

ETHIL THE FROG

ISSUE NUMBER 21
26 January 1972
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10/2/73

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Diplomatic Backstabber folds!

Big news of the month is that the BDC's erstwhile newsletter, The Diplomatic Backstabber, is to cease publication. This is the first British Diplomacy publication to fold. No doubt there won't be too many tears shed at its passing, since it didn't really contain much. I hear that the BDC is to become a subsidiary of the National Games Club's postal section, with an official organ edited by Richard Sharp. We hope to bring you full details of this next issue, and we trust that with its new publication the BDC will start to provide a little more than address lists.

Decision reversed!

We are glad to say that 1901 and all that, the newsletter of the Mensa Diplomacy Club, is not going to allow the move a spa-naf without convoy after all. This abrupt about-face follows letters received by its editor from Don Turnbull, Michel Feron, myself and others. This means that all magazines now have the same policy again about this.

Andy Davidson, incidentally, is now in contact with Mensa, no doubt with a view to playing in 1901 and all that. He reports it costs about "£10 for the first year"....

Standby players

Orders required from underlined people:

- 'A' Andrew Waldie, Gregory Ward
- 'B' Geoff Corker, Jeremy Elsmore
- 'C' Jeremy Elsmore, Phil Jones
- 'D' Henry Pijohn, Martin Davis
- 'E' Harry Bell, Kevin Feintuck
- 'F' Andrew Waldie, Kevin Feintuck
- 'G' Gregory Ward, Martin Davis
- 'H' Andy Davidson, Martin Davis
- 'I' John Morrison, Jeremy Elsmore.

Pollution pays!

At least, this is the idea given by a game called New Town, which Don Turnbull has just received. Players build property such as shops, apartments and factories on a board representing a new town up for development. Andy Davidson, myself, Don Turnbull and Phil Norton played this wretched game last night. The trouble with building factories, of course, is that they pollute the water downstream of them unless you pay a hefty sum to the bank for an anti-pollution device. I built such a polluting industrial plant, which thus decreased the value of Don and Phil's property further downriver; they clubbed together to build a sewage works, but then I erected a further industrial plant downstream of the sewage works. In a last desperate bid to stop pollution they built a parking lot on it, so I moved it next door... and this was no doubt why I finished slightly ahead of Don and Phil. Don said it would get a good write-up in Albion. Unfortunately I don't know the maker and price, but I'm sure Don will when he reviews it...

Happy birthday to you....

Long-time listeners to the Jimmy Young Show, and others, will no doubt already know we are 'twenty-one today, ding-ding*. Ethil is also one year old this issue! Long may we survive! (I heard that laugh, there...)

Public Service Announcement

Andy Davidson demands that I make it known that he won the game of New Town. Not that I ever denied it...

LETTERS

DON TURNBULL A few players have come to the ranks of postal Diplomacy from the BDC other than those in BDC4. John Lettice, Les Pimley, Ailsa Turrell, Pete Cousins, Clive Hamilton, John Carter, Duncan Hector, David Read and Derek Ball are all new Albion subbers from the BDC ranks; some are already playing in Courier games, others are on the waiting lists.

((Good, good. It is heartening to see this spreading out of talent from the BDC. However, I've just thought of another interesting little calculation. I'm told that there are now over 200 members of the BDC, and so far 12 games have been organised. 12 games, if my memory serves me correctly, means 84 players, so somewhere in the ranks of the BDC there are well over 100 people (a majority, in fact) who are not playing in games. What do they get out of it? I confess that this result surprises me not a little; I should have thought that the BDC advertisement, worded as it is, would tend to attract mainly only those interested in playing the game by mail, but evidently this assumption is erroneous. I should think the BDC wants to devote more attention to these members of the 'silent majority', as ~~it might aptly be termed, in the future.~~))

I wonder whether you have created a rather awkward precedent by mentioning Les Pimley as a stabber incarnate to the general public. If he gets Ethel he could be righteously annoyed. Generally, I believe an editor has to be above these things when he has his editorial hat on, though when he is a player, anything goes. However, that's up to you.

((Yes, but where does being a player stop and being an editor begin? One could argue that my blanket condemnation of Les Pimley a couple of issues ago was more in the nature of a general diplomatic statement to several Ethel readers, just as I might warn a new player to 'beware of Les Pimley - he's dangerous' in my Spring 1901 diplomatic correspondence in a game. This is an interesting problem which I think deserves further consideration.

((I suppose a similar argument could apply to press releases. If I came out with a bold 'Les Pimley is an alcoholic' statement in my press releases in the Game of the Clans, he might well be annoyed. Would he be annoyed if my release started, 'Pimley McStabber, chairman of Campbell's Soup Factory, staggered and groaned as his secretaries furiously forced gallons of black coffee down his throat...' I think the idea here is that the difference between using the players actual name and a pseudonym is the difference between offence and fun, as Don himself pointed out in a later letter. Many GM's refuse to print releases which contain blatant personal vilification. Anyone else got any ideas about this?))

LES PIMLEY In my defence, following the international warning to all and sundry against me, may I explain that the 'stab' against our editor was a purely defensive move, and no subsequent action was taken or ~~attempted against him, as he could (if he wanted) readily verify.~~ Andy, however, has repeatedly shown himself incapable of following his own advertised moves, and the stab was surely seen to be coming four or five moves in advance.

In conclusion, I reserve the right to stab these gentlemen at any time I deem it necessary, unnecessary, or both. So there.

JEREMY ELSMORE In 'E' Game, Autumn 1905, why did you remove the Russian f bla, rather than f bal? After all, the f bal was further from home as well as being first alphabetically.

((Studying the position, I decided that if I were playing Russia at that point, I would have removed f bla rather than the other one. Bear in mind, of course, that my judgement may frequently be erroneous...))

JEFF OLIVER Sorry about missing my 'C' game move... a pure oversight.

And after all my moaning about dropouts and move missers! The Mono, as you are probably now aware, is running the system of two moves missed and out. As for blacklists, I'm running my own personal one. Anyone blacklisted may redeem himself by paying a £1 deposit, refundable at the end of that person's contribution to the game if he hasn't dropped out. As Kolin points out, by move-missing you ruin the game for six other people. XI runs what amount to the cheapest games in Britain, but unreliable players are not welcome and will be dealt with as severely as is in my power. Imagine someone in a FTF game not bothering to read out orders just because he's losing! He'd be lynched.

((Charging a deposit, refundable at the end of a game or at a player's elimination, is yet another means of taking sanctions against dropouts. As with all such methods, it has its imperfections... in this case the capital necessary to start playing in a game may well deter some, especially the younger players.

((At least, so far in this country we are plagued only by dropout players. I believe that in the U.S. there have been instances of gamesmasters announcing openings in games at say \$7 each, gathering in enough players to start eight or so games, and then vanishing with a clear \$300 or \$400 profit! We haven't quite reached that stage, yet...))

Talking about FTF games, which I was, you didn't mention that I won the game I played at the NGC. Still, it's not the winning but the taking part that's important... Isn't it?

((Last week at the NGC, most of the players were reading Don Turnbull's rather fine article on Stabs in the latest Games & Puzzles in between diploming. I didn't, preferring to wait till my subscription copy arrived. No doubt this was why I failed miserably to see the stab coming...))

~~What's the point of archives? Why bother? Who cares about game numbers?~~
 Not I, certainly. A record of past games is vaguely interesting, but not very.

GREGORY WARD "The passage of relentless time still flies on
 And never can one get a short release.
 Every moment's passing brings a new horizon,
 The pressure of the world will never cease.
 But if one tries, the problem may be lessened;
 A helping hand, a careful thought may bring
 Small comfort to all those whose need doth beckon
 For more time to plot the courses of the Ring." ((Yecch.))

In other words, a deadline of eight effective days is ridiculous! I'm sorry about the poem, especially after all the abusive letters I received about the first one. Talking of letters, I'm fed up with Bob Harris using my letters to him as propaganda material, so this time I'm not sending him one till it's too late.

Thanks to reading all this fascinating stuff about Hannibal, I have decided to take Ancient History 'A' Level.

((To a biochemist like me this sounds anathema. I'm rather sorry about the short deadline last time, but don't blame me. I sent the stencils off to Ian in good time, but I think the Post Office wouldn't let him have them till the Monday. I hope the situation is better this time.

((Some people, though, seem to like quick deadlines; Howell Davies, for instance... but hang it, let the porr sod speak for himself...))

HOWELL DAVIES I think it's a good idea. Personally, I like to get to grips with a Diplomacy game, and that involves one letter each way between deadlines (not like in Courier - although it's good, etc., the deadlines are a mite too long for my liking). At home, Ethils drop through the letter-box every few weeks, but Courier takes so much longer to arrive.

FRED C. WINTER What is the exclamation point behind the name of my fraternity house for? ((Fred refers to EtF 15, page 2 - his address at that time, you will remember, was 'Alpha Delta Phi Houserom 18')) It is not all that unusual for a college student to live in a fraternity house, even at the University of Wisconsin. About 10% of the male students do.

((You seem to have missed the point; I was poking fun not at the fact that you live in a fraternity house, but at the name, which is totally unlike the kind of name we get given to our Halls of Residence, etc. over here. We name ours after people, such as 'McNair' or 'Stephenson', who are either historical figures connected with the place, or the blokes who provided the money to get it built in the great majority of cases. New Oxbridge colleges are named the same way - Nuffield, Churchill, Wolfson, etc. Incidentally, the last person before Isaac Wolfson to have his name appended to colleges in both Oxford and Cambridge was Christ... Anyway, we don't have anything

like the name 'Alpha Delta Phi' in our universities, although I agree it is a quite standard nomenclature across the Atlantic.

((I suppose the nearest equivalent we have of American college fraternities are college boat clubs, whose members periodically dress themselves up in strange garb and commit themselves to a frail craft, propelling it backwards with much effort at a slow velocity. They also occasionally invade the college bar, filling it with much noise and beer spillings, generally making it uninhabitable for us more civilised types who just tear each other to pieces across a game board.))

As for our bicentennial stamps ((EtF 16, p.8)), the government started celebrating way back on July 4, 1972. I don't really know why there's such a fuss. Even though I am a conservative by American standards, I don't see why we have to glorify a revolution whose ideals are apparently at the very least somewhat different from those of the majority today. I guess the government felt that the people needed a dose of patriotism, much of which has eroded away because of the Vietnam war. My own feelings, crude as it is to admit, are that if we had dropped the bomb on them in '64, it would ~~be over now.~~

((I wonder what John Boardman would say about that...? You should forget any notions you may have that nuclear weapons are capable of helping a military solution to any of the world's problems, or indeed that they have been since the late fifties. For at least the last fifteen years, the human race has possessed the capability to end all life on this planet within 48 hours - and that means all life, mind, not just the human race, though many people would affirm the difference is negligible. You just can't play with that kind of power. I think it is possible that an atom bomb might have been effective in Korea, way back before the development of the thermonuclear fusion bomb, and there may be something to be said for the argument that if the Korean war had ended with the dropping of nuclear explosives, the effects they caused might have struck certain politicians with so much horror that the likelihood of a nuclear war today would be much reduced. Personally, I'm a little too cynical to take such an idea seriously... Anyway, that's a hypothetical argument. The fact remains that we are living under the threat of nuclear war - Armageddon, call it what you will - and the fact that one man, the President of the United States, holds so much power almost in his hands alone is, to me, little short of terrifying. This is mainly why I welcome what seems at last to be the end of U.S. military involvement in Vietnam; it's one less possible excuse to use the things.))

You may have a similar problem with your Northern Ireland thing. Do not be surprised if in a few years the government tries to bolster your spirits by celebrating some English holiday a few years early, when the people are demanding your troops be brought home and the government refuses to listen.

~~((I think it's a mistake to equate Northern Ireland with Vietnam - the two are reasonably different. There's been a lot of ill-feeling in America because it is a widely-held opinion that America had no business to get involved in Vietnam in the first place, whereas there can be no question but that Northern Ireland is our problem, they are, after all, part of the U.K. We don't have conscription, either, nor are we likely to, on a global scale the troubles in Ireland are nothing more than a small skirmish. I have an idea, incidentally, that army recruitment has gone up since troops were moved in - I may be mistaken here, though.~~

((The British as a race are a lot less conscious of our national heritage than the Americans - or, at least, they don't show that they're aware of it. This may have a lot to do with the fact that the history of the U.S. is a lot shorter than ours. We think nothing of finding a relic in our museums over a thousand years old, in fact, they're full of 'em. How many things in America are over a thousand years old? There is in Britain no real equivalent to Independence Day -- the only festival which most people participate in is Guy Fawkes' Day, wherein fireworks and bonfires are lit each November 5th, to commemorate the attempt (and failure) by Guy Fawkes and his companions to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605 whilst the King was present. They tell me the celebrations are in aid of the King's escape from being blown up; the more cynical among us state that we commemorate the only man ever to enter Parliament with honest intent. At least Fawkes tried to fulfil his election promises...))

Treachery in Malcolm Street!

Sometimes, spectators of Ethil games have asked me whether I experience any problems with having some players living so close to me. Up till now, the answer has been a firm 'no', but I regret to say that this is no longer the case. Last Thursday, when about half of the players had sent in their orders, I returned to my room somewhat earlier than usual, having decided not to attend a physics practical session. On opening the door, I discovered Andy Davidson industriously copying down various sets of orders from 'A', 'B', 'D' and 'G' games.

Obviously I couldn't permit Andy to get away with it. As I saw it, I had three alternative solutions to the problem: I could dismiss him from the games and appoint a standby player, or I could suspend the game and call for resubmission of orders, or I could order all Andy's units this season to stand whilst the other players performed their planned manoeuvres. The question was, which? I asked Don Turnbull for his opinion, taking as an example a hypothetical situation - this maybe wasn't quite fair to Don, but I couldn't think of any other way to get Don's views, especially as Andy was in the same room at the time and I couldn't really order him to leave the room while in someone else's house. Anyway, Don advised that a player offending in this way should be chucked out of the games, because although this would be a legitimate tactic in face-to-face games, players have paid money to participate in a postal game and are entitled to receive absolutely fair treatment in matters of this sort.

I thought this a trifle harsh, on reflection, so for once I've decided not to take Don's advice. Rather than call for resubmission of orders (which I feel would be unfair to the rest of the players, because Andy already had details of any stabs they might have had lined up for him, which he would obviously have been unaware of normally), I decided to rule that Andy's units shall stand unsupported for this season of play. I hope this seems a reasonably fair ruling to the other players.

This business obviously raises the question of whether Andy has been pulling this kind of trick before. Andy denies it, and personally I feel inclined to believe him at this time. It's unfortunate, though, that he happens to be doing well in all his games, because the suspicion must now automatically arise that his good positions are due to frequent foreknowledge of other players' moves.

I have warned Andy that any repetition of this will result in his immediate removal from all games. In a way, all this is my fault, for not keeping players' orders under lock and key. They will be, in future, though it's going to be a damned nuisance forever locking and unlocking doors. I hope no-one criticises me too heavily over this, because quite frankly I'm already feeling quite pissed off about the whole business.

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 1972ABde ('G'): 1 Narguelle 3018

EREBOR STILL LIVES'

ERIDOR (Morrison): a gm-and s by a rhd; 'a dun-hol s by a gwy;
 a ett & =a sdo s a rhd; f wes-sou; a eve-fld.

MORDOR (Davidson): All units stand. =3a lgd, 2a wem, 2a eem, 2a and,
 2a rhn, a nsh, a bar, a nur, a mmo, a udu, a nit, a rau, a edo,
 a eas, a wol, a cel, a waz, a mor, a dg, a smi, a run, a car, a mm,
a hol*.

RHOVANION (Walkerdine): a ere stands.

UMBAR (Jeffery): f isn-sou s by =a/f bei; a lef-isn; a hdw-sgo;
a hrd-sgo.

*Retreats: Mordor's a hol disbanded - nowhere to go.

GM COMMENT: No matter where the Ring happens to be, I don't think Mordor can now be stopped from winning, unless he does something fearfully foolish. Somehow, I don't think that's terribly likely. So perhaps the players would care to vote on this when they send their next set of orders in?

There is a press release, but as it wouldn't make too much sense with this season's orders, I'm going to hold it over till the next issue.

1972ACde ('H'): 2 Yvannie 3018

GONDOR PUNISHED FOR TREACHERY!

ERIADOR (Lettice): a rhd & =a mm s (rhovanion) a gf-and; a ang-gun;
a ett s (rhovanion) =a gun-gmo, a sdo-gwy; f wes-sou; a fld-frl;
a ene-dun.

GONDOR (Feintuck): nmr // a isn* & a lam* stand.'

MORDOR (Ward): =3a cal s 2a eas; 2a eas s (umbar) f tol-lan;
2a bar-udu s by a nit & a dag*; 2a mmo s a nit, a nur-hsh;
 a iro-ere; a mlr-smi s by a and & a run; 2a dg s a and.

RHOVANION (Patterson): nlr // =a gun, a mm, a cel, a smi* stand.

ROHAN (Davis): a edo-isn s by a igd; =2a udu-dag s by a bro;
a wem-eas s by a me.

UMBAR (Harris): =a msh-sit; f tol-lan s by a mti; a sgo's a mti;
 a kha & a hdw stand.

Retreats: Gondor a isn-lef; a lam-dmr. Rhovanion a smi-wil. Mordor a dag-ash.

E: 8 bases: shi, eve, lhu, ang, arn, rhd, hol, bra. No change.

G: Eliminated. All units removed.

M: 14 bases: bar, udu, mmo, msh, nit, cal, eas, dg, and, smi, ere, run,
 gm, car. Build a car, a bar.

RH: 3 bases: mor, gf, cel. GM removes a wil.

RO: 6 bases: edo, wem, igd, wol, rau, isn. No change.

U: 8 bases: cit, hum, hrd, kha, sgo, sit, mti, lam. Build f cit, a hrd.

Who shall I ask to send orders for Rhovanion in case Hartley misses again?
 ANDY DAVIDSON, I suppose...

Umbar (Eriador Embassy). Since the recent arrival of Rear-Admiral Nagumo Hornblower and his fleet, scarcely a day has passed without his intrepid airmen sallying forth against the Mordor heartland. Attempts to mislead these gallant lads by constant changing of capital have all failed; two definite Nazgul kills and three probables have already been claimed.

Havens of Umbar: Ar Phasixpence greeted the old gentleman as he stepped from the ship which had brought them to the great havens. "Welcome to Middle-Earth, Professor Tolkien. I hope you enjoy your visit here."

"Who are those strange people over there?"

"Just some of our neighbours. That's Hannibal Barca."

"Hannibal!"

"And that's the Doctor, over there."

"The Doctor!!"

"I thought we might pay a visit to Moria. Perhaps you'd like to enter their 'Tell-A-Fairy-Joke contest?'"

"I can see this is going to be a harrowing trip."

1972ADde ('I'): 1 Yvannie 3018

GONDOR ATTACKS UMBAR

ERIADOR (Waldie): f fdw-nwa; a ang-wea; =a riv-hol; a gwy-ene;
 a sdo-gwy, a shi-bra; a eve-shi; a bra-min.

GONDOR (Mellish): =2a mti-sgo; a cal stands* s by a lam; a isn stands.

MORDOR (Bell): a nwa-fdw*; a dun-mor s by 2a lor; 2a nit-cal s by 2a min;
 2a msh s =3a sit; =3a sit s (umbar) sgo-mti; a bar-udu.

RHOVANION (Pijohn): a gun s (eriador) f fdw-nwa; a car-iro; a gmo-mlr;
 a ere-run; a smi-bro; a rhd-mm; a dg-cel s by a gf; =a and-dg;
a wol-wem*; a eem-eas.

ROHAN (Yare): a igd-wem; =2a fan-wol; a me-eas; a wiz-mor;
a rau-bro.

UMBAR (Durrheim): a kha-nur, a hdw-kha s by =a sgo*;
f tol s (gondor) =2a mti.

*Retreats: Mordor a nwa disbanded. Gondor a cal-mti. Umbar =a sgo-hrd.
 Rhovanion a wol disbanded.

1972K ('A'): Autumn 1910 COWARDLY GERMANS PARALYSED AS THEIR ARMIES ARE RIPPED APART!

GERMANY (Davidson): All units stand (see page 5). f bre*, f nao, f nrg, f nth, a par, a bur, a kie, a mun, a den, a swe, a ruh, a tyr*.

RUSSIA (Jeffery): a stp-nwy s by a fin; f gob-bal; a ber ms a sil; a war-pru; a gal s (austrian) a boh; a rum-ukr; f bla-con.

AUSTRIA (Robertson): a tri-ven; a pie-tyr s by a vie; a alb-tri; a boh s (German) a ber-mun; f gre-ion; f naf-mao, f was stands.

FRANCE (Oliver): f nao-bre s by a gas; a mar-bur.

*Retreats: German f bre and a tyr both disbanded.

G. 10 bases: mun, kie, den, hol, bel, par, lon, lpl, edi, swe. No change.

R. 11 bases: stp, mos, war, sev, con, auk, smy, bul, rum, ber, nwy.

Build f stp(n), a mos.

L. 9 bases: tri, vie, bud, ser, gre, ven, rom, nap, tun. Build a bud.

F. 4 bases: bre, mar, por, spa. No room to make build.

London (Ex-govnt): The English ambassador in Tunis categorically denies all knowledge of talks between our Government and those of Russia and Austria. We're not talking to anyone in this game, 'cos you knocked us out. So nyaah.

Who Am I? Competition No. 3:

I'm at Oxford and Cambridge, it's true
Though I'm usually green, seldom blue.
It's said that my thinness
Is due not to Guinness
But a Russian potatoey brew.

Cambridge (Jesus College): "Ha! I could beat you at Panzerblitz with both hands tied behind my back!"

Cambridge (later): For sale: one copy of Panzerblitz. Very good condition, except that some unit counters have toothmarks. Do hurry and buy it, because if you don't I'm going to plague Don Turnbull with it...

1972CL ('F'): Spring 1906 ITALIAN HORDES SURGE EASTWARDS

The 'F' game jinx strikes again! This game has always had far more adjudication errors, it seems, than any other game I run, and last issue was no exception, because for some odd reason I forgot to mention in the report that France built a fleet in Brest. Just as a protest, I suppose, France hasn't sent in any orders this time, but that's life, I guess. Here are the moves, at any rate.

ENGLAND (Durrheim): f nrg-cly; f nwy-nrg; ~~f hol-bel~~ (no such unit); f hol-bel; f nth stands unordered.

GERMANY (Morrison): a war, a den & a mun stand; f swe-bal; a kie-ber a sil s a war.

RUSSIA (Williams): f bal-ber s by f pru; a mos-war s by a ukr; a con ms a smy.

AUSTRIA (Davies): a bul-ser s by a rum.

ITALY (Oliver): a tri-ser s by a alb & a bud; a vie-gal; a ven-tri; f adr stands; f nap-ion; f aeg-bul (a).

FRANCE (Alexander): mar // i cly, f bre, f wal, f spa(s), a pic, a bel & a bur stand.

Bulgaria: The leader of the Slav resistance movement said he had passed a plague on to the Italian forces presently occupying the Balkans. "They will all turn into little frogs," he said to our roving reporter, Me Rolf Harris. Rumours that the movement's headquarters is to move to Mount Isa, Australia, have been denied, as have rumours that the organisation has been de-lupined. Trade with local brigands, he said, was still prosperous.

((cont'd on next page))

(Standby orders from Andrew Waldie for France, please.)

London. Denis Moore swooped down from his perch in the palm tree and grabbed Hobnob's lupin with both hands.

"Please, Mr Moore, sir, give me moi lupin back! Don't snap it, or it'll never be the solm again!" wailed Hobnob in distress.

"No-one is going to stop me getting this lupin," growled the thief.

"Mr Moore, sir, do you think I could have your autogwaph?" whispered a small voice from the other side of the bushes.

Moore blushed visibly. "Well, you know, I'm not that famous; really, I don't know what to say!"

"Oi don't care what you bloody say, give me moi lupin back!" howled Hobnob, who was beginning to find his position was becoming increasingly painful.

"That lupin is my plunder and I do not intend to part with it!" growled the other.

"But that's just the point, sir," countered Hobnob. "Oi can't part with it! As I say, I'm rather attached to it!"

1972CI ('E'): Autumn 1906 FRANCE PREPARES FOR THE BIG PUSH IN THE MED

ENGLAND (Maule): a kie s (french) a ruh-mun, f hel s a kie;
f stp (n)-bar, a nwy-stp s by a fin; f den-bal s by f swe;
a lon-den c by f nth.

RUSSIA (Elsmore): f bal-kie* s by a ber & a nun; a mos-sev,
a arm-sev.

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

AUSTRIA (R.Lawson): a tyr & a boh s (russian) a nun; a bul-rur;
a pie's (italian) a lus, a gre-bul; f aeg-smy.

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

FRANCE (Walkerdine): a ruh-mun s by a bur, a pic-bel; a mar-pie;
f wms-tys s by f gol; f tun-ion; f mao-wms.

*Retreat: Russian f bal-pru.

E. 9 bases: lon, lpl, edl, hol, den, kie, nwy, swe, stp. No change.

R: 6 bases: mos, war, sev, mun, ber, rum. Build f sev.

T: 3 bases: con, ank, smy. No change

A 6 bases: tri, bud, vie, ser, bul, gre. No change.

I 3 bases: ven, rom, nap. No change.

F: 7 bases: bre, par, mar, bel, por, spa, tun. Remove a bel.

Cagliari: The Time Lords had gathered on the newly-captured island of Sardinia, and were planning their next moves. The leader turned to his companions, his red eyes smouldering in the fire-light. "Our campaign goes well," he began. "Spain is ours and we have taken Tunis, which means that Saguntum, New Carthage and Carthage itself are now in our hands. Our fleets are at present completing the conquest of Sicily, which will bring Syracuse under our influence. Now we must prepare for the next, and most dangerous stage of the plan. The Italian mainland, gentlemen, **must** be our next target. For without Tarentum, Capua and eventually Rome itself we are far too vulnerable to an attack from the east. With control of Spain, Tunis and the western half of the Mediterranean we can close the time-lanes in these areas and safeguard ourselves from the Barca family. But Italy must be ours before we can do the same against Scipio, and he presents an even greater threat to us than does Hannibal."

The meeting continued throughout the night as the Time Lords discussed their strategy for the coming attack. Then, when the sun began to creep over the horizon, the leader left, slipping away as quietly as he had come. For none but the Lords themselves were allowed to see the tall, broad-shouldered figure in the flowing green cloak, or the long, black broadsword at his side.

Russia (Govnt): The revolution has arrived! Pussia is free at last from the despicable Tsarist yoke: Now all we want is an end to this accursed war! Anyone want a conference? Applications from the Johnson stop-the-war memorial, Paris.

1972BK ('C'): Autumn 1908 RUSSIA GETS SEVASTOPOL AT LAST!

ENGLAND (I. Taylor): f eng-mao, f nth-ska; f nrg-nth; a stp-mos; a nwy-stp; a kie-ber; a den-swe; a hol-kie, a sev stands* a fin, a war & a bel stands.

GERMANY (Maule): a ber docs dirty things to Irene Taylor. (+)

RUSSIA (Oliver): a rum-sev.

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

AUSTRIA (Waldie): a ven stands; a tyr-mun*.

FRANCE (Bell): f lon stands* s by f nap; a rom-ven; a bur-mun; a mun-tyr s by a ple & a boh*.

*Retreats: French f lon-tun; a boh-sil. Austrian a tyr disbanded. English a sev disbanded.

(+) - note: obscene actions are not permitted in orders.

E: 12 bases: lon, lpl, edi, bel, hol, kie, den, nwy, swe, stp, mos, war. Build a edi.

G: 1 base: ber. No change.

K: 2 bases: rum, sev. Nowhere to build.

T: 8 bases: con, ank, smy, bul, gre, ser, bud, tri. Removes a arm.

V: 2 bases: vie, ven. No build requested.

F: 9 bases: bre, par, mar, spa, por, tun, nap, rom, mun. Build f mar and a par.

alveo: The Runts are being a nuisance again! Grand Admiral Henry Pijohn, fresh from his investigations of the Lusaka Girls' Choir, has rushed with a band of several thousand men of war. "There will be no resistance," pinned Admiral Pijohn, cleaning his nails with a six-inch nail. "I've got a secret weapon," he told excited reporters, and flashed a sheaf of letters. "These are from the cur who calls himself Henry P. Pijohn," he shouted, "and they'll never survive a barrage of these!"

When asked about the identity of Henry P. Pijohn, the Admiral replied that he didn't really know, and, what was more, he wasn't even sure whether anyone knew who he was either. "It's been so long long since I've featured in a press release," he sobbed, "and it's great to be back."

1972BV ('D'): Autumn 1907 TURKEY TRUNDLES FORWARD

ENGLAND (I. Lawson): f iri-nao; f yor-edi; f hol-den s by a swe.

GERMANY (Jones): a pic-wal; a bur-ruh; a bol-edi c by f nth; f den-swer; a sil-war s by a pru.

TURKEY (Oliver): f eas-ion; f aeg-gre; a gre-ser s by a bul & a rum; f ble s a rum; a war stands*, a gal-bud; a stp-nwy; a con-ber.

AUSTRIA (Davidson): All units stand (see page 5); f spa(s), f lon, f tys, a mar, a rom, a tri, a vie, a bud, a alb, a scr*.

FRANCE (Bell): f eng c (geramn) a pic-wal; a pic-mar, f lon s (german) a pic-wal.

Retreats: German f den-ska. Turkish a war-mos. Austrian a ser disbanded.

S: 4 bases: lpl, edi, swe, den. No change.

K: 7 bases: kie, mun, ber, bol, hol, par, war. No change.

T: 11 bases: con, ank, smy, gre, bul, rum, ser, sev, mos, stp, nwy. Build f smy.

V: 10 bases: tri, ven, vie, bud, rom, nap, tun, mar, spa, por. No build asked for.

F: 2 bases: lon, bre. GI removes a pic.

Competition: The Olympic Long-distance champion is now propping up the round-the-world string with used Ethils. For \$64,000, give the thickness of Ethils required. The winner will actually receive that thickness of Ethils. Don't hold your breath, folks!

ETHIL THE FROG is a journal of postal madness perpetrated by John Piggott, Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL, U.K., and duplicated by Ian Maule. Rates are 10/50p inland, 10/70p Europe, 4/\$1 elsewhere. Overseas third class rates available on request. The number of your mailing label denotes the last paid issue on your present subscription - if it is '21' you'd better send some money quick! This is Tapeworm Production No.28.

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NEXT DEADLINE: onday 12th. February 1973

'B' Game (1972Kco): May/June 1916

PARALYSIS!

It's gonna be bloody stupid adjudicating this with only two sets of orders in; in fact, two-thirds of the units on the board don't get any orders in this report! If things don't pick up I may consider abandoning ~~the game.~~ Anyway, ~~would Geoff Corker like to send standby orders for~~ England next time? Thanks.

ENGLAND (Stuart): nmr // f mao, f eng, f hel, f nwy, f bal, f stp, a/f ang, a bre, a bel, a ruh, a kie, a pru, all stand.

RUSSIA (Feintuck): nmr // a vol stands.

TURKEY (Maule): a ser s (austrian) a alb-zar; a bul s, a ser; f lib-tun; f aeg-cms s by f gre & f ems; a mac s f gre; a con s a bul.

AUSTRIA (Walkerdine): a mos-ark, a ukr-mos; a rum-ode; a boh-vie, a gal s a boh-vie; a alb-zar.

FRANCE (Davidson): All units stand - see page 5! f zar*, f cms*, f lon, f tys, f sou, a por, a gas, a par, a pic, a lor, a hol, a ber, a mun, a tyr, a pec and a bud.

Retreats: French f zar & cms disbanded.

E: 12 bases: lon, lpl, odl, ply, ire, bel, nwy, den, kie, stp, swe, bre. GM removes f stp.

R: Eliminated. All units removed.

T: 9 bases: con, sin, ~~emy~~, dam, egy, tun, bul, ser, grc. No build requested!

A: 7 bases: vie, zar, rum, ode, war, mos, ark. No room to build.

F: 18 bases: par, lyo, mar, and, cas, por, sic, mor, rom, nap, ven, zur, dre, ber, mun, pcc, bud, hol. Owed masses of units. What a pity he can't build...

ETHIL THE FROG 21
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