

9 April 1972

# DANGER!

here's

# ETHIL

#25

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Up yours,  
Pimley!

I'll kill  
that damn  
cat!!



Aaaaaachhh!  
The Spot!  
It lynched  
me at  
last!

ETHIL THE FROG is published by John Piggott, Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8EL, U.K. and is duplicated by Ian Maule. It costs 4Cp for 7 issues or £1 for 18 in the British isles; 70p for 10 issues in Europe; and \$1 for 4 issues elsewhere. This is a Tapeworm Production, number 32.

Circulation: 1,000,063. I'll have that beer now, Don, please...

The Biggest Corny Cliche News in British Dippydom!

XL has folded, though its games will be continuing. Full details in any of the zines that beat me to this announcement.

From the old to the new...

Mick Bullock's MENSA Diplomacy zine, 1901 and all that, now has game openings for all and sundry, regardless of intelligence. To prove this last point, Andy Davidson has been made part of the first 'open' regular game. (Sorry, I just couldn't resist making that crack...) Mick's address is 14 Nursery Ave, Halifax, Yorks, and his rates are 5p per issue plus a 50p game fee. Bellicus (Will Haven, 30 Plungington Rd, Preston, Lancs) has openings in various games - 4000 AD, Youngstown, the Game of the Clans and regular Diplomacy - though I am afraid I cannot really recommend joining this zine unless its frequency improves. In particular, 4000 AD by post with one move every five weeks will probably be a real drag. Though no Black Spot has yet turned up, Will intimates that I have been assigned France in the

first game to run in this bellicose supplement. Interested parties should contact our Mr Pimley at 345 Livesey Branch Rd, Blackburn, BB2 4QJ. Les has revealed that he has had to raise his charges slightly due to miscalculation, however, it still looks to be a lot cheaper than anywhere else at the moment. Grafeti (Brian Yare, 19 Doocot Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 8QP) is now up to issue 9 and is now bigger than Ethel - it comes out on time, too! Don't know how he does it... Brian still has a few openings. Finally, good ole Don Turnbull (13 Gilmerton Ct, Trumpington Rd, Cambridge, CB2 2HQ - as if you didn't know) and the NGC (Box 4, London N6 4DF) both have masses of game openings, - regular Diplomacy only in the case of the NGC for the moment.

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Postal Scrabble?

Before anyone laughs, let me assure you it isn't quite a joke, and in fact I have already enrolled in one postal Scrabble game, courtesy of the NGC's postal section. Even more surprising, it actually seems to work, and ~~even though my opponent is doing his very best to spoil the game by forming~~ a beastly seven-letter word on his second turn while I was stuck with the nasty 'Z'. Postal rules are available from Richard Sharp, 27 Elm Close, Amersham, Bucks; the game fee is 50p and in addition the postage cost is 6p per player per turn.

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In a cave somewhere in the West Country: "Cerdic!"

"Yes, Merlin?"

"Pack our bags and saddle the horses. We must leave at once."

"Where are we going?"

"To my cousin Gandalf. I can see war approaching, and it will take three issues to ride there."

"It's not going to be Third Age again, is it?"

"I don't know." Merlin shrugged. "You never can tell with John Piggott."

Yes, folks, it's true - all over the country people have been talking about the latest clutch of game openings in this thing, and several people have already attempted to sign up for them. I say 'attempted' because until the formal announcement is made in Ethel 26 I'm not actually taking any requests to play. Further, when I do open the waiting lists, preference will be given to those people who are not presently playing in this rag and who ~~are~~ ~~still~~ ~~want~~ to. (Okay, Les, Andy's gone away... it's safe to come out now).

In fact, two exceptionally greedy people have already requested to be in two of the new games. I'm afraid this will be possible only if demand ~~does not outstrip supply.~~

Next time I think I'll keep my trap shut till I'm ready to open lists...

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Puzzle Corner

Well, why not? Some of you will need something to do over the Easter weekend if you're not coming to Bristol, so here goes...

1. Which countries in regular Diplomacy cannot be eliminated in 1901?
2. Which countries can finish 1901 with only one base?
3. Which countries cannot be eliminated in 1902?
4. What is the most number of moves in an Autumn 1901 season (22 units on the board) which can fail?
5. What is the earliest season in which the move A StP-Syr can take place by convoy?
6. Answer question 5 for the move A Ber-Syr.
7. Which sea space touches the most supply centres?
8. Which land space touches the most centres?
9. Where is the biggest block of adjacent supply centres, and how big is it?
10. Finally, one on Monopoly. What is the shortest possible Monopoly game, and how short is it?

Answers next time. Some of these first appeared in Conrad von Metzke's zone Costaguana, some were lifted from an article by Charles Reinsel, and the final question was brought to my attention by John Lowe. My thanks to them all.

## L E T T E R S

MICK BULLOCK     Hartley Patterson writes in Ethnl 11 that he hopes British  
27 March             Diplomacy will develop along American lines     Quote: "Postal  
                           games in the USA are more advanced and, in my opinion, more  
interesting for the players than those currently running in this country -  
the quicker we catch up, the better."

But in War Bulletin 43, Hartley quotes a letter from the grand old  
gentleman of American Dippy, Conrad F. von M., who says: "I find UK games  
are more interesting; the people take a more 'casual, fun-oriented, 'natural'  
attitude toward the thing. US games are slowly but inexorably being overrun  
with tactical experts whose sole consuming interest is to win the game and  
make the militarily best moves to do so. The  $\frac{1}{2}$ ress ((sic)) release, the  
human communication, the sheer idiocy is on the wane. I, on the other hand,  
represent the 'old school' and have no interest in the tactics. What I want  
are the friends and the bull. And so I find myself far more at home in  
English games, of late, than in those of my own country. That makes Britain  
either the wave of the future or a voice from the past, I haven't decided  
which."

Bit of a contradiction, eh?

(( I think what Hartley was getting at in the August Ethnl was that the  
standard of American reporting and general magazine contents used to be much  
higher. I don't think it is, any more, but if you compare the recent War  
Bulletins with the very early, Dave Berg edited issues you can't fail to see  
the improvement. Dave didn't have the benefit of seeing any other zines  
to speak of when he started what he believed was the first British one, and  
his notation was sadly inferior to the standard U.S. format which the  
Rulebook and even Colin and Jeff use. And the press releases weren't much,  
either... etc. etc.))

From a personal point of view, although I think I speak for many others  
also, I wouldn't want to see British Dippy proceed along American lines;  
rather that it evolves its own style, personalities, language and organisation.  
Do we have to be the 51st state in Diplomacy too?

I don't know whether it would be better to go quickly round the bend by  
reading all copies of Ethnl (( you will repent that insult, sirrah )) or to  
go slowly pining for those missed issues. Could you possibly advertise for  
Ethnls 3, 5, 6, 13 & 14 -- I'm willing to pay ~~££££/££££/££££/££££/££££~~  
hard-earned cash for them.

JEFF OLIVER     Conrad asks how I'd remember all those 114 games in which he's  
4 April             played. Simple - I don't play in more games than I can  
                           remember. And how do Boredom numbers help? I put it to you  
that it's easier to forget 1972BL than BOG 1. It's all a matter of opinion  
really, I suppose, so I'll let the matter rest there. You can tell Mr von  
Metzke that as far as the Monochrome Supplement is concerned he can keep his  
numbers to himself (though I gather that I'm a little late there seeing as  
they've already been allocated).

(( Actually, 1972BL isn't BOG 1 - if it were, there'd be no trouble.  
In fact, it's 'G'; running in WB though there's also a 'G' in Ethnl... which  
possible confusion was the point I raised last issue.))

PHIL SHAW     I thought Ethnl 24 was a bit thin on the press so I've produced  
6 April             some for you. The one about Merlin doesn't really fit in any  
                           game, and I had to engineer another so it did. Why not have a  
"Game-less Press" section which could be used for any homeless but printable  
press? It could also be used to refer to some or all of the games at once,  
bearing in mind that the press frequently doesn't relate to the board (which  
is a pity really).

(( Interesting idea... The trouble with producing 'board-related' press  
is that after 114 games or so it would tend to get a bit repetitive, whilst  
by thinking up fresh characters and situations for each game you can get a  
bit more variety; though even here there's room for repetition, the constant  
references to ice cream in respect of Italian governments being an example.  
Still, if there are any budding Moorcocks or Brunners around I expect I'll  
find room for them somehow. The Merlin release Phil mentions, incidentally,  
is about half-way down page 2. I found quite an appropriate place for it,  
methinks.))

1972BV ('D'): Autumn 1909

AUSTRIAN MANPOWER CANNOT COPE WITH FRESH DEMANDS! ENGLAND TURNS ON TURKEY!

ENGLAND (I.Lawson): a yor-lon; f den-swe s by a fin.

GERMANY (Jones): a edi-lpl; f nth-edi; a ruh-bel; a sil-war, a kie-den s by f bal & f ska; a mun goes round in circles.

TURKEY (Oliver): a nwy-stp; a swe stands\*; a rum s a ser; f aeg-gre s by f lon & a ser; f ems s f lon; f con-bul(s) s by f bla.

AUSTRIA (Davidson): f bre & a nap stand; f tun-lon s by f tys; a boh-gal; a tri-ser s by a bud; a vie s a bud; a gre-bul

FRANCE (Bell): mar // f iri & f eng stand.

\*Rétreat: Turkish a swe disbanded.

E: 2 bases: lon, swe. Removes a fin.

G: 10 bases: kie, mun, ber, war, den, hol, bel, par, lpl, edi.  
Build f kie & a ber.

T: 10 bases: con, ank, smy, sev, mos, stp, nwy, bul, rum, ser.  
Build a con.

A: 12 bases: tri, vie, bud, gre, nap, rom, ven, tun, mar, spa, por, bre.  
Nowhere to build - 3 units short!

F: Eliminated. All units removed.

Finland: The British government in exile wishes to express its contempt for the Krauts, Wogs and Frogs (not Carthaginian ones) and wishes the Austrian Empire the best of luck (( TRAITOR!! - ed.)). British forces are now going underground so you may not see much of us for a while...

Vienna "Well," said the Emperor, "have you heard anything more about these rumours of gibbons?"

"They're not true," said Count Nutzenboltz, eating a banana.

1972CL ('F'). Spring 1908

ITALIANS SCUTTLE FRENCH FLEET! RUSSIA GETS TORN APART!

ENGLAND (Feintuck): f edi-nth\* s by f kie\*.

GERMANY (Morrison): a ber-kie s by a mun & a den; a nwy-swe, a lvn-mos s by a war.

RUSSIA (Elsmore): a sev stands\*; a mos-war\* s by a ukr, f bal-lvn.

ITALY (Oliver): a smy-arm; a con-ank; f bla-sev s by a rum; a ser s a rum; a gal-ukr; a ple-mar s by f gol; f rom-tys; f nap-apu; f ems-lon; a tyr-ple; f aeg stands.

FRANCE (Alexander): f cly, a hol & f mar\* stand; a par-gas; a bel-bur s by a ruh; f nrg-edi s by f nth; f lon-eng.

Er, Kevin, Kiel and the North Sea don't touch...

\*Retreats. English f kie-hel, f edi-yor. Russian a sev & a mos disbanded. French f mar disbanded.

The Caucasus (Govn't): Here is the transcript of part of a speech given by Czar Nicholas MCIX to his people (all four of them) recently:

"My friends, terrible is the temptation to do good, but no matter. We shall fight on. Never let it be said that we threw in the towel. We will fight them on the river banks, on the mud paths leading to our very hovels, but we will never surrender. Once more into the breach dear friends, once more. . the enemy are rabbit-eaters, but we are man-eaters. ."

The Czar carried on in like vein for some time, working his followers up into a berserk fury which overcame all their fear. He then released all four of them on the cringing armies of those combined cowards, Germany and italy...

Scientific Embassy, Outer Siberia: "I say, old bean, there's a chap here complaining about the lack of press releases or something."

"What! Doesn't he know how much hard work goes into writing a note? I mean, just listen to this - it took me hours and hours last night to compose in such a way as to get the message over without offending anyone."

"I say, jolly well done. Let's hear it, what?"

"Right no: 'Yah, boo, sucks to Italy.' How about that?"

"Jolly good show!"

1972ACde ('H'): 2 H1sime 3018

DWARVES DIE LIKE FLIES AS HOBBITS  
MULTIPLY LIKE FLIES

ERIADOR (Lettice): f sou s (umbar) f hum-cit; =a mm-gf s by a mor;  
a igd-edo; a and ms a gm; a rhd s a gm, a bra-gwy; a shl-sdo.

MORDOR (Ward): a ere-run; a mir-sm1; a dg-cel, 2a cel-wol,  
a wol-wem; =3a wem-eas; a edo-lam s by 2a isn; a bar ms 2a udu\*,  
a ash s a bar; 2a nin-rau.

RHOVANION (Davidson): =a iro-gm; a gf-and\*; a bro-rau.

ROHAN (Davis): a dag-udu s by =2a mmo, a me-nin; a eas-edo\*.

UMBAR (Harris): a lam stands s by f tol & a mt1; a nur-bar;  
a cai-nit s by a sit; a msh s (rohan) 2a mmo; a sgo s a msh;  
a hdw-kha; f hum-cit.

\*Retreats. Mordor 2a udu annihilated. Rohan a eas-eem. Rhovanion a gf  
annihilated.

E: 13 bases: shl, eve, lhu, ang, arn, rhd, hol, bra, gm, and, gf, mor, igd.  
Build a shl, a eve, a lhu; fourth build owing till next time.

M 13 bases: bar, isn, edo, eas, wem, wol, cel, dg, sm1, run, ere, car, rau  
Build a dg & a car.

RH: Eliminated. All units removed.

RO: 2 bases: udu, mmo. Removes a eem & a nin.

U: 11 bases: hrd, hum, cit, sgo, kha, msh, sit, nit, lam, mt1, cai.  
Build a hrd.

It now appears that Gregory Ward isn't going to France after all; his host  
has contracted scarlet jaundice or something. Bob Harris' postcode is DD2 3RF.

Hobbiton (One-for-the-road, inc.):

There was a young orc, name of Ward  
Who set himself up as Dark Lord;  
His syntax is bad,  
He's undoubtedly mad.  
I exhort him to fall on his sword!

Weatherstop Odeon: "Da boss ain't gonna like dis, ya know, mebbe you got  
sometin' against decent films, huh? Okay, punk, put 'Da Godfadder' back on,  
pay da protection, an' mebbe you live till tomorrow."

Mountains of Shadow: Ar Phasixpence had captured the Mordor archer who had  
murdered the Orkish informer. The assassin, under the threat of being forced  
to eat six issues of Ethil the Frog - without any mustard - had cracked, and  
revealed that Mauron's last hope of success lay in a cavern inside Mt Edpleece.

Now the general, with his companion, J.R.R. Tolkien, stood before the  
entrance to the aforementioned cavern, their way blocked by a monstrous troll  
who advanced on them swinging his great mallet.

"Hey, kid," called Ar Phasixpence. "Your shoelace is untied."

As the creature bent over to examine its shoes the general brained it  
with his axe. "Let's see Sam Gangee beat this," he muttered, leading the  
way into the mountain. When they emerged into the cavern they beheld a huge  
machine.

Professor Tolkien consulted his Dan Dare Annual. "Good lord!" he exclaimed.

"It can only be a device for contacting Things From Beyond Space!"

"Look!" cried the general. "The Witch-King is activating it! Stop him!"

But it was too late. A strange shimmering light filled the cavern...

Hobbiton Cultural Dept: T.S. Elliot! \*nyuk, nyuk\*

Hobbiton Cultural Dept (later): That's got him confused (and me - ed).

(( Look here, Lettice, I'm the only one allowed to put words into my own  
mouth. Just watch it, or I'll stab you in yet another game! - ed.))

Minas Tirith: "I hear there is even more war coming," said Gandalf.

"Oh my god," sighed Aragorn. "Who's stirring things up this time? Is  
it the Demogorgon, or Sauron again?"

"Neither... it's far worse, it's John Piggott!"

Hobbiton (Vietnam Discussion Dept): Late results - Pseudo-capitalistic  
crypto-fascist hyenas 6; People's neo-Trotskyist liberation front 5.

1973?da ('J'). Press for Autumn 1901

Black Forest. The pair trudged on, guided by the yellow light of Watson's hurricane lamp. It must have been at least three hours since they had left the hansom, the red-eyed, emaciated cabby having refused to go any further.

"Darned insubordination!" said Watson, breaking the silence. "Why the hell did you have to give him such a big tip?"

Holmes face twisted into a superior sneer; Watson winced. "Elementary, my dear Watson," said the detective. "This forest is full of bandits. With all that money on him, the plebeian swine will never get out of here alive."

Watson regarded him with unconcealed awe. "What I want to know, Holmes, is what we're doing in the Black Forest, and why we are working for the Kaiser!"

"Elementary, my dear Watson." Momentarily, Watson's grip tightened on his service revolver. "You already know of the dastardly act that has caused this total eclipse; but what you don't know is that the Kaiser has not only lost sight of the British, French, Austrian and Russian armies - he has in fact lost his own! And our job is to find the fiend responsible, and to find the missing armies."

"Yes, but why are we working for the Kaiser?"

"Watson, you know my methods. Who do you think offered the most money?"

"Money?" came a voice. "Achtung, Hande hoch!"

London (Govnt): Several features have appeared in the National Press which have not originated in this fair country but came from a well-organised fifth column. His Britannic Majesty's government have therefore approached King Edward VII for emergency powers with regard to the censorship of the press. This has been agreed upon, and henceforth we regret that there will be a total blackout of news coverage from England.

Army Surplus Stores, Richmond, VA, USA Several European countries have been supplied with goods this year. The stores have issued 40,000 rubber water-wings and 2,000 'Tourist Guide to France' pamphlets to England; 30 cases of flu vaccine to Russia; 50,000 hair nets to Germany; one 'How to Spell' textbook and one typewriter to Turkey, 25,000 running shoes and a number of Charles Atlas body-building courses to Italy, 500,000 prayerbooks to France; and 60,000 pairs of sunglasses and 20,000 camels to Austria.

Exchange & Mart (London edition). For sale. any ofiers, Stanley Stamps Gibbon catalogue, mint condition. Write to the English ambassador, Tunis, 'A' Game.

Oldham (General Hospital). "Doctor, Doctor! My little boy has just swallowed a box of fireworks and ran out of the house! What shall I do?"

"Now, then, calm yourself. I'll give him some penicillin injections to prevent infection - you know about penicillin, don't you?"

"Oh yes - it taught me that the best way to keep healthy was to eat mouldy bread."

"Good, good... anyway, let's go and find your boy. We'll have to operate soon or he may recover without it. Do you know what direction he ran in?"

"I'm afraid not - I didn't hear the latest report."

Genoa: "All right," said the gypsy, tugging at her ear-ring. "Slip me your wallet, sit tight and believe." The seven assembled took breath as one, as the lights dimmed. They pressed their hands to the table, fingers in tentative contact.

"Is anybody there?" came the soft voice. (Silence) "Is anybody there?" the voice insistent now. (Silence) "Sorry lads," said the gypsy. "No spirits - we'll have to get back on the beer."

New York: "Okay, sir, we're ready to test the new invention now. Can you grope for the switch by the wall and turn it on?"

Hidden machinery hummed. A sliding sound indicated the opening of a door in the wall, and a faint light emerged.

"Why, we can see again! Mr Edison, let me shake you by the hand. What a marvellous invention - what do you call it?"

"I thought of 'Glow-worms' - don't you think it sounds good?"

\*\*\*\*\* Well, that's all this time. Just think, if Andy Davidson weren't so lazy we'd be on a second page; but of course, he still hasn't written that press release he promised. There'll be more from Sherlock Holmes and all the other pals next time, I hope.

1972K ('A'): Autumn 1912      FRANCE ELIMINATED!    RUSSIAN BUILD DEFICIT  
GROWS FURTHER!!!

GERMANY (Davidson): a gas-spa s by f por; a bur-mar; a ruh-bel;  
f nth-eng; a bre-gas; a edi & a lon stand.

RUSSIA (Jeffery): f bar-nrg, f nwy-nth, a kie-hol;  
a den-kie s by a ber; f bal-den s by a swe; a fin-nwy;  
a sil ms a war; a ukr digs salt-mine, f tys-wms.

AUSTRIA (Robertson): a tri-ser; f adr-lon; a boh-mun s by a tyr;  
a mun-bur; f mao-iri; f eng s (russian) f nwy-nth,  
a tus-mar c by f gol & s by a pie.

FRANCE (Oliver): a spa\* ms a mar\*.

\*Retreats: French armies annihilated. German f nth disbanded.

G: 8 bases: bel, lon, lpl, edi, spa, por, bre, par. Nowhere to build.

R: 15 bases: stp, mos, war, sev, smy, con, ank, rum, bul, ber, kie, den,  
nwy, swe, hol. Builds f stp(n): further builds refused.

A: 11 bases: tri, bud, vie, ser, gre, ven, rom, nap, tun, mun, mar.  
Builds a vie.

F: Eliminated.

Vienna (Gov't). "Write to me, someone, please write to me; preferably  
before the deadline..."

Gibbon Press (formerly Peasants' Herald & Information Letter): Situations  
vacant: In preparation for the new edition of the Gibbon catalogue, young  
women over the age of 16 with suitable qualifications are invited to apply  
for the post of head squasher at the Gibbon Press. The job will entail some  
night work and pay, which will be by negotiation, - will include all fringe  
benefits, including luncheon vouchers redeemable at the Khand Meat Factories  
and free samples of all we produce.

Gibbon Press (later). The opening advertised earlier has now been accepted  
by two former encyclopedia salesmen. We expect fresh increases in our  
door-to-door sales from now on.

1972Kco ('B'). November/December 1916      FURTHER PROGRESS MADE IN WARS  
AGAINST FROGS

ENGLAND (Stuart): a ruh-lor s by a bel; a eng-plc s by f eng;  
a den-kie s by a hol; f kie-ber s by a dre; f ang-ska;  
f nwy-nrg; f mao-bre

TURKEY (Corker): a con boards f aeg -- a/f aeg-cms s by f ems --  
a cms dis nap; f tun-lys; a mac-gre; a ser & a rum stand.

AUSTRIA (Walkerdine): a sil s (english) a dre, a mos-ode;  
a boh-tyr; a bud-cro s by a vie; a pec ms a zar.

FRANCE (Davidson): f sao-mao; f gol-wms; f tys-nap; f cms-sic;  
a cro-tyr; a ber-dre; a swa s a mun; a par-plc s by a bre;  
a bur-rul s by a mun & a lor\*; a gas s a bre, a lyo-mar;  
a por stands.

\*Retreats: All French: a lor, a ber disbanded; a cro-ven.

E: 13 bases: lon, lpl, edi, ply, ire, bel, hol, kie, bcr, dre, den, nwy,  
swe. Build f ply & f lpl.

T: 10 bases: con, sin, smy, dam, egy, tun, bul, gre, ser, rum.  
Build f con, f smy & a dam.

A: 9 bases: vie, zar, bud, pec, ode, mos, war, ark, stp. Build a bud -  
no room for second build.

F: 14 bases: bre, par, lyo, mar, cas, por, and, mor, sic, nap, rom, ven,  
zur, mun. Builds a lyo.

Vienna: Gosh! wow! crikey! A press release! When did you last see one of  
them in this game, readers?

Now come on, chaps, how about writing a few yourselves? With a little  
bit of effort we can have Hannibal, the Time Lords and the rest of the lads  
in this game as well! Wot fun!

Ethel the Frog: Proper little von Metzke, aren't you, Richard? And there  
was I thinking everyone had forgotten about the Doctor and his cronies...

1972CI ('E'). Autumn 1908

AUSTRIAN POSITION LOOKS SHAKY AS FRANCE  
STORMS INTO THE ADRIATIC; HEROIC RESISTANCE  
ENDS WITH ELIMINATION OF TURKEY.

ENGLAND (Feintuck): f ska-den, f bal-ber s by a kie; f hel s a kie;  
f bar stands; a lvn-pru; a stp-lvn s by f gob;  
a fin-stp.

RUSSIA (Elsmore) a ber-kie s by a mun; f pru-bal; a ank-arm;  
f bla-sev; a mos stands s by a war.

TURKEY (PiJohn): a arm-sev.

AUSTRIA (R.Lawson): a pie-ven s by a tyr; a boh s (russian) a mun;  
a vie-tri, f tri-alb s by a gre; a alb-ser, f con-aeg

ITALY (I.Lawson): f smy s (austrian) f con-aeg.

FRANCE (Walkerdine): a ruh-mun s by a bur, a mar-pie s by a tus;  
f rom stands, f apu-ven; f lon-adr; f tys-lon.

\*Retreat: Russian a ber disbanded.

E: 10 bases lon, lpl, edi, hol, kie, ber, den, nwy, swe, stp:  
Builds a edi.

R: 6 bases: war, mos, sev, mun, rum, ank. No change.

T: Eliminated. All units removed.

A: 8 bases: tri, vie, bud, ven, ser, gre, bul, con. No change.

I: 1 base: smy. No change.

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

Moscow (overheard in Czar's bathroom): "Oh dear, why can't I be like other Czars, all wind and no bone? I hate being skinny. And why can't ever think of anything to say? Oh, dear, oh dear, I know I'm inferior, but it really doesn't help. I just can't go on like this - I mean, it would be all right, but I can even beat him at snap..."

"Good God! Thank Christ that's only his boy-friend - I'd hate to think what a mess we'd be in if he was like that!"

Smyrna: Il Duce Mouselliani, in exile from Smyrna, has expressed his tremendous gratitude for the help given by the glorious Austrian and Russian Empires. Proportionately, Italy is the strongest naval power, and with the help of allied fleets, the French pigs will soon be sent reeling back! But for now the Italian government headquarters will be in Smyrna. Anyone who wishes to donate booby-traps, alliances, funds and white flags is referred to Il Duce Mouselliani, Tony's Ice-Cream Shop, Behind Luigi's Turkish Kebab Palace, Smyrna, Italian Middle East Territory.

Cagliari: "Really, I don't know what's come over those so-called leaders of ours back at Imrryr," grumbled Kiryak as he reviewed some battle-plans with one of his generals. "Look at that last load of recruits they sent us - not a decent swordsman among them! If you ask me, there's too much corruption in high places. I mean, look at Elric; he's our leader, he's supposed to set us an example, and what does he do? He goes tearing off on a wild-goose chase after the Doctor, and then when he finally gives that up he goes back and calls out the dragons! The last I heard, he was flying around with that poofy cousin of his on some half witted man-hunt, I ask you..."

The general made no reply. Lord Kiryak really seemed to be getting more and more tempestuous as the war went on. Was the strain too much for him, he wondered; perhaps it was time to get someone else to lead the troops...

London: "Look, I tell you we can't wait till next year before advancing on Moscow. We have to do it as soon as possible - after all, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

"Not necessarily; but it's certainly bad table manners."

"Ha, ha."

"We'll have less of your sarcasm, thank you very much. There's no use in my talking to you. You've got a closed mind. All I'm doing is killing time!"

"You've certainly got a powerful weapon there."

"One can get a lot of laughs out of a press release, don't you think?"

"I think they got all there were out of this one before they printed it here."



1972BK ('C'): Autumn 1910

TURKS DRIVEN OUT OF ITALY; FRENCH FLEET  
TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN ALBANIA!

ENGLAND (Taylor): nmr // f wms, f nth, f den, a hol, a ruh, a kie,  
a swe, a fin, a stp, a mos, a lvn, & a war all stand.

GERMANY (Anarchy): a ber stands.

RUSSIA (Oliver): a sev s (turkish) a ukr.

TURKEY (Jeffery): f cms-ion s by f adr, f aeg & f gre; a bul-ser;  
a gal ms a vie; a tri s a vie; a ukr s a gal; a apu-ven.

FRANCE (Bell): a tyr-ven s by a rom & a pic; a mun-tyr;  
f ion stands s by f nap & f tun; a sil-gal s by a boh.

\*Retreat: French f ion-alb.

E: 12 bases: lon, lpl, edi, bel, hol, kie, den, swe, nwy, stp, mos, war.  
No change.

G: 1 base: ber. No change.

R: 2 bases: sev, rum. No room to build yet again!

T: 9 bases: con, ank, smy, bul, gre, ser, bud, vie, tri. Removes a apu.

F: 10 bases: bre, par, mar, spa, por, tun, nap, rom, ven, mun.  
Builds f war.

Will PHIL JONES please send standby orders for England, please? Ta. .

1972ADde ('I'): 1 Hisime 3018

ATTACKS ON MORDOR INEFFECTIVE -- UMBAR  
LASHES BACK AT ERIADOR!

ERIADOR (Waldie): a shi-bra; a sdo-gwy; a wiz-igd s by a dun;  
a ene & a min s a dun; a mor-wiz; a hol-mor; f sou-1sn'.

GONDOR (Mellish): a 1sn & a eas stand; a edo s a 1sn;  
a nin-bro s by a rau.

MORDOR (Bell): nmr // =3a sit, 2a wol, 2a wem, 2a cal, 2a mt1, a bar,  
a nur, a udu, a nit, a msh all stand.

RHOVANION (Pijohn): a rhu-nur; a nm-and; a and-sm1; a sm1-bro;  
a ash-bar; a wil-dag; a nur-run; a lor ms a cel;  
a gf s a lor; =a dg s e cel.

ROHAN (Yarc): a fan stands!

UMBAR (Morrison): f cit-sou.s by f bel; a sgo-kha; =a hrd-sgo;  
a hum stands.

\*Retreat: Eriador f sou-lof.

I don't understand Harry Bell's failure to send orders for this game, since his orders for 1972BK arrived in time. Anyway, perhaps Martin Davis would like to send standby orders for Mordor. .

Isengard: Our leader's last words, just before his most untimely assassination were: "Just in case anybody is in any doubt, the Ring was last seen, just a few weeks ago, in--- urrrkkkk!" but at this point Bilbo sneaked up behind him and strangled him.

Minas Tirith (ex-govnt): In the absence of any communication from the Northern Powers, the government intends to seek an alliance with Mordor.

Bag End: "Oh, what a lovely day!" simpered Frodo. "Let's go for a romp in the garden!"

"I wouldn't if I were you," said Sam. He pointed out of the window.

"Look there!"

Frodo screamed. "What do they want?"

"Lupins, most likely," said Sam, shivering in fright.

Frodo fainted. There were Gibbons at the bottom of the garden!

Ethil the Frog: Funny, I could have sworn that the last time we met Frodo in this game, he was preparing to enter Mordor. I guess Sauron must have found him a bit too much to stomach as well.

1972ABde ('G') · 1 Ringare 3018

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER CONTINUES AS SAURON  
SPURNS OFFER OF CEASE-FIRE'

ERADOR (Morrison): a arn-wea s by a sdo & =a fnt'; a tow-bra.

WORDOR (Davidson): =3a bra-shu, 2a enc-bra; a dun-enc, a wiz-cun;  
a hol-gvy, a mor-hol; a rhd-sdo; a mi-rhG, a and-mi;  
2a wea-fnt, 2a ang-arn, a ett-ang; a iro-nwa; a car-iro;  
a ere-gu; a mar-run; a gf-lor; a bar-nur; a nit-nti;  
a sgo-hdw s by a kha & a nh; 2a nti-sgo s by a sit & a ush;  
a mo-nit; a lam-anf; a cal-lam, a nin-cal; a udu-nn,  
a isn-lef; a igd-Isn; a wea-gap.

UMBAR (Jeffery). f hum-fh s by a hdw'; a hrd s a hdw.

'Retreats' Uambar a hdw-hum; Eriador =a fnt-eve.

Curses! This game has to continue for a further period! John Morrison wants the game to end, but Graham Jeffery wishes to outsurvive John and Andy demands that 'the game will continue till the proper victory conditions have been met, nyaan, nyaah'.

Perhaps if I typed out all his orders in full each time, instead of using abbreviations, it would bore him into submission...

Standby players

- 'A' Andrew Waldie, Gregory Ward
- 'B' Jeremy Elsmore
- 'C' Phil Jones, Jeremy Elsmore
- 'D' Henry Pijohn, Martin Davis
- 'E' Howell Davies, Bob Harris
- 'F' Bob Harris, Howell Davies
- 'G' Gregory Ward, Martin Davis, John Lettice
- 'H' Jeremy Elsmore
- 'I' Martin Davis, Jeremy Elsmore

ORDERS WANTED FROM  
UNDERLINED PEOPLE

I COULD DO WITH SOME  
MORE STANDBYS FOR 'G'  
GAME!!!!

DEADLINE

Saturday, 28 April, 1972, for games 'A' to 'I' inclusive.

My address will be Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL with effect from Thursday, 19 April, I will be in Bristol till Easter Monday but will not be returning to Oxford after the con, in all probability. Please make sure that you send your orders to the correct address - and that applies equally to the Myopia players.

ART CREDITS. Cover designed by me, after illoes by Les Pinley & William Rotsler.

ETHIL THE FROG 25  
c/o John Piggott  
Jesus College  
Cambridge, CB5 8BL  
U.K.