

EPGS Heroics

Newsletter of The Eastern
Pennsylvania Gaming Society

April 2005

EPGS meets from 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM this Saturday, April 30th, in Oxford Valley Mall's Community Room. Subsequent meeting dates are scheduled for May 7&28, and the first and third Saturdays through the end of 2005.

Spring Gathering 2005 Friday April 29th – Sunday May 1st

Spring Gathering is a Boardgame, RPG and CCG convention this weekend in New Brunswick NJ. For more details see <http://www.dexposure.com>.

Tactical Retreat Saturday October 22 – Sunday October 23

Tactical Retreat will have many of the best miniature war game players and groups in the area attending. Miniatures gaming will be the predominant form of gaming, with over 25 tables available; there will be plenty of room for players to try their luck in a *Warhammer* tournament or participant in one of the several demonstration games. Time periods will include Ancients, Napoleonic, WWI trench warfare, WWII micro armor, and different types of fantasy games. It will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 90 Route 17K, Newburgh NY 12550. For more details see <http://www.tacticalretreat.net>.

The Reluctant Editor's Column

After numerous unanticipated problems arose in my first three issues as editor of *Heroics*, last month's issue was the first time I didn't have any unexpected problems. So far nothing eventful has happened in producing this issue, so perhaps things will go smoothly from here on.

In producing the February issue I encountered two big problems. First I managed to delete 95% of the entire database of games played over the years. (How was I to know that deleting part of the results of a query would also delete all the corresponding data?) As I didn't have a backup file on my hard drive, I thought I might have to ask prior *Heroics* editor and database guru Dave Bohnenberger to try to recover it. The next day I finally remembered that I had recently backed up all the personal files on my hard drive, and so was able to restore all but the 5% of new data.

Later, at the same time as I was distributing the February *Heroics*, my personal email account began a week with an incredible number of problems. The first and scariest problem occurred when I received my *Heroics*. Hotmail said the file had a virus! I wondered if I had distributed a virused file to everybody. I updated my anti-virus and anti-spyware programs and searched my computer, but no problems were found. Then Hotmail said all the old messages with attachments I've saved over the years had viruses. Clearly the problem wasn't with my computer being affected, but with Hotmail's. Then a different problem arose; Hotmail wouldn't let me send outgoing messages. That's Microsoft for you. A week later the problems cleared up.

Another problem I have had is with the digital camera I've started using to produce this newsletter. Most of you have probably noticed the poor quality of the pictures in the January-March issues. The December issue's pictures were fine, but then the camera's battery died. When I installed a new battery the picture quality nosedived. The January issue's pictures were horrible; then I realized that when the original battery died all of the camera's

settings had changed. First I found that the shutter speed had changed to ISO 100 (bright daylight). After correcting that setting the photos in the February and March issues weren't as bad, but still a bit fuzzy. Finally I discovered that the camera wasn't focusing, so this issue's pictures are good again.

After mailing the prior issue, a reader commented that my Anniversary Gaming column didn't seem to have enough items from World War II and the Korean War. I was really surprised at this remark as one of the two era-specific sources I search is a very detailed World War II chronology. Some dates just don't have a lot that happened. I went back and found the following WWII events that took place on the days detailed in the previous issue:

March 26th

- 1944 British retreated to Imphal
- 1945 Americans landed on Cebu Island in the Philippines
- 1945 Final banzai charge on Iwo Jima

April 2nd

- 1940 Hitler ordered preparations for invasion of Norway/Denmark
- 1944 Soviets entered Romania

Except for Iwo Jima, none of these strike me as being particularly important. I'm particularly sorry I overlooked Iwo, though, because I had mentioned the February 19th start of the battle in the February issue of *Heroics*.

The way I write these "Anniversary Gaming" articles is to go to a couple of anniversary websites. I found these by going to www.yahoo.com and searching for "date in history". Among the hits were the very useful:

- Those Were the Days <http://www.440.com/twtd/archives>
- History Channel <http://www.historychannel.com>

Both of which I bookmarked.

Then I search a 1976 calendar given to me by my grandfather that gives two events of the Revolutionary War period for each day of the year. It's called *Bicentennial Commemorative Almanac*, published by my grandfather's company: The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States. I've saved it for thirty years as I thought it contained a lot of useful information. Now as *Heroics* editor I finally am getting great use of it.

I conclude my search by using the chronology contained in *History of the Second World War*, Editor-in-Chief Sir Basil Liddell Hart, Second Edition 1972-1975. It was a weekly journal of 128 issues and 3584 pages that began with an issue on the German invasion of Poland and continued chronologically into the postwar period. The final two issues contain a chronology from 1933-1949. I search all seventeen years for events of the desired dates.

I use my judgment to pick the most important events, giving extra weight to events of interest to gamers and Philadelphians. I like to include railroad and sports related events because there are a lot of games on those topics.

Although I think of some event related games, I go to www.boardgamegeek.com to see if there are any more I haven't thought of. If there are a lot of games on a subject I may exclude the less well known ones.

Furthermore I may exclude some events so as to fit the space available.

In producing these columns I've been amused at the times two related events happened the same day:

- Jan 22nd Film directors D.W. Griffith born (1875) and Cecil B. DeMille died (1959)
- Feb 5th Dallas football quarterbacks Roger Staubach born (1942) and Craig Morton born (1943)
- Mar 19th African explorers David Livingston born (1813) and Richard Francis Burton born (1821)
- Apr 16th James Bond actor Barry Nelson born (1920) and author Kingsley Amis born (1922)
- May 7th Composers Johannes Brahms born (1837) and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky born (1840)

It would be nice if I knew a way to find anniversaries of gaming events, for instance famous designers' birthdays or publication dates of popular games, but I don't know where to get that information.

Anniversary Gaming

Apparently I spoke too soon when in my “Reluctant Editor’s Column” when I said no unexpected problems had occurred in producing this issue. With EPGS’s last minute change of schedule, my research into April 16th anniversaries became irrelevant, and I had to go back and research April 30th. Since I have half a page to fill to get this issue to come out evenly, I’ll print the April 16th information anyway.

April 16th was the date of many game related events. Lenin’s return to Petrograd (later Leningrad) can be commemorated with the satiric *Kremlin* (Avalon Hill) or the more serious *Russian Civil War* (SPI) or *Reds!* (GMT). Numerous James Bond games were published by Victory Games. The air campaign against North Vietnam can be simulated by *Linebacker* (Swedish Game Productions) and *Downtown* (GMT)

April 16th

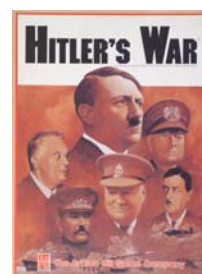
- 1775 Paul Revere gives “one if by land two if by sea” instructions used April 18th.
- 1867 Airplane co-inventor Wilbur Wright born
- 1889 Actor, director and producer Charlie Chaplin born
- 1897 Code breaker Frederick William Winterbotham, leader of “Ultra” project, born
- 1917 Vladimir Lenin returned to Petrograd
- 1920 Actor Barry Nelson, the first to portray James Bond, born
- 1922 Novelist Kingsley Amis, second James Bond author, born
- 1943 Britain announces discovery of mass graves of Polish officers at Katyn
- 1945 Soviets began offensive toward Berlin
- 1945 Hitler proclaims “He who gives the order to retreat ... is to be shot on the spot”.
- 1947 First Zoom lens used by NBC
- 1947 The term “Cold War” first used by Barnard Baruch
- 1947 Basketball star Lou Alcindor (later Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) born
- 1972 After four-year break, U.S. resumed bombing North Vietnam



April 30th is the anniversary of several game related events. Lou Gehrig is pictured on the cover of *Superstar Baseball* (Sports Illustrated, Avalon Hill). *Norway 1940* (Quarterdeck) and *Narvik* (GDW) concern the Norwegian campaign in World War II. Games on the Burmese campaign include *Burma* (GDW), *Burma* (The Gamers), and *The Last Elephant Offensive* (Pacific Rim). Games on the Soviet capture of Berlin include *Berlin '45: The Nightmare Ends* (XTR) and *Reichstag: The Fall of Berlin* (Minden, *Panzerschrek* #1).

April 30th

- 1797 George Washington inaugurated first American president
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase from France
- 1864 Battle of Jenkin’s Ferry Arkansas
- 1900 Locomotive engineer Casey Jones killed trying to save the *Cannonball Express*
- 1939 First fluorescent light equipped railroad car, the *General Pershing Zephyr*
- 1939 Baseball star Lou Gehrig’s final game
- 1940 German units from Oslo and Trondheim link up; Norway surrendered next day
- 1941 Germans complete occupation of Greek mainland
- 1941 Iraqis surround British Royal Air Force base at Habbaniyah
- 1942 Japan completes conquest of Central Burma
- 1944 Stalin acknowledges help given by Western Allies
- 1945 Soviet troops reach the Reichstag
- 1945 Adolph Hitler commits suicide
- 1947 Organization of American States established
- 1964 FCC rules televisions must be able to receive both UHF and VHF broadcasts
- 1975 Saigon falls to North Vietnamese, and South Vietnam surrendered



Bill Micklow thinks all EPGS members should celebrate the anniversary of the start of Pontiac's Rebellion with a game of *Wilderness War* (GMT). Other French and Indian War games are *End of Empire: The French and Indian War and the American Revolution* (XTR/Command #46) and *Seven Years World War* (Decision/S&T #221). Johnny Unitas' birthday can be commemorated with *Johnny Unitas' Football* (Pro Mentor). The first American success of World War II can be simulated with *Coral Sea* (GDW). Games on the final battle of the First Indochina War are *Dien Bien Phu* (Simulations Design Corporation/*Conflict* #6) and *Citadel: The Battle of Dien Bien Phu* (GDW). [Pictured is the Lusitania card from *Chrononauts* (Looney Labs).]

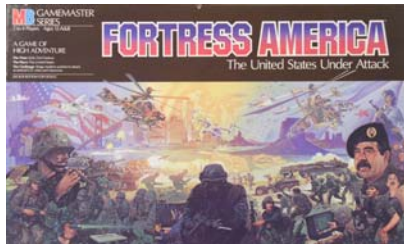
May 7th

- 1763 Pontiac's Rebellion began with attack on Fort Detroit
- 1812 Poet Robert Browning born
- 1837 Composer Johannes Brahms born
- 1840 Composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky born
- 1901 Actor Gary Cooper born
- 1912 First machine-gun equipped airplane flew over College Park Maryland
- 1915 Lusitania torpedoed
- 1919 Evita Peron born
- 1933 Football quarterback Johnny Unitas born
- 1941 Glenn Miller and his orchestra recorded *Chattanooga Choo Choo*
- 1942 Battle of Coral Sea began
- 1945 Germany surrendered in World War II
- 1945 Vlasov surrenders to Americans, who then hand him back to the Soviets for execution
- 1954 Surrounded French force at Dien Bien Phu surrender, ending First Indochina War
- 1960 Leonid Brezhnev becomes President of the U.S.S.R.

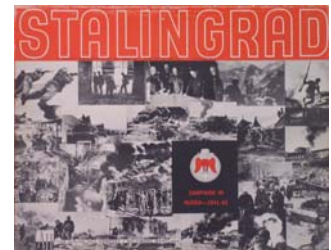


The Games We Played

Leading the way this month were *Goa* and *Puerto Rico* with four plays apiece. Varieties of *Carcassonne* were also played four times. *Fortress America*, which had only been played at EPGS twice before, most recently in



summer 2002, was played three times. Basic *Barbarossa to Berlin* was played twice, and it was played a third time along with a playtest edition of its expansion kit *Appeasement to Apocalypse*. Checking in with two plays each were *Alhambra*, *El Grande* and *Ra*. The biggest surprise was a play of *Stalingrad*, a game from the early 1960s that hadn't been



played at EPGS since former editor Dave Bohnenberger began tracking games played in 2000, and may never have been played in the fifteen year history of our Club.

Thanks to Steve Cameron for help in recording games played.

NEW	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MAR	APR 2
	<i>1830</i>	Avalon Hill	1	
G	<i>6 Dice Train Game</i>	Koplow	1	
	<i>Advanced Squad Leader</i>	Avalon Hill / Multi-Man		1
	<i>Aladdin's Dragons</i>	Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Alhambra</i>	Queen		2
	<i>Amun-Re</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Barbarossa to Berlin</i>	GMT	2	
G	<i>Barbarossa to Berlin: Appeasement to Apocalypse</i>	GMT		1

G	<i>Cannibal Pygmies in the Jungle of Doom</i>	Z-Man	1	
	<i>Carcassonne</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		2
G	<i>Carcassonne - Inns & Cathedrals</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Carcassonne with many expansions</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Cartagena</i>	Venice Connection	1	
	<i>Clans</i>	Venice Connection		1
	<i>Die Sieben Siegel</i>	Amigo		1
	<i>El Grande</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		2
	<i>Elfenland - Elfengold</i>	Amigo	1	
	<i>Fist of Dragonstones</i>	Days of Wonder		1
	<i>Fortress America</i>	Milton Bradley	2	1
	<i>Goa</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	2	2
	<i>Great War at Sea: Russian-Japanese War</i>	Avalanche		1
	<i>HeroScape</i>	Hasbro	1	
	<i>High Society</i>	Ravensburger / Amigo / Überplay		1
	<i>Illuminati</i>	Steve Jackson		1
	<i>Ivanhoe</i>	GMT		1
	<i>Leapfrog</i>	Fragor	1	
	<i>Lost Valley</i>	Kronberger	1	
G	<i>Manifest Destiny</i>	GMT	1	
	<i>Medici</i>	Amigo / Rio Grande	1	
G	<i>Medieval</i>	GMT		1
	<i>Medina</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Memoir '44</i>	Days of Wonder	1	
	<i>Mexica</i>	Ravensburger / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Naval Battles</i>	Phalanx	1	
GP	<i>Palladium</i>	Palladium Books	1	
	<i>Pirate's Cove</i>	Days of Wonder		1
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	2	2
	<i>Quicksand</i>	Fantasy Flight	1	
	<i>Ra</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	1
	<i>Reds</i>	GMT	1	
	<i>Relationship Tighrope / Drahtseilakt</i>	ASS / Überplay		1
	<i>Ricochet Robot</i>	Hans im Glück / Abacus / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Saint Petersburg</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Siedler von Nürnberg, Die</i>	Kosmos		1
G	<i>Stalingrad</i>	Avalon Hill		1
	<i>Sticheln</i>	Amigo		1
	<i>Taj Mahal</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	1
	<i>Traumfabrik / Fabrik der Träume</i>	Hasbro	1	
G	<i>Twilight / Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i>	Plenary / Bambus	1	
	<i>Untergang von Pompeji, Der</i>	Amigo		1
	<i>Up Front</i>	Avalon Hill		2
	<i>Ursuppe / Primordial Soup</i>	Doris and Frank / Z-Man		1
G	<i>Viking Fury</i>	Ragnar Brothers	1	
	<i>Web of Power</i>	Goldsieber / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Zendo</i>	Icehouse	1	
10/1	TOTAL	-----		31/35

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.

To subscribe to *Heroics* send an email to:

epgs_announce-subscribe@yahoo.com

To unsubscribe, send an email to:

epgs_announce-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

To view the group on the Web:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/epgs_announce

Join the EPGS email discussion listserve on Yahoo! Groups' EPGS Community. Addresses:

Post message: epgs@yahoo.com

Subscribe: epgs-subscribe@yahoo.com

Unsubscribe:

epgs-unsubscribe@yahoo.com

List owner: epgs-owner@yahoo.com

Home page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/epgs>

Visit the EPGS Website: <http://epgs.org>

EPGS Officers:

18 month terms expiring May 20, 2006.

President:

Steve Cameron
(610) 322-3630 (cell)
stevegamer@snip.net

Treasurer:

Randall MacInnis
(908) 781-6555
randall.macinnis@verizonwireless.com

Publicity:

Mike Fisher
(215) 438-9966
mikefisher65@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Don Myers
(610) 917-3664
donmyers@mac.com

Editor:

Frank Cunliffe
(610) 394-9119
fhc2@hotmail.com

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 their names here.

Abington Game & Hobby

1562 Easton Road
Roslyn PA 19001
(215) 657-9550
Sun-M: N-4, T-Th: N-6, F-Sat: 11-8
www.abingtongh.com

Allied Hobbies

243 Oxford Valley Mall
Langhorne PA 19047
(215) 757-8086
<http://www.alliedhobbies.com>

Alternate Universes

2034 Parker Avenue, (at McDade Blvd)
Holmes PA 19043
(610) 583-9960
M-Th: N-10, F: N-M, St: 11-11, Sn: N-8
<http://www.alternateu.com>

The Compleat Strategist

580 Shoemaker Road
King of Prussia PA 19406-4205
(610) 265-8562
M-Th: 11-7, F-Sat: 11-8, Sun: N-5
<http://www.compleatstrategist.com>

Days of Knights

173 East Main Street / P.O. Box 4577
Newark DE 19711
(302) 366-0963
Mon-Sat: 10-7, Sun: Noon-5
www.daysofknights.com

The Gamer's Realm

Princeton Arms Shopping Center
2025 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor NJ 08550
(609) 426-9339 (New Jersey)
(877) 658-8754 (toll free)
www.gamersrealm.com

Rogue's Den

2710 Philadelphia Pike
Claymont DE 19703
(302) 798-1390
www.roguesden.com