

## THE KOMMANDEUR

# NEWSLETTER OF THE AVALON HILL INTERCONTINENTAL KRIEGSPIEL SOCIETY

## AHIKS



### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

One of the officers whose work is very important but not very visible (unless things go wrong) is the Treasurer. Joe Horne has been putting in a lot of hours lately counting ballots, keeping track of dues, sending your comments on the ballots to other officers, and getting late notices out to those who have not yet paid their dues. We appreciate your efforts, Joe.

The phone numbers of the officers will be printed in the K in the near future (if not already). So, if you need them, they are available. However, do not call collect; the Society cannot afford it.

Greg Leisner has kindly taken on the responsibility of redoing our PBM procedure for the Introductory Booklet. This will include how to PBM the more complicated games, too. Greg will probably have a notice somewhere in this issue. I urge you to help him.

As you will see from the ballot results elsewhere in this issue, AHIKS will retain Honorary Members, but on a 5-year limit and only on a vote of 75% of the eligible voters. This year by the voting deadline, about 790 of our 274 members responded. Since this is less than 70%, I think that we can safely say that AHIKS will give no more Honorary Memberships. Be that as it may, the question now remains of what to do with the existing Honorary Members.

The concept of Honorary Members originated, I believe, from the presidential pen of Dick Holcombe. At any rate, it has had no constitutional basis until this last election.

A group of five were elected Honorary Memberships in the beginning of 1972. With less than half of the members voting, they received 37 of 50 possible votes--74% of the voting members, less than 38% of the eligible votes. One of the Honorary Members who was voted in later received less than 10% support from those who actually voted.

Keeping the above background in mind, we can now look at the options we have. 1) continue the HMs for life. 2) limit the HMs to 5 years from date voted in. 3) limit the HMs to 5 years from Jan. 1, 1976. 4) discontinue all past HMs. 5) ... I would like to see some discussion on this in the K. As mentioned previously, we will vote on this next January. Let's talk it over.

The vote is to retain our name. After reading some of your comments on the ballots, I think the question could have been better posed. Perhaps we should discuss this question more this year and, if there is enough interest, vote on it again. Some of the suggestions were: Use only the letters "AHIKS" and assign no other meaning to them (in future printings, I hope to

emphasize the letters and de-emphasize the spelled-out name), Keep the letters but assign different words to them (I have come up with Adult Histo-game Intercontinental Kriegspiel Society--can someone replace the "Kriegspiel"?). Some wanted alternatives before they voted to change our name. How about some suggestions? Shall we discuss this some more, or not?

March 6, 1976

Omar DeWitt



### DOIN'S

OMAR HOSTS MINI-CON

-Chris Wendel-

Not too long ago, on an unseasonable mild Saturday, Omar DeWitt sponsored his annual AHIKS get-together for area members and their friends. It was held on Valentine's Day (Feb 14, for those of you who forgot to send flowers to your loved ones), which was somewhat ironic, for everyone knows there is no love lost between game opponents! In actuality, though, the atmosphere was quite congenial. The gaming was held at the Vail-Deane School instead of Omar's home due to the large turn-out for the affair. All in all there were seventeen people present to join in the fun. Eleven of the seventeen were AHIKS members: Joe Seliga, Steve Ulberg, Carl Amling, Alan Gopin, Bill Perry, Mike Truex, John Heydt, Steve Haas, Steve Curley, Omar, Chris Wendel. The non-members included Tom Holtz, Woody Sullivan, Rod Meaney, Karl Adey, David Kepley, Tim Ryan.

After the usual wargamer's breakfast of coffee and donuts, the gaming began at about 9:30. Games played in the morning session included Grand Chancellorsville, Patrol, Oil War, Leyte, Saipan, and Shennandoa. It seemed unusually coincidental that all games were concluded just as Omar broke out the lunchmeat for the mid-day meal. Lunch was served buffet style (ie, everybody made their own sandwiches) and beer and soda was present for those who cared to indulge. It was a well-timed break from the action as the winners savored their victories, and the losers ate more than just sandwiches and potato chips!

The afternoon began with one of SPI's newest releases, Fast Carriers, falling under the scrutiny of four members. Joe Seliga and Mike Truex paired off as did Alan Gopin and this writer. Those present marveled at the expansive set-up of each game (especially at Mike's "anti-spy cardboard screen contraption"). All four participants found dispute with the title of the game, suggesting that "Careers" would more accurately reflect the length and involvement required! Both sets of players recognized the futility in attempting to complete their respective scenario, although Mike and Joe persevered longer than Alan and myself. However, all agreed that the game is very tastefully done, with a unique flavor and would be most enjoyably entertained on a week-end basis. (Joe Seliga said he was going to work on a PEM system for the game.)

**doin's**

Other games equally enjoyed in the afternoon session included Wooden Ships and Iron Men, Antietam, Marengo, Okinawa, American Civil War, and Golan. But the game which highlighted the afternoon was Kingmaker. True to its reputation as a popular game, the contest began with over 50% of the people present actively involved. Even Joe Seliga and Mike Truxex participated despite the fact that they were still actively pursuing each other in their game of Fast Carriers. The game began about mid-afternoon and extended well into the evening. Due to my ignorance of the game, I cannot give all the details of play, nor do I know who finally was victorious; but I can honestly say that it appeared the game was once again well received.

Gaming continued at a leisurely pace through the dinner hour with Omar stepping out to bring back that famous wargamer's staple, PIZZA, for everyone. Things finally broke up about 11 PM. The most popular game of the day appeared to be SPI's new Blue & Gray II, with all four folio games played more than once by various individuals. The second most popular game seemed to be the Island War Quad. Conversations concerning the day's festivities all pointed to the same conclusion: everyone had an excellent time. There were no big winners nor terminal losers, and this writer was particularly impressed with the comradeship and congeniality that prevailed upon the meeting. The event was definitely a Valentine's Day well spent.



**TREASURER**

**Joe Horne**

**ELECTION RESULTS**

\*indicates further discussion under "Opinions" section

**CONSTITUTION**

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. A. 146; B. 42; C. 1*      | I/E. A. 141; B. 48                  |
| 11. A. 188; B. 2             | II/A. A. 184; B. 5                  |
| I. A. 163; B. 17; C. 6; D. 1 | II/B/1. A. 189; B. 1                |
| I/A/1. A. 184; B. 6          | II/B/2. A. 153; B. 37*              |
| I/A/2. A. 163; B. 27*        | II/C. A. 185; B. 3*                 |
| 3. 124; 66*                  | II/D/1. A. 136; B. 50*              |
| 4. 185; 5                    | II/D/2. A. 85; B. 15; C. 40; D. 47* |
| 5. 169; 21                   | II/D/3. A. 146; B. 39*              |
| 6. 177; 9                    | III/A. A. 174; B. 16                |
| 7. 179; 11                   | B. 188; 2                           |
| 8. 186; 3                    | C. 165; 23*                         |
| 9. 174; 16                   | D. 177; 13                          |
| 10. 178; 12                  | E. 189; 1                           |
| I/B. A. 185; B. 5            | F. 187; 3                           |
| I/C. A. 169; B. 14; C. 6     | IV. A. 165; B. 22*                  |
| I/D. A. 144; B. 46*          |                                     |

**OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> OMAR DeWITT 170	<b>ICRCKMEISTER:</b> GENE GARDNER 113
Henry Radice 2	Carl Benton 40
	Bob Johnson 19
<b>TREASURER:</b> HAROLD HORNE 172	<b>RD WEST:</b> J. RATZENBERGER 54
	Fred Webster 1
<b>JUDGE:</b> TOM OLESON 171	William Grigsby 1
Ken Mills 1	Gene Gardner 1
<b>EDITOR:</b> PETE MENCONI 170	
Richard Berg 1	

**REFERENDUM**

- Match Coordinator: A. Appoint 112; B. Elect 72; C. 1
- Archivist: A. Appoint 138; B. Elect 44
- Staggered elections: A. Stagger 174; B. Same time 13
- Limit Officer terms: A. No Limit 136; B. Limit 45\*
- Minimum games playing: A. No minimum 159; B. Set minimum 22

**POLL**

- Deficiencies in service? A. No 154; B. Yes 31\*
- New services desired? A. No 121; B. Yes 53\*
- You serve as officer? A. No 71; B. Yes 110\*
- Which office?\*
- Publish the K: A. 1/yr 11; B. 2/yr 12; C. 3/yr 9; D. 4/yr 57; E. 6/yr 94\*
- AHIKS RATINGS: A. Rate me 102; B. Don't 76; C. 1\*
- Sell OOB Sheets: A. Yes 84; No 92\*

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**editorial**

This issue should contain a batch of "AHIKS stuff", as I scan my "IN" basket. Membership list for the entire Society (per the comments of several members) will go to everyone for a change; you should get this as an insert (not sequentially numbered) to this issue. Also part of the insert will be our new Constitution, passed by an overwhelming, massive majority. Detailed accounting of votes cast for officers, constitution, poll and referendum will also be included (regular text, not insert). Joe Horne has done an outstanding job collating all your ballot comments and distributing them to all officers for study and further discussion. Some of the comments you'll see reprinted in Opinions: I mainly picked the ones related to those items in the Con/Poll/Ref which were less lopsided in the vote.

You will find that your comments and opinions are being solicited on several items. You might be surprised to find how valued are your comments when it is time to develop new policies and procedures.

On the subject of changing our name, this idea comes up from time to time. I think that after ten years as "AHIKS" we should keep the name. I think the first paragraph (i) of the Constitution is valid, and when I was RD the reference to Avalon Hill did not seem to scare anyone away. I think Omar's suggestion to de-emphasize the "AH" by simply using only the abbreviation is a good one. If everyone simply agrees to this as "common usage" in the future, we can gradually convert all our publications to read only "AHIKS". Starting with K 11/3, only AHIKS will appear in the masthead.

And why not make the masthead change in K 11/2?! Well, my prediction last issue of a new baby "about March 1" proved extremely accurate, Jay Edward having made his debut at 6:01 PM, March 1. Roxy and I were both cheered by the fact that he promptly fell asleep. An omen, we hope. At any rate, this issue will get the business end of AHIKS covered, but some of the frills will have to wait for next issue.



**ORIGINS II**  
WARGAMING/MINIATURES  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
DATE: JULY 23, 24, and 25, 1976  
PLACE: Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, Maryland

# AHIKS CONSTITUTION

i. The name of this organization shall be the Avalon Hill Intercontinental Kriegspiel Society (AHIKS). The "Avalon Hill" is in recognition of the pioneering efforts of the Avalon Hill Co. in the field of wargaming.

ii. The purpose of AHIKS shall be to facilitate the playing of wargames between mature individuals, primarily by mail.

I. The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall comprise the President (chairman), the Treasurer, the Judge, the Regional Directors, the Editor of the "Kommandeur", and the ICRK Meister. (This does not include Regional sub-officers of the same name.)

A. The functions of the Executive committee shall be:

1. Define the functions of each office. These definitions shall be printed in the "Kommandeur" and the Introductory Booklet.

2. Create new offices (the officers would then be on the Executive Committee), subject to year-end vote by the membership.

3. Remove incumbent officers.

4. Appoint interim officers, subject to year-end vote by the membership.

5. Recommend dissolution of existing offices for year-end vote by the membership.

6. Cancel memberships, in accordance with II-B, below.

7. Set guidelines for membership in AHIKS.

8. Recommend yearly dues and initiation fee, subject to year-end vote by membership.

9. The above functions will be determined by 2/3 vote.

10. General operating guidelines and detailed instructions for officers and members shall be published by the Executive Committee. These shall continue in force until modified by the same or future Executive Committee.

B. Officers are elected by a simple plurality of voting members.

C. The term of office shall be two years.

D. There is no limit to the number of terms an officer may serve.

E. Elected officers pay no dues for the time they serve in that office.

## II. Membership

A. Accepting members into the Society is the responsibility of the Regional Director, who will use guidelines set down by the Executive Committee.

B. Membership will be terminated because of:

1. Nonpayment of dues.

2. Extreme discourtesy.

C. There is no restriction because of race, sex, religion, or political convictions.

D. Honorary Memberships.

1. Honorary Memberships may be awarded by the membership at large for meritorious service to the Society.

2. The Honorary Membership comprises free services (ie, no dues) and shall last for five years.

3. No more than one such Membership can be awarded in any one year. It is awarded by a 75% vote of eligible voters.

## III. Games

A. Games arranged through the officers of AHIKS will normally be played in sets of two games--each member taking both sides.

B. If an ICRK is used, its contents are confidential and shall not be shared with anyone except the designated opponent.

C. Any game may be played through the services of AHIKS.

D. Members may have games with nonmembers, but AHIKS' services may not be used for such games.

E. In case of disagreement between members, the Judge will settle the disagreement.

F. The President shall arbitrate in any games involving the Judge.

IV. This Constitution may be rewritten or altered by a simple majority of the voting members.

JANUARY, 1976

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WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT:

Volunteering to run for Office  
Volunteering to aid with Society services  
Suggestions for changes/additions/improvements to Society rules/procedures/services/policies  
Complaints about Officers

WRITE TO THE JUDGE:

Questions on game rule interpretation  
Rules clarifications you receive from the game publishers

WRITE TO THE TREASURER:

Change of address  
Paying dues when renewing membership  
Submitting election ballots

WRITE TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

Complaints about other members  
Volunteering to aid with Society services  
Suggestions for changes to Society  
Information on Society (for new members)  
Applying for membership (new members)  
Paying dues and initiation fees (new members)  
ANYTHING NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED UNDER OTHER OFFICERS

WRITE TO THE MATCH COORDINATOR:

Requesting game assignment  
Volunteering to play new members  
Volunteering to monitor games for other members  
Information on the AHIKS Player Rating System

WRITE TO THE ICRKMEISTER:

Requesting an ICRK only when you have lined up an opponent without going through the Match Coordinator  
Requesting supplemental ICRKs when you exhaust the first one sent  
Returning used ICRKs when game is finished

WRITE TO THE EDITOR

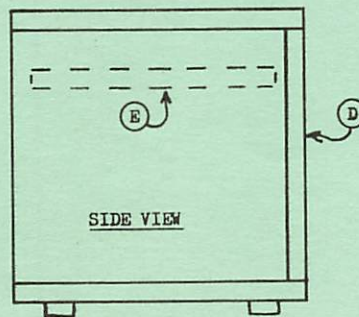
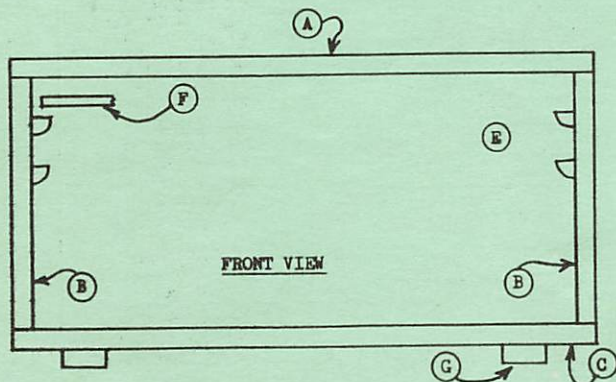
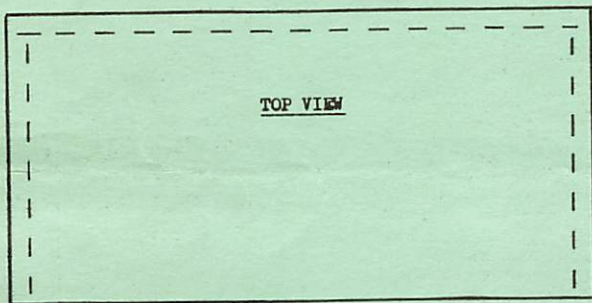
Information pertaining to AHIKS or the hobby that might be of interest to other members  
Reviews of games published  
Opinions on AHIKS policies, etc.

THE GAME CABINET

The game storage cabinet is one of the best time-savers available to the wargamer. It allows you to leave your games set-up while awaiting your opponent's reply. Some notes on assembly:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| A = TOP: 48" x 24"           | E = SHELF SUPPORTS: (14) pieces, 20" long, of 3/4" quarter-round |
| B = SIDES: (2) 24" x 23 1/4" | F = SHELVES: (8) pieces, 23" x 46"                               |
| C = BOTTOM: 48" x 24"        | G = FEET: miscellaneous scrap                                    |
| D = BACK: 48" x 24"          |  |

- Use (1) 4'x8' sheet of 3/4"; (2) sheets of 3/8"
- Glue (Elmer's) and nails will hold forever
- Number of shelves will vary with spacing; 3" spacing gives 8 shelves
- Coat top of shelf supports with parafin (wax)
- Drape cloth over cabinet to keep dust out, or install doors to keep both dust and the "rug rats" out
- Above sizes give you a cabinet that will roughly handle a 2' x 4' game (Anzio); many variations on the design are possible



TREASURER (CONT.)

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH 3RD QTR 1975

Effective balance at beginning of 1975				\$ 289.16
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>I/75</b>	<b>II/75</b>	<b>III/75</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Dues	\$ 1227.00	\$ 127.50	\$ 50.50	\$ 1405.00
Initiation Fees	145.00	90.00	65.00	300.00
European Region		21.92		21.92
Miscellaneous	51.90	18.50	4.00	74.40
	\$ 1423.90	\$ 257.92	\$ 119.50	\$ 1801.32
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
President	\$ 29.48	\$ 66.52	\$ 20.80	\$ 116.80
RD East	61.95	41.83	43.03	146.81
RD West	39.45	20.37	39.89	99.71
Editor	207.00			207.00
ICRKM Meister	69.73	18.00	25.00	112.73
Match Coord/Arch	12.66	4.54	3.54	20.74
Treasurer	24.55	8.76	4.69	38.00
Judge	3.00	10.99	7.00	20.99
Stationery	84.56	30.87	41.70	157.13
Miscellaneous	13.14	14.40	24.13	51.67
	\$ 545.52	\$ 216.28	\$ 209.78	\$ 971.67
Effective balance at end of Third Quarter 1975				\$ 1,118.90
Total postage = \$411.79				
Total printing costs = \$190.12				

continued page 5

OPINIONS

BALLOT COMMENTS

-Editing and commentary by Pete Menconi-

The full listing of comments from the ballots, compiled by Joe Horne, runs to seven pages of typewritten material, precluding its inclusion here without some editing. In many cases, the vote was so lopsided that further discussion probably will not occur. The comments below will, hopefully, spark further commentary and opinion in order to better shape our policies and procedures.

CONSTITUTION

1. (Name of organization): Five people wrote with specific comments suggesting how to change the name. The feeling seems to be that the "Avalon Hill" is no longer quite correct. Changing the name to "AHIKS" (vs "Avalon H.... etc") seemed acceptable; RGA and 3M were examples cited in which an organization had adopted its former initials as the new name. (Curious, that two people mentioned 3M: AH apparently has bought out the 3M games division!)

I/A/2, I/A/3 (Creating offices, removal of incumbants): In general, the comments (plus the voting) seemed to say that you are not sure how much of this power to place in the hands of the Exec Committee. "No emergency is that great", is a fair summary of the comments. Perhaps one of the first rules voted by the Exec should be that a confirming vote should be made by the members? You never like to contemplate that such a proviso should be necessary, but accidents do happen, and we might someday really need to get rid of an officer: do we want to wait up to two years before doing it? Obviously not, so the question comes down to balancing the time delay against the trust held in the other officers. My own feeling is that 2/3 of the officers is a sufficient criteria.

I/D (Limit to terms served): Some 45 people expressed different time limits; perhaps it is appropriate to point out that, considering the average suggested limit (two terms), three of our current officers could not currently hold office, and three more would not be able to serve after the current term! I thought that five terms (ten years) was sufficient to prevent stagnation, but even that may be too restrictive. In such offices as the Judge, more years means better operation of the office. Any further thoughts out there?

I/E (Officers don't pay dues): I liked the comment, "If you decide on dues, you got to be paying them." The amount of money is pretty small, and I would say that any of the incumbants would tell you that it makes no difference. Food for thought: although we are compensated for expenses, many of the small, incidental costs are not worth keeping track of (envelopes, for example, or a stamp from Mom's desk every so often). No dues payment probably just offsets this sort of thing.

II/B (Termination of membership): OK, does someone really think we should continue membership if the turkey doesn't pay? Paragraph 2 obviously stuck in many craws. "Extreme discourtesy" is the key phrase, and many asked for a clearer description. I'd guess that no one could really give a very good description, except by example. Not replying to your opponents is one very good reason to give 'em the boot, and we do from time to time. What isn't sufficiently defined is the procedure for removal of membership status. I think the officers should come back to the members with a concrete procedure (investigation, presentation of circumstances, voting). The current method is a consensus discussion until it seems clear that all officers agree the guy must go, at which time Omar gets to do the dirty work. I think we only removed one last year; reviewed another (no names, now) just recently and kept him.

II/C (No restriction of race, sex, religion, politics): Just one comment worth passing on: "or sexual orientation." This prompts me to propose another AHIKS rule: "FTF games shall be played with hands on TOP of the table"!!!

II/D (Honorary membership): Per comments in the President's Corner, the Honorary membership may well be a thing of the past. Perhaps this thing should die, anyway: Fred Webster once commented to me that he thought it was a bad idea in the first place. As it stands, it will be virtually impossible to elect an honorary member: everybody happy, or should we change it?

III/C (Any game may be played through the services of AHIKS): "I really don't think 'Uncle Wiggley' belongs in AHIKS." See Tom Oleson's comments in Law and Order. I agree we have to draw the line somewhere. I think the intent of this section is to dispell any fears that the "AH" in our name might mean no SPI games, etc., could get ICRKs, etc.

IV (Amend constitution by majority of those voting): Some people wanted 2/3 vote of those eligible, or 2/3 of those voting. Further comment?

POLL

1. (Deficiencies in service?): "Let's blow up Jerry Schott's machine and put it out of its misery," was my favorite! Many listed the now-defunct regional (US) newsletters, probably due to the problems encountered in the final issue. There were also many complaints about the match coordination; members listed slow speed and foul-ups as problems ("received my first assignment--Stalingrad. Opponent was sent Borodino--at least I got Russians for both games!"). Dave Turansky appears to have things well in hand; you should realize that there will be unavoidable loss of time in mailing and matching. Often, the MCoordinator will get a request for which he has no "partner", and the only thing he can do is advertise the request.

2. (New services you'd like to see?): Some things mentioned: ratings for those who want them; more info on what's happening in the hobby; more game reviews & evaluations; more FTF meetings; tournaments (groan--an oft-tread path, perhaps worth trying again now that we have more members?); 10-digit ICRKs; PBM guidelines; game monitoring; (get this, now) "a dating service to provide between-moves companionship for members" (watch out for the guy commenting above on II/C in the Con!); errata sheets; polls of the members to get ratings on games or annual awards; see any that you like? Got some more? We really need two things: ONE an idea of which ideas will really be used by the members, so that some volunteer doesn't go all-out just to find no one is really going to use his services; TWO some volunteers to do some of the above. Anyone coming through Phoenix, desiring the between-moves companionship, send your check or money.... What's that dear?... Sorry, fellows, the boss says no.

3. (Willing to serve as an officer): Our thanks to the fellow who said, "I'd rather bitch." Many people did sign up, with suitable cautions. I'm sure Omar is gloating over this list!

5. (Frequency of K publication): One thing that came up a couple of times was the idea (incorrect) that the RDs would have nothing to do if they didn't have their newsletters to publish. In point of fact, they are both quite busy right now, reviewing applications from new members, etc. You guys would be absolutely shocked to see how much time the RDs have to spend on AHIKS even with the newsletters gone!

6. (Rating service): Some people felt this was too bloody a test of membership, or felt that we should simply not be concerned with such ratings, playing for the fun of it. Some thought that the AREA ratings (from Avalon Hill) were just as good. Dave Turansky says he'll provide ratings for those that would like to see themselves rated, but not include any others in the lists.

7. (Sell OOBs?): From the vote, I'd say we're pretty evenly split on the question. The comments bring out some good points, particularly the question of whether or not anyone else is interested in AHIKS OOB sheets. Perhaps the proper thing to do is get some limited advertisement in a friendly zine, try selling some and see what problems and profit are involved? At the moment, we don't really have much hard information on how tall a cliff we're stepping off.

# LAW AND ORDER

Tom Oleson

Years ago I knew a man who had a standing purchase order for every single classical record issued. Sounds incredible (and the sight of his collection was incredible!), but it's true. I thought him a little daft, but the overflowing cornucopia of wargames these days is creating an uncomfortably similar situation in my own hobby room!

I used to buy every last wargame published, assiduously seeking out the obscure amateur games advertised briefly in some short-lived "fanzine". No more! I'm pretty dumb, but it finally got through to me that I was getting ripped off! Years ago I realized that I'd never play the majority of the games I was buying, but when it got to the point that I wouldn't even have time to read the rules, I decided "Who needs it?!" Had I the money to burn of my record-collecting friend, I'd still buy them all, but I just can't afford to invest \$8-10 in a game that will never do anything but catch dust.

As of today, I own about 95% of all the wargames ever published, but the gaps in my collection are growing bigger daily, and inevitably (it hasn't happened yet!), I'm going to get a rules query for a game I don't own. When that happens, I'll send out an SOS to someone like Omar, or Richard Berg for an SPI game, or my helpful buddy Don Greenwood, and offer my regrets for the delay.

Recently I had a Blitzkrieg rules query that it seemed more important to answer right than fast, so I consulted with Dr. Bruce Maston, whom I know is expert on that game, and he was most helpful. I'd like to solicit the help of any AHIKSer who feels that he is particularly well-posted on any game or games, particularly the most recent ones. Please write and tell me which games you know really well, and I'll keep that on file, as I did with Bruce.

Even when there were less than a few score of professionally-published wargames, suspicion grew to certainty among hobbyists of that era that the publishers were rather careless about answering queries. To many wargamers, it sounds like a dream come true to be a Howie Barasch or a Don Greenwood, but the grim reality is that the time needed to put out games, and game magazines, leaves so little time to play games that it isn't hard to understand why so little attention is paid to answering rules queries. Particularly when dealing with a game one doesn't know too well, considerable time is required to keep consistent. It isn't so hard just to answer a question if you don't bother to be sure that you, or someone else, didn't answer the same question several different ways!

About this time of year, when people are doing their income tax, the WALL ST. JOURNAL always runs a story on asking various different IRS offices, or offices of H&R Block, the same tax question. If they ask 20 different sources, they usually get at least 15 different replies. A variant on this same theme is going around to garages asking for estimates on fixing a car which has only one thing wrong with it: a loose spark-plug wire. Estimates usually run from zero to \$1000! I hear similar stories on wargaming queries directed to the publishers. This is not to imply that one can't get a straight answer: they do the best they can, and often that is good enough--but it's not the solution invariably. Take a good game like USN--several different fans of that game complain to me that they just can't get fast or consistent clarifications on it from SPI.

I do believe that one of these days AHIKS will need at least two Judges: say one for SPI games, and one for everything else. What do YOU think?

And also, what do you, the AHIKS membership, think about including fantasy and SF games in our club? I had been wondering when this question would come up, and now it has: a member has asked me for grids on several fantasy/SF games which I neither own nor intend to buy. Of course, the easiest thing would be to gain access to them and give him the grids, but then rulings may be requested, so perhaps a decision should be made at the outset.

Rumor has it that Avalon Hill has purchased the 3M game line, and they have a number of non-wargames already. So does SPI; "Sorcerer" is their best-selling title right now. "Dungeons & Dragons" was recently accorded a very favorable vote in a poll of wargamers (is it even right to call ourselves wargamers in relation to these games?!). Which of these games should be included in the scope of our club, IF ANY?

Although I would obey the wishes of the majority of the club in executing the duties of Judge, my own personal feeling is that AHIKS is a wargaming club, and therefore should stick just to wargames. This is not intended to demean this, or any other of the areas with which wargaming forms an interface, such as miniatures or diplomacy, but just to acknowledge, and a bit warily and warily, that wargames alone seem to me fully enough for our organization to handle. What does the club want to do about this?

A final point to ponder: several members have indicated a desire to see rules clarifications for various games published in the K. These would be answers from the publishers as well as AHIKS interpretations. The questions that come to my mind center on the number of games currently in print. Do we want to devote that much space of the K to rules questions? How many members are really going to be interested in the clarifications for one particular game? Would it be better for the Judge to maintain a file on each game, keeping all questions and clarifications in that file, sending a copy to any member so requesting it? I'd appreciate some discussion on this. For the moment, if you write to a publisher, please send me a copy of the reply!

(K)

## SPEARHEAD

VOICE FROM THE EAST

Jerry Schott

There were exactly four entries in the "Guess the RD Identity Contest". The winner of vol 12 #1 of the General: Richard Mayhew, Radford, VA (his was the only entry for this prize, had four correct answers). The winner of the Battleflag Feb/73 copy, plus game of Breakout: Dave Turansky (three entries, his had six correct answers). The correct answers were: brown hair, wears glasses, pipe smoker, 18k gold watch, 5' 8" tall, hazel eyes, would love a "terrible T-Bird", drinks scotch and water, has a red beard, two FM radios in the den, collects coins, wargames, and (unfortunately) bills, bills, bills. Also I am 32 years old and have braces on my teeth which my orthodontist assures me will be off in six months or so. Wife: Linda; daughter Kathy (age four and is a real chatter box).

Omar's article in S&T has brought in over 26 requests for applications for membership in AHIKS. Already six of these have joined the club. I also expect another big rush when the next General ad with Pete's name and address (lucky guy) comes out soon. (\*\*On a "dirty rat" scale of 1 to 10, Jerry scores 50!!!\*\*pm) Omar is also going to do an article for the General on AHIKS which should bring in a few more people.

I have been getting quite a few complaints lately on members who have just stopped writing. It is a real shame that this type of person is in the club, but as one member in the past told me: "You pays your money and you take your chances." I would estimate over 75% of the people in AHIKS are very reliable, and if you are playing enough people at a time (I myself keep over 10 games going), you don't even miss a lot of these guys. Frankly, I keep hoping that those members who don't renew their dues are all this type, but I hope that none of the people who drop out are doing so because of this type of member. Let's face reality: over the long run members that stay in AHIKS have got to be reliable. The odds favor those who stay with the program of getting more and more reliable opponents. Currently, I know more reliable opponents in AHIKS than I have time to play, and I haven't even played with more than 1/10th of the members.

Any way, if you are having a problem with an opponent who has stopped writing, and you are sure the one letter has not been lost in the mail, write to your RD with the details and maybe he will be able to do something about it. If enough members complain about the same person, and he can't give a good explanation, we can "hand him his hat".

Also, if any one of you has an article he wants published in the K, please send it to Pete (\*\*yeah\*\*pm), since I for one am convinced the regional newsletters are finished.

(\*\*A point of clarification: ALL complaints about improper play procedure, or non-reply are investigated. We ask the "accused" to reply, and check with his other opponents to see if more than one member has had problems. Actually, 80% of the time it doesn't need to go any further because the "accused" never replies to any letters: he simply drops out altogether and is a self-cancelling problem. It is very important that you let your RD know immediately if your opponent ceases to reply. Write your opponent first, of course, since it may be that the PO just lost his letter, but if still no reply, by all means let someone know! I think that Jerry's appraisal of 75% reliability is too low. I think that the high re-enlistment this year further shows that we are doing some things very right.\*\*pm)

(K)

NEW & AVAILABLE

THE SPACE GAMER, #3. \$5/6 issues, Metagaming Concepts, Box 15346, Austin, TX 78761. 24 pages, 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 offset printing. If you are interested in SF&F gaming, this is worth looking into. If you say you saw this notice in the KOMMANDEUR, they will send you a free copy of the magazine. You can't do better than that.

--O.L.D.



# THE WESTERN FRONT

John Ratzenberger

Well, it's the end of a hectic month, and I'll be sliding into the deadline for this article with a day or two to spare (or is it late?). Omar's ad in S&T has generated a real workload at this end and for all the officers. "My mommy didn't tell me it would be like this!!"

The statistics for the first quarter show that we had 12 non-renewals, one transfer to the East, and 18 new members, for a total of 90 members and 5 officers in the West. I've sent "how come?" cards to all the non-renewals and am hoping to get answers to see if there was something we did or failed to do that caused them to drop out. Unless one of the other officers publishes their names this time, I shall do it next time in case you happen to be in a game with them. (\*\*All members should look up opponents in the enclosed address listing.\*\*-pm)

I think between Jerry and I, we could have filled an entire K with blurbs about the new members. After Pete, Jerry and I discussed it, we decided that the sudden "bubble" precluded our usual practice of introducing each addition. Our apologies to the new fellows, and we'll be "business as usual" next issue. We have doctors, lawyers, military, bankers, students, artists and everything else--all with the desire to have opponents. As most of them came from the S&T ad, their chief reason seems to be to find opponents (S&T not having an opponents wanted section).

continued page 6

# FROM THE MATCH COORDINATOR

Dave Turansky

I would like to know how much interest AHIKS has in gamemaster services for multiplayer and monitor games. We could include such a question at year's end with the ballots, or interested members could let me know. Perhaps, with sufficient interest, we could create an all-purpose AHIKS gamesmaster. For the moment, I will list the offerings of any member who wishes to monitor any game. If you have complaints about GMs with which you have had dealings, send them to me; if the complaints are justified, such GMs will no longer be listed.

European members: please write to me for matches with US opponents (especially those open games followed by an "E").

The response to "Fast Game Only" has been so poor that I have been forced to eliminate it. If you list an "F", I'll try, but I'm not promising anything. With the multitude of games out today, it is quite difficult just to find two members who both want the same game (not to mention the same rules and scenario!). The ICRKMeister still needs your rating of your opponents speed, by the way.

You should check with your opponent on rules to be used and scenario. For quadrigames, list order of preference, and I'll try to get two members who look like they'll agree on a game.

You will get games more quickly if you send me something on the order of, "will play 3 of the following 7 games." This is especially useful for new member program volunteers. I am also "drafting" old members into the NMP if they happen to have a request in that matches that of a new member.

Open games have a habit of not being open any longer by the time you write. Should you become odd man out, you may in turn have an open game looking for an opponent.

## TREASURER (cont.)

At this time only the financial reports for the first three quarters of 1975 are available. There is still one outstanding item to be finalized before a fourth quarter and annual report will be ready.

As I indicated last time, dues paying this year compares very favorably with last year. As of this writing we have lost only 27 members in the US regions, versus 25 last year. Since we've added 50 members, our percentage of members retained has gone up significantly. If you are playing one of the people who have not renewed, you should have received a notice from the ICRKMeister by now. If he is a reliable opponent, please try to get him to pay his dues. Naturally, no one can stop a member from playing a non-member.

In the spirit of Omar's suggestion last time about helping other members share the wealth, I would like to mention The Wonderful World of Games (TWWoG). It costs \$5 for a lifetime membership and allows one to purchase most games at a discount (I got WITE for \$16.95). I could recommend this to any member who does not have access to discounts already, and who buys quite a few games. Their address is 314 Marshall Ave., Laurel, MD 20810.

At this time of year we really find out that wargamers are a mobile lot. The number of changes of address received with dues is substantial. We should not get the majority of the changes at any particular time of year; you should be keeping up to date as you move! It is part of the Treasurer's duties to handle address changes, but any officer will be glad to get the info and send it on to me. I have had at least three members mention that they did not receive their dues notice. Since none of these notices were returned, there is no way to tell what happened to them. Therefore, please check your mailing label and inform us immediately if it is incorrect. Further, if you feel you have missed something in the mail, ASK!!

(K)

OPEN GAMES: African Campaign, Afrika Korps (N), Battle of Stalingrad, Blue and Gray II, Breakout and Pursuit, Fast Carriers, Global War, Luftwaffe, Moscow Campaign, Panzerarmee Afrika, Panzerleader, Rifle and Saber, 1776 (E), Sinai, Stalingrad (N), USN (campaign), Waterloo, WWII.

TWO PLAYERS NEEDED: Desert War, Tank.

NEW MEMBER REQUESTS: Battle for Germany, Dixie, Friedland 1807, Manassas, Napoleon at Waterloo, Nato, Panzerblitz, Spitfire, Torgau, Winter War, WWII.

### MONITORS AVAILABLE:

Earl Anderson, 212 E. Earle St., Greenville, SC 29609; Frigate. James R. Brown, 12992 E. Randolph Pl., Denver, CO 80239; Midway; Jim would also like to organize an Origins of WWII and a five-player Third Reich.

Sean Hayes, 2426 Woodacres Rd., Atlanta, GA 30345; WITE. Henry Kelley, 6721 6th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117; Henry is trying to spark new life into Pacific Diplomeur and Origins West. Priority is on existing delayed games. New game openings depend in part upon requests. Diplomacy and Kingmaker should be opening soon.

Terry Paul, 3438 N. Oakland, Milwaukee, WI 53211; Panzerblitz w/ hidden units.

William Clumm, Entwood, RR 1, Amesville, OH 45711; publishes Quendi Khazad Dum monthly, 11 issues/\$4. Regular Diplomacy openings, Kingmaker, Third Reich, others. Has special deal for AHIKSers (he has some AHIKSers subbing the zine now).

(K)

## SET REQUEST FORM

USE THE FOLLOWING LETTER CODE. INSERT ANY ORDER, AS MANY LETTERS AS APPLY IN PARENTHESES FOLLOWING EACH GAME REQUEST.

N WILL PLAY NEW MEMBER (LIST NUMBER OF MONTHS THIS IS TO APPLY)    M MULTIPLAYER GAME REQUEST  
E WILL PLAY EUROPEAN OPPONENT (IF AVAILABLE)    G WILLING TO GAMEMASTER    F DESIRE FAST GAME ONLY ( FOUR DAY REPLY )  
A WILL PLAY AREA OPPONENT (IF AVAILABLE)    R DESIRE TO BE RATED ON THIS SET (IF AVAILABLE)

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

I DESIRE TO BE CARRIED ON PUBLISHED AHIKS RATING LISTS (CHECK IF APPLICABLE)

SEND THIS FORM TO THE MATCH COORDINATOR IF YOU NEED AN OPPONENT. ALREADY GOT A TURKEY LINED UP? SEND IT TO THE ICRKMEISTER.

WESTERN FRONT (cont.)

Dave Turansky tells me he has been able to fill their initial game requests either through volunteers or the "draft". However, if you do see something under the new member program still open, volunteer--let's not have any NM requests unfilled!

I was pleased to be visited by Lynn Moore and Jim Strobeck this month--although both of them managed to be able to duck the fence raising! Next opportunity available is for hauling rock and breaking ground for my gardens--any takers? Lynn and I discussed our PATROL game, and Jim ended up with the bad side of an unbalanced PL scenario, but still managed to teach me some finer points of the game before weight of numbers prevailed.

I've received one possible member problem which I'll look into--remember, if a problem, complaint or suggestion comes up, let me know so we can get something done about it.

And as closing, I'd like to welcome all the new members and wish them good luck (but not too much--us old hands need to win a few!!) from the members of the West Region.

(K)

SHORT NOTES

The inclusion of the con/member list, plus some last-minute additions to some articles sort of chopped up the continuity of some of the items in this issue. Recipients of complimentary copies of the K will find that they do not have the insert. Sorry, we consider the member list confidential (I don't know about anyone else, but I'm on enough junk lists as it is!). ----- You should all note the Judge's address listed on page 2 is different than that shown in the member list. Tom Oleson will be in Durham until July 1, 1976, at which time he'll return to his permanent residence in Santa Barbara. ----- I'd hoped to give this next piece more room, but...etc. The East Region in and around the Jersey shore are sponsoring another ZOLNIERSKI ZEBRANIE (which Mike Truex assures me means "Soldierly Gathering" in Polish--I thought any gathering of soldiers in Jersey was called a "Gosa Nostra!"). At this time, it is scheduled for THE WEEKEND OF MAY 15TH, tentatively to be a one-day affair on Saturday, option of going for the entire weekend if the response warrants. The host will arrange for snacks and cold cuts for lunch (for which you will be asked to contribute a few bucks). Dinner cost will go according to what your stomach and wallet negotiate. If interested (past gatherings have been a blast) contact Mike Truex, 304 White Rd., Little Silver, NJ 07739, (201) 747-1660; or John Heydt, 5 Hampton Ct., Neptune, NJ 07753. ----- Nathan Mitchell still has quite a few blank counter sheets available under our materials co-op plan. Sheets of 100 each, colors white, blue, red, green. You can order in any combination of quantity and color. Cost is 40¢/first 100-sheet, 30¢/additional 100-sheets. Write: 426 E. Ferrill, Norman, OK 73069. Nathan also reluctantly must announce that the section in his office formerly devoted to AHKS has been put to other use, dictating his relinquishing his post as materials coordinator. We need a new volunteer, especially in view of the fact that we could make another batch of very low-price SPI boxes available as soon as someone steps forward. ----- Gamers con in IA area: June 4,5,6; contact J. Blancher, 17323 Saticoy St., Northridge, CA 91324 for details (213-343-0401). -- -- For details on ORIGINS II con, write Avalon Hill ("Convention"), sending an SSAE.

NUTS AND BOLTS

the icrkmeister

When requesting help or making a complaint, be sure your writing to the right officer. When a letter comes to me that should go to someone else, I pass it on, but it takes time. For example, if you want to take your name off the active list for game requests, the request should go to the Match Coordinator. By the time I get it to him he may already have you a match! The only area I can help you in is what is concerned with the ICRKs, your file, and OCB sheets.

As of this date I am swamped. I ask you to bear with me until I can get caught up again. The ads and new members have generated an unusual number of requests. Right now I'm running a week or less in delays for direct requests to me, and new member games. Those that are churned out by the Match Coordinator are currently behind one to two weeks. I'm still giving one day service on all direct requests to me that are accompanied with two SAE's. (No stamps please.)

I've recently had some members write requesting that I send them a second ICRK so that they can play both sets at once. This is not necessary. The ICRK is designed to be used for both sets. When you request a second ICRK you will only receive the die roll part (the bottom). This will be matched to your original ICRK on my records. When you are finished or both sets are completed, destroy the supplemental ICRK and only return the first one. I have also been asked to send additional ICRKs along with the original: I'd rather not do this; over 80% of all games never require it, plus the system really isn't set up for it. When you get down to two or three columns, then request a second ICRK, and I will send you and your opponent a supplement.

When requesting a set using the Civil War Quad, be specific about which game you will play since I have OCBs for each. As it is now they're gathering dust. We have the following OCBs available (and send them automatically with the ICRK): Afrika Korps, Waterloo, Bulge, R-War, SGrad, Luftwaffe, WWII, Fr40, Winter War, Franco-Prussian, Austerlitz, D-Day, Anzio, Borodino, Barbarossa, Chaco, Civil War Quad, blanks, plus attack sheets to use with Bulge, Anzio, Blitz. Remember, all of these were developed by our own members: new ones will come only from the same source! If you like a game, by all means make up an OOE for it and we'll put it in print.

(K)

NEXT ISSUE

My appologies to those of you (many of you) who wrote in with material for publication. I'd hoped to put more of your input into the output, but all of a sudden here is the last inch of type, and my folder of stuff to publish is still pleasingly plump. Next issue should be a piece of cake--much of what you sent I typed upon receipt, so it's there and ready to go. Someone asked if I still want game reports (narations of games played). The answer is a conditional "yes". Don't make them too long, and stress the "lessons learned" aspect more than the "look how I whopped William". How about that, we're on time AGAIN! Could get to be a habit.

(K)



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