

THE KOMMANDEUR

NEWSLETTER OF AHIKS



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was with some surprise that I opened my last K all set to read Omar DeWitt's final "Corner" to discover that our Editor by a fine feat of legerdemain had transformed my last Random Shots for 1976 into my first President's Corner! (**Contrary to popular beleaf, desperation is the motherhood of invention!**-pm)

It is a great honour to be elected President of AHIKS, and I am very conscious that it will not be easy to step into Omar's shoes. I would like to thank all those who voted for me and to those who did not, I would say that I hope you will not be too disappointed in my performance. You can rest assured that I shall do my best for the whole Society. To my two opponents, I would say thank you for a friendly contest and better luck next time.

The new Committee is getting down to business and the new members are taking, or rather by the time you read this will have taken over their new jobs. Out of the thirteen members, seven or just over half are new members plus one change of appointment (your truly) and another two have not been on it all that long. There will inevitably be a period of "running in", so I do not intend to embark on any major projects for a few months and I hope that you will all bear with us if there is the odd "hiccup" initially. I would like to thank all those who have stepped down for their services to the Society; we are all very grateful to you. It is always invidious to single out individuals, but I don't think that any will deny that the Society owes a tremendous debt to Omar DeWitt for his long and outstanding service, his wise counsel and firm leadership. We shall miss you Omar on the Exec, but no doubt will come tapping on your door for a little advice when we are in trouble.

While paying tribute to those that have left "and departing, leave behind us footprints in the sands of time", I would like to emphasise that in my opinion we have a very good team, which will, I am sure, not suffer in comparison with their predecessors.

In addition to the changes in personalities, there are two alterations to the system. First with the departure of Tom Oleson from the Judge's chair, it has not been possible to find one person able to fill the post. Bill Farone in the last K outlined this new procedure, and we hope that it will prove satisfactory. Secondly there is the new post of Secretary. Luckily Ron Starnik is visiting UK very shortly so we shall be able to meet and work out our precise method of operating. I shall detail this in my next "Corner". In the meantime, I suggest that members write either to me or Bill as seems most appropriate to the writer, except for the specific functions allocated to the Secretary in the K11/5, page 7.

Henry Radice

March, 1977



REVIEWS

NAPOLEON'S LAST BATTLES
-Tom Oleson-

I have just spent a most enjoyable weekend playing SPI's splendid new game, Napoleon's Last Battles. In my opinion, a game like this illustrates all that is best about SPI.

I didn't play the four individual games, although I expect they are fine in their own right. I particularly like big games, and I found this one to have some excellent attributes:

1. Just the right balance between complexity and sophistication on the one hand, and simplicity and ease of play on the other. Of course, the mechanics of NLB, at least much of it, can be traced right back to another fine SPI game, Borodino, and they are simple when compared to a game like Torgau, and probably also your forthcoming Wellington's Victory; but they are not so simple that thoughtful play does not pay off. There is ample opportunity to develop and employ the tactical skills which make wargaming so much fun.

2. A well-chosen topic; here again, to compare NLB with another game I admire greatly, Torgau, I find that it suffers from the selection of a battle which is not an ideal topic for a game.

3. For those with less experience with big games, individually playing the four separate games is a good way to ease into the big one.

I am biased against printing starting positions on the map, but I have to admit that these were done so faintly that they did not intrude, while not sacrificing legibility. The map is handsome, and well done.

I also like the counters. They are colorful, and the way step reduction is incorporated is convenient and realistic. The command control and reorganization rules are also a fine balance between complexity, realism, and ease of play. In fact, balance is just the word for this game. It's like the Baby Bear's porridge: Just Right!

What didn't I like about the game? (Lest this start to sound like a Mark Saha paean of praise!) Well, although the style in which the rules are written is appealing, in some places I found the language confusing, to me. Example: the optional rule 25.1, Cavalry Retreat Before Combat. I felt that this applied only to cavalry being attacked, that is, the defender's cavalry. My opponent felt that it applied to cavalry attacks, as well, in which case a cavalry unit could just sally forward, perhaps as a diversionary attack (a far more elegant expression than "soak-off"), and then retreat before combat, without having to roll for results; in other words, a riskless diversionary attack.

We also very strongly suspected an error in 24.1, Supply Sources. Is Prussian Supply to the West? Anglo-Allied to the Northeast? These are minor questions which in no way spoil a very fine wargame!



AVAILABLE FROM

WALTER W. BUCHANAN
RURAL ROUTE NO. 3
LEBANON, INDIANA
46052

editorial

I must start off this issue with an apology or two. I was just a tad rushed last issue, and forgot to mention a couple of items. One was the meeting at Omar's, which I gather came off fairly well nevertheless. The other item is equally regrettable. The extensive updating of our grid coordinate guide, published in the last issue, was executed by Charles Burke, and many thanks to him for that effort. By the way, if anyone has not received the grid page, please write me so that I can send you a copy. Some of you newer members who did not receive the last K (issue 12/1 in February), probably do not have the page. If you can send me a post card, I'll forward both the page and the K12/1. A bulk mailing in the near future will enable the Secretary to include the page with the new member booklet.

I just recently went through my address list, cleaning out the names of members who have dropped out of the Society. In the transition from 1976 to 1977, we lost about 50 members. Some of these are due to personal circumstances (two, for example, are now in jail!), but most undoubtedly represent some form of dissatisfaction with AHIKS. We hope to have, next issue, a discussion of reasons listed by members for leaving, but I thought I might touch on some points raised in a letter by one departing AHIKSer. I would like to quote several sentences, which I suspect may represent some thinking of other members:

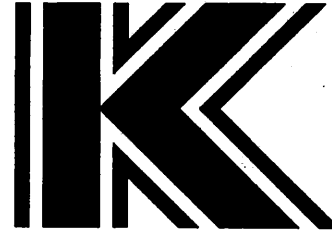
Several times I wrote in making various comments on the "state of the art"--a planned ripoff by (**game company**) at the top of the list. What kind of response did I get from other AHIKSers? Nada. I would like to see AHIKS as an organization with a little bit of a clout. But it is growing faster than I like and I am beginning to feel like a number and not a member. It is now too diversified to have a unanimous consensus on anything... As soon as I saw the group leaning towards rapid expansion, I felt that the change would not be possible, so I dropped out. Also the apathetic lack of response to my comments left me somewhat dismayed as well. .. I don't blame AHIKS for remaining a purely GAMING Society. I just feel that if it is going to be "choosy" about its membership, that it could do something with that clout of elitiness.

Hah! I initially mistyped the last word "elitiness", and it perhaps does more to describe AHIKS than anything else! Several items should be identified, relevant to the above. First, it is not, and never was, a stated goal of AHIKS to police our hobby or even to improve it a little. AHIKS exists solely as a refuge for those who wish to escape what still seems to be a relatively immature level of behavior in the rest of the hobby.

Second, being over 21 years of age does not confer elitism, only age (and, usually, a job, a wife, kids, mortgage, bills, bills, bills). The only requirement to get into AHIKS (other than age, which is sometimes waved) is payment of money. Once in, you don't have to do anything: just don't qualify to be thrown out!

Finally, there seems to be an assumption that we have made some kind of conscious decision to grow. Actually, we have only--officially, by non-vote of the Exec!--decided not to do anything to limit growth. We have, thus far, successfully adjusted to each new wave of membership, as long as we continue to do so, membership control will continue to be a non-event.

We ARE a purely gaming society. We've done exactly that--play games--for eleven years now (as of March, 77), and I don't see any reason to change this philosophy. Game companies that really do ripoff customers will soon disappear because they depend upon repeat sales ("fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me"). The rest of the players in the hobby will continue doing whatever it is they do, not paying any attention to us and not being bothered by us. Any new members who were expecting something else, write Joe Horne: we're always happy to give refunds!



THE KOMMANDEUR VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2 APRIL 1977

PRESIDENT . . . HENRY RADICE	RD WEST . . . JOHN RATZENBERGER
32, Jersey Avenue	3224 Ella Lane
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire	Manhattan, KS 66502
GREAT BRITAIN GL52 2SZ	(913) 537-0696
TREASURER . . . HAROLD HORNE (VG)	RD EAST . . . BOB McLAUGHLIN
8017 Pennsylvania Road	c/o Hickory Farms
Bloomington, MN 55438	#3 Parole Plaza
(612) 941-3411	Annapolis, MD 21401
JUDGE . . . BILL FARONE	RD. N. EAST . . . JOHN HEYDT
210 Midfield Road	5 Hampton Ct.
Bon Air, VA 23235	Neptune, NJ 07753
ICRKMEISTER . . . CARL BENTON	(201) 776-5909
300 N. Kansas	RD EUROPE . . . JOHN SPENCE
Salina, KS 67401	19, Braidlaw Park
(913) 823-6471	Penicuik, Midlothian
EDITOR . . . PETE MENCONI	EH26 9HF SCOTLAND
4334 E. Indianola Ave.	EUROPE SEC . . . ALAN YOUNDE
Phoenix, AZ 85018	5 Vallance Road,
(602) 955-2889	Wood Green, London
MATCH COORD . . . DAVE TURANSKY	N22 GREAT BRITAIN
3020 19th Street	ARCHIVIST . . . JIM WALLACE
Metairie, LA 70002	924 Dover Road
(504) 834-5824	Westville, NJ 08093
SECRETARY . . . RON STARNIK	PRINTERS . . . QUIK PRINT
45 Raintree Island, #7	Phoenix, AZ
Tonawanda, NY 14150	

TREASURER

Joe Horne

I'm afraid I don't have much to report this time. The 1976 fourth quarter financial report has not been finalized and thus an annual report isn't feasible at this point, either. I think most of the information for the reports is in, but I've been rather busy lately (income tax and recovery from the move--still) and so haven't determined whatever else I may need.

The winners in the ballot raffle are Michael Hundiak, Randy Pippus, Bill Reiman, and Chip Pharr. Hopefully, they will have been notified by the time this goes to print. There is one note from the ballots/survey that I think it would be a good idea to pass along. Henry Bodenstedt wrote: "We are willing to supply current AHIKS members with wargames and table-top supplies at a special 10% discount." The address he gave is Continental Hobbies, Inc., P.O. Box 116, Adelphia, NJ 07710. How's that for being a good loser in the election?!

Joe Horne

March 26, 1977

NUTS AND BOLTS

the icrkmeister

This is going to be short. ICRK assignments are running at an all-time high, and it is getting very tough to keep up.

One quick item that has come up from a couple of "new" members: "when am I no longer a new member?" Primarily, the significance of the new member is for the initial game assignment(s). We want to assign a more experienced AHIKSer for your first game so that any questions you may have on our style of play, use of ICRK, etc. can be more efficiently answered directly by your opponent. Actually, you cease being a new member about the time of your first move in your first game! Those of you who have been in the club for six months or more should be signing up for the new member program with the Match Coordinator, helping bring new members on board, just as you were.

Carl Benton

March 21, 1977



ORIGINS 77

The National Wargaming Expo

22, 23, and 24 July 1977

at Wagner College, Staten Island, New York City

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

ORIGINS 77, c/o SPI, 44 East 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010

RANDOM SHOTS

By the time you read this, John Spence will have taken over as RD and only the IGRK handover will remain to be done at Hull. Since in your wisdom, or lack of it, you have elected me to succeed Omar as president, and I take over on March 1, I have had to advance my own handover of the region. There will inevitably be a period of final transfer of records between Omar and myself and John, but from now on all European Region business is over to John, please.

So the last targets are up, the final details are on the firing point and ammunition issues completed.

It is natural at this stage to look back over my three years as RD and even a whiff of nostalgia creeps around. I have enjoyed it, but it is time to move on. When weeding out my records the other day, I came across Tony Jones' first report as Treasurer in which he said "this year will be a difficult one financially"; how right he was. I quickly learnt that any organisation, to function efficiently, must have the necessary financial backing. The decision by the members at Epping II to go for a big rise in both subscriptions and entrance fees has proved absolutely correct, this coupled with economy in operation and other fund raising measures, has enabled us to ride out inflation with no further increase for three years.

I see that the discussion on the size of the Region and how to handle increases was well to the fore then as it still is. The decisions taken then are valid today. With 76 members, we have increased by 25 in round figures over the three years. New blood has come to the fore in the management of our affairs. The Regional meetings are still popular and demanded and I believe that new members are getting a fair "crack of the whip". All in all, I think that, without undue conceit, the Committee has achieved most of the aims it set itself. There have been set-backs and failures of course; this is inevitable in any walk of life.

One characteristic of the Region has been that while voluble, not to say at times vociferous, at the Regional meetings in airing their views, members are pretty backward at voting or expressing their wishes on paper. No vote has ever exceeded 50%, the last election tally was 37%. The question about whether to remain at Epping for Autumn meetings or not has drawn precisely eight votes. This is fine and allows the Committee a pretty free hand, but as I have said before if you don't vote you cannot grumble if you do not get what you want.

I note that this is my eighteenth Newsletter and it is time to run down the curtain not on Causerie but on Random Shots. Thank you to you all who voted for me in the recent elections and thanks also to those who did not, for not voting for anyone else!! I have already said my thank you to individuals, but I would like to say a general thank you to all the Region for your support, for making my task so easy and for putting up with me for so long. While my new responsibilities inevitably take my eye to wider horizons, I remain a member of the Region. No longer do I have any responsibilities for the internal management of our affairs, that is John Spence's province now. I would ask you all to support him as you have supported me.

"Cease firing. Unload. Stand up. Right turn, for inspection port arms. Gun clear, Sir. Detail shun, shoulder arms, quick march. No live rounds or empty cases in my possession, Sir. Dismiss."

Henry Radice

February 28, 1977

THE WESTERN FRONT

After the last K and the recent editions of Moves and S&T, you are all probably saying, "well, ol' Ratzenberger stepped on his schwanz with that Air Force article." So I thought also, but a little research and a letter from Craig Taylor at Battline only confirmed that SPI was a wee bit off base. First, Steve Peeck turned down SPI's job offer (that must have miffed them!) and next the company is alive and well and still publishing. Dauntless should be out in a few weeks. The fact that API & AH are doing some marketing is only because they bought some of the games to do so.

I will take the option to insert a purely personal opinion at this point--the whole affair is a prime example of the overbearing smugness of SPI. (**You really know how to make an Editor's job easier, John. All SPI-ites please send the bombs and threats directly to John!**-pm) They seemed almost happy to announce Battline's demise--as evidenced by jumping the gun before their ducks were in line. I, and a few friends, are sure glad that SPI does not have Air Force; I am sure that if they ever tried to work with it they would have a great game all screwed up in no time.

One other thing that this generated is a few letters of the "Hey, you like it too" variety. The long and short is that Jim Wallace (see Match Coordinator's column) is trying to get up a multi-player game. If you are interested, drop him a line. He will set it up as soon as he knows how many are interested. Hurrzy!!

Next topic is a regional meeting (or should I say sub-regional) tentatively planned for the July 4th weekend. We have not picked a place yet--I am looking for volunteers to host the thing. As I have said before, (in addition to Norman) Phoenix, Houston or Denver would be good sites as they have a lot of members in the area. Please drop me a postcard as soon as possible telling me if you can attend, where you would be willing to go, and most importantly would you be willing to host the thing. Work is minimal--just finding a cheap place with nearby food and drink that we can meet. Our last one, though small, was very good. I do not try to set one up here for the basic reason that I am far from the centers of population that hold lots of members. I would like to get all responses by the end of April. That gives us a month to work out the details and publish in the June K. Please respond!!! (**Phoenix: June or July, one day, probably Saturday, my house; I'll send reply cards to Phx area members, anyone else, drop me a card; sleeping accommodations will be available.**-pm)

We apparently have had the following drop-outs this year: Doug Arnold, Fonsy Broussard, Charles Burke, Jerry Callahan, James David, Rene DeLoffre, Thomas Gookin, Lee Graves, Dick Holcombe, Jerry Houser, Paul Meyerholtz, John Michalski, David Orchard, Charles Pasco, Hal Ratcliff, Stephen Sanders, Glen Simpson, Dale Stupfel; Paul Yessenik. I am sending cards to each of them to find out why (some I know). This is disturbing in some respects. Comparing notes with the Treasurer, we find a lot that are late payers. This is intolerable. The notices come out in December with a cut-off of 31 Jan. (**and ye old Ed gets a ragged tongue licking all those envelopes so we can include SSAEs for your reply**-pm) Yet it takes quite a few people over three months to reply. I hope they are quicker with their game moves. My feeling is that any dues not received by 31 Jan must be subject to paying the \$5 initiation fee, and that we not allow dues to keep trickling in for the next couple of months. It costs us money as we send reminders and essentially give them one free K. I am not interested in being that nice because of the time and expense involved, and as it indicates a quality in that person that I don't think fits in with the membership goals of AHIKS. If you were in this category, don't tell me about it--just be on time next year.

Anyway, with the new members listed below, we now have 129 in the region. Even with the 19 drop-outs listed above (of which 7 were new members) we have grown by half over the start of 1976. I get so few complaints that I can only assume that everybody is happily gaming away and enjoying AHIKS. I know I am!!!

Lastly, welcome to the following new members: Charles Hundertmark, Albuquerque, NM; Bill Newell, Seattle, WA; George Calage, Houston, TX; Clay Chamberlain, Salina, KS; Jim McCormick, China Lake, CA.

John Ratzenberger

March 17, 1977

reviews

ISLAND WAR QUAD SERIES ANALYSIS

-Bill Farone- (3/77)

This series provides an answer to the needs of some of us who have an interest in the WWII Pacific land battles and lived through the frustration of playing Guadalcanal. A definitive set of Errata has been published in Moves 29 for Oct/Nov 1976. The largest single correction is that in order to win Bloody Ridge, "The Japanese Player wins by occupying any two (or more) hexes of Henderson Field with any of his units at the end of any two consecutive Japanese combat phases." Most of the rest of the errata concern OOB's and starting hexes for newly entering units. While the rules and movement are relatively simple using the "locked" ZOC procedures, some confusion can be caused by the special rules relating to each individual game. Although the Japanese Infantry and Engineer units are allowed to leave the ZOC of American units, it should be especially noted that they can move one and only one hex in such a movement even if they move away from the American unit. They can, of course, move that one hex directly from one US ZOC to another.

In discussing rules with your opponent before play commences you should specifically decide whether to use the Ground Support optional rule which differs slightly for each game and can cause confusion. In some games ground support can be used for Final Protective Fire, and in others it cannot, so be careful! In general, I recommend using the rule, especially in Bloody Ridge where the additional Japanese Naval Support on turn 17 gives the US a strategic headache that helps balance the full game. The corrections for any or all the games can be had by sending a SAE to the Judge (note: stamp not required).

LAW AND ORDER

Since my last report, several well-known Specialists have been added to the Judge's arsenal. Tom Oleson will handle questions on Anzio and Russian Campaign. Omar DeWitt will handle Franco-Prussian War, WWII, Korea, American Revolution, AGW, Global War and back up on Napoleon's Last Battles Quad, and NAW Quad. Bob Fowler will answer for Burma and other GDW labels not already taken, Don Burdick will reply on D-Day and Paul Person has volunteered for over a dozen titles which do not overlap any of the other specialists! (**Wow--an impressive turnout!**--pm)

Remember to send your questions directly to me and also any subsequent inquiries. I'll take care of the bookkeeping and getting it to the right authority. They are sent out to the specialists or handled by me by the next mail. If you have particular games that you would like to see an analysis of such as that for AK in the last K or those in this issue, please suggest them and I'll try and find a writer. The last article engendered some mail of a positive nature, but negative comments would be helpful including constructive criticism. The idea is to cover the salient problems without listing pages of rulings that would require more space than the K has available. (**Or more than the Ed has time to type!**--pm) The analysis may also contain comments on how certain rules will change such subjective characteristics as "balance" or "complexity". Keep in mind that such comments simply reflect the point of view of the author and are not a basic part of Judging. They are mainly intended for persons new to the game.

An open note to Specialists: I have received all of the files from Tom Oleson. Rather than duplicate everything, which would take a while for some of the games, I'll copy sections as you will need them and send them along with the questions. As time permits, I'll copy the rest so we each have a set of files, but I feel that the first responsibility is to keep the AHIKS files intact.

(**A comment or two: it might be worth the club's while to invest some money in a complete copying job of the Judge files, placing the copy with the Archivist. AHIKS is getting to a size where we should begin to think of back-up systems. I also want to mention that we can probably make a "book" of the analyses Bill is coordinating. The K is offset printed, a process that requires the printer to make some practice runs to insure proper line weight, etc. The practice copies are called "run downs", and are done on white paper. We will save these copies, and should be able to inexpensively "xerox" them for future distribution. Those of you who are truly expert at a game, DO contact Bill to aid in these projects. We can probably even arrange to get the typing done by some other members.**--pm)

Bill Farone

March 19, 1977

THE BARRAGE

(**I think it appropriate to explain to some of our new members that the new title for the East Region column is drawn from the regional newsletter in those days when the RD had the responsibility for publishing as well as the usual peck of troubles.**--pm)

I have finally gotten all of the papers, membership lists, etc. and started familiarizing myself with our region and its members.

According to the roster we started with 85 members. Thanks principally to the excellent article in the General, we have added 14 new members, as of this date.

Several members have expressed an interest in a regional get-together. In looking at the area covered by our region, I can see we are not as fortunate as our British cousins who can travel relatively short distances to assemble. Our region extends from the Canadian border to the tip of Florida, and from the Mississippi to the Atlantic. It isn't too likely we could get everyone together at one place, though it would be a grand idea! I don't see why subregional meetings wouldn't be possible. For instance, a rough check reveals that within a reasonable distance of Annapolis we have nine members in Maryland, ten in Virginia, and one each in West Virginia and Delaware. If we add the lower part of Pennsylvania we would have possibly six or eight more (while they aren't in our region, we'd be happy to have them put in an appearance). This gives around twenty-five AHIKSers who might be interested in a gaming weekend.

I did a quick check on local accommodations and the Holiday Inn has rooms for as little as \$7.50 (four people, 2 beds); also \$14 each (2 people, 2 beds) and singles for \$28. They also have a nice meeting room (immediately adjacent to the bar (**good point**--pm)) for \$25 per day, including evening use.

Please write and let me know if you are interested in attending an AHIKS weekend. If enough members indicate a willingness to attend, I'll be happy to set something up, for late August or September. The tourist season necessitates making reservations that far in advance in this area. For any member who might be

interested in bringing the family, Annapolis has a beautifully restored Historic district and many sights to see. The United States Naval Academy ranks high on the list. We are also just 35 minutes from Washington, DC, and Baltimore, two great sight-seeing areas. The greatest pleasure to be derived from membership in AHIKS is the meeting of new people and becoming acquainted with people with a common bond. This kind of meeting is one of the happiest places for this to occur.

Might I suggest, for those who are too far away to consider coming to America in Miniature (Maryland), you might like to look through the roster and if enough members live within a reasonable distance, set up a meeting in your area. For instance, those in the North Central states might consider meeting somewhere in or near Chicago. If you are interested, such a meeting could be publicized in the K.

To wind things up for the Eastern region, I want to welcome all our new members, listed below. We are happy to have you aboard: Don Blewer, Goose Creek, SC; Tom Thorsen, Chicago, IL; Michael Hicks, Chilton, WI; Michael Herrmann, Muncie, IN; James Burnett, Clinton, TN; Joseph Barrette, Mt. Pleasant, MI; Stanley Hillinski, Laurel, MD; Kevin McCarthy, South Euclid, OH; Michael Plesko, Longwood, FL; Phil Polli, Palatine, IL; Pat Richards, Roanoke, VA; Vytautas Vitkauskas, Chicago, IL; full addresses are given on the address list insert to this issue.

Bob McLaughlin

March 16, 1977

NORTHEAST REGION

On March 26, Omar DeWitt, past president and Honorary Member, held one of his celebrated get-togethers in Elizabeth, NJ. There were 16 players present including AHIKSers Forrest Jerome, Tom Holtz, Omar, Colby Duerk, Les Deck, Mike Truex, Steve Gurley, Bill Perry, Larry Ercolino, plus yours truly. Over the past 6 years, I have attended a lot of meetings in the New York area and I believe that the variety and type of games played at this one was very interesting. Games played included Alesia, Battle of Saratoga (a new one by Oldenburg Grenadiers, Manassas, Sea Strike, Invasion America, Chicamauga, Battle de la Moskowa, Chinese Farm, D-Day, Russian Campaign, Lutzen, Napoleon's Last Battles Campaign Game, Panzerarmee Afrika, Star Soldier, Dreadnought, Conquest, Wagram, and last, but certainly not least, Ogre. As you can see from the above list, it appears that some of the older games are still receiving a certain amount of play and that many gamers are not automatically flocking to all the new games coming out. Your RD was all set to have a go at World War I, but couldn't find an opponent. A great time was had by all in attendance and I'm sure that the attendees are looking forward to the next one.

While at the get-together, I spoke with Omar about our region's plans for Origins III since the convention is being held in our region. Some of the ideas bandied about were to either have a room or a desk which would be manned by AHIKS members. If we could get a room we could serve coffee, cookies, etc., and it would be a place where we could meet fellow AHIKS members. Omar is also thinking about possibly having an informal dinner on Saturday night for AHIKS members and will check it out. If any of you out there have any ideas or could volunteer some time, let me know. We hope to see many of you at Origins.

John Heydt

March 25, 1977

EUROPEAN REGION

Whilst I have taken over from Henry, we still have not got our paper work sorted out, so the listing of European members for this issue is a joint effort. Since I am not too well known in the American Regions (**almost said "the colonies", eh?!**--pm), here is a quick sketch: Age--early 30's, veterinary pathologist by profession and family man by inclination (so my wife will tell you). I have been gaming since 1970 when I saw a number of AH games in Nairobi of all places; one look and I was hooked. We were in Uganda at the time and I will remember the night our friend Idi Amin came to power--playing Panzerblitz with real gun fire in the background. Philosophy of gaming--very middle of the road I would say with a marked bias to the fun of gaming rather than the competitive aspect of the hobby. No particular hates in the hobby and an earnest desire to see that the next two or three years in the Society are as successful as the last one!

John Spence

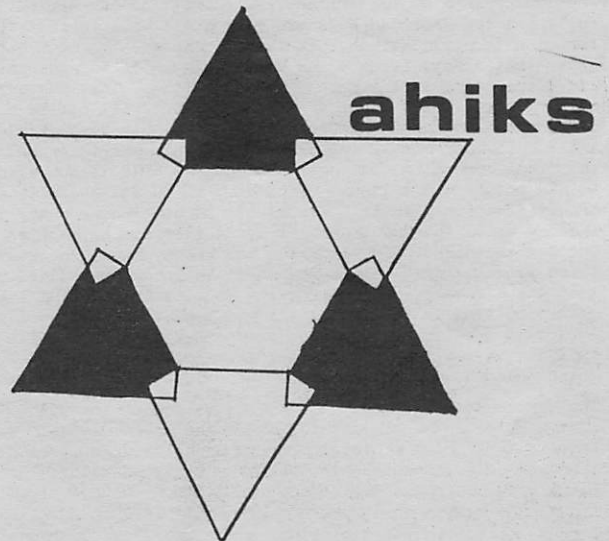
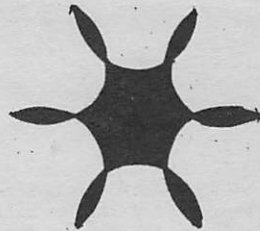
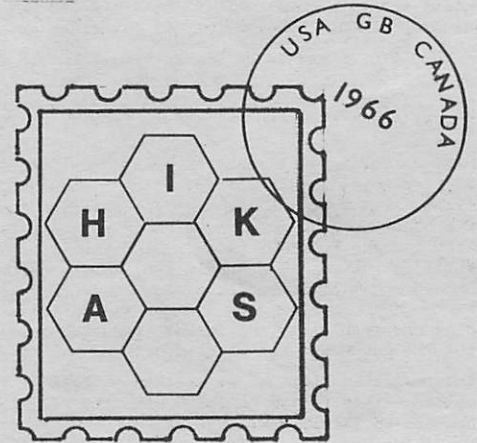
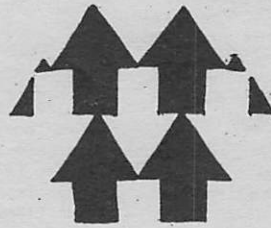
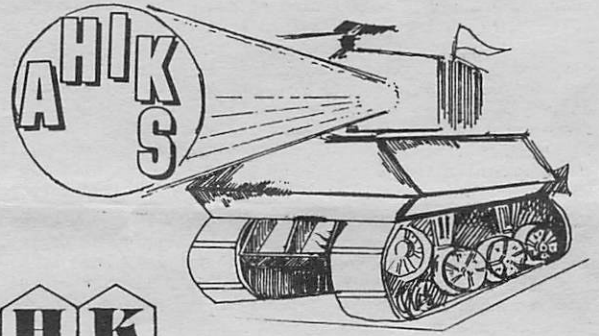
March 10, 1977

IDEAS

LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS LOGOS

We are approaching the point at which the Exec will probably choose among a wide variety of logos submitted by a number of members (and some non-members!). I thought that it might be good to show all of us the ideas developed thus far, with the idea that some of you artistic types may be further inspired. At the very least, no one can say later, "gee I didn't know...". I have not attributed these to anyone so that neither politics nor friendships will intervene with the evaluation process. Also so that no one gets embarrassed!!

AHIKS KOMMANDEUR



reviews

FIREFIGHT

-John Ratzenberger-

(**In light of the comments John makes, I thought it appropriate to comment that he is on active duty with the US Army, and is at least somehow connected with the Ordnance branch.**-pm)

There are two articles on this game in Moves 30. One article is very good and points out most of the good/bad/errors of the game. The map is great, but the rules book and CRTs are fantastic. The rules are well-written and very easy to read and understand. The case headings are in color so one can pick them out immediately. The CRTs are color coded for easy reading. Everything is written in a very informal style that is a vast improvement over the boring pseudo-legalism of before. The rules are short, easy to understand and not complicated at all. The combat/movement system is the alternating player method a la Tobruk. I never have liked that as it allows players too much freedom of change in what is a very small time scale. I feel that it is better to record your move in the exact sequence you want it done in, and then alternate as per the rules. That cuts down the excessive changes, but still forces one to consider the most important tasks first and attempt to get them done before the other player foils you. Quite obviously, the straight alternating player method doesn't work too well in PEM unless one wants to exchange a couple hundred letters per move.

The game deals with modern NATO vs Warsaw Pact combat and the best thing about it is that it stresses the importance of anti-tank guided missiles. There is an excellent background booklet with the game that deals with the strategy and tactics of both sides. One can have quite a bit of fun with the game and learn quite a bit about modern tactics as well. Remember, this is the one they designed in conjunction with the US Army which will use it for training.

There are a few blatant errors in the CRT and a couple other places. One still has to lament that editing/production quality is still second place to getting a product out. It's really a crime to get a game hot off the press and have errata sheets included, especially when the CRT error was so obvious.

A couple of comments on the equipment in the game (the real thing vs the simulation). They call the TOW missile carrier an M150. I'm not sure, but we've been getting that same thing, but called the M750 and also the M113A1Ea. It's safer to call it the "TOW Carrier", as we all do. Next, ever since Tank came out, I've been wondering just what the M60A3 is--I've never seen/heard of it (for what that is worth). It has showed up again in Firefight. I have a feeling they are referring to the end result of the M60A1 upgrade program which is not very far along. The first step was the M60A1AOS (Add-On Stabilization). This was your basic M60A1 with a stabilized main gun. I remember when they first showed up about three years ago. The crews kept forgetting to turn off the system when the gun was in travel lock--you can imagine the results as the turret tried to stabilize from movement, but the gun would not move--something had to give!!

The next step seems to be the M60A1 "RISE". Yes, that's what it's called. This is the M60A1AOS with the AVDS-1790-2C engine; an upgrade of the present 1790-2A. It has improved air cleaning and breathing and some design changes to correct some rather pesky electrical cable connections in difficult-to-reach places. That is about as far as the program has gone. The Rise is not out in quantity yet. Nothing is called an M60A3.

The M60A2 has a M551 Sheridan-like turret and gun system. Hopefully all the Sheridan bugs are gone or it will be next to useless for missile applications. It is too complex--too much electrical stuff that always seems to go wrong. The M551 is addressed as an added unit type in the second Moves article. That has a real glaring error: the Sheridan was not/is not/will not be a "tank". It was designed as an Armored Airborne Assault Recon Vehicle--AAARV. It is meant to run around scouting, providing mobile flank and front screening, but not to stand and slug it out with tanks. It has not been all it was cracked up to be and there is a lot of dissatisfaction with it. A current and continuing rumor is that the Cav wants the M60 back; at least they can be counted on to shoot when needed. The Sheridan has two systems (shell & missile) fired from the same tube. The shell is in two parts and requires that the air compressor be working to blow the burning embers out before putting in the next shell and powder bag. This also takes longer to load than normal one-piece shells. The missile system is flaky to say the least. We spent almost three years before we got a reasonable percentage of them firing at the same time.

The second Moves article also addresses adding the M114; don't. That had to be the biggest turkey of the inventory. It was meant to be a fast scout vehicle. It proved to be underpowered; our standard joke was that each M114 came equipped with an M113 and a tow bar. This was particularly so when someone decided to put a 20mm gun system on it which over-loaded it even more. The engine (a 283) and transmission (automatic) were put together in

a difficult manner which required at least four hours to split and put back together; we always hated them. The radiator mounts were fragile and we always had to repair them whenever a pack came in. The gun system was worse, being very temperamental. It required several cans of ISA, careful alignment of the shells and a degree of maintenance and care not usually found in units. If adding it to your game, cut the fire-power CRT by half at least to reflect this; or to be more realistic, roll a die each time: it will only fire a full burst if a "1" comes up. Also call it an M114A1E1; that is the version talked about.

The German Leopard series is great, both from an operating and a maintenance standard. If the XM1 (US) meets its design specs, it should be one of the top tanks ever. It looks great. The only thing that bothers me is the talk about a turbine engine. Crews are not usually that careful with air cleaning systems. It's bad enough what a bunch of leaves and junk can do when ingested into a diesel engine--I'd hate to see what they'd do to turbine vanes. We shall see.

If you really want to get into Firefight, try to get a copy of TC 7-24, Anti-Armor Tactics and Techniques for Mech Infantry. Then find a monitor so you can play it blind--that combined with the modified alternating system will give you a game that can't be beat for fun, thrills and reality.

K

PEM PROCEDURES PROJECT

-John Ratzenberger-

It appears our how to pbm book has died for a while. We may get a new volunteer; we may not. What I propose is that we start making an ad hoc book in the K. We could devote one single center page to nothing but pbm methods. Solicit info from the members--maybe have a coordinator of the effort--and publish it that way. Each time you run off a few hundred extra copies of the page and they go to the secretary for the nm booklet. If we use a single page with nothing but pbm stuff on it, then the members could take it out and put it in a notebook without it having a lot of other stuff on it; a good example is the Joe Seliga article in K11/5. Let me know what you think. I've been working on some of my stuff, and will send it to Pete when it's ready. (**I think this has the germ of something good. I'd like to modify it a bit, into a procedure similar to the one I proposed for the Judge's analyses. PEM methods would appear in the K under the Ideas section; I would keep the white run-down copy, and just keep pasting the sections onto 8 1/2 x 11 paper until I had a full page. We would then make the pages available to new members who don't have the past issues, or to old members who want it all summarized. By keeping individual articles, we could modularize each game's article. I can set up the copy so that we can take it apart and put it together again in alpha order, or whatever. I do think, tho, that we will need someone to ramrod this thing. For those of you missing this last point: we need a volunteer. We need someone who can take what other people have done, write it up (I can arrange for typing), then keep the run-down copies and prepare them for xeroxing. Write me if you're interested, but please, only write if you really will stick this thing out; it does no good to get it going and then drop it.**-pm)

K

SPECIAL NOTICE

AHKS needs some extra manpower. At the risk of jumping the gun, I'd like to call on the members who "been meaning to get into helping out one of these days". You will note that John Ratzenberger will retire as RD at the end of 1977; we will then require two new RDs at that time since the West region will split at year's end. Other officers are also reporting that they are quite busy. If the load proves not to be temporary, we may need to diversify other duties. I think it is in our interest to have some members lined up to take assistant positions in the event we need the help. PLEASE make sure you will really stick it out! We simply cannot use short-term commitments (ie, under one year's duration). Those interested should write to the President or the Secretary.

K

AHIKS CONSTITUTION

1. 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.

11. 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", the Match Coordinator, the Secretary, one additional, at-large representative from the European Region, 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.
- F. One officer shall be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee and shall succeed the President if he cannot perform his duties.

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 IGRK 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, 1977

MEMBERSHIP LIST

EUROPEAN REGION

A.J. (TONY) BALL

27, St. John's Court
St. Albans, Herts.

R.B. (RONALD) BASON

84, Balmoral Drive
Bramcote Hills,
Nottingham NG9 3PT

B. (BARRINGTON) BEAVIS

Monklands, The Street,
Roxwall,
Nr. Chelmsford, Essex.

A. (ADRIAN) BRINE

40, Clovelly Road
Liverpool L4 2SB

S. (STEVE) BROCKBANK

99, Park Hill Road,
Harborne,
Birmingham 17.

S. (STEPHEN) BROPHY

6 Windmill Close,
Horsham
West Sussex RH 13 6BY

R.S. (ROBIN) BROWN

12, Craven Terrace,
London, W.2

P. (PETER) CHARLTON

12, Sylvester Street
Lancaster, Lancs.

R.P. (ROBERT) CHRISTIAN

Rift Valley Academy,
Kijabe,
Kenya, E. Africa.

S. (STEPHEN) COLLEDGE

19, Brook Lane
Ripley,
Derbyshire

L. (LESLIE) COOPER

Flat 7,
2 Egmont Road
Sutton,
Surrey CRO 2BU

I.M. (IAN) DAGLISH

7, The Spinney,
Cheadle,
Cheshire SK8 1JA

A.S. (ANDY) DAVIDSON

513, Whitton Ave. West
Greenford,
Middlesex UB6 DDY.

S. (SELICK) DAVIES

P.O. Box 642
Isfahan, Iran

S.P. (SEAN) DEMPSEY

22, Hawthorn Rd.
Wylde Green,
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands

M.J. (MICHAEL) EASTLAND

115, Ransgate Rd.
Margate,
Kent CT9 4BL

J. (JOHN) EVANS

10, East Hermitage Pl.
Leith,
Edinburgh EH6 8AA

R.R. (RAY) EVANS

12, Marsh Road
Bedford, Beds MK42 DDB

DR. T.H. (THOMAS) FERGUSON

37, Inch Crescent
Bathgate
West Lothian EH48 1EV

D. (DEREK) FISHER

103 Belmont Road
Westgate-on-Sea,
Kent.

K.M. (KEITH) FREEMAN

24, Marquis Lane
Harpden, Herts.
SP/6 WM. W. FOX Jnr.

Vorfield Housing

Apartment B-4,
Building 365
7910, Neu Ulm,
West Germany

S. (SIMON) GARRETT

Bathwick House,
Bath,
Somerset BA2 6NX

D.J. (DAVID) GRANTHAM

179, Main Road
Bilton, Hull,
Humberside HU11 4AA

C. (CHRIS) HALL

11, River Street
Truro,
Cornwall TR1 7SQ

C.W. (CHRIS) HANCOCK

1st 4,
9, The Avenue,
atchet,
ear Slough, Berks.

HOMAS HAAS

1 Forsthaus Gravenbruch 30
176 Neu Isenburg 2
1st Germany

J.L. (WALTER LUC) HAAS

ostfach 7,
H4024 Basel 24,
witzerland.

A.R. (MICHAEL) HARDWICK

2, Beverley Road
ondon W4 2LP

(MARTIN) HARRIS

0, Buckfast Close,
romsgrove,
orcestershire.

(WILLIAM) HAYCRAFT

2, Gloucester Crescent
anden Town,
ondon NW1

A.D. (ANDREW) HOLT

44, Milton Close,
Rayleigh, Essex

R. (ROBIN) HOOD

103, Oxford Gardens
London W10 6NF

W. (BILL) HOWARD

19, Rylandes Road
Salsdon,
Nr. Croydon, Surrey

R. (RICHARD) JARVINEN

Brandenburgerstrasse 7
7250 Leonberg
West Germany

A.M. (TONY) JONES

49, Curvy Road
Blairgowrie,
Johannesburg,
South Africa

T.M. (TOM) KASSEL

530, Hatfield Rd.
4, Ellet Grove,
Herts. AL4 0SX

E.J. (EDMUND) KELLY

9, Polhill Drive
Walderslade,
Chatham,
Kent.

I. (ILKA) KESO

I.A./Radk 63,
SF - 00860
Helsinki 86,
Finland.

L. (LESLIE) KLEIN

Westfield College,
Kidderpore Avenue
London NW3 7ST.

R. (BOB) LATTER

49, Stubbs Lane,
Braithree,
Essex.

A.(ALLAN) LINDGREN

151, Hornby Road
Blackpool
Lancs. FY1 4JC

G. (GARETH) LODGE

9, Maidencraig Crescent,
Blackhall,
Edinburgh EH4 2BH

A. (ALAIN) LONDON

175, Plymouth Road,
Penarth,
Glamorgan.

C.P. (CHRISTOPHER) MIDDLETON

23, Cosie Avenue,
Kinnoull
Perth PH2 7BS
Scotland.

MISS S.C. (SHEILA) MINION

7, Beeley Close,
Allestree,
Derby.

D. (DAVID) MYLIE

4, Ellet Grove,
Liverpool 6.

M.H. (MICHAEL) NETHERCOT

19, Cornsland,
Brentwood,
Essex.

I. (IVAN) NILSSON

Von Rosens Vag 58,
21368 Malmo,
Sweden

R. (RENE) NOKIN

Rue de la Kelle 6,
Lasne B 1338,
Belgium

W.M. (BILL) ORR

52, Burnt Hill Crescent,
Glangormley,
Newtown Abbey,
Co. Antrim,
Northern Ireland.

A.J. (ALLAN) OVENS

c/o Supply Squadron,
RAF Sydenham,
British Forces P.O. 801

S.M. (MURRAY) PAKES

British Embassy,
East Berlin,
F.F.P.O. 45.

J.L. (JOHN) POOLE
Anesis, Foel Park,
Cwm Road, Dyserth,
North Wales.
LT. COL. H.L.T.
(HENRY) RADICE
32, Jersey Avenue,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GK52 2SZ
D. (DAVID) READ
46, Crane Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex TW2 6RY
J. (JAN) VAN REEK
Nieuwsteeg 13,
Leiden,
Holland.
J.G. (JOHN) ROBERTSON
Upper Dungle,
Arbroath Road,
Broughty Ferry,
Dundee,
Scotland.
J. (JIM) ROLFE
Ground floor,
65, Carleton Road,
London N7.
E. (ERIC) SLACK
26, Hartcroft Road,
Bestwood Park Estate,
Nottingham NG5 5JF
J.A. (JOHN) SPENCE
19, Braidlax Park,
Penicuik,
Midlothian EH26 9HF
A. (ALEX) STEWART
61, Bullen Street,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire BD4 8QP
R.A. (BOB) STUART
20, Kent Close,
Orpington,
Kent BS6 7HD
H.A. (HAIG) THATA
9, Cedar Heights,
Petersham,
Richmond on Thames
D. (DAVE) TAYLOR
53, Conville Road,
Bootle,
Merseyside L20 9LW
R.E. (BOB) THOMAS
99 Oakwood Drive
Lords Hill,
South Hampton SO1 8E1
R.W. (ROB) THOMASSON
8 Armitage Close
Eastcote Pinner
Middlesex HA5 2LA
M.J. (MARTIN) THORNE
1 Garden Villa,
Cefn-Y-Bedd,
Near Wrexham,
Clwyd,
N. Wales
H.T. (HARRY) TUCKER
22, Salisbury Road
Seaford,
East Sussex BN25 2DD.
D.J. (DON) TURNBULL
5, Greenlands,
Red Cross Lane,
Cambridge CB2 2QY
C.H. (CHARLES) VASSEY
5 Albion Terrace
Ginsborough
Cleveland TS 14 6HJ
R. (RALPH) VICKERS
General Mola 83,
Los Boliches,
Malaga,
Spain.
LT. OWEN WALTERS RN
35, Hunter Crescent,
Leuchars
Fife, Scotland
M. (MALCOLM) WATSON
7, Alexander Drive,
Timperley,
Altrincham,
Cheshire. WA15 6NF.
D.S. (DAVID) WHINCUP
5, Compass Rd.
Beverley Road
Hull HU6 7AH.

ALAN WHITE
77 Brackly Road
Hazlemere
High Wycombe
Bucks HP15 7EY
D.J. (DAVID) WOOD
27, York Close
Gillow Heath,
Biddulph,
Staffs.
A. (ALAN) YOUDE
5, Vallance Road,
Wood Green,
London N22.

E, NE, W REGIONS

ERIC ABBOTT
3625 Erbbe NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
DAVID M. ALDEN
P.O. Box 593
Killeen, TX 76541
JOHN C. ALLEN
580 West 215 Street #16
New York, NY 10034
JOHN ALSEN
1291 Blair Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
EARL ANDERSON
212 E. Earle St.
Greenville, SC 29609
JOSEPH ANGIOLILLO
16 Oliver St.
Hartford, CT 06106
W. MARTIN ARNSDORF
R. T. #1
Tony, WI 54563
JOSEPH A. BARRETTE
1511-D Canterbury Trail
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
THOMAS BECKER
7156 Waterman Avenue
University City, MO 63130
ALAN D. BECKNER
P.O. Box 652
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
DAVID C. BELL
Department of Sociology
University of Houston
Houston, Texas 77004
CARL BENTON
300 N. Kansas
Salina, KS 67401
RICHARD H. BERG
1185 Park Avenue, 14L
New York, NY 10028
K. DAVID BERROTH
5019 Alteza Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
WALTER BIESS
2522 13th St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
CHARLES BIZWELL
6134 Shoshone
Encino, CA 91316
KURT A. BLANCH
531 Olive Avenue
Novato, CA 94947
DONNELL V. BLEWER
113 Wisteria Road
Goose Creek, SC 29445
HENRY BODENSTEDT
Box 116
Adelphia, NJ 07710
GLEN BOISE
605 Marsha Ct., #53
Kokomo, IN 46901
MICHAEL BONKOWSKI
4495 SW 96th St. #9
Beaverton, OR 97005
DS2 T.S. BOURNE
USS Kinkaid DD-965
FPO, San Fran. CA 96601
AMN L. BOWIE 495-54-0760
PSC #1 Box 2302
Peterson Field, CO 80914
ANDREW BRAUNEIS
3249 Werkridge Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45211

STEVE BROOKS
4960B Avenue C
Great Falls, MT 59405
JAMES R. BROWN
12,992 E. Randolph Pl.
Denver, CO 80239
JIM L. BROWN
1500 Sparkman Dr.
Apt. 9-F
Huntsville, AL 35805
DON BURDICK
108 Emerald Circle
Durham, NC 27707
ROBERT BURGE
4311 E. Garryana Dr.
Beale AFB, CA 95903
GREGORY BURHANS
111 Minges Circle
Battle Creek, MI 49015
JAMES L. BURNETT, JR.
612 Crestwood Drive
Clinton, TN 37716
JOHN D. BURTT NE
229 Carroll Street
Reading, PA 19611
JOHN M. BUTITTA
511 W. High Street
Peoria, IL 61606
GEORGE D. CALAGE
5915 Fondren, Apt. 154
Houston, TX 77036
MICHAEL C. CALLINAN
717 Venus
Altus, OK 73521
DON CAMERON
16144 Del Norte
Poway, CA 92064
WILLIAM D. CARRAWAY
3135 Pacific Ave. #4
San Fran., CA 94115
JOHN CATON
2704 "I" St.
Vancouver, WA 98663
CLAYTON R. CHAMBERLAIN
631 Barney
Salina, KS 67401
JAMES E. CHASTAIN
130 Oakridge Blvd.
Lewisville, TX 75067
GERALD CLARKE
304 Beach 101st St.
Rockaway Pk. NY 11694
MICHAEL CLOUD
Box 247
Warren, IN 46792
WILLIAM CLUMM
RR 1, Entwood
Amesville, OH 45711
SID COCHRAN
Box 607
Tyler, TX 75701
GILBERT COLLINS
22-1 Riverside Dr. #210
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA Kiv 9A7
GRAHAM COSMAS
3520 S. Stafford St. #2B
Arlington, VA 22206
ARTHUR C. COSTAN
1507 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503
JAVE CRABTREE
Route 1, Box 87
Cost, TX 78614
KEITH CRAIG
5245 Woodhaven Drive
Burlington, Ontario
CANADA, L7L 3T5
ROBERT CROSS
518 N. Lincoln Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92631
JOHN M. CURLEY
Harrison Hall
West Lafayette, IN 47906
STEPHEN CURLEY
165 St. Marks Pl. #13K
St. George, Staten Island
NY 10301
ROBERT T. DAVIDSON
P.O. Box 3165
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
LESLIE DECK
1571 Raritan Rd.
Clark, NJ 07066

DENNIS S. DEMORY
P.O. Box 2272
Pompano Beach, FL 33061
SANTO DESTEFANO
9820 SW 106th Court
Miami, FL 33176
OMAR DEWITT
547 Riverside Drive
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
JOHN DOUGH
26 Mary St.
Lodi, NJ 07644
BILL DRAKERT
159 Chelsea Rd.
White Plains, NY 10603
JOE DRUMMOND
Box 280
Deer Park, TX 77536
COLBY P. DUERK
4405 Pine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
CLIFTON N. DUVAL
Box 51
Star Lake, NY 13690
CHARLES T. EGLI, M.D.
211 Long Rapids
Alpena, MI 49707
THOMAS ELLER
40 High Street
Malden, MA 02148
STEVEN ELLIS
1754 Boyer Ave. E
Seattle, WA 98102
STEPHEN H. ELRICK
57 Foxwood Lane
Lake Barrington Shores
Barrington, IL 60010
BRENT ENFIELD
RR 11, Box 31B
Kanorado, KS 67741
LAWRENCE ERCOLINO
214 Hillside Dr.
Neptune, NJ 07753
IAN ERSKINE
516 Walnut Crescent
Burlington, Ontario
CANADA L7N 2V8
ALEJANDRO ESQUIVEL
426 E. Madison St.
Brownville, TX 78520
DENIS M. FALVEY
Bldg. 2, Apt. 5
5846 South St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia
CANADA, B3H 1S6
WILLIAM A. FARONE
210 Midfield Road
Bon Air, VA 23235
BRUCE J. FEATHERS
Ocean Hts. Manor E8
Somers Pt., NJ 08244
RICHARD FLYNN
7812 South Kenneth
Chicago, IL 60652
LARRY FONG
Box 11090
Oakland, CA 94611
RICHARD L. FORTIER
C.F.S. Mont-Apica
Mont-Apica P.I., Quebec
CANADA, GOA 2P0
BRUCE FOSTER
Box 155
McGregor, ND 58755
THOMAS R. FOWLER
1339 Meadowlands Dr.
E. Apt. 301
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K2E 7B4
KENNETH FREDRICK
5200 Red Oak Drive
Moundsview, MN 55112
TOM GADDIS
702 Monette
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
KEVIN GALLAGHER
5035 Hibbs Dr.
Columbus, OH 43220
GENE GARDNER
Box E
Inkom, ID 83245
WILLIAM M. GARMAN, JR.
4242 N. 67th Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85033

PAUL E. GEORGIAN
82 Munroe Street
Somerville, MA 02143
CARL GENDRIL
131 Delaware Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10304
JIM GLECKLER
38 N. San Mateo Dr.
San Mateo, CA 94401
GREGORY GOHEEN
2 Grove St. East #46
Barrie, Ontario
CANADA, L4M 2N5
ALAN GOPIN
1313 Washington Ave.
New Hyde Park, NY 11040
DAVID GRANT
3526 100th Pl NE
Marysville, WA 98270
TIMOTHY J. GRANT
452 Brass Lamp
Ballwin, MO 63011
RICHARD GREENWELL
28 Pond Rd.
Sydney Mines,
Nova Scotia
CANADA B1V 2X4
STEPHEN HAAS
Box 639
Livingston Manor, NY
12758
WILLIAM HAGGART
Fouts Springs Boys Ranch
Stonyford, CA 95979
DONALD R. HARRIS
Rt. 1, Box 74A
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
DON HASTINGS
4981 Oak Tree Ct.
Yorba Linda, CA 92686
SEAN HAYES
2426 Woodacres Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30345
BILL HEIM
2605 Shadow Mt. Drive
San Ramon, CA 94583
FRIEDRICH HELFFERICH
347 Knipp Rd.
Houston, TX 77024
MICHAEL A. HERRMANN
Colonial Crest Apt. 157
Muncie, IN 47304
JOHN HEYDT
5 Hampton Ct.
Neptune, NJ 07753
MICHAEL HICKS
Route 2
Chilton, WI 53014
STANLEY C. HILINSKI
8747 Contee Road
Laurel, MD 20811
GARY C. HILL
1507 Ridge Avenue
New Castle, PA 16101
WILLIAM B. HILL
Box 131
Galesville, MD 20765
WILLIAM E. HILL
217 Commerce Street
Harrington, DE 19952
KARL F. HOFFMANN, III
3036 South Hoover #101
Los Angeles, CA 90007
TED HOLCOMBE
40748 Mission Blvd.
Fremont, CA 94538
THOMAS HOLTZ
14 Dayton Dr. #81A
Edison, NJ 08817
J. DOUGLAS HOOKS
5314-60 N. Michigan Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
CHRIS HOOVER
715 Pearl St.
Boulder, CO 80302
WINFIELD HOPKINS
601 Dolphin Pl.
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
HAROLD J. HORNE
8017 Pennsylvania Rd.
Bloomington, MN 55438
S.K. HOWARD
2nd Floor West
25 Wright Street
Gardner, MA 01440

JOSEPH HRUBY
503--316th St. NW
Stanwood, WA 98292
JOHN HUBER
2720 N. Frederick Ave.
#130
Milwaukee, WI 53211
OCIE C. HUDSON
Box 1113
Berkeley, CA 94701
BRUCE K. HUDSPETH
P.O. Box 1113
Gilbert, AZ 85234
PHILIP D. HUFFMAN
5135 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070
JOHN HULTEN
818 South King St. #2100
Honolulu, HI 96813
CHARLES A. HUNDEYMARK
626 Dartmouth, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
MICHAEL HUNDIAR
1118 Balmoral
Victoria, British Columbia
CANADA, V8T 1B1
MELVIN HUNT
3520 Brook St. #11
Lafayette, CA 94549
GLENVILLE C. HYNSON
5427-B Gray Plaza
Scott AFB, IL 62225
THOMAS ISNER
712 S. Yearling Rd.
Columbus, OH 43213
R.H. JARVIS
4495 Dyke Rd.
Yarrow, British Columbia
CANADA VOX 2A0
FORREST JEROME
890 West End Ave. #4D
New York, NY 10025
JEAN JODIN
Box 1245
Greenwood, Nova Scotia
CANADA BOP 1N0
DICK JOHNSON
Box 2386
Berkeley, CA 94702
ROBERT JOHNSON
492 Herrick Dr.
Dover, NJ 07801
SID JOLLY
7604 El Cajon Blvd. #5
La Mesa, CA 92041
DENNIS C. KACZMAREK
2243 North Leamington
Chicago, IL 60639
WILLIAM H. KAMERY
717 Dover Place
Wheeling, IL 60090
HENRY KELLEY
6721 6th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98117
L.T. KEVIN J. KELLEY, USN
USS Albany (CG-10)
FPO, New York, NY 09501
CHARLES S. KENNEDY, JR.
American Embassy
APO, San Francisco, CA
96301
DOUGLAS C. KERN
215 Baltimore Pike
1st Fl. Right
Glen Mills, PA 19342
RICHARD KINSELLA
161 Village Lane
Hauppauge, NY 11787
KEN KIRKLAND
935 Mockingbird Lane
Norman, OK 73071
WILLIAM P. KLITZKE
408 W. Commercial St.
Appleton, WI 54911
LT. COL. RICHARD D. KNAUFT
3300 High Street
Portsmouth, VA 23707
DAVID E. KNEPPER
92 England, Ave.
Tooele, UT 84074
FREDERICK H. KRAUS
P.O. Box 325
Ft. Jones, CA 96032
ROBERT F. KREIS
18638 Saticoy Street
Reseda, CA 91335

DWIGHT KUCERA
2253 3rd Avenue
N. Riverside, IL 60546
CONRAD LABARGE
56 Wilson St.
Blue Point, NY 11715
JAMES LAMBERTUS
7563 Kevin Lane
LaPalma, CA 90623
ROBERT LAUBENSTEIN
908 Burton Hill #165
Ft. Worth, TX 76114
GREG LEISNER
2201 N. 40th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
MARTIN D. LEITH
727 Callanan Street
Queens, British Columbia
CANADA V2J 2V5
DEREK LENARD
Dept. of Chemistry
Univ. of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Colum.
CANADA V6T 1W5
WILLIAM LESLIE
951/2 Manor Dr.
RR#1, Parkview
Eldridge, IA 52748
2nd LT. ANDREW M. LESTER
223-78-4312
Basic Class 8-76, TBS,
MCB, Quantico, VA 22134
PAUL L. LICAUSE
401 Strader Road
Akron, OH 44305
RICHARD LOCKE
2232 Wesley Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
JAMES M. LOGAJAN
360 E. Skillman
Maplewood, MN 55117
RUPERT L. LONA
6701 Simms Street
Hollywood, FL 33024
JIMMIE C. LONG
Box 8026
Shreveport, LA 71108
NORMAN MACDONALD
236 Randolph St.
South Weymouth, MA 02190
PATRICK MAHONEY
622 Cherrybank
Houston, TX 77079
JOHN MALASKA
2115 Aldrin Rd. #6A
Ocean Township, NJ 07712
MIKE MALONE
10520 SE 220th St.
Kent, WA 98031
PETER M. MANIS, M.D.
6806 Bonnie Ridge Drive
Apt. 202
Baltimore, MD 21209
RONALD J. MARCHAL
573 E. Wm. David Pkwy.
Metairie, LA 70005
PETER MARTIN
Box 1017
Forsyth, MT 59327
BRUCE MASTON
1155 Stratford Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12308
JAMES C. MATT
26 Jacklyn Drive
Rochester, NY 14624
CHARLES MAYLEN
312 Capistrano Dr.
Modesto, CA 95351
JIM McANIS
70-E Trevitt Drive
Stone Mt., GA 30083
KEVIN J. MCCARTHY
3866 Wallingford
South Euclid, OH 44121
DANIEL MCCLURE
3825 E. Sycamore
Pasadena, CA 91107
JIM MCCORMICK
600 B. Kearsarge
China Lake, CA 93555
JOHN P. MCKEON
88-00 Shore Front Pkwy.
Rockaway, NY 11693
ROBERT MCLAUGHLIN
c/o Hickory Farms
#3 Parole Plaza
Annapolis, MD 21401

EDWARD MEISSE
1035A E. 4th Street
Long Beach, CA 90802
PETE MENCONI
4334 E. Indianola Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85018
CHARLES MERRROW
6013 Lancaster Drive
San Diego, CA 92120
DEAN MILLER
8701 Duvall St.
Fairfax, VA 22030
KENNETH MILLS
907 Maple Avenue
Ridgefield, NJ 07657
ANDRES MINARRO
Av. Sanz, Res. Parko 8B
El Marques
Caracas 107 VENEZUELA
DAVID MINSER
310 Forest Drive
N. Huntington, PA 15642
C. GRIFFIN MITCHELL, III
140 Minna Lane #217
Herritt Island, FL 32952
NATHAN MITCHELL
426 E. Ferrill
Norman, OK 73071
JESSEE MOON
94--525 Anania Ct. #144
Mililani Town, HI 96789
LYNN MOORE
24 Stouffer #5
Lawrence, KS 66044
RONALD MORMILE
150 Evening Star Dr.
Naugatuck, CT 06770
CPT RALPH MORTON
173 Irving Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1Y 1Z6
KARL MUCHA
2119 Parkway Drive
Dearfield, OR 44411
JAMES D. MUELLER
940 Salem Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
VIRGIL MUGLER
1460 Ladd
Edwardsville, IL 62025
MARCUS MULLER
390 Talus Way
Reno, NV 89503
GERARD J. MURPHY
9 Connecticut Avenue
Somerville, MA 02145
STANLEY H. MURPHY
2159 E. 38th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11234
FRANK NAU
28538 Radbrook Ct.
San Pedro, CA 90732
AVCM CARL NELSON
VP--9
FPO San Fran., CA 96601
LANE NEWBURY
47 Briarwood Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
MARTIN NEWDORF
13006 Orleans St.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
WILLIAM C. NEWELL, JR.
12734 - 11th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98177
NORM NICHOLSON
5088 Valpey Park Avenue
Fremont, CA 94538
CAPT. WILLIAM L. NUPFER
117 Reams Court
Marina, CA 93933
TOM OLESON
1410 N. 51st Street
Omaha, NB 68132
SETH O. OSBORN, JR.
2279 Donna Drive
Norman, OK 73071
WILLIAM H. OSMANSON
1015 Union Street
Morris, IL 60450
THOMAS PAUL
124 1/2 E. Triumph
Ebensburg, PA 15931
STEVEN J. PELUSO
16926 Castle Fraser Drive
Houston, TX 77084

MATTHEW J. PERNA
382 Central Park West #11W
New York, NY 10025
WILLIAM PERRY
711 Coolidge St.
Plainfield, NJ 07062
SP5 PAUL S. PERSON
539-44-9110
HQ CO, USAG, Box 2723
Vint Hill Farms Station
Warrenton, VA 22186
WILLIAM D. PETERSON
1592 Pine Avenue West
Apt. 60
Montreal, Quebec
Canada, H3H 1N0
OWEN F. PHARR
4146 S. Memorial Pkwy.
Apt. A
Huntsville, AL 35802
JIMMIE L. PIERCE
6005 S. Kenmar Dr. Box 129
Oklahoma City, OK 73159
RANDY C. PIPPUS
209 Patterson Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1S 1Y4
DONALD PIROT
1911--10883 Saskatchewan Dr.
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T6E 4S6
DEREK L. PIANK
1155 Paint Road
Thompson, Manitoba
CANADA, R8N 1R7
MICHAEL A. PLESKO
305 Raven Lock Lane
Longwood, FL 32750
DAVID POESE
4717 S.E. Ina Avenue
Milwaukie, OR 97222
PHILIP POLLI
159 David Drive
Palatine, IL 60067
JOHN L. POPOLIS
6 W. Division Street
Villa Park, IL 60181
STEPHEN L. POWLESLAND
126 Cadillac Drive #71
Sacramento, CA 95825
JIM PRATT
1111 E. Loma Vista Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85282
JOHN RATZENBERGER
3224 Ella Lane
Manhattan, KS 66502
JOHN REEBEL
115 S. Rocky River Dr. #604
Berea, OH 44017
WILLIAM REIMAN
1305 Tanglewood Dr.
Clinton, MS 39056
PAT RICHARDS
1802 Elbert Dr. SW
Roanoke, VA 24018
PETER G. ROBINSON
167 Woburn Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M5M 1K8
JAMES ROONEY
255 Ridgewood Dr.
Mystic, CT 06355
PETER ROSAMILLA
13 Shoshone St.
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
TODD J. ROSEMAN
66 Montebello Street
Chula Vista, CA 92010
ROBERT H. ROSER, JR.
5431 Helm Court
Fairfax, VA 22030
CHARLES RUSSELL
955 Cranbrook Ct., #324
Davis, CA 95616
LAWRENCE SAGE
725 Antrim Dr. Apt. C-1
Newport News, VA 23601
MARK SAHA
2129 Ocean Ave. #5
Santa Monica, CA 90405
T. GREGORY SAUER
146 Front Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
WILLIAM C. SCANLAN
95 Park Street
Apt. 29
Lynn, MA 01905

DONALD E. SCHALK
1512 Montgomery Street
Muskegon, MI 49441
MIKE SCHELHORN
Route 1, Box 20
McCall, ID 83638
ROY GENE SCHELPER
High Hopes Farm
Route 1, Box 120
Cox's Mills, WV 26342
DONALD J. SCHIFF
P.O. Box 1916
St. Thomas, VI 00801
WAYNE T. SCHNEIDER
230 Warren Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
STU SCHOENBERGER
240 Stephen St.
North Bellmore
Long Island, NY 11710
JERRY SCHOTT
720 Pine Ridge Dr.
Plantation, FL 33317
MICHAEL SCOTT
729 S. Lupin Lane
West Covina, CA 91791
RON SCOTT
61266 N. 60th Ave.
Glendale, AZ 86301
AFARIEL SEGARRA
Box 674, Victoria Sta.
aguadilla, Puerto Rico
00603
JOE SELIGA
15 Windswept Dr.
Washington Township
Frenton, NJ 08690
ROGER SELIGA
705 Westfield Ave.
Bridgeport, CN 06606
RON SHEA
RR 1, Shubenacadie
Sants Co., Nova Scotia
CANADA B0N 2H0
MARC JAY SHEINBERG
Apt. 701
3701 Connecticut Ave.
Washington, DC 20008
DAVID SIMCEK
Box 30126
Middleburg Heights, OH
44130
PAUL A. SIRAGUSA
10827 Archmont Dr.
Houston, TX 77070
DAVID J. SMITH
803 N. Sheridan, #1902
Wichita, KS 67203
RON SMITH
2210 W. Dakota
Norman, OK 73069
WALTER J. SMITH, III
51 Lorimer Avenue
Providence, RI 02906
RONALD S. STARNIK
45 Raintree Island
Apt. 7
Tonawanda, NY 14150
R.E. (ERNIE) STEPHENS
4099 Pine Log Dr. NW
Marietta, GA 30060
AUGUST STRAUB
465 Madison St.
Denver, CO 80206
JAMES H. STROBECK
384 Alderwood Place
Oregon City, OR 97045
WOODROW SULLIVAN
130 Spring Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701
ROBERT D. SWANSON
2519 Potomac Drive
Iowa City, IA 52240
THOMAS E. SWENSON
Office of the Chaplain
HQ, 5th Signal Cad.
APO, New York, NY 09056
RICHARD SYLVIA
9395 Harritt Rd. #98
Lakeside, CA 92040
RONALD F. TELEUCKY
16 Hillcroft Road
Berlin, NJ 08009
BRUCE THATCHER
Box 311
Malden, MA 02148

STALINGRAD RULES ANALYSIS

-Bill Farone- (3/77)

Can there be rules problems with this old classic? There sure can--especially if you and your opponent do not agree on which version of rules you are playing: AH, AH 2nd edition, or AHIKS! Fortunately, it becomes obvious on the first exchange if you disagree on the exchange rules, but only later if you disagree on the Russian replacement rate. According to Avalon Hill, they always intended that exchanges should be calculated according to offensive factors and not defensive factors which are part of the AHIKS rules. It is not clear that this is so from the first edition rules, however. AHIKS pioneered the modification of the replacement rate downward for the Russians which was followed by AH in the second edition rules but they still give the 4-6-8 (per city) rules as optional.

Exchange on offense factor and lowered replacement rates tend to favor the Germans but even with these changes the balance is probably slightly in favor of the Russians. The original AH replacement rate and the AHIKS exchange interpretation require a very superior German player (or the converse) to make an interesting game. Rulings for S'Grad have appeared in the following issues of the General: Jan-Feb 71 (V1,#6); Jan-Feb 73 (V9,#5). Make sure you and your opponent are using the same rules brochure.

Other problems that frequently come up include movement along railroads and defense behind rivers, especially at forks in the river. AHIKS has ruled that one can travel along RRs at regular movement rates even though RR movement rate has been used up. On river forks, if a unit is attacked from across a river and along the same river it is doubled; ie, attacking across rivers takes precedence over being on the same river which would normally undouble a unit.

(K)

FROM THE MATCH COORDINATOR

Dave Turansky

Busy, busy, busy!! The recent swell of new members, as you might expect, is showing up at my doorstep. I ran out some stats on matchings which you might find interesting:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u># of matches</u>
I/76	80
II/76	82
III/76	70
IV/76	74
I/77	94

I can only imagine what Carl must be going through. In one day, I sent him over 40 matches! Nevertheless, we've got most of the new members pretty well taken care of. As one might expect from an ad in the General, there has been heavy requesting of AH games, particularly PBlitz and PLeader: I could use some volunteers from the ranks of the old timers' to help out here.

This leads into a discussion of our New Member Program. The Set Request Form, below, has a specific code ("N") to sign up for the NMP. The idea is that we want to match the newest members with "veterans" of six months or more in order to facilitate their entry into our style of playing. Our two most important standards of play, reasonable response time and courteous play, are best transmitted by association. Further, any questions about procedure, use of the ICRK, etc. are most quickly answered by an opponent (sometimes helps the opponent win, eh?!). New members do NOT sign up for the program!! Old members sign up, and I automatically match the new ones with the old. Some of you new members may find yourself matched with another new member within a couple or three months of joining AHIKS, but note that I will make at least your first assignment with an older member. After a couple of months, you should've had some chance to get in gear.

The set request form: please use it! Especially when we are matching at such a fast pace, it really helps.

I have noticed that mymail does funny things every so often. I suspect that from time to time a letter or two may be lost. You can check to insure that your request has been received/filled

by watching the listings below. If you've sent me a request, have not received an assignment, and do not see the game listed below, chances are good your letter was lost. Of course, your assignment letter may be in transit as of this printing, so you might wait a week or two if you think a letter is missing in action. For new members, I always check Joe Horne's listing of names versus new requests, so I am usually sure that your initial request has not been lost.

OPEN GAMES: African Campaign, Anzio Beachhead, Bastogne, Battle of Britain, Breakout and Pursuit, Bristenfeld, Bulgo, DNO(Taifun), Kursk, Musket and Pike, Narvik, Panzer Armee Afrika, Panzerblitz, Panzerleader, Pz Gruppe Guderian, Sinal, S'Grad, Submarine, Viking/Legion/Phalanx, Von Manstein, Waterloo, WWI, WWII.

EUROPEAN REGION REQUESTS: Breakout and Pursuit, NATO.

OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Afrika Korps, Ardennes Offensive, D-Day, Dreadnought, Jena-Auerstadt, Leutzn, Manassas, Road to Richmond, Russian Campaign, Winter War, 1815.

3-WAY GAMES: (1 player needed): Desert War, Fast Carriers, Starship Troopers; (2 players needed): Firefight, Panzer 44, Sniper, Starforce.

MONITORS AVAILABLE:

William Clumm, RR 1, Amesville, OH 45711; openings in just about every game ever invented including tic tac toe if you request it. Send SSAE for sample and listing

PACIFIC DIPLODEUR/ORIGINS WEST, Larry Fong, PO Box 11090, Oakland, CA 94611. AHIKS' own multi-com/monitored/etc. publication; now open for Dippy, Wolfpack, Kingmaker, Third Reich, Origins, Gonquistador, Free for all, Sniper, Patrol, Tank, Frigate. Send SSAE for sample and listings.

Richard Locke, 2232 Wesley Ave, Evanston, IL 60201: U-Boat.

Jim Wallace (address on P. 2): Air Force.

Bill Scanlan, 95 Park St, # 29, Lynn, MA 01905: War In the West.

AHIKS RATINGS

Dave Turansky

Once again, pending the up-dating of the full records set, we list the top 20 in the AHIKS ratings list. I hope to be able to complete the full 100-odd member records in time for next issue.

2015 K. Mills	1500 W. Hopkins
1955 D. Burdick	1480 L. Newbury
1850 J. Popolis	1470 R. Teleuky
1735 J. Drummond	1420 D. Turansky
1685 T. Eller	1370 R. Berg
1570 B. Maston	1350 S. Brooks
1560 D. McClure	1340 R. Marchal
1535 L. Ercolino	1320 D. Grant
1530 M. Yarwood	1300 T. Becker
1510 J. Heydt	1280 J. Ratzenberger

(K)

SWAPPE SHOPPE

NM: never used, or only used 1-2 times; **FAIR:** all pieces included, board has no defects, not unduly worn; **POOR:** less than fair; **w/nb:** with box/no box (plastic segmented compartments; prices should be "postage included").

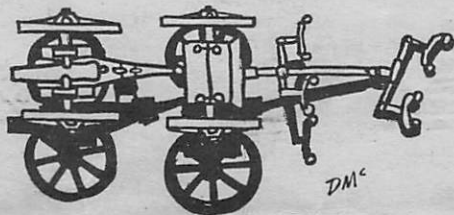
For sale: Panzergruppe Guderian, Olympic, Tank, Goeblen-Chicago, Centurion, Kampfpanzer, Dixie, Oil War, Flying Circus, Strike Force One, Grunt, Combat Command, Khalkhin-Gol, Norad, Nuclear War, Rommel. Write for details and prices:

Richard Locke, 2232 Wesley, Evanston, IL 60201

(K)

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline for K12/3 will be June 1, 1977. The issue should mail by June 15th. Pretty much. I've still got a lot of stuff to clear away, but I could use more reviews. I hope next issue to run all our "departments" again: Opinions, Ideas, Doins and Reviews.



reviews

SPI'S FIREFIGHT

-Carl Weaver-

First of all, the name is incorrect. It should be called "smoke, smoke, smoke". Without smoke, anything that dares stick it's nose out of the tree line has it blown away. The ranges were so long that we had to use a yardstick to determine line of sight. The first thing the US player does is lay down a smoke screen with mortars.

If he doesn't, he isn't around long enough to worry about it.

The sagger (wire guided missiles) have an effective range of 60 hexes (the map is only 54 hexes long). They rule the game until the US clouds the issue and the board with smoke. After the first smoke arrives, the sagger teams spend the rest of the game working the crossword puzzle in Pravda. My first concern on reading the rules was that the M60A1's could not fire smoke. On the first scenario it would make a world of difference. I realize now that the mortars make enough smoke to obscure any position.

We made a few changes in the rules to increase realism. Instead of using dummy or inverted units, we simply left them off the board and recorded their location on a piece of paper. Considering the slow movement, the defender shouldn't have any trouble keeping track. Second, since there are no inverted units to give away a position, artillery can be fired into empty woods or town hexes with a clear conscience. This permits an attacker to have artillery blast a suspicious-looking area without first spotting the units therein (if there are any in).

The most striking part of the game is the slowness of movement (3 hexes for all vehicles) compared to the destructiveness of the weaponry. Undoubtedly a very realistic simulation in this regard.

It is also a fairly quick game (2-3 hours); usually one player has a time limit to encourage him to come out and get massacred.

I was told that Firefight was designed for , and with information supplied by the Infantry School. I wish they would go to the Armor School and hear their side of the argument!

Notwithstanding all this nit-picking, the game has a lot of possibilities. The concepts used are so alien to those used in the normal board game that I would have to describe it as a miniature game with cardboard pieces. The rules could be adopted for a micro-armor game virtually intact.

Play by mail would require a monitor, unless the rules were rewritten.

8 The scenarios don't include any of the more exotic weapons or rules. Apparently you have to make your own scenario or modify existing ones.

(K)