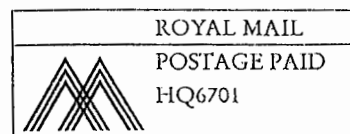


The Cunning Plan 116

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TCP Waiting lists:

Note: Players should submit a preference list for any game on offer.

Std Diplomacy: 7 Wanted.

Gunboat Dip: 7 Wanted.

Kraken: (GM Jeremy Tullet) Neil Duncan, Doug McClure, Pete Mason and Nigel Pepper - couple more maniacs needed..... please, come on, we wanna get started!

TCP: I really liked the mailpiece I got recently - I'd be happy to do it for a month and earn enough to live for a year!

Meanwhile with sod all movement on the waiting lists - it might be time to just bin them? What do you think?

Jeremy, let me know if you would like to proceed with "Kraken" with just the four names above?

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DEADLINE = FRIDAY 7th NOV 2003

Your Credit is:

TCP 116 Ed's Bit

Sorry about the short ish.....

With Snotty James away in America, no SNOT. Shaun has also dried up a little and the letter col this time is just non-existent. I am therefore faced with rabbiting on for 1½ pages or 3½ pages. With time and inspiration against me, I'm opting for the former this time and hope that you'll understand and forgive.

Nose ground on the grindstone:

My dissertation has run into real problems. I've hit a road-block, which is really holding me up. I have kept hoping (forlornly) that it was just a temporary glitch, but two months on and I still seem to be chasing me tail. I have to design and script and interview to gather some qualitative data to flesh out my excellent quantitative. Well, I am just going around in circles and getting nowhere fast. I have produced umpteen versions which don't appear to answer the key questions. Even the suggestions and observations of my dissertation tutor seem to be missing the mark? Am I just being a perfectionist? Dunno the answer to these questions, but it is driving me crazy - and I do mean in the clinical sense.

So if any of you guys n' gals out there are shit-hot questionnaire, survey, interview type experts, please get in touch and put me outta my misery. I will be soooooo grateful.

Thanks, but no thanks:

Just to add to my woes. The two educational institutes so keen to have my teaching skills at the start of the summer hols, were somewhat less keen when the new term started. I was having to do several weeks for frantic chasing; phoning, e-mails and letters to find out what the score was. Whilst waiting for a response, I actually started the teacher training course - attending the first lecture. (I enjoyed it very much and found it very useful). Anyway, Basingstoke College belatedly said "No thanks, were amalgamated two departments over the summer and have enough external tutors now." I was disappointed, but glad at least to have an answer. It would be a double bummer, because now I would have to pay for the course. A few days later Southampton also said "No..." I got back to me teacher-training tutor who have me file pulled out of the draw and popped in the bin before you could say "Bollocks!" What he actually said was, "No teaching, no course - sorry, it's a bit catch 22, but there you go. However, CIM runs new modules in the Spring, you might get lucky then."

And that was it. Back looking for a real job now.

Don't even mention the Job Centre to me:

It has to be deliberate, there has to be some policy, some special training to make the people in these places the way they are. You can always tell the new ones, they still look human - they have a pulse and produce a reflection in a mirror. The long serving ones just seem to delight in making your life more difficult.

*MGT OFF THE PRESS! APPARENTLY THIS
VIAL HAS BEEN SAT ROUND FOR OVER
TEN YEARS AND MIGHT BE A LITTLE
page 2 PAST ITS SEL BY DATE!*

Anyway, with me part time work at the AA, continuing dissertation struggle and teaching put on hold until Xmas - it's looking pretty much like business as usual til then. Once I crack the god-damned interview and the AA boots me out (again), I shall just grab any old temp job going, just to get enough dosh for some dripping to put on the dry bread I'll be having for Christmas dinner!

Which means that.....:

Some, (no names, no pack drill), have suggested that my erratic play and communications and general not-on-the-ballness, has been down to some 'cunning plan' in my postal games. Well can I just reassure these folk that I am up to my bottom lip in plop-creek, without a loo-brush and if I have taken my eye off the ball, it's because there are another two dozen heavier, nastier ones heading my way. So sorry, sorry, sorry - attack me if you will and all that, but please do not insult me saying its because I am obviously going to x,y and z.

Good evening - we are the two B's:

That's Bush & Bair, by the way, not bastards, but it's on honest mistake. Those guys never cease to amaze me, really. Here we have the Yanks getting into a two-and-eight in Iraq, they've made a right pigs ear of things in the teeth of UN and world opposition. Ok, fair enough, shit happens, mistakes get made. Bush wants the UN to help out and he goes along to ask for it. Is he repentant? Is he apologetic? Is at all humble? Not a bit of it! He's a total 'Kevin' (a la Harry Enfield) and get's all huffy when Kofi Annan fails to kiss his ass. Well excuse me.

We have a vaguely similar situation at the Labour Party Conference, where it initially looked like Blair was gonna get a bit of a slap. He too comes out fighting and "fuck you" say's he - but blow me down that spineless party of sycophants roll over and play dead, thus letting totally letting him off the hook!

I will never vote for a Labour party lead by Blair and indeed, I may not vote for them ever again, ever anyway. Shit give me the BNP - they might be a bunch of fascists, but if they're honest, at least I'd know where I stand.

Actually, I have to say that the whole political process re Iraq and post 9/11 has caused me to question my whole democratic political outlook. I always advocated voting and taking part in the system, blah, blah, blah. Now I kinda feel that it is a complete waste of time.

And it just gets worse:

The fairly recent news is the interim results of the search for WMD's in Iraq. Five months, 1,200 experts and \$300million and they've come up with a lot of huff and puff and, wait for it, one small vial of a material that could also be used in cosmetic surgery.

Well, many tens of thousands of Iraqi lives, a few hundred Brits and Yanks, plus thousands more injured, plus billions wasted and the world a significantly less secure place and it all seems worth the effort then...

If I were in the forces, or a relative of some-one in the forces, or good heaves, the relative of

some decent soul in forces killed in Iraq, I would be fucking annoyed. Hell, I am none of the above, but I am still fucking annoyed, so goodness knows how those people must feel. I was bitterly opposed to the Falklands war, but I could at least see some kind of reason for it. (In case you should think me a professional war-opposer, I was not against the first war on Iraq!)

One bit of good news:

Only one bit recently, namely Brent East and the Lib-dems booting out the Neo-con-Labour party. I even half fancied the Lib Dems in government after that, they cannot surely be any worse than what we have had from the other two? However, I know it's probably just a minor glitch, but I shall just enjoy the moment.

Time Generals:

Anyway, back to fantasy. I'm gonna stick my neck out and, pop my head above the parapet and say that I quite like this programme. Ok, so it's not perfect and there are a few irritating things about it. But on the whole it is one of the few things I look forward to on the telly.

I missed one episode, which was annoying, but my fault. I like the idea and it's one of those few things where I would like to have a go!

I am a little bothered that all the progs I've seen involve the 'Romans' and so I would quite like to see a battle that does not involve them. I know that it is not history per se, but I do think that it's a pretty enjoyable and interesting piece of 'what if'. I would certainly like some feedback from the games playing fraternity.

Late breaking news:

I suddenly remembered that I had a couple of Game End Statements to do and it seems like a good idea to bung them in this shorter issue. Also before they get even too far out of date. I now have another column to fill...

Don't worry, even though I saw that Panorama prog on Guantanamo Bay last night AND the Israeli's bombed Syria, I will say no more about it. No more spank the yank this issue.

(Otherwise I'll be carted off the Guantanamo Bay with a sack over my head!)

Other shocking news:

Don't worry it is a complete change of subject and for those who know me, it is a shock - brace yourself; I have started reading, "Lord of the Rings" - serious music!!

I know that I have been less than complimentary in the past, but there are several reasons for my drastic action. I was getting left out of a lot of family discussions, me being in the 25% of the clan who had not read the thing. Natch the films have had a big impact in generating a bit of curiosity about the 'source'. I did wonder if I were missing some great thing, that I did not appreciate as a teenager, but now in my twilight years it might appeal.

There was also the small matter of not being able to sleep. I guess it's been down to the general

stress and strain of twenty-odd years of working life and financial security suddenly disappearing. Ok, perhaps 'suddenly' is not the right word in so far as I had around three years direct warning and up to a couple of other years, general, it's not looking too rosy right now lads. Anyway, I figured that a big, fat, long, possibly boring book might aid in the trip to snooze land.

Ok - amidst the sounds of the dyed-in-the-wool hobbits smashing their beer bottles against the legs of their tables, I had to report that it has actually worked very well. In the month, give-or-take that I have been reading "The Fellowship" I have fallen asleep much better. It beats the newspaper - which given my attitude to world events is probably understandable.

I have also to report that on the whole, I have enjoyed the tale. It is good to be able to compare it to the film. I can certainly understand why most of the changes that were done, were done - but there do seem one or two bits that I would have liked to see in. The most irritating thing - tell a lie, the second most irritating thing, is the fiddling small pages with a tiny map on each that I keep referring back to. Being a bit of a map-muppet, (like most gamers), I would like to have a big, colour easy to read jobbie - I can glance at to get my bearings.

And 'the most irritating thing? Tom Bombadil of course! Omigod - talk about the Jar-Jar Binks of the Middle Earth! I am damn glad that he did not get into the films and exposure to that character has given me a bit more respect for the hobbits.

I am gonna start "Two Towers" tomorrow. I should have finished them all before the final film comes out at Christmas.

Other stuff:

That's it for this issue folks. Sorry if I'm been a bit of a snappy dog this time. Put it down to what ever you like. I hope to get this thing out in good time, but I am now at the mercy of the post office.

I hope that next time I will have solved me dissertation problems and maybe I'll even have the job sitch under better control. I'm also gonna have to try and get myself sorted out MidCon wise, this new committee is all very well, but more organisation for me!

That'll do for now - see you next time.

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2003

Con Corner

South Hants Hobby meet: Is set for Sunday 12th Oct 2003 at around 10 o'clock at Richards. Contact me for further details.

North Hants Hobby meet: I'll try and arrange something for next month.

MidCon: 14th - 16th Nov, Thistle Birmingham City Hotel. £12 registration fee to Jeremy Tullett, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR.

OxCon: Jan 24th and 25th 2004. With Dip on Saturday and Settlers and Lost Cities on the Sunday, at The Mitre on the High Street. Contact: Richard.huzzey@st-annes.ox.ac.uk

THE TCP 116 LETTER COL

TCP: It's deadline day damn it and offerings are about as numerous as WMD's in Iraq! Step right up John and say your piece...

John Wilman (feels the spirit):

For the rationalist who does not believe in 'life after death' (a contradiction in terms), there are only two possible explanations for the mystery of the empty tomb.

Either the body of Christ was somehow removed, and an impostor convinced Doubting Thomas, or Christ was not killed outright during his crucifixion. The latter possibility is explored in a book called, "The Passover Plot", for those interested in such things.

I'm surprised that Alan was previously able to pronounce with such authority BEFORE he had read and compared all four gospels, but then perhaps I shouldn't be...

TCP: No, I don't think you should be John. You know something, I don't even remember this debate last time? I often think that there are two versions of TCP, one that I send out to the readers and another which I read myself.

Allan Gordon (with unsurprising news):

You may be interested to hear that the Williams/Gordon entente didn't last very long. Normal disservice is now resumed.....

TCP: That's a relief - I don't think that I could cope with your guys being nice to each other. It's just not natural. I'm just disappointed that Richard hasn't written to me with his own version of the resumption of hostilities. My own theory is that it's something to do with the footie season.

More Allan more provocation:

You may have noticed no paper-clip this time. I've been told there are tales of Postal Delivery men parking round a quiet corner and checking through their stack. Anything containing an obvious paper-clip is regarded as a good bet for money content... regardless of whether this turns out to be the case, the letter is obviously trashed anyway. Could be a load of horse-manure, but I'm not taking any chances... so - so no more paperclips!

TCP: There goes my thriving second hand paperclip business! No worries Allan, although I had never heard that tale myself, it is possible. You could of course send a cheque rather than note-of-the-realm?

Mike Dommett (with some provocation too):

I think you'll find letters in yellow crayon can be quite hard to decipher. And don't some of your subscribers eat the crayons?

Difficult to say if the heat wave is likely to recur. What we could be doing is looking to use less energy, and use it more efficiently, but since we won't be around to sort out the mess, why bother. Maybe a deus ex machina will help us out.

You are right, I was playing in Cut and Thrust from some early date, and joined TCP. I started in 1982 when I went to Sudan, and f-t-f became impractical.

TCP: Indeed, I have been asked to include a warning on the front cover to the effect that TCP was not suitable for anyone with a mental age under three.

There was an article in the paper this week to the effect that Oil and Gas was gonna run out in the next 10-20 years. Almost worth waiting for just to see the Yanks collapse into a heap.

I did not joint C+T until about 1990, or 1991. It was as a Turkish stand-by in "Holy Roman Empire". I replaced that chap who had a brain tumour (and sadly eventually died). Shame on me that I can't remember his name. But I suppose that the fact I encountered, you, Stretchy, Keyf and Mike Head for the first time explains that.

More Mike (noting my confusion):

I think that you confused me with Richard Young on page 6 of TCP 115. Which of us should worry, I'm not sure. If he looks like me, then we can both come round and talk to you. He remembers of course that the British Empire initially just wanted to ensure trade - and kept small enclaves for this purpose, and got drawn into annexations later. America has had an empire for some time, but managed to wipe out the inhabitants for practical purposes, which meant that there wasn't any worry about winds of change. Does he think that the Chinese empire will succeed in its efforts to annex all areas that may have been under Chinese rule under a dynasty at some point. (Just think how much the UK would control on their basis - most of France for starters)

TCP: I agree - I felt that the Yanks have had an empire for some while. Ok, so it is not quite in the same mould as the Roman, or whatever empire. It is obviously only in the past few years that the mask has sort of slipped and it's looking rather less, err, 'civilized' than before. I would like to see the Native Americans get back all the land that was nicked off them. Perhaps just leave the original 13 colonies as the USA. Oh yeah, perhaps California could be another country in its own right.

Mike now wades into Alan's biblical bits:

Alan Frost's comments on the bible are one interpretation. I don't know if he's reading it in Greek, or merely taking the English words, and giving them a meaning that wasn't intended - the confusion of the Greek for young woman and virgin has meant the belief of many that Mary, mother of Jesus, is forever virgin, and never had sexual relations with anyone. (Specially when the bible talks of Jesus having brothers and sisters)

TCP: Hey, I remember making those observations (to myself) as a wee lad many

years ago! I could understand why it might be important for Jesus to have been conceived, not of man - but I did not understand why it was necessary for Mary to be forever a virgin?

And Mike continues...:

I don't think the story of the books piled in the church seems likely. There's a lot of New Testament apocrypha about - gospels attributed to Peter, to Nicodemus, to Mary, to Thomas, and writings by early Christian fathers from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. It is in these that you get the accounts of the virgin Mary's body being bodily taken up to heaven after she died - the dogma of the bodily assumption - mind you, three other people are recorded as being taken direct to heaven in the bible without having to die first, so she's not that special. You also have the stories of Jesus summoning bears to rip children apart who teased him, and the story of Veronica giving Jesus a cloth to wipe his face on as he went to be crucified, he wiped his face on it, and his picture was left on the cloth (one of the stations of the cross in the RC church). There's a lot too in the pseudo gospels that is Gnostic, that is, that special knowledge, and special words and spells will take you into a deeper level of holiness. The selection of gospels left are reasonably consistent, given that they appear to have been written for differing audiences - the ones omitted aren't - though they include similar passages to the four generally accepted, they tend to have too much that resembles the early life stories told of nearly all religious leaders - little birds made of clay flying away.

Revelation, Jude, and James I think were not admitted as Canonical, that is books accepted as holy writ, for some time after the others - another reason for doubting the story of the books. There's a lot of Old Testament apocrypha as well (hope your spell check does better than mine). The RC and Jews both have more books in their Old Testaments than the CoFE and other protestant churches, and there are still other writings.

The other church writings - the letters of Polycarp, for instance, were accepted by the early churches as being good for instruction, but not divinely inspired.

A fair amount of the problems with the bible writings, in that they were probably written by people long after the event, stems from the apparent belief of early Christians that Jesus was coming back in their lifetimes - in the first century. Because it became obvious that he hadn't (or if he did it wasn't noticed) the church had to explain and record, using people's recollections for the gospels, and the then religious leaders letters.

Ist Peter, for instance, could have been written - or dictated by the apostle. It's in coarse Greek and a direct style, which appears to match the gospel's image of Peter (for RC's, note that Peter admits to mistakes, even after the crucifixion, and he has a wife. And he was the first Pope, to whom all subsequent Popes call themselves heirs. Why Popes have to be celibate and able to speak infallibly is a mystery to me). 2nd Peter is written in a scholarly style, long words, and was almost certainly by someone else.

The idea that where Jesus' teaching diverges from Orthodox Judaism it closely resembles

Buddhism seems odd. If you accept Jesus' existence - or at least that someone with his name existed, and that if the words attributed to him are reasonably accurate, I think you can only then say he was who he said he was, or he was mad. As Alan says, he's taken to be a great prophet by Islam, second only to Mohammed, but Islam says that a lot of his sayings reported in the bible - any that claim divinity - are misreported or made up.

TCP: I can't really contribute to this, you knowledge of such things is way more than mine. I have to say that I feel that one of the strengths of Islam is that the majority of its followers are reading the Koran in the original language whilst Christians have to contend with a number of ancient languages and transcriptions over centuries. With a whole bunch of political stuff going on in between.

Mike moves on:

I heard someone on the radio say "If George Bush needs 80 million dollars to reconstruct Iraq, why doesn't he reduce the tax cuts for the rich in America by 20%, and spend that money, rather than ask the UN to bail him out. And then I think "bail us out too". Tony Blair, and the Tories too, trooping in to follow America. We could have given the UN inspectors the time that the inspectors said that they needed, kept the pressure on with the troops in position, and if it had then become necessary to fight a war we would have the UN, a coalition of nations - yes, UK, Australia, USA is a coalition, but it's not got many countries in it, and Mr Rumsfeld made it clear that he didn't need the UK and Australia in February when he said that the USA would go it alone. It was the Liberal Democrats position, and mine too.

TCP: In recent days, we have heard that the special team sent to Iraq to find the WMD's have yielded, to all intents and purposes, bugged all. Very, very slowly we seem to be seeing a groundswell of opinion turning against the, 'coalition'. What with that and Hutton etc, either the intelligence of the two most powerful Western nations was utter bollocks, or the politicians of said countries are a bunch of lying c**s. I know which option my money is one.

And more Mike:

If we accept that regime change is good, can we have suggestions on what should be unacceptable behavior by a country that allows regime change? Should we lay down some guidelines?

We - the world in general - carry out a lot of regime change. Think Chile in the 1970's, Iraq 1954 ish, Iran and the Shah, Nicaragua - though that one failed, Cetawayo in the 1870's, Congo 1963, Czechoslovakia 1948, all the places where countries have used their secret services or armies to overthrow an existing government and replace it by one they like better. There's a preponderance of US actions above, but I could add lots and lots more and many more countries if someone feels this is too anti American.

TCP: Don't worry - we like anti-American here. (I'm talking government and selfish anti-world policies, not the ordinary folk who are no worse than anyone else.) Again,

in the paper during the war months, it listed 50 or 60, mostly poor third world countries that had been bombed by America since the Second World War. Rogue State or what?

And the final Mike:

What does the wise woman or king do in this werewolf game?

TCP: Each turn he/she gets to ask the GM if a given individual is a werewolf or not. Armed with firm knowledge, he/she can then try and direct the debate accordingly.

Alan Frost (swoops in):

The Atkins diet progresses and has switched my thinking to a whole new line. One of the consequences of a low-fibre diet is, of course, constipation. The next time some mindless feminist, bemoaning the fact that only women can give birth (don't bother, madam, we don't want your genes spread about), asks me if I can imagine what it's like to pass a cannon-ball, I can truthfully answer, "Yes." (Digression: do you know a nine-letter word starting with N and ending with N meaning "constipation"? Answer at the end.)

Anyway, the result is that I'm single-handedly propping up the senna industry. This has a curious effect: you take the tablets at night and then, sometime the next morning, there's a short window when your bowels work. (At least, that's how it works with me.) If you don't go immediately, the urge goes away and you have to wait until tomorrow. Thus, the euphemism for going to the toilet in our house has become, "I'm going to seize the moment." (It might have been "do it in the window", I suppose.)

Well, this got me thinking about the phrases we use to describe crapping. (I'm not sure if "crapping" is original, either. It may have simply been a happy co-incidence that Thomas Crapper invented the WC or, I suppose, if the thunder box was called the "crapper", it's easy to see how one would assume that one would crap in it. I can't be bothered to look it up.) Obviously, we can go for a "poo", and I've heard "plopper" used, too (oddly enough, usually when using a potty, although surely "plopper" assumes that it's falling into water.) A "Number 2" is, I suppose, assuming that a Number 1 is a piss. Likewise, "biggies", as opposed, I presume, to "littlies" or "Wee" (in the sense "small").

The best I've come across is "go for a tenshie." Evidently this came about because, as a small child, the speaker thought he'd been trained to say, "I want a tension." (Think about it. It makes a lot of sense.) I also knew somebody who used to say he was going for an "aerial flight", although I've no idea why.

This seems to mine a rich vein. What euphemisms have the readers come across?

The answer? Nnnnnnnnnn....

TCP: Alan - you get worse! Is the obsession with bodily functions an Anglo-Saxon thing I wonder or is there a similar vein of humour in all cultures and societies?

Anyway, talking diets, there really are some huge creatures around these days. It just really can't be healthy or comfortable surely? (oops, Al, I hope that you aren't a wobble-bot?)

More Al (Umpires Empires):

Richard Young on empires: As usual, Richard has only taken the thoughts half way. He opposes empires because:

a) They don't last and the chaos afterwards is worse than the empire. Well, there are two answers to that:

(i) Is the chaos worse than the chaos before the empire? If not, the empire has done no harm

(ii) Is the reduced chaos during the empire enough to balance the increased chaos afterwards?

I think, if you take this line of argument, you'd end up never doing anything good or pleasant because of the misery when you stopped. It's like refusing to go on holiday because you'll feel worse when you have to go back to work. Or like refusing to give to famine relief because when you stop the buggers will starve anyway. (Mind you, I'm right alongside that one.) We're all going to die, so why have any fun in between? Top yourself now, Richard.

b) They result in the destruction of the mother country. Only sometimes. Britain is still here 50 years on and life for the average Briton is a good deal better than it was under the Empire (although perhaps we're not relatively so well off compared with the "subject races") Turkey and Austria are still around nearly 100 years after they lost theirs. Even Rome trundled on for a long time as a very wealthy city (as part of a barbarian empire, by the way) and is still a major city today, while Italy is one of the 10 richest countries and always has been. I don't think the sack of Rome was any more violent than, say, the London Blitz.

c) They are maintained by violence. (Perhaps he meant established by violence. True, often, but so are many things.) Well, so are all political entities in the last analysis. However, this one is susceptible to statistical analysis if anyone can be bothered. (If we're talking about police brutality, as opposed to warfare, I think there's no contest. Look at the level of state violence in Iraq or Burma or Zimbabwe or...and compare it to the level when those unruly states were part of empires.) Are the frequency and/or intensity of warfare greater in or out of empires? The only problem is the scarcity of records from before empires because they tend not to be kept in the chaos and violence. To take a simple example: How common was violence in Africa before the British conquered their bit? Well, it was endemic. Tribes raided one another annually and there would be frequent full-scale wars that caused huge numbers of refugees to wander over the land like locusts until they fell into cannibalism and finally starved. How common afterwards? Actually, almost non-existent, unless you include the Boer War, where, admittedly, the Boers thought of themselves as a subject people and they are, arguably, an African tribe with a longer history than Zulus, Basutos, Mashonas and so on. What about the wars that established British rule? Numerous, but not more so than what went on

before. The chaos today is no worse than the chaos before. How about India? Same story, except that, even with all the troubles over there, the sub-continent is rather more peaceful and prosperous today than it was when the British arrived, which rather contradicts (a) and (b) above. (Let me anticipate the objection that British India was frequently at war: true, but, apart from the Mutiny, all the fighting was at the then frontier against what, at the time, were external enemies who were, for the most part, absorbed and became peaceful.-To the extent that my daughter's bridesmaid next week is a Sikh. She is the Australian's ideal woman: beautiful, wealthy and, believe it or not, her father owns a pub!) It's impossible to say whether, had the imperial powers not taken over, Africa would have taught itself to be peaceful but there's no reason to suppose that it would, is there?

- d) That empires destroy native cultures. I'm not sure that's a bad thing, anyway. What's so great about native cultures? If, as our pc masters insist today, every culture is of equal value, then what does it matter which culture you have? Away with all the rest and let's impose ours. I don't want to have to learn a new one because I'm too lazy but I can't see that it would do me any harm. Of course, all cultures are not equal, are they? Some are pretty evil by any independent standard and should be overthrown. Or do we believe that human sacrifice is OK?

My basic claim remains: Empires vary in goodness, as do any political organisations but, on average, it would be hard to show that they are worse than non-empires and there's a great deal of evidence to show that they are better. Nothing's perfect. The thing is that an American Empire would probably become a world empire. Without external threats, it would be much more difficult to destroy than previous ones and, barring little green men, would only collapse from internal problems. Likely to be quite long-lived, then. Of course, nothing lasts forever. Read Kipling's *Requiem*, which is a rather good view of imperial humility. On the whole, I think he'd be quite happy about the state of Britain today, despite his amazement at the time-scale of the Empire's dissolution.

TCP: Oh, bloody hell Alan, now you are depressing me... Still, I don't believe it, I don't believe that the American Empire can last more than a few decades. Once the Oil runs out, once the Global warming causes chaos and death and destruction - what then for the 'free market'? I'm gonna have to find a joke to end on, a really dirty one too, just to cheer myself up!

TCP: Here we go and thanks once again to Pete Duxon;

Things you would never know without the movies:

During all police investigations it will be necessary to visit a strip club at least once.

All beds have special L-shaped cover sheets which reach up to the armpit level on a woman but only to waist level on the man lying beside her.

All grocery shopping bags contain at least one stick of French bread.

It's easy for anyone to land a plane providing there is someone in the control tower to talk you down.

Once applied, lipstick will never rub off -

The ventilation system of any building is the perfect hiding place. No-one will ever think of looking for you in there and you can travel to any other part of the building you want without difficulty.

If you need to reload your gun, you will always have more ammunition - even if you haven't been carrying any before now.

You're very likely to survive any battle in any war unless you make the mistake of showing someone a picture of your sweetheart back home.

Should you wish to pass yourself off as a German officer, it will not be necessary to speak the language. A German accent will do.

If your town is threatened by an imminent natural disaster or killer beast, the mayor's first concern will be the tourist trade or his forthcoming art exhibition.

The Eiffel Tower can be seen from any window in Paris.

A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.

If a large pane of glass is visible, someone will be thrown through it before long.

All telephone numbers in America begin with the digits 555.

If being chased through town, you can usually take cover in a passing St. Patrick's Day parade - at any time of the year.

When paying for a taxi, don't look at your wallet as you take out a bill - just grab one at random and hand it over. It will always be the exact fare.

Interbreeding is genetically possible with any creature from the universe.

Kitchens don't have light switches. When entering a kitchen at night, you should open the fridge door and use that light instead.

If staying in a haunted house, women should investigate any strange noises in their most revealing underwear.

Mothers routinely cook eggs, bacon and waffles for their family every morning even though their husband and children never have time to eat it.

Cars that crash almost always burst into flames.

The Chief of Police will always suspend his star detective - or give him 48 hours to finish the job.

A single match will be sufficient to light up a room the size of Wembley Stadium.

Medieval peasants had perfect teeth.

Although in the 20th century it is possible to fire weapons at an object out of our visual range, people of the 23rd century will have lost this technology.

Any person waking from a nightmare will sit bolt upright and pant.

It is not necessary to say hello or goodbye when beginning or ending phone conversations.

Even when driving down a perfectly straight road it is necessary to turn the steering wheel vigorously from left to right every so often.

All bombs are fitted with electronic timing devices with large red readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off.

It is always possible to park directly outside the building you are visiting.

A detective can only solve a case once he has been suspended from duty.

If you decide to start dancing in the street, everyone you bump into will know all the steps.

Most laptop computers are powerful enough to override the communication systems of any invading alien civilization.

It does not matter if you are heavily outnumbered in a fight involving martial arts - your enemies will wait patiently to attack you one by one by dancing around in a threatening manner.

When a person is knocked unconscious by a blow to the head, they will never suffer a concussion or brain damage.

No-one involved in a car chase, hijacking, explosion, volcanic eruption or alien invasion will ever go into shock.

Police Departments give their officers personality tests to make sure they are deliberately assigned a partner who is their total opposite.

When they are alone, all foreigners prefer to speak English to each other.

You always find a chainsaw when you need one.

Any lock can be picked by a credit card or a paper clip in seconds - unless it's the door to a burning building with a child trapped inside.

An electric fence, powerful enough to kill a dinosaur will cause no lasting damage to an eight year old child.

Television news bulletins usually contain a story that affects you personally at that precise moment.

TCP: That's it for this issue. For anyone who is interested, this issue was put together to the sounds of Marilyn Manson, "Age of the Grotesque", Sepultura, "Chaos AD" and Grebo, "Grebo" (a local mob.)

D108 Game End statement

Started: Oct'2001 in Dolchstoss, transferred to TCP 105, in Jun'2002 (at Spring 1902) and the draw was agreed in TCP 113, Jun'2003. A: John Bramwell, E: Alan Powis, F: Tony Sait, G: Dave Clynes, I: Rosie Roberts, R: Sam Lowe and T: Guy Kent.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	Results
A	4	5	6	6	7	8		Drew
E	5	4	5	6	8	8		Drew
F	5	6	7	9	9	10		Drew
G	5	5	4	2	1	0		D A03
I	4	6	6	7	7	7		Drew
R	6	5	3	1	0	-	-	D A03
T	4	3	3	3	2	1		D A05

Italy (Rosie Roberts):

I've just looked back at the correspondence for this game, I see that I wrote and received 81 e-mails and about 20 letters. That's about 2/3 of the figures for the previous game which ran three times as long. The correspondence was rather more repetitive, though, because John B and I were generally in agreement and everybody else turned down my suggestions out of hand. To begin with I made friendly overtures in all directions, as one does, and got friendly non-committal replies from almost all sides. Our spectacular Lepanto began as a suggested standoff between Ven and Tri; I gradually managed to wear John down to the point where he didn't stand me off. In the end it worked quite well and the position was looking reasonably promising until R and G dropped out. On the face of it, John and I were very nicely placed to clean up, but most unfortunately E and F decided to drop everything and come over to take their share of the booty, which they did so efficiently that they cornered our share as well. We fought them off quite well for a while, but then I dropped us in it by forgetting to build and that undoubtedly tipped the scale. I'm sure they could easily have held out for the 2-way draw they so richly deserved. Thanks for the game, chaps, particular thanks to John for interpreting and even believing my confused ramblings, and thanks to Neil for understudying Richard so ably.

Neil Duncan (GM)

Sorry about this Rosie, I held on, but the other players are just not gentlemen I guess. Alas it seems a sad reflection on the game itself. Two players never sent in any orders once the game transferred and a third dropped out leaving 'perpetual orders' (which I allowed on the grounds that I did not want to skew the game any more!) I got the codswallop of, "Well, I was only playing in the game out of friendship to Richard..." If any of those drop outs were still around now that would learn that I continued to send game reports of D108 to Richard (until his death) and I don't suppose he was very impressed by them at all! So I was sad that this game did not really survive the transfer from Dolchstoss, but thank the four for continuing and Rosie for the GES.

Titanic Game End statements

Started: Jan'2000 in TCP 81, draw agreed in TCP 114, Jul'2003. A: Gary Rolfe, E: Bob Wills, F: Tony Sait, G: Ivan Woodward, I: Mark Underhay, R: Steve Grainger and T: Mike Dommett.

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
A	4	3	4	3	3	1	0	-	-
E	4	4	3	3	4	5	6	7	7
F	5	6	5	5	5	6	6	7	8
G	5	6	7	7	5	3	2	0	-
I	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	2
R	5	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	6
T	5	7	7	7	8	10	11	11	11

	10	11	12	13	14	15	
A	-	-	-	-	-	-	X A07
E	8	9	12	13	12	12	Drew
F	8	8	10	10	11	11	Drew
G	-	-	-	-	-	-	X A08
I	1	0	-	-	-	-	X A11
R	5	4	1	1	1	1	Dropped out S12
T	12	13	11	10	10	10	Drew

England (Bob Wills):

This was the first time I'd played 'Gunboat'. I initially thought it would be an interesting variation on the game, but quickly changed my mind to, "it makes a difficult thing impossible!" One is still faced with the dilemmas of Dip strategies, but now it's impossible to build up any rapport with other players to take the guesswork out of it. Communication through 'press' is always too late to do any worthwhile co-ordination.

As England, I decided that my initial object was just to avoid the usual English downfalls. I think these are;

- (1) The StP cul-de-sac - where England gets to StP but gets no further and then has to use more than one unit to defend one centre.
- (2) Isolation - bought about by having no friends and not being able to get a foothold in the low Countries.
- (3) Leaving the back door open - being stabbed by France via Irish Sea.

I tried to deal with (1) and (2) by basically offering friendship to everyone. I told Russia that I didn't want StP and proposed sharing Nwy/Swe. I told France I wanted to DMZ ENG and IRI. I made a beeline for Bel.

This seemed to work quite well, except that, during some initial problems with Germany, Russia saw a chance to grab both Nwy and Swe. However, Germany and Russia fought amongst themselves too and, since I

had a quiet border with France, I was able to grab Scandinavia for myself. After that, I really had to carry on and take StP, and most of the German centres became mine by default. I took advantage of this by trying to land armies on the continent as often as I could, but I was always weak in that department.

At the same time, relations with France were 'just Ok'. I had occupied Bel with a fleet, hoping that France wouldn't find that threatening. He wanted Bel for himself, but giving it up would have meant a real worry about (3), and I wouldn't have had the freedom to delve into Central Europe so much. I pointed out that an army in Bel was a threat to him, but a fleet in Bel was really no worse than one in NTH, and I think he was fairly convinced.

The game finally broke when it became obvious that France, Turkey and I were the three big powers. I couldn't make headway against Turkey because of my lack of armies. If I only fought one of them, I would be giving the win to the other. Therefore, it was time to 'stab' France, and he could see that as well as I could. I think the three of us quickly convinced ourselves that, with 'all against all', no one was making headway. After a couple of turns of confusing voting. I thank the all other players for an enjoyable game.

Turkey (Mike Dommett):

Well, the initial idea of attacking Russia, taking Sevastopol, and then heading west through Austria seemed to start off well, but then I sent in orders for a different game, which was not so good an idea. Those orders didn't take effect in the game I wasn't playing in, and meant an NMR in Titanic. Having holed myself below the waterline so to speak, I had a France busy explaining how I should be the object of everyone's derision, standing there holding the pistol and shooting the 3rd class passengers. As the hordes slammed into me, I came to life, knowing that this was a tradition of the facts, and held the frog's little alliance to a stop. The perfidious Albion did his usual trick and stabbed France but I helped France to survive and the game to end in a draw. Thanks to Neil for putting up with my erratic ordering

Neil Duncan (GM):

Thanks to Bob and Mike for that and shame on Mr Sait for his silence! Not a lot to say really. I believe that Titanic was the last postal games of mark Underhay and Gary Rolfe. I mention that only because Mark was a very long standing subber of TCP and Gary lives in Basingstoke! Re Bob's press comment - I think the way to do it is to supply conditional press!! Anticipate an outcome, good or bad and instruct the GM!



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TCP 116

MACHIAVELLI

VALOIS Summer 1461

Note: The map showed the Venetian unit in Verona not Vicenza; secondly, the Turkish F(Pisa) converted to a garrison not an army – the map was correct.

I had Dalm owned by both Turks and Naples last time, it is Turkish, of course.

AUSTRIA: John Marsden, 91 Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS

Expenditure: Treasury: 8½

EMA(Prov)-Turi, A(Aust)-Tyro, F(Geno)-Mode

Home: -AUST, HUNG, TYRO, -Cari, Swis, AVIG, MARS, Prov

Conq: SALU, -Sard, Cors, GENO, MODE

Cities: 9

Income available after Autumn moves: 29d

NAPLES: Neil Duncan, 25 Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 8SS

Expenditure: Give 1d to Turks (Owes 15d Aut 61 & 23d in Spr 63) Treasury: 0d

EMA(Croa)-Carn, A(Herz)-Croa, F(LAD) S F Anco-UAD, F(Anco)-UAD, A(Flor)-Roma, A(Sien)-Flor

Home: NAPL, BARI, MESS, -PALE, Aquì, Capu, Otra, Sale, Patr, ROME, PERU, Spol, Roma, ANCO, -BOLO

Conq: Tivo, AREZ, Urbi, Bosn, -RAGU, Herz, SIEN, FLOR, Croa, Carn

Cities: 11

Income available after Autumn moves: 40½d

TURKS: Steve Cox, 71 Hazelhurst Crescent, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1XB

Expenditure: Receives 1d from Naples Treasury: 1d

G(Pisa) convert A, F(WMS)-Sard, A(Alba)-Ragu, F(Dalm) C Naples A Herz-Croa

Home: TUNI, ALBA, DURA, -Bosn. -Herz

Conq: PISA, PALE, PIOM, SAVO, Dalm, Sard, RAGU

Cities: 10

Income available after Autumn moves: 23½d

VENICE: Mike Pollard, 1a Cochrane Road, LONDON SW19 3QP

Expenditure: (Owes 27d Sum 62 & 11d Spr 63)

Treasury: 0

A(Mila)-Como, EMA(Pavi)-Turi, A(Slav)-Aust, A(Vice)-Friu, F(LGN) S F UAD, F(UAD) S A Mode-Bolo, A(Mode)-Bolo

Home: VENI, -DALM, PADU, TREV, -Berg, Bres, Friu, Istr, Vero, Vice

Conq: FERR, Cari, TREN, Slav, -Carn, CREM, MANT, BOLO, MILA, Parm, -TYRO, Pian, Forn, MONT, TURI, PAVI, -MODE, AUST Cities: 13
Milan is now conquered and becomes part of Venetian homeland.

Income available after Autumn moves: 39d

Famine: 3,6 Bad Year. Row 1,3; Column 1,6

Famine in Tivo, Otra, Padu, Swis, Crem, Pont, Herz, Aust, Pist, Forn, Turi, Bosn, Avig

Press

Acme Assessors: Concerned about your security arrangements? Don't trust your bodyguard? Our experts can carry out a thorough survey that will let you rest in peace. Invite us in!

PAX BRITANNICA

Run on the following website...

www.geocities.com/shaunderrickuk/PaxBuk.html

Britain: John Guthrie

France: Doug Massie

Germany: Ned McIver

Italy: Keith Bowen

Japan: Michael Parkhurst

Russia: Albert Boada

USA: Kevin Street

1884

Eventually got going after a long delay. British expansion was subdued, but he took Tanganyika and the Cameroon which was also invaded by Germany! Germany gained a foothold in Egypt with British consent. The only conflicting placements were in Tanganyika – where the French Influence was placed giving him a Casus Belli against Britain; and Cameroon which will probably end up as a co-dominion.

France requested a Congress of Europe in St Petersburg, and all Great Powers are in attendance. The proposals are I and the votes are due any time now!

COLONIAL DIPLOMACY

FIJI

1900

BRITISH: Alan Poulter, Dolphin Cottage, Dolphinstone, East Lothian EH33 1NH (email: groggnard@groggnard.com)

F(Con)-Rum, F(MED)-Syr, F(PG)-Bag, F(Bom)-ARA.S, F(Mad) & F(Cey) S F GOM-GOM, F(WIO)-GOM, A(Ben) MS A(Nep), A(Kar) MS A(Pun)

CHINA: John Wilman, 12 Ladybridge Street, Arbroath DD11 1AR (email: jqwilman@lineone.net)
A(Akm)-Tas, A(Kam)-Afg, A(Tib)-Kag, A(Mon)-Sik*, A(Ass)-Sik, A(U.Bur)-Ran, A(Cam)-Ban,

A(Nan) & A(Pek) S A Lan-Sha, A(Lan)-Sha,
F(Can)-Ton

DUTCH: Chris Latimer, 79 Chapel Street, Pelsall,
Walsall WS3 4LW (email: private_joke@hotmail.com)
F(GOA)-Aden, F(SIO)-WIO, F(EIO)-Cey, F(GOM)-
Mad, F(AS)-BOB, F(SCS)-HK, F(Ann)-SCS, F(LS)
S F Ann-SCS, F(For) std, F(MP) S F For, F(Coc)
std, F(Banec)-GOS

JAPAN: Steve Cox, 71 Hazelhurst Crescent, Horsham,
West Sussex RH12 1XB (email:
Coxsteve@btopenworld.com)

A(Sak)-Nan, F(OS) & F(UP) & F(ECS) C A Sak-
Nan, F(Kyu) S F UP

RUSSIA John Stratford, 27 Farrar Court, The Old
Schoolhouse, Leeds LS13 3SP (email:
john.stratford@freemans.com)
F(Rum)-Con, A(Bok)-Afg, A(Afg)-Kar, A(Tas) S A
Afg-Kar, A(Omsk)-Akm, A(Uru) S A Irk-Mon,
A(Irk)-Mon, A(Vla)-Mac, A(P.Art) S A Vla-Mac,
F(Sha) std*

TURKEY: John Marsden, 91 Westwood Avenue,
Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS (email:
jandcmarsden@iclway.co.uk)
A(Sud)-Egy, A(Arm)-Bag, A(Bag)-Ara, F(Shi) S A
Per, A(Per) std

Retreats: Chinese A(Mon)-Kra; Russian F(Sha)-YS

Adjustments

BRITISH: -Aden, Bom, Del, Mad, -HK, Kar, Ben,
Sud, -Coc, Cey, Con, Ann = 9 GM removes F(Con),
F(Syr)

CHINA: Pek, Can, Sik, Ass, Kag, Kam, Chu, U.Bur,
Ton, May, Ran, -Mon + Sha, Ban = 13 Build A(Sik),
F(Can)

DUTCH: Bor, Java, Sum, Sar, New, Sin, Mal, Dav,
Cebu, Mna, For, -Ban + Aden, HK, Coc = 14 Build
A(Sum), F(Java)

JAPAN: Tok, Kyo, Kyu, Ota, Sak = 5 No change

RUSSIA: Mos, Ode, Omsk, P.Art, Vla, Seo, Fus,
Rum, Mac, -Sha, Tas + Mon = 11 Build A(Mos)
TURKEY: Ang, Bag, Tab, Shi, Per, Egy = 6 Build
F(Bag)

PRESS

Japan to China: Sorry I couldn't reply to your etter,
but little that you say makes any sense and, when it
does, your actions belie your words.

Kingmaker

ZACHARIUS

Summer 1459

Quick key:

NOBLE/Office/Title/Bishop (Troop strength, Commons
votes, Lords votes, City, Towns or Castles owned)
Extra troops in certain areas shown in { } e.g. {2}50 is
50 normal troops and 200 extra according to card.
Extra Commons votes shown {C?} for Offices and Titles
with cities or towns attached.

Relationship matrix... (Friendly, Neutral or Hostile)

	ND	JM	JS	JT	AP
ND	xx	N	H	F	N
JM	H	xx	N	N	F
JS	F	H	xx	F	H
JT	H	N	N	xx	N
AP	N	F	F	H	xx

Neil Duncan: 'The Knights who say Nee'

(TKWSN) 25 Sarum Hill, Basingstoke, Hants RG21
8SS (neil.duncan@theaa.com)

PERCY (100, C2, L3, Alnwick, Cockermouth) /
Treasurer of England (50, Wallingford, Beaumaris)
GREY (20, L1, Chillingham, Rockingham) / Le Swan
Ship of Berwick

HERBERT (10, L1, Llanstephen) / Bristol (C4) / Le
Michael Ship of Bristol

HOLLAND (20, L1, Kimbolton, Compton)

Edmund of Rutland

George of Clarence

Commons: 6 Lords: 6

Percy Beaumaris std

Grey boards Le Michael

Herbert & Edmund of Rutland / George of
Clarence Beaumaris std

Holland WIL-GLO-OXF

Le Michael Beaumaris-CDB-SGC-SEV-Bristol

Le Swan Beaumaris std

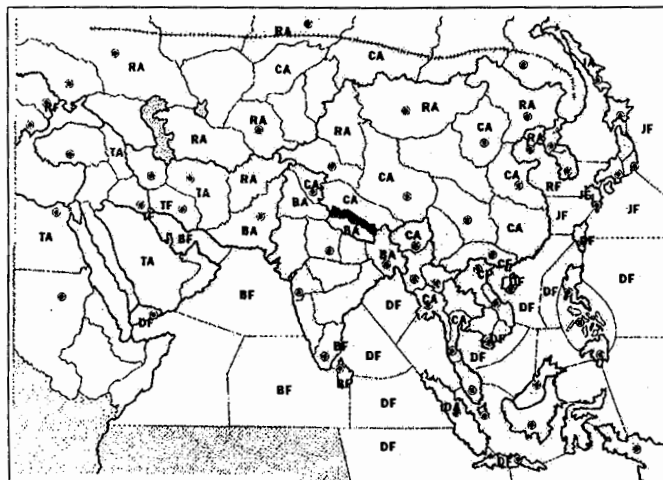
Crown Cards: 8

John Marsden: (ODE) 91 Westwood Avenue,
Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 9RS (email:
jandcmarsden@iclway.co.uk)

FITZALAN (30, C1, L2, Arundel, Chirk) / Le Lucas,
Ship of Whitby

POLE (30, C1, L2, Wingfield) / Scots Archers (20) /
Archbishop of York ({30}, L5, York(C4)) / Flemish
Crossbowmen(20)

HASTINGS (10, L1, Tutbury) / Earl of Kent (C1) /
Scots Archers (20)



Richard of York (Sandal, Stokesay)
Faction ownership: Kenilworth
Commons: 7{27} Lords: 10{20}

Pole & Richard of York(King Richard III)

Wingfield std

Fitzalan Wingfield std

Hastings Wingfield std

♣ **Le Lucas** Ravenser-WAS-DOG-GER-Caister

Crown Cards: 4

John Stratford: 'The Blue Oyster Faction' (BOF)
27 Farrar Court, The Old Schoolhouse, Leeds LS13 3SP
(email: john.stratford@freemans.com)

BERKELEY (10, L1, Berekeley) / Earl of

Worcester(30, C1) / Lieutenant of Ireland ({2}50) /

Archbishop of Canterbury (L7, Canterbury{C3}) /

Saxons (10) / Le Rose, Ship of Plymouth

CLIFFORD (10, L1, Conisborough) / Bishop of

Lincoln (L2, Lincoln{C3}) / Flemish Crossbowmen (20)

/ Saxons(10) /Leicester (C3)

Audley (L1, Tickhill)

Scrope (L1, Masham)

Commons: 10 Lords: 13

Berkeley MER-MGS-SHR-WOR

Clifford MER-MGS-SHR-WOR

Audley MER-MGS-SHR-WOR

Scrope MER-MGS-SHR-WOR

♣ **Le Rose** Preston

Crown Cards: 4 Event Cards: 1 Writ

Jeremy Tullett: Might is Right (MIR) 7 Midland
Place, Derby DE1 2RR email:

Jeremy.D.Tullett@btinternet.com

STAFFORD (30, C1, L2, Leeds, Newcastle) /

Chancellor of England (50, {C20}, Caernarvon) /

Northampton (C3) / Carisbrooke

ROOS (20, L1, Belvoir, Helmsley) / Earl of

Salisbury(30, C1) / Warden of the Cinque Ports (50, C5,

Ships Le Trinity & Le George in Rye, Pevensey) / Bishop

of Norwich (L2, Norwich{C4}) / Coventry (C3)

Margaret of Anjou (Windsor)

Commons: 17 {37} Lords: 5{25}

Stafford & Margaret of Anjou Penzance std (see
combat)

Roos Penzance std (see combat)

♣ **Le Trinity** ATL-Penzance

♣ **Le George** ATL-Penzance

Crown Cards: 8 Event Cards: 2 Writ

*((Jeremy, You can't enter a port, pick up nobles
and move off again in the same turn. A ship
must start a move in the port from where the
nobles are to be embarked. I have checked the
rules on this to be sure as it turns out to be a
significant turn – see Alan's turn and combat))*

Alan Poulter: 'The Falcon Faction' (TFF) Dolphin
Cottage, Dolphingstone, East Lothian EH33 1NH
(email: grogard@grogard.com)

TALBOT(30, C1, L2, Ludlow) / Const of Dover
Castle(50, Dover)

NEVILLE(50 C3, L4, Ogmores, Richmond, Warwick,
Raby) / Chamberlain Co. Pal. Chester({2}50, Rhuddlan,
Chester)

BOURCHIER (10, L1, Pleshy) / Duke of Exeter (20,
L1, Exeter {C3}) / Admiral of England (50, Lynn {C3},

Southampton {C3}, Le Margaret & Le Christopher),
Burgundian Crossbowmen (30)

Edward of Lancaster

Faction ownership: Harlech

Commons: 16 Lords: 8

Talbot on Le Margaret (attack MIR faction – see
combat)

Neville & Edward of Lancaster on Le Christopher
(attack MIR faction- see combat)

Bourchier on board Le Margaret

♣ **Le Margaret** Devon-WEC-ATL-Penzance

♣ **Le Christopher** Devon-WEC-ATL-Penzance

Crown Cards: 3 Event cards: 1 Writ

Combat: TFF faction attacks MIR faction in
Battle of Mousehole – 20 August 1459. TFF has
**290 to MIR 180. Draw 'Majority Victory' no
nobles killed. As the default status is hostile
both Stafford and Roos are executed. Along
with these nobles the Bishop of Norwich,
Northampton, Carisbrooke and Coventry are
returned to the Crown deck. Chancellor of
England, Warden of the Cinque Ports and Earl
of Salisbury are placed in Chancery.
Margaret of Anjou is captured by the TFF
faction**

Autumn 1459

Event: Mercenaries go home. Burgundian
Crossbowmen are returned to Crown deck. Only
Bourchier had any!

Storms at Sea: No-one at sea

Extra Plague: Berwick

Chancery: 8 cards – Const Tower of London, Earl of
Essex, Earl of Westmorland, Chancellor of Duchy of
Lancaster, Warden of the Northern Marches,
Chancellor of England, Warden of the Cinque Ports,
Earl of Salisbury

Crown Cards: Replenished. They will be advised by
email

Royal Heirs: In order of succession

House of Lancaster

1. Margaret of Anjou with TFF in Penzance
2. Edward of Lancaster with TFF in Penzance

House of York

1. Richard III (Duke of York) with ODE in
Wingfield
2. Edmund of Rutland with TKWSN in
Beaumaris
3. George of Clarence with TKWSN in
Beaumaris

Ship capacities are all 100 except Le Trinity and
Le George which are 150. Admiral of England's
ships have a capacity of 200.

Some additional information:

Capacities for Cities, Towns and castles...

Cities: Unlimited capacity / 300 garrison

Towns: 400 capacity / 200 garrison

Royal Castle: 300 capacity / 200 garrison

Castle: 300 capacity / 100 garrison

The Games Section

Raspberry - Std Dip – Au08

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles) BN: 02 BB

Austria (Allan Gordon):

A(Tyr) hold, A(Boh) – Vie, A(Gal) – Ukr, A(Rum) S
A(Gal) – Ukr, A(Bul) – Con, F(Smy) S A(Bul) – Con,
F(Alb) – Gre.

England (Mike Pollard):

F(GOL) S TURK F(Mar), F(Por) – Spanc, F(MAO) S
F(Por) – Spanc, F(ENG) S GERMAN A(Hol) – Bel {nso},
F(NTH) – Hol, F(NWS) – Nwy, F(Nwy) – Swe, F(Den) S
F(Nwy) – Swe.

Germany (Tony Sait):

F(SKA) – Swe, F(BAL) S F(SKA) – Swe, F(HEL) – Kie,
A(Lvn) S A(Sil) – War, A(Sil) – War, A(Hol) S A(Bur) –
Bel, A(Bur) – Bel, A(Bre) hold, A(Gas) S A(Bre).

Italy (Richard Williams): F(TYS) – Tun, F(ION) hold,
A(Pie) – Ven.

Russia (John Marsden):

A(Mos) – StP, A(Ukr) S A(Sev) – Rum, A(Sev) – Rum,
A(Con) – Bul, F(Ank) – Con.

Turkey (Bob Wills): F(Mar) hold.

RETREATS: RUSSIAN A(Con) disbands NRP.

Winter 1907 Adjustments:

A: Tri Vie Bud Ser Gre Bud Rum +Con +Smy 9(7) +F(Tri)
+A(Bud).

E: Lon Lpl Edi Nwy Por -Spa -StP -Tun +Den 6(8)
-F(GOL) -F(NWS).

G: Kie Ber Hol -Den Swe Par Mun Bre Bel War +Spa
10(10) +F(Ber).

I: Ven Rom Nap 4(3) +A(Rom).

R: Mos Sev -Smy Ank -Con +StP 4(5) unit lost.

T: Mar 1(1) no change.

PRESS:

Omar's finger: And it came to pass that the feet of the Romans
became as clay, and as such didst they meld with the earth and
take root. So reviled were these timorous men, that passing dogs
didst their legs and pisseth on the man-trees.

Germany – Turkey: Yet another year on the Riviera.

Germany – Italy/Austria: Are you two at war, or is it another
Gooners penalty miss baiters having handbags at five paces job
with the Scummer centre forward who can't score against
Lichstenstein?

(Message to Biggles): As you requested, was that inflammatory
enough to get things moving?

Biggles – Agent provocateur: Where A&R are concerned, no
prodding is necessary, it's all spontaneous combustion!

Admiral Tirpitz – Admiral Jellicoe: Bugger – should have ordered
the fleet back to port, must have known your silly little boats
would get a lucky hit some time.

Sharp – Std Dip – Au 1902

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles)

Austria (Richard Young): A(Ukr) – Mos, A(Tri) – Ser,
F(Alb) S ITALIAN F(ION) – Gre{nso}, A(Rum) – Bul.

England (Nigel Pepper): A(Yor) – Lpl, F(Nwy) S GER
F(BAL) – Swe{nso}, F(NTH) S F(Lon), F(Lon) hold.

France (Andrew Bryce): A(Wal) – Lpl, F(ENG) S
GERMAN F(Den) – NTH{nso}, F(Bre) – MAO, A(Par) –
Bur, A(Spa) – Mar.

Germany (Mike Domett): A(Bel) hold, A(Ruh) S
A(Mun) – Bur, A(Mun) – Bur, F(Den) S ENGLISH
F(Nwy) – Swe{nso}, F(BAL) S ENGLISH F(Nwy) –
Swe{nso}.

Italy (Tony Sait): A(Pie) – Mar, A(Tun) – Gre, F(ION)
C A(Tun) – Gre, F(TYS) – WMS.

Russia (John Wilman): F(Fin) S F(GOB) – Swe,
F(GOB) – Swe, A(Gal) – Rum, F(Sev) S A(Gal) – Rum.

Turkey (Allan Gordon): F(Smy) – AEG, F(Con) S
F(Smy) – AEG, A(Bul) – Rum, F(BLA) S A(Bul) – Rum,
A(Gre) – Ser.

RETREATS: none.

Winter 1902 Adjustments:

A: Vie Bud Tri Rum +Mos 5(4) +A(Vie).

E: Edi Lpl Lon Nwy 4(4) no change.

F: Par Bre Mar -Bel Spa 4(5) -A(Wal).

G: Mun Ber Kie Hol Den +Bel 6(5) +A(Mun).

I: Rom Nap Ven Tun 4(4) no change.

R: War -Mos StP Sev +Swe 4(4) no change.

T: Con Ank Smy Gre Bul 5(5) no change.

PRESS:

The Grand old Mr Spock, He had 10,000 men,
He beamed them up to the Enterprise,
And he beamed them down again,
When they were up, they were up,
And when they were down, they were down,
And when they were only half way up,
They were neither up or down.
Seems logical Captain.

Germany – Mr Bryce: Has your scheming come to naught? Germany's paranoid, as I recall. Didn't I mention it before? Oops! Mice don't like cheese. They prefer chocolate. And in whose harem is the best chocolate found? Not that the Italians seem interested.

Milord Frou Frou shook his elegant couiffured hair and thought deeply on his dilemma. Was it lawful to eat marzipan on the third Friday in August?

Toni the Ice-cream seller: The Tunis to Piraeus ferry was not exactly the latest thing in luxury, but that's all Toni could afford. The icecream business had not been going too well in North Africa and the mysterious call from Luigi about a "convention of Islamic fundamentalists" in Athens needing refreshment had sounded like a good idea. Now, with water leaking through the porthole, waves punding the side of the ship and a sky looking like melted lead, Toni was not sure. Luigi had better have gotten his marketing right this time.

Italy – France: It appears we are on a potential collision course. That's OK by me, but if you want me to stay out of it, it rather behoves you to write to me first.

Latest Soccer Results: Group A; Stockholm. Germany 2 – Russia 2. Liverpool. France 1 England 1. Strasbourg. Germany 3 France 1. Marseilles. France 1 Italy 1. Group B. Bucharest. Russia 2 Turkey 2. Moscow, Austria 1 Russia 0. Group C. matches in Belgrade and Athens cancelled due to ref not turning up as he's lost his way.

LATE RESULTS: Athens. Italy 1 Turkey 1 and Belgrade. Austria 1 and Turkey 1 – same damn Turkish team too!

The Gorgon: Levelled her petrifying stare at the mortal called 'Biggles' – the muppet persistently spelled her name wrong. Had the man no respect for her sex and fame.

Biggles: Blinded by her reputation for giving good head!

Umm Qasr - Gunboat – Au 1902

GM = Neil Duncan(Biggles)

Austria (Lil' Corporal): A(Vie) – Gal, A(Bud) S
A(Vie) – Gal, F(Alb) – Gre, F(Gre) – Bulsc, A(Ser) S
F(Gre) – Bulsc.

England (Bush's Poodle): A(Wal) – Yor, F(NTH) –
Bel, F(Nwy) S GERMAN F(Swe){unit moving}.

France (Tadpole): F(MAO) – Gas, F(ENG) S
ENGLISH A(Wal) – Lon{nso}, A(Bel) – Bur, A(Par) S
A(Bel) – Bur, A(Mar) S A(Bel) – Bur.

Germany (The Black Watch): F(Swe) – Den, F(BAL)
– Den, A(Hol) S A(Ruh) – Bel, A(Ruh) – Bel, A(Bur) –
Mar.

Italy (Lampedusa): F(ION) S F(TYS) hold, F(TYS) S
F(ION), A(Tyr) hold, A(Tun) hold.

Russia (Tattytoo): F(GOB) – StPsc, A(StP) – Mos,
A(Arm) – Smy, A(Ukr) – Sev, F(Rum) – BLA.

Turkey (Euro Champ): A(Con) – Ank, F(AEG) S
AUSTRIAN F(Gre) – ION{nso}, A(Bul) S F(BLA) – Rum,
F(BLA) – Rum.

RETREATS: TURKISH A(Bul) – Con.
GERMAN A(Bur) disbands NLRO.

Winter 1902 Adjustments:

A: Vie Tri Bud Gre Ser +Bul 6(5) +A(Vie).

E: Edi Lon Lpl +Nwy 4(3) +F(Lon).

F: Par Mar Bre Spa –Bel 4(5) –A(Mar).

G: Ber Kie Mun Hol Den +Swe +Bel 7(5) +A(Mun)
+A(Ber) +A(Kie).

I: Nap Rom Ven Tun 4(4) no change.

R: War Mos Stp Sev Rum 6(5) +A(War).

T: -Smy Con Ank –Bul 2(4) GM –F(AEG) –F(BLA).

PRESS:

Li'l Corporal – Euro Champ: Let you have the Balkans? As in, lay down and let me walk over you? The Austrian Empire will thrive in the Balkans. Croats and Sovenes and Montenegroans love us, don't they?

Li'l Corporal – Lampedusa: Assuming you haven't stabbed Vie or Tri.... If I haven't taken Bul, I'll go for AEG in the Spring. If you have fleets in EMS and ION, then get a convoy ordered and maybe we can make the Turkish pips squeak!

Li'l Corporal – Tsar (Is that Tattytoo?): To which boots are you referring, I have many different ones depending on the occasion.

Lil'Corporal – GFE: Please continue fighting on the Western front for a few more seasons, I've got a few challenges out East at present and cannot join in the fun over there.

Poodle to Corporal : I have this desire to write "Williams" as my name. Is there hope for me?

Eng (gov) - Fra (gov): I shall not be attacking your homeland

Bush's Poodle - Germany: An Army support this time. Do you want help into st petersburg? Or a spoiling attack?

Eng - Russia: Eat monkey brains, you rabbit

Tattytoo - " sir, I have nice sisters"

Bush's Poodle "How dare you sir. What a suggestion to make to me.

Don't you know that I am an English Lord?"

Tattytoo - " pardon, oh pardon. I have nice brothers..."

Poodle - Tadpole: of course you can have my centres, just give me a fiver and we'll consider it done.

Podle - Taadpole: Come and get them

Lampedusa tastes OK in the hot sun, but it doesn't travel well. A bit like Wales.

Tadpole – All: Since this tsrange game started, I've had no letters, isn't anyone going to write to me?

Tadpole – Blackwatch: I've let you have Bel – will you be my friend now?

Hun – Cossack: Agreed. You get Norway and Edinburgh, I'll take London and Liverpool.

Blackwatch – Poodle: I didn't think you'd want a fleet in Bel. I will support you into Bel in 1903, army unless you say otherwise.

Blackwatch – Lamedusa: I hope that you didn't get silly and do your worst.

Germany – Mr Nice Guy: Look behind me? Oh yeah – thanks.

Lampedusa - Lil' Corp: Didn't manage to be much help last turn, but if I see another opportunity.

Lampedusa - EuroChamp: The Med's notorious for unsavoury things in the water. Not least the Italian navy! Best not to get your f(1)et wet.

Lampedua - Tadpole: looks like the North is going to be interesting after all.

Lampedusa - Black Watch: See!

TT – Lol'Corpse: You want a Turkish army to replace my fleet? Now that is strange.

TT – Lamp: Stop shilly-shallying and get stuck in somewhere. Anywhere!

TT – Germ: Ok, so you have Swede (and Poodle gets away with his NMR...)

Just leave me alone now, OK?

Turkey – Russia: Defensive? Good job we're not at war then.

Extra Eds Bit

Not this time either...