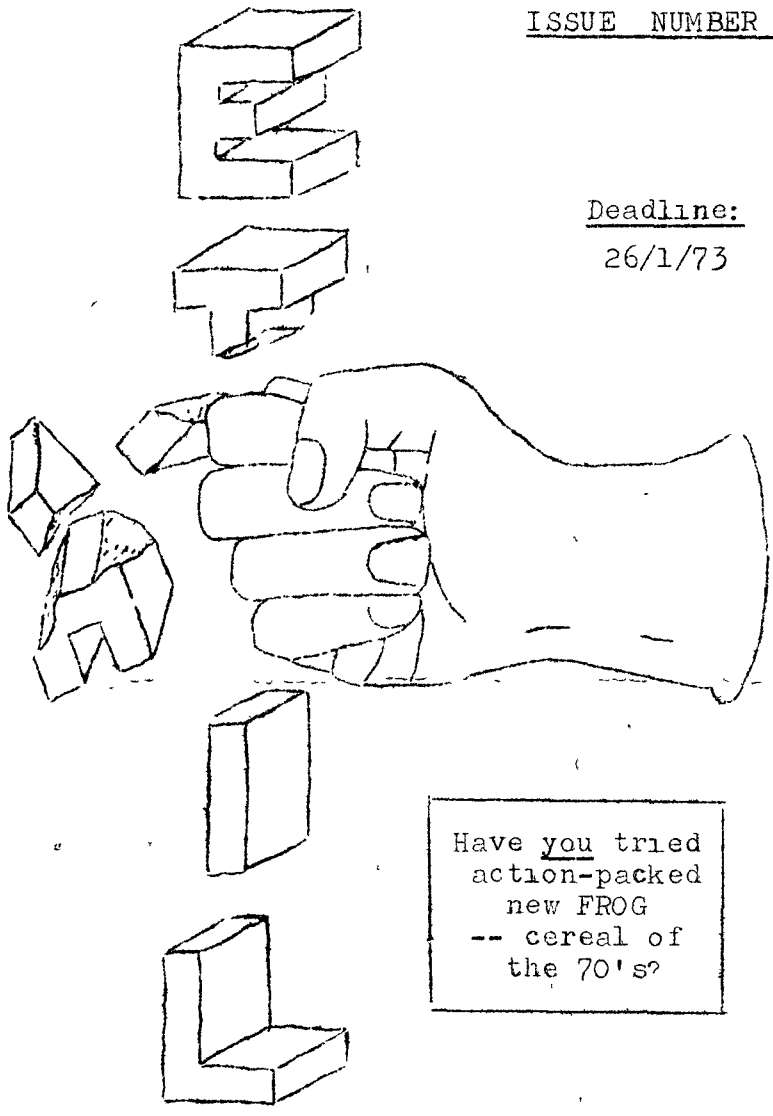


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Deadline:
26/1/73



Have you tried
action-packed
new FROG
-- cereal of
the 70's?

"A plague on it," said Hannibal as the intrepid Carthaginians reentered the Tardis. "All those brilliant plans I evolved, and not one of them has worked! One would think that Diplomacy is immune to our tampering!"

"There is still one way we can do it," said Hasdrubal. "If we go back a couple of million years in time, we can kill off the ancestor of the whole of Mankind! Then we'll be sure Diplomacy will not be played, since there'll be no players!"

"There won't be any Carthaginians, either," said Hannibal wearily.

"Ooh. I never thought of that..."

NEWS

Those students, including myself, are on the move again. That's Andy Davidson, Roy Lawson and Martin Mellish. Phil Jones has now found new accomodation: 130 Edge Lane, Kensington, Liverpool 7. There are two women there as well, nudge-nudge wink-wink say no more!! I shall be back at Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL for the next couple of months, and I hope there will be no instances of orders being sent to the wrong address. I'll note here that it is worthwhile using my postal code: Cambridge is one of the twelve or so places in Britain which possess automatic machinery capable of utilising postal codes, so I feel it is worth putting it on envelopes, despicabile though it is.

The Diplomypia list now comprises Colin Hemming, Jeff Oliver, John Lettice and Phil Jones. I'm sure there was one other person who applied, but I can't find any record. If this person would reapply, then we'll need only one more to effect a start, since I am sure that it just slipped Andy's memory that he'd got to put his name down...

Kevin Feintuck has complained that he didn't receive his copy of Ethil 18. Since I am sure that I sent him one, the fault probably lies with the Post Office. Except during times like Christmas when postal services become very poor, you can usually expect to receive your Ethil within a week of the deadline -- indeed, it is normally typed on the deadline date and sent off to Ian Maule in the evening; he then duplicates it fairly quickly. It would be a good idea, I think, if anyone who has not received his next Ethil a week after the deadline were to write and complain (not too vitriolic, mind!) since it is of course intolerable if everyone else is furiously diploming and you can't because you don't know what the moves were...

LETTERS

CONRAD VON METZKE To answer the question posed on the Boardman-Blake hoax (Ethil 14 & 15), the statistical data on the game have been removed from all official records, which naturally I possess. However, I can tell you that the game was won by Boardman as Boardman, with Blake second.

Don Turnbull comments that this sort of ploy is "a fine piece of work". In a sense, it is. But such devices could be used by almost any party so inclined, as in the USA it is relatively easy to rent a postal box under a fictitious name - which is what John did - or, even easier, to rent a box under one's own name and specify additional parties eligible to receive mail therein. (Thus, my own postal box is rented in my name, but mail for 'Grendel Press', 'Charles Reinsel' (my houseguest), 'Kathleen O'Connell' (my ex-wife) and any other party I indicate is also received).

My point, before I wander into oblivion, is that since this trick is available with reasonable ease to one and all, and since the means of back-checking to prevent it are non-existent, it is deucedly unethical. It also negates the point of the game, I should think. Given this method of operation, it is theoretically possible to play in a postal Diplomacy game with six pseudonyms, filling thusly all seven positions and winning with whatever country one likes. For a time I once maintained three addresses, each thirty miles from the others, in different towns. Most gamesmasters would accept entries from three players so situated. But if I had pulled that kind of stunt, I could hardly help but win as somebody or other, and the game is not to be played in a manner obviating its result.

And so, while Boardman's success must go down in the annals as a quaint and esoteric bit of Diplomatianna, it must also be branded for what it is - an outright cheat.

((Hmm. I'm not at all sure what postal box regulations are like in this country, since I've never contemplated renting one; I suspect they're rather more relaxed even than US ones. I do know, however, that it costs £10 a year to rent a box here, which puts it somewhat outside the realistic budget of most of Ethil's players.))

On your ever-so-slightly-negative mention of Fred Winter's archivist inclination, it is true that Buchanan is doing a hell of a fine job, and it is true that Hoosier Archives is a better magazine than Carbon-13. But there is both room and need for more than one massive archive. (Actually, there are already two big archives, the other being mine - formerly Walker's). The hobby is so huge these days that Walt cannot hope to handle all needs for information, and in addition there is the problem of what to do if Walter drives himself into a tree some dark night. God forbid; but it is with precisely this morbid thought in mind that I set up a backup/standby system for assignment of the Boardman numbers, and the duplication of archives in various parts of the globe is another manifestation of the recognition of human impermanence. "All of us meet changes, and when we do it is nice to have someone available to help." And so, in the spirit of John Leeder's words just quoted, I support not only the Buchanan archive, but also the Winter, the still-newer Hull, and of course my own.

Of course, there is a limit. If all gamesmasters were to make a special effort to keep up with all archivists, then every person desiring multitudes of zines would declare himself an archivist. I fully expect a run on archives projects quite soon, in fact, as the newer aficionados begin to make contact with the various holdouts. In my own case there are still ten gamesmasters whose products I do not receive. This is a substantial number, though all except one are comparatively small-time. If something is not forthcoming soon to break these ten deadlocks, there will be increasingly major havoc with my archive. And this, to those of us who care a fig about the hobby in overview, is poor.

ALLAN B. CALHAMER ((Allan discusses the Grau dilemma, mentioned in Ethils 15, 16 & 17. The moves are as follows:-

ENGLAND: a lon-den c by f nth, s by f swe & f ska.

GERMANY: f hol-nth s by f den. RUSSIA: f nwy-nth s by f nrg.))

The 1971 Rules, XI.5, says clearly that the support of the F Denmark is not cut. I think XI.5, being highly specific, overrides the more general principal elsewhere that a dislodged unit cannot support. This is Hemming's comment in Ethil 16. You are right that literally there is a conflict with an earlier, more general statement, however.

In Eth1 17, Turnbull states the problem perfectly, but then says some things that are wrong. "It is illegal to give an order which causes the dislodgement of a friendly unit" is wrong. An attack, or support of an attack, on a unit of your own country does not dislodge it; the case of the F Den here, though, is one of a long train of circumstances resulting in dislodgement. The same argument applies when he suggests the move a lon-den is illegal.

According to realism, Britain is keeping the sea lane open by virtue of the fact that superior German and Russian forces are checking each other sufficiently often during the six-month period represented by the move. The major difficulty is that, where England is attacking German-held Denmark and threatening to tie up the German fleet there, it seems cut-and-dried that Germany and England are opposed to each other, whereas we continue to assume that Russia is uncommitted. That is, would Germany really check the Russians in such a way as to keep the English sea lane open to their attempted landing in Denmark? Well, one answer is that it's certainly possible - the Germans could easily have realised that the Russians were the main threat in the North Sea, and fought them as well as the English throughout the six-month period, before realising that they were inadvertently helping the English. Furthermore, we don't know what the highest levels think - the captains, generals, etc. may think Germany should close the English sea lane, even if it means losing the North Sea to the Russians, Berlin may be more worried about Russia... The British army could have been shipped through in a couple of days anyway, and supplied thereafter from those fleets in Skaggerack and Sweden (hell, it could be supplied altogether from Sweden). In fact, that may be part of what we mean by 'support'.

As for Britain winning Denmark, well, according to realism, Britain has three units attacking it against one defender.

((So the English f nth isn't dislodged, and the attack on Denmark succeeds; the German fleet must retreat. Ho-hum .))

COLIN HEMMING I'd like to correct a small mistake in EtF 19: the game fee of 60p in XI doesn't cover the magazine as long as the game lasts, but as long as the individual stays playing in it. That's maybe what you meant, but there's quite a difference.

You didn't mention propaganda in Eth1 with regard to the Myopia game. I hope you're not envisaging running the game without any? ((Indeed, no. I'm not sure, though, what form it will be distributed in -- whether by carbon copy to the players only, or whether by putting it in issues of EtF. The deadlines for the game will not be in phase with the 'normal' EtF games, so I'm not quite sure what to do.))

JEFF OLIVER Thinks... why not institute standby orders if anyone misses two sets of orders in a game, even if not consecutive? I agree with Greg Ward that dropouts are a drag and ruin everyone else's game, and here's a solution.

((It sounds all right, but I fancy your system might be a mite (sorry) too severe. After all, you'd hardly call a player who misses a move in 1903, then another in 1912 a particularly unreliable player. It might be an idea, though, to make it time-dependent: e.g., one might rule that a player who misses one move must send in orders for the next three after that in order to remain in the game .. It's a knotty problem, and there seems to be no solution that's anywhere near perfect.))

BOB STUART Yes, it was horrible to meet you at the NGC, but you were just as I had pictured you, from your pin-up on the front of Eth1: all slimy and green, hopping from rock to pool.

((Somehow I wish I had the wit to compose a really devastating reply to this... but it's only half past ten in the morning right now.))

JOHN LETTICE Hmmm... Jeff Oliver is hoping for a low dropout rate... I could compile a list of low dropouts and send it to him! ((A reasonable idea would be to form a 'blacklist' of players who drop out of some games without reasonable excuse, to be distributed as a warning to various GMs. Or is this too fascist-sounding? The BDC say they keep a blacklist, though I doubt it, since someone who delayed the start of Hartley's BDC4 game was also allowed to sign up again for BDC7, run by Don Turnbull -- and blow me if he didn't mess up the start of that one, too'))

1972K ('A'). Spring 1910

RUSSIAN FORCES OCCUPY BERLIN!

GERMANY (A. Davidson): f bre-mao; a gas-bur s by a par; f nao-nrg;
f iri-nao; a lon-den c by f nth, a swe-fin, a ruh s a run,
a boh-tyr s by a mun; a alb-tri*; a ber-sil*.

RUSSIA (Jeffery): a pru-ber s by a sil; a war s, a sil;
a gal s (austrian) a vie-boh, f rum-bla, a bul-rum; a mos-stp;
a stp-fin s by f gob

AUSTRIA (Robertson). a vie-boh, a tyr-mun*; a bud-vie; f lon-gre;
a ser-alb s by a tri; f tys-wms, f tun-naf.

FRANCE (Oliver): a spa-gas s by a mar & f mao.

*Retreats: Austrian a tyr-pie. German a alb disbanded, a ber-kie.

Note that a small error was made in the last issue in the 'A' game report. Austria could not build a vie as reported, and so is operating one unit short.

Vienna (Govt): Following the recovery of the Emperor's health, our armies have turned to the offensive, gaining victory after victory in evicting German troops from our soil. Our friends in Russia finally unearthed German treachery, and have successfully cleansed themselves of the hated invader. They are now seeking extensive reparation...

Spain: The exiled French government concluded secret talks with the Austrian ambassador here last night, and accepted a joint plan to regain France's lost homeland from Germany.

Tunis: In a communique issued after talks between Austria, Russia and the exiled English government, it was stated that England has requested the reconquest and liberation of the offshore islands by Austrian and Russian forces. Similar requests came from the ambassadors of Belgium, Holland, Scandinavia and Italy. A request for liberation by the Berlin ambassador was ruled out of order.

Austria pointed out that she had already 'liberated' Italy, whereupon the Italians and Austrians came to blows. The result of the fight was that the Austrians won 3-mil, liberating the Italians in a cell in the local police station for the night.

1972BV ('D'). Spring 1907

DEADLOCK IN BALKANS AS GERMANY MOVES EAST

ENGLAND (I. Lawson). f nao-iri; f edi-yor s by f nth*; a swe stands.

GERMANY (Jones). f hol-nth s by f den; a gas-bur, a bur-bel; a mun-sil;
a ber-pru; a par-plc.

TURKEY (Oliver): a gre stands s by f aeg & a bul, a con s a bul;
f smy-eas, a rum stands s by f bla; a gal stands s by a war;
a stp builds fleet.

AUSTRIA (A. Davidson): f por-spa(s) s by a mar, f gol-tys; a rom stands,
a ser-gre s by a alb & f lon, a bud-ser s by a tri, a vie-bud.

FRANCE (Bell): f bre-eng s by f lon; a tus-pie.

*Retreat: English f nth-hel.

Two errors here last issue: Turkey built f smy, not f stp; and France had a f lon, not f lon...

Paris: The German Olympic Long-Distance champion today returned from his round-the-world peace talks, having travelled for two months carrying one end of a piece of string. The other end had been tied to the base of the Eiffel Tower. The string has now been pulled taut, tripping up two Turks, sterilising one Siamese cat, and creating the Suez Canal, and turns out to be one metre too long. The runner is at present being supplied with back issues of Ethnl, and next issue he will set out to prop up the string with the Ethls so that it will become taut with both ends tied to the Eiffel Tower.

Liverpool. "Some day, perhaps, we'll have a splash
When Littlewoods provides the cash,
We'll build a house in Knotty Ash
And buy Phil Jones a brewery."

1972Kco ('B'): April 1916 ENGLAND CAPTURES BREST AS FRANCE MUCKS ABOUT IN THE MED

ENGLAND (Stuart): f cou-stp; f swc-nwy; a nao-bre s by f mao & f eng; a stp boards f rig -- a/f rig-bal -- a bal dis kie; f ang-hel; a ber-dre*; a nwy boards f nth -- a/f nth-ang; a kie-ruh s by a bel.

RUSSIA (Feintuck): a ark-vol.

TURKEY (Maule): a bul ms a ser; f gre stands s by a mac; a con s a bul; f ems-lib; f aeg-ems; f smy-aeg.

AUSTRIA (Walkerdine): a mos stands and stares; a ukr stands s by a rum, a sil-boh; a alb-ser; a bud-vie*.

FRANCE (A.Davidson): a bre-pic s by a par; a lyo-lor; a mar-gas; a por stands; f wms-sao; f tys s f cms; f ion ms f ems; a cro-bud s by a pec; a tyr-vie; f zar stands; a ruh-kie*; a dre-ber s by a mun.

*Retreats: English a ber-pru; Austrian a bud-gal; French a ruh-hol.

1972BK ('C'): Spring 1908 ENGLAND CAPTURES SEVASTOPOL!

ENGLAND (Taylor): a edi-nwy c by f nrg; f lon-ēng; a mos-sev; a kie-ber; a den-kie; a swe-fin; a yor-bel c by f nth; a stp, a hol & a war stand.

GERMANY (Maule): a ber stands

RUSSIA (Oliver): nur // a rum stands.

TURKEY (Jeffery): a arm & a ukr s (russian) a rum-sev! a gal s a ukr; a bud-vie; a tri s (austrian) a ven; f aeg-ion s by f adr; f smy-ems; a gre stands.

AUSTRIA (Waldie): a vie-tyr s by a ven.

FRANCE (Bell): f ion stands s by f nap; a pie-ven s by a rom; a mun-boh; a ruh-mun; a bur stands.

Jeremy Elsmore - send orders for Russia if you like...

St Andrews University (Dept of Practical Astronomy): "Here is the horrorscope for 1972BK. Hostilities will continue throughout the continent of Europe, which will result in the erasure of large numbers of people in Russia, Germany and Austria. A peace conference will be called in Spring 1909 and the present conflict will be resolved in a three-way draw later that year."

Manchester University (Theoretical Physics Correspondent): Blip, blip, blip, blip, blip....

Oxford University (School of Anatomy): "You've created a monster, Doctor Frankenstein!"

1972CI ('E'): Spring 1906 FRENCH CHUCKED OUT OF MUNICH AGAIN

ENGLAND (Maule): a kie s (french) a mun; f den-swe s by a fin; f nth-den; a swe-nwy; f edi-nth; f hel s a kie; f stp(n) & a lon stand.

RUSSIA (Douglass): a ber-kie; a sil-mun; f bal-swe; a mos-stp; a arm-sky.

TURKEY (PiJohn): f con-bla; f smy-con; a ank-smy.

AUSTRIA (R.Lawson): a bon & a tyr s (russian) a sil-mun; a gre-bul; a bul-con; a pie stands; f lon-aeg.

ITALY (I.Lawson): a ven-rom; f tys-lon; a tus s (austrian) a pie.

FRANCE (Walkerdine): a mun stands*; a bur s a mun; a par-pic; f bre-mao; a mar-pie s by f gol; f wms s f tun.

*Retreat: French a kie-ruh.

Dave Douglass does not wish to continue in this game. Control of Russia now passes to Jeremy Elsmore, The Gorse, Tabley Rd, Knutsford, Cheshire. We thank Dave for allowing us to organise the changeover with the minimum of bother, and wish others would do likewise. (Dave's Autumn 1905 orders got delayed in the Christmas Crush).

1972ACde ('H'): 1 Yavannie 3018 UMBAR ENTERS MINAS TIRITH WHILE GONDOR'S
TREACHERY FAILS

ERIADOR (Lettice): a sh1-sdo; a eve-fld; a bra-ene, f nwa-wes;
=a hol-mm; a wea-ett s by a ang & a rhd.

GONDOR (Feintuck): a 1sn-edo s by a lam.

MORDOR (Ward): =3a cai s 2a eas; 2a eas s (gondor) a 1sn-edo;
a sit-m1 s by 2a mmo; a rhn-nur s by 2a bar; a dag-udu;
a ett-gm* s by a and; a gm-iro; a cre-mir s by a run;
2a dg s a and.

RHOVANION (Patterson): a mm-gf s by a cel; a mir-gm* s by =a gun.

ROHAN (Davis): a wem-eas s by a me & a edo; a 1gd-wem; a rau-bro;
=2a udu-nit.

UMBAR (Harris): f tol-lam; a sgo-mt1; =a msh stands s by a kha;
a hrd-sgo s by a hdw.

*Retreats: Rhovanion a mir-sm1. Mordor a ett annihilated.

Umbar: The stranger listened quietly as Ar Phasixpence poured out his troubles: "It's terrible - everyone-hates me for being afraid of a spider, we've had nothing to eat but Spam ever since we captured the Khand Meat Factories, and my wife says she doesn't want this ring I got from a midget at Minas Morgul."

"I assure you, you have my greatest sympathy."

"Yes, I can see it in your eye... Eye? No! You must be... Aaaargh!"

"Why did he faint like that, Golda?"

"I don't know; perhaps he thought you were someone else, Moshe."

Grey Havens (Wharf B): "Okay, Ferret; either ya come over wid da stuff dat matters, or me an' de boys is gonna fit ya wid a lead waistcoat, right, Crusher? F.B. ain't gonna like ya holdin' oud on us, Ferret. Where'd ya hide it? Won't talk, huh? Show him da wadder, Lou."

Moria: Asbestos shields at 'the ready, Beorn and the Balrog peered cautiously out of the Main Gate. It was rather a small dragon, but nevertheless a very hot one.

"What is the meaning of this?" asked Beorn. "Entries for the joke contest closed yesterday!"

"I am empowered by the Eriador and Rhovanion Monopolies Commission to investigate certain rumours that you are selling or offering as gifts various articles of jewellery," puffed the dragon.

"You mean the rings?"

"Aaargh' Ssssh!" The dragon jumped twenty feet and looked nervously round. Beorn lowered his shield, now somewhat blackened at the edges.

"Where are these - er - trinkets, anyway?" the dragon whispered.

"Right here," said the Balrog.

Isengard: "You all right, sir?" asked Sergeant Bates, as he helped the balding stranger to safety. "Saruman must have held you prisoner in there for some time,

"Time?" said the stranger. "What 'is't? The time is out of joint, or I would not be here, I think." He stroked his moustache thoughtfully.

"I'm sorry to hurry you, but we should get somewhere safer. My troops are panicking - if only I could think of something to rally them..."

"Let me try," said the stranger. "How about this...?"

'Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more,

Or close the wall up with our Rohan dead.

In peace there's nothing so becomes a man..."

"Hold on," gasped Bates, licking his pencil stub. "You've got a bit of a talent for this sort of thing, haven't you?"

Isengard: Saruman: Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf
Of the raving salt-sea'd shark--

Grima: My lord! my lord!

Saruman: Fle! what means

This untimely interruption?

Grima: My lord, they are departed.

Saruman: What - gone? And after these three months
Spent on a spell to turn them all to stone?
Fate, you are a fickle and unkind creature
That mine enemies should escape me thus.

1972ADde ('I'): 2 Urime 3018

SAURON ATTACKS MINAS TIRITH AGAIN...

ERIADOR (Waldie): =a hol-riv; a sdo-gwy; a sh1-bra; a wea-sdo;
a and s (rhovanion) a ett-gun; f fdw stands.

GONDOR (Mellish): a isn-dun; a lam & a cal s =2a nti; =2a nti s a cal.

MORDOR (Bell); 2a mor-lor; a dun-wiz; a gun-iro*; 2a kha-nsh;
2a nti-nti s by =3a sit; 2a udu-nin.

RHOVANION (PiJohn): a rhd s (eriador) a hol-riv; a iro-car;
a gi-iro; a ett-gun; a rau-nc*; a bro-eeu; a cel-wol;
a dg s a cel; a gf s (Mordor) 2a mor-lor; =a and s a gf.

ROHAN (Yare): =2a lor-mor* s by a wiz; a lgd-dun; a wol-bro;
a con-rau s by a ne.

UMBAR (Durrhein): =a sgo-nti; a hdw-sgo s by f tol; a nur-kha.

*Retreats: Garrison in riv annihilated. Mordor a gun-nwa. Rohan =2a lor-fan.
Rhovanion a rau disbanded.

E: 8 bases: sh1, eve, lhu, bra, riv, arn, ang, hol. Build a sh1, a eve.

G: 4 bases: nti, cal, lar, isn. No change.

M: 8 bases: bar, udu, nno, nsh, nit, sit, mor, lor. Build a bar.

RH: 11 bases: and, sh1, gi, ere, run, gf, rhd, dg, cel, wol, car.
Build a eve, a sh1.

RO: 5 bases: wen, edo, eas, lgd, rau. Remove a bro.

U: 5 bases: huu, hrd, cit, sgo, kha. Build a hrd.

City of the Corsairs: "Yess, preciouss. We won't let nasty Tomsses write any more ghasstly rubbissssh, wnat he calls propaganda. No, preciouss! Don't you understand? Don't torture us by making uss read it! Nassty, cruel gollun! No, preciouss! Don't let him!"

Ederas: From the King of Rohan - "My people, the Eorlingas, send our best wishes to the Prince of Gondor and wish him all the best in his battles with the orcbands and Nazgul of Mordor. We also wish Sauron godspced in an easterly direction."

Minas Tirith: The High Steward Denethor is graciously pleased to grant leave to the Lords of Umbar and Mordor severally or together to enter his high stronghold of Minas Tirith, and there to remain without let or hindrance, till such time as shall be mutually agreed upon. He further commands his palace guard to do them honour in every respect as to his own person....

Barad-Dur: "How came I to this plight?" thought Lord Sauron, his eye glittering in the red light of the Great Hall of the Dark Tower. "Tis but a short space of time ago that I lay poised on the brink of creating the most awesome empire this world has seen, the minions of Elrond - accursed sprite - crushed beneath my heel. Then came that day when, as if from the very corners of my Eye, came a fluttering and a squawking, a tearing and a rending of the fabric of space itself, and a flock of grotesque sea-birds - not my faithful Nazgul as I had at first surmised - burst into my presence. "Come with us," they cried, "Come with us to our land north and east of here, where we create a kingdom of the mind and where our deeds are told in terms of unparalleled excellence." I have resisted, but my strength weakens without the Ring, and I fear that ere long the already crumbling shell of once-mighty Barad-Dur will house but the ringing echoes of fast-departed Sauron."

The Black Gate: The four hobbits stood in the shadow of the Ephel Duath, watching the armies of Sauron manoeuvring on the ancient, desolate battlefield of Dagorlad. "It's a good thing those giant birds gave us a lift, what?" murmured Merry, attempting to make conversation in an effort to lift the terrible gloom of the place. But none of the others responded, so he fell silent as they approached the entrance to the terrible land of Mordor.

Millennia ago, Sauron had caused to be built out of the earth itself the magnificent fortress which guarded the ingress to the stark plain of Udun. The power of the Ring was evident in the massive battlements and earthworks. "I don't like this one little bit," whimpered Frodo. "Do you suppose Sauron will slap our wrists?" Quavering a little, he called to the guardians of the gate. "We were sent by Sharkey," he stuttered.

The Black Gate opened. The Black Gate closed. Frodo and his friends went forth into the Land of Darkness.

1972ABde ('G'): -- 2 Yavannio 3018

IS THERE NO STOPPING THE FIEND?

ERIODOR (Morrison): a rhd-gn s by a ett; a gwy-rhd s by =a sdo;
 a bra-gwy; a nun-duh, f wos-sou.
 MORDOR (A. Davidson): =3a edo-igd; a lau-edo; 2a eas-wen; a me-eas;
 2a rau-ecu; a nin-rau; a udu-nit; a mo-nur; a bar stands;
 a hol ms a lm; a wiz-fan; a wol-lor; a cel-lor;
 a bro-sm s by 2a and & a dg; a mir-run s by 2a rhn.
 RHOVANION (Walkerding): =a run-ere; a sil-run*, a ash-rhn.
 ROHAN (Corker): =2a wil-run; a eel-wen* s by a fan.
 UMBAR (Jeffery): f isn-sou; a lef-Isn; =a/f hrd-bel, a hum-hrd;
 a hdw stands.

*Retreats: Rhovanion a sm-mir; Rohan a een destroyed.

E: 8 bases: sh, eve, lhu, arn, ang, bra, rhd, gn. Build a eve.
 M: 25 bases: bar, ish, mo, udu, nit, sit, uti, cal, lau, nor, lor, gf,
 and, hol, wen, eas, car, cel, sm, run, edq, igd, rau, wol, dg.
 Build a's nor, car, udu, mo, nsh. No room for 6th build...
 RH: 1 base: ere. Remove a ash, a sm.
 RO: 0 bases. All units removed.
 U: 6 bases: kha, sgo, hrd, hum, cit, isn. No change.

1972CL ('F'): Autumn 1905 ITALY COMPLETES CONQUEST OF AUSTRIA

ENGLAND (Durrheim): f nrg & f nwy stand; f nth-lon; f hol-bel.
 GERMANY (Morrison): a war stands; f swe ms a den; a lun-ruh;
a kie-ruh; a sil-ber.
 RUSSIA (Williams): f lvn-pru; f bal-ber; a nos-war, a sev-ukr;
 a ank-con s by a sly.
 TURKEY (Ward): f con-ank*.
 AUSTRIA (Davies): a bud-run s by a bul; f alb-lon*.
 ITALY (Oliver): a gre-alb s by f adr; a vie-bud s by a tri;
 a tyr-vic; f aeg-lon.
 FRANCE (Alexander): a bel s (english) a hol; a pic & a bur s a bel;
 f nao-cly; ~~f wal-lon~~, f wal-lon; f spa(s) stands unordered.

*Retreats: Turkish f con and Austrian f alb both disbanded.

The /// symbol in the French orders this time denotes something funny going on -- in this case, France hasn't got a f nao, but a f spa(s).

E: 4 bases: lon, edi, nwy, nol. No change.
 G: 6 bases: ber, nun, kie, den, swe, war. No change.
 R: 6 bases: stp, nos, sev, sny, ank, con. No change.
 T: Eliminated. All units removed.
 A: 3 bases: bul, run, ser. Nowhere to make build.
 I: 8 bases: ron, nap, ven, tun, tri, vie, bud, gre. Build f nap & a ven.
 F: 7 bases: bre, par, war, spa, por, bel, lpl. No change.

London: "Weally, Uncle, you've been so kind to me!" expostulated Prince Wotapoofter to our gracious ~~W~~ King. "I weally wish you could come out to my countwy wesidence with Wodney and i.e. I'm sure you'd like to see my gewannus in the gweenhouse!"
 "No thanks, old bean," said the King. "If you're ever passing by, though, do drop in -- it's such a gay time when you're here."
 (Grunting noises from behind some bushes).
 "Listen," said the King, "that must be Hobnob, my faithful old gardener."
 (More noises, then a rural voice is heard)
 "Mister Rodney, don't keep bending that geranium or it'll snap off. I'm sure young Prince Wotapoofter wouldn't like that. Ow! watch moi lupin..."
 (Voices heard off stage)
 "Dennis Mcøre, Dennis Moore, dum dum dum, dum dum"
 "Stand and deliver!" came a dead butch voice from the leafy boughs of a palm tree. "Right! I want all your lupins now!"
 "I'm afraid you can't have mine, sir," said the gardener. "I'm rather attached to it!"

Odds and ends

We have recently opened trades with another two Dippyazines. The first, Tangelo Express, from Richard I. Hull, 4720 Cloyne, Apt #2, Oxnard, CA 93030, is of grave import to the more paranoid among us. Tangelo is the name of Richard's cat, and it says here that this cat does the typing for the zine. You will mostly remember the alarm and despondency which was spread about a few issues ago in Ethel when it was discovered Goupi Liesnard was nothing more than an unusually literate cat, and now it seems that these insatiable felines have penetrated American Diplomacy as well. Indeed, it would seem quite on the cards that they have been around for some time, waiting silently and secretly for the day when they will rise up, outnumbering us poor humans, and take control of postal Diplomacy, killing any women and raping any men that get in their way... no, that's not quite right, is it?

We are also now receiving 1901 and all that, from Mick Bullock, 14 Nursery Avenue, Halifax HX3 5SZ. This is the newsletter of the Diplomacy section of MENSA, the high-IQ organisation. They're running only one game at present, in which two names are familiar to me: Brian Yare, and Geof Nuttall, who plays Italy in BDC6. It is clear that these people have not been in contact with Dippy fandom for long; indeed, in the third issue of this rag the editor rules that the move a spa-naf is possible without convoy!! Games in this mag are open only to MENSA members. I can now reveal that Andy Davidson is not a member, which should send quite a few of you rushing to join. (PS - I'm not a member, either).

We are pleased to announce that another regular Diplomacy game has been organised by us. Conrad von Metzke has assigned it the Boardman number 1972ZZ, and the players are as follows: England, Conrad von Metzke. Germany, Charles Reinsel. Russia, Eric Blake. Turkey, John Boardman. Austria, Grendel Press. Italy, Kathleen O'Connell. France, Andy Davidson. We're sure this will be an interesting game for all concerned, except perhaps the poor sucker who's playing France.

The National Games Club continues to attract various readers of Ethel. Jeff Oliver was present on the 7th, and Andy Davidson says he'll be there next Sunday on his way to Cambridge. No doubt he will be visiting Graham Jeffery and giving him the benefit of his month's training in wargaming. Yes, folks - it can now be revealed! Andy Davidson was so frustrated at the way he kept being beaten last term that he has spent the whole vacation playing wargames with himself! ~~YX/YX/YX/YX/YX/YX/YX/YX/YX/YX~~ I suppose that as soon as he sees me he will challenge me to n games of Situation 4 (which I recommend if you are not prone to heart troubles) and beat me by about 2000 points to 200... Such is life, I suppose.

The best howler this issue comes from Andrew Maldie, who, in the course of giving me his orders and diplomatic chatter, came out with: "After all, you and Andy are supposed to be friends." On the contrary, I believe I am the only player Andy admits to having stabbed in a postal game... a rare distinction, though I may have got it from sheer probability, since we're now in about 15 games together...

The standby list is the same as last issue's, except that Jeremy Elsmore disappears from 'E' game and Phil Jones becomes second standby for 'C' game. Nearly all the missed moves last issue resulted from postal inefficiency over the Christmas period, though I must confess I raised my eyebrows when I received a couple of sets of orders postmarked 22nd Dec.!

The latest issue of Everything (you wanted to know about Diplomacy, but had better sense than to ask) from Conrad von Metzke, listed 92 zines from 70 editors. It would be interesting to know who is in the most games. Over here, both Andy and myself are well over the 20 mark, but for the USA I've heard 42 quoted for someone... now who was it? It wasn't you, was it, Conrad? There's been some talk about introducing rating systems for European games recently. I think I favour the Calhauer Point Count Ratings, as used by Hoosier Archives. If you win 9 times, you get 9 points... simple as that. Naturally ~~XXXXXXXX/XXXXXXXX~~ madmen who participate in only one game stand little chance... Tee hee, readers!

Enclosed with this issue or the next will be the new House Rules. Please study them carefully and make sure you know what they're on about, since they will be in effect immediately.

And don't forget to send your orders to Cambridge.....

ETHIL THE FROG is a magazine of postal lunacy put out with sickening frequency by John Piggott, Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL, U.K., with help from Ian Maule (reproducer) and Phil Jones (cover design). Rates are 10/50p inland, 10/70p Europe, 4/81 elsewhere. If the number on your mailing label is 20, send more money now! This is Tapeworm Prod. No.27.

*Diplomacy is a registered trademark for a game invented by Allan B. Calhmer, and copyright by Games Research Inc, 48 Wareham St, Boston MA 02118, USA.

NEXT DEADLINE First post on Friday, January 26, 1973.

And now, for your edification, we bring you Geoff Corker's

Quiz for the New Year (start this end!)

1. EITHER explain in detail Einstein's General Theory of Relativity OR write your name in block capitals
2. Can you spell 'fish'? Answer
(A) Yes (B) No (C) Don't Know
3. Where did the following battles take place? :
a) The battle of Hastings
b) The battle of Cannae
c) The battle of Waterloo
4. Who won the battle of Cannae? Was it
(A) Hannibal (B) Hartley Patterson (C) Ethil the Frog
(D) Bilbo Baggins
5. Who is the editor of War Bulletin? Is it
(A) a ferret (B) Edward Heath (C) Hartley Patterson
(D) Goupi
6. When was the battle of Hastings? Answer ONE only
(A) 1485
7. Who invented Diplomacy (see top of this page)? Was it
(A) Mephistopheles (B) Dennis Moore (C) Andy Davidson
(D) Allan Calhmer
8. Could you answer any of the questions in this quiz?
(A) Yes (B) No (C) Don't know

RULES: Anyone may enter the competition, provided they do not receive Ethil the Frog or are associated with John Piggott in some other way. Marks will not be deducted for intelligent guesses, but they will be for anything else.

PRIZES: 1st: a reply to a letter from Hartley Patterson
2nd: to be allied to John Piggott in a Diplomacy game
3rd: to be allied to John Piggott in twenty Diplomacy games
Booby prize: to play in a game in which Andy Davidson is not playing.

Exciting answers announced next issue!

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