

WAR BULLETIN

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ISSUE NUMBER 23

A postal diplomacy zine produced by Hartley Patterson of 'Finches' 7 Cambridge Rd Beaconsfield Bucks UK. Tel 04.946.4116. Fred's Press 33.

As for this double column thing - I think I'll keep it for the front page where all the important stuff will appear.

Game Openings

Albion runs games in it's subzine Courier (Don Turnbull 6 St Georges Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire). There are waiting lists for UK and International regular games and for an International game of the 'Abstraction' variant, however no new games are being started for the moment. £1 per game.

On Les Aura! (Michel Liesnard, Ave Ede Meersman 43, B-1080, Bruxelles, Belgium) runs variant games and has openings in 'Feudalism II', a 9player game. Cost is a sub - 10p for 5. Moeshoeshoe (Michel Feron, Grand-place 7, B-4280, Hannut, Belgium) will be starting a regular game soon.

War Bulletin openings in European regular games, International regular and in Imperialism IX, a classical Greek variant.

Note that On les Aura! is bilingual French/English.

Waiting lists

- * Regular European: Martin Davis, Michel Feron, Colin Hemming,
- * Imperialism IX: Jean Rinchon, Jean-Paul Macedoni, Martin Davis, Ian Maule, Will Haven, Michel Liesnard. (this has 9 players so 4 more needed)
- * Standby players: Martin Davis, Colin Hemming, Michel Liesnard, Ken Feintuck.

We will open an International Regular game if there is enough support.

Deadline Wednesday 15th December.

Variant players - see p.2!!

MOVES 'D' (1971BU) SPRING 1905
'E' (?) SPRING 1901

WB is 5/20p inland, 5/30p Europe, 5/61 USA airmail. Game fee is 25p(50c.) payable when game starts. We trade with any zines that we like the look of.

New Zine

John Piggott informs me that he and Will Haven hope to start a new gameszine. They will certainly be trying to start another 'Abstraction' game (the variant currently running in Albion), and will consider both regular & other variant games. Anyone interested please contact John - players should note he moves back to Oxford on Dec 3rd. That's 17 Monmouth Rd, Oxford.

Naturally they have the full support of WB. The more the merrier! We need more zines to bring in more players so as we can at least reach a point where games start fairly frequently.

Oh yes, the provisional title is Ethil the Frog. Er...no comment.

New Rulebook

Courtesy of Games Research Inc, the American manufacturers of Diplomacy, a copy of the new Rulebook just dropped through the door. This, as I've said before, is the work of the original inventor Allan Calhamer assisted by certain of the best-known figures in America. I also just got Rod Walker's comments on it in Erehwon so if you have your House Rules ready I'll point out the differences:

19. Victory is achieved by possession of 18 supply centres.
22. Miller's rule is used.
- 23b&d. These are not used, but are also not forbidden.
24. Not covered!
34. b is mentioned, as (I think) are the others.
29. The Graustark rule is not used.

It is my intention to use the new Rules for all future games. The present two games will remain as they are unless

the players should vote, send bombs in the post or otherwise intimate that they want to change in mid-game.

I'm told the Rulebooks are \$1 each, so if there is demand I could order a stack from the US. It is, I should say, as well if not better produced than the old British book, and of course is a lot clearer.

MICHEL LIESNARD Just a line to announce that the first Belgian Diplomacy convention will be on 26th december at my house. All welcome, the price of entry is a bottle of wine.....
((This is I believe the first DippyCon outside the USA. OK roastbeefs, what can we do to catch up with these nasty foreigners?))

JOHN PIGGOTT Such an incredible letter column must not be allowed to die!
I quite like the WB logo myself, but agree that it looks amateurish. But what's wrong with amateurishness? ((the word isn't in the English language for a start. Sorry, please continue...)) Damn it, you're not out to live off the zine!!

You may be interested in my own attempts to peddle WB and Courier to the unsuspecting... Thanks to a notice put up by Andy Davidson at the beginning of term ("Anyone interested in board wargames..." on which some twit scribbled "Fascist! Warmongers!") we now have a nucleus of some 10 diplomacy players, and get a game up each week. At each game so far I've shown WB and Courier round, but none seem interested... the most frequently voiced criticism, I find, is something like 'must cost a bomb in postage...'. As I remember, nobody commented on the cruddiness factor.

((Perhaps I can cite some of the US zines - Graustark has a double-column front page, Erehwon is spirit duplicated... none I've seen so far are much better looking than WB))

One thing that certainly will turn prospective players off is having to wait too long for the game's start. 4 months between 'D' and 'E' wasn't it? But this I fear is something of a vicious circle.

...the usual time for a standby player to be called in is when a country is losing. So a standby player must be prepared to lose before he really gets going, and be reconciled to the fact that he will have little or no chance of winning. ((Players who consistently drop out when losing will probably be blacklisted. It is possible to win from a standby position, it often happens in the USA))

* Michel reports that the Belgian Con has been rescheduled for 19th December. It is called (of course) AGATHACON.

Zothique 42, a variant zine from Rod Walker (it has the Aberration series, alternate-world Europes) has rules and map for Diadokhi, which is set in the Mediterranean at the time of the Second Punic War. Seven players: Carthage, Rome, Egypt, Macedonia, Syria, Pergamum and Rhodes, with different victory criteria. A few sneaky rule changes too, like barbarian supply centres that revolt unless occupied. I think (unless strong objections are raised) WB will try this one first. Which means we have enough players now, as Ken Feintuck makes the seventh. Map and rules enclosed. If all seven of the players send in 25p and a sub where appropriate we could make a start next time. This game is new but has been playtested by the San Diego group and should run OK. The designer is Richard Vennér, who is running a game in QUO VADIS.

'D' Game (1971BU) Spring 1905

GM: Yes, I've done it again! Ken Feintuck points out that since GB still has Brest she has 9 bases, not 8. GB however missed this....

GB: F Nat-MAO. F Bel-Pic. F Nth-Eng. A Lpl-Wal. A Gas-Spa. F Spa(S)-GoL.
F StP(N)-Nwy. A Mos S. GERMANY A Sil-War.

G: A Sil-War. A Kie-Ber. A Den-Kie. F Hol-Hel.

R: A Gal-Rum.S by F Sev. A Liv-War.

T: A Rum-Bud S by A Ser. A Bul-Rum. A Con-Arm G by F Bla. F Gre stand.
F Aeg-Eas.

I: A Bud S F Tri. F Tri S F Adr. F Adr MS F Ion. A Ven-Tyr. A Bur S FRANCE A Mar.
A Tun - NAf. F Wes-MAO.

F: A Pic, A Par, A Mar unordered.

Retreats: I/A Bud-Gal (GM)

I: Due to the internal troubles which are affecting the Russian Empire Italian troops have entered Budapest to save Hungary from any further bloodshed. The Italian ambassador in London today delivered a note to the British Foreign minister warning him that any further British aggression against our French allies will be met with the extreme wrath of the Italian government and people.

T: In a period of only a few years the Emperor of Austria-Hungary was bombed to pieces; then the Tsar of Russia vanished under unusual circumstances; and now we hear that the President of France has abandoned his vineyards and gone up to the happy garlic-grounds in the sky. The Byzantine Emperor is exceedingly worried about this. "If it can happen to these fine gentlemen," he moaned to our reporter, "What is to prevent it from happening to others among us? Most sinister of all - what is to prevent it from happening to me?"

F: It is with deep regret that we announce the death of President Eluam; the great man who singlehanded steered this nation to the position she now occupies. The end came quietly today 10th Nov 1904. After receiving the day's official dispatches the President slumped into a coma and died soon after. All France mourns his passing.

* Please note that Will Haven is now playing Russia.

* If there is sufficient interest I am willing to reprint maps and rules for other variants, even if WB does not actually play them. I understand Michel Liesnard is redrawing the variants he has for copying as he has done with Youngstown Variant.

Oh no → it's another game....

'E' Game (?) Spring 1901

- GB: On a recent visit to the British Court, the Russian Cultural Attache noted the presence in his country of some runts which could only have come from 61 Cygni C. As a token of friendship to the Russian Government, the British scientists at Cambridge University would like to point out that they have foolproof methods of dealing with such runts, and would be happy to take the Russian runts into custody so that the Russian peasants will be entirely free from evil influences. As a further precaution, it should be said that runts pose little threat to human life and sanity provided they are not read. "Treat them like a closed book, comrades," advised one noted official, "and you will be safe."
- G: The elected Elector of the Palatinate extends his warmest felicitations to the rulers of Russia, Great Britain, France, and Austria-Hungary and assures them of his unswerving devotion to the cause of peace. In fact, he likes a piece now and then.
- R: At the request of the Rumanian Government ships of the Black Sea Fleet under Admiral Ballsoff today entered Rumanian territorial waters. The manoeuvre was marred however by the accidental discharge of 16,000 shells into the gun emplacements situated on the eastern coast. So grieved are the Russian government at the loss of life and limb that compensation of 10 roubles per arm, 15 per leg, 20 per eye and 30 per life are being offered. Medical camps will be erected outside all large towns, and claimants are requested to attend.
- T: With growing alarm at the increased aggressive tendencies of the other major nations of the civilised world, the Sultan of Turkey has felt it his duty to offer military assistance to his neighbours in the Balkans. As a result, the Government of Bulgaria have deemed it politic to embrace Islam and invite the presence of a Turkish token force within the Bulgarian boundaries.
- F: Emperor Liesnardone Buonaparte declared today that the French armies and fleets had been ordered to leave their bases for our land and sea boundaries, where the Berlin Circus shows aggressive dispositions. The German Ambassador in Paris has been arrested and delivered to the New Courts of Liesnardian Justice, where he has been judged and condemned for non-possession of the "little crimson book", also called "Beefeater Digest", which records the most interesting thoughts of our beloved Sovereign. Sauerkraut will not pass through!
- GB: (Piggott) A Liv-Yor. F Edi-Nth. F Lon-Eng.
 G: (Burton) F Kie-Den. A Ber-Pru. A Mun-Ruh.
 R: (Maule) F Sev-Rum. A Mos-Sev. A War-Gal. F StP(S)-GoB.
 T: (Bell) A Con-Bul. A Smy-Con. F Ank-Bla.
 AH: (Haven) A Vie-Bud. A Bud-Ser. F Tri-Alb.
 I: (Parker) F Nap-Ion. A Ven-Pie. A Rom-Ven.
 F: (Liesnard) A Mar-Bur S by A Par. F Bre-MAO.

"Look", said Hannibal,
 "its
 WAR BULLETIN 23
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 of 'Finches'
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 UK"