunge. The ponderous cutlass swings round to slash him regardless. Ouai surrenders and is unable to meet the other people waiting for him: Euria Humble, Stan Dandy Liver. Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger should have been there too, but hasn't turned up. He is willing to fight Stan Dandy Liver, but Liver is too hurt to show up, disappointing Lucien d'Escaillehuaillements as well. Liver sends a few hundred crowns each to de Schwarzenegger and Ouai, in recognition of the fine costumes they wore to his bash last month. De Schwarzenegger was "Best Dressed Ruffian", while Ouai was just much appreciated by his host ("his costume could only have been bettered if he had come as a pin-cushion").

Last minute maceuvres

With a third of the regiments due to go into action this month, there are some last minute adjustments to the military positions. But first, Beau Romir and Dan y Beauye support Marc de Zorro's request for the Captain of the King's Escort to resign. The man promptly quits. But de Zorro can't get the appointment as he became a Major last month. Paul d'Geist successfully becomes a Trooper after his application is backed by Euria Humble, Marc de Zorro, Maurice Mineur and Sirius Chien. Dan y Beauye has a word with a Captain of the King's Musketeers, who quits. Jean Petit supports the senior Captain of the Royal Marines against Euria Humble and he stays.

Jean ou Rous buys his way to Colonel of the Gascons and Joseph de Veevre purchases Major in the 13th Fusiliers. More interesting is what happens in the Dragoon Guards. D Arth Vader resigns his commission and promptly applies for re-admission to the regiment. Don de Rico acquires the rank of Colonel and signs up Vader, who buys his way to Major. Alfonso Qué Holique recruits Beau Romir and Charlot d'Evoir for the Royal Foot Guards. They both become Captains. Neither is expecting to be in action, but the Brigadier has other ideas. Yes, the Guards are ordered to join the Frontier regiments.

Guy de Lynes supports Jean de Florette in his application to the Picardy Musketeers. It is successful and he obtains the rank of Major with the help of a loan from Stan Dandy Liver. Now that de Florette will be going into action, First Foot Brigadier Liver lifts his threat to order the 13th Fusiliers into action. Liver then appoints Joseph de Veevre from the 13th Fusiliers as his Brigade Major, but still has no Aide. The need for a Brigade Major in the Second Foot sees de Florette get the position just for being there. Co W Ard Extrême signs up Jacques Shitacks as his Aide, getting him into the Second Army HQ. Sean Sondamour finds the right man to be Regimental Adjutant.

Announcements

To the Gentlemen of the Guards Brigade.

I apologise for the mix-up last month. I'm afraid I was a bit too keen to get the Brigade to the front for the campaign season. It makes me proud, however, that the Brigade can produce the finest results even when called to action unexpectedly. If we can fight to this standard during the campaign, we will easily retain our standing as Europe's premier fighting force. Again I apologise for any inconvenience caused. † REYE

To Officers of the 13th Fusiliers (Motto: *Not The Best, But Cheap. Available For Hire*):

The party scene in Paris is decidedly dull and it looks like a plague year – if the size of the rats nesting under a certain regiment's barracks is anything to go by. Failing any significant social announcements, as acting Colonel I propose that we volunteer to the Front next month and join the Siege of ... can someone tell me where it is? It's got to be more exciting than the most fashionable pest-hole in Europe!

To all the Officers in the RFG

Gentlemen this is the big one, we're going to be in the thick of it for the next three months & I intend for the RFG to show the other regiments how to behave properly, as befits our status as the premier Regiment in France.

To that end I will be conducting early morning inspections at 2 pm sharp and I expect everyone's kit to be in perfect conditions: Gobelts polished and corkscrews sharp. † Col AQH

Press

REAL MEN LEAD

If you are a real man and not some pansy, If you would be in the thick of France, If you would be in the thick of action, If you hate the Princesses on horses, The GASCONS are for you! Now recruiting. Assistance available. To apply, look to the heaviest fighting at the front.

The HQ of the 2nd Army advertises a vacancy for a SCIENTIST, specialising in BALLISTICS. University education in Physics required. Your main job is to determine locations for the tents of Army HQ during the siege that ensure that neither fire from the enemy city nor stray bullets can come close.

Matters of Honour

To Jacques dans le Box Much as I enjoyed beating d'Wiser (again) in our duel, I regret that he was able to use the injuries he sustained as a feeble excuse to deprive you of your opportunity for satisfaction. I wish you the best of luck in pinning him down for another encounter. † Sean Sondamour

I seem to be, like, getting into some heavy situations on the field of honour of late. This is not cool. It is also, like, highly bad karma when hit with a weapon, not to mention possibly seriously terminal. So if anyone is, like, cool enough to be my second and look after my stash for me... † SDL

Sir Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger.

You have my most abject apologies, but on this occasion I must decline your request to be your second. Should you have cause with me in the future,

Ringeur defends

Brevet General Abel Ringeur commands First Army, which has the job of securing Second Army's lines of communication. Ringeur has brought a personal supply train to augment the Army's catering. The Army has an indifferent month, but is still there. This is enough for Ringeur's rank to be made permanent. As befits his rank, he gets a percentage of the loot gathered, which comes to half a thousand crowns. The same amount is split evenly between his Aide and Adjutant. Royal Marine Major Euria Humble, who is the Aide in question, also receives a little Mention in Despatches. RFG Colonel Alfonse Qué Holique, Army Adjutant, just gets the cash.

Gaston de St Marque also has a brevet rank as the Lieutenant-General commanding First Division. He gains his full rank, a Mention in Despatches and 300 crowns in booty – just a small fraction of the amount he invested in Arms this month. Given that the Second Army QMG, Bdr-General de Lynes, has named him supplier to Second Army, this should do very nicely for him. Three times as much comes the way of de St Marque's industrious Aide, RM Captain Orson de Combat. He also receives a Mention in Despatches and a Knighthood. Another Royal Marine, Lt-Colonel Arnaldo de Schwarzenegger, is Divisional Adjutant and collects five hundred crowns, but nothing else. Apparently he's busy enquiring what happens if the French take some territory. "Will we need a Governor?" he asks.

The Picardy Musketeers run into trouble and run away. The enemy advance is stopped by the 53rd Fusiliers. Lt-Colonel Lothar Rio has no impact on proceedings and gets no reward. He's feeling a bit impoverished, too, after the Shylocks' boys had words with him about an outstanding loan as he was leaving Paris. The mixed result is good enough to get Brigadier Orni Palone's rank made permanent. He adds some 250 crowns to his account. Brigade Major Jean de Florette of the Picardy Musketeers is promoted to Lt-Colonel. A Mention in Despatches comes his way, too and his share totals 300 crowns.

In Third Foot Brigade there is some success for the 27th Musketeers, but none for the 4th Arquebusiers. The 4A commander, Bdr-General Jacques N Gilles, is Mentioned in Despatches for his bravery in personally leading patrols. He acquires a hundred crowns as well. Lt-Colonel Gar de Lieu survives without anybody noticing him. This is in contrast to his departure from Paris, when he was caught by representatives of the Shylocks, who take a dim view of people absconding to the front when their debts are due – even if it was less than a hundred crowns.

The 69th Arquebusiers take a bashing in Fourth Foot Brigade, but the Gascons hold their ground. Colonel Jean ou Rous takes the opportunity to add 250 crowns to his treasury, while making sure he has plenty of the local vintage with which to "guard his tent".

Colonel Henry Tierry Christian clearly feels that the army needs some cavalry for the campaign. Or maybe he just wants to escape the pressure of being Minister of State. It can't be a shortage of cash, as Chancellor de Marko has sent him a substantial sum this month. The fact that he invests twice as much as this in Arms suggests that he's far from short of money. Anyway, he gives the Queen's Own Carabniers their marching orders. Brigadier-General Sean Sondamour agrees and commands the Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers to join the fray. Something Lt-Colonel Jacques dans le Box was not expecting. After which, almost twice as many regiments as expected are in action for the season.

The Few

So there are few people in Paris for June. The most senior of these is the Field Marshal, Marvin Leigh Rowbow. He takes himself off to the Fleur de Lys for the month with Jane Lapotaire for company. The quiet of the Fleur in summer is only broken by the complaints of Beppe de Marko. He rolls up at the start of June in search of Henry Tierry Christian and can't get past the foyer. After which, he collects Edna Bucquette and heads off to Bothwell's for the rest of the month.

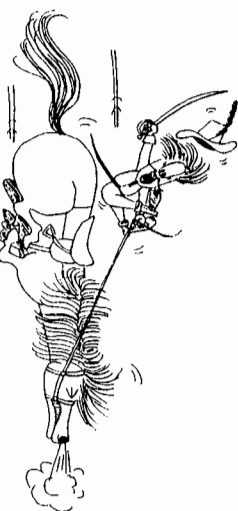
Hunter's is far more popular. Don de Rico and Maggie Niñsent are there all month, as are Guy de Lynes and Thomasina Tancengin. Bud d'Wiser brings Lotte Bottle along for the first two weeks. Then he's off to practice with his sabre for a couple of weeks. Emma Roides gets three weeks at Blue Gables with Sirius Chien, but then he abandons her for a week with his two-hander. Lucien d'Escallehuitaillements spends three weeks in the club after he's paid a visit to the bawdyhouses for some female company. He also gets the attention of the local footpads, but has spent all his cash.

After a success in the first week of June, Joseph de Veevre shows up at the Frog & Peach with May Banquet l'Idée on his arm. They return the following week, but the lure of his rapier is too much for Joseph and he spends a week in the gym. This leaves Red Phillips, where Jean Petit can be found for just the first week of the month, along with Ava Crisp. A couple of weeks with his sabre leaves Jean a week in which to go after some different female company. Bad news for Xavier 3sup. Stan Dandy Liver is declaiming his poetry all month in several different parts of Paris. First one, then another woman refuses his advances. However, he finds a much



more appreciative audience at the next two residences he visits. That means two more "Dear John" letters – for Marc de Zorro and Maurice Mineur.

Revaulvin d'Or is the second man to start his month at the bawdyhouses. Having indulged himself with the ladies, he spends the rest of the month accompanying his rapier to the regimental gym. The Dragoon Guards' barracks are home to D Arth Vader for the whole month as he works out with his sabre. It was either this or spend the time counting the crowns that Chancellor de Marko sent him. However, having invested the cash in Arms, he doesn't actually have it to count.



CHAAAAAAAAARRGEE!!

France attacks!

Austrian attention is focused on the impending coronation of Emperor Leopold, so France can take advantage. The French army marches across its south-eastern borders to lay siege to outlying Austrian possessions. The siege is the responsibility of Second Army, bolstered by the addition of the Guards Brigade and a couple of cavalry regiments. The Frontier regiments have an indifferent time, taking the brunt of Austrian counter-attacks. The Queen's Own Carabiniers charge and rout one of these counter-attacks. Colonel Henry Thierry Christian takes no risks, appropriates some five hundred crowns for himself and is Mentioned in Despatches. Subaltern Mon Dieu Ewe Swine pillages about two-thirds of the amount his CO gets and otherwise keeps his head down.

The Guards Brigade makes a difference. The King's Musketeers attack and capture the gates to the town, but take some casualties. Major Robert d'Bildare leads his battalion in the first charge. A volley from the enemy mows him down. RIP. Brigadier-General Zachary The Money Goes dodges the bullets and continues the momentum. With war-pig Bessie at his side he carries the charge over the enemy ramparts. His name is Mentioned in Despatches and he is elevated to Count by a grateful monarch. He adds 350 crowns to his account; on top of the rather larger sum that Chancellor de Marko has sent him. Captain Maurice Mineur is safe in second battalion, but catches the eye of the Despatches writer.

The Cardinal's Guard follow up the Musketeers to clear the rest of the battlements. Bdr-General Justin Time concentrates on the plunder and takes over a thousand crowns away with him. It is Lt-Colonel Charles à Tanne who takes the lead in the action. For this he is Mentioned in Despatches at some length – and twice. This brings him the title of Marquis. He collects just three hundred crowns of loot. Major Charlemagne le Gosse follows both men: he receives two Mentions in Despatches and just short of a thousand crowns. Brevet Captain Jared Kaph-Kophi is leading his men round the battlements when he spots an enemy officer making an escape. Screaming his blood-curdling battle cry, Kaph-Kophi launches himself at the man. Unfortunately, this is just enough warning for the man to grab a pike and brace it. The result is Kaph-Kophi kebab. RIP.

Guards misfire

As Colonel Qué Holique is serving with First Army, Lt-Colonel Harry Covert commands the Royal Foot Guards. They make little impression on the fight, but get a share of the pickings. There are a couple of hundred crowns for Covert. Three hundred for Major Lokwot Isaw, who is Mentioned in Despatches and gains an Earldom. (Brevet) Major Marc de Zorro gets 150 crowns and nothing else. Captain Beau Romir finds two hundred crowns and Captain Charlot d'Evoir just a hundred. Even Private Paul d'Geist gets in on the act, pocketing some two hundred crowns. Guards Brigadier R Even d'Ypres d'Ete does the best of anybody, totting up just over fifteen hundred crowns. He could do with some staff, though.

There's not much for the Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers to do. Bdr-General Sean Sondamour gets six hundred crowns, but no recognition. There's just half that amount for Lt-Colonel Jacques dans le Box.

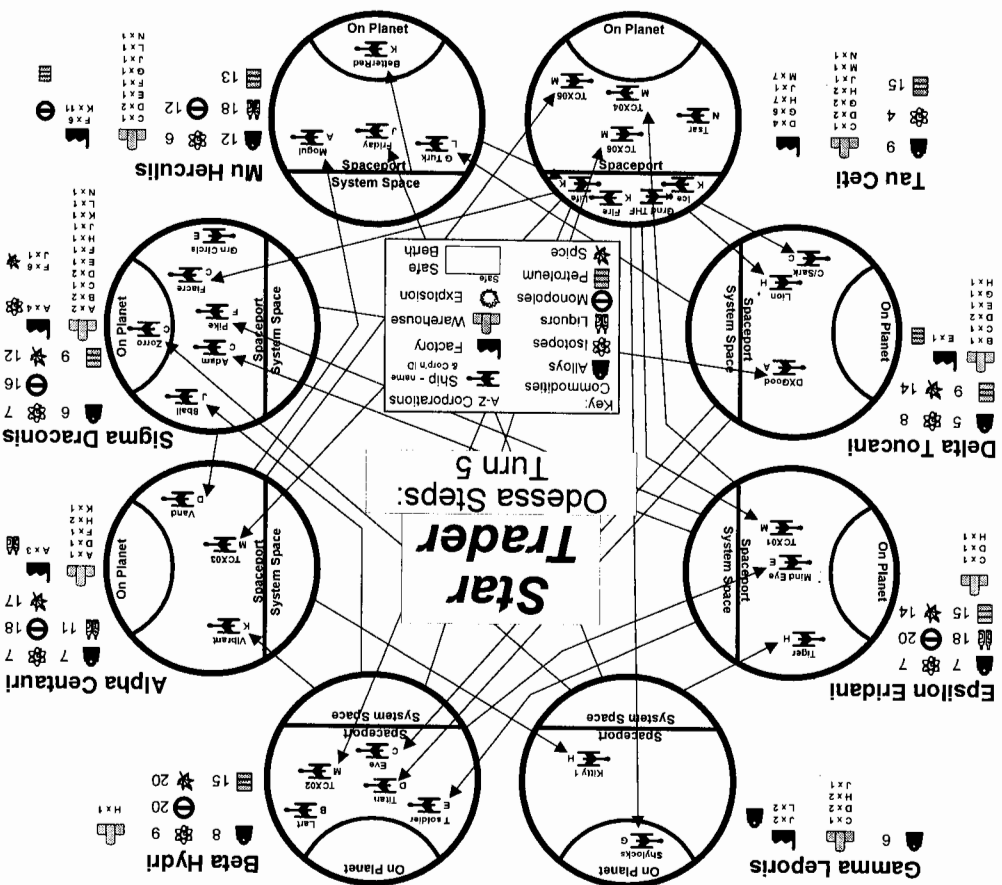
The Frontier Division commander, Claude Byacat, is to be seen among the troops all month, encouraging his men. He is promoted to General and Mentioned in Despatches. He accepts donations from all and sundry, bringing his takings to 600 crowns for the month. There is a Mention in Despatches for his Aide, Marine Captain Xavier 3sup, who racks up 900 crowns in booty. Adjutant Dan y Beauve (Lt-Col, KM) gets the same amount.

General Co W Ard Extrême is satisfied with his first month in command of Second Army. Particularly as he is promoted to be Field Marshal for next year. He earns a Mention in Despatches and five hundred crowns without putting himself in any danger. His Aide, Major Jacques Shitacks of the Royal Marines, earns the same amount and is Mentioned in Despatches. Rene Ouai may be Colonel of the 69th Arquebustiers, but he is serving as Second Army Adjutant. His work in scooping some 800 crowns into his personal coffer is rewarded with promotion to (brevet) Brigadier-General. With this comes the command of Fourth Foot, so he rides off to join First Army.

Agents are transferred between ships in Spaceports or On Planet only.

You can pay back a loan and take out a new loan in the same turn.

Orders to Mike Dommett, 119 Victoria Road, ALTON, Hants GU34 2DD or by e-mail to mike_dommett@yahoo.com by Friday, 5th September 2003.



Star Trader Odessa Steps – Turn 5

"Where did that one come from?" The harassed commander asked his damage control officer as the Flute hull rocked to a blow to the hull.

"Um, from Fire, sir."

"What?"

"I think it's been captured – look, there's another barrage and it's closing."

"I should have been more suspicious. It was just too easy to intercept." Faced with an attack on two fronts, the commander tried to continue to fire at the main enemy, and avoid the attacks from the rear. The damaged Clarinet hull was still firing at the Culture's ship, but its firepower was weak. The Hull shuddered again.

"Sir, boarders on the scope."

It is debatable which was the biggest event. For most Corporations, the massive forgery, which halved all cash assets, and all debts was devastating. A couple of Corporations seemed to have been aware of the machinations and acted accordingly, being high on debt, and low on cash. For NEKEKAMI and THE CULTURE, it was the combat in Tau Ceti system space which left all 4 ships battered. As they're all in THE CULTURE's hands, NEKEKAMI was hit very hard. The combat swung each way, but the early surrender of Fire and the bad luck suffered by NEKEKAMI's attempts to board meant that all the ships fell, though every one damaged the armed Monarch Hull, and left it with a bare third of its pods intact. Once the loss of the ships was confirmed by a courageous communications officer, the failure of the Tau Ceti Planetary Patrols to intercept any of the ships (though they came close) was further bad news for NEKEKAMI. GRAND LARS THENI were said to be "sympathetic" though no-one would be more specific. The apparent immunity of TAU CETI XPRESS from interception suggests that someone at least may have been paying for protection. For INTERSTELLAR METALS the failure for a second quarter to pay interest on their loan was embarrassing. Perhaps they are hoping for more forgery.

Better Red, as the CULTURE has renamed their captured Flute hull, landed at Mu Herculis and raised 240 HTs selling Weapons. An attempt to increase THE CULTURE's Reputation failed, but Political Connections were increased to 8. The Vibrant was re-crewed with an A class crew. The existing loan was repaid and a new loan for 890 HTs over 4 turns was taken out. Most of this was spent buying 11 Monopole factories at Mu Herculis.

SHYLOCKS were also on planet, at Gamma Leporis, and sold their weapons for 30 HTs a unit. The money was used to improve Reputation and increase Political Connections. Another Corporation received a cash payment and the ambassador still hasn't arrived at his destination, which will teach him to take the 25th century's equivalent of Connex Southwest.

KATKORP sold their Alloys factories at Gamma Leporis and 2 of their Isotope production facility at Tau Ceti. They used the money to increase their Political

Connections. They paid off their (smaller) existing loan and took out a new one for 395 HTs for 4 turns and bought warehouses at Delta Toucanis, and the first warehouse purchased at Beta Hydri. NEKEKAMI had a massive increase in Reputation after their debacle, but it is of little comfort. Their press release was unceremoniously removed from all public shipping offices. At least their outstanding loan is smaller than it was.

TSTI took OP 27 and bought 4 units at Sigma Draconis on Planet. Criminal Connections were increased to 8, and an A class crew was hired for Faiae. Alexis, whose hire was mis-reported last Quarter as the laying down of a Phoenix hull, has joined TSTI and the misogynistic director has already ordered her to Sigma Draconis, far from fashion shops. Apparently her contract is up for sale. TAU CETI XPRESS repaid their loan, and decided not to take out a new one. INTERSTELLAR METALS bought a second warehouse at Gamma Leporis and watched their loan get bigger again with the missed interest being added to the principal.

NEWBIE increased their Business Connections and took out a 160 HT loan from the banks for 4 turns. They also announced that Agent Tender and Agent JB were for hire, contact to be made at the Corporation offices. TOTAL TRANSIT 2070 took out a 300 HT loan over 8 turns - to finance expansion. SMF were quiet and THE UNIVERSAL repaid their loan and are now free of debt.

Sigma Draconis saw INTERSTELLAR METALS buying 9 units for 7 HTs each and becoming a Contractor. The UNIVERSAL and BLAND & BRASS both failed to buy Monopoles as the price rose. IM sold 1 petroleum for 8 HTs, and then finished by buying 5 Spice on their contracts for a good quarter here.

KATKORP failed to buy Alloys at Alpha Centauri as the price rose. INTERSTELLAR METALS were selling Spice, 12 units for 17 HTs each and a Dealership. THE CULTURE sold 7 Monopoles at 18 HTs, but no market position. SWISS MERCENARY'S FLEET sold 3 Liquor for 10 HTs apiece, the last of their factory's production. Passenger carrier TAU CETI XPRESS sold 6 Isotopes for 5 HTs and gained a Dealership, their first market position.

Beta Hydri saw THE UNIVERSAL failing to sell Alloys as they wanted more than the market thought they were worth. TCX sold a single Isotope for 7 HTs. TRANS SOLAR TRADING sold 9 Petroleum at 12 HTs and gained a Dealership, and IM sold 3 more using Percent. KATKORP bought 9 Alloys at Gamma Leporis and no recognition. Epsilon Eridani saw KATKORP selling 2 Isotopes for 7 HTs each and TCX selling 1 for 6 HTs. THE UNIVERSAL bought 1 Spice for 15 HTs.

Delta Toucanis was busy. First INTERSTELLAR METALS sold 7 Alloys for 5 HTs each, then KATKORP sold 12 Isotopes at 8 HTs, followed by TSTI selling 2 more at the same price. TOTAL TRANSIT 2070 were undercut by these two and sold nothing. Petroleum was also active, IM buying 10 for 10 HTs apiece and a Contractorship, THE UNIVERSAL selling 3 for 6 HTs each and then KATKORP buying 3 at 9 HTs. TT2070 did manage to buy 4 Spice for 14. Tau Ceti saw much trading in Isotopes, NEKEKAMI selling 2 for 1 HT each, and then TCX selling 7 at 4 HTs. SHYLOCKS sold 5 on Contract, but KATKORP's bid of 5 to sell was ignored.

Mu Herculis saw BLAND & BRASS selling 6 Alloys at 10 HTs, and TT2070 selling 6 Liquor at 17, this gaining a Dealership. INTERSTELLAR METALS bought 6 Petroleum for 13 HTs apiece, emptying their coffers. Finally, Isotopes saw GRAND LARS THENI buying 16 for 8 HTs each, filling the Monarch hull, and becoming dealers. SHYLOCKS sold 9 for 4 HTs apiece and gained a Contractorship. BLAND & BRASS then sold 2 more at 6 HTs. Only TT2070 were disappointed as no one sold them anything.

Corporation letter & name	Bus	Crim	Pol	Init	Turn	Cash	Rep'n	Player
A Total Transit 2070	6	0	7	0	11th	43	36	Simon Burling
B New Expensive Weapons	2	7	2	0	10th	164	31	Peter Denison
C Trans-Solar Trading, Inc	9	8	3	11	6th	42	40	Jerry Elsmore
D Interstellar Metals	10	5	4	3	8th	30	34	Paul Evans
E The Universal	8	0	5	0	13th	52	34	John Harrington
F Swiss Mercenary's Fleet	3	0	9	0	12th	44	35	Martin Jennings
G Shylocks	10	0	3	15	2nd	238	36	Andrew Kendall
H KatKorp	4	1	8	11	3rd	523	40	Michael Martinakat
J Bland & Brass	1	1	6	0	9th	79	22	Colin Parfit
K The Culture	3	0	8	20	1st	270	19	Nathan Richards
L Grand Lars Theni & T Heft	8	1	2	10	5th	19	28	Jerry Spencer
M Tau Ceti Express	4	0	7	1+4	7th	144	37	Mike Wale
N Nekekami Corporation	2	8	0	13	4th	99	28	Paul Wilson

'N' under Initiative Bid indicates No Move Received

News Chits

There were no new chits this turn.

New chits are shown in Bold:

OP 27 was taken by Trans-Solar Trading.

Turn 5 P9
Turn 6 P1, B4
Turn 7 C1, B2, P5, P9
Turn 8 C6

GM Notes

Ships are not assumed to be trying to intercept unless stated in your orders; You do not need to write "avoid interception" in your orders.

You can jump into system space and accept interception, as THE CULTURE did this turn.

Combat can take place if a player succeeds in intercepting an incoming ship jumping to a spaceport.

Orders like "return fire with missiles, and then guns" mean you will fire missiles at a ship until they are all knocked out, and will continue to fire with guns after that point.

Illegal goods, such as Slaves, can only be loaded on Planet. Legal trading takes place in spaceports; you cannot therefore buy legal and illegal goods for the same spaceship on the same turn. You can load in the spaceport on one turn, then jump to the planet the next turn and load the illegal commodity.