

B STAR 7

### Editorial

It has not escaped my notice that a certain individual, Piggott by name, has been spreading scandalous rumours about me and about other students who for some strange reason do not spend the bulk of their time hunched over a Diplomacy board sacking and scheming. He maintains that the reason for the reduced size of last Star was due to "writing up lecture notes" and generally turning myself into one of those machines who actually think the purpose of a university is to produce graduates who hang on the wall like certificates. Right, what did they build that nice Union with a beer-bar and all those lovely machines for, then? I assure you that I average about 13½ hours work per day for John Piggott's 15; the only reason last issue was late was because I had to find a typewriter, and then had to trudge out to Duncan Morris's whenever I wanted to use it. I am less involved in Diplomacy now because there is far more to do here (for example, Raisin Weekend, when one well-known GM could be seen walking around with a gorse-bush on the end of a string, and another could be seen wearing a gown about his ankles to cover his jack-boots and tattered trouser bottoms).

I may have done many things since I started writing this thing, but few of them could be described as bolshevik, which may have seemed a bit odd to some of you; however, Duncan Morris, part-time student at St. Andrews and editor of "Fidget", deserves at least a passing hand-grenade for parading his disgusting fascist views ("happy birthday Rhodesia") in what should, after all, be a magazine comprising of Diplomacy and other things which could be said to interest readers. I hardly think this interests them. (Duncan almost turned Jewish so he could get a chance to napalm Damascus but was informed of the cease-fire before he could circumcise himself with a bread-knife!)

So without further ado I hand you over to Steve Dunn, who has written:

### The Truth ABOUT AFRIKA KORPS

Those of you who have played Afrika Korps and read the FRIEDT account of the game at Scottdipcon 2, written by the Desert Fox himself (Erwin Morris) may have noticed that strategy, tactics and luck were just some of the things that he failed to mention.

Since the Fridge account of the actual fighting is accurate I shall try to cover points concerning Afrika Korps in general. The overall situation is this:- total combat factors of both sides are roughly even. The German units are individually stronger than the British (the Panzer regiments have a combat value of 7 compared with the 1 of the bulk British brigades which make up the bulk of the British forces.), however this German concentration and the small number of British units on the board at the beginning of the game are balanced by several factors advantageous to the British- 1) The Germans must attack. 2) They use up supplies attacking. 3) The combat results table is vicious for the attackers. 4) The Germans are usually going for Tobruk or the British home base - supplies and the weakness of divided forces rarely permit them to go for both.

5) The defenders are often doubled due to terrain factors and thus the Germans tend to be forced into improving odds by limiting the number and spread of their attacks. 6) The British can replace their losses far more easily than the Germans and a large 'exchange' is often crippling to the latter. 7) To win the British simply have to avoid the German victory conditions. (( simply ? Why not get Mike Sherrad on the job ? ))

The game is fairly well-balanced overall, but is slightly unfavourable to the Germans; a bad roll will affect them more severely than it will the British.

The Germans have to attack and move as quickly as they can at the start of the game in order to destroy as many British units as possible to prevent a strong defence line being set up at Tobruk.

The British usually start by blocking the mountain passes and coast road west of Tobruk, but are invariably pushed back to Tobruk. At this point the Germans decide whether to go for Tobruk or the Home Base. In our game Duncan attacked Tobruk and broke through the perimeter, and since I couldn't patch it up I withdrew the infantry brigades by sea and sent in all the armour I had to hold Tobruk, while everything else formed a defensive line near my home base. Since he would eventually have to take Tobruk to win he didn't waste time but sent in the 15th Panzers against one brigade and soaked off against the rest with Italians.

The Italian tanks were destroyed, the Panzer regiment was lost, and as far as I was concerned the Germans had lost the game, not so much because the losses had made the Germans too weak, but because Duncan was unwilling to commit his armour against Tobruk on a large scale ( another British armoured brigade having been shipped in ) and by this time there were too many British reinforcements holding the El Alamein line for the Germans to have much chance of capturing the home base. Duncan did indeed send the 21st Panzer into the hills within striking distance of my home base but I simply retreated my reinforcements ( which had begun to creep along the coast road ) all the way back to the Alamein defence line, leaving the 21st Panzer the choice of attacking the defences alone or moving back and attacking Tobruk. In fact he did neither and it was agreed that the British had won. Though Duncan describes this, modestly, as a marginal British victory ( and the small number of British units on the board certainly gave that impression ) the fact that the British had lost neither Tobruk nor their home base meant that the Germans were decisively defeated.

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Seen at Leuchars airbase: Vehicles must give way to aircraft.

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Star A Spring 1903

Austria(Waldie): a bud s a tri; a tri s a vie; a vie-gal.

UK(O'Rourke): f nth-lon s by a yor; a f hel-nthx s by f nwy.

France(Sherrad): f eng-iri; f bre-eng; a gas-bur s by a mer; a bel s German a hol; a pic s a bel.

Germany(Dunn): f den s Russian f gob-swe; a hol skins effigies of Wooden-headed Irishmen across the sea, to which a ruh adds its whole -hearted support, and in support of this support a hol bestows its support on a ruh, while a kie supports f den, a mun finds all this quite unsupportable.

Allright, ho, ho, ho, but next time, just the orders, huh?

Italy(Ovens): f ion s a gre; a gre s austrian a tri-ser; ~~!/?!/?!/?!~~; a ven stand unordered; a tyr-vie s by a boh.

Russia(Pinley): f bla-run; a run-bud s by a gal; a stop confounds its critics; f gob-swe. ((1903.....another Dolchstoss record))

Turkey(Davidson): f sny-ems s by f aeg; f con s a bul; a bul s a ser; a ser s austrian a tri.

RETREAT: a vie disbanded.

PRESS:

Paris: Insult me? Hhhaaargh, HHHAAARGH. The only thing you're likely to insult is my intelligence. ((sic))

Stop laughing!

Hobbiton: I've tried; you can't blame me for failure.

A quiet shark-fishing resort in the Spreewald: We march! Ruth, Ruth!! It is a sacred thing we do. (takes one step forward, bumps into wooden-headed Irishman, stumbles over sliney Frenchman, falls into Spree, landing on porculent Russian swimmer wearing pink trunks with white polka-dots.)

I can't stand it! O'Rourke, why don't you say something? You haven't forgotten the alphabet again, have you? I'm cracking up, I'm a nervous wreck! I have five cups of black coffee every breakfast, I even dip my toast and marmalade in it! Will none of you rid me of this turgescent beast, turpentine bleach, truculent fleece.....burble burble.....burble,.

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Star B Autumn 1902

Austria(McBay): nar...ejected....f alb, a ser, a run in anarchy.

UK(Piggott): f eng-mao; a edi-den c by f nth; f nwy stand.

France(O'Rourke888((sure, beggpoorrroh an' bedad))

: a bur-bel s by a pic; a nar-bur; a par-bre; f mao -nao.

Germany(Doodes): nar..f hol, a ruh, a mun, a den, a kie s.u.

Italy(Walsh): a vie s a tri; a tri s a vie; a ven s a tri; f ion-gre.

Russia(Ward): f sve s english a edi-den; f gob-bal; a gal s a bud; a bud s austrian a run; a ukr s f sev; f sev s turkish a bul-run.

Turkey(Charlton): f sny-aeg; a bul-gre; f bla-bul(ee); a ara-sev.

RETREATS: German f den annihilated.

Could Ronald Kelly please send standby orders, please, but only one set per country unless you feel really enthusiastic!!!!!!



STAR "E" (MVTN)      QUELLE 3001

Aron (DOUBLEDAY) : 2A TLS stand; A Inl - Ere; DA Ant stand; A Ans - Bra.

Rohan (Thomson) : A Fan - Cel; A Esf - 1th; 2A Ere stand; DA WEm stand.

Gondor (O'Rourke) : 2A SGo - Hd; A Leb - Tol; DA Dol - Anf; A Ans S Rohan A Esf.

Rhosair (Corker) : 2A Crk - Ang; A Mir - Crk; A NWi - WeR; DA WEd stand.

Mordor (Charlton) : A CaD stand; A Dog stand; A Lor - Cel; A Isq - Fan; A Her - Her;  
3A MiM - Her; DA Sha stand; DA Wod stand; A Unb stand;  
N Uda stand.

COIRE 3001

Mordor : Bar, Uda, MiM, Isq, Mor, Dog, Aff,  $\frac{1}{2}$  X + Unb, Her, CaD, Lor  
build MiM, A Bar.

Gondor : Dol, Leb, MiT + Tol, Ans, Hr-D : build A Dol, A Leb, A MiT.

Rohan : Fan, WEm, Edo + Ere : build A Edo.

Rhosair : Esq, Mir, NWi + WeR, Ang, Crk : build A Esq, A Mir, A NWi

Aron : TLS, Ans, Inl.

Thanks to Steve Doubleday for the standby orders. No moves were received from Iain McBry because he changed his Edinburgh address and, therefore, didn't receive his last copy of the Star. (Why he didn't let me know.....) However, he says he wants to continue, so, if you send in standby orders for next move, Steve, and they're web, control of Aron will pass to you.

No order was printed for the Nargol last move. In fact, it stood unworked, but this makes things awkward as another unit would be in. Therefore I moved it to Uda where it remained this move.

C.O.A. Iain McBry, 27 Galloway Avenue, Ardrossan until 1st Jan when it is  
" " 37 Linwood Crescent, Edinburgh.