

ETHIL THE FROG

ISSUE NUMBER 6

May 11, 1972

Another episode in the saga of this incredible journal, masterminded as always by John Piggott, Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL, U.K., and duplicated with customary verve by Ian Maule. Subscriptions are 5p per issue, payable in advance for as many issues as you wish; game fee is 25p per game, payable when the game starts, except for a player's first game which is free. We also trade. This is a product of the Tapeworm-Gannet Prosperity Cuboid, and is Tapeworm Prod. No. 8.

BRITISH DIPLOMACY CLUB

Somewhat in arrears of the rest of the magazines, we at last announce the existence of this body. It's organised by Graeme Levin, P.O. Box 4, London, N6 4DF, whom one may recognise as the editor of the magazine 'Games & Puzzles'.

Briefly, the main purpose of the BDC is to promote the playing of Diplomacy and to help provide an opportunity for enthusiasts to meet others for both face-to-face and postal games. Graeme has several contacts in the games world, including the British manufacturers of Diplomacy, and overall he's in an excellent position to organise a body like this.

There's an official organ, 'The Diplomatic Back Stabber' (!), the first issue of which contains names and addresses of the first members (I'm told it's up to 40 now) and house rules which do not differ greatly from Ethil's or any of the other zines'. The BDC is going to organise postal Dippy games for those that want them; I suspect the first may already have started, though I've had no official word on this. In the beginning the GM for BDC games will be a certain Don Turnbull of whom one may have heard tell, however I'm told that later other GMs will be press-ganged into service. The game fee looks to be £1.60 ("one pound plus twenty SAEs").

Graeme has instituted a series of 'credit points' -- for winning a postal Dippy game, for example, one becomes entitled to a year's subscription to 'Games & Puzzles', for example, or a free copy of Diplomacy.

Annual subscription to the BDC is 60p, plus (I think) a 50p joining fee. Albion and War Bulletin subbers get their first year's membership at least free; I'm not sure whether this perk applies to Ethil's subscribers -- it's probably worth writing to see.

DER KRIEG

This is the somewhat suggestive title of a new Dippy zine being started by Graham Jeffery. The first regular game will start as soon as Graham has seven players willing to participate, and subscriptions will be "something like 5/20p plus 25p game fee".

Naturally the new zine has the wholehearted support of Ethil. The more the merrier, and in any case, if the BDC turns out as frighteningly successful as I think it's going to, we're going to need every damn zine we can get in order to accomodate all the players. Perhaps this will be the start of the boom we've been predicting? Anyway, if you're interested contact Graham at 8 Rusholme Road, S.W.15.

ON LES AURA

Michel Liesnard's variant zine has now, it seems, passed into the capable hands of Michel Feron (Grand-Place 7; B-4280 Hannut, Belgium) who is running it as a supplement to his Moeshoeshoe. I suspect it's going to end after the one Youngstown game it's running at the moment finishes, but Moeshoeshoe itself is still, I think, looking for yet more players.

'A' Game (1972K) -- Spring 1903.

ENGLAND: The home Guard continues to quell the rioting masses in the home country. The Heligoland Bight fleet, however, has gone over to the Russians to assist their peaceful oceanography mission to Denmark.

Late football score: Filthy Englischer Schweinen 1
Warriors von der Glorious Vaterland 3.

RUSSIA: Following the queries about the Russian propaganda assault on London and the use of aircraft in the said attack, a statement has been released. An official emerged from the Ministry of Science and Technology a fortnight ago to broadcast an announcement to the effect that Russian technology surpasses anything the world has ever seen. He also noted that the raids on England have totally demoralised her, leaving her helpless. The official then disappeared quickly, and no-one has been seen to leave the building for the last fourteen days. Rumour has it that a new weapon-to-end-all-weapons is being developed around the clock in maximum security. It is thought to entail a large mushroom-shaped cloud...

DIRECTIVE 23: By order of the Czar all propaganda will, as from now, cease. This follows the many staggering victories gained by the Russian armed forces in the past year. Casualties total one dead (stoned by Turks) and two rendered unfit for duty following an attempt to break the vodka drinking record.

AUSTRIA: The Emperor announced a non-aggression pact, signed recently with our beloved neighbour Russia. Following foul attacks by Turkey our nations have saved the day by occupying revolting areas and setting up a demilitarised zone in Eastern Europe. This great achievement by our two countries will forever ensure peace between us.

Rumours of an alliance with Italy have been followed by rumours of a collapse. The ambassador in Rome has offered to send Austrian troops to assist in maintaining stability in the Mediterranean area. The Emperor has considered relieving Italy of the heavy burden of administering such a vast colonial empire, but so far we are still awaiting replies. After the frenzied activity which took place there last Autumn, we may have to wait some time.

The Emperor annulled the declaration of war made in 1901 against England, after very nice letters apologising for the defamatory scrawl which started the war. So far the only casualty was a clerk, who expired from boredom awaiting replies to our letters to England, Germany, Italy and France.

FRANCE: An extract from the President's speech to the nation:-

"... and those who seek to defile our homelands shall find themselves violently opposed. Our people shall stand as one, no matter how great the enemy or how large the cost.

"We have known before the suffering of defeat, but never again will we surrender our country, this beautiful land, this house of the pure..."

At this point our great leader broke down with emotion and had to be led from the platform.

However, let this be a warning to the German and Italian governments. Should they continue with their policy of aggression, they will be shown no mercy when their plans fail.

GM COMMENT: Don't any soldiers get killed in this game? Anyway, the moves appear on page 3.

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WAITING LISTS

Regular: Phil Jones, Andrew Waldie, Ian Lawson, Fred Hemmings.

Abstraction: Phil Jones, Harry Bell, Roger Muray, Ian Lawson.

o Twin-Earth: Graham Jeffery, Phil Jones.

- * ENGLAND (Jones): F Hel S (Russian) Swe-Den; F Edi stands;
A Lon stands.
- GERMANY (Davidson): A Bel-Yor C by F Nth; F Kie-Den; F Hol S A Bel;
A Ruh S A Bur; A Bur stands.
- RUSSIA (Jeffery): A Ank-Con; A Sev-Arm; A Mos-Sev; A Lvn-StP;
A Nwy-Fin; F Swe-Nwy; F StP(N)-Bar; F Rum-Bla.
- TURKEY (Feintuck): F Smy-Aeg; A Con-Ank.*
- AUSTRIA (Robertson): A Bul S (Russian) ~~Ex~~ Ank-Con; A Vie-Tyr;
A Bud-Ser; A Ser-Gre; F Gre-Ion; A Tri stands.
- ITALY (Maule): F TyS-GoL S by F WMS; A Pie-Mar; A Ven stands.
- FRANCE (Christianson): A Par-Bur S by A Pic & F Mar; A Spa-Gas;
F MAO-Spa(S).

*Retreat: Turkish army in Constantinople retreats to Smyrna.

France: Er, David, your unit in Marseilles is still a fleet, despite your best wishes to the contrary...

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Editorial Notes

I'd like to change the system for propaganda in Ethil, if nobody objects too violently, and adopt the system being used in War Bulletin and in many American magazines. In this system, propaganda is not credited to the individual player, but is instead given a place of origin only. This may be anywhere in the world, or indeed some offworld or imaginary place. (Did I hear the name '61 Cygni' mentioned?)

When War Bulletin changed to this system after using one vaguely similar to Ethil's present one, I was against the idea. However, after seeing its effects I have come to change my mind.

I should note that press releases giving governmental policy are still permissible under this system. Such releases must originate from territory controlled by the player in question, and may be marked 'Govt' or something similar.

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DEADLINE

With the latest lunacy in the Vietnam war it is quite possible this may be the last issue of Ethil, owing to circumstances 'beyond the editor's control'. Assuming, though, that we aren't going to get irradiated in the next fortnight, I have to report that, along with the other students in Ethil's roster, I am shortly to be subjected to the grisly ordeal of exams... The next deadline will be

10.00 a.m., Friday, May 26, 1972

for all games, and it's just about inconcievable that late moves will arrive before I've typed up the relevant stencils. In addition, it looks as if the railwaymen will be working their go-slow again, so mail will be delayed.

Please make sure that you post your orders in plenty of time. If the rail strike's on, allow 3 days for 3p letters, 4 days for 2½p ones. I'm sorry this may not give you much diploming time; we will be back to normal services with issue 8, one hopes.

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SUBSCRIBERS ALARM!! There is a number in the top left-hand corner of your mailing label. If that number is '6' your subscription expires with this issue and it is time to renew!

'B' Game (Abstraction - 1972???) -- July 1914

ENGLAND: The Prime Minister has rushed to London for the forthcoming cabinet meeting. Although the threat of a European war is uppermost in the minds of the public, the cabinet meeting has been called to discuss the Cucumber Disease. As we all know, the disease has struck down most of the populace -- even the children are becoming green. However, it is the old-age pensioners who are worst hit. Many have grown to over 18 feet high, and I'm told they taste really good with a salad or on thinly sliced bread and butter.

GERMANY: His Imperial Majesty's loyal Government views with alarm the deteriorating situation between France and Great Britain. Despite repeated requests, neither is prepared to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium. Accordingly, units of the First Army crossed the frontier this morning at the request of the Belgian Government.

AUSTRIA: In a press conference on the present European situation, the Emperor made it clear that he had no intentions of taking part in the conflict which now seems inevitable.

When asked why the manoeuvres of his troops were being kept secret he said, "There is no secret. Three of my armies have been given leave to go to the Mediterranean for a month or two's well-earned rest. My fourth army has gone on a marathon hike in the beautiful Bohemian countryside."

In answer to another question, the Emperor said that the full consent of the Governments of the countries concerned had been given, and that the armies had been welcomed as comrades in these times of troubles.

ITALY: Il Duce has ordered the moving of the seat of government from Rome to Venice. He is said to have become enchanted by the beauty of the canals during his recuperation period, and now wishes to be beside them at all times. They also, as he pointed out, have the built-in advantage of providing an easy and convenient method of disposing of undesirables, and others...

Viva Italia!

GM COMMENT: Dave Christianson's June 1914 move was messed up by the Post Office, and it did not arrive till after the deadline. Since it had been posted in plenty of time, I decided to allow Dave's initial placements, and noted the other six players accordingly. Austrian units after June 1914 were A Vienna, A Zara, A Transylvania and A Galicia; not what it said in Ethil 5.

Und nun, mein freunde, ze moves...

ENGLAND (Stuart): F Ply-Eng; F Lpl-HBS; F Lon-Ang; F Edi-Nth.

GERMANY (Davis): A Swa-Zur; A Ruh-Bel; F Kie-Hol; F Ber-Kie.

RUSSIA (Feintuck): A War-Pru; A Ark-Lap; A Mo's-Ode; F Ode-WBS; F StP-Rig.

TURKEY (Maule): A Con-Bul; A Sny-Con; F Dam-EMS; F Sin-WBS.

AUSTRIA (Christianson): A Vie-Boh; A Tra-Ser; A Zar-Alb; A Gal-Rum.

ITALY (Jeffery): A Ven-Pie; F Sic-MaS; F Sar-WMS; F Apu-Ven.

FRANCE (Davidson): A Lyo-Lor; A Gas-Leo; F Bre-MAO; F Mar-Cat.

Retreats: None.

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

TURKEY: The Emir wishes to establish a peaceful relationship with all nations; Love and goodwill to you all!!

All diplomatic communication will be answered, but the Emir does not accept responsibility for the failings of the Turkish G.P.O. The present situation is grave; the mail-workers are asking for a 300% wage rise. This obviously outrageous wage-claim would bring the maximum possible earnings up to an unacceptable £1.16½ in modern English ~~llyars~~ pounds, per annum.

AUSTRIA: As the last minutes of peace ticked away the Minister of War was heard to say, "Oh! Jesus, not again! Where's my ARP helmet?" After this brave show of Hapsburg nerves he promptly fainted, lisping gently about Grand Dukes.

The Prime Minister, after downing a bottle of imported Wincarnis, broke wind and quipped merrily to his aide-de-camp, General von Grippe-pype-Thynne, "Clench my buttocks! Grippe, get out the Diplomacy board."

Admiral Elmo Ppoope-Dekker, from his cabin in the sloop 'Good Ship Venus', sent a message to the P.M., roughly translatabe as, "The rubber ducks you sent us won't fool anyone." The message was believed to be in code.

Anyone wishing to sue for peace may do so by writing to the P.M.; better make it early in the week, because he's usually a drunken wreck later on.

ITALY: The Italian Government apologises for it's lack of diplomacy. It has only just realised that it has come to power. Mama mia!

GM COMMENT: Odds fish! Let Italy's present predicament be a lesson to all who don't write letters...

ENGLAND (Taylor): F Edi-Nth; F Lon-Eng; A Lpl-Yor.

GERMANY (MAULE): F Kie-Bal; A Ber-Kie; A Mun-Ruh.

Russia (B.Davidson): F StP(S)-GoB; F Sev-Rum; A War-Gal;
A Mos-StP.

Turkey (Jeffery): A Con-Bul; A Sny-Ank; F Ank-Con.

AUSTRIA (M.Christianson): A Bud-Ser; A Vie-Tyr; F Tri-Ven (!!!)

ITALY (Davis): A Ven-Pie; F Nap-Ion; A Rom-Apu.

FRANCE (Bell): A Par-Gas; A Mar-Pie; F Bre-MAO.

Italy saved by French treachery by Austrian treachery! Mama mia, indeed!

FAST DIPPY

I've been toying with the idea of running a Dippy game with weekly deadlines, rather than the 3 weeks or so we get usually. A game with weekly deadlines is currently running in Moeshoeshoe, and seems to be going quite well, and I wonder whether there would be any interest over here.

In the interests of diplomacy, entry would probably have to be restricted to those players who have accessto a telephone, and preferably the players would not have to live too far apart, either; long distance calls are expensive! Of course letters would still be used as well, but with one-week deadlines their purpose would be somewhat limited.

My idea is for players to be notified by letter of the outcome of the move, and reports of moves and such press releases as come up would appear in each issue of Ethil for the benefit of spectators and others. Would anyone who is interested let me know?

Six pages, and we're less than four months old already... What have you to say to that, Hartley? NYAAHHH!!!!

Still on the subject of Hartley Patterson, he's planning to start a postal game of 4000 A.D. in his War Bulletin. 4000 A.D., for those who don't know, is the new Waddington's game, and, surprise, surprise, it's quite worth playing. Briefly, it's a game of interstellar warfare -- they've been swotting up on their SF -- and has no element of chance in it at all. The idea is to launch ships at stars, and while your opponent knows how far your ships have travelled from their starting point, he doesn't know which direction they're travelling. You have a choice of several destinations, usually, and while your opponent madly attempts to secure safety for his fleet at Algol, you might nip smartly on to Mira and destroy him utterly there... At least, that's the general idea.

It's quite well worth getting, this. Sets retail at £2.89, I think; a trifle expensive but worth it. Anyone who is interested in playing it postally, for which it seems well suited, should contact Hartley at 7 Cambridge Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

And more...

Avalon-Hill recently brought out a game which is, surprise surprise again, both easy to learn and fairly quick to play. The game is called Origins of World War II and undoubtedly costs the earth, and postal games of Origins are being played in Courier (Don Turnbull, Flat 13, Gilmerton Court, Trumpington Road, Cambridge). I don't intend describing Origins here; anyone who wants to know about it that badly ought to be subscribing to Albion anyway. If you're in a university group or other wargaming group you should be able to see a copy at least.

Don't think you can forget the deadline; you're not allowed to. 10.00 a.m. (and this means moves arriving second post on that day will be too late) on Friday 26 May for 'A' Game Autumn 1903 moves and winter 1903 builds/removals; 'B' Game August 1914 Moves and September 1914 builds/removals; and 'C' game Autumn 1901 moves and Winter 1901 builds/removals.

And with that gem of information we take our leave of you.

Fists clenched, Hannibal stared at the massed army of frogs on the plains below. Brilliantly led by their king, Ethil, they were preparing to march upon Rome itself!

At last, Hannibal managed to speak. Tears rolled down his cheeks; at first slowly, then fast as he confessed his fatal mistake. "If we'd subscribed to Ethil instead of wasting time on Moeshoeshoe and War Bulletin, we'd be down there now instead of them! As it is, we may as well return to Carthage."

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T Walt Buchanan

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