

WAR BULLETIN

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ISSUE NUMBER 14

A postal Diplomacy zine produced by
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Bang Crash Thump

The loft above my room is being floored
in this week, which is unfortunate timing
as I'm on night shift. 'It's all in a
good cause' I muttered this morning hiding
under the bedclothes, the good cause being
Rod's eventual departure upstairs together
with the 6x4ft Midgard board and other
space occupiers. This leaves me with the
quadrophonic sound system dangling wires
to electrocute the unwary, the SF book &
fanzone explosion (think I'll declare
another pogrom soon) and other horrors.

House Rules?

With this come some provisional house
rules. As noted therein these are cribbed
from Erehwon, with certain noted bits where
I disagree with Rod Walker's ruling and have
used the alternative. I'd like to start a
standby player system with 'D' Game - this
of course depends on some of you people
volunteering! The advantage to you is that
you get some game playing experience for
free.

Denmark standOff Part II.

This refers to Don Turnbull's letter in
WB13. Don Miller protested by postcard
that his rule had been misquoted, but I'll
quote from Rod Walker's longer letter on
the same subject. The Nos refer to the
House Rules:

'What you have is a classic Koning's Rule
situation.....Don is correct in stating
that most GMs use the Koning Rule, but I
think he exaggerates the size of the
majority. At least three GMs, Beshara,
Boardman and vonMetzke do not use it
(although vonMetzke says he will be using
it in all future games).

'Unfortunately Don has misquoted
Miller's Rule. It does not say "a
dislodged force has no effect on the actions
of other units on the board". It says
"a dislodged unit has no effect on the
space from which the attacker came". This
includes Koning's Rule (21) and the

MOVES 'A' (1970BT) SPRING 1907
'B' (1970BU) SPRING 1906
'C' (1971Y) SPRING 1904
'D' START ANNOUNCED

alternate to the Boardman Rule (22).
However saying a dislodged unit has no
effect on the board generally is not true.

FRANCE: A Bur-Mun. A Kie-Ber.

ITALY: A Mar-Bur S by A Gas

RUSSIA: A Pru-Ber S by A Mun

The French A Bur is dislodged, but still
cuts the Russian support.

FRANCE: A Bur-Mun

ITALY: A Mar-Bur S by A Gas

RUSSIA: A Sil-Mun

Again, the dislodged French unit stands off
a Russian unit.

((HHP here. The last example Rod cites
is the same as the 'B' Game situation I
think, where I ruled that the standoff in
Denmark did take place))

'Game B presents an interesting situation.
A Tyr-Vie S by A Tri. A Ven-Tri. ((This
was last move -HHP)) Why is the support
good? A Tri is attacked from the side,
which (say the Rules) cuts support. Now,
you have ruled the way every GM in the
world rules, so far as I know. Charles
Wells of Lonely Mountain, who is no longer
active, did rule that the support was cut.
But everyone else feels that you cannot cut
your own support. There is no Rulebook
justification for this. I have long toyed
with the notion of changing my mind on this
but have not yet done so.

Retreats

Rod Walker also commented on WB's present
policy of making retreats for players if no
retreat orders are received. He pointed
out that he and many other GMs use a
different system for combining retreat
orders with move orders:

'Once the retreats are identified, the
players send retreats and the next season
at the same time, the latter conditional on
the former. In most cases, the situation
is so simple that this is no hardship. In
a very few instances, the retreats need to
be taken seperately. I run 8 games, and
this kind of situation arises once every 5
issues, which means once every 40 seasons,
on an average. The most complex retreats
seem to take place after Autumn, which
means that the next thing is Winter
adjustments, which retreats seldom if ever
affect very much.

'Needless to say, I think requiring adjustments before the players have seen the moves is even more unfair than the other. It's nice for the GM, but a lot can happen in an Autumn move and the placement of units is often very important. Players are not supposed to negotiate before adjustments, true, but even this will not prevent them. And I think they have a right to see what happened before they build/remove.

'Anyway, I hope you reconsider this policy - not on my account, but as a service to players.'

The last sentence seems to put the ball in the player's court - what do you think? Would you prefer sending in retreats with the following move or with the preceding move?

Publications received

There is no news sheet this time, as MIDGARD has gone into hiding to prepare for a bumper issue. So:

Rod Walker sends a pile of his current publications. Erehwon is his regular DPL zine (Issues 45-48) 7 for \$1. Numenor (10 for \$1.50) publishes the Boardman numbers which for WB are recorded on the first page. It also gives data on concluded games. This latter is particularly interesting, a table is given of completed games which is reproduced below. Here W=number of games won D=number of games drawn or second place by a margin of 4 or more units, S=survivals, E=eliminations.

Country	P	W	D	S	E
TURKEY	388	26	33	107	60
RUSSIA	373	33	18	88	87
ENGLAND	340	21	29	106	70
FRANCE	334	20	27	113	66
GERMANY	266	15	22	95	94
ITALY	255	12	22	105	87
AUSTRIA	250	18	14	82	112

P= Points, where W=7 D=3 S=1. There are a number of other mostly more complicated systems used. These statistics are for 226 games.

Some surprises there I think, work it out for yourselves!

From Don Miller comes The Gamesletter, which is part of the NFF Games Bureau and contains news and reviews. One new organisation worth mentioning is the Diplomacy Association, \$1 per year to 155W 68th St NY NY 10023. This is a new set up, intended for players as opposed to the NFFGBDD which is for GMs.

GM has nervous breakdown - WB abandoned!

Well not yet, but that might be a real headline if some players persist in nonconformity. Please use the order sheets for moves - small scribbled notes get lost in the files. Please think out your retreats, builds and removals and write in all possibilities. And please put MIDGARD/WB correspondence on separate sheets of paper, your letter has to go in one file or the other otherwise.

'D' Game starts

Thanks to an instant reply from John Piggott our 4th game stumbles into action. The line-up is:

ENGLAND: Martin Davis 92 Park Rd, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

GERMANY: Michel Feron, Grand-Place 7, B-4280 Hannut, Belgium. (2¹/₂p postage)

RUSSIA: Ken Payne, 53 Kingsheath Ave, Liverpool 14.

TURKEY: John Piggott, 17 Monmouth Rd, Oxford OX1 4TD.

AUSTRIA: Charles Winstone, 71 George Rd Erdington, Birmingham 23.

ITALY: Kevin Feintuck, 16 Argyle Rd Anfield Liverpool L4 2RS.

FRANCE: Ian Maule, 59 Windsor Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne NE3 1YL.

On country allotment Ian Maule got the worst deal, losing the toss for Turkey and having to take his 4th choice. Play will be according to the Rulebook (I hope) and the provisional House Rules. Applications for standby players will be accepted from anyone trustworthy.

Next Game

The list for the next regular game is now open - Will Haven heads it, Ken Payne having beaten him into D. By that time WB may well be offering some variant games for your delight - watch this space.

Address correction

Colin Hemming (T/A) points out that I printed his address change wrong. 20 Hilltop Court Wilmslow Rd Fallowfield Manchester 14 it should be. What happened to your DPL variant Colin?

