

'A' Game - Spring 1902 - (1972K)

ENGLAND: All war effort has now stopped, as the King is trying to quell the riots that have been breaking out all over the country. These were caused by the news leaking out that no British troops have yet set foot on foreign soil. After no end of atrocities committed by the barbaric countries of France and Germany, and also the insults thrown out by the French pigs, the people are being whipped up into fervour by revolutionaries all over the country. This fervour will soon be redirected at these enemies, and many new armies will be trained and pressed into action. We also expect large numbers of battleships and destroyers to be made ready for action soon.

Beware. Britain will soon rise again.

RUSSIA: War has been formally announced between Russia and the British people. Despite repeated requests to halt military manoeuvres, the British Government has persisted in increasing its military presence in a position threatening to the Russian nation. The unwarranted attack on the peaceful Russian trade mission in Norway has finally forced a state of war into existence.

The hot-line between Moscow and Berlin has been overloaded as plans are formulated in the Kremlin and communicated to our German allies. It is hoped that the impending doom about to befall England will deter all other would-be aggressors.

The Czar has made a goodwill visit to Vienna and Berlin. It is thought that this is to promote the World Tiddlywinks Championships, being held later this year in Moscow, in which the Russian champion, Andrinov Davidskisonov (son of what?, one asks), is agreed by all to be the likely victor. The competition is, however, open to all comers, and entrants should send an SAE to:-

WZ WTC Organisers;
No fixed abode,
Moscow,
B.U.R.P.

Latest news from Yuri Kha's laboratory, deep under the ground in Smolensk, is that the trials of the ABT were all most successful. All military installations, followed by all major civilian concerns, will be fitted out with new defence mechanisms by the close of the month, and then we shall be fully prepared for whatever England attempts to throw at us.

LATE NEWS FLASH: Russian troops have unfortunately been drawn across into Armenia to pursue large groups of anti-Czarist ~~gorillas~~ guerillas who have been straying over the border into Russian territory. The Turkish people so far encountered have welcomed this pesticial mission.

AUSTRIA: War was declared on the Turkish nation after forces in hostile mood attempted to cross our borders and occupy Serbia. An ultimatum requesting ~~xxx~~ explanations of this aggression went unanswered, and thus a state of war now exists.

In preparation for this, Grand Duke Ava Banana has revealed his ingenious plans for the subduing of Turkish aggressive intentions. "We's gonna smash dem bleeders to pulp," he reported, to tumultuous applause from our military strategists. His brilliant plan is to go in a generally southern direction, preferably with some sort of armed force, and attempt something in the nature of an attack. For devising such an admirable plan, rumour has it that the Emperor may offer him actual command of the VIIth Battallion of the Latrine and Cookhouse Regiment.

Moves appear on the next page. Underlined moves fail, of course.

ENGLAND (Jones): A Yor-Nwy C by F Nth & S by F Nrg.

GERMANY (Davidson): A Hol-Bel; A Mun-Bur S by A Ruh; F Kie-Hol;
F Den-Nth.

R RUSSIA (Jeffery): A Sey-Arm; A Mos-Sev S by F Rum; A War-Mos;
F Swe-Nwy S by A StP.

TURKEY (Feintuck): F Smy-Aeg; A Bul stand S by A Con & F Bla.

AUSTRIA (Robertson): F Gre-Aeg; A Tri-Alb; A Vie-Tri; A Ser stand;
A Bud S (Russian) F Rum.

ITALY (Maule): F Tun-WMS; F Nap-TyS; A Pie-Mar; A Ven stand.

FRANCE (Christianson): F Por-MAO; A Par-Bur S by A Pic; A Spa stand.
F Mar stand.

Retreats: None. Autumn moves & Winter builds by next deadline, please."

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Bits.

ALBION 37 (Don Turnbull, Flat 13 Gilmerton Court, Trumpington Rd, Cambridge) contains Will Haven's article on Shogi, which turns out to be a form of Japanese chess. Also in this issue is the rules and map for Fred Davis' Atlantica variant (yes, Don's beaten me to it) and lists are open for a game of this. This issue will cost you 25p. post included, and it's worth it, folks.

HARTLEY PATTERSON (Finches, 7 Cambridge Rd, Beaconsfield, Bucks.) is vending copies of the new Rulebook for 40p. each post included, which is, I'm afraid, about as cheap as they'll ever be in this country unless there's an international deflation or something. 'War Bulletin', Hartley's Dippy Zine, is available at 5/20p. Issue 28 contains the rules for 'Bolshevik', a Dippy variant of Hartley's own derivation. I have an idea this is the first British-invented Diplomacy variant. Hartley also will soon publish rules and map for 'Jirad', one for the megalomaniacs in the audience. Seven players take part, but a totla of 80 supply centres...! Need I add that I'm on the waiting list?

BELLICUS 1 (Will Haven, 23 Teck Street, Liverpool L7 8RR) is a publication devoted to Strategy 1 - the world's first, they believe. Andy Davidson and Graham Jeffery are also involved.

BUSHWACKER, Fred Davis' broadsheet, has now started a game of 'Atlantica'. As the only non-American player in this game it is perhaps fitting that I should play England...

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Twin-Earth Dippy

Graham Jeffery, in a recent letter, said: "The bits on Dippy Variants are fascinating. Would it be possible to start one up sometime? Twin-Earth Dippy looks a good one. If you like I could GM it and it would mean you could have a go. There seems to be a sad lack of Dippy variants in this country at the moment - only four going, as far as I am aware."

Well, as I've said before, I think, I'm willing to GM any Diplomacy-style game in ETHIL provided there's enough demand. So herewith is a Twin-Earth list started up. Only another six required! I don't have enough time to play myself, unfortunately (paradoxically, playing in a game is more time-consuming than being the GM!), but anyone else...

The rules of Twin-Earth look reasonably straightforward. Example: In addition to being contiguous with TyrI, BohI, SillI, BerI, KieI, RuhI, and BurI, MunI also bounds on MunII, and the same manoeuvres may thake place between MunI and MunII as between MunI and any of the other seven.... (is that clear?) But with each power starting off with 6 units, and the victory criterion being 35 bases, it'll be a deal more complex, I should imagine.

Anyway, lists are now open. It's up to You Out There, now...

Some people who normally receive ETHIL won't have received a copy of the Abstraction rules. There aren't all that many to go round, you see, and a number of you may have seen them already in some other publication. (The name ALBION springs to mind...) If you've been left out but do actually want a copy, please write in and ask. I'm not levying a charge for it from people who want it.

I've hand-stencilled a map for Abstraction. This is the first time ever that I've tried my hand at hand-stencilling, and though the result looks okay from here I shan't be able to tell until Ian runs it off. If it turns out to be too terrible to read, I shall make alternative arrangements... like ultra-expensive photocopying, for example...

GM's Change of Address -- Very Important!

After Saturday, April 15, my address will once again be Jesus College, College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL. Please ensure that your moves go there, and not to Oxford, since I shan't be in Oxford to receive them. Sad, really, isn't it?

Deadline is Friday 21st April for 'A' game Autumn 1902 moves and Winter 1902 builds, and also 'B' game initial placements (June 1914).

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for 'tis the lunatic

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