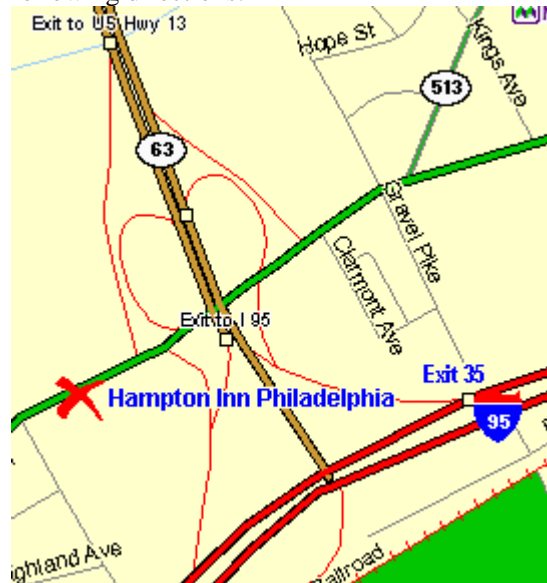


EPGS Heroics

Newsletter of The Eastern
Pennsylvania Gaming Society

February 2005

We have a new location for this week's meeting: The Hampton Inn of Bensalem. We'll game there Saturday February 19th from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The hotel's website www.hamptoninnofbensalem.com provides the following directions:



From Interstate 95:

Woodhaven Rd Exit #35 (old Exit #24), stay in right lane for Bristol Pike Exit (Rt.13). Turn right at the light. Hampton Inn is on the left.

From Route 1:

Woodhaven Rd. Exit (Rte. 63 East) to Bristol Pike Exit. Turn right at the light. Hampton Inn is on the left.

From PA Turnpike:

Philadelphia Exit #351 (old Exit #28) to U.S. Rte. 1 South (then follow directions above from Route 1).

From NJ Turnpike:

Exit 6 to PA Turnpike West (then follow directions above from PA Turnpike)

Subsequent meetings will return to the Oxford Valley Mall. Meeting dates are scheduled through the rest of 2005. They are March 19&26, April 2&16, May 7&28, and the first and third Saturdays thereafter.

Roads to Leningrad

By Joel Ferich

The struggle against Bolshevism was "a central theme in domestic and foreign policy" for Adolph Hitler. Hitler thought that a "drang nach osten", or push to the east, would make Lebensraum, or Living Space, a reality. Another of Hitler's beliefs was that the British would accept peace on German terms if Russia was taken out quickly. The German high command also believed that Russia could be knocked out quickly. The campaign would be "one more lightning victory, particularly fought against inferior races of the east". Hitler wanted to turn western Russia into a German colonial possession; much like the British ruled India.

At 5:30 am on June 22, 1941, the German Ambassador met with Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov to announce a declaration of war on the basis of gross and repeated violations of the Russo-German non aggression pact.

Over 3 million Axis soldiers and 3300 tanks pour into Russian territory. Facing the Germans was the world's largest army: 230 divisions of 14,000 men each. The Russians also had 20,000 tanks, although most of those were obsolete. The Russian forces were arrayed across four military districts. The Wehrmacht, or German Army, was organized into three army groups: South, Center and North.

The German Army Group North's objective was to capture Leningrad, the cradle of Bolshevism. Their route would take them through the Baltic States. The army group was made up of the 16th and 18th Armies and the 4th Panzer Group. These units blew through Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Russian city of Pskov, meeting weak resistance.

This is where GMT's latest effort takes place. *Roads to Leningrad* is an operational level game dealing with the Russian counterattack in early July 1941; it's located in the northern or Baltic Military District. The units are battalions or companies, and the counters are 5/8". The mapboard is divided into hexagons, each hex being 1.2 miles across. Each turn represents 12 hours. The box rates the game 5(medium) on complexity and 7(high) for solo play.

Coming up: an After Action Report (AAR) of the first of the games two scenarios: The Battle of Soltsy.

Photos by Bob Sohn, Part Two



Puerto Rico

Ken Horan
 gamer who looks like Bob Stribula
 (Jerry Smolens observing *Age of Renaissance*)
 Bob Hranek
 Eric Baskin
 Jen Horan



Die Sieben Siegel

Rick Cambron
 Rodney Somerstein
 (Mike Kaltman kibitzing)
 Matt Charlap
 Eric Freeman
 Larry Chong



Funkenschlag

Dave Bohnenberger
 Bobby DiIenno
 Barb Flaxington



Mexica

Paul Lipton
 Matt Charlap
 Mike Kaltman
 Rick Cambron

The Reluctant Editor's Column

The reader should note that the eggs_announce@yahoo.com listserv by which you receive *Heroics* is a moderated account only for the Club to use to communicate information about meeting dates and to distribute this newsletter. If you attempt to respond to a message it will only go to the two group moderators, me and the self-described “cranky old man” who initiated the listserv (former *Heroics* Editor Dave Bohnenberg). To communicate with other Club members use the eggs@yahoo.com listserv. We use two listserves as there are people who only want to receive the more limited number of messages concerning our schedule.

And, to communicate with me, please use my fhc2@hotmail.com address. My heroicfrank@yahoo.com account was only created because yahoo requires one of their own accounts in order to be a group moderator, and I must be a group moderator to distribute *Heroics*. I check my original email account much more regularly than the new one.

See the last page of this issue for total details on using the two listserves as well as contacting the officers.

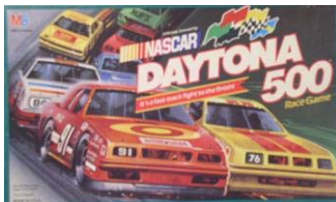
In the December issue of *Heroics* I made a remark about the (mis?)spelling of the game store The Compleat Strategist. Several readers commented that the name derived from the 1653 book *The Compleat Angler* by Izaak Walton. That work apparently inspired many other titles, starting with *The Compleat Ambassador* and *The Compleat Architect* two years later. Jay Treat researched the subject and found an even earlier book, *The Compleat Gentleman* by Henry Peacham the Younger in 1622.

I theorized that the store's title was derived from the 1954 book *The Compleat Strategist: Being a Primer on the Theory of Games of Strategy* by J.D. Williams about the branch of Mathematics called “Game Theory”. Game store – game theory. Since the spellings of “Strategist” differ, however, I realized I could be wrong.

I decided to get to the truth of the matter, and called the King of Prussia branch of the store. The person who answered the phone responded that “we employees here wonder about it too”. He gave me the phone number of the *Compleat Strategist* branch where I could speak with the chain's founders.

They said that they simply thought “Compleat” was Old English slang that would be more eye-catching than the modern spelling. Since opening the store they have learned of the Mathematics book, but never seen it.

Anniversary Gaming



February 19th is a good day for racing games. As the birthday of the only jockey to win two triple crowns, all horse racing games are topical, and the car racing *Daytona 500* (Milton Bradley) is appropriate as the 2005 version of the NASCAR race will be the following day. Railgamers can play *1831* (Carl Burger), and wargamers can play *Iwo Jima* (TSR/S&T #92).

February 19th

- 1473 Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus born
- 1674 Netherlands ceded New York to England at Peace of Westminster
- 1807 Aaron Burr arrested for treason, though later acquitted
- 1831 First U.S. coal-burning locomotive makes first trial run in Pennsylvania
- 1859 Congressman Dan Sickles acquitted by temporary insanity of murdering Francis Scott Key's son
- 1861 Czar Alexander II abolishes serfdom
- 1878 Thomas Edison patents phonograph
- 1913 Prizes first put inside Cracker Jack
- 1916 Eddie Arcaro born, only jockey to win two Triple Crowns (1941 *Whirlaway*, 1948 *Citation*)
- 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt signs order interring Japanese



1942 Football interception leader Paul Krause born (81 ints)
1944 Eniwetok, an atoll in the Marshall Islands, invaded
1945 Iwo Jima invaded
1997 Deng Xiaoping died



March 19th is the birthdate of many game related people. William Bradford was one of the first settlers of *New England* (Goldsieber / Überplay). The date is also coincidentally the birthday two famous African explorers. What could be more appropriate than a game of *Source of the Nile* (Discovery / Avalon Hill)? Yet another birthday related game is the eponymous *Wyatt Earp* (Alea / Rio Grande), whose legendary gunfight at Tombstone Arizona is commemorated by *O.K. Corral* (Discovery). Wargamers can try the Bentonville scenario from *Across 5 Aprils* (Victory) or *Pancho Villa, Dead or Alive* (Sierra Madre), or *Chinese Civil War* (WWW/Wargamer #10).

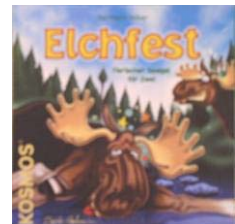
Edgar Rice Burroughs is noted for authoring both the Tarzan series and the Mars series featuring John Carter. The fifth novel in the Mars series, *The Chessmen of Mars*, features the game *Jetan*. The characters play it, and in one Martian city the game is even played with live pieces. The novel gives rules of the game; it is a chess variant played on a 10x10 board. The website <http://www.chessvariants.com/other.dir/jetan.html> gives further information on *Jetan*. Another game set in Burroughs' Mars domain is *John Carter Warlord of Mars* (SPI)

March 19th

(Annually) Swallows return to Capistrano California
721BC First recorded solar eclipse in Babylon
1589 Mayflower passenger and Plymouth Colony Governor William Bradford born
1813 Explorer David Livingston(e) born
1821 Explorer Richard Francis Burton born, discoverer of the source of the Nile River
1848 Wyatt Earp born
1860 Three-time Democratic Presidential nominee William Jennings Bryan born
1865 Battle of Bentonville
1883 General Joseph Stillwell born
1891 Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren born
1916 First American combat air mission against Pancho Villa
1920 U.S. Senate rejects Versailles Treaty
1927 Phillie Phanatic Hall-of-Fame Centerfielder Richie Ashburn born
1947 Chinese Nationalists capture Yenan, the Chinese Communist's capital
1950 Novelist and game inventor (*Jetan*) Edgar Rice Burroughs died
1979 U.S. House of Representatives begins live broadcasts on C-SPAN

The Games We Played

Only ten people showed up for the January 22nd meeting Because of the blizzard, and only five games were played before the Mall closed early. Things returned to normal for the February 5th meeting with forty-one different games being played a total of fifty-one times. *Loopin' Louie* led the way, being played seven times. Over the course of the two meetings *Puerto Rico* came in second with three plays, and five games were played twice: *Advanced Squad Leader*, *Barbarossa to Berlin*, *Blokus*, *Elchfest* and *Mexica*.



Once again the problem of classification struck; *Clippers*, *Merchant of Venus* and *Power Grid* are not Railroad Games, so I didn't color them Blue. Nonetheless they play just like Railroad games. Indeed when playing *Clippers*, (a spin-off of GMT's *Santa Fe*), we even called the ships "locomotives".

NEW	TITLE	PUBLISHER	JAN 22	FEB 5
	<i>Advanced Squad Leader</i>	Avalon Hill / Multi-Man		2
G	<i>Age of Steam 2: Western US</i>	Warfrog		1
G	<i>Age of Steam 3: Korea</i>	Warfrog		1
	<i>Amun-Re</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Attack! Expansion</i>	Eagle		1
	<i>Attika</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Axis & Allies - Europe</i>	Hasbro/Avalon		1
	<i>Axis & Allies Revised Edition</i>	Hasbro/Avalon		1
	<i>Barbarossa to Berlin</i>	GMT		2
	<i>Blokus</i>	Sekkoia		2
	<i>Clippers</i>	Eurogames/Descartes		1
	<i>Coloretto</i>	Abacus / Rio Grande		1
GP	<i>Counting Zzzzs</i>	Blood & Cardstock		1
	<i>Cribbage</i>	?		1
	<i>Daytona 500</i>	Milton Bradley		1
	<i>Die Macher</i>	Hans Im Glück		1
	<i>Doom: The Boardgame</i>	Fantasy Flight		1
	<i>Elchfest</i>	Kosmos	1	1
	<i>Goa</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Illuminati</i>	Steve Jackson	1	
G	<i>Life: Star Wars</i>	Hasbro		1
	<i>Loopin' Louie</i>	Milton Bradley		7
	<i>Lord of the Rings Miniatures</i>	Sabertooth		1
G	<i>Merchant of Venus</i>	Avalon Hill		1
	<i>Mexica</i>	Ravensburger / Rio Grande	1	1
GP	<i>Naval War</i>	Battleline / Avalon Hill		1
	<i>One False Step for Mankind</i>	Cheapass	1	
	<i>Power Grid</i>	Rio Grande		1
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	2
	<i>Ra</i>	Alea / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Ricochet Robot</i>	Hans im Glück / Abacus / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Robo Rally</i>	Wizards of the Coast		1
	<i>Saint Petersburg</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Settlers of Catan - Cities and Knights</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair		1
GP	<i>Shorter Lines</i>	Stribula/Cunliffe		1
	<i>Sticheln</i>	Amigo		1
G	<i>Struggle of Empires</i>	Warfrog		1
GP	<i>Tantrix</i>	Tantrix		1
G	<i>The Big Idea</i>	Cheapass		1
	<i>Ticket to Ride</i>	Days of Wonder		1
	<i>Titan - The Arena</i>	Avalon Hill		1
	<i>War of the Ring</i>	Phalanx / Fantasy Flight		1
	<i>You're Bluffing</i>	Ravensburger		1
9 / 3	TOTAL	-----	5 / 5	41 / 51

G = New Game

GP = New Game and Publisher

Military Games are Red

Railroad games are Blue

EPGS Information

Heroics is the official publication of The Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society, (EPGS). Contributed articles are always welcome.

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Quartermaster Corps

The following suppliers of gaming merchandise have agreed to post our newsletter or an advertisement for EPGS. To show our support, we list the names of these outlets.

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<http://www.alternateu.com>

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<http://www.compleatstrategist.com>

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