

Ethil 10

15th July, 1972

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Information

We start this issue with details of various things which I thought people might be interested in, and which other people have asked me to mention... So without more ado, here it comes!

Regular games are now no longer available through Ethil. Der Krieg (8 Rusholme Rd., London SW15 3JZ) still offers openings at 5 issues for 20p + 30p game fee, and so does the BDC (Box 4, London, N6 4DF) at £1.60/game + 60p/year membership fee + 50p joining fee.

War Bulletin (7 Cambridge Rd, Beaconsfield, Bucks) offers a game of Imperial IX, a Rod Walker-designed variant for 9 players set in the Peloponnesian war. Looks good. 5 issues/20p + 25p game fee. WB is running a section of Diadokhi II (2nd Punic War variant) which is now starting to reach an interesting stage. Strange rumours reach me that Hartley is running a BDC game in WB in a last-ditch effort to boost his circulation to a number comparable to Ethil's. Our circulation is now 45, by the way.

Hoosier Archives (Walt Buchanan, R.R.3, Lebanon, IN 46052, USA) comes out every week and includes material of interest to all Dippy players -- articles on strategy, demonstration games, &c. WB is reprinting some of the choice bits -- last issue we had Rod Walker telling us how to lose. HA's rates for overseas subscribers are 1 international reply coupon per issue. You get these at a Post Office for 10p each. Bulk orders by 3rd class mail are 15/\$2, 7/\$1. Ask Walt for issue 55 to get a list of all articles through issue 58. And tell him I sent you.

Precedent, Ian Maule and Harry Bell's new zine, is still in the planning stage, I think. Not so Bellucis, Will Haven's Strategy I zine, which has started one game with more promised. Will's address till Sept. 6th is 5257 Masonic Ave, Oakland, CA 94618, USA, after which he returns to ~~NY~~ England. I think B is 5p per issue, but it doesn't say... Then of course there's Midgard, Hartley Patterson's ludicrous fantasy game which is still going to start real soon now after almost two years. Issues of Midgard with thousands of pages of rules are 5p each + postage, I believe. (Harry Bell's address is 9 Eskdale Gdns, Lyndhurst Est, Low Fell, Gateshead, NE9 6NS).

Ethil the Frog, an absolutely brilliant zine, is of course well known to you lot. Details of present openings elsewhere! For the future, we are negotiating to bring you Third Age and/or War of the Rings, both Tolkien-derived Dippy variants. More news in future issues, we hope

Moeshoeshoe (Michel Feron, Grand-Place 7, B-4280 Hannut, Belgique-Belgie), offers in addition to all the usual goodies (regular, ladies-only regular, Lima) a section of Chaos. This has 34 players, each controlling one of the supply centres at the start. This interests me and I want to start playing, so will you all send 90p=50FB for 12 issues to Michel. No game fee for this game.

XL (20 Hilltop Ct, Fallowfield Manchester M14 6LH) has openings in Lima I, a variant like standard Dippy except that aerial warfare is involved as well. Looks interesting, since aircraft have a greater range than other units in this game. 5p per issue from Colin Hemming.

The new Rulebook is to be published in England soon. The BDC will have copies for sale, I understand. Price unknown -- probably 25p?

Hartley Patterson has Diadokhi and Imperialism IX rules -- 5p each. WB back issues available from Hartley, 1p ea. + postage.

Albion (13 Gilmerton Ct, Trumpington Rd. Cambridge) has closed its sub. list at 125. If you want it, join the waiting list. Albion is about 25p + postage every two months, and worth it. Don Turnbull also runs Dippy games for subscribers -- £1 per game with free Albions thrown in while the game lasts. Albion itself is general wargaming.

I thought you'd find the colophon sooner or later! This is ETHIL THE FROG 10, if you didn't already know, published by John Piggott, 17 Monmouth Road, Oxford, OX1 4TD, U.K. and duplicated by. NO! Why should I tell you who duplicates this thing? I'll make it a trade secret! Er... Ethil is 5p per issue, 10/50p inland or surface mail to Europe. 10/70p air to Europe. 4/\$1 airmail, 8/\$1 third class elsewhere. Game fee is £100,000 for rich people, 25p for all games except a player's first (which is free) for poor people. All Ethil's subscribers are poor. We also trade. This is Tapeworm Publication No. 13. Our phone number is 0865-45045.

Subscribers! If the number on your mailing label is '10' your subscription has expired and it is time to renew!

Waiting Lists

Regular: No game opening available!
 Abstraction: Harry Bell, Phil Jones, Robert Alexander, Jeff Oliver.
 Twin-Earth: Graham Jeffery, Michel Feron, Phil Jones!

Standby Players

'A':	Jeff Oliver, Andrew Waldie	((I'm sure there were some more, but I can't find any record of 'em if you applied and I've missed you off, please apply again'))
'B':	Richard Walkerdine	
'C':	Andrew Waldie, Jeff Oliver	
'D':	Harry Bell, Richard Walkerdine	
'E':	Harry Bell	
'F':	?	

DEADLINE

9 a.m., Tuesday 1st August, 1972. Ian Maule is moving house about that day, so Ethil 11 may be a bit late, I fear...

LETTERS

Kevin Feintuck

I received what I assume to be the second issue of the Backstabber and agreed with you that it is in many ways inferior to the average issue of WB or Ethil.

In actual fact, I feel there could possibly be far more basic objections to the BDC than those you expressed in your article. When I first heard of the BDC I felt, and indeed still do, that it could serve an extremely useful purpose by introducing new players to the present magazines, and thus helping British Diplomacy to thrive under the present set-up. I now fear ~~that in these views I was being extremely naive.~~

With the risk of appearing unfair to Mr Levin I must admit that my opinion of the aims of the BDC has changed radically. Much as I regret having to write this it appears to me that one of the main aims of the BDC is to make money for its organisers. Quite apart from the fact that the fees are very much higher than those of the magazines, which are run by amateurs, in the sense that editors are apparently not concerned with making money but are more interested in fostering the game for the sake of the players, there also seem to be signs that Mr Levin would like to attract players who might otherwise have joined the independent zines, and possibly even establish a monopoly.

Firstly, the very name of the organisation would indicate that in some way it has a certain amount of jurisdiction over British diplomacy. Of course, this is in no way true. Also, by offering prizes and offers of games at reduced prices (which anyone with an arrangement with a manufacturer or wholesaler could do and still make a profit), the BDC seems to be using "cheap gimmicks" in order to attract custom.

Finally, it's noticeable that in the edition of the Backstabber dated 22 May, there is no indication that it is not the only British Dippyzone, and to someone informed of the BDC through Games & Puzzles there is a grave risk that they will never even hear of the independent zines, which in many ways offer more informative material at a considerably lower price.

In short, is the BDC going to be an organisation to foster general interest in the game, to provide an opportunity for the diploming public to meet and broaden their diplomacy horizons, or is the Backstabber to be merely another Dippyzine? Between these two aims there is a wide gulf and the BDC should make its position clear.

Graham Jeffery

I feel compelled to comment on your treatment of the BDC. The main point is, I think you'll agree, what happens to the subs. The aim of the BDC is to gain as large a subscriber list as possible. Before now the various independent zines have had practically the same subscribers, the same names cropping up everywhere. Each list is of course different in its own way, but in the main each zine has its own followings. To date, postal Dippy in this country has been a very closed hobby. For instance, I only entered the hobby after coming across a very obscure advert for Schweinfurt. Writing to CHD revealed Don Turnbull's address, and it all started from there.

What the BDC is trying to do is to advertise extensively, and thus widen the outlook of postal and FTF Dippy. Hence the high fee, to cover the costs of promotion.

Second point is, the supply of GMS. It's going to take an awful long time before the supply of GMS in the British Isles is completely exhausted. Don can, I expect, take quite a few games. Me, I could take a couple. Graeme also says that you and Hartley might help out! I don't understand your attitude of condemning the BDC and then actively supporting it. However, there must be a few budding editors somewhere, anyway, or perhaps GMS submitting their game to someone else to print it.

The costs are another point you criticised. The subscription has already been covered. Agreed, it is high, and the return isn't much yet, but the work behind the scenes must be quite heavy. The game fee is only an arbitrary figure -- if you like, a maximum. Different GMS can charge what they like. If you don't agree, reduce the fee for games you GM. If the players are willing to pay £1.60 or whatever, I expect you'll jump at the chance of their cash. Sorry if that sounds like an insult; it isn't intended to be.

Basically, then, although I agree the BDC must improve in some ways, I think you're wrong to attack it so. It is, after all, still in its infancy

((Well, I haven't heard from Graeme Levin himself, so I don't know what he thinks of all this. He seems to have a staunch champion, anyway. Agreed, Graham, one shouldn't be too hard on an organisation which is just getting started, but if the bugs aren't ironed out of the BDC now it'll be too late. I fail to see how the work behind the scenes must be so heavy. There's hardly a lot going on in the BDC by all accounts at the moment, and entering names on address lists and cashing postal orders isn't exactly the most arduous of tasks. I'm fairly sure I do as much work -- more, possibly -- for Ethil as Graeme does for the BDC. And if he doesn't like organising it, then why is he doing it? The only conceivable answer to this question is to consider the profit motive.....

Kevin has put his finger on the real root cause of my dissatisfaction with the BDC namely, that Backstabber No. 2 contained not one mention of the independent zines. Is he, perhaps, afraid of the competition? It's tempting to think so.

I dispute that promotion costs must be so heavy. So far there has been a flyer in Dippy sets (so I'm told) -- and surely the manufacturers wouldn't charge very much for that -- and advertisements in Games & Puzzles, published by Edu-Games, of which Graeme Levin is 'director'. Hardly a staggering bill, I should imagine.

There's some other questions I could bring up. Like, why did the BDC offer a year's free membership to all Albion subscribers? Perhaps Graeme wanted to show everyone joining, "Look, what a thriving organisation we are already." I suppose that's a legitimate advertising ploy, but I confess I don't like it much.

Something else -- why is the BDC so damned formal? Maybe it's a little thing, but why did the Backstabber contain names like "Miss A. Turrell"? Why did Andy Davidson, in his BDC game, get letters which started, "Dear Sir (or may I call you Russia)"? Hell's bells, it's all very, very well to be 'polite' and 'correct', but formality like this seems more unfriendly than anything else to me. I should have thought that Diplomacy players had got past the stage of attaching importance to titles like 'Mr', 'Miss', and, yes, 'Ms'.

Okay, so people joining an organisation might expect it to be all formal, but if they're shown how it really is they'll soon get used to it. A nice letter starting 'Dear John', in my experience, works wonders in making a newcomer feel at home in a strange organisation which it maybe took some time for him to pluck up the courage to write in and enquire about. A very formal, "Dear Sir", and above all impersonal-sounding (as all such do) letter won't.

Well, that's my bitch over for this issue. It seems the Backstabber isn't monthly after all, contrary to what I intimated last issue, ~~since if it were I'd have received Backstabber 3 at the beginning of this month, and I haven't. Come to think of it, I haven't received my subscription copy of Games & Puzzles 4 either, nor have I seen any copies of it on the stands yet although the publication date is passed. I hope this doesn't mean it's going to fold.)~~

Hartley Patterson ((commenting on issue 8))

Don Turnbull is certainly right. Another point is that a zine which doesn't open a game for six months or more is going to have to start a waiting list from scratch. By my reckoning an 8-game zine (the US average) would start a new game every 1½ years game-time. Or (in WB) every 2½ months or so. This is what I hope to do, by arbitrarily not starting games with full lists if necessary.

It was suggested by Larry Peery in a recent Erehwon that by Californian law a game was indeed a 'contract' between the players and GM. The players, he maintained, were the owners of the game, and had hired the GM to run it for them. I don't know what the legal position would be in the UK.

I am picking up some new subscribers too, including deserters from Ethil. Actually, I don't go in for publicity unless forced to, as I'm in no hurry to acquire new readers -- don't want to suffer the same fate of that other Cambridge publisher.

Thunderbolts and other phenomena are under the control of MIDGOD -- see Midgard rules, page 4652. I am just the gamesmaster.

~~((Hartley also commented unfavourably on the political notes in Ethil-8. As he was the only one who seemed to notice them I think I'll leave politics to Graustark in future!))~~

Andy Davidson

As yet I haven't composed any press releases -- I seem to have run out of snide remarks to make about you. ((Just wait till WB 'G' game, mate!))

We've just got a new kitten. Guess what we've called it? That's right, "Ethil the Frog".

: ((I trust the feline in question feels suitably honoured. I bet Hartley starts bribing his readers now to call their pets WB, and there is no knowing what Michel might do to that giraffe of his. Rod, query: is this the first time an animal has been named after a Dippyzine?))

Jeff Oliver

In my opinion there is not enough about personalities in the magazines such as WB and Ethil. I put it to you that when a new game starts, the players could write a short piece about their ideas, hobbies, ideologies, history, situation &c to let other players know about them. Alternatively print one per issue. The first spiel could be about you, and if that doesn't appeal to your ego nothing will.

((Good idea. I wrote a bit about myself for this Ethil -- and now there's no room to print it! I'll do it next issue, along with any others I receive... hint hint...))

'A' Game (1972K) -- Spring 1905

Warsaw "Ach, so! Ein Blitzkrieg!"

Livonia & Moscow (Govnt) The failure to make immediate retaliatory attacks may be attributed to the German tactic of laying out their pickelhaubes in a sea of spikes. Due to the lack of leather footwear among the Russian elite divisions sent to deal with the infestations, it was felt an unnecessary waste of foot bandages to attack before the arrival of train-loads of leather boots from the interior of the nation

Sale Found: one hundred sets of encyclopaedias, and one worn-out pair of boots. Claimants will be registered insane.

Deutscher Freipresse The Kaiser has acted completely against the wish of the people, and we call on him to resign! His resignation, it is hoped, will prevent our annihilation. We demand democracy, not Kaiserial dictatorship!

GERMANY (A. Davidson): F Ska-Nwy S by A Swe & F Nth, F Lon S F Nth,
A Ber-Pru S by A War; A Sil S A War; A Mun-Tyr,
A-Kie-Ber, - A Edl stands.

RUSSIA (Jeffery) A Sev-Mos S by A Lvn, F Nrg-Nth S by F Nwy*;
A Mos-StP; A Con stand, F Ank-Bla.

AUSTRIA (Robertson). A Bud-Gal S by A Rum, A Bul S A Rum,
A Vie-Boh; A Gre-Alb; F Tri-Adr; F Nap S A Rom;
A Rom S F Nap; A Tyr-Pie S by A Ven.

ITALY (Maule): F TyS-Tun.

FRANCE (D. Christanson). A Mar-Pie S by F GoL; A Bur stands;
A Spa-NAf C by F WMS.

*Retreat. Russian F Nwy-Bar.

'C' Game (1972BK) -- Spring 1903

Fleet Street The rather controversial publication continues to flourish, despite repeated attempts to suppress it .

Galveo: "Who's Henry Pijohn?"

Ankara (Govnt) Treachery! This is war! Italy and Austria, tremble! You shall not survive, for the entire war-machine of the Turkish Empire, and others, is turned against you. All diplomatic relations are as of now severed.

ENGLAND (Taylor) .. F Bar, F Nth, F Ska, A Nwy, A Lon unordered!

GERMANY (Maulé). A Mun-Boh S by A Sil; A Den-Pru C by F Bal;
A Ruh-Mun, A StP-Mos.

RUSSIA (B. Davidson) A Fin-StP S by F GoB, A Mos-War, A Vie-Bud*;
F Rum S (Turkish) A Bul.

TURKEY (Jeffery) F EMS-Ion, A Con-Gre C by F Aeg, S by A Bul.

AUSTRIA (M Christanson) A Tri-Vie S by A Bud; A Ser-Bul;
F Gre S (Italian) F Ion

ITALY (Davis). A Apu-Alb C by F Ion*; A Pie-Mar; A Tus-Pie.

FRANCE (Bell): F TyS S (Turkish) EMS-Ion, A Mar-Pie; F MAO-WMS;
A Naf-Tun, A Bur stands.

*Retreats Russian A Vie-Gal.
Italian F Ion annihilated.

Notes On July 21, Mick Christanson moves to 14 The Croft, Welwyn, Herts Mick says he returns to Prestwich on August 21, but I shan't remember, so please remind me, Mick! Harry Bell is taking two weeks' holiday and will not be available again till 29 July.

Will ANDREW WALDIE please submit standby moves for ENGLAND in case Irene Taylor misses again.

'B' Game (Abstraction -- 1972Kco) -- January 1915

Venice The body of Il Duce Grahamo, late leader of the Italian Commonwealth, was today fished out of the canals, three days after he had gone missing from his Rome palace. The whereabouts of Il Duce were completely unknown till this morning, when he was seen to make a sacrifice of a box of Platignum cartridges to the god Ra. Attempts to recapture him failed, as he again vanished without trace, until he was found floating in the canal by a private taking a swim. A very private funeral will be held in St. Peter's at 10 a.m. tomorrow. The Public Gallery will be open from 9 a.m. onwards

Kiel (Govnt) The Kaiser is reported to be still cheerful, despite the attack by French, British, Austrians, Russians, Danes, Swedes, IRA; FWA, Gay Liberation Front, Polish Legion, French Foreign Legion, British Legion and the Salvation army. He places his full trust in the three battalions of the Wehrmacht ranged around the borders of Greater Germany.

L'Organe Français de Libre Parole Elation was felt throughout the poorer class communities of France at the possible death of the 'Emperor' when his palace was razed to the ground. However, mass disappointment spread through the nation as it was announced that the tyrant had unfortunately survived. Those responsible for the courageous deed are heralded as heroes of the French people, whoever they may be, and we call on them to repeat their action with, hopefully, more success.

ENGLAND (Stuart). A Edl-Nwy FF by F Nrg, A Lon boards F Ang,
F Lpl-Cly; F Ply-Eng; F Hol-Hel; F Nwy-Ska.

GERMANY (Davis) A Kle S F Den*.

RUSSIA (Feintuck) A Ber-Kie; F Bal-Den S by A Swe, A Dre stand,
F StP-Rlg; F EBS-Sin S by F WBS; A Arm-Dam.

TURKEY (Maule). F Mas-Sic, F Sin-Con*; A Cic-Dam,
A CMS-Nap S by F CMS.

AUSTRIA (D.Christianson) A Vle-Tyr S by A Mun & A Zur; A Cro-Ven;
A Bud-Cro; A Mac-Con S by A Bul, F Zar-Adr,
A Rum & A Gre stand.

ITALY (Jeffery) A Ven-Rom; F Adr-Ion, F Mor-WMS S by F Tun,
A Ple stand.

FRANCE (A.Davidson). F And-WMS S by F SAO & F TyS; A Sic-Nep,
A Bur-Obe S by A Mar, A Ruh-Swa; A Lyo-Par.

*Retreats. Turkish F Sin annihilated -- nowhere to go.
German F Den annihilated -- nowhere to go

Notes Bob Stuart's address is now 20 Kent Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 7HD.
QUOTE from Bushwacker 1.5, edited by Fred Davis, the inventor of Abstraction: "Any time an Army is stood off on trying to enter a land province from a sea space, it remains with the fleet as part of an A/F, including an unsuccessful "Fast Ferry"." This means that the move A Bre-Ply FF by F Eng is actually equivalent to A Bre boards F Eng -- A Eng dis Ply. OK?

'F' Regular Game starts...

....and here are the lucky players:-

ENGLAND. Tom Durrheim, 35 Morar Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3HL.

GERMANY J.Morrison, 52 Miles Road, Epsom, Surrey

RUSSIA: Steve Williams, 64B Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey.

TURKEY Bruce Davidson, 13 Yelverton Avenue, Weeping Cross, Stafford.

AUSTRIA. Howell Davies, 86 Glebelands Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9EA

ITALY Jeff Oliver, 73 Egerton Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6UZ.

FRANCE. Robert Alexander, 20 Kent Close, Orpington, Kent BR6 7HD.

Play will be by the 1971 Rulebook and the Ethel House Rules. Have fun!

A number of other people also asked to play in this game, but their requests were received after the list was full. To these I can only say that I'm sorry I couldn't accomodate them, but standby positions are still available.

'D' Game (1972??) -- Spring 1902

Berlin (Pig Fanciers' Weekly) A research team has been sent to Belgium in order to find out whether their farms can be used for the breeding of our own glorious pigs. Their feeble, puny pigs will be pushed into the ocean.

Vosges A team of German vintners arrived here today to learn the art of good wine-making for the Kaiser. It is rumoured that some of the party may settle here permanently and make wine for the German Royal Family, and that other regions noted for good wine may be visited shortly by the Germans.

Moscow (Peasants' Herald and Information Letter) The Czar went into a coma today, and the Court is apprehensive that supplies of caviar may be stopped completely by the vile Turkish people. This situation has not been helped by the Swedish and certain other nations

Moscow (Peasants' Herald and Information Letter -- a day later) Reports are coming in of a vast number of German peasants making their way to Moscow with gifts of caviar for the Imperial Palaces. They thought it a better gesture to bring the caviar, rather than trouble the Russian people to leave their country in search of it. It is hoped this news will bring about an improvement in the Czar's condition, but if it fails to do so the team of Austrian doctors on their way may be able to help.

Moscow (Peasants' Herald and Information Letter -- special edition). The court astrologer predicted this evening that Germany would break the terms of the treaty and declare war on Russia. He has been immersed in a barrel of vodka, and will be released if his prediction is correct. He is now in a state of great suspense.

Moscow (Peasants' Herald and Information Letter -- extra special edition) The court astrologer was right, a state of war now exists between Germany and ourselves. The astrologer has been released from his barrel, and while inebriated he accepted a commission in the 1st Polish army which is now repelling the invaders from the west

Wimbledon Bonk ..bonk ..bonk....bonk. ..bonk.. .bonk....

Warsaw. Several Austrians were arrested today for spying on military establishments. They had gained entry by posing as encyclopaedia salesmen.

Tunis We regret that Il Duce's continued allergy to olives forces his departure. As a farewell present the cheering crowds gave him five bloodstained palm fronds, a recipe for curried camel dung and three tons of olives, wishing him similar good fortune in North Africa.

ENGLAND (I.Lawson) F Lon, F Lpl, F Nth, A Nwy all unordered!

GERMANY (Jones) F Den-Swe; A Hol-Bel S by A Ruh, A Mun-Bur;
A Ber-Pru.

RUSSIA-(Shaw) F GoB-Swe; F Sev-Arm; A-Ukr-Sev, A War-Pru.

TURKEY (Oliver): A Bul-Rum S by F Bla; F Ank-Arm; A Con stand.

AUSTRIA (A.Davidson) F Gre-Ion, A Tri-Tyr, A Ser-Tri,
A Vic-Gal S by A Bud.

ITALY (Waldie) F Ion-Tun, A Tun-NAf; F Nap-TyS; A Ven-Pie.

FRANCE (Hemmings) F Bre-Eng, A Bur-Ruh, A Por-Spa, A Mar stand.

No retreats.

Notes Jeff Oliver now has a postcode M14 6UZ.

Will HARRY BELL please send in standby orders for ENGLAND, in case Ian Lawson misses again. Ian, I don't know what happened here -- I'm sure you meant to send some orders 'cos I've got 'E' game moves from you, but they don't seem to be here. .

Henry P. Pigohn has written me an outrageous letter, which deserves to be quoted in full. Unfortunately there is not enough room in this issue, and it would be unfair to quote bits of it out of context. But Henry needn't think he's escaped -- I might print the lot next issue!

'E' Game (1972??) -- Spring 1901

Rome (Govnt): Il Ducc Mouselliani said in the Palazzo today that Italy desires to have peaceful relations with every country except France. The Western Mediterranean states have, in fact, asked us to protect us from the imperialistic French swine. Accordingly, a fleet is to be sent to Tunis and the first and second Italian armies rushed to the northern front, lest the French become offensive. (We already consider them very offensive, in fact!)

Munich (Underground news-sheet) Civilian unrest has progressively increased under the Kaiser's oppressive regime. It is rumoured that a request for liberation which has been made to a certain Emperor may be fruitful in the autumn. Roll on autumn!

Prague Cheering crowds greeted General Conrad von Hützendolt today as the first Viennese army marched in. The populace was until now worried about a possible German invasion. The General gave assurances that Bohemia would remain free of the decadent German peoples.

ENGLAND (Maulc) F Lon-Nth; F Edl-Nrg, A Lpl-Edl.

GERMANY (Mellish). F Kie-Den; A Ber-Kie; A Mun stand.

RUSSIA (Douglass) A War-Sil, A Mos-Lvn; F StP(S)-GoB; F Sev-Rum.

TURKEY (Pijohn). F Ank-Bla; A Con-Bul; A Smy-Con.

AUSTRIA (R.Lawson). A Vie-Boh, A Bud-Ser, F Tri-Alb.

ITALY (I.Lawson): A Ven-Pie; A Rom-Tus; F Nap-TyS.

FRANCE (Walkerdine): A Mar-Spa, A Par-Bur; F Bre-MAO.

Note that the Lawson brothers are now at 78 Ferry Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9LU. And now another press release which I just noticed ..

Marseilles (Wine-makers Chronicle) Following the announcement in the Spanish scientific journal "El Platano Negro" that a large herd of Rana Celebrei has been sighted to the south of Madrid, a team of investigators from the Marseille Institute for Zoological purposes has been sent to the area to observe the creatures and capture a pair for breeding purposes.

Rana Celebrei, or, as it is more commonly known, the Fairy Frog, has never been sighted before outside France, and was thought until recently to be extinct. It was discovered in the Camargue in 1784 by Pierre "Le Poove" Celebre, the famous wine-maker of Marseilles, and was used by him to produce Frogs-Leg wine, reputedly the best French wine of the 19th century. Excessive hunting led to the believed extinction of this species in the 1880s.

It is understood that teams from the Universities of Paris and Brest are also making their way to Spain, the Brest team in a hired submarine, in the hope of discovering the breeding grounds of the frogs. It is thought to lie in deep waters off the Portuguese coast.

"We of the Barca family," grated Hannibal menacingly, "will not tolerate check from these cheapjack Dippyazine editors. If Beaconsfield were surrounded by mountains instead of those damned ring roads, we'd have conquered it long ago."

This is:

ETHIL THE FROG 10

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