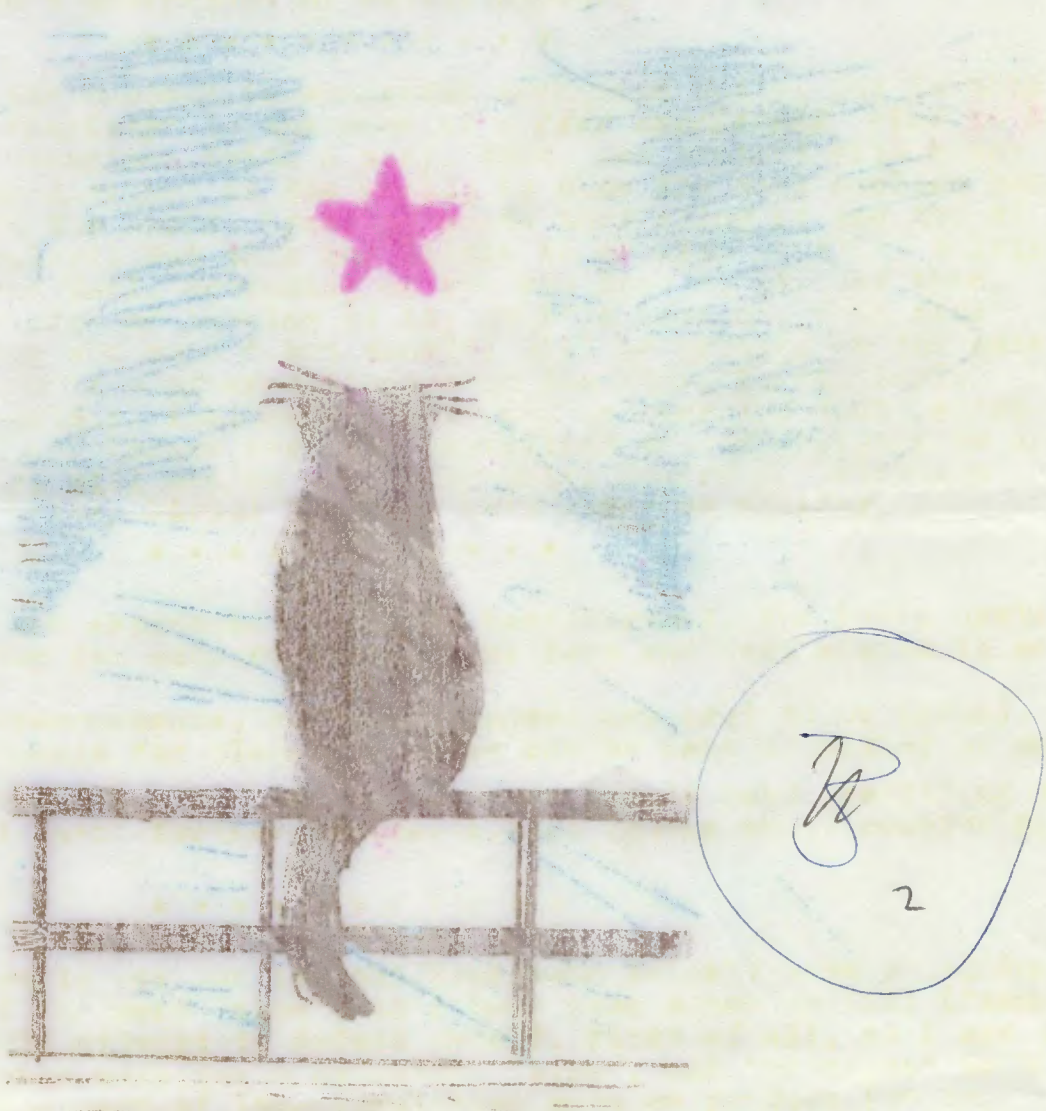


THE BOLSHIEVIST
1917

of 1917
PART A



THE BOLSHIEVIST STAR

FINLEY MAKES FRONT COVER AGAIN ?!!

Some said they couldn't do it, some said it wasn't true, but yes it was, we're back again, it's Bolshevik Star two!

First of all, I would like to thank the seven wonderful people who actually sent us money for this. In fact, because they are so wonderful, I am sure they could get another seven wonderful people to sign on, in order to avoid having the Star's price doubled for Issue 3. Please,..... As for the ~~filthy~~ gentleman who demanded a price for signing on for a game, words fail me, as do words for the typist who doesn't understand my subtle humour.

While on the subject (a wonderful paragraph entry, but in this case, perhaps), "Variety" is the name of a ~~Star~~ ~~supplement~~ zine to be edited by John Robertson (with a zee). John, not content with being the best game designer in the world, is also the best swollen headed game designer in the world. (yes, he wrote that thing at the top of the ~~High~~ ~~Academy~~ rules!). But this has little to do with what I'm talking about, or a great deal, depending on how you look at it. But then, you're probably sick of looking at it, so I'll move on. This zine (heads up, the boy who said "what zine?") will be printed on the same wonderful superduper - hyperreplicator as the Star, in similarly glorious, multi-colour. Incidentally, it can be revealed that Messrs. Fisher, Percard and Corker are also grovelling on our doorstep to use it. ~~Variety~~ however, will not be appearing until Edward G. Robertson learns to draw Gaisty Girls! Besides, he's going on holiday.

For those who expressed a certain bewilderment, the basic system is this: Money for subscriptions, game fees and back copies is sent to Gordon.

Correspondence, curses and moves are sent to me (John).

Requests for places in games can be sent to either of us.

However, as Gordon is going on holiday, you should send everything to me (still John) until further notice. I also (guess who?) receive all trades.

Several people (or was it John Robertson twice?) have complained about my use of the word "zine". As I have some space to fill ("some" he says!) I shall attempt to defend myself. First of all, as I see it, there is no proper word for a Diplomacy "zine", and "magazine" is hardly applicable to the sort of low-circulation rags we produce (go on, admit it!). True, Robertson's suggestion of "mag" would be just as good as "zine", but usage is against it. Should a proper word, not an abbreviation, be coined, I would be happy to use it, but until then, "zine" stays, without the "s".

WHILE THE FROG FOLDS!

In two places, usually.

Gordon says that last issues cover contained a picture of Howell Davies. I personally seldom make jokes about names.

As usual, Haven is being controversial to attract attention, as the saying goes; since I started running Dippy, a whole two weeks ago, one game has started. Therefore, at great expense, our special correspondent telephoned the defendant, ringleader of the British SI establishment, in order to have the Star announced in Bellicus eleven. The great man himself actually deigned to listen to our petition for a few moments, but our correspondent was soon thrust into the clutches of an unintelligible Yorkshire lackay.

The lackay was told, in several languages, to advertise the Star, but finally clubbed into submission by a stream of "eeeh bah gum lad!", our correspondent was forced to make an excuse and leave. Several months later, the local postman was spotted dancing along the road in slow motion, apparently advertising a well known brand of chocolate, and sure enough, when the pink package hit the floor after two minutes in free fall, it was found to be Bellicus eleven. This, evidently, was the first issue to be printed on a "local" duplicator (for the uninitiated, this is one which prints on only part of the paper). Only after two weeks close scrutiny can we dare to reveal the horrible truth; The Bolshevik Star is not mentioned at all! This too, with prior warnings.

My grouse is: why is the Star forced to GM a SI game for Haven before being recognized by the established SI press? Is that what you want? A uniform tide, here as in the U.S., of similar (as all the zines must be who run the same game with the same house-rules) zines? I am sorry for you if that is so. (N.B.: Any relation between the above and anything ever said by Will Haven in Bellicus is purely intentional.)

Only issue two, and publicity for you already (choke) Will.... how about that?

* * * * *

As we start our first game this issue, I think it wise to outline our policy. Unless anyone wants to use the other system, we intend to stick to predicted builds and retreats. We are willing, however, to run games of both types.

HOUSE RULES Any non-ambiguous abbreviations are permitted. For example, F ENG - NOR is perfectly legal. F EDI - NOR is not, due to there being two possibilities. We are right, you are wrong, unless of course, we are wrong, in which case, you may be right, I think. We will operate a standby system, although we'd much rather they payed us vast mountains of crinkly green stuff and played in games themselves. Dropouts will have their next game fee doubled or something horrible like that.

Andy Davidson says he wants to play in the Star because that is the only way he can avoid me. What do you think we have two G.s for, Andy?

It would appear that the Black Spot has faded; the local Gestapo have taken r. Binley's photo-copier into protective custody, so now he is begging us to duplicate the Spot for him. It can also be revealed that the reason he only had 7 people at his Blackburn - con was because he didn't invite anyone. That's what he said! Almost.

As far as I can see, variants hardly ever seem to be suggested by players. Thus, as I don't know what you want, how about my suggesting games of Aberration IV, The Balkan War, Black Hole Diplomacy, etc. etc..?

Funny, all this trying to fill a decent number of A4 pages and suddenly I can't remember what I had against quarto.....

And now for an experiment. As two people running a zine can present difficulties to the reader, -- you don't know who's saying what -- I'm going to try to duplicate what I say in one colour, while anything John says will probably be in the same colour as the rest of the zine, i.e. black. This should, hopefully, remove some of the confusion as to who "I" am in a particular piece of text.

Some of you may be wondering what the "thing" at the top of the Allah Akba'ar rules, which John was referring to, was. Well, due to an (un)fortunate mistake, this modest note hardly appeared on most copies. Honestly J.G., I didn't mean it. However, for the benefit of those who have one of these copies -- and, after all, it's his duplicator -- I will reprint the missing sentence here:

Yet another brilliant variant from the active and fertile brain of the incomparable genius, John G. Robertson.

*
Subscribers to this issue of the Star should receive a free copy of the Allah Akba'ar rules. Subsequently, however, the rules will be available from me at the price of 5p a copy + postage. The game fee for A.A. will be £1.00 and we would welcome comments on any aspect of the game. These comments may be printed and will be passed on to the designer.

*
Due to the fact that we need to attract a large number of players, the first game of Democratic Diplomacy will be free.

*
To clarify the dates, all correspondence concerning the Star should be sent to John between Wednesday July 25th and Wednesday August 8th. After that date everything reverts to the system outlined on page 1.

*
In the last issue we stated that Allah Akba'ar was set in and around Palestine immediately prior to the sixth crusade. The question mark which followed was justified as the game is set in the period after the second Crusade.

* * * * *

And now, the announcement of the first regular game.

STAR "A" (Regular)

- Austria: Andrew Waldie, Moorcroft, Auchterhouse, Dundee, DD3 0QS.
- England: Billy O'Rourke, 230 Balunie Avenue, Douglas & Angus, Dundee. DD4 8TJ.
- France: Mike Sherrad, 136 Newton Road, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire.
- Germany: Steven Dunn, 7 South George Street, Dundee.
- Italy: Allan Ovens, 5 Brabyns Road, Hyde, Cheshire.
- Russia: Les Pimley, 345 Livesey Branch Road, Blackburn. BB2 4QJ.
- Turkey: Andy Davidson, Flat D5, Harewood Court, Marsland Road, Sale, Cheshire. OR Jesus College, Cambridge, CB5 8BL.

The DEADLINE for the first orders will be FRIDAY 17th AUGUST. The orders should be sent to John whose address is elsewhere.

The game fee for SEAR "A" will be £0.50. Even if the money is sent to John, make any postal orders out to Gordon Neilson please as this helps to keep things straight.

WAITING LISTS

Regular "B": John Piggott.
Regular "C": Jeremy Elsmore (Troublemaker!)
Imperialism IX: J.G. Robertson, Andrew Waldie, Mike Sherrad.
Foundation: J.F. Robertson, B. O'Rourke, Mike Sherrad.
Mordor v the World IV: J.G. Robertson, Mike Sherrad.
4000 AD: Andrew Waldie.
Allah Akba'ar: Les Pinley, B. O'Rourke, Mike Sherrad, Andy Davidson, Bob Harris.
Democratic Diplomacy: B. O'Rourke, Steven Dunn, J.G. Robertson, Mike Sherrad, Bob Harris, Les Pinley.

* * * * *

The Bolshevik Star costs £0.60 for ten issues and is produced by John Lettice, 69 Craigie Drive, Dundee. DD4 7PD.
&
Gordon Neilson, 28 Kingsway Place, Dundee. DD3 8JY.

* * * * *

To clarify the above, all correspondence concerning the Star should be sent to John Neilson Wednesday July 25th and Wednesday August 5th. After that date everything reverts to the system outlined on page 1.

"reasonable"
- Jeremy Elsmore

"rumour"
- Hartley Patterson

THE BOLSHEVIK STAR

"can only improve"
- John Piglet...Giblet...Whatsisname

"great potential"
- Sir Andrew Waldie, D.S.O., KB, GCE.

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