

States are not maintained with words
- Niccolò Machiavelli

Tutzi Frutzi ica cream...to understand this issue you will need the current Fancyclopaedia, a set of Diplomacy rules, and the complete works of Marx. But here is a clue: This is WAR BULLETIN 61, coming from Hartley Patterson of 'Finches', 7 Cambridge Rd, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1HW. Tel 04.946.4116. Feb 4th 1975. Fred's Press 121.

- MOVES:
- G 1972BL see this page
 - H 1972EK Finale
 - I 1972AEcn Autumn 421
 - J 1973BG Autumn 1910
 - K 1973DBfa Autumn 1461
 - L 1973DDfb Spring 454
 - M 1973DCfc Wintring 1418

Changes of Address

Yes, once again it's Andy Davidson to 3 Ravenscar Mount, Roundhay, LEEDS, LS8 4AX.

Attention Brian Yare!

Andy says he doesn't want a conceded victory, but would like to play out 1972BL to the end. Can you send moves for Spring 1915 please?

House Rules

To 8, add: 'No p... may be a standby more than once for the same game.'

To 6, add: 'No other material except press should be included on the same sheet as a move'.

These require voting from all players by the deadline please.

Another good reason for supporting the International Diplomacy Association is that I'm not going to be Secretary (UK) this year. An offer from Craig Nye arrived too late to be forwarded to America, so he will be taking over. The IDA is 80p per year from Richard Walkerdine, 'Cheriton', 15 Crouch Oak Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AN.

Deadline:

Friday 28th February

(Late moves accepted on the 29th!)

WAR BULLETIN costs money:

- 5 for 35p Inland
- 5 for 50p Europe
- 3 for \$1 USA Airmail
- 6 for \$1 USA Seamail
- 3 for 45p Canada Airmail

1st class rates rising to 7p will put WB up to 10p inland.

Variant Bank: see inside for more on this. In HANNIBAL 19 just arrived there is evidence that the UKVB are going to try and improve their service, so my support for it provisionally remains, though I have sent supplies of DOWNFALL to the NGCVB.

Game Openings 'A' has a new issue out. It lists every UK Diplomacy publication with addresses, sub rates etc and the sources of variants with prices. From Andrew Herd, 35 Austin Drive, Didsbury, Manchester M20 0FA for an SAE.

Game Openings 'B' from Norman Nathan, 3 Brooke Close, Bushey, Herts also for an SAE is a more frequent listing of UK openings.

Standbys

- 72AEcn Innes
- 73BG Fern Sherrad
- 73DBfa Ross
- 73DBfb Innes
- 73DCfc Innes Sandell
- 1/74 Palmer

News

FTF: About a dozen people so far for the Feb 7-9 meeting, expect a few more locals to turn up. For those who were confused - yes, CARTHAGE has a separate map which I've drawn up but naturally won't publish until the game starts as the players themselves will be naming the provinces.

DIPLOMACY WORLD. Latest information is that Games Research (USA Diplomacy Manufacturers) have taken it over and it will be quarterly, with Walt Buchanan remaining as editor. I've resigned as British correspondent as several people have suggested, if I understand them correctly, that I was using the column for my own purposes. I hope Walt can find another conscript to take over; it would be unfortunate if DW returned to the HOOSIER ARCHIVES days of ignoring everything outside America. Write to Walt (RR3, Lebanon, Indiana 46052) or to me and I'll pass your name on.

POLAR KNIGHT (Ake Jonsson, Box 176, S-981 01, Kiruna 1, SWEDEN) is about to establish a new Diplomacy record - the first zine published North of the Arctic Circle! It will carry regular games without press (horrors) for the cost of postage, three week deadlines. Ake, we trade, OK? Write quick and you might get into the first game - English language naturally.

Variant Bank. I sent a circular to concerned people asking about the stories several zines have printed about the UKVB being untrustworthy. Stuart Dagger was the only WB reader to reply: 'I ordered a batch from them in July. Several rude letters and one reorder later I got most of what I had asked for, in November. The two outstanding items which were to follow 'in 2-3 weeks' still haven't appeared.'

Richard Scott: '...Despite all Herd and Pink say there are people who have sent sums of money to the bank ranging from a few pence to a pound or more and had no reply...the NGC Bank would not attempt to be a permanent set-up...I would expect another Bank to be set up and when we knew there was some chance of it being run properly our supply of rules would be turned over to the new organisation.'

((The NGC Bank stocks the variants played in NGC zines, available for the cost of postage from Richard Scott))

Andrew Herd (in HANNIBAL 18): 'According to Dave ((Pink)) there is just one order that is overdue and 3 or 4 that have arrived during the past week or that remain currently unanswered.' Andrew also wrote at length but asked me not to print his letter.

I would still like these rumours substantiated before taking any action. If anyone knows of people who have received poor or no service from the UKVB could they please let me know quoting names and if possible other details.

ISE stands for International Subscription Exchange. Those law-abiding persons who do not wish to send cash across the Atlantic may send subs to

David Johnson, 'Savani', Gorelands Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4HQ, UK
Edi Birsan, Apt 302, 35-35 75th St, Jackson Heights, NY 11372, USA.

who will pass the sub on in their respective countries. If WB readers in the USA wish to use this system they should send the cash to Edi and a note to David asking for the sub to be passed on to me.

EUROPA 4/5 (Walter Luc Haas, Switzerland) has a UK Agent: David Watts, 32 Eastleigh Dr, Milford Haven, Dyfed SA73 2LY. About £1.50 for 6. Current issue is a double with 106 pages full of interesting Diplomacy & Wargaming items, a number of well-known writers in the field are starting to contribute (Gygax, Oleson, Greene) to what is now the best such publication in Europe.

ALBION 50 arrived at last, with as promised the rules for three board wargames included. A good place to express my own thanks to Don for starting both postal Diplomacy and board wargaming in this country, and for setting an example to all us as editor and GM.

Zine Poll The third MAD POLICY zine Poll is underway, and for a change we're supporting it. All who receive two or more UK zines are eligible to vote, write down all the zines you receive and rate them from 1 to 10, 1 being rubbish and 10 perfection. Send to Richard Walkerdine, 'Cheriton', 15 Crouch Oak Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AN and he will send you FREE the copy of MP with the result in. Closing date Feb 28th.

Flyers Two with this issue! The Charles Roberts Awards will be given (with luck) at GamesCon 75, they are WORLD Awards. The voting is being run like the film Oscars or the SF Hugos: the top nominations will appear on a ballot form which will only go to those registered for the Convention. Verbatim reprints of this form are encouraged.

The Miller Number list is a public service, reprinted from the Miller Number zine Lord of Hosts. This is bi-monthly for 'cost + postage' from Robert Sacks, 15-F Tang Hall, 550 Memorial Drive, Cambridge MA 02139, USA. As well as the current number assignments and supply charts for finished games it has articles on variants, reviews and (of course) a variant game or two.

A few notes on the list. The 'Imperialism' and 'Aberration' series were by Rod Walker. The early ones (a-z) are all from Don Miller, who pioneered variants in DIPLOMANIA and its associated zines. Only published variants get into the list, hence the gaps in some of the numbered series.

Parlement (af,bv,ch) is of course the basis of our own Parliament, which leads Robert Sacks to wonder in a letter if he shouldn't assign Miller designators to these as well. I'm going to send him the rules and let him decide! Fern, what do you think?

I claim a Dolchstoss record, the variant with the longest name....

The next task I suppose is to compile a list with a brief description of all the variants.

Letters

NICKY PALMER I should like to protest about your rather cavalier attitude to moves! I'm sorry mine came with a letter and that you have so many activities that you don't know what to file letters under, but it really is very unsatisfactory that you then file the letter under 'wargames' or 'fantasy' or indeed anything except moves, as if a reply to a letter is delayed until after the moves it is a pity, but if two years of negotiations are wrecked by the filing of moves elsewhere it is really a catastrophe for a serious player.... If I wasn't a standby but a long-standing player I should simply resign.

((This is fine if only one or two people do it. But if everyone simply wrote everything on one sheet, it would make life very difficult. I do actually keep the moves from past seasons so if a player claims an error I can check back with the orders he sent in. Hence, one pile for moves, one for letters. Periodically I print warnings about this (as in WB57).

((Your latest moves had no game number, country etc - strictly by the House Rules I should have ignored those too!))

Games

Not much room here, but COMBINED ARMS in S&T46 is uninteresting, a product of some work SPI did for the US Army and are inflicting on their readers. My sub to S&T has lapsed, I got this copy from John Mansfield. I wouldn't have paid for it...

SEELOWE from SPI is quite good, by sinking the British navy they have achieved a balanced game. Roger has also got PANZER LEADER, which on first sight looks a considerable improvement on PANZERBLITZ. Fans of the latter will no doubt enjoy it.

Next time we'll have STARFORCE and PATROL to look at. And before I forget, we strongly recommend the revised version of ANZIO, the best of the early Avalon-Hill games.

1973BG Autumn 1910

Montenegro: I know it's a bit unFrench to complain of bad luck (Gripes Princess Naomi) but I think this stiff-upper-lip thing can go too far. Of course, we beat the emotional, mercurial British at Waterloo, but that's another story. Meanwhile, I don't think any touring team can compete with this one for illness and injuries. How often do five of one's specialist new-ball merchants go down with five different strains of gonorrhoea before the first Test has even started? And that's only a beginning. Apart from Fifi from Downstairs (we all know what happened to her!), Bedbug is on the sick list - he was hit on the tongue at practise by a short one from Lili. Mek Wun Run is being held by the cricket police on charges of swearing at umpires and ancestor worship. Rastus Nrrombo, whom I personally have felt to be as solid as a rock, has suffered an extreme shock while electrically ironing his hair during a heavy rainstorm. At an emergency meeting of the tour selectors in the top bunk this morning it was agreed to call for replacements from Paris, and veteran test star Doug Wakefield was immediately contacted by King Bruce. When the message arrived at St Ethelfrida's School for the Daughters of Chronic Drunks (where Doug is coaching the Third XI) he was batting in a practice match, but he was soon given out and called to the telephone. When King Bruce commiserated with him on his dismissal, Doug grinned cheerfully. 'I'm always getting caught playing with little girls,' he said.

Reading station: "Holmes, something funny is going on," said Doctor Watson as they and Burton descended from the train.

"What makes you think that?"

"Look at the passengers getting off here - inscrutable Chinese, Americans in pin-striped suits, these rough fellows with masks and large canvas bags...."

"Really Watson, you are too suspicious. These are not Chinese but Japanese tourists, as the cameras they carry indicate. The American party are obviously a band playing the new jazz music, - observe their violin cases. And as for these masked men - pardon me, you are going to a fancy dress ball are you not?"

The burly individual Holmes had addressed started. "Er, yes guv, fancy dress, that's it."

G: (Waldie) A Mun S A Kie. A Kie S F Den. F Den S RUSSIA F Ska-Nth.
 R: (Clark) F Nwy-Swe. F Ska S F Bar-Nwy. F NAO-Cly. F Rum, A Bud stand.
 A Tyr-Pie. A Boh-Tyr.
 T: (Cousins) A Bul S RUSSIA F Rum. A Apu-Nap S by F Ion. A Ven-Rom.
 A Tri-Ven. F Aeg stand. F NAF-MAO. F Wes-Tyr.
 F: (Sharp) F Edi-Nwg. F Nwg-NAO. F Nth-Den. F Hel S A Hol-Kie. A Yor-Lpl.
 A Mar-Spa. A Bur-Mun. F Eng-MAO. A Rom S A Tus-Ven. F Nap-Apu. F Gol-Wes.

Retreats: G/A Kie-Ruh. F/F Nap eliminated. T/A Ven disbanded.

G: Mun Ber ~~Swe~~ +Den = 3. No change.
 R: Mos StP War Sev Rum Nwy Vie Bud +Swe = 9. No build received.
 T: Con Ank Smy Bul Gre Tun Ser Tri +Nap = 9. Builds F Smy, A Con.
 A: ~~Wes~~ = 0. Out.
 F: Par Mar Bre Spa Por Lon Epl Hol Bel Kie ~~Nap~~ ~~Den~~ Edi Rom +Tri = 13.
 Builds F Bre.

1972EK Finale

Start September 1972. WAR BULLETIN 35-60. GM: Hartley Patterson. End January 1975. ENGLAND: David Callender (out A03); GERMANY: Derek Eastham (out A09); RUSSIA: Andrew Holborn (won A11); TURKEY: David Musselwhite (dro A04), Michel Feron (out A05); AUSTRIA: Richard Sharp; ITALY: J Wilson (dro SO2), John Piggott (out A06); FRANCE: Brian Yare.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
E:	3	1	0									
G:	5	6	6	7	3	1	1	2	0			
R:	5	7	7	8	10	12	12	12	14	15	17	18
T:	5	3	2	1	0							
A:	5	6	8	9	11	12*	12	14	15	15	15	15
I:	4*	4	33	2	1	0						
F:	5	7	8	7	9	9	9	6	5	4	2	1

A * indicates that for some reason a build owed was not made. A funny thing happened in this game - there were TWO 1909s, which should confuse archivists no end! Dr Who I presume....

From disgusted of Amersham comes the following:

Vienna: At last I can say it: 'This was the first Diplomacy game I ever played'. And a very good one it's been, though the final result is naturally a disappointment after all this time - over two years in the real world.

When I look back at Spring '01, though, I reckon I can't complain: Italy in Tyrolia, Russia in Galicia, Turkey showing no interest in BLA - this could easily have been my last game, I suppose, and where would the NGC be now, he wondered? ((Answers in not more than 5,000 words to Will Haven)) I got lucky: I bombarded Italy with letters threatening what I was going to do to his A (Vie) (sic), and in the autumn he duly ordered A -Tri! I guessed right about the destination of A Gal, and supported Turkey into Rum, emerging with two builds and a pretty solid position.

The events of 19C2 got me hooked on the game for ever. I learnt the joys of playing off one 'ally' against another, supporting attacks against a player with that player's permission, etc. At this stage I fully intended to have a long alliance with Turkey, but he broke his promise not to enter the Aegean. In autumn 1902 I made the decisive about-turn and stabbed Turkey with Russian aid.

There's little more to tell from my side: Russia and I set up a massive cease-fire line of interlocking stand-offs, and had I settled for a draw. I could have had one - in fact it was offered and refused (D would gladly have drawn with Andy but not Brian!). My attempt to break through in the east was beautifully wrecked by Andy, and the end was then inevitable. When I refused to concede the game last season, it was not in the hope of winning - I wanted Russia to be forced into the position where he had to wipe out France.

Andy Holborn played horribly well throughout - his boob last season (which would have given me a winning chance had I known of it!) was the only mistake I remember him making, and congratulations are very much in order. Andy and I have since found ourselves making the running in another, very different game, and in my view he is one of the best players around.

Derek Eastham added greatly to the enjoyment of the game with his determined stand with Germany, and proved a good ally. Brian Yare destroyed England with ridiculous ease, and looked dangerous for a bit, but he couldn't keep it up - he also wrote me the most undiplomatic first letter I've ever had, and I'll publish it one day. I assume Brian's orders for the last few years were being written by Andy. John Piggott and I had an entertaining duel after he took over Italy from its original catastrophic management, and D Musselwhite was good while he lasted.

WBG1-6

Last but not ... what am I saying? Well, there was also Hartley. He ran the game smoothly, not to say imperceptibly; but if there were occasional long waits one always feels with WB that it will come in the end. Apart from losing (deliberately) so many of my press releases that I eventually took the hint and went off to another game, Hartley GMed admirably. Thank you kind sir for your hospitality.

So ends the only BDC/NGC game to be fostered out. Nothing will ever seem the same again.

((And now from the salt mines of Preston comes a Victory statement:))

I'd like to mention three outstanding features.

An Austro-Russian alliance lasted through much of the game. This was achieved by our setting up an ingenuous system of frontier checks and balances designed I must say by Richard. These arrangements ensured that a stab would be ineffective. When the alliance finally crumbled the front shifted a little but we came out of it roughly even. Thus in the three-power endgame France got the chop.

Secondly there was considerable manoeuvring over the possibility of a draw. France was the weakest but in a position to determine the winner, and so Brian proposed a three-way draw, threatening should only one of us agree to it to side with him against the other. I agreed hoping Richard would not, which was the case. However Richard, maintained that he was agreeing to a draw... Brian drew his own conclusions from the strategic position and concentrated his efforts against Austria. Judging when the situation had turned to my advantage, I retracted my offer of a draw and luckily Richard reversed his decision also, leaving the voting still two to one for and Brian not unnaturally believed (I think) that I was for a draw until too late!

The most outstanding feature of the game however was the emergence of Dolchstoss von Hinten - for those who don't know the Austrian Minister of War and Public Fountains.

Thanks to all, and especially to Hartley for refusing to reveal the identities of those in favour of a draw.

Beaconsfield, Tottenham Court Road: The game started in the holiday season, with Graeme Leván and I spending our petty cash funds phoning round the country looking for players. Two drops in a novice game is quite good I think. Brian would no doubt like me to deny that he was a puppet in Russian hands: he did actually make his own moves up to the end.

But as Andy notes this game will enter the archives as the introduction to postal bloodletting for two eventual GMs.

4-10-77

WB61-7

Excalibur 1973DDfb Spring 454

Dublin: "Ethne darling, I know it doesn't help to say I told you so, but I am your mother, and I did. Just look where those modern ideas of yours have got us. That nice German went off in a huff*, and understandably so. Calling him a sexist just because he insisted that the warrior chief in his saga should be a man!"

"And as for that long-haired foreigner you took up with, I needn't remind you that if it weren't for him we'd still have a home of our own. I never trusted him, not since I found out that he used to spend all his time in that big building down by the harbour. They're a bad lot down there and always were."

Cantwaraburg: "Vortigern stood on the hill overlooking the burning town. British forces spearheaded by Lord Shortbridge's Light Cavalry had driven the English in confusion back to Thanet. Already the King was planning for the future."

"Here we shall have a railway station, here a university, there a railway station..."

Robin was taking notes, and he grinned at Heracles:

"Old fool, charge him extra for the stations. But who is this?"

A messenger stood panting before the King.

"Sire, grave news from Londinium!"

Londinium: The claimants to the throne, uncovered their heads and knelt down as Cyralleck the high priest entered the temple. "The procedure is simple," orated the priest in his quavering voice. "I will consult the entrails and if they are favourable the candidates will present themselves to the people."

"What of King Vortigern?" came a shout from the rear of the temple.

"The procedure is simple and impartial," replied Cyralleck. "If the beast has two hearts, King Vortigern will remain."

Camelot: "So, Merlin, what new plan have you devised now?"

"Sire, a certain local politician has come to court with radical proposals. 'Big Ben' Chippendale is his name."

"And what does he suggest?"

"First, he proposes that all companies making a profit should be taxed more heavily. Secondly, all companies not making a profit are taken over by the crown for betraying the country. Finally he proposes a referendum on whether we should rejoin the Roman Empire..."

"But we don't want to rejoin the Roman Empire!"

"Quite so sire. He suggests wording it 'Do you want your daughter to marry a garlic-eating greasy Italian peasant living off government bread handouts and addicted to chariot betting or a rich and peace-loving German exporter?'"

"Send him in."

FRI: (Sherrad) F MCh-Sel-

JUT: (Davis) As Elm, NGy, Cle, Fs Lin, Dei all unordered.

ANG: (Sandell) F Dur MS A Can.

BRI: (Walkerdine) F Wwa-WCh. A SAe-DAe. A Sil-Dur S by A Lon & A And.
A Mal-NGy S by A Dev & A SGy. A Gle-Mal.

SCO: (Dagger) A Cum MS F Lan. F Man-NCh. A Dub-Uls.

PIC: (Clark) F Uls-SIr. F Heb-Uls. F Pif-Mea. F Edw-Fer. F For-Ger.
A Twe, A Gal stand. A Sel-Cum S by A Ber.

Retreats: JUT NGy disbanded. ANG F Dur disbanded.

Apologies for the 'do-it-yourself' results last time!

*as old WB readers will know, a huff is a kind of fiery chariot ...

Wars of the Roses 1973DBfa - Autumn 1461

Warwick Castle: "Quite simple," said Flashman, "we both go to London, we steal the Crown Jewels, and come back here and present them to the Earl."

De Greystock paced the room deep in thought. As he passed the window Flashman saw his chance. He waved a signal and stepped aside. The elderly white moustached man in cape and top hat on the next turret fired and the man at arms fell dead.

"Sorry about the delay Harry," called out Colonel Moran, "What's our next move?"

Warwick Castle (2): The Earl's earlier visitors were standing hands to the wall as the bald man frisked them. Warwick turned to the man in the wheelchair.

"You arrived just in time," he said. "Henry's men were giving me a hard time."

"We'll soon clean things up," replied the cripple, "sure as my name's Perry Mason. I mean the big man sent us to clean up, we don't want a power vacuum do we?" He winked broadly.

Outside: "That should hold them. Now Eccles - is the balloon ready?"

"Yep"

"Now Duke, just step aboard and this miraculous conveyance will whisk you to London. I cut the mooring rope - so - light the slow fuse and - there!"

"But Grytpipe, why are we on the ground while the Duke is in the air?"

"Because we are travelling by Concorde, my Gallic aide, and I placed a box/LOUD EXPLOSION. BITS OF HALLOON FALLING. /of explosive in the basket."

"Sapristi sabotage. You think of everything!"

"I sometimes don't think of aardvarks."

"You should be careful. Aardvarks never killed anyone."

"But now to London, mad Queen Meg and the Crown Jewels."

"Sapristi fortune!"

RED: (Davis) As Lon, E&N, Sur, Lew, F Roc all unordered.

WHI: (Clark) A Ber & A Lan S A Car. A WMor S A Car. A Car S A Lan. A Lin-Nct. A Der MS A Che. A Cae stand. F Nor1 stand. F Str-Cal S by F Nor2. A Cam-Col. F Col-Len S by A Clt. //Mid/Mid: A Ntn S A Oxf. A WRid S A Lan.

NEV: (Sandell) F StG-Cae. A Glo-Oxf S by A Sal & A Cot. A Mid-Ntn. A Sta S A EMar-Che. A Chi & F IOW stand. F Aber unordered.

SCO: (Crouch) A Swy & F Eiri S A Rox-Car. F MBay-Lan.

FRE: (Prevct) F Tms-Nor2 S by F Cal. F Wea-Str. F Har-ECha. A Dev S F Can.

Retreats: WHI/A Oxf-Bks. RED/A Lon disbanded.

A+K are in Bed (!) not Mid.

RED: L/R Rcc Lew C/P = 2. GM removes A Lew.

WHI: Yor Don Der Che Lin Sea Lan Dur Bed New Cam Nwh Suf Car Bwk Col Ntn Cae +Lon = 18. No change.

NEV: War HERE Pem Glo Sal Bri Exe Oxf Dor Win IOW +CCh = 12. Builds A Glo.

SCO: 2OB Dum M/H = 3. Removes F MBay.

FRE: 2OB Har Cal Can Dev = 6. No change.

I wonder how Ken aquired that supply centre in Suffolk??? Scots lose Man which by the rules revolts in Winter when ungarrisoned.

Standby moves for RED ROSE from Dave Ross, postage to him (address last issue) is inland 1st class, though he is I think with BAOR.

Downfall Wintring 1973DCfc

Mirkwood: The flying machine descended in a pillar of fire (a special device intended to impress credulous natives). From it stepped the Easterner.

"What news?" asked Beorn.

"All Eriador is scoured, oh esteemed Chairman. Many elves and dwarves marching hither and thither in the north, but no trace of Ring."

"Then it must be in the south. We have captured an unpleasant creature called Gollum, who claims to have seen it in the Gladden Fields. A reliable source informs us that Saruman believes it to have been washed down Anuin."

Celebrant: Saruman drew himself up to his full height, his bald patch glinting in the wintring sun. 'What would you say that was?' he asked, pointing to a faint cloud of dust hanging on the northern horizon beyond the Gladden Fields.

The Balrog sniffed the wind and adjusted his Zeiss field-glasses.

'Pipeweed?' he said hopefully.

'Elves,' hissed Saruman.

The Balrog sighed. 'I told you,' he said patiently, 'they've all gone. Never was an elf could stand the sight of me. I remember the time back in 1228 I went down to the forges in Eregion - I wanted a wrought-iron gate for the back door. I even bought one of those Woolworth stickers for it - you know, the ones that say 'Balrog's room - speak friend and enter'. Well, there I was -.'

But Saruman was no longer listening. The dust-cloud was getting smaller.

'It may not be of any great concern to you,' he observed, 'but I had hoped to make a military reputation out of this war. ATTACK!' he screamed.

'Why?' said the Balrog.

Conan in Middle-earth, Part Ten:

After the night attack they proceeded with more caution, and reached the Fords of Isen without further incident. Approaching at evening they found it to be held by a strong force of creatures of the same type. They were not expecting trouble from the East and had no guards on that side, thus the horsemen were through the camp and at the river bank before they met resistance. The

The road dipped between rising turf-banks, crossed the shallow stream by a bare eyot, and up again on the further side. Conan urged his pony to a canter, slashed at an orc with his broadsword, and was into the water, the Doctor close behind him. As they reached the eyot a shower of arrows fell around them; the Cimmerian's mount stumbled, a feathered shaft in its neck. As it fell he jumped clear. The Doctor reined in beside him, but Conan waved him on:

"Get across, my mail can stop these!"

On the far bank the Doctor was confronted by more shadowy figures who sprang out of the gloom, before he could act his reins were seized and a spear leveled at his breast. Conan halted in midstream, but with the orcs already starting to cross after him he had no choice but to continue. At the water's edge he was confronted by a line of spear points. An authoritative voice snapped a command in an unfamiliar tongue, then repeated it in accented but understandable Westron:

"Drop that sword and you will not be harmed!"

The barbarian cursed and thrust the weapon back into its scabbard.

"Now let me out of this cold water before we're all skewered."

1973DCfc Wint'ring

ELV: (Crcuch) A Fan-Wiz. A Nen MS A GHa. F Blu stand. A LOR S A Gla-Sil.
 DWA: (Davidson) A Shi-GHa S by A Fld. A Ett-Bre. A GMC-Ang. A Crk MS A CMI.
 A RRI S A CMI. A Crn S A RRI. A NRh-SRh.
 GON: (Prevot) DA Edo stand.
 ROH: (Sherrad) A Dru S UMBAR A Anf. A Hel S GONDOR A Edo. A ISE-Gap.
 SAU: (KJones) TA Eas-Edo. DA Bel-Lam. DA Lam-Anf. DA Sit-SGo. DA Wcl S A Anu.
 A Nin-EEem. A Bro S A Anu. A Anu S A SMi-CMI. A Mmo-Sit.
 A Kha S DA Sit-SGo. A Wil-SRh. A Anc-Eas. A DOL S A Anu. A Mdc-Ash.
 SAR: (Sharp) DA Cel S A Sil-Gla. A Hol-Rhu.
 UMB: (Palmer) A Hrd-SGo. A Hav-Hdw. A Cit-Hav. F SOU-BAY. A Anf fumes.
 GAN: (Holt) unseen.

Retreats: ELV A Gla eliminated.

ELV: RIV LOR ~~Gla~~ ~~Fld~~ ~~Shi~~ ~~Bre~~ ~~Blu~~ +Blu +GHa = 4. Removes A LOR
 DWA: ERE Iro ~~Ang~~ ~~RRI~~ ~~Crn~~ ~~NMI~~ ~~Crk~~ ~~Fld~~ +Fld +Shi +Bre = 10. Builds A Iro.
 GON: ~~Eas~~ +Edo = 1. No change.
 ROH: Hel ~~ISE~~ +Dru = 3. No change.
 SAU: 3OB MMO UDU BAR Nur DOL Nit Sit Anc MTi ANu Bel Leb +Wol +Eas +Lam +SGO
 +Kha = 20. Builds A Nur, A UDU, A MMO, A BAR.
 SAR: MOR Dun Hol +Gla = 4. Builds A Dun.
 UMB: Cit Hav Hrd ~~Kha~~ ~~Srh~~ ~~Dol~~ ~~Lam~~ = 3. Removes A Anf, F BAY.

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Thanks to standbys for orders.

ATT: (Sandell) F Hydr S F Argc. A Athe-Rham. F Kykl S F Andr. F Paro-Myrt.
 Fs Knid, Patm, Cret, Kyth, all stand. FF Kori(EG) stand.
 BOE: (Davidson) F Pela MS F Magn. A Lari S F Magn. F NEub & F Eret(NC) S F Pela.
 F SEub S F Eret(NC). F Kary-SAeg. F Tana-Eleu(NC). F GKor-Kaly.
 F Itha-Keph. F Akar-Taph. A Tprt-Dodo S by F Nlon. A Amph-Hlpa.
 A Dolc-Amph. A Tslt-Myla.
 EPI: (Cousins) A Elim-Olym S by A Edes. A Hlpa-Tymp. A Molo-Illy. A Dodo-Apol.
 ION: (Crcuch) A Indo S F Dori-Knid. F IkaS-Patm. F Lero-Dora. F Khic-IkaS.
 A Mile-Smyr. A Hali S A Indo.
 LAK: (Sherrad) F Gyth-Zara S by F Lako. F Mess S F Lako. F Clon-Nlon.
 A Patr, A Elis stand. F Sion-Itha. A Mega-Azan. A Zara-Thyr. A Myke-Siky.
 A Kleo S A Siky-Kori.
 PER: (Clark) DF SAeg-Kykl. DF NAeg-SAeg. DF Mend-NAeg. Das Papa, Skyr, Troy, Lemn.
 all unordered. Gs WThr, EThr, Byza, Kher, Thma, Khal, Kyme.
 MAK: (Davis) As Pell, Olyn unordered.
 Retreats: MAK/A Olyn, ATT/F Khid, ATT F Kori(EG), ATT F Kykl all disbanded.
 ATT: 2Athe Thor Rham Naxo Rhod Andr Melc ~~Kha~~ Thas ~~Kha~~ Troi Argo = 11.
 Builds F Rhod, F Naxo. One owed.
 BOE: Theb Tana Orkh Phck Mali Oreo Phth Dolc Aitc Magn Lari Myla Akar Ambr
 Eret Kork +Dodo +Hlpa +Myla +Keph = 20. Builds F Orkh, A Theb, A Tana.
 EPI: Apcl ~~Dola~~ Illy ~~Keph~~ Edes ~~Hlpa~~ = 3. Removes A Tymp, A Apcl.
 ION: Pkai Eryt Samo Ephe Abyd Lesb Khic Hali Skyr +Knid = 10.
 Builds A Ephe, F Samo, F Eryt.
 LAK: 2Spar Sell Plln Mess Elis Mega Patr Gyth Arka Myke Siky +Kori = 13.
 Builds F Gyth.
 MAK: Pell Ainc Abde = 3. No change; no builds possible.
 PER: OB = 7. No change.

Players are advised to check victory conditions!