

EPGS Heroics

Newsletter of The Eastern
Pennsylvania Gaming Society

May – June 2007

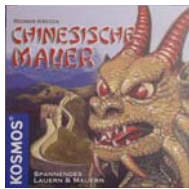
EPGS meets at Oxford Valley Mall's Community Room from 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM June 2nd and June 16th. We have also requested the first and third Saturdays of July, and the third Saturdays for the rest of the year.

We also meet the second Saturday each month from Noon to 10 PM at The Games Keep in West Chester

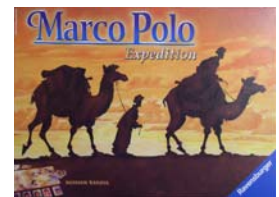
And we meet each Tuesday from 5-10 PM at Alternate Universes off McDade Boulevard. Well, 10 PM is the time the store says it closes, but there've always been gamers there when your editor leaves at 11, and he has even seen lengthy *Empire Builder* games starting as he departs.

1st EPGS Kniziathon

By Dave Bohnenberger and Eric Baskin



Despite a fairly low club turnout May 5th, the first ever EPGS Kniziathon was a resounding success. 23 players participated in the event and 20 different games were played. No game was played more than once. The Grand Prize of "Eternal Fame" now belongs to Alex Bove. Scores are based on number of players and length of games.



Player	Total	Amun Re	Chinesische Mauer	Clash of Gladiators	Exxtra	Hannibal Vs. Rome	Ingenious	Ivanhoe	Korsar	Marco Polo Expedition	Medici	Pickimino	Poison	Ra	Relationship Tightrope	Royal Turf	Taj Mahal	Tigris and Euphrates	Tower of Babel	Traumfabrik	Tutankhamen
Alex Bove	107	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	15	0	0	15	20	9	0	10
Dave Magagnosc	82	24	0	10	6	0	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	18	0
Mike Kaltman	76	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	6	0	0	12	16	15	0	4
Dave Kahnt	66	0	0	10	12	0	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
Dave Bohnenberger	50	0	0	4	4	0	3	12	0	0	0	0	4	0	6	8	0	0	0	9	0
Matt Charlap	47	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	6	8	18	0	0
June King	42	0	0	2	2	0	15	2	0	0	0	4	2	0	12	0	0	0	0	3	0
Frank Cunliffe	27	0	6	0	0	8	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milo Mervic	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	15	0
Keith Layton	24	4	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	0	0
Jennifer Horan	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Eric Baskin	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	12	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Neil Zuckerman	17	0	10	0	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Lynch	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leah Poane	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Larry Chong	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ken Horan	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steve Stanton	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Su Hung	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joe Yaure	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Lipton	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steve T.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jim Petkovits	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Game Weights		4	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	3	1	2	3	2	2	3	4	3	3	2

Adler-Luftwaffenspiel (Eagle Air Force Game)

By Frank Cunliffe

Over the last twenty years German produced games have become increasingly popular in the United States. But until a month ago the only reference to an earlier German game I have ever seen was the following note in a mid-1970s Lou Zocchi catalog:

ATTENTION GAME COLLECTORS. I have a U-Boat game which was manufactured in Germany; in 1943 by the Propaganda ministry. Its rules are written in German and the British have no chance to win. WIR FAHREN GAGEN ENGELAND is the title and it has plastic U Boats. I am willing to sell this rare treasure to the highest bidder. What am I offered?

That was from Lou Zocchi's "Catalogue #4", which was undated, but presumably from late 1976 as the subsequent "Catalogue #5" was dated February 1977.

Then the middle of this April I was visiting someone who was participating in the Regency Superior Auction #60. Looking at the auction catalog, I saw that it included many lots of military paraphernalia. Most interesting to me was Lot Number 1421: **c.1940 WWII LUFTWAFFE TABLE GAME**

Extremely rare, almost never seen two-player game from Germany. Original illustrated box contains gameboard 17½"x24", original instructions & 24 game pieces, 6 red, 6 blue fighter planes & 6 red, 6 blue bombers made of wood. The game appears unused. Box has some wear, especially around the edges, but cover illustration has only a few minor abrasions. A rare board game. The first of these we have ever seen offered.



The catalog estimated its value at \$700. Afterward I checked the on-line auction results to see what the winning bid was, and saw that no one was willing to meet even its minimum bid of \$240 (plus 15% Buyer's Premium).

Although there were no other game related items in this auction, there were other items of interest to me. I was most intrigued by was Lot #11, 1944 Japanese World War II 'Project Fugo' Bomb Balloon which also received no bid. This was an unused balloon bomb from the Japanese operation releasing balloons carrying incendiary bombs into the air stream hoping they would blow across the Pacific and land on the United States. This time the minimum was a more robust \$9000, and this item too went unsold. (Of course this was not the norm. My host bid on two items and won them both.) For more information about the auction see <http://www.regencystamps.com>.

Like *Wir Fahren Gagen Engeland*, there is no game by this title listed on www.boardgamegeek.com, but there are two others of the same era with similar titles and the same publisher's logo. They are *Adler Luftkampfspiel* (1935) and *Adler Luftverteidigungsspiel* (1941) by Verlag Hugo Gräfe of Dresden. The description of the game in this auction matches the 1935 game. The 1941 game appears completely different.

According to boardgamegeek's entry for *Adler Luftkampfspiel* (1935), each side has six single-engine fighters, six twin-engine bombers, twelve anti-aircraft guns, four ships and twelve pegs I which I suspect are used to record bomb damage. There are also two dice included in the game.

There is also a mapboard consisting of eight rows of ten spaces, plus areas off each end for the respective players to put their pieces when not on the map. The central rows between each player's territories are water, suggestive of the English Channel. I suspect that the end of each player's section is an airbase.

Adler Luftverteidigungsspiel (1941) similarly has six fighters and six bombers per side, but this time the planes move along predetermined paths. There is also a specially marked die. While the focus of the other game was bombing targets, this time it is on shooting down one's opponent's planes, each player taking a turn defending.

Ironically these games were published in Dresden, one of the cities most devastated by bombing raids. And as the components of these games are flammable cardboard and wood, presumably few survived the war.

GMT East Report

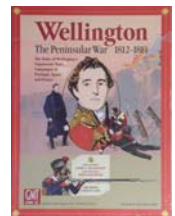
By Dave Bohnenberger

GMT East is a small convention held annually in White Plains, NY. This convention is a great opportunity to meet fellow wargamers and game designers. The focus is on GMT games, but all sorts of games are played. Representatives from Replay Publishing and Z-Man games were in attendance with games for sale.

This year's convention was attended by a number of EPGS members, including Bob Sohn, Randy MacInnis and Mike Nagel, designer of GMT's naval wargame *Fighting Sail*.

Since many game designers are normally in attendance, GMT East is a good opportunity to get a sneak peek at upcoming releases and games in early playtest. Available for play was *Combat Commander: Mediterranean*, which is an expansion set for GMT's smash hit *Combat Commander: Europe; PQ-17*, a game on the North Atlantic convoy battles of WWII; *The Halls of Montezuma*, an upcoming Card-Driven Game on the Mexican-American war; and Mike Nagel's next release in his *Fighting Sail* series. Also in heavy use was a WWII air-war game slated to be released by Z-man games.

Among currently available games, the most popular seemed to be *Combat Commander*, with *Twilight Struggle*, *Here I Stand* and *Sword of Rome* trailing not far behind. Also seeing a lot of play was *Imperial*, the recent euro/wargame release from Eggertspiel/Rio Grande.



Also heavily played were a number of GMT's "classic" Card-Driven wargames, such as *For the People*, *Paths of Glory* and *Barbarossa to Berlin*. Designer Mark McLaughlin was in attendance with his "Giant Sized" boards and special miniatures for *Wellington* and *The Napoleonic Wars*.

While GMT East is not focused on tournaments, a couple of events were held. John Foley ran a very well-attended *Combat Commander* tournament, and Chris Janiec hosted his annual *Down in Flames* mission.



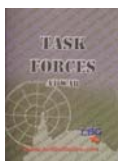
Down in Flames missions are much more interesting than the simple dogfighting mode of the game. Players are split into two teams, one team flying bomber escorts and the other team flying interceptors attempting to prevent those bombers from destroying their targets. Players must choose their targets carefully, as points can be scored for destroying enemy fighters, bombers, or for damage caused to the target and for bombers that safely make it back home.

This year's mission was a battle over Dunkirk, and was made more interesting by the fact that BOTH teams had opportunities to damage ground targets. Due to opportune play and the great luck of drawing the "Fuel Tank Hit" card, EPGS Member Dave Bohnenberger managed to shoot down two bombers and an enemy fighter and was awarded the highest point total of all players in the game. Chris Janiec does a great job on these missions and it is truly a highlight of the convention.

This great convention would not happen if it weren't for the efforts of GMT's Andy Lewis as well as David Fox and Allan Rothberg.

Spring Lansdowne Games Day Report

By John Desmond



The Spring Lansdowne Games Day was held March 24th 2007 at The Garden Church. A total of sixteen people were there, who played: *Balloon Cup*, *Blue Moon City*, *Cosmic Encounter*, *Daytona 500*, *Goa*, *Mamma Mia*, *Oasis*, *Puerto Rico*, *San Francisco*, *Streetcar*, *Task Forces at War*, *Ticket to Ride*, *Tongiaki*, *Winner's Circle* and *Yellowstone Park*. A good time was had by all.



Upcoming Gaming Events

Summer Lansdowne Games Day will be held Saturday June 3rd from 10 AM to 9 PM at the Garden Church in Lansdowne, 82 North Lansdowne Avenue. No admission will be charged, though contributions to the church are welcome. For directions see <http://www.thegardenchurch.org/directions.html>.

Historicon, one of three HMGS-East historical miniatures conventions, is in Lancaster July 26th to 29th. For more information see <http://www.historicon.org>.

World Boardgame Championships July 31st – August 5th is also in Lancaster. This will be attended by many EPGS members. See <http://www.boardgamers.org> for details. There are also “PreCons” July 29th – 31st. A new feature this year will be seminars. Our own Chris Yaure will run one on “Probability and Decision Making”.

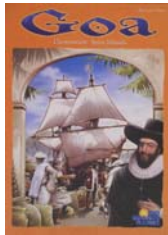
Days of Wonder

Days of Wonder representative Mike Brown will visit EPGS several times in June to demonstrate the new game *Colosseum*. He will be at The Games Keep from 2-6 PM June 9th, Oxford Valley Mall June 16th and Alternate Universes 6-9 PM June 19th.

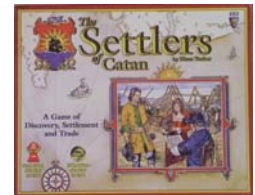
50/50 Raffle

Because of our rent increase, we are now reinstating the raffle, the entry being equally split between the winner and the Club treasury. Tickets are \$2 for one, \$4 for three and \$6 for five. So far the winners (and Club) have received between \$18 and \$25 each raffle.

The Games We Played



Goa, the only game played at all four Oxford Valley meetings, had eight plays, the most of any game since the last *Heroics* issue. Close behind were *Sharp Shooters* with seven plays and *The Pillars of the Earth* with six. Tied for fourth were *Age of Steam*, *Puerto Rico*, *Settlers of Catan* and *Twilight Struggle* with five plays, and tied for ninth were *BattleLore*, *Fortress America*, *RoboRally* and *Yspahan* played four times apiece.



In addition to base *Settlers of Catan* being played five times, its spin-offs were played a further six times.

A surprising newcomer to our games played database is *Magic: The Gathering*. Perhaps it was played when it first came out; our database only goes back to 1999. Will *Dungeons and Dragons* or *Monopoly* be played soon?

Thanks to Steve Cameron, Mike Coyle, Steve Fitchett and Karl Kemmerer for help compiling this information.

The following chart lists the games played at Oxford Valley March 17th, April 7th & 21st and May 5th; The Games Keep April 14th and May 12th; and Alternate Universes March 20th & 27th, April 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, May 1st & 8th.

NEW	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MAR 17	APR 7	APR 21	MAY 5	GK	AU
G	<i>24/7: The Game</i>	Sunriver	1					
	<i>Advanced Civilization</i>	Avalon Hill			1			
	<i>Advanced Squad Leader</i>	Avalon Hill / Multi-Man		1				
	<i>Age of Steam</i>	Warfrog	2	1	1		1	
	<i>Amun-Re</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande				1		
	<i>Antike</i>	Eggert-Spiele						1
	<i>ASL Starter Kit</i>	Multi-Man		1				
	<i>Aton</i>	Queen / Rio Grande						1

	Balloon Cup	Kosmos / Rio Grande	1					
	BattleLore	Days of Wonder	1	3				
G	Battle of the Bulge [1981]	Avalon Hill		1				
	Blue Moon City	Kosmos / Fantasy Flight					1	
	Buccaneer / Seeräuber	Queen					1	
	Ca\$h 'n Gun\$	Repos Production / Crómola						1
	Card Football	SportFX	1					1
	Cartagena	Venice Connection				1		
	Caylus	Ystari / Rio Grande				1		
	China	Überplay	1					
G	Chinesische Mauer / Great Wall ...	Kosmos / Fantasy Flight				1		
G	Clash of the Gladiators	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande				1		
	Cloud 9	Out of the Box				1		
	Combat Commander: Europe	GMT				1		
	Commands & Colors: Ancients	GMT	1			1		
G/P	Country Trains	Andrew Muhling					1	
	Cribbage	?						1
	Crusader Rex	Columbia	2			1		
G	Descent: Journeys in the Dark	Heidelburger / Fantasy Flight				1		
G	Die Säulen von Venedig	Goldsieber	1					
	Die Sieben Siegel	Amigo	1					1
	Easter Island	Twilight Creations						2
	El Grande	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande				1		1
	Empire Builder	Mayfair						1
	Exxtra	Amigo				2		
G	For \$ale	Ravensburger	1					
	Formula Dé	Eurogames/Descartes						2
	Fortress America	Milton Bradley	1	1	2			
	Gheos	Z-Man						2
	Goa	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	2	2	3		
	Goldland	Goldsieber				1		
	Guillotine	Wizards of the Coast				1		
	Hannibal: Rome vs. Carthage	Avalon Hill	1			2		
	Heroclix	Wizkids						1
	Hey! That's My Fish!	Phalanx / Mayfair				1	1	1
	Igel Ärgern	Doris & Frank	3					
	Illuminati	Steve Jackson				1		
	In the Shadow of the Emperor	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande						1
	Ingenious / Einfach Genial	Kosmos / Fantasy Flight				1	1	1
	Ivanhoe	GMT				1		
	Keythedral	R&D						1
G/P	Korsar / Pirat / Loot	Heidelburger / Amigo / Gamewright				1		
G	Magic: The Gathering	Wizards of the Coast						1
G	Marco Polo Expedition	Ravensburger / Rio Grande				1		
	Medici	Amigo / Rio Grande				1	1	
	Metro	Queen						1
	Modern Art	Hans im Glück / Mayfair				1		
G/P	Mr. Jack	Neuroludic / Hurrican	1	2				
	Nexus Ops	Hasbro/Avalon				1		
G	Notre Dame	Alea / Rio Grande	2	1				
G	NSiAR: Hannibal versus Rome	Piatnik					1	
G	PanzerZug	Winsome						1
	Paths of Glory	GMT				1		
	Pickomino	Zoch / Rio Grande					1	
G	Pillars of the Earth, The	Kosmos / Mayfair	1	1	1		1	2

	<i>Pirate's Cove</i>	Days of Wonder		1					
	<i>Poison</i>	Playroom					1		
	<i>Power Grid</i>	2F-Spiele / Rio Grande		1			1		
	<i>Princes of Florence</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1						
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	2			1	1	
	<i>Ra</i>	Alea / Rio Grande				1	1		
	<i>Relationship Tightrope / Drahtseilakt</i>	ASS / Überplay					1		
	<i>Rise and Fall</i>	EMS					1		
	<i>RoboRally</i>	Wizards of the Coast	1	1					2
	<i>Rommel in the Desert</i>	Game Preserve / Columbia					1		
	<i>Royal Turf / Winner's Circle</i>	Alea / Face 2 Face					1		1
	<i>Rum & Pirates</i>	Alea / Rio Grande				1			
	<i>Scotland Yard</i>	Milton Bradley		3					
	<i>Settlers of Catan</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair						3	2
	<i>Settlers of Catan - Seafarers</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair		1					
	<i>Settlers of Catan Card Game</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair				1	1		
G	<i>Settlers of Catan: Struggle for Rome</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair	1						
	<i>Settlers of the Stone Age</i>	Kosmos / Mayfair				1			
	<i>Settlers of Zarahemla</i>	Inspiration						1	
	<i>Sharp Shooters</i>	Parker Brothers / Hasbro						4	3
	<i>Shear Panic</i>	Fragor / Mayfair		1					
	<i>Shifting Sands</i>	Multi-Man		2					
	<i>Shogun</i>	Queen		1					
	<i>Soldier Emperor</i>	Avalanche		1					
G	<i>Soldier Raj</i>	Avalanche					1		
	<i>Star Wars - The Queen's Gambit</i>	Hasbro/Avalon				1			
G/P	<i>Stargate SG-1 CCG</i>	Comic Images							1
	<i>Street Soccer</i>	Cwali							1
	<i>Successors</i>	Avalon Hill				1			
	<i>Taj Mahal</i>	Alea / Rio Grande					1		
G	<i>Taluva</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande				1			
	<i>Target Arnhem: Across 6 Bridges</i>	Multi-Man				2			
	<i>Thirty Years War</i>	GMT		1					
	<i>Thurn and Taxis</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		2			1		
G	<i>Thurn and Taxis: Power and Glory</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande							2
	<i>Ticket to Ride: Europe</i>	Days of Wonder		1					
	<i>Ticket to Ride: Märklin</i>	Days of Wonder				1			
	<i>Tigris & Euphrates</i>	Hans im Glück / Mayfair					1		
	<i>Tower of Babel</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande					1		
	<i>TransAmerica</i>	Winsome / WM / Rio Grande				1			
	<i>Traumfabrik / Hollywood Blockbuster</i>	Hasbro					1		1
	<i>Tutankhamen</i>	Amigo / Out of the Box					1		1
	<i>Twilight Struggle</i>	GMT		2		2	1		
G/P	<i>Ur</i>	What's Your Game? / Rio Grande	1			1			
	<i>Vegas Showdown</i>	Hasbro/Avalon							1
	<i>War of 1812</i>	Columbia					1		
G	<i>Warhammer Quest</i>	Games Workshop				1			
G	<i>Wizard</i>	Amigo / US Games Systems				1			1
	<i>Wizards</i>	Avalon Hill						1	
	<i>Ys</i>	Ystari						1	
	<i>Yspahan</i>	Ystari / Rio Grande	1			2		1	
24/5	TOTAL	114 TITLES / 198 PLAYS		13/14	31/42	31/39	41/45	18/23	26/35

G = New Game

GP = New Game and Publisher

Military Games are Red

Railroad games are Blue

Sports games are Green

EPGS Information

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