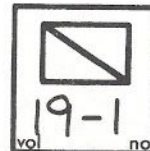


NEWSLETTER OF AHIKS



THE KOMMANDEUR

THE SOAPBOX

OHBOYOHBOYOHBOY! AT LAST A FORUM TO WAX LUCID, EXPOUNDING MY INSIGHTFUL VIEWS ON MULTIPLE TOPICS...ahem...I am now under complete control. Cool, calm, and collected. Right? Right.

Firstly, introductions. For the many AHIKSers who have not met or gamed with me, I'm 36, married with two young boys - who occasionally "lift" a division or two from my boards. I am, by profession, a nuclear engineer at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, working in the field of nuclear plant safety analysis. (I hold a Masters degree in the subject - if that counts for anything. Based on my last raise, not much!) My chosen profession is writing, however, and I have pursued this field for the past ten years. I've worked my way into the category of struggling new writer - as opposed to struggling unknown writer. I have two novels to my credit, with more on the way.

I have been active in our hobby since buying AH's Midway back in 1975. Writing game related articles and reviews for the past four years, I've suffered through the hobby's growing pains and seen the demise of Gryphon, Campaign, and an independent biweekly RBROG (which I still feel was an outstanding idea!). Despite getting stuck for many bucks still owed for work done, I have continued in the field primarily due to the importance of good reviews. In a hobby with an ever increasing number of titles and companies, reviewers - good unbiased reviewers - are vital.

It is my pleasure (quit laughing, Pete...) to assume the editorial duties of the K, and I hope to get it back on track. To that end, I am setting the deadlines for the next year as the first of April, June, August, October, and December. I'm looking for game reviews, book reviews, PBM techniques, FTF reports, Opinions, game progress reports...and so on. If you're in doubt, write it anyway and send it to me. If you're REALLY in doubt, drop me a line. I am especially interested in articles and stuff from our overseas contingent. GET THE HINT, GUYS!

Finally, a bit of tough talk, related to the paragraph above. The K is your newsletter. But if it ONLY consists of RD reports, it is going to get B.O.R.I.N.G. Not to mention a waste of my time and yours. Now, Bill Watkins and I could probably talk your ears off on all sorts of fascinating subjects - we may anyway - but we have nearly 700 intelligent members out there who can (and hopefully will) contribute. The cupboard is bare, gang. Let's hear from you.

--JDB--

THE TRUE NORTH

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and are keeping all their New Year's resolutions. My resolutions are to answer my mail a little quicker and decrease by turnaround time on my PBM games.

I wish to welcome a new member to the Canadian Region: Steve Llewellyn, a newspaper reporter from Fredricton, New Brunswick. Steve is interested in Russian Campaign, and Anzio, two AH standards. This leaves Manitoba as the only Canadian province with no AHIKS members.

I received a letter from Scott Drten (1430 Audubon, Grafton, WI 53024). Scott has an IBM PC running under DOS 2.0. He has a program which will take care of the bookkeeping for BULGE '81. Alas, the program is written in TRS-80 mod 111 BASIC. There is a problem with the conversion to IBM BASIC. If someone out there could help him, it would be appreciated. Contact him directly (then, let us know! Ed.)

-Casey Bruyn-

THE BARRAGE

We have one new member to welcome this time: Deane Stanley of Burke, Virginia. Deane is a regular Army officer and a gamer since 1960.

Last year was a quiet one for the Southeast. After a big burst of growth a couple years ago, we added few new members last year. Virginia, Maryland, and Florida still have the largest AHIKS populations.

As I mentioned last column, I still plan to step down as RD at the end of this year and urge anyone interested to step forward as a candidate. So far, I've heard from three people - so the more the merrier!

-Graham Cosmas-

PACIFIC THEATER

It's been a while since I've submitted anything, partly due to the irregular schedule of the K. So I have a few new members to add - and some I may have forgotten as to when they joined!

FOR SURE we have gained Howard Hugh, Cloyde Angell, Marcel Carbonneau, Gary Guyton, Steve Watson, Randy Heller, and Dick Boyes. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

The 100 Silverado Trail on my address was intended for FTF visits only. If used in my mailing address, it will delay or defeat receipt of the letter. It has happened. (NOTE amended address in the officer's list, Ed.)

- Jim Frediani -

NORTHEAST PASSAGE

Well, it ought to relieve everyone, including myself, that the title of this column is still NorthEast Passage and not Kevin M. Murray as the last K had it. I will admit, though, that it had a certain ring to it...

We did have one new member join the ranks of the Northeast. Adolph Krassler of Holyoak, MA. Adolph indicated that he hasn't had a good deal of experience, but he is enthusiastic about giving AHIKS a shot.

Perhaps I was too quick to suggest that the society had to be concerned about uncontrolled growth. Since our ad in the General has been removed, there seems to be a drop in new applications, at least here in the Northeast. I also hope my comments about mismatches weren't misunderstood. I have no intention of championing elitism. My only concern is to devise a method of matching opponents as evenly as possible. I know Les Deck has enough headaches as it is and will probably put a price on my head for suggesting ANYTHING that would further complicate his task. Just a thought.

One point that deserved to be stressed is that any new member should try to play games that he is familiar with so that his first AHIKS experience will not be a lesson in rules reading. In cases where a new member is new to gaming, this can't be helped, but even then it would be best to select a game that is fairly simple and easily PBMed. I know this seems to be no more than common sense, but all the RDs should make an effort through their initial contact with the new member to make the point clear. Obviously this won't be necessary with every new member, but in some cases, advice will be warranted.

Kinderfest '83 went off on schedule and a special report follows. I also have a brainstorm that I'm insane enough to follow through (excellent choice of words...Ed.). I think there is room in the Northeast for a regional newsletter. This would act as a supplement to the K and would appear between issues of the K. The purpose of this newsletter would be to promote regional activities, such as FTF meets of any scale, field trips to points of historical interest with subsequent "theme" gaming, and team PBM regional competition. I will expand on my ideas for simple team gaming in the next issue. I may even decide to crank up my typewriter and get a prototype in the mail.

As I mentioned in my last column (written five months ago) I would like to get some members together at Gettysburg sometime this year or next. If anyone is interested, just let me know and I can start working out some details. Mrs Murray and I visited there last July and had a delightful time. There is a great tavern on Herr ridge...well, anyway, write if you'r interested. Other places of interest might be Forts Ticonderoga and William Henry, Saratoga, or even Cooperstown for baseball fans. My in-laws have a house on Lake Otsego, 4 miles from Cooperstown and my wife's family donated the stone to build the Hall of Fame Library. I may even be able to get in there myself!!

- Kevin M. Murray -



THE KOMMANDEUR VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1 MAR 84

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The KOMMANDEUR is the official newsletter of AHIKS, an international society of mature adults who play historical simulation games by mail. Society dues are \$12 per year, prorated quarterly, with a one time initiation fee of \$8. Additional information is available from the Secretary or the European Regional Director (addresses above).

Subscriptions to the KOMMANDEUR are not available to non-members nor do we accept advertising. However, we do accept "ad trades" on an issue-for-issue basis with other publications and organizations. Inquire with the Editor or the European Regional Director for details.

Current Membership: total 699 (EU: 181, CN: 34, SE: 87, W: 83, NE: 109, NC: 100, P: 105)



Well, two months have passed since Kinderfest '83 took place and downtown Kinderhook is almost completely free of rubble. I didn't get quite the response I had hoped for - perhaps due to the time of year and weather - but on Saturday we had 15 gamers of one sort or another on hand. Friday evening immediately showed me one area to improve next year: the lighting at Village Hall must have been designed so no one could read the fine print on village contracts. Comparisons were made with the infamous "starlight" gameroom at the 1981 GenCon East at Cherry Hill. In both cases someone forgot that you have to see the boards to be able to play. A quick trip to Hotel Murray brought back a wide variety of lighting devices that helped save vision.

Pete Landry and Dave McCormick arrived early Friday evening and were the first to open the weekend. They didn't seem to mind getting there before me (only a minute or so...) I keep telling everyone that these guys from MA are tough. For example, before the weekend was over, both had to sit across from me with a game of TRC in between. Paul Fletcher came in next and I know he played a little Bulge '81 and VITP. I can always tell when VITP comes out by the thunderous roar of dice crashing on hard surfaces. Tom Holtz added a little decorum to our gathering and dabbled in TRC and VITP as well. Carl Nogueira and two friends arrived (Sorry, Carl, I lost their names...) and were soon locked in combat with the ever fierce Bill Wiesing and the omelet king Dave Leaman (also known as Space Ranger) over a game of COD that raged most of the weekend. Bob Kaliski and Jeff Trout had their plans to attend ruined by that nasty thing called WORK, but Jeff managed to sent two representatives, Phil Carroll and Jan Spoor, who unfortunately ended up in a game with each other when the multi-player events I had envisioned failed to materialize. Improvements WILL be made before next year's weekend. The field was rounded out by various local croonies of mine as well as my brother-in-law who drove out from Rochester.

We closed shop a little after midnight and headed for Hotel Murray where I managed to find room for all, as I had sent my family packing early Friday afternoon. Phil and Jan followed one of the local gamers rather than me and finally managed to show up around 1 am, but there was still plenty of room (nice concrete and hardwood floors...). There was even breakfast served Saturday morning. Pancakes, eggs a la Leaman, bacon, bagels, toast, juice, coffee - a real feast. (I had to make up for the hard floors somehow!)

Saturday was good fun with Bulge '81, TRC, VITP, SL, AK, a House Divided, and other games in evidence. Sometime that morning Dave McCormick asked me these memorable words, "Have you ever played a game called Foreign Legion?" What followed was the most incredible bloodbath of the weekend with shrieking sheiks and lunging Legionnaires battling it out hand-to-hand in a game that ended in the coat room of the officer's quarters. So many Arabs died trying to get in the coat room door that the final Legionnaire was finally crushed to death. I did have one Arab, an intense warrior named Omar, who scaled the fort wall in record time with the battle cry of "Salamanca!" only to die on the point of a bayonet. This is no reflection on a fine game associated with Omar DeWitt. Just a coincidence...

We ended up Saturday night after midnight and once again most of the out-of-towners spent the night at Hotel Murray. Sunday morning saw the departure of almost everyone, no doubt to attend church before reaching home. Carl and Co. stayed on to play a game of Foreign Legion and my brother-in-law and I wound down with some Strato-Matic football. (So, who won? Ed.)

This year I will have Kinderfest 84 around the same time, although the exact date and location will have to be decided a bit later. Any suggestions would be appreciated. I want to thank all those members who sent me a note even if they couldn't make it. Some even forwarded the fee as a donation - it made a difference. Many thanks to all.

- Kevin Murray -

INTERIOR LINES

Since our last column, four new members have joined the North Central. Bill Peterson of Evanston, IL, is a psychiatrist. FINALLY!! I've long felt the region needed help... Kenneth North is an attorney living in Glen Ellyn, IL. He was talked into joining by Jim Denier. Good work, Jim. (p.s. Jim, see the True North - Casey needs some help in Manitoba! Ed.) Richard Cottrell from Parma, MI, is an electrical engineer who told me he's already playing three PBM games. Finally, Jim Hartman is an actor in Chicago. Maybe we should match Jim and Bill together - then they could spend a few months wondering if the other guy meant what he just said!

If there are still NC members out there who haven't paid their dues, I would urge them to do so. This is still the least expensive organization I belong to (at least he didn't say "cheapest"! Ed.). I get more for my dues dollar in AHKS than I do in anything else.

As general info to the membership, I will report that I spent \$30.29 in 1983 on postage and related expenses. Some of the postage went to prospective members and to new accepted members. Some went to clear up complaints and misunderstandings. Two members had to be brought up to the Exec for a decision. One has been expelled; one is still pending. As a gentle reminder, 13 cent postcards are still the cheapest way to prevent complaints. I've had occasions when I've had to delay my games for personal or business reasons. Sometimes I've even conceded the game. Usually a postcard to my opponent was all that was needed. I've NEVER gotten flak from an opponent over a delay as long as I notified him.

This may be my last column as RD. In case it is, I want you all to know I enjoyed my stint immensely. I got total support from the officers and I had a great rapport with the members of the NC. To all, good luck and good gaming!

-Jim Mueller-

SWAPPE SHOPPE

WANTED: SPI games: Centurion (S&T 25); Phalanx; The Fall of Rome (S&T 39); Armageddon (S&T 34); Air War (1980); Wacht Am Rhein; War in Europe Exp Mod 1; Wolfpack (S&T 47); Great Medieval Battles; Empires of the Middle Age; Highway to the Reich; CA; USN; East Carriers; Art of Siege Warfare; Agincourt; Celles (BFTA Folio); Worldkiller; Next War. SPI Magazines: Moves 1, 4, 5, 8, 19, 23, 34, 35, 39, 41, 44, 45, 51, 54, 59. Ferro Gianpietro, Via Pedemontana 74/A/2, 32030 SORANZEN (BL) Italy

PBM

This is a list of games for which we have PBM methods on file. However, many of these are quite old and need updating. Since I don't own many of these games, it would be impossible for me to update them all. Therefore, I need your help. If you see a game with which you are VERY familiar, please request the PBM method and update it. If you don't see your favorite game on the list, send me the PBM method you are using. Thanks!

After the Holocaust	Air Assault on Crete
Air Force	Air War '80
American Civil War	American Revolution
Anzio	Arab-Israeli War
Arnhem	Bar-Lev
Battle of Britain	Beda Fomm
Bismarck	Bloody April
Blue and Grey	Breitenfeld
Civilization	Cobra
Conquistador	Dark December
Devil's Den	DND/UNT
Fortress Europa	Franco-Prussian War
Fredrick the Great	Guadalcanal
Jutland	Kharkov
Kingmaker	La Grande Armee
Mech War	Midway
Modern Battles Quad	Napoleon at War
Narvik	North Africa Quad
Pea Ridge	Panzerblitz
Panzergruppe Guderian	Panzerkrieg
Panzer Leader	Patrol
Richtofen's War	Constantinople
Sniper	Squad Leader
Starship Troopers	Stonewall
1776	Terrible Swift Sword
Third Reich	The 20th Maine
Tobruk	Torgau
Tirreme	USN
Verdun	Wacht Am Rhein
War at Sea	War Between the States
West Wall	Wilson's Creek
WSIM	Battleworthiness
Multiple die rolls/ ICRK converter for decimal CAT	
Simultaneous Movement	

This is a free service - don't send stamps or money.

-Harvey Grove-

RATINGS

RATING POOL BY RATING 02/28/84

	NAME	CUR.
1.	D. BURDICK	2015DDD
2.	R. KINSELLA	1925EED
3.	D. EISAN	1910LJK
4.	R. WINDSOR	1910HHH
5.	K. MCCARTHY	1875FED
6.	B. MASTON	1850EFE
7.	R. TELEUCKY	1825JIJ
8.	T. BECKER	1790DEC
9.	K. MILLS	1765JIF
10.	T. ELLER	1750EFA
11.	J. CREEGER	1745EEC
12.	L. DECK SR	1725FHG
13.	F. KRAUS	1690GHD
14.	P. LANDRY	1680GFE
15.	J. POWER	1670FFC
16.	T. OLESON	1665EFC
17.	T. BUTCHER	1655EEC
18.	P. TRUESDELL	1635EEF
19.	D. WYCHE	1615EFD
20.	J. YAZVAC	1590EED
21.	S. PELUSO	1570MLK
22.	T. THORNSEN	1550FEG
23.	J. POPOLIS	1545EFE
24.	R. CROSS	1525GFF
25.	M. YARWOOD	1515GGH
26.	D. DEMORY	1500DEE
27.	R. LOGSDON	1495FFD
28.	G. GOHEEN	1480HGI
29.	D. WETZELBERGER	1480EDF
30.	G. GOSSETT	1470GEG
31.	R. GREENWELL	1435FFC
32.	D. GRANT	1430EDF
33.	R. GRIFFIN	1420ECB
34.	B. BYRON	1405FGD
35.	D. MCCARTY	1400GFG
36.	D. HUGHES	1400EFG
37.	J. TROUT	1390DDD
38.	W. WALDAU	1380DEE
39.	P. ROSAMILIA	1370JFF
40.	M. SHEA	1365DEE
41.	J. PELLICIA	1345HHE
42.	P. MARTIN	1340GFE
43.	M. LAUSSADE	1335GEG
44.	K. MACDONALD	1330GFE
45.	C. LEONARD	1315GHF
46.	R. STARNIK	1310CGE
47.	D. AYERS	1305KJG
48.	L. KELLY	1305HGD
49.	J. SOMERVILLE	1300IKH

DUE TO DELAYS IN SWITCHING EDITORIAL BOOKS AND FINANCES, THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE K IS SET TO 15 APRIL 1984. ED.

FROM THE MATCH COORDINATOR

I.a. Each new member will receive from our Secretary a "NEW MEMBERS GUIDE" which will explain many of the questions one may have.

I.b. Your initial match will be assigned upon receipt of your DATA SHEET. Every effort will be made to fill your initial request in the order of preference. However, this may not always be possible because of the lack of opponents for the game requested. In this case an assignment in another listed game will be made. This way you can get started as quickly as possible.

I.c. Each new member will be given a starting rating of 1200. All members are rated under the AHIKS rating system. Each member has the option of having their ratings published in the K.

I.d. Every member has an AHIKS code number. It can be found in two places: at the top right corner of your address label on the K and in front of your name on your ICRK random die roll printout, issued for each game assignment. Always use this code when corresponding with me.

I.e. The SET REQUEST FORM will shortly reappear in the K. This should be used for all match requests and completely filled out at all times. Additional information may be added to clarify your request if needed.

I.f. If you're a member of the Avalon Hill rating system (AREA) you can request an AREA rated game. However, AHIKS has no obligation to submit the results to Avalon Hill. Further, AREA ratings are not posted by AHIKS. You may, however, have the game rated by both systems separately.

I.g. When a match of two games or less are completed, the member is required to return the issued ICRKs with the top portion completely filled out. These printouts are controlled forms and must be accounted for. Further, it is strictly forbidden to reproduce them in any manner.

I.h. Upon receipt of an assignment, one should write to your opponent and AGREE upon the rules of play. Be sure you both have the same rules (and all published errata, clarifications, changes, etc) and agree on what source will be the authority for rules disagreements.

I.i. If you have an opponent, write to me for the ICRKs and the Order of Battle forms. Include your opponents address as well.

I.j. It is the responsibility of the member who made the request to write to me if he/she wishes to cancel/modify the request. All requests are maintained on file for one year unless filled or cancelled. All unfilled matches are returned after the year.

I.k. All members are encouraged to prepare an OoB for any type of game. The only requirement is that all units of one force be able to fit on both sides of a standard AHIKS OoB sheet. Send me the completed ones so that preprinted copies can be prepared.

I.l. All members are invited to write/call me at any time UP TO 10 pm EST if they have questions.

I.m. Those members who wish to be a GAME MASTER, please send me the names of any games they want to GM and the number of players he could handle for the games.

I.n. Most of us in the beginning of our wargaming experience found the need for having an experienced wargamer to assist us. There is always a need for older members to come forward to assist the new members. If you can help, I urge you to do so and send me the names of the games you would like to assist new members in.

I.o. Any member who has a complaint for any reason is urged to contact their Regional Director. He will see that the complaint is properly handled and the results returned to you as soon as possible. One of the major complaints that should be referred to him is opponents who do not respond after repeated contact attempts. WE DO NOT NEED PEOPLE WHO DO NOT RESPOND IN THE SOCIETY.

I.p. Last, but not least, is the important point of opponent response. Our overall reason for joining AHIKS was to have reliable opponents who desired to play for the fun of playing wargames. In that light, we should always consider the other fellow and keep to our agreements. If, at any time, you find yourself falling behind, inform your opponent.

II. OPEN MATCH REQUESTS.

1815; A House Divided; Across Suez; American Civil War; Anzio; Arab-Israeli War; Assault on Leningrad; Avalanche; Battle of Moscow; Beda Fomm; Berlin-85; Chickamaqua; Blue-Grey II; Bulge '81; Caesar at Alesia; Case White; Close Assault; Craonne; Crescent of Doom; D-Day; Dreadnaught; Drive on Washington; Hell's Highway; Invasion of France; Kaiser Battle; Kriegspiel; Lee Moves North; Leningrad; Midway-GDW; Midway-AH; Modern Battles Quad I; Modern Battles Quad II; Napoleon at Liepzig (GM needed); Napoleon at Waterloo; Ney versus Wellington; Operation Crusader; PANZER GROUP GUDERIAN; PANZERKRIEG; Pea Ridge; Pearl Harbor-GDW; Prestag; Race to the Meuse; SHENANDOAH; Sorcerer; Squad Leader; STALINGRAD; Stonewall; Sturm Nach Osten; Submarine; The Russian Campaign; Thin Red Line; Tobruk; WAR OF THE RINGS; Wilson Creek; Wings; Wooden Ships and Iron Men; Wurzburg; Yalu.

New Member requests are capitalized.

III. Bill McCallum and David Berroth desire to purchase WAR BETWEEN THE STATES.

Roy Nievelt and David Berroth desire to purchase WAR IN EUROPE.

Julian Boggess III has the SL game UP FRONT and needs someone to assist in playtesting.

John Rogers is interested in FLATTOP and wants someone to help him play it PBM.

Norman Cromartie and Richard Peterson are all set for a blind play of Napoleon at Liepzig, but need a GM.

David Berroth is interested in purchasing: MIDDLE EARTH; WACH AM RHINE; EMPIRE OF THE MIDDLE AGES, AND MODERN BATTLES QUAD II.

David Shannon wants to purchase SPI's USN.

For all information on the above, write to me.

SWAPPE SHOPPE

FOR SALE: D-Day (mint condition, counters not punched out) \$6; Battle Bulge (excellent) \$5; Submarine (excellent) \$7; Dreadnaught (excellent) \$5. Gary Hill, 1507 Ridge Ave, New Castle, PA 16101.

WANTED: Complete SPI Wacht Am Rhein or parts available. Santo Destefano, 10520 SW 103rd St, Miami, FL 33176

FOR SALE: Good condition S&T back issues, most with games, from 24 to 61. Fot list and postpaid prices, send SASE to Mike Melendez, 301 Logan Drive, Summerville, SC 29483 or call (803) 873-8655.

FOR SALE to the highest bidder: Air Assault on Crete (AH); Luftwaffe (AH); Third Reich (AH); Dauntless and Air Force Expansion (BL). David W. Schuitema, 4564 Rollingview S.W. Wyoming, MI 49509

VITP
B&G
MIDWAY

bulletin board



APPLE OWNERS: I suggest that it's time we got organized. If there are enough of us, sharing info would be of mutual benefit. I will volunteer to act as a clearing house for information, even send out an occasional newsletter. If you're interested, write: Omar DeWitt, 547 Riverside Drive, Elizabeth, NJ 07208.

To our compatriots in the UK: I am looking for someone to help finish up some research on Malta, 1942, for me. In particular, helping work some defense plans for the island at that time out of classified status. If you can help, or know someone who can, please contact me: John Burtt, 400 Butterfly Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401 USA.

From the north central: We have a young gamer interested in playing. He's 18 and persistent to say the least. Other information is unknown. If you're willing to check into him, write: Roger Daene, 19650 Fleming, Detroit, MI 48234.

Need TWO players for a Battle of Britain game I'm willing to monitor. TSR version only. Write me: Bob Cross, 900 Brookforest Rd, Derby, KS 67037

Finally, if anyone is interested in having a game of GDW's new ASSAULT monitored blind, contact your friendly Editor. And is anyone working on a PBM system for GULF STRIKE?



AHIKS KOMMANDEUR
John D. Burtt, Editor
400 Butterfly Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401



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PARMA, MI 49269

NC1013

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED