The Avalon Hill Game Company is deluged with a veritable flood of game submissions weekly; the circulation of our schedule is such that we simply do not have the time nor the manpower to even begin to sift through them all. Furthermore, like most game publishers these days, we have found it expedient to rely primarily on our own personnel for the bulk of our design needs. Consequently, do not be surprised if we decline your kind offer to evaluate your game. We realize that we may be turning down the next Monopoly or Trivial Pursuit, but circumstances and nearly 30 years in the game business have taught us that this is the best course for us to follow.

Inevitably the next question from the rejected designer is whether we could suggest where he/she can submit his/her game. Sadly, we cannot. Most established game publishers have long since ceased dealing directly with the public—primarily for legal reasons. Virtually thousands of people fancy themselves as game designers and earnestly believe that their creation is extremely innovative, interesting and fun. It is hard for them to accept that not everyone shares their enthusiasm for their product or that their “original” idea has been used before. These disappointed folk are then predisposed to believe that their “idea” has been “stolen” whenever a similar approach or game subject hits the market—even though that concept may well have been on the company’s radar.

Continued on Page 12, Column 1
The men composing the spearhead of the Allied invasion of France stepped out of their planes 700 feet above the Cotentin peninsula shortly after midnight on June 5th, 1944 to land behind the beaches of Normandy as the largest aerial invasion force yet assembled. Badly scattered by poor drops and facing predicted estimates of 50-90% casualties, they stood alone upon Hitler's Fortress Europa with neither armor support nor heavy equipment. They were not only to hold their ground until relieved from the sea, but were also to attack and secure vital bridges and roads to prevent reinforcement of the beach defenses. This is the story of two American Airborne Divisions, the 82nd and 101st, as they made history in such places as Ste. Mere-Eglise, Foucarville, St. Come-Du-Mont, Le Fiore, Pont L'Abbe and Neuville-au-Plain. It is a vivid story of men in combat portrayed in gut-wrenching detail as only ASL can tell it.

**PARATROOPER** is the second module in the ASL series, which means it is not a complete game unto itself. Players will need boards 1-4 of SQUAD LEADER and the ASL rules to play all eight scenarios included herein. However, all other components necessary to play the game are enclosed—absolutely no other purchase is necessary. **PARATROOPER** has been specially designed as an Introductory Module for those SQUAD LEADER players contemplating a switch to ASL to provide an inexpensive medium for them to sample the rich delights of the ASL game system without requiring the purchase of the full Russian/German OB found only in the first ASL Module: BEYOND VALOR. Yet, the countermix in PARATROOPER serves as a supplement to the BEYOND VALOR components, rather than an unneeded duplication of those counters should the player decide to expand his ASL collection.

Due to the special nature of the fighting that comprised the airborne invasion of Normandy, the scenarios emphasize infantry encounters with little in the way of vehicles, ordnance, OBA or the more detailed rules which constitute the entire spectrum of ASL. This goes hand-in-hand with the introductory nature of PARATROOPER, which also includes Chapter K of the ASL rules: the Squad Leader Training Manual. The Training Manual is not a set of rules—but a supplement to ASL which attempts to teach the basic concepts of the game system to new players in a conversational style complete with attempts at humor. This "hands-on" approach, which takes the reader through repeated examples of play, may even serve as a handy refresher course to veteran Squad Leaders. As always, however, we recommend that players own SQUAD LEADER before attempting PARATROOPER—if only to acquire the four playing boards therein that are required for play of the PARATROOPER scenarios. PARATROOPER is available now for $15.00 from The Avalon Hill Game Company, 4517 Harford Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21214. Please add 10% shipping and handling to payment (20% for Canadian orders or 30% for overseas orders). Maryland residents please add an additional 5% state sales tax.
FLIGHT LEADER puts you into the cockpit of a high performance jet fighter, commanding two to eight aircraft. Your mission is to establish “air superiority” by sweeping the enemy from the skies. FLIGHT LEADER was originally designed by a fighter pilot for U.S.A.F. training and the key to this fast-playing game’s unique blend of realism and playability is that it simulates fighting the jets rather than the small details of flying them. Strap on a sleek warbird and take to the air after reading only the four-page Basic Game Rules; then add more realism and rules sections as experience grows.

Refight virtually any air battle using the over 200 modern fighter aircraft types and 100 national air orders of battle from the Korean War gunnery duels to the deadly technology of present-day supersonic missile engagements. There are over 30 game scenarios and a point system for aircraft and crew quality that permits endless numbers of “design your own” scenarios.

As a flight leader, you will face the same considerations and make the same basic decisions as your real world counterparts. Four MiGs have just “bounced” your two Phantoms — what do YOU do now?

FLIGHT LEADER is now available for $26.00 from The Avalon Hill Game Company, 4517 Harford Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21214. Please add 10% for shipping and handling per order (20% for Canadian orders; 30% for overseas orders). Maryland residents please add 5% state sales tax.

★ Endless Scenario Variations: Use any of the over two dozen scenarios covering the Korean, Middle East, India-Pakistan, Vietnam, and Falklands Wars or devise your own scenarios.

★ Over 200 Different Jet Fighter Aircraft Types: We’re not claiming that ALL types are represented, but if an aircraft is classed as a fighter or fighter-bomber, the odds are that it’s here and YOU can fly it.

★ World Air Order of Battle: 100 nations that operate jet fighters plus the aircraft they use and the quality of their pilots.

★ Basic, Advanced and Optional Rules: Rules with “layered complexity” to help in learning the game. Choose the levels of complexity and detail that YOU enjoy.
Basic Fighter Maneuvers enable the pilot to gain an energy and position advantage which will place his aircraft into weapons parameters and allow him to employ ordinance. Defensive BFM does just the opposite, improving the defender’s chances of survival. The weapon to be used ultimately determines the degree of BFM needed for the kill. BFM is not composed of autonomous, specific maneuvers each taken to a conclusion. Air combat is a fast and fluid situation, based on observation, prediction, movement, and reaction to the other jet’s maneuvers until a kill or separation results. Thus, BFM is a blending of move/countermove based on continuous reassessment of the changing tactical situation. During a dogfight you are always transitioning between various BFM moves.

PRINCIPLES OF MANEUVER

Given the basic objectives and an overview of what BFM is, let’s examine the possible spatial relationships between two aircraft, and how they identify the appropriate maneuvers to execute at the right time. These spatial relationships are characterized by geometry in the form of angles and circles.

Position geometry is defined by aspect angle, angle-off (for heading crossing angle), and range. Aspect Angle (see Figure 1) is the angle drawn to the attacker, regardless of his heading, from an origin directly behind the target. An attacker directly on a target’s nose is at a 180 degree aspect angle, while an attacker directly behind the target is at 0 degrees aspect. A position anywhere else around a target will be at an aspect angle between these two extremes. Angle-off (see Figure 1) is simply the angle defined by the intersection of the headings of both aircraft. Angle-off in FLIGHT LEADER will always be 0, 60, 120 or 180 degrees, due to the hex grid. Range is the three-dimensional distance separating the two aircraft. Ideal position is looking up the enemy’s tailpipe at zero degrees aspect and angle-off, and perfect missile or gun range depending on your weapons.

Turn circle is defined by the size of the turn radius (hexagonal turning pattern or turn mode in FLIGHT LEADER) and the rate of turn (number of one-half turns during movement). The turn circle varies with the intensity of the turn involved (the G-forces used) and airspeed. Examination of the turn mode schedules in FLIGHT LEADER show the variation of turning capabilities between aircraft by G available, as dictated by movement allowance (airspeed). When attacking a turning defender, the attacker must reach the defender’s turn circle to start solving the geometric problems of aspect and angle-off. If an attacker maneuvers prior to reaching the defender’s turn circle, he may sacrifice any angular advantage he had prior to the maneuver. Once he

OBJECTIVES OF BASIC FIGHTER MANEUVERS

1. Allow the attacker to gain and maintain adequate energy to permit future maneuvering potential against opposing aircraft.  
2. Gain and maintain nose-tail separation (your aircraft’s nose behind the other aircraft’s tail) against the opponent. Manuevers allow the pilot to position himself behind the bandit with energy to enable him to stay there.  
3. Permit maneuvering into a vulnerable cone from which ordinance may be employed.  
4. Finally, and fundamentally, to kill the enemy. To do this, the pilot must recognize his weapon’s parameters and fire once he arrives in them. If he can’t employ ordinance in the reasonable Pk (Probability of Kill) shot, he must re-position until he can. If the re-position is not possible or advisable tactically, he must separate (i.e., disengage) prior to losing his position of advantage.

Captain Gary Morgan, besides being the designer of FLIGHT LEADER and other games on modern air combat, is himself a serving jet-jockey currently on duty in Germany flying a “Wild Weasel”! He should know whereof he speaks when he seeks to introduce our readers to the mystical world of high-tech air combat.

FLIGHT LEADER was designed to accurately simulate the arena of tactical air combat. By adhering to the basic physical laws governing the flight performance of modern jet aircraft, a playable, yet highly realistic wargame evolved. Whether you are playing the Basic Game or integrating many of the Optional Rules into the Advanced Game, you find yourself in a tactical air combat laboratory, faced with and required to solve the same problems facing real-world jet fighter pilots. The proof of FLIGHT LEADER as a game system, correctly replicating the environment of jet-to-jet air combat, lies in its successful simulation of Basic Fighter Maneuvers, or BFM—the fighter pilot’s “toolbag”.

Correct employment of BFM in the game will net the player the highest degree of success—either by minimizing tactical mistakes, or by maximizing the potential available in his forces, both to achieve kills and insure survival. Some tactical principles can be learned from reading the FLIGHT LEADER game rules and designer’s notes. Beyond this basic guidance, however, the gamer must rediscover the tactical lessons formulated over the past seventy years by actually playing the game and learning from his mistakes. Since the average gamer doesn’t have access to fighter pilot tactical training manuals, I have the opportunity through this forum to paraphrase the BFM texts, and help improve your play of FLIGHT LEADER. Much of what is included in this article is aimed at the Advanced Game, which is most like the real thing. If you are not yet playing the Advanced Game, keep these concepts in mind for the future.

By Gary C. Morgan
arrives at the defender's turn circle, the attacker has three possible pursuit courses to use—lead, lag or pure pursuit (see Figure 2).

**Lead** pursuit involves pointing to a position out ahead of the target, better known as “cutoff” (to “cut him off at the pass”). Lead pursuit will reduce range to the target quicker than any other course, and if used correctly, will minimize the time the defender has to generate aspect and angle-off. If used inside the defender’s turn, it will close the range but will increase the aspect and angle-off. However, continued lead pursuit will eventually fly the attacker out in front of the target—not a good idea! Trying to close the range to the target by accelerating rather than pulling lead, may result in a wider turning circle for the attacker and possibly being spit out in front of a decelerating defender.

**Lag** pursuit involves pointing behind the defender. Against a turning bandit, this decreases aspect but increases angle-off. Once in the target’s aft quadrant (blind cone), the attacker must be turning as well as the target or he will eventually lag around to the bandit’s nose.

**Pure** pursuit is simply continuously pointing at the target. It solves aspect and angle-off on the non-turning bandit, and flies the attacker to a point behind the target. Inside a turning target, aspect and angle-off build as the range closes, until ever greater G is required to maintain pursuit, eventually forcing the attacker into lag pursuit.

**TURNING ROOM AND USE OF THE VERTICAL**

“Turning room” is that distance between you and the bandit which allows you to accelerate and decrease range, or to turn and decrease angles. Turning room is either lateral or vertical. Lateral turning room in the bandit’s plane of turn (usually in the horizontal—a flat level turn), while vertical turning room is out of the bandit’s plane of turn. STAR TREK fans may remember the engagement in the movie The Wrath of Khan where Kirk outmaneuvers Khan by using the vertical, out of Khan’s plane of turn. This is the most difficult concept for our normally two-dimensional minds to comprehend, and the Inexperienced Pilots in FLIGHT LEADER often find themselves in flat turns. We also tend to visually scan along the horizon, and may never see the high or low bandit.

Lateral turning room is only advantageous to the attacker outside the defender’s turn circle in a maneuver called a “Belly Entry” (Figure 3 demonstrates how to get a Belly Entry when you can’t hack the corner from inside the target’s turn.) This may require a wingman behind the bandit to “herd him around”, with either the attacker or bandit flying a clockwise circle and the other flying a counterclockwise turn, with both intersecting together like ice-skaters to describe a “Figure 8” as viewed from above. If performed correctly, the target never sees the attacker, who gets a picture-perfect heat missile shot, or tracking gun shot. For the attacker inside the defender’s turn, his lateral options are limited to the three pursuit courses of lead, pure, and lag—none of which solve all of the geometric problem. The answer in this case is to go out of the defender’s plane of motion, for vertical turning room.

Use of the vertical against a turning bandit offers the attacker two options: going high or low. If the bandit is “on the deck”, at minimum altitude, the attacker can discount the low option and is forced to go high. By taking the flight into the vertical, the normal limitations of turning (turn mode) are temporarily suspended: FLIGHT LEADER was designed to allow you to pirhouette in a climb or dive to do this. Once the jet climbs or dives, the lateral G turn (using pitch) is now replaced by the capability to reorient the aircraft using roll. The vertical turning room now also allows the attacker to seek the defender’s turn circle, though in a different dimension from the bandit’s plane of turn.

The decision of whether to go high or low will be determined by the comparative energy states of the attacker relative to the bandit. Here we find the classic trade-off between kinetic (speed) and potential (altitude) energy, a concept called “Energy Management”. A slow attacker will dive, trading altitude for airspeed; a fast attacker will climb, to do just the opposite. Each will fly a lead pursuit initially, to intercept the bandit at the future point around the circle, before transitioning to a pure pursuit and getting back to the bandit’s altitude. These are called the “High Yo-Yo” (Figure 4) and “Low Yo-Yo” (Figure 5), and simultaneously solve the problems of closure (too much or too little, respectively) and angles through the use of vertical turning room.

**MAINTAINING NOSE/TAIL ADVANTAGE**

Suppose you find yourself flying in the same direction as a bandit off your left or right wing. As an example, let’s say he is off your right wing, at your 9 o’clock. You can turn left, turn right, or go straight. If you turn right, you are dead. He will also turn right, and using the lateral turning room between you will be behind you in your blind cone at 6 o’clock, with a heat missile on its way up your tailpipe. NEVER TURN AWAY FROM A BANDIT! [If you don’t get anything else out of this article, remember this one rule!] If you go straight and he goes straight, and both of you are at the same speed, the problem begins again. If you are going faster, you will move out ahead of him, reducing his aspect problem and giving him the advantage. Imagine a line from your three o’clock (right wing) through to your nine o’clock (left wing)—called the “Three-Nine Line” (Figure 2). Aircraft behind an opponent’s 3-9 line have an advantage. Conversely, if you are slower, he will slip out ahead and you will gain an advantage. This situation, with both aircraft slowing down for a 3-9 advantage, evolves into a flat “Slow Speed Scissors”, and eventually the aircraft with better slow speed handling characteristics and/or the better pilot will win. But even if you win a slow speed scissors, you may become a floating strafing target for another adversary afterwards. Watch your fuel, and don’t go out of control!

Instead of continuing your turn into the other jet, suppose you roll wings-level and climb instead of decelerating (“Quarter Plane and Zoom”); you’ve traded your forward velocity for some energy you may be able to use later, and have taken away his turning room. If the other guy doesn’t climb, he will split out ahead of you. If he also takes it up and turns into you, the fight turns into a “Vertical Rolling...
PULLING G'S TO TURN FIGHTERS

Aerodynamics is the study of how airplanes fly and how they perform using the laws of physics. Every American fighter pilot has attended at least one class in aerodynamics to learn how to effectively employ his airplane in combat. These principles and laws of physics have been incorporated into the FLIGHT LEADER game system, so you don't have to be a science whiz to become an Ace. However, it doesn't hurt to understand some of the concepts that went into the design of FLIGHT LEADER and to understand the real world that FLIGHT LEADER simulates.

Most of us know from basic science how airplanes fly, with air moving faster over the top of the wing than below, and creating lift. Lift is opposed by mass, or weight exerted by the gravity of the Earth. Forward movement is created by thrust; in jet engines, that thrust is a product of superheating vast quantities of air which is sucked into the intakes, compressed, and blown out the tailpipe. Thrust is opposed by drag in two forms. "Parasite drag" is the cross-sectional area of the jet perpendicular to the direction of travel. If you stick your hand out of a moving car window with the flat of your palm facing forward, your arm feels the force of drag. If you rotate your hand so only your thumb faces forward, you can also feel the reduction in parasite drag. This is why jets look sleek. The creation of lift forces over the wing also creates drag, called "induced drag." The more lift the wings produce, the more induced drag is created.

Once the jet is moving forward (thrust) and flying (lift), we want to be able to control where our bodies didn't evolve with more than a one G capability. The first effect under several G's is that the blood and internal organs go in the direction of the G. Under positive G, blood runs to your feet; under negative G it runs to your head. As your brain gets starved for blood, you may "Gray-out"—the first effect will be loss of your peripheral vision as your vision becomes first to lose the effects. If the blood pools in your lower body for an extended period of time, or under severe rapid G's, you may "Black-out" and lose consciousness for seconds or even minutes.

The G-suit was designed to help overcome grayouts and blackouts, and is a tight-fitting garment resembling cowboy chaps and incorporating bladders around the waist, thighs and calves. As G is pulled, sensors in the aircraft begin pumping air through a hose into the G-suit, which inflates and constricts the lower body to keep the blood up in the upper body. Gravity Loss-of-Consciousness (or GLOC) has resulted in the loss of several fighters and pilots over the past years, as aircraft performance begins to exceed human capability even with G-suits. Your entire body weight is multiplied by the number of G's; and under 5 G's, a 200 pound pilot weighs half a ton. The head and arms, at many times their normal weight, are difficult to move or hold up. Excessive negative G produces a "Red-out" as too much blood stays up in your head. At several negative G's, the pilot may be pressed against the canopy, and if not tightly strapped in, unable to control the jet with stick and throttles now out of his reach.

Remember this occasionally as you sit comfortably playing FLIGHT LEADER, and chalk off your losses to physics.
LEAD TURNS AND HEAD-ON TACTICS

Two fighters with 180 degrees of angle-off (head-on) are in a neutral position; neither has an advantage. If this situation presents itself at high aspect, you should seek some offset, or lateral turning room, prior to passing the other aircraft—unless you want to limit your attack to a high-speed "hit and run" shot, requiring an all-aspect radar or heat-seeking missile (found in the Advanced Game). If this shot is a miss, you have no "back-up plan".

If you can get some turning room and have the energy for a turning fight, begin turning (lead turn) before you pass abreast the other aircraft so you can have some of the angle-off solved early. If you arrive at the bandit’s 6 o’clock at 60 or 120 degrees of angle-off, you have only 120 or 60 degrees left to turn, while the bandit has 240 or 300 degrees to turn for your tail. Given a situation of head-on geometry with turning room, the fighter turning fighter will have the advantage, especially if the offset equals his turn diameter. The counter to this is to deny turning room by flying directly toward the bandit. This resets the 180 degree angle-off situation and restores neutrality of advantage. (Figure 7 shows the attacker behind the target at 60 degrees of angle off, after using the turning room between the jets. The target now is at a disadvantage, with the attacker behind him, and must turn 240 degrees for the attacker’s tail.)

Vertical turning room in a head-on attack can influence the nature of the ensuing fight. You may decide to take it down or take it up early. By descending, you gain energy, get to look up at the bandit, and have a better chance of keeping sight of him and getting a radar lockon (no ground clutter) for a head-on missile shot. He, on the other hand, will have to roll the jet to see you, down in the clutter of the earth. As you pass, you can take it up for an Immelman entry if he doesn’t see you, or continue up and roll onto your back for a "Slice-back" attack with speed advantage, while the bandit must slow down by coming up to get you. If you have a significant speed advantage over the bandit initially, you may decide to take it up at first, and "hawk the fight" on your back while rolling and deciding on the right place to swoop down and shoot, depending on the target’s reaction.

THE INTERCEPT

Assume you and your opponent have just begun the game on your respective map-edges, with your forces flying toward each other. What do you do now? This is the intercept phase and there are a multitude of good answers. You would like to begin the engagement with all advantages possible.

First, and supremely, you want to get (and keep) Situation Awareness (or SA). This is every fighter pilot’s first priority—to know what’s going on. Ideally, you have radar controllers who have spotted the enemy force, and are directing you toward them. They have told you where the bandits are coming from so you can find them on your own radar and, most importantly, visually acquire them, since a "Tally Ho" is an essential prerequisite for winning an air battle. You may know how many there are and how high and fast they are flying. You might also know their formation, and whether or not other bandits are in the area. Last, but not least, you might know for sure that they are indeed bandits, and not your buddies coming home from a mission in enemy territory.

You probably don’t know what type aircraft they are flying, or what weapons they have on board, and you won’t know how good they are—yet. To survive you must assume the worst case: they are the most capable aircraft, weapons and crews the enemy can field. Your reassessment of the enemy and tactical priorities will come later, after you begin fighting.

The next help you will want is that provided by Mother Nature. The clouds, sky conditions and position of the sun all play a key role in deciding how to approach the enemy so that you can find him before he finds you. This will decide your intercept geometry and whether you deploy high or low, left or right, to gain precious visual concealment. Given these considerations, the capabilities of your own force will then drive your attack tactics. Your aircraft type(s), weapons and the aircrews in your flight will dictate the way you meet the enemy. Do you have better turning and/or accelerating jets than the enemy? Do you have all-aspect missiles, or rear-hemisphere only, or just guns? How many experienced/average pilots do you have; how cosmic a gameplan can you attempt. Are you outnumbered? How much fuel can you afford to use before separating? How many jets in your flight have radar contacts on the bandit(s)? What is your mission?

You will want to enter the fight with maximum SA; your flight has radar contacts, missiles in the air, and Tally-Ho on the enemy—with fuel, energy and turning room. The intercept will depend on the individual situation, incorporating all of the principles stated in this article.

THE MERGE: ONE-CIRCLE AND TWO-CIRCLE FIGHTS

When two converging aircraft pass each other close aboard, this is called "The Merge" (due to the merging of radar blips on a radar controller’s scope). Actions prior to this point are called "The Intercept", and actions after are called "The Engagement". Once the merge occurs, the forces on both sides have several options. First, they may continue their direction of travel (blow through/ separate) if the situation is tactically unpromising. Remaining in the turning dogfight for an extended period of time, when there are a lot of bandits in the area, is a good way to find yourself quickly outnumbered, and out of airspeed and ideas.

Second, they may turn the same way (both left or both right), one going clockwise and the other counter-clockwise. This develops into a One-Circle Fight (see Figure 8). A tighter turning aircraft has the advantage in this situation, and should be striving for lateral turning room inside the wider turning aircraft’s turn circle. He initially makes his tightest turn, pulling lag behind the other aircraft’s tail to reduce aspect, and soon reverses his turn to reduce the angle-off. A one-circle fight between two similar performing aircraft normally results in a stalemate.

Figure 6: Separation after threatening inside Missile/Gun Attack

Figure 7: Lead Turn to reduce Angle-Off

Figure 8: One Circle Fight
The third and final option is for both aircraft to turn in the same direction (both left or both right) into what is called the Two-Circle Fight (see Figure 9). This option gives the wider turning aircraft a better chance, but may force both pilots to lose sight of each other. If either jet has all-aspect missiles, the two-circle fight may produce enough separation to allow the bandit to attack at his leisure. If the bandit's nose is off you and he is sliding back in range and stagnating in energy, dive and accelerate until you are gaining angles on him. If he is increasing in aspect and angle-off, keep turning—your wingman should have the separation to point directly at him and deny him this advantage.

INITIAL MOVES: DEFEATING THE AMBUSH

Initial moves pre-suppose the worst—the bandit is past the merge and you don't have a controller, radar contact or Tally ho. You are now on the defensive, in a bad neighborhood, checking your wingman's 6 o'clock (and he is doing likewise for you). You begin by checking the common zone behind him, then move to the heat missile zones and beyond. You may pick up a small size bandit at your minimum range, in your wingman's blind cone. Your first indication may be the missile in the air. If the bandit is past the merge and you don't have a controller, radar contact or Tally ho, you make your initial move to survive the attack. The bandit has the advantages of position and maneuvering; if one jet in your flight goes up, the other should go down. This highly complicates the bandit's problem, both for maintaining visual contact and for maneuvering. He may decide to "Switch" and change his intended target. If the bandit is between the formation, then each flight member should turn toward each other. If the bandit is nearing a position of low aspect and maneuvering, if one jet in your flight goes up, the bandit may produce enough separation to allow the bandit to attack at his leisure. If the bandit's nose is off you and he is sliding back in range and stagnating in energy, dive and accelerate. If he is increasing in aspect and angle-off, keep turning—you are gaining angles on him. If he is attacking a wingman who is out in front of you, attack the bandit while your wingman performs a defensive turn. If you are being attacked, fly a defensive turn until your wingman can get turned around for an outside "Belly Entry" or another turning room maneuver.

Don't forget to plan for a separation, when it becomes appropriate. Don't continue to turn with a better turning jet—he's bound to get a quick advantage. Don't get into a vertical fight with a better accelerating jet—he can maintain a better energy state. If you are up against an adversary with both advantages, stay low. Take quick notes as you play or soon afterwards. Fighter pilots call this "Debriefing" and it is the only way you can put what happened into lessons you can remember and use next time. The more times you play, the better you will get!
The fighter pilot business, like any other specialized and technical profession, has its own unique language. If you were to listen to modern fighter pilots brief before flying, or talk on the radio, you would hear a great many abbreviations, acronyms and "brevity code" that would be puzzling to your untrained ears, this hodgepodge of indecipherable jargon emanates from several sources. Some comes from abbreviations (usually of aircraft systems) and some from regulations. Other terminology arises out of the phonetic alphabet (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, etc.).

Much comes from the brevity code, which is composed of individual words given unique and unequivocal meanings for the air combat arena. In many cases, a single word can mean the same as an entire phrase or sentence. During the tense seconds of an air engagement, with flight leaders and wingmen and radar controllers all needing to communicate, radio discipline can mean the difference between life and death. So finding the shortest way to convey the greatest amount of information is paramount. Try using the terminology below especially when you are playing more than one player to a side; try to limit your communication to only what is essential and use these words. Below is a representative assortment from various sources. More is contained in the accompanying article and the FIGHTER LEADER Pilot's Manual.

Abort: Discontinue. In the air, return to base due to unforeseen circumstances.
Affirmative: Yes; also "Affirm", "Firm" or "Roger" used.
Air: Air Interceptor.
Angels: Target altitude in thousands of feet.
Arming: Using "Cutoff" or Lead Pursuit.
Bandit: An enemy aircraft.
Beam: Put the threat on either wing.
Bingo: Fuel required to return home safely.
Blank: Can't see leader/wingman; opposite of "Visual".
Blow: Keep going at high speed; don't start turning.
Bogey: Unidentified aircraft; could be friendly or hostile.
Bogey Dope: Asking radar controller for target information.
Bracket: Usually an intercept or maneuver which puts friendly jets on both sides of a bandit so if he turns toward one, the other will have an advantage in turning room and angle-off.

Break: An instantaneous maximum performance turn, usually against a missile attack.
Bugout: Let's separate out of here; usually given with a direction—"Bugout West".
Burner: Afterburner(s), also "Blower" or "AB"; An afterburner increases thrust by spray-injecting raw fuel into the hot aft stages of the jet engine to produce a sustained, controlled rocket-like explosion. Use of afterburner is not fuel-efficient and uses up fuel at a rate several times that consumed in Military power.
Buzzed: Electronic Countermeasures (ECM).
Check Six: Look at your six o'clock position (behind you).
Chicks: Friendly fighters.
Chicken: See "Jink", "Doin' the Chicken". Evolved due to the strain put on the neck during a guns jinkout from G forces.
Coming: Flying high enough that your vapor trail is crystalizing, like most airliners. Makes you very easy to see.
Contact: Radar contact.
Decoy: Attract fighters, usually into an ambush.
Droop: Target is turning in front of you—watch out for the ambush!
Driver: Pilot, as in "Eagle Driver" or "MIG Driver".
Electric Jet: F-16, referring to "fly-by-wire" computer flight controls.
Eyeball: The jet whose primary responsibility in an intercept is to get a "Tally Ho" on the bandit.
Extend: Fly straight to get distance, usually in a slight dive trying to gain speed.
Fence: The line separating friendly lines from enemy territory.
Fox 1/11/111: Ordnance attack: radar missile/heat seeking missile/gun shot.
Footer: Phonetic alphabet for AIM-7F.
Furball: A turning air combat engagement. G: Force of gravity; see sidebar.
Gadget: Radar, may be "Sick" (degraded) or "Bent" (inoperative). GIB: Guy In Back; Weapon Systems Officer in a two-place aircraft.
Gomer: Enemy pilot/soldier, or nickname for Aggressor.
Group: An easy victory; little competition.
Hard Left/Right: A high-performance, energy-sustaining turn; not quite a "Break".
Heads Up: Warning to radar controller or flight that bandit got through.
HUD: Heads-up Display. Necessary information is displayed on combining glass (gunsight) so pilot doesn't have to look down into the cockpit during air combat.
Jaw: Use electronic countermeasures or, sometimes, maneuver to deny turning room.
Jink: Unpredictable defense against a gun attack.

Joker: Fuel state to trigger a separation for home, based on distance from home.
Judy: Aircraft is assuming control of intercept from radar controller.
Knock It Off: Stop the engagement—used in training.
Knob: Nautical Miles per Hour, the measure of airspeed.
Laag: I can't help you right now.
Lawn Dart: F-16, derogatory in referring to crashes during initial development and testing.
Lima: Phonetic alphabet for AIM-9 missile.
Lips: A head-on shot, usually near minimum range.
Lutfery: Named for Raoul, the WWI ace. Refers to chasing each other around a circle in a stalemate.
Mike: Phonetic alphabet got AIM-9M missile.
Mil: Military power, 100% RPM. Most power available from jet engine without using the afterburner.
Ming: Jamming or electronic countermeasures observed on radar.
Negative: No.
No Joy: I don't see bandit; opposite of "Tally Ho".
Padlock: I have a "Tally Ho", but can't look anywhere else or I might lose it.
Parrot: IFF, or Identification Friend or Foe transponder; tells radar controllers you are a good guy.
Peepholes: I am in the clouds and can't see anything.
Press: Continue what you are doing; you are clear of threats, or I can support you.
Punch Out: Eject from aircraft.
Reno: Ability to discriminate multiple aircraft on the radar as the blips separate.
Rang: Raw for RHAW (Radar Homing and Warning) or RWR (Radar Warning Receiver); tells pilot that someone has lock on his aircraft and an approximate direction.
Rhino: The F-4 Phantom II nickname.
ROE: Rules of Engagement. Restrictions to combat.
SA: Situation Awareness; to know what is going on around you.
Snap: Snap vector, a quick heading to fly.
Spit: Radar controller telling flight that an aircraft observed departing the "Furball".
Splash: Target confirmed destroyed.
Snake: Turn off something.
Tally Ho: I see the enemy aircraft.
Unload: Point the nose down to gain speed.
Viper: Nickname for the F-16 Fighting Falcon.
Visual: I see my leader/wingman.
Warp: Accelerate or high energy state.
Weeder: Minimum altitude, usually several hundred feet above the ground.
Windsor: Out of ordnance.
Winder: Short for Sidewinder or AIM-9 missile.
PROJECT WARRIOR

By Capt. Matt Caffery, Jr.
TFWC TAC Warrior Project Officer

A group of Air Force officers are gathered around a map of a hostile shore. The mission is to knock out threatening land-based air forces so that the Navy will have a relatively free hand. The plan is to close the enemy runway with a small predawn attack, then with Combat Air Patrols unable to take off, the main attack will be delivered at dawn. The sergeant in the group points out how terrain can be used to mask our forces until the last moment.

The discussion is not centered on Libya, Grenada, the Falklands or the Korean Peninsula, but on the Solomon Sea. The subject, not current conflict or potential contingency, but the playing of FLAT TOP, an air/land/sea battle in the Pacific. Although these airmen are officially off-duty, their activities are supported by the U.S. Air Force program—Project WARRIOR.

FLIGHT LEADER (subject of this issue) began as “Check Six!”, published by the Air Force as part of Project WARRIOR. This begs the questions however: “What is Project WARRIOR and why is it interested in wargames?”

To understand what Project WARRIOR is, it helps to start at the beginning. The idea of the current program took root during a conference of then Air Force Chief of Staff Llew Allen and the Air Force’s major commanders. The conference’s purpose was to identify the major long-range problems facing the Air Force. The consensus: an attitude shift was potentially our most harmful problem: a long-term, gradual shift in the self-image of Air Force personnel. Fewer members were seeing themselves as warriors first; most were studying only their narrow disciplines. If this trend continued, it would diminish our ability to fight and, hence, to deter a fight.

The solution to reverse this trend; but how do you shift attitudes? First, it was agreed the approach should be through, promoting spirit, not decreying jobism. Second, the program had to be voluntary; you cannot order people to be patriotic. Finally, commanders, from the top to the foundation of the chain of command, needed to personally use their leadership abilities to make the program go. From these principles, the basic definition of the program took shape:

Project WARRIOR is an Air Force wide program designed to install a war fighting/war winning spirit. Its specific goals are to increase the study of history, the understanding of the military art and the respect of military traditions. All Air Force leaders are to encourage voluntary participation.

It was the task of the first world-wide Project WARRIOR symposium to come up with specific tools to help commanders implement Project WARRIOR. As one of many brought in to speak to the symposium, my task was to convince the attendees that wargaming could support the program.

The arguments I used then are essentially the ones I use today—

The first value of wargames is they’re fun. It is much easier to get someone to volunteer to do something they enjoy. They are also very effective teaching tools. Think of all the information that is contained in a typical wargame: the geography of the battlefield, orders of battle, relative strengths, etc. Players tend to retain this information. Can’t you close your eyes and see the mapboard of games you have played before? Wargames are even self-correcting. If you use poor tactics, your opponents will make it clear to you. Finally, wargames can be motivational. Their most valuable lesson is that victory and defeat are not inevitable, but in large part determined by the skill of the contending forces.

Apparently my pitch worked, because wargaming has been an integral part of WARRIOR from the start.

“Check Six!” or FLIGHT LEADER as you know it, also started with a pitch, a 10 January 1983 proposal from the designer, Capt. Gary “Mo” Morgan, myself and Capt. (now Major) Mark Thibeaudou to Air Force Project WARRIOR for the development and publication of six wargames. These wargames were structed in a building block fashion to illustrate air and combined air/land/sea warfare. Only “Check Six!” and “F.E.B.A.” were fully developed and published. (Ironically, a game not accepted was a hypothetical United States invasion of Grenada.)

Today, Project WARRIOR reaches the troops in three basic ways and wargaming is an integral part of each. First are the specific Project WARRIOR activities such as guest speakers, wargame sessions, book discussions, lunch-time movies and trips to other installations. Next, there are a wide variety of materials available at each base library for individual use: books on military history and thought (including books on tape and condensed videos), videos (feature length movies like “Midway”, documentaries and, on some installations, video tapes of past speakers) and even Air Force art works. The final way Project WARRIOR is felt is through changes to existing programs without necessarily attributing these changes to Project WARRIOR. For example, increased emphasis on retreat ceremonies, staying fit to fight and increased use of wargames as an integral part of professional military education programs.

Project WARRIOR emphasizes this multi-level approach that integrates wargaming into the total program because WARRIOR believes multiple approaches are likely to reach the widest audience and, perhaps even more important, learning of war from a number of sources will produce a fuller understanding.

This belief is reflected in the UpDate, an unofficial Project WARRIOR publication. While focusing primarily on military wargaming, all aspects of Project WARRIOR are covered. Incidentally, if you are a member of the United States active, guard or reserve forces, you can write me (at 554 OSW/DEI, Nellis AFB, Nevada 89191) for a sample issue.

Both Project WARRIOR and the professional use of commercial and commercial-style wargames are continuing to reach an ever wider segment of the Air Force community. As both contribute to our ability to fly, fight and win, they also contribute to our chances of achieving that highest form of victory—just and lasting peace.

“Top Gun” Scenarios

Undoubtedly, if you like the subject matter in FLIGHT LEADER, you have already seen the recently-released movie, “Top Gun”, or will be seeing it soon. The camera work in the movie is the ultimate visual experience depicting modern jet combat for those who can’t actually fly in a front-line fighter. One of the most useful features of FLIGHT LEADER is its capacity to simulate nearly any jet air combat, either real (historical) or imaginary (in fiction); you need never run out of new scenarios to play, and each will be different. As a reader of THE GENERAL, you can expect periodic updates to Orders of Battle and additional scenarios to enhance your investment in the game. It will never be “out of date”! To start things off right, this box features two new scenarios depicting the two most exciting air battles of “Top Gun”. Zip up your flight suit, for you may tag now reads, “Pete Mitchell—Maverick”.

25.10 NEVER LEAVE A WINGMAN: This is the training scenario from the Navy Fighter Weapons School at Miramar—“Fightertown, USA.” “Maverick” and “Goose” (1A-181; this aircraft must have both experienced F-14 aircrass assigned) are flying cover for their wingmen “Hollywood” and “Wolfman” (in 2A-182). They desert them to get a crack at shooting “Viper” (1A-101), the school’s ace commanding officer and so learn the value of flight discipline and mutual support.

25.10.1 MISSION PROFILES: Sweep vs. Sweep. Instructor controller (NE).

25.10.2 OPPosing FORCES:

Students: Enter NW/Exit W. (585P)
1st (1A-2A): 2 F14A (181-182)—MS:12; MA:17; 2/2/0.

Instructors: Enter NE/Exit E. (625P)
1st (1A-2A): 2 A-4M (101-102)—MS:9; MA:14; 1/1/0.

2nd (3B-4B): 2 A-4M (103-104)—MS:9; MA:14. 0/2/0.

25.10.3 TERRAIN ALTITUDE: LG=1, DG=2, T=2, B=3.

25.10.5 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: The F-14s carry 4 HW and the A-4s carry 2 HW missiles each. The Instructors’ first flight must split on Turn 2, and “Viper” must go generally northwest while his wingman (“Jester”—2A-102) must go generally southwest. The Student’s flight must also split on Turn 2, and “Maverick/Goose” must go generally northeast after “Viper” while “Hollywood/Wolfman” must go generally southeast after “Jester”. The Instructors’ second flight enters on Turn 4. Both sides may use any formations. No aircraft may make a penalty exit. Once you have played this scenario once, try it again but keep both F-14s together to see how it should have been done!

25.10.6 OPTIONS: Any (there should be few, if any, clouds and no haze). No countermeasures are carried.

25.10.7 VICTORY POINTS: No victory points. Play continues until aircraft 101 or aircraft 181 is eliminated, signifying automatic victory for the other side. Any other result is a draw.

25.11 “MAVERICK” TO THE RESCUE: This is the big “real world” Indian Ocean dogfight at the end of the movie. “Maverick” (1A-101), still devastated from losing “Goose” in a training
**25.11.1 MISSION PROFILES: United States**

CAP vs. Soviet Sweep. Both sides have controllers (United States SE) and Soviet Union NW.

**25.11.2 OPPOSING FORCES:**

**United States:** 2nd flight Start Hex G9, Exit E. 1st flight Enter/Exit E. (72SP vs. Mig-21s; 60SP vs. Mig-29s)

1st (A): 1 F-14A (181) — MS20; MA: 17; 2/0/0.

2nd (B): 1 F-14A (183) — MS20; MA: 17; 2/0/0.

**Soviet Union:** Enter/Exit W. (72SP for Mig-21s; 72SP for Mig-29s)

1st (1A-2A): 2 Mig21C (811-812) — MS18; Sov. Unit 0/2.

2nd (1B-4B): 4 Mig21C (851-854) — MS18; MA: 16; 0/4/0.

or (alternative Soviet force)

1st (1A-4A): 4 Mig29 (871-874) — MS20; MA: 19; 0/3/1.

**25.11.3 TERRAIN ALTITUDE:** All "O".

**25.11.4 BOUNDARIES:** Entire mapboard is neutral.

**25.11.5 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT:** The F-14s carry 4 HA, the Mig-21s carry 2 HW and the Mig-29s carry 4 HA missiles each.

"Maverick/Merlin" are CAP relief and enter the mapboard on Turn 3. The United States aircraft may use any formations and the Soviet aircraft may use any formations except line abreast (tactical).

**25.11.6 OPTIONS:** Any. Countermeasures are carried. The scenario in the book/movie has at least one cloud deck (any desired altitudes). For alternate maneuver if (Option 1B.3 is used) enter each Mig 3 RA and 2 HA and each Mig-29 to carry 4 RA or AM and 2 HA missiles each.

**25.11.7 VICTORY POINTS:**

**Movie Victory:** The F-14s must not be eliminated and must eliminate at least three MiGs to win. The MiGs must eliminate one F-14 and not lose three or more MiGs or eliminate both F-14s (with any MiG losses) to win. Any other result is a draw. No aircraft may be destroyed if victory conditions are met.

**Simulation Victory:**

United States: 4 per eliminated, 1 per damaged and 2 per penalty exited MiG.

Soviet Union: If using the Mig-21s: 12 per eliminated, 3 per damaged and 6 per penalty exited F-14. If using the Mig-29s: 8 per eliminated, 2 per damaged and 4 per penalty exited F-14.

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**AH Philosophy... Cont'd from Page 2**

drawing boards for a year or more. The next step is often threat of a lawsuit. Small wonder then that publishers have often felt the need to isolate themselves from unsolicited designs by the public and the nuisance lawsuits which occasionally accompany them. Many publishers would rather ensure the safety of their own in-house designs by rejecting all unsolicited inquiries sight unseen. My suggestion is to write to the Toy Manufacturer's Association (200 Fifth Ave, New York NY). Although they cannot tell you which, if any, publishers accept outside submissions, they can supply you with a list of manufacturers that you can contact.

1. Never send anything to a company unsolicited that you want to have returned. A company is under no legal (or moral) obligation to return unsolicited photographs, rules, etc. And many companies understandably resent incurring the expense to return unsolicited materials and often destroy them outright.

2. Never send an unsolicited game or game components. Some companies will not even accept a package which they suspect is an unsolicited game. If at all possible they will return it unopened—or if it is opened by mistake, return it with a statement that it was seen only by a mail clerk. The first step is to send a letter of inquiry to see if the company will look at your game. If the answer is affirmative, they will usually send you a disclosure form to be signed and instructions on how to proceed. Thus armed, you will have escaped the dreaded status of being "unsolicited" and can make it past the mail clerk's round file to an actual audience for your game with that company's Research and Design people. Do not think that sending a signed disclosure form of your own making is a suitable passport for your game. It is not. Most companies will require that the disclosure form be their own and that it be issued solely for the game design in question—not as a carte blanche for you to submit games to them forevermore.

3. If you expect a reply to your letter of inquiry, be courteous enough to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the company's reply. After all, you are trying to sell them something. You may think this an unreasonable request, but consider why a company should be obligated to answer your unsolicited letter? If someone takes the time to answer your inquiry, the least you can do is spring for the stamp. Otherwise, don't complain when you don't get an answer.

4. Don't send an obvious form letter. No one is interested in paying you for an "idea". Ideas are completely playable prototype in hand which you are not likely to fill the recipient with much nonsense, get us in trouble with the legal profession). However, you should realize that your game is protected by copyright and common law simply by writing "Copyright", the year, and your name and address thereon. The filling of patents or the services of an attorney are usually needless expenses for all but the most lucrative of prototypes. While we cannot speak for other companies, the services of an attorney are unnecessary to sell a game to The Avalon Hill Game Company or have they ever improved the chances of such a sale.

5. Make a good impression. If you haven't got the chance to procure a publisher for your game, there is only one alternative left—publish it yourself. Many publishers got their start this way and still more were able to sell their designs to an established publisher after their published game achieved success on its own. The Avalon Hill Game Company has turned down designs in the past eight unseen which it later purchased after the games had been published under a private label. This course is not to be entered into lightly as it involves more expense and hard work than the typical game designer is willing to take upon himself. Selling games is not a particularly easy way to make a living and justifying by the number of people trying to sell us designs it is far more difficult than the public perceives. For every millionaire created by the success of a D&D or Trivial Pursuit, there are dozens more who fail to recoup their investment. However, for those adventurous souls who firmly believe in their game, it can be a viable way—indeed the only way—to get it on the market. If he has to finish it for you, why should he pay you for it? Your game must be thoroughly playtested and proven before you can sell it. If you feel it is as good as it possibly can be, it is suitable for publication in the form you hand it in. You'll probably only get one chance to sell your game so be sure it is ready when that opportunity arises. Such playtesting should always include playing and criticism by several groups outside of your immediate circle of friends and fan. No game can claim to have been adequately playtested until it has been played and endorsed by several groups of people unacquainted with the designer whose only experience with the game is that provided by a written set of rules. A game which is tested only by people whom the designer has "shown" how to play has not been tested at all.

8. Don't play guessing games. No publisher wants to be told how truly wonderful and innovative your game is but that you cannot describe it to him for fear of disclosing your "idea". No publisher in his right mind is going to sign anything other than his own disclosure form anyway, so you might as well give it your best shot and describe it as fully as possible. It may be necessary to pique the interest of that publisher. Otherwise, your secret will definitely be well protected—at the bottom of his round file.

9. Copyright. We cannot tell you what legal advice or protection is most advisable for you (that would get us in trouble with the legal profession). However, you should realize that your game is protected by copyright and common law simply by writing Copyright, the year, and your name and address thereon. The filling of patents or the services of an attorney are usually needless expenses for all but the most lucrative of prototypes. Whether we can speak for other companies, the services of an attorney are unnecessary to sell a game to the Avalon Hill Game Company or have they ever improved the chances of such a sale.

10. LICENSING. If your game involves subjects such as movie situations, living personalities, or fictional characters other than those in the public domain, the publisher will probably have to purchase rights from a subject that is owned by the organization involved. Such rights can be prohibitively expensive or even unattainable. Your chances of selling such a game to a publisher are much enhanced if you own or have already secured such licensing rights. Without them, there is little reason for a publisher to even look at your game unless it is a game that could not be negotiated away (in which case it probably already has a design of its own). Should this advice and your own best efforts fail to procure a publisher for your game, there is only one alternative left—publish it yourself. Many publishers got their start this way and still more were able to sell their designs to an established publisher after their published game achieved success on its own. The Avalon Hill Game Company has turned down designs in the past eight unseen which it later purchased after the games had been published under a private label. This course is not to be entered into lightly as it involves more expense and hard work than the typical game designer is willing to take upon himself. Selling games is not a particularly easy way to make a living and justifying by the number of people trying to sell us designs it is far more difficult than the public perceives. For every million created by the success of a D&D or Trivial Pursuit, there are dozens more who fail to recoup their investment. However, for those adventurous souls who firmly believe in their game, it can be a viable way—indeed the only way—to get it on the market.
Almost without our realizing it, practical jet aircraft have been blackening runways and rattling windows for over 40 years. The propeller-driven fighter aircraft was the dominant air-to-air weapons system only from about 1915 to 1945 (30 years), while the jet fighter has already comfortably exceeded that period with no end in sight.

When I first started development work on FLIGHT LEADER (then called Check Six!), one of my first brainstorm ideas (it seemed like a good idea at the time) was to expand the number of aircraft types to allow the game to present a sort of "history of jet fighters." The original game, in keeping with its purpose as a modern training aid for the Air Force, included only 34 types and concentrated on the newest and most advanced aircraft. As the scope of this expansion gradually sank in, I found that almost half of the non-playtest development time was expended on researching these additional aircraft.

Although more work than had been originally anticipated, I feel that the extra effort was justified as FLIGHT LEADER now presents an interesting and coherent history of jet fighters at war. Players will find, as games from different eras are played, that, if they wish to win, tactics must be adjusted for the different aircraft and technologies involved. A Korean War scenario plays differently from a Vietnam War game which, in turn, differs from a conflict set in 1986. Familiarity with the game helps players to see and understand the major outlines of the effects of weapons on tactics and of tactics on weapons. Each new weapons system has led to the development of new tactics to exploit the new weapons followed by yet newer weapons systems to maximize the effects of the new tactics, and so on.

As usual, it is easy to get carried away on a project of this nature, and I overshot the mark by working up the game data for a number of aircraft that

countermix limitations prevented including in the published game. The information for these aircraft is given below:

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<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5  5  5  5  5 400-GB</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VK17</td>
<td>Yak-17 FEATHER B</td>
<td>951-954</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6  5  5  5  5 700-GB</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VK23</td>
<td>Yak-23 FLORA</td>
<td>941-944</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>AS</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7  6  5  5  5 300-GB</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
a. A missile load of "2-3" is currently proposed, but not presently carried. Scenario points with "2-3" armament are "13-12-10-9-7-6." Because of the huge gun carried by the A-10, it can also be fired from two hexes directly behind a target and co-altitude with a "PK6." This gun never causes damage—it always eliminates with a hit. Used only by the U.S.A.F. b. Used by Great Britain and Pakistan. c. Used by Belgium (Mk.5 only) and Canada. d. Used by Great Britain, Finland and India. e. Used by the Third Reich in the closing days of World War II. f. Used only by Great Britain. g. Used only by Sweden. h. Used only by the U.S.S.R. i. Used by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the U.S.S.R. j. Used by Czechoslovakia, Poland and the U.S.S.R.
During the latter half of the Pacific War, Japan started to introduce fighters whose purposes were more defensive than offensive in nature. Unlike the Mitsubishi A6M Zekkei or the Nakajima Ki-43 Oscar, whose fortes were maneuverability and range, these newer fighters stressed speed, firepower, climb and pilot protection. Examples of this change in fighter design philosophy can be found in the plane cards of both the Kawanishi N1K1-J George and the Nakajima Ki-44 Tojo in the AIR FORCE system.

However, there were other less numerous Japanese fighters that were encountered by Allied forces as they moved closer to the Home Islands of Japan. Three of these rare birds are introduced in this article: the Kawasaki Ki-100 Goshiken, the Mitsubishi J2M Raiden Jack and the Nakajima J1N1 Gekko Irving.

Ironically, the Kawasaki Ki-100 Goshiken (Type 5 Fighter) was never meant to be created. It was only through a unique set of circumstance that it was given birth. By late summer 1944, a stockpile of airframes for the Kawasaki Ki-61 II Kai (modified) Tony was starting to accumulate at the Kagamikahara factory. These airframes were awaiting the delivery of the HA-140 powerplant that was delayed due to both inspection and low production output. The Japanese Army Air Force (JAAF), short of both pilots and aircraft, ordered Kawasaki to convert the Ki-61 II Kai’s airframe to take a radial engine. Takeo Doi, designer of the Tony, was firmly against this since the engine chosen—the Mitsubishi HA-112 II—had a diameter of 48 inches versus the Ki-61’s airframe diameter of only 33 inches! However, there was no other choice but to modify the airframe to fit the oversized 1500 hp engine. So, within a remarkable five months, the first two Ki-100 prototypes were flying. The remaining 200 Ki-61 II Kai airframes were converted into Ki-100 KO (Ki-100a) aircraft.

Although slower than the Ki-61 II Kai, the Ki-100 was much more maneuverable with a better climb rate, thanks to being over 600 pounds lighter in its loaded form than a standard Tony. It also carried more ammunition than a Tony, having 250 RPG in both its fuselage-mounted 20mm HO-5 cannon and wing-mounted HO-103 12.7mm machine guns. It also had an advantage that its liquid-cooled engine half-brother did not have: its engine was reliable.

First introduced in March 1945 with the 18th Fighter Sentai, the Ki-100 gained fame with the crack 224th Fighter Sentai, downing seven F4U Corsairs and 12 to 22 F6F Hellcats in two large separate dogfights over Okinawa and Japan during June and July respectively with minimal loss to themselves. Eventually, seven fighter Sentai were either converted to or being converted to the Ki-100 when the war ended.

Although a reliable and superior dogfighter to almost any Allied fighter seen over Japan (save, perhaps, the North American P-51D Mustang), it was unable to effectively intercept the Boeing B-29 Superfortresses laying waste to Japan since it was basically a low-to-medium altitude fighter, not a high altitude interceptor. However, Kawasaki was in the process of creating the Ki-100 II, which had a fine high altitude performance when the war ended. Kawasaki produced less than 400 of the Ki-100 series, of which 30% of the production run was the bubble-topped Ki-100 OTSU (Ki-100b).

Since it was introduced so late in the war, no Allied nickname was ever given to it. When encountered, it was generally identified as either the Kawanishi George or the Nakajima Frank. However, it was labelled by both friendly and enemy pilots as one of the best Japanese fighter planes ever to be fielded. Not bad for a plane that was never meant to be!

The Mitsubishi J2M3 Raiden (or “Thunderbolt”) was born as early as 1938 as a design study for a new point defense interceptor. Developed and built by the creator of the A6M Zero, Jiro Hirokoshi, the prototype J2Ms suffered numerous technical and engine problems, and these problems forced the delay of the J2M till its service debut over the Marianas in the summer of 1944. Codenamed Jack by the Allies, the Raiden had a heavy armament of four 20mm cannons with 200 RPG. Field modifications led some Raidens to have one or two extra 20mm cannons installed in a “Schage Musik” position in the rear fuselage behind the pilot compartment. The plane had a better high altitude top and climb rate than either the Kawanishi George or the Nakajima Frank—having a top speed of 363
MPh at 17400 feet and climbing 20000 feet in a little over six minutes.

Its weak points were found in both its powerplant and lack of effective protection for its pilot and fuel tanks. The engine, the Kasei (Mars) radial of 1575 horsepower, was very temperamental and very unreliable. The protection consisted of a 8mm armored headrest and an overhead pylon to protect the pilot in the event of a turnover. Its fuel tank protection was a rubberized fuselage tank and a carbon-dioxide fire extinguishing system for its fuselage and unprotected wingroot tanks. It also had a very short full power endurance of but 45 minutes.

Despite all this, the Jack was a very good bomber destroyer and B-29s were always on the lookout for “Tait Jack”. Luckily for the Allies, only 500 J2Ms of all types were built.

The Nakajima J1N1-S Gekko ("Moonlight") was developed in the early 1940s in an entry in the Imperial Japanese Navy’s specifications for a long-range heavy fighter. The prototype J1N1 suffered from poor maneuverability due to its novel (and complex) twin dorsal gun barbettes, each housing two 7.7mm machine guns.

Despite its failure as a heavy fighter, the Japanese Naval Air Force (JNAR) ordered the speedy J1N1 as the reconfigured J1N1-C Type 2 Reconnaissance Aircraft, Model 11. It was introduced into this role during the Solomons campaign. In the spring of 1943, shortly after its debut, a Commander Yasuna Kozono of the 251st Air Corps modified some J1N1-Cs to intercept the nightly B-17 and B-24 raids that flew over Rabaul. By mounting two 20mm cannon at an upward angle of 30° and a similar pair of 30° downwards, he and his fellow pilots would fly underneath or above the four-engined night raiders and succeeded in doing down two B-24s on their first mission.

Hearing of this, Nakajima in August 1943 started production of the J1N1-S Gekko Night Fighter, Model 11. The crew on the J1N1-S numbered two, as compared to three in the earlier stages. The J1N1-S has the same armament set-up as the converted J1N1-Cs that were made by Commander Kozono with some of them having a small nose searchlight or primitive Air Interception radar. Primarily, the J1N1 nightfighters (codenamed Irving by the Allies) formed the backbone of Japan’s nightfighter defense. For a time, the Irving also formed part of the daylight defense cover as well as maintaining its nocturnal responsibilities. However, like most Japanese fighters, the Irving could not catch the American B-29s except during low-level night and day fire bombing raids. A total of 470 J1N1s of all types (and nine prototypes) were produced before the end of the air war over Japan.

Despite the limited time these three fighters served for Japan, it is hoped by this author that these little known planes will be a welcomed addition to your Japanese DAUNTLESS arsenal.

Scenario 12—Interception Over the Choshi Peninsula

**United States:** nine B-29s (loaded) at 28000 feet, speed 4, level bank. Enter from board edge ½ on Turn 1.

**Japan:** three J2M3s at 30000 feet, speed 7, level bank. Set-up anywhere on Boards III and/or IV, direction 1.

**Victory Conditions**

The American player must have six undamaged, loaded B-29s fly off boards V and/or VI.

The Japanese player must, without loss to the J2M3s, shoot down at least one B-29 or damage three B-29s with either one of the following combinations:

a) inflict seven wing and/or fuselage hits
b) inflict two cockpit hits, one fuel line hit, and one engine out of action

Should neither of these situations occur, or should both occur, the scenario ends in a draw.

**Special Rules**

Use all Optional Rules found in *AIR FORCE* and **DAUNTLESS**.

Each J2M3 has one 3C cannon with three ammo.

Range is four hexes and these are a “H” weapon.

Weapon adds +1 to all manuevers.

B-29’s tail gun is treated as an “F” strength gun, thus superseding Rule XIV, Gun Positions, Flexible. It does not, however, have a +1 fire modifier (not on computerized gun system). See “F” gunnery play for night raider variant of B-29 for tail gun arc areas.

B-29s have four less flexible gunnery points in the following areas: “H” (all) and “M” (all). This is intended to simulate the absence of the quad .50 caliber machine gun turret mounted directly above and behind the cockpit of the B-29A. The B-29s in this scenario mounted only two .50 calibers in the position.

Use the following pilot characteristics for the J2M3s: #1, TRV + 1 on BHT (Ace); #2, none (Average); #3, none (Novice). See *AIR FORCE*, Rule XIX, “Training and Experience” for further explanation.

The scenario continues until all B-29s have exited the mapboard area.

**Commentary**

On 2 February 1945, Lt. Teramura and pilots of the 302nd Kokutai (Naval Air Corps) based at Atsugi airbase jumped a nine-plane formation of B-29s from the 24th Squadron, 6th Bomber Group (based in Tinian). Diving from 30000 feet, Teramura and one of his wingmen mortally wounded one B-29 after expending all their ammunition. The Superfortress never made it back to base. But Teramura and both of his wingmen suffered heavy damage to their aircraft. The Superfortresses didn’t die easily.

Scenario 13—Endo on the Prowl

**United States:** six B-29s (loaded) at 24000 feet, speed 4, level bank. Use same set-up as “Superfortress Night Raid” scenario in **DAUNTLESS**.

**Japan:** three J1N1-S at 25000 feet, speed 5, level bank. Use same set-up as “Superfortress Night Raid”.

**Victory Conditions**

Same as those found in “Superfortress Night Raid” in **DAUNTLESS**.

**Special Rules**

Use all Optional Rules found in *AIR FORCE* and **DAUNTLESS**.

Unlike “Superfortress Night Raid”, retain all armament of the B-29s. In addition, implement special rule regarding B-29 tail gun found in Scenario 12 above. Finally, do not give +1 fire modifier to any of the B-29 gun positions.

Use the following pilot characteristics for the J1Ns: #1, ETRV + 2 on BHT (Ace); #2 and #3, none (Average). See *AIR FORCE*, Rule XIX, “Training and Experience” for further explanation.

The scenario continues for 20 game turns.

**Commentary**

On 20 August 1944, 60 B-29s bombed targets in Kyushu and western Shikoku. The one confirmed kill of a B-29 in this raid fell to the guns of Lt. Sachio Endo over Yawata. An experienced night fighter, Endo got his experience flying against night raiding B-17s and B-24s over Rabaul, having amassed at least ten kills. He did not survive the war, being shot down on 14 January 1945 over Nagoya. At that time he had added six confirmed B-29 kills.

Scenario 14—Dogfight over Okinawa

**United States:** six F4U-1A Corsairs at 19000 feet, speed 8, level bank. Enter on Boards I and/or 2.

**Japan:** four Ki-100s at 20500 feet, speed 5, level bank. Set-up on Board V, A-8 through N-8 inclusive, direction 1.

**Victory Conditions**

Each side gets points for aircraft shot down (as in *AIR FORCE*, Rule XXII). In addition, the US player is awarded 10 points for each F4U which exits off Boards V and/or VI from game Turn 9 through 15. To qualify, however, F4Us must exit with less than half damage to any aircraft area (round down), have half their ammunition remaining, and be between 17000 and 19000 feet when exited. (These requirements simulate getting past the Ki-100 escort in shape to hit the Kamikazes flying “behind” the fighter screen.)

**Special Rules**

Use all Optional Rules found in *AIR FORCE* and **DAUNTLESS**.

Use the following pilot characteristics for the F4Us: #1, TRV +1 on BHT (Ace); #2, ETRV (Average); #3, ET (Average); #4, ETRV (Average); #5, T (Average); #6, T (Novice). See *AIR FORCE*, Rule XIX, “Training and Experience” for further explanation.

Use the following pilot characteristics for the Ki-100s: #1, TRV +2 on BHT (Ace); #2, TR +1 on BHT (Ace); #3, TV (Average); #4, TV (Novice). See *AIR FORCE*, Rule XIX, “Training and Experience” for further explanation.

The scenario continues for 15 game turns.

**Commentary**

On 3 June 1945, U.S. Navy F4U-1s clashed with a Kamikaze flight escorted by Ki-100s of the Japanese Army Air Force’s crack 244th Fighter Sentai over Okinawa. Although outnumbered, the Japanese pilots shot down seven enemy planes without loss to themselves.

**Bibliography:**


Driaskel, Mike: “Modeling the Ki-100 Goshiki [sic]” in *IPMS Quarterly*, Vol. 16, No. 1.


The 15th Air Force was activated on 1 November 1943 under the command of Major-General Jimmy Doolittle. Bomber and fighter groups had been transferred from the 9th and 12th Air Forces to form the new command. The 15th was intended to supplement the Combined Bomber Offensive against Nazi Germany. Besides hitting targets beyond the range of the 8th Air Force, it was hoped that during the winter months the supposedly warmer climate of the Mediterranean would allow the 15th to bomb targets twice as often as the socked-in 8th.

Unfortunately, the weather never did co-operate. In two months of operations (November-December 1943), weather conditions forced the 15th to fly most of its missions against Italian targets while hitting only eleven of the priority German targets. And during the first two months of 1944, only four German targets were hit in January and ten in February.

Operations began with four B-17 groups (the 2nd, 97th, 99th and 301st), two B-24 groups (98th and 376th), three P-38 groups (1st, 14th and 82nd) and one P-47 group (325th). Five medium bomber groups were temporarily assigned until the end of 1943, when they were returned to control of the 12th Air Force. The maximum size of the 15th Air Force was set at 21 bomber groups and seven fighter groups. Early missions were flown from airfields in Tunisia, but from mid-November on the 15th moved its permanent airfields to Italy. (Refer to the map accompanying this variant.)

The 15th Air Force's top priority was the destruction of the Luftwaffe followed by attacks on targets high on the Combined Bomber Offensive list. The 15th was also assigned the task of assisting the offensive in Italy, attacking German positions in the Balkans, and softening up targets in preparation for the invasion of southern France.

The first mission was flown on the day of activation against two Italian targets—the La Spezia Naval Base and a railroad bridge at Vezzano. (Among the attacking forces were B-17s from the 97th Bomb Group; as one of the oldest groups in the European Theater, the 97th had also taken part in the first heavy bombing raids of the 8th Air Force and of the 12th Air Force.)

On the following day, the 15th flew its first mission against a strategic German target when B-17s and B-24s attacked the Messerschmitt factory in Wiener-Neustadt, Austria. Results were good, but not without cost. Six B-17s and five B-24s were lost. American gunners claimed 38 German fighters destroyed, 27 probably and eight damaged.

During its 18 months of operation, the 15th Air Force flew 148,955 heavy bomber sorties, dropping 303,842 tons of explosives. Its targets were located in twelve countries. During the "Big Week" (between 20th and 25th February, the 15th flew 500 sorties. It lost only nine bombers in this concerted Allied attempt to smash the German aircraft industry. From April through August 1944, the 15th sent 5479 bombers on 19 missions against Ploesti, Rumania (13469 tons of bombs dropped with a loss of 223 bombers). On 24 March 1945, the 15th flew its first mission against Berlin. Over 150 B-17s took part in this raid on the Daimler-Benz tank engine works. By the end of the war, the 15th Air Force had destroyed one-half of the German fuel production and transport systems in Occupied Europe, as well as its share of enemy fighters.

For this variant, we are concerned with the missions of the 5th Bomber Wing, which flew B-17s from January to April 1944 (the time span of our game). It was the time when General Ira Eaker (Commander of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces) referred to the 15th as a "pretty disorganized mob". It is also the period which most closely parallels the mission conditions of B-17, QUEEN OF THE SKIES for the 15th Air Force in terms of fighter opposition and crew training conditions.

During these four months of 1944, the B-17s of the 5th Bomb Wing were mainly committed to hit targets in Italy and the Balkans. Operating from airfields around Foggia, 15% of the 5th's targets were rail yards, enemy airfields and aircraft related industries. Besides flying sorties during the "Big Week", the 5th Bomber Wing was called upon in February and March to provide ground support for Allied forces at Anzio and Monte Cassino. The 5th also took part in the April raids on Ploesti; although known for its oil complex, these first raids were conducted against the city's rail yards.

By the end of April 1944, General Eaker was happily reporting the improved performance of the 5th Bomber Wing and the entire 15th Air Force. Eaker credited this improvement to better organization, and the lack of heavy fighter opposition (which was being concentrated against the 8th Air Force during this period).

### Rules Changes

The following are the changes in the rules for B-17, QUEEN OF THE SKIES to accommodate this variant. Except for the specific alterations made below, all other rules for play are in force.

#### I. B-17G

The B-17G (with chin turret) started to arrive in the European Theater in September 1943. In this variant, the player begins his missions flying the game's standard B-17F model. However, if his bomber is lost in action or irreparably damaged, it is replaced with the B-17G model. The following rules (as adapted from James Meldrum's "The Rest of the Royal Family" in Vol. 20, No. 6 of THE GENERAL) reflect the B-17G performance:

1. The chin turret has twin guns and may fire at German fighters attacking from the following positions: all levels of 1200; 10:30 Level Low; and 1:30 Level and Low.
2. A German fighter is hit with a die roll of "5" or "6" from this gun position.
3. German fighters attacking from the 12:00 High position may not knock out the chin turret.
4. The chin turret is affected by all other hits that would normally affect the bombardier or nose gun.
5. The ammo supply of the chin turret is the same as that of the nose gun.

#### II. Pre-Mission

Follow the normal Pre-mission steps except for the following. To begin a mission, place the B-17 counter over Foggia, Italy in Zone 1. There is only one Mission Target City Table to roll on instead of three; use it for all 25 missions.

#### III. Alterations to Tables

1. Revisions to the Mission Target Tables (G1, G2 and G3). When called upon, roll two dice with results applied to the new accompanying Mission Target Table.
2. Revisions to the Flight Log Gazetteer (G-11). When target has been determined, refer to the new accompanying Flight Log Gazetteer.
3. Although the longer ranged P38Js and P-51s started to appear in Europe in 1944, the 8th Air Force was given priority in receiving these "long-legged" fighters. These aircraft would not become operational with the 15th Air Force until May 1944. As a result, fighter cover was not as good on long ranged missions. Use the following revised table to replace the Fighter Cover Table (G-5). Fighter cover is extended to cover all eight zones however.
4. Regarding Bailouts and Landings, the following rules are applied:

   - A. If a crew member bails out and lands unhurt or survives a forced landing in France, Italy, Yugoslavia or Greece, he will be returned in time for the next mission by the Underground or Partisans on a die roll of "6" (see Note d, Table G-7 and G-10).
4. If the B-17 must stay at the player’s B-17 to 27 cities (including five bomber must cross the mountains.

3. In case of “Heat Out”, a B-17 can re-climb to 20,000 feet to pass over the mountains (still out of formation), but each affected crew member must roll for frostbite. The B-17 may return to formation in Zone only one die: 1-5—dies of cold and exposure, 6—unhurt or survives a forced landing in Zone only. 

2. When a B-17 enters the zone in which it must fly over the Alps, the player rolls for Weather Conditions in that zone only on Table O-1. Whatever weather conditions exist on the outward leg remain in force for the return leg.

1. In all cases except over the Alps, treat weather as in the normal game.

VI. Weather

B. If the weather is poor, the player has the option of continuing with mission or aborting. If the decision is made to continue, the B-17 flies through dense cloud cover and snow. Player rolls two dice: 2-9—B-17 survives passage unharmed; 10-12—pilot errant and flies into mountainside (bomber is destroyed and all aboard KIA). Player must roll again on return leg.

C. If weather is bad or poor, NO attacks are made by German fighters.

D. If weather is good, roll one die; on a die roll of “6” only one fighter wave will appear. German fighters may make one attack regardless of total attacks; no attacks from Vertical Climb or Vertical Dive positions are allowed (disregard if rolled).

E. If a mission is aborted because of weather over the Alps, it still counts toward the required 25 missions of the Campaign Game.

B. If a crew member bails out and lands unhurt or survives a forced landing in Zone only. 

A. If weather is bad, severe icing conditions prevail and the mission is aborted immediately.

German Fighters attack over the Alps in good weather only.

A—Austria; Al—Albania; B—Bulgaria; F—France; G—Germany; Gr—Greece; H—Hungary; I—Italy; R—Rumania; Y—Yugoslavia; W—Water.

IV. Strategic Movement Board

The board accompanying this article depicts a map of southern and central Europe. Missions will take the player’s B-17 from 27 to 27 cities (including five capitals) in nine countries.

V. The Alps

1. There are two missions that require a B-17 to fly over the Alps—Steyr and Regensburg. Consult the Flight Log gazetteer to see in which zone the bomber must cross the mountains.

2. A B-17 that must descend to 1000 feet for any reason does not have the altitude to cross over the Alps.

3. In case of “Heat Out”, a B-17 can re-climb to 20,000 feet to pass over the mountains (still out of formation), but each affected crew member must roll for frostbite. The B-17 may return to 1000 feet after crossing the Alps.

4. If the B-17 must stay at 1000 feet because of “Engine Out” or “Oxygen Out” it must either abort the mission (if unable to reach the target) or the crew must bail out or land the plane if unable to recross the Alps on the return leg.

5. If damage to the B-17 requires descending to 1000 feet while over the Alps, the crew may bail out (except the crewman flying the plane) and the plane must crash with the pilot still aboard.
As personal computers become more prevalent, more strategies can be investigated for boardgames than could be tested simply by playing the game as in the past. The games with the greatest potential are those which require decisions based on many variables, usually with some random chance thrown in. These games do not easily convert to simple tables and charts giving definitive answers of the always attack with 3:1 odds' sort of strategy. Instead a more subtle approach is necessary.

Business and scientific programmers are familiar with these types of problems under the general heading of Monte Carlo simulation. In brief, this technique describes the problem in terms of a series of equations that need random numbers (e.g., dice rolls). A computer program then processes the equations. Each time a random number is needed, the computer "rolls the dice" and inserts a value. In this way, the computer simulates a person making the decisions. The key to the technique is to let the computer play the game many hundreds, or even thousands, of times. At this point, the effects of the random numbers will average out and general trends should start to emerge. This article focuses on the problems of research in HITLER'S WAR and applies the results of Monte Carlo simulation to solve the particular problems of U-boats and strategic bombing. Throughout, it is assumed that the players are of equal standing and have similar attitudes. The results may need to be varied for particular cases. These results are only an indication of the most likely patterns. When you use them in a particular game the results may be very different. But, over time, you should see the patterns described here.

We can start by considering how difficult the designer made our task. In a game like WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN, for example, all information is summarized in exact tables. Developing summary graphs of the most effective ranges and hit chances is straightforward. In HITLER'S WAR, the research tables are organized such that any similar brute force attempt quickly becomes mired in a maze of alternatives. This doesn't proclaim one game to be better than another, or even more tactically challenging. It simply shows that the methods used to analyze them must differ.

In the following analysis, I used two types of computer programs. First, I wrote a Basic program to simulate various research strategies. From this program came Tables 1 and 2. Next, I used these tables to build spreadsheets that allowed me to investigate actual strategies for U-boat and strategic bombing. Another result of this computer analysis was the graph shown in Figure 1 that portrays the firepower table. More detailed discussion can be found in the sidebar. [For more information on the actual programs, which were written for the IBM PC in Basic and Lotus 1-2-3, send SASE to the author at 4528 36th NE, Seattle, WA 98105.]

The Campaign Game in HITLER'S WAR includes provisions for research to reduce the cost of producing items ranging from paratroopers to atomic bombs. While the mechanics of research are simple—you allocate production points and roll a die—the winning strategy is not obvious. Once research points are allocated, you have the additional choice of trying for immediate results or waiting until more research has been done. Should you spend heavily on research to get to a high level before making the attempt? Or should you make many attempts at small levels of research? Should you be a trailbreaker in new fields? Or should you wait for others (even the enemy) to make the breakthroughs and then try to catch up with cheaper research?

**THE TRUE COSTS OF RESEARCH**

Table 1 shows the result of the Basic program that will be used for the rest of this discussion. The first two columns show the average cost for a level of research in production points and in turns. Two possible research methods were examined. In the first, no one has the item cheaper; in the second, someone does have the item so the chance of research success is greater. Looking at the tables, several general rules of thumb emerge:

1. Never waste time and resources getting to five steps.
2. Wait for others to do research whenever possible.
3. Don't go beyond Research Step 2 unless time is critical.

Let's examine these results more closely. The tables were constructed by programming the possible research methods (see Table 2). Each time a resolution was required, the computer simulated the throw of the die by choosing a random number. This process was repeated as often as needed to get a result, for example the cost in points for a given level of research. A running total was kept of the costs and the number of turns needed to conduct successful research. Since this technique requires so many random numbers, it has come to be known as "Monte Carlo simulation". When the simulation is run many times trends emerge that might not be evident if the analysis was done only a few times. (In this case, the simulation was run 1000 times. Increased numbers of simulations would not affect the final results significantly.) The results thus show expectations, not actual costs. In other words, your luck with the dice will still affect your results. But, in the long run the tables will prevail.

The three truisms noted above are not obvious from examining the game's rules and charts alone. They are useful in themselves, but also lead to other insights. Table 1 was formed by assuming that each turn a research attempt would be made. Thus, while the row says "Step 5", in the simulation the research was attempted at each possible state up to that. To see if this was the best method of proceeding, a similar program was run in which no research was done until the noted level was reached. Thus, with no one having an item cheaper, it would take a minimum of five turns to achieve the research. This would be the best that could be expected and it is already worse than the average result shown in the table. From this we can generalize that research should be done anytime Level 2 or higher is achieved.

A final decision needs to be made concerning time versus production points. If you want to get research done as fast as possible, you'll need to spend more production points. But, if you're less concerned with timing, you can do better for less outlay. This is of especial concern for Britain. They can usually afford to let Germany do the research for items like mechanized units, infantry and paratroopers. If Germany doesn't do any research on those items, Britain can snatch German production. If Germany does decide to reduce its production costs through research, Britain can take advantage of the Axis research fairly quickly. This leaves more production points for other research interests.

Before moving on to the case studies, we can dispose of two of the many potential research areas—the atomic bomb and missiles. Since no one has it cheaper, the table shows that with even an average of about 2.8 turns/level, it should take about 20 turns to achieve the necessary seven levels of research and cost about 30 production points. The bomb will thus, on average, not be usable until well into the final year of the game. There is no way that it will be able to recover the investment made in it. A similar case can be made for missiles. These two weapons should thus be avoided by all but the luckiest dice rollers! In this the game is fairly historical as, Hiroshima to the contrary, neither missiles nor A bomb had much of an effect on the war. (But that's source for another article entirely.)

**SPREADSHEET ANALYSIS**

Once the basic costs of research were fixed and the optimum methods chosen, various overall game
strategies could be investigated. The rest of this article will be concerned with two of them—"The Battle of the Atlantic" and "The Battle of Britain".

CASE 1: Battle of the Atlantic
Two models were investigated here. In the first, I assumed that the Axis built a U-boat fleet with no ASW response from the Allies. The table shows the results. The first five columns show turn, research costs in production points, costs for U-boat and production points used for building U-boats. This assumes that the research will not pay off until the third turn (as to be expected from the previous discussion). It also assumes that the Axis player decides not to concentrate on U-boats until he can get the price down to four. The next column shows the expected Allied loss each turn. The final three columns show the cumulative Allied and Axis costs in production points and the net result. A negative score indicates a benefit to the Axis. For example, by turn six, the Axis can expect to have inflicted six points of damage on the Allies. However, his total cost in research and U-boat production is 44, so the Allies are still 38 points "ahead".

The Axis effort to build U-boats will not start to pay off until Turn 17 (Spring 1945). Most production points up until this point will be wasted in a war of attrition. This is a result of the large amount of resources spent to build a weapon that, on average, can eliminate few enemy points per turn. But even this minor benefit can be offset by a modest Allied effort in ASW.

The table for "Case 1, Model 2" assumes that the Allies match the Axis U-boat research by spending research for ASW. The extra columns show Allied research costs, current production costs for ASW, production points actually spent on ASW, ASW brought that turn and cumulative ASW capability. Thus, by Turn 7, the Allies can expect to have achieved their second reduction in ASW costs, bringing it down to "3". This turn they purchase two ASW. The cost is reflected in a higher value in the Allied cumulative loss column. This slight expenditure can produce a balancing force that can keep the Axis effort to, at best, a break-even point at the war's end. Submarine strategy in HITLER'S WAR should, thus, on average yield no benefits to the Axis. The one benefit that might accrue is that the Allies will be forced to pay these costs earlier than under the first model. However, it will be difficult for the Axis to exploit this, since they are also spending so much for non-land forces.

CASE 2: Battle of Britain
I did similar spreadsheet studies to study the effects of various strategic bombing strategies. From the German side, there are two possible strategies. To simplify the numbers involved, the table shown for Case 2 will only show the last model. First, I assumed that production points are replaced by rebuilding each turn. This is actually the best case for the Axis, as England could leave some areas devastated and still conduct the war. This decision costs four points per hit—one for the initial destruction and three to rebuild. Assuming such an anti-industry campaign, and with no fighter response from England, the spreadsheet analysis shows that the Axis can hope for a win in 1945, but it will be close and the Axis must spend a large part of its income on this task. But the Axis has another option—terror bombing for morale reduction.

Using terror bombing, in an attempt to destroy British morale, a concerted effort by the Luftwaffe will produce an Axis win by about Turn 10 or 11. But the RAF was not historically so silent. The key is for England to match Axis bomber research with air defense research. The table for Case 2 shows this clearly. Once more the Allied response needs only to match the Axis offense. In this case, by the time Axis bomber costs have dropped from seven

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**Case 1: U-boat Strategic Warfare**

**Model 1:** Axis builds U-boat fleet with no response from allies

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**CASE 2: Battle of Britain**

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**Model 2:** Axis does research & builds massive U-boat fleet but is countered by allied asw research

<table>
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**Model 2: Axis conducts terror bombing of Britain, with corresponding Allied air defense build up**

<table>
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to three, the Allies should have brought their fighter escorts to counter the air defense. Thus an alert Britain should forestall all but the luckiest Luftwaffe attacks. The decline of British morale in the average case is perilously close to the minimum. A few lucky rolls early on could make the Axis victorious. If this hasn’t occurred by Turn 9 though, this phase of the game is over. Germany could come back with development of escorts to counter the air defense, but this would in all likelihood bankrupt her economy. Air defense will always be cheaper than escorts, so England would just spend more on air defense.

Now we see that Germany cannot hope to win the war through research. Her efforts are doomed to failure, either from being too late, too costly, or too easily countered. And, so what can England do in return? Here the initial Allied superiority to the Axis can be used fully. Played for maximum probability, the Axis should not build a bomber fleet, as the above analysis shows they will only delay their own defeat. This leaves the research option open to the Allies who should early on start to amass such a fleet. Germany will have the choice of spreading limited resources on air defense, countering with escorts or succumbing to morale defeat. The difference is the Allies have the extra resources so it really becomes a battle of attrition of resources.

In fact, the bombing rules have only a partial basis in history. The Allies won the Battle of Britain and then carried the air war to Germany. But the cost was high. As much as one-third of British manpower and industrial resources were devoted to supporting Bomber Command in the later years of the war. The game gives much more credit to strategic bombing than actually is due. The German blitz from September 1940 to May 1941 killed 40,000 civilians. This was only one-fourteenth the losses the British government had anticipated and was prepared to accept. On the offensive side, a study of photographs taken by bombers concluded that the average bomb never came within five miles of its target. Later, when British bombing policy openly allowed indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets, the effect on German morale was much less than it portrayed in the game. There were horrendous firestorms such as Dresden and Hamburg, but these accounted for a minute portion of missions. Overall, all the effects were neither as dramatic or as deadly.

"Over the course of the whole war, the average result of a single British bomber sortie with a seven-man crew was less than three dead Germans, whom perhaps one might be a production worker—and after an average of fourteen missions, the bomber crew itself would be dead or, if they were very lucky, prisoners. Moreover, since the damage was done piecemeal over a long period of time, German industrial production for military purposes actually managed to continue rising until late 1944. The theory of strategic bombing was sound, but the practice was a very expensive aerial equivalent of trench warfare"—Gwynne Dyer, War

**SUMMARY**

Use research wisely—concentrate on lowering the cost for mech, paras and other troops. This is where the war will be won. Do not take the initiative in research. Instead, watch your opponent’s research for air superiority. Match him with cheap defenses against an expensive offense. Especially if you can simultaneously challenge him on the land, German strategic bombing will be no more successful than Goering’s. Missile and atomic bomb research is worthless in this game. You’ll spend much more on research than you can ever hope to recover during the game.

The morale rules are unrealistic. No nation has ever fallen to strategic bombing. The blitz of London made England fight harder, and Allied mass bombing of Dresden, Hamburg and Berlin did little to shorten the war. The intensive bombing of Japan came when the Japanese navy was destroyed, her armies isolated and her ambassadors already trying to negotiate a peace through neutral countries. After the atomic bombs were dropped, the US accepted the Japanese surrender on terms that had earlier been proposed by the Japanese. More recently, the horrific bombing of North Vietnam, in which more bombs were dropped than in the entirety of WWII, served only to fuse the resolve of the victims. The general lesson must therefore be that terror bombing only serves to build the resistance of the bombed populations. Only when the war is lost by other means do they capitulate. There is thus a good case for changing the morale rules in Hilter’s War to be less severe.
VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC won the Charles Roberts Award for the best strategic game of 1977. That it is the best strategic game today is no less true than it was in 1977. What “dyed-in-the-wool” naval buff could pass up the opportunity of putting themselves in the shoes of Nimitz or Yamamoto? In the introduction it states that VITP is “easy, fast and fun to play—but it is not as realistic as a normal simulation or wargame.” Why then yet another attempt (this) to make it more realistic?

Two reasons. One, while it is true that the tactical side, “represented as it is by artificial, simple game mechanics” lacks the realism of a FLAT TOP or BISMARCK, such is not so true of the strategic portion of the game. Where to place raiders and patrollers, which ports to return to, when and where to fight are all realistic strategic decisions that face the player, just as they faced Nimitz or Yamamoto. Second, I plead guilty to that particular affliction that is inherent in the species gamer—“fixitus.” Few, if any, are the gamers who can resist the challenge that their fix, variant or change is “just what the game needs.”

But the use of the “reality factor” also because VITP, “what if” game, it allows players to use strategies vastly different than those actually used. This “what if” factor is kept within reason by the “reality factor”. This article seeks to address where the “reality factor” fails to keep the “what if” factor within reason and to attempt to correct this by the use of historical options. So hearing in mind “that one source does not a thesis make”, I offer the following historical view and variants.

Within the bounds of the game, it is generally only on the first turn that the “reality factor” fails to keep the “what if” factor within the bounds of reason. The twin abilities of the IJN commander to both include almost any number of ships, including two extra carriers, in Kido Butai (the Pearl Harbor Carrier Striking Force) and forge a “perfect defensive perimeter”, (Aleutians-Central Pacific-Marshalls-South Pacific-Indonesia) vastly overstates the actual abilities the Japanese enjoyed at the start of WWII. These assumptions are neither realistic nor historical. While the optional 10-ship rule somewhat redresses the former it does not go far enough. And nothing is done about the latter.

Any Japanese Commander worth his sake can, on the first turn, sink six or more ships at Pearl Harbor. Indeed, Alan Moon, in “TKO in Three” (Vol. 17, No. 4), states, “I figure to sink an average of seven ships. Actually, I really expect to get eight kills or more.” While, at the same time, he plans to take control of the Aleutians (with nothing more powerful than the OI or KINAKUMI) and seize the Central Pacific (using only the diminutive Hosho for air cover), as well as establish control in the South Pacific. This is all in addition to blowing away the 5th AF together with the Prince of Wales and Repulse, (teaching Admiral Tom Phillips in a most realistic manner the fallacy of his belief that “aircraft were no match for battleships”) and gaining control of Indonesia, while maintaining control in the Marshalls, Marianas and the Japanese Home Islands. As an added bonus, the Philippines and Lao can be captured by encirclement, thus leaving the Yokosuka SNLF free to capture either Midway or Dutch Harbor. Further, since Wake is not on the map, and its conquest, in game turns, is essential and so is assumed (its historic defense by the intrepid Major James Devereux and his sharpshooters), the Japanese player is free to use the forces (CVs Hiryu and Soryu, CAs Chikuma and Tone from the Pearl Harbor Attack Force along with CAs Aoba, Furutaka, Kako and Kinugasa) from Wake and a SNLF elsewhere. This should give the warriors of the Rising Sun +7 to +9 POC. As if this was not enough, there still exists the real possibility that the USN can suffer the indignity of losing a carrier to the prowling submarine.

While there can be no doubt that the message Higashi was to receive (“East wind, rain”) launched the Japanese on a series of spectacular victories, I doubt that even those Japanese caught deep in the throes of the “Victory Disease” would have believed that they were capable of such feats. Surely, Yamamoto himself, would have scoffed at the thought.

Richard Hamblen in his design article “Nuts, Bolts, Philosophy and Design” (Vol. 14, No. 4) on the game makes three points about the surprise attack turn.

1. That the attacks were risky and the results uncertain and that this uncertainty should be recreated rather than replaced with certain outcomes.

2. The allocation of resources was an important strategic decision that the Japanese player should be forced to make.

3. That units were positioned as they were at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, except for the Prince of Wales and Repulse (which are positioned as they were when ordered to react to the Japanese attack).

I agree totally with the first, but history forces me to disagree with Mr. Hamblen’s second and third statements. In reality, the Japanese allocation of resources was far more limited by factors which lie outside the scope of the game. As it stands now, the attack on Pearl and the subsequent destruction of the USN fleet is the prime objective of the game. At the start of the war the number one objective of the Japanese was the securing of the oil rich areas of Indonesia. In the words of noted naval historian Samuel Eliot Morison, “The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was but a part, and in their estimate not the most important part, of a comprehensive plan for the Greater East Asia War.” As for the third statement, only some of the units are positioned as they were at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

At the time Nikula Tano Nobore was transmitted, the disposition of the Japanese fleet was as:

PEARL HARBOR ATTACK FORCE: CVs Akagi, Kaga, Hiryu, Soryu, Shokaku and Zuikaku; BBs Hei and Kirishima; CAs Chikuma and Tone. INDONESIA: BBs Haruna and Kongo; CVL Ryuu; CAs Ashigara, Atago, Hagaya, Maya, Myoko, Nachi and Takao.

TRUK: CAs Aoba, Furutaka, Kako and Kinugasa from Wake and 80 air planes.

HOME ISLANDS: BBs Fuso, Hiyuga, Ise, Mutsu, Nagato and Yamashiro; CAs Chokai, Kii, Mikuma, Mogami, Suzuya; CLs Kitakami and Oi; CVLs Kosho and Zuiho.

In September 1941, while the Pearl Harbor attack was just being considered as a “potential war plan”, Vice-Admiral Mikawa, who was in command of the screening forces “demanded” Haruna and Kongo, but because the southern (Indonesia) operation had priority the two battleships went there. Also in September, the skilled crews from the Third (CVs Hosho and Ryuyo) and Fourth (Zuiho and Shoho) Carrier Divisions were diverted to the Agaki and Kaga. The Combined Fleet wished to increase the number of Zeros on these carriers, which were scheduled to participate in the Indonesia operation. This move left the CVLs almost bare of Zeros and skilled pilots.

In order to insure that the attack would be made, and made with the six big CVs, in October of 1941, Yamamoto (along with the rest of his staff) threatened to resign if his plan was not adopted. Admiral Nagumo, Chief of the Naval General Staff, reluctantly gave his approval on two conditions—that it would not interfere in any way with the Indonesia operation and that nothing would be done to weaken the air strength of the Navy in its attacks on Indonesia.

The CVLs did not have the range to make such an attack. Indeed, even the Hiryu and Soryu had to have some 700 tons of extra fuel stored aboard (for which Yamamoto had to obtain special permission from the Military Affairs Bureau) so as to cut down the refusals at sea, a operation the IJN were neither skilled nor had practiced.

The need to maintain secrecy was evidenced by Yamamoto’s orders to both Nagumo and Kondo to turn back if they were sighted before the 6th of December. While it may be true that the Americans were not exactly the paragon of vigilance, it is beyond belief that had the entire Rengo Kantai (the combined fleet) southern (as is done in the game) the seemingly myopic U.S. Commanders would not have taken notice and ordered their Fleet to sea. For the first six months of the war, up until the time they sorted for Operation MI, the attack on Midway, the main Japanese Battle Fleet (the battleships) swung idly in their anchorage at Hashirajima. Indeed, this total lack of activity resulted in them being ridiculed as “The Hashirajima Fleet” by the crews of Koku Kantai (the First Air Fleet).

There can be no doubt (historically speaking) that a strong case could be made to start the game with these dispositions. I do not suggest it, as it would greatly unbalance the game in favor of the USN. Nevertheless, it is still possible to more accurately reproduce the events of “December 7 1941, a date which will live in infamy” without dramatically unbalancing the game.

**AIR RAID PEARL HARBOR—THIS IS NO DRILL**

Change Rule 20. PEARL HARBOR as follows:

20.2 The Japanese player must assign CVs Akagi, Kaga, Hiryu, Soryu, Shokaku and Zuikaku; BBs Hei and Kirishima; and CAs Chikuma and Tone.

20.21 The airstrike factors of the Akagi, Shokaku and Zuikaku are reduced to three. The actual attack on Pearl Harbor was made in two waves. The first consisted of 25 planes, while the second had 179 planes. Converting these figures by Mr. Hamblen’s formula (10 planes per strike equals one airstrike factor) the first wave would consist of 19 airstrikes and the second, 17. Compare with the now reduced airstrike factors (Akagi’s three + Kaga’s four + Hiryu’s three + Soryu’s three + Shokaku’s three + Zuikaku’s three) and you have an almost perfect match.

20.41 On the second round of the air raid, and all subsequent air raids, any USN ship that is “not rest-
ing on the bottom” can use Anti-Aircraft (see proposed Rule 24 below).

20.5.11 Only the uncertain Groups W (Enterprise, Salt Lake City, Northampton and Chester) and X (Lexington, Chicago, Portland and Astoria) could “show up” in the Hawaiian Islands. The uncertain Groups Y (Saratoga) and Z (Hornet, Yorktown, Vincennes) enter at Pearl Harbor on Turn 2. (For the appearance of the CVEs see below.) At the time of the attack, the Saratoga was rounding Point Loma off San Diego, and did not leave for Pearl Harbor until 8 December. The Hornet, Yorktown, Vincennes and Quincy were all in the Caribbean and could not have possibly “shown up” in either the Hawaiian Islands or the Central Pacific.

20.7 During the attack, torpedo bombers and fighters missed their target of the old battleship Utah, which had been converted into a target ship by stripping her decks and covering them with timber. From above she may have looked like a carrier. To recreate this confusion allow the USN player to designate one ship to “change places” with the Utah. Example: If he chooses the Nevada and the IJN player attacked the Nevada it would be the Utah that hit; alternately if the Utah was attacked it would be the Nevada that would be hit. This would only apply to the first round of the air raid.

MODIFYING THE SHIPS

Essex Class Carriers This class of carriers were designed to operate with over 100 aircraft. From their first use in November 1943 (Turn 6) until the end of January 1945 (Turn 9), the average number of aircraft carried by all ships of this class was 97+. Using the same criteria as Mr. Hamblen did when he rounded up the Shoho and Zuikido (“Return Fire” in Vol. 17, No. 3), this class should have airstrike factors of “5”.

IJN Bonus Airstrike Factors The Japanese carriers that arrive from Turn 7 on are not given the attack bonus because of poorly trained pilots. This was primarily due to the large number of experienced pilots lost during the Coral Sea and Midway battles. If, by Turn 7, the Japanese have three of their original six big carriers still in the game, then the newly arriving CVs and CVLs would still get the attack bonus and, in addition, the CVLs would have airstrike factors of 2.

Akagi The Akagi’s airstrike factor of four is just not correct. During the attack on Pearl Harbor it operated 64+ aircraft, including its last battle, at Midway, it only operated 63 aircraft. This clearly gives it a airstrike factor of “3”. However, because it was capable of operating more, if it is still around on Turn 3, its airstrike factor can be raised to “4” on this and all subsequent turns.

Shokaku and Zuihlaku Although they operated only 60+ aircraft for both the Pearl Harbor strike and the Coral Sea battle, during the rest of the war both carried over 72 aircraft. Beginning with Turn 3 and on all subsequent turns, they have airstrike factors of “4”.

Shinano There are conflicting reports about this 70000+ ton carrier completed from the hull of the third Yamato Class BB. Although reportedly capable of operating some 70 aircraft, most sources claim it was in fact an empty hulk of a “massive” ship that could operate only 47 aircraft. Therefore, a serious claim could be made to give it an airstrike factor of 2.

AMPHIBIOUS UNITS

Like Richard Hamblen, I too agree with Craig Burke’s (“Air Power in VITP”, Vol. 17, No. 3) proposal to give the US Marines a “Bonnie 1” airstrike factor to account for the Taftys (CVE) carriers. But, I feel he did not go quite far enough.

The total inability of amphibious units to defend themselves in a surface action is not totally accurate. I propose that each amphibious unit (both IJN and USN) gets one surface shot. Once again, referring to Mr. Hamblen’s designer article, he states “aircraft carriers with enough 5” guns get a nominal factor because of the sheer weight of metal they could put out”; considering the “close support” both sides gave these amphibious units there should be no problem allowing these units a “nominal” one shot.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT

This Optional Rule 23 in the old rules was in Burke’s words as found in VITP”, Vol. 17, No. 3) “too blasted complicated”—which is probably why it was left out of later editions. Mr. Burke’s anti-aircraft mufflers also tend to become too complicated. So, I propose a melding of the two with the hope that together they may become greater than the sum of both.

24. ANTI-AIRCRAFT

24.1 At the start of each “day action” both players secretly specify in writing which airstrikes are attacking, and which are defending during that action.

24.2 Defending airstrikes can only attack enemy attacking airstrikes.

24.3 All defending airstrike attacks are allocated and resolved like normal attacks on land-based air units. Hits muffle one airstrike factor and take effect immediately.

24.4 All defending airstrike attacks have attacked, surviving attacking airstrikes are allocated to their targets.

24.5 Each target then has one “shot” (no attack bonus) against each airstrike attacking it. Hits muffle one airstrike factor and take effect immediately.

24.6 Battleships that are not being attacked also get one shot against any attacking airstrike. Hits muffle one airstrike factor and take effect immediately.

24.7 Only then may the attacking airstrike execute their attacks with what strength they have left.

24.8 Airstrike factors that are muffled in one attack are not affected in proceeding attacks.

24.9 Only one unit per side is allowed to break down its airstrikes into attacking and defending factors.

ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Lastly, again bearing in mind the axiom regarding sources and the making of the thesis, I feel there are a small number of errors in the appearance of ships.

WASP The Wasp should actually enter on Turn 3. It, in company with North Carolina and Quincy passed through the Panama Canal on 10 June 1942. While it is true that it did not sail from San Diego until 1 July 1942, it was available for use on three of the four months of Turn 3. As it stands now, the Wasp does not enter the game until four months after it was actually sunk.

QUINCY The Quincy, like the Wasp and North Carolina, should enter on Turn 3.

BUNKER HILL The Bunker Hill, currently scheduled to enter on Turn 7, actually came into service shortly after CV 10 (the new Yorktown) and CV 16 (the new Lexington). It participated on 11 November 1943 in the attack on Rabaul together with the Essex and Independence. So Bunker Hill enters on Turn 6.

HANCOCK The Hancock (CV 17) is not included in the game at all. It seems a shame to leave out a ship called by ADM Halsey “the dammedest ship I ever saw in action. She starts firing first and quits last.” Her contributions to winning the war were not insignificant. Hancock had the largest single day’s bag of enemy planes—72 in the air and 19 on the ground. During her service she destroyed 733 planes, 17 warships, and 31 merchant ships. She was part of the TG38.1 during the battle of Leyte Gulf. The Hancock arrives Turn 6.

AIR UNITS A strong case can be made for the inclusion of three additional Allied LBAs. They would be the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNAF), the Royal Air Force (RAF), and the US 20th AF.

The RNAF, which under Gen van Oyen, served in ABDA from its organization in Jan. 1942 until Feb. 1942, when the ABDA was dissolved. It would have been available from Turn 2 on but, like the other three, if it was sunk it would not re-enter the game two turns later due to the lack of replacements available. The RAF, which served in Singapore, was also part of ABDA and later was stationed in the Bay of Bengal. It too would enter on Turn 2. The US 20th AF, which under Maj. Gen Curtis LeMay, operated out of China. It would enter play on Turn 8. In the end, however, the addition of these three LBA tends to unbalance the game, so I mention them only in passing.

Using these several variants allows the players a greater degree of latitude in attempting to better historically recreate the events of this, the greatest sea conflict of all time. It brings the game closer, I think, to a true simulation while maintaining the spirit of the game.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

The General will list any gaming convention in this space free of charge on a space available basis provided that we are notified at least four months in advance of the convention date. Each listing must include the name, date, site, and contact address of the convention. Additional information of interest to our readership such as tournaments or events utilizing The Avalon Hill Game Company’s games is solicited and will be printed if made available.

The Avalon Hill Game Company does not necessarily attend or endorse these gatherings, nor do we guarantee that events using The Avalon Hill Game Company’s games will be held. Readers are urged to contact the listed sources for further information before making plans to attend.

AUGUST 29-31, SEPTEMBER 1

NANCON-VIII, Houston, Texas

Contact: Frank Jones, Jr., Nan’s Game HQ, 2011 South West Freeway, Houston, TX 77028.

SEPTEMBER 6-7

AUTUMN CAMPAIGNS ’86, Lexington, Kentucky

Contact: Lexington Historical Gamers Society, 513 East Maxwell Street, Lexington, KY 40508.

SEPTEMBER 27-28

1986 SL Fall Maneuvers, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Contact: Bill Thompson, 8737 Cleary Blvd., Plantation, FL 33324. (305) 476-9676.

NOTE: Five-round SL tournament.

OCTOBER 3-5

ASL OCTOBERFEST, Youngstown, Ohio

Contact: Bill Conner, P.O. Box 4114, Austintown, OH 44515.

NOTE: Seminars and three-round tournament in ASL.

OCTOBER 4-5

WARGAME WEEKEND, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact: Joe Gepfert, 8440 South Monterey Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151.

OCTOBER 17-19

RIDUCON ’86, Rochester, New York

Contact: William Trainor, Rochester Wargamers Association, c/o Student Directorate, 1 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. (716) 454-4010, ext. 2269.
Full Name: Samuel Craig Taylor, Jr.
Birth: March 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Started Wargaming: 1956—with Britain’s 54mm miniatures
First Wargame: Started with miniatures rules of my own design. The first commercial wargame played was TACTICS II in 1958. Favorite Wargame: There is no single game I can list. These things change as the years go by, but any list of my past and/or present playing favorites has to include the following: Armor/88/Panzer, AFRIKA KORPS, CAESAR ALESIA, CV/FLAT TOP, Close Assault/FIREPOWER, DIPLOMACY, MACHIABLELLI, EMPIRES IN ARMS, FLIGHT LEADER, French Foreign Legion, FURY IN THE WEST, House Divided, Rally Round the Flag (miniatures), RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, RUSSIAN FRONT, Ship ‘o the Line (miniatures), Swashbuckler, Armor, Dallas, Attack of the Mutants, Barbarians, Adventurer, French Foreign Legion, RUSSIAN FRONT, EMPIRES IN ARMS and FLIGHT LEADER.

Favorite Non-Wargame: Again, no one title will do. Favorites are: Chess, Emperor of China, FOOTBALL STRATEGY, NAVAL WAR, Poker, Risk and Roaring Twenties.
Outside Interests: Reading history (particularly of the American West); professional football; snorkeling; target shooting; and playing tourist and travelling.
Employed by AH: January 1984
Designs: These are listed in chronological order as they were released: WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN, Shenandoah (with Steve Peek), Rally Round the Flag, Ship ‘o the Line, AIR FORCE, DAUNTLESS, FLAT TOP, Armada Supplement (miniatures), AIR FORCE/DAUNTLESS EXPANSION KIT (soon to be STURMOVIK), Starfighter, Battle,

Before we start, Rex, one question for you. When you first stormed into my office with that messianic gleam in your eye and a sheaf of nosy “Staff Briefing” questions clutched in your hot little hands, I gave the whole project the circular file treatment that it so richly deserved. Then, you threatened to make up your own answers if I refused to provide any. My question is—how can readers tell if these are my answers or your ravings? [Trust me, readers; would I really say these things you are about to read about myself?]
A. I was not an Army "brat," paste-up breath; I was an Air Force "brat"! Indeed. We certainly moved around enough while I was growing up. We lived in Philadelphia until 1950, when my father got called to be a buyer and a position as a buyer and a liquor warehouse. I was not an Army "brat," paste-up breath; I was an Air Force "brat"!

In Philadelphia until 1950, when my father got called to the Pentagon dropped us in Biloxi, Mississippi (Kessler AFB) where I finally finished high school (in all, I attended 11 different schools in 12 years). As my sister has pointed out, none of us realized we were having an unusual childhood until we got to college and met people who had spent their whole lives in one place.

Q. What did you do before you became a full-time game designer; what was your previous career?

A. For a number of years I managed fast-food restaurants. When I finally realized that the sight of another hamburger could lead to violence, there was a position as a buyer and production/scheduling coordinator for a large printing company. Just prior to entering design work full time, I was managing a liquor warehouse.

Q. OK, let's get this one out of the way since everyone is waiting for it. What is your "design philosophy"?

A. Rex, you're a rat for trying to corner me like this! Everybody ever suckered into one of these inquisitions had better be on something like I prefer to do simple but realistic games, elegant yet historical and fun to play packed with lots of simulation detail—a comment worthy of the Delphic Oracle (try chanting it in Attic Greek). After more than a dozen years in this business, examining various surveys, talking with people at conventions and trade shows, and exhaustively tracking the sales (or lack of them) of hundreds of games, I could realistically state that I'm still confused; but I'll stick my neck out and admit that my commercial wargame design philosophy has evolved far producing what is a game that every gamer has a look like it can sell isn't worth printing. Saleability, as I see it, involves three major concepts: "balance", "focus" and "cheating" (no, this is not my playing style). Publishing any new commercial game is still pretty much the same crapshoot it was in 1958, but every commercial design in the pipeline should be evaluated in light of these three criteria, in addition to what the designer or developer thinks about the game as a game (obviously, if the game looks like a stickler, that should be the end of it) before the presses are ever cranked up.

"Balance." Just to be different (and you knew that I wouldn't do you, Rex? you sorry rascal), let's ignore what gamers and reviewers claim that they want and stick to what gamers really sells and why. A quick look at anybody's list of all-time best-sellers and favorites and/or games that have stayed in print for any length of time shows that the so-called "playability" versus "complexity" controversy is somewhat irrelevant (a matter of individual taste). The "Catch-22" in commercial wargame design is that every gamer has a different favorite topic or topics and there is only enough convergence in these topics to provide a small number of generally "popular" historical periods (Modern, Second World War, American Civil War to a lesser extent, and Napoleonics to an even smaller extent), environments (land warfare is more popular than sea or air warfare), and/or level (tactical level games currently tend to outsell strategic level games) to provide general guidelines.

If you're designing a game only for yourself, you can do it on any topic and incorporate any level of detail and/or abstruse mechanics desired and you'll be as happy as a clam, and no one else will be the wiser. A magazine game can also be to, a lesser extent (there are some restrictions on components to consider), equally esoteric—subscribers get the magazine no matter what is in it and an interesting lead-in article can generate enough interest for many gamers to try even the most off-the-wall gaming subject. To do a successful commercial game that can sell on its own (which has always been my lot in this industry), some hard-nosed evaluation is required concerning the topic's and scale's popularity, and concerning components and their effects on price and the desired level of complexity if the game is to pay salaries, overhead, advertising, etc., and show enough of a profit so that stockholders and the boss aren't howling for your head.

The fact of the matter is, most gamers are perfectly happy with a hobby game detail (and to pay more) in a game on their favorite topic (witness the length and cost of the rules and gamettes for SL/ASL; tactical WWII is obviously a lot of people's favorite topic) than in one on some other topic. They prefer simpler, faster-playing and cheaper games on topics which are not among their favorites if they are to buy them or try them at all. What this boils down to in the real world of commercial game publishing is something that can be referred to as balance between "simulation detail" and "playability" with a price connection influenced by this balance. Gamers fork over the long green only when convinced that the product matches their interest level.

Every wargame design requires some level of separate detail (often called "chrome") to reproduce some of the unique flavor of the game's topic. The $64,000 design and development question is how much detail should be separate; how much should be abstracted in the game's mechanics; how much should simply be ignored as unimportant; and what would be the cost of a published game employing each option. A more popular game subject can usually contain more detail and be more complex (and this increased complexity can lead to more components, changed all that and today tactical games provide many of the best sellers. On the other hand, UP FRONT is an example of an unconventional game that, although sales have been passable, failed to have a major impact on wargame design and sales patterns. A designer or developer that gets his hands on a game that seems to have a "breakthrough" capability must sometimes go intuitively against the flow, with the full realization that this makes the game an even bigger gamble than usual.

Q. I've heard it said by other designer/developers, that once they have finished a game, they never play it again! Do you continue to play the older games you worked on?

A. Surely you jest, Rex? Moi? Actually, by the time a game is finished (what with endless proofreadings and the usual skirmishes with art and printing departments), I'm usually so sick of it that I don't even want to look at it for a month or more. After that, there is a tendency to drift back to it and start playing it again. Examine my list of favorite wargames and you'll see many listed there that I worked on. The fact is, if I was interested enough in the topic to work on the game in the first place, that interest would eventually carry me on indefinitely.

Q. What types of games do you enjoy playing?

A. Games where there are a variety of successful strategies that can win or lose the contest. Games that are disguised puzzles or which have only one "best plan" tend to pale after a few playings. Given
a choice, I prefer mutli-player games to two-player or solitary games.

Q. While working at Yaquinto, you also had published several sets of rules for military Miniatures Simulations. Do you still play, and do you prefer Miniatures Wargames?

A. As if you weren’t right there for our regular Miniatures Games, Rexy boy! We published Ship of the Line (a Miniatures version of WOODEN SHIPS & IRON MEN) and Rally ‘Round the Flag at Battleline and for The Flame at Yaquinto. All three of these titles have gotten “best game” H.G. Wells Awards and are still in print. I got involved in Wargames playing miniatures and they are still my overwhelming favorite. It is hard to beat the color and flavor of a well-appointed miniatures layout or the thrill of watching troops that you painted rout the enemy (or the chargin of watching the ungrateful little buggers run to the rear). As a matter of fact, a large number of boardgames I’ve done over the years started as Miniatures rules or were later converted to Miniatures—I have the figures and accessories available to play AIR FORCE/DAUNTLESS, Wings, Close Assault/FIREFIRE, Panzer 88, Armor, Ironclads and Flight Leader as Miniatures Games.

Q. At TAHGC, the developer has the last word on everything, from artwork to rules, and is directly involved in every step from initial evaluation to final paste-up. How does this compare with normal procedures at other companies? Do you favor such total control of your developments, rather than the “team” approach?

A. The approach here is exactly the one with which I have always worked and there is no doubt in my mind that “total control” is the superior method. Too many chefs can spoil the broth, and too many riders can win a horse, so there must be one knowledgeable, complete and responsible who can cull good suggestions from bad and has a feel for what is important and what is not.

Q. There has been recently a lot of kerchief-wringing over the state of the hobby, the industry, and various trends among wargamers. You have spent more years than many involved in the hobby, both as player and as designer. What, in your view, are the difficulties facing the wargaming world at present?

A. My view of the hobby right now is that there may be too much of a good thing. Wargaming as a hobby has probably never been in better shape. Those of us who were active in the 50s and 60s can remember how hard it was to find decent miniature figures, decent reference material, new games and, most important of all, sane opponents. Long drives and even vacation trips were planned around visits to distant rare game emporiums and/or for the chance to meet fellow wargamers known previously only from correspondence. Getting four gamers together in the same room was an historic event that called for picture-taking and cigars all around.

Now, there are so many goodies available that purchases must be carefully budgeted and many gamers have found it expedient to specialize in only certain historical periods—or even in just one game (i.e., the SQUAD LEADER phenomena). This leads to people in what is supposedly the same “adventure gaming” (how I hate that term) hobby finding that they really have little in common to discuss. A move towards more specialization and/or a game to play is so easy that there is little pressure to recruit new players into the fold or to try different games and/or scales or historical periods. Gaming conventions are so common and widespread that people actually pass them up (“Aw, I went last year, I can afford to skip a year.”) I can remember attending a wargaming convention in Paoli, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1967 where 42 players attended and wondering if there would ever be another such gathering. In short, the hobby is getting a few new flowers (an immediate worry, but one that could cause long-term problems) and more fragmented (role-playing, computer games, board wargamers, monster games, play-by-mail gamers, Miniatures Wargames, etc.). While all this is great on the surface for the hobbyists, it makes it harder for the publishers to find enough market for any given title to justify large print runs and, for this reason, prices continue to creep upward.

Being a wild-eyed optimist, I do see cause for hope. Wargaming is often seen as being in just the right conditions to spawn a new growth. The slump in the 60s and early 80s were both caused to some extent by changes in distribution and marketing patterns and the industry is still in the process of adjusting to these changes. What would help the industry right now is some new “hit” that opens new markets—a game or idea (not necessarily on a wargaming topic, but anything in the so-called “adventure gaming” field) that will open up new outlets for wargames the way that the Milton Bradley “American Heritage” series games did in the late 60s and early 60s, S&T magazine and their advertising blitz did in the early 70s, and Dungeons & Dragons did in the late 70s. A “hit” makes major retailers more aware of the games and hobby and they start to carry a broad selection of goods whose sheer availability can bring hobby prosperity.

Q. And what aspirations do you have in the hobby? Awards unwon; designs uncompleted; games unplayed; conventions unattended?

A. I’m just tickled pink that there are people willing to pay me a living wage to do something that, once upon a time, I was happy to do for nothing in my spare time.

Q. We all know a few colorful “characters” among our gaming associates whose foibles make the game more fun (or funny) than may have been intended. Surely, after all these years, you must have a few “mug file” of such friends. Care to describe a couple?

A. This is quite a question coming from “Martin the Merciless”, famed cripple shooter. Are you trying to entangle me in liberal suits? I refuse, in most cases, to name names or give dates and locations, although if you’re reading this, you know who you are. Remembering the great sage Yogi Berra put it, “Ninety percent of this game is half mental” here’s a few from my personal rogues gallery:

The Considerate Commander. An otherwise unneccesary miniatures player who painted up a group of “camp followers” of the female persuasion. Following every game, while picking up his troops, he would invariably reward the troops who had done best in the game by placing the camp followers in their boxes.

But Where Do You Sleep? Intrigued by a recent acquaintance’s mention of a continuing solo miniatures game of the early days of World War I, I went over to his apartment to see the setup and from that day to this, I have never seen anything else quite like it. I’ve seen 48- and 60-mapboard BLITZKREIG layouts, but this was unprecedented. You have to try to imagine a huge two-bedroom apartment with all the furniture in one room. All of the remaining floor space, running continuously from room to room, was used for a scale terrain map (roads, river, small buildings, cities, fortifications, hills, forests, etc.) of Belgium in the thousands of troops and guns. The game had been in progress for four months then and was expected to continue for at least another year. That’s dedication.

Ward, I’m Worried About The Beaver. At Origins ’81 in San Francisco, my old buddy Steve Peck was running a hilarious wargaming trivia event, handing out gift certificates to winners who could name the rules for various late 60s/early 70s wargames. One bright young fellow had missed two questions already and, taking pity, Peck threw him what he thought would be an easy one:

“Who designed SUBMARINES?” (Peek’s own design)

Confused young man: “Uh, Jim Dunnigan?”

Surprise, Steve! “Dunnigan?”

Hapless lad: “Let me see now, Richard Berg?”

Peck (with face turning a lovely shade of red and finger pointing at his chest), “One more try. Think, kid, think!”

Hesitant youth (fearing for his life): “Don Greene?”

“Go away kid; you bother me.”

Q. Much of the gaming at Avalon Hill is done as playtesting—either new releases by other companies, or our own unpublished designs. How do you like to handle the playtests of your projects? Do you rely on playtests to a great extent?

A. Over the years, I’ve arrived at the magic number of “forty”. I like to personally playtest any game I’m working on at least forty times. I’ve found that most gaming problems will surface, get noticed and be corrected in this period and this much mastery of the game is required to provide properly balanced victory conditions. You can’t hope to balance a game for competition between two expert players if you don’t take the time and effort to become expert in it yourself. Besides, playtesting is the only time I actually get paid for playing games! Beyond the personal playing, local playtesters provide competition and are good for suggestions as the design evolves and “blind testers” are useful for spotting any problems that the designer/developer and the local players may be too close to the game to spot. To a large extent, once a game is researched and designed, any major improvements possible have to come from the playtesting. During repeated playings, refinements will suggest themselves and problems will be addressed that will result in a much improved end product.

Q. For many of our readers, wargaming is a cherished pastime. What do you do for relaxation? A. I participate in interviews with psychiatric magazine editors.

COPIES

If the reader should need a copy of an article from an out-of-print back issue of The GENERAL or one of the Wargamer’s Guides, The Avalon Hill Game Company does provide a photocopying service. The charge for this service is $1.00 per page, with a minimum order of five pages required. Please specify the article title, volume and number it appeared in, and the pages on which it can be found; the GENERAL Index is invaluable for this ($4.50 from Avalon Hill). This service is also available to other publications, present and past—ALL-STAR REPLAY and HEROES. Standard Avalon Hill Game Company postage rates of 10% of the amount of the order must be included for domestic orders (20% for Canadian orders and 30% for overseas orders). GENERAL postage coupons may not be applied.
In the time THIRD REICH has been around, numerous articles have been written on strategy for the game. Most have dealt with individual countries and opening strategic plans. There just haven't been many articles on the fringe aspects of the game or how these aspects impinge on the play of the countries. The following is a compilation of articles appearing in The Buzzard's Breath, an amateur 'zine which is primarily devoted to play-by-mail THIRD REICH. They appear with the kind permission of that 'zine's editor, Mark Matuschak (44 Garden Street, Boston, MA 02114). These jottings aren't necessarily meant to espouse the ideas expressed—but merely to explore some options and provoke comment. The fact I use many of these plays is purely coincidental.

Don't be put off by the seeming contradictory nature of the sections. In writing the series, I tried to approach each idea expressed from the viewpoint of the country primarily involved. The concerns of other players, or their reactions to the ploy, are beyond the scope of these "commentaries".

1. STRATEGIC WARFARE

Strategic Warfare (SW) is an aspect most missed in 3R. The German player usually builds only subs until 1944, and then some interceptors. The Allied players usually build ASW until 1944, then some SAC. SW is more than this, especially in the new 3R edition. It can bring about an early collapse of the Allied offensive capability, or an early return to the continent. Therefore, SW is an important element in the offensive and defensive plans of each side.

Realize first that Britain (and possibly the U.S. in 1943) will lose the majority of the BRPs lost to SW. Germany will lose some BRPs to SW, but the main damage done by the new rules is the loss of a 3-air unit if any BRPs are lost to SAC. All this is fine in theory, but how can a player use it? What follows is my preference as the Allies.

Britain can stand to lose up to 90 BRPs in the 1941, and '42 YSSs. Her game is mostly a defensive one until 1942, so those losses can be accepted. The only area where an offensive posture should be taken is North Africa. A 90-BRP loss likely could be 30 in 1941 and 60 in '42. Therefore, I keep at least that much of a cushion in those years, plus some for growth. If intelligence helps me learn the Axis SW box builds, that cushion can change. Another factor is my own SW builds; yet a third is if I hold Variant 1. Stalin, have just kept the Turks from invading me!). I find out what is in the opposing Musmanak or SW box, or even reduce Foreign Aid to a Minor Country to keep it neutral for example.

The Allies especially must be careful in their dealings with the IT, since it can be used against a 'friend' (33.55). Diplomacy in 3R takes on new importance.

The Allies are in an advantageous position to use the IT in the early game (1939 to 1941) since they are on the defensive and France and Russia have extra BRPs to burn. France should be the country of choice to expand the five BRPs in Fall '39 to help avoid the "flip-flop" over the Winter-Spring period of 1939-1940. Russia will have extra BRPs after taking the Baltic States and unit builds. So go ahead and spend. Six turns of spending could catch the Axis off guard and nullify their variant. After 1941, the Allied BRPs don't really exist to spend on the IT, since the British must face the U-boat threat, and Russia faces Barbarossa. However, the Allies might decide to use the IT themselves so some resources may be lost to counter-intelligence (33.51). At that, a late chance may appear to surprise the Axis with an IT die roll, so the Allies should be alert for the opportunity.

The Axis generally use the IT much less than the Allies as they are on the offensive in the early game and need pay for all this activity. Later, the variants usually have been played and the Minors activated. The best Axis tactic here is counter-intelligence. Allied variants don't hurt the Axis nearly so much as the Axis ones hurt the Allies. Allied Foreign Aid is more easily countered. Rule 33.53 allows optional choice of a lower number than rolled. This point to the places the Axis should try for, "#1 Reduction of Foreign Aid". By spending those five BRPs, up to six BRPs of enemy Foreign Aid can be removed from an Ally, increasing the chance of activation.

Do expect opponents (and sometimes friends) to use the IT against you, and use it yourself. It may be useful, especially if un-opposed, as Rule 33.52 adds one to your die roll. The IT is still another tool of victory, like Foreign Aid and Strategic Warfare. Ignore none of them if you seek it.

3. FOREIGN AID

Rule 33.6 is another new tool for victory or defeat in 3R. It simply represents diplomatic pressure (read money, bribes, threats) used to prevent unpleasant things. BRPs may be given in the Unit Construction Phase (no more than ten percent of a country's BRP Year Start Sequence total) at a cost of one SR per receiving country. The delivery occurs in the SR Phase, and sometimes requires fleets for transport. If Britain gives to Finland or Germany to Ireland, it costs two SRs. Only Britain, Russia, Italy and Germany can give Foreign Aid. The U.S. (whose money is in such demand these days) can't give it away here.

Italy is the easiest country to consider. Only Spain and Iraq may receive BRPs from it. Thus—unless Variant 1 or 4 is held—anything given serves to create a diversion of British effort. If either of these variants are held, Italy should give the maximum possible, and get the German player to aid him.

Russia is a big foreign aid spender (as always). The trouble lies in the fact that if Russia takes the Bessarian province, she can give only to Hungary and Bulgaria, per the note in the table (33.61). Russia always seems to have a BRP surplus, so should give everything it can. This could amount to 34 BRPs (nine in 1939, eleven in 1940, and 14 in 1941). That could mean one or both countries won't activate when Germany marches.

Germany's situation is more complex than that of Italy or Russia. It needs units for the campaign in France, which means little (if any) foreign aid outgoing before Winter of 1940. The Minor Allied units are needed in 1941 as cannon fodder in Russia, not to mention their BRPs. As a result, Germany will labor under a 2:1 disadvantage in foreign aid. Perhaps having a slower build rate to counter Allied foreign aid for minors and variants may be necessary. For example, instead of building an air unit in Winter of 1939, spend 15 BRPs on Foreign Aid in a Minor or potential variant nation. Such investments can often bring vast advantages. Germany can afford to use some foreign aid after France falls, but will still be at a disadvantage.

Britain lies in the most complex position of all. Most Axis variants hurt, Russia may also need aid, France must be propped up as long as possible, Egypt must be made safe. etc. There is so much bread, so little butter. The U-boat threat will freeze BRPs. Britain can afford to give twelve BRPs in 1939, and perhaps eleven in '40 and '41. Even so, it is hard to give foreign aid where needed most.

When spreading foreign aid, put it where you feel it will do the most good, and give in lump sums of five or six BRPs to each country. Any less is easily countered. The Intelligence Table (33.5) can help reduce the Foreign Aid opponents give on a modified die roll of ten, so a five-BRP expenditure can reduce foreign aid by up to six BRPs. Be careful, for a minor can activate when not expected, or not activate at all.

4. MINOR NEUTRAL OPERATIONS

Provided a Minor Neutral is not conquered the turn of invasion, the player running that country has few options. The ground units must delay the invasion, and the German construction of fewer subs and more interceptors, thus reducing Allied BRP losses to subs.

Finally, many players ask why Britain shouldn't suffer a 5-factor fleet loss when BRPs are lost to SW. I believe this is due to the fact that these fleets represent capital ships (carriers, battleships, cruisers) unsuited to the task of hunting U-boats. The air unit, on the other hand, represents fighters and light bombers easily converted to attacking heavy bombers.

Strategic Warfare is not the sideshow many players treat it as. It is an integral part of any plan for victory, or avoiding defeat. If used wisely, it can provide unexpected opportunities. If not used, it can snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.
to eliminate one fleet factor each. If inverted air is in range, even that can be attacked. The air DRM would be 1; a -2 Nationality DRM, and a +1 factor advantage (Rule 28.434, defender has zero factors and no Nationality DRM).

Yugoslavia and Greece are two other excellent countries to consider. If attacked by Italy, they have no fleet in ports in Naples, Taranto, Brindisi, and Durazzo. The Italian fleet is very likely to be in one of these ports. If one factor is eliminated, SRs to Africa are cut to three, until the allowable fleet build is built. Those 27 BRPs for that fleet are a heavy expenditure for Italy.

Minor Neutrals normally take Attritions if they survive the turn of invasion, but don’t always need to. Especially if the invader can be made to pay indirectly.

5. MINOR NEUTRAL TURNS

This short item notes one interesting fact. An attacked, but not yet conquered, Minor Neutral, can get two turns in a row before the attacker gets second crack—or get no turn at all. How? Look at the Sequence of Play (Rule 55.II.D.5) and Rule 12.26.

After the player declares his options, but before movement, the Minor gets his turn. If the current controlling player has engineered a turn flip-flop, the Minor, according to the rules, gets to go again... before the attacker! Thus, the attacker could suffer the effects of up to four attrition or offensive rounds in one shot before being able to react, two from the Minor(s), two from his opponent. Thus, Germany should think twice before attacking Denmark and Holland, and Italy likewise with regard to Yugoslavia and Greece.

For the sentence of Rule 22.7. After the player attacking the Minor finishes his turn, restrictions on the Minor’s forces operating against the attacker are lifted. The Minor can then attack enemy naval or air forces which weren’t involved in attacks on it. This is a powerful tool for a surviving Minor to use as noted above—more so when no major power intervenes, as its offenses are free.

Of course, the opposite of the above is true. If the attacker takes the flip-flop, the Minor won’t get to react. This could allow an Italian Winter-Spring conquest of Yugoslavia and Greece, for instance. Remember, to help strain SR rates involves the use of Partisans. If a Nazi-captured capital is open, build the third hex out. Again, increasing the depth of the Allied lodgement.

The Greek and Yugoslav partisans are very useful in the 1944-45 period to help take and control their capitals with Allied help. The Allies take the capital using the Allied unit and a partisan, occupying it with them both. Then the big Allied unit SRs out and a one replacement is SR’d in. Though the attack is slow, it is careful employing them. They can’t be built two turns in a row. If eliminated the turn of construction, the Axis knows there is a turn-and-a-half grace before they pop up again.

7. THE WAR OF ATTRITION

For the player on the defensive, this is a most important topic. If the attacker is outside his home country and losses run higher than his SR rate, the attack will weaken. If unit loss isn’t high, then the attack will strengthen. This is true no matter the distance.

Consider the following. Germany is attacking Russia. The total Axis losses are less than nine units (assume no Italians involved). The German can SR enough east to make up for losses (and then some), so his attack gets stronger. Or, a second example, Germany loses eleven units. Nine are SR’d east, resulting in a deficit of two. If this continues two more turns, the deficit is now up to six units. Thus, the attack is slowed but not stopped, especially if several of the lost units are armor.

As an aside, note that it is easy to focus on Germany, as that country attacks most in the 1939-43 period. We could just as easily look at the U.S., for its Initial Deployment limit of six units per turn makes it extremely vulnerable to such attrition. Play of Axis Variant #6 can cut this slender rate to five, crimping the Western Allied offensives in 1944.

The defender can help speed the rate of attrition in his turn by actively trying to drive the attacker beyond his SR rate. To continue the example given above, Germany loses eleven units in Russia, six in east. Russia eliminates four more units. In his next turn, the German is down by six units, over and above any losses in his current turn. Thus, even when on the Strategic Defensive, a limited “Tactical Offensive” can yield results with care. Remember, to help strain SR rates involves the use of Partisans. If a Nazi-captured capital is open, build them there. The Axis must then call an offensive to clear the capital, or lose the BRPs. If done in France, units may have to come off the beaches, making Allied amphibious assaults easier. If losses occur on other fronts, something must eventually give.

If one side combine SR rates, so that one country’s losses can be made up by the other’s units/SRs, the total unit loss rate for both countries must go up. Cooperation from allies is essential in other theaters to spread the SR rates around. For example, Germany will lose in Russia with low grade Italian units, efforts must be made in Africa to divert Italian units from where they belong, to ease Russia’s defense problems. If either side can keep the war of attrition going long enough, and can afford it, then that side should have the initiative in the game for some time.

8. VOLUNTARY ELIMINATION OF UNITS

This feature is a sometimes useful tactic to “save” units which are encircled. Before moving, one simply removes units from the map. These units so removed are eligible to be rebuilt the following game turn.

The best time to use this tactic is when an encirclement has been partially broken, but can be reestablished in the opponent’s next game turn. Any units you believe won’t be needed there (like a second defensive line) and that can’t be gotten out by SR are voluntarily eliminated. Now attack to reopen the pocket, bring out any remaining units by SR. It is possible to build armor units in the pocket to recreate the first defensive line and seal the front, forcing the exploiting unit to “attack back” to reopen their supply lines. The second defensive line would be trapped and useless, so voluntarily eliminate your units to allow an easier welcome to the BRPs you are still playing. This is a basic strategy in the final Allied turn to reestablish a new front line just as an original is destroyed. You can buy some time at the expense of a few units.

The important thing is, one need not wait until the end of one’s turn to eliminate out-of-supply units. If the opponent doesn’t put them out of supply immediately, but instead protects their break-through units, it brings immediate, voluntary elimination of units may cause him to close up either an empty pocket, or one smaller than expected.

9. ITALIAN PLAY WITH VARIANT #9

This variant gives Italy a lot of flexibility in opening play. Italy isn’t “forced into a war against Yugoslavia”, yet has available extra armor and infantry units. This greatly increases Italy’s options in 1939.

The first option is the “traditional” attack on Yugoslavia with the attrition-offensive rounds in 1939. Then Variant #9 is played in the 1940 Year Start Sequence, giving Italy 125 BRPs. The extra troops can help build a new front, or bring in troops going to Libya and the border with France. This course in 1939 may make the Allies believe you don’t have this variant, allowing you to play it. Do keep five BRPs for counter-intelligence, so your variant isn’t nullified before you can play it.

The second option is the same as the first, except Italy takes offensives in both 1939 turns. Try to destroy one or two Yugoslav units and the air on the first turn, build 12 BRPs of ground units and finish Yugoslavia off in the Winter. Variant #9 is still played in the 1940 YSS and a DOW on the Allies in the Summer. The big difference here is Italy has fewer BRPs in 1940.

Option 3 is to DOW the Allies in 1939 and play the variant in 1940. Be certain to build the fleet and expensive ground units in the Fall ‘39 turn and DOW in the Winter. Otherwise, you may face an Allied flip-flop in 1939 and Rome could fall before anything could be done. Always defend the homeland.

The final option is to play the variant in 1939, preferably during the Opening Setup. This increases, per the rules, the amount of BRPs Italy can spend in ‘39 to 50. If played at the start of the turn, Italy can only spend 37 BRPs. Once the extra ground units are built, Italy can join Germany in an offensive in the Winter. The drawback to this idea is the Allies are warned that you are coming in early, and they could launch a pre-emptive strike. Always have enough units in Italy proper to defend against this.

Of these options, I consider the last to be the least effective. This is because the 25 BRPs are not put to best use when needed most. Too, Italian intentions are telegraphed, which is one thing you shouldn’t do. Keep your plans secret as long as possible, it increases flexibility. When the time is ripe, reveal your variant and move into action.

An Italian Variant #9 has been opened in the opening, and provides the muscle you need to expand where you want to. It also provides extra defensive power to last longer, and a headache to the Allies when they face two armor units they didn’t expect.

10. RUSSIAN VARIANTS

The variants that affect Russia can be a great boon to offensive hopes and defensive neck-saving. They are three in number—two are obvious, one not so obvious.

The first variant is #9. Russia can use the extra
50 BRPs in 1942 for its allowable builds (especially if played in the YSS), or in 1943 or 1944 to guarantee affording an extra offensive if taking two the same turn (in the Mediterranean and West to conquer Hungary and Rumania, for example). Thirty BRPs in one turn normally takes a big bite out of Russia’s yearly BRP allotment; now it is less of a problem.

The second Russian variant is #10. It can be a life saver for Russia or a crippling blow to Germany. For example, Germany declares war on Russia in the Fall 1940 turn to get the Russian Winter out of the way in 1940. He then looks forward to four seasons of campaigning beginning in 1941. Variant #10 is played and Russia’s hide is saved. No German units can enter offensively, and a first Russian offensive is needless. Or, play the variant in ‘42 or ‘43 and you get a “flip-flop” over the Winter-Spring period even if moving first due to BRP initiative, since Germany cannot take an offensive that Winter turn. This can be very damaging to Germany’s plans. This variant is not so treacherous if the Allies hold it. Russia knows Turkey will stay neutral and with the Caucasian flank is secure there is no need to guard it. Else, the Intelligence Table must be used to nullify the variant if the Axis hold it. If this isn’t possible, Russia and Britain should combine for a joint conquest of Turkey before it acts defensively. The BRPs should be split and Istanbul (an objective) goes to Britain. Both Allies will benefit, and the defense of Turkey is shared, easing the drain on Russian units.

11. DEALING WITH VICHY FRANCE

Once France has been conquered, a potential Axis minor ally is created. It is about the size of Rumania, and has forces comparable to those of Spain or Turkey. It is Vichy France—a boon to the Axis if activated and a headache for the Allies until deactivated.

The Axis view is simple: they want Vichy activated. Should Germany roll a six on the Activation Table (hereafter the AT) or play Variant #3, it gets extra troops (one 2-2 infantry, one 3-3 infantry) for the Eastern Front and to British as well as to the Mediterranean. Therefore, the German player should consider spending the five BRPs needed for an activation attempt. However, the more BRPs spent for Vichy, the fewer units built for the eastern campaign. The AT should be split among Vichy and the Balkans (as an objective) goes to Britain. All Allies will benefit, and the defense of Turkey is shared, easing the drain on Russian units.

This alternative military option is the most difficult, since Germany has a chance to recapture Paris and prevent Vichy’s elimination. Often, Paris is retaken by Germany, but lost permanently on the next turn.

12. OPENING PLAY AS GERMANY

In a few of the games I’ve seen in The Blitzard’s Breath, Germany makes a deal with the Russian player to conquer Finland or Rumania, allowing the Russian to take them and continue with gobbling Bulgaria and Hungary, even sacrificing Yugoslavia and Greece for peace in the East. I consider this to be a disasterous mistake.

Germany has lost extra troops desperately needed, the very valuable Finnish Front, BRPs, and is now surrounded on three sides (Poland, Rumania, and the Balkan fronts) with hostile forces. If perfidious Russia attacks in the Summer of ’42 and April BRPs in the West supported by U.S. BRPs, Germany will likely fall, since it no longer has territory to fall back on.

13. EAST FRONT GARRISON

Germany must maintain an East Front garrison (EGF) of 20 combat factors of ground and/or air units. If these factors aren’t there, Russia may DOW Germany at any point. When playing THIRD REICH in a gaming magazine, or one being GM’d (i.e., when a third party makes the die rolls which aren’t announced until later), always plan for the worst when fighting the Polish Army. Expect an exchange (one your attachment of your EGF if any part of it is involved in any attacks.

The ideal EGF is one 3-3 infantry in Finland and six more in East Prussia (Poland for 21 combat factors). Plan to build up to this lower limit if any of these units are involved in any attacks and exchanges are equal to occur. A note to Rumania, with the exception of Bessarabia, is entirely within the Mediterranean Front. Any units here don’t count towards the EGF.

The only time they might is if Russia doesn’t take the Pact area, allowing the Axis to station units in Bessarabia. Don’t count on it.

14. BRITISH MEDITERRANEAN NAVAL POLICY

After the fall of France, and barring play of Variant #3 by either side, Britain is in a precarious position in the Mediterranean. Once the Axis build their available fleets, they achieve parity with Britain on the high seas until the U.S. arrives. If Britain keeps four fleets in England for anti-invasion and SR work, Italy and England are equal in the number of fleets in the Mediterranean, However, the situation there isn’t as bad as it might seem. British fleets can intercept any offensive mission or base change, and expect to win or draw every battle. The key is Rule 29.5712 (Nationality DRMs). Britain’s is +1, Italy’s is -1. This means the modified die roll for an equal number of fleets or factors is two to seven for Britain, zero to five for Italy. Thus, on average, Britain should win most battles fought. The loser suffers a loss equal to the die roll difference, multiplied by the number of complete nine factor fleets in the battle, the winner loses half. One (or a factor) Axis SB in Africa is cut. Even if Britain loses, it loses fewer factors on the worst die roll than if it wins. The incentive for the Royal Navy to fight is there.

Even with three fleets to five, Britain can draw or win. Referring to the Ratio Advantage Charts (RAT), Italy has less than 1.67 to one, enough for a plus two (+2) DRM. With the Nationality DRM of -1, this yields a total DRM of +1, equal to Britain’s Nationality DRM alone!

Sometimes the British player should forego interception—if, for example, he is planning a big offensive in Egypt and the Middle East. Britain should conserve SRs for the Mediterranean. Remember, SRs can go around the Cape (37.3), so the fleets in the Mediterranean are always free for action.

15. GERMAN BALTIC NAVAL OPTIONS

Germany’s fleet should confine itself to two areas until “Overlord” is to be launched (unless you contemplate “Three Lions” are the Murmansk Box and the Baltic Sea. Control of the Baltic Sea gives the German Navy a marked advantage. First, the Nationality DRM is +3 in Germany’s favor (Russian’s DRM is -1, Germany’s is +2). Second, the Russian fleet is usually divided between the Baltic and Black Seas. Germany can often get a Ratio Advantage DRM in addition to the Nationality DRM.

Since Russia is neutral until Fall 1941 at the latest, Germany should take advantage and use an amphibious assault of D35 in conjunction with a paratroop assault on Norway in 1939 or 1940. If the Allies give the Axis a flip-flop, just inside D35 on the first turn and use air to aid the infantry in capturing Oslo next turn. Once Norway (Bergen) is taken, the Murmansk Box is available for the fleet to interdict convoys.

When the East Front action starts, the Baltic should play the scene of action for the Kreigsmarine. If three fleets are available, they can carry two carrier units to land at Parnu, outflanking any Russian triple rank defense, and speeding the conquest of the Baltic States. The fleets can also provide needed combat factors in shore bombardment when Leningrad is assaulted. Even if the Russian fleet intercepts, the German Nationality DRM and a probable Ratio Advantage DRM should guarantee victory.

After these operations, until Overlord is launched, only use the fleets in the Baltic for Sea Transport. Murmansk should be totally closed down with capture of Leningrad/Volgada, allowing the German fleet complete freedom of action in the Baltic.

16. RUSSIAN BALTIC NAVAL OPTIONS

After Germany (or Russia) declares war, all restrictions of Rule 21.54 are lifted. Depending on Germany’s BRP situation and her garrison effort of conquered countries, there a few things Russia can do to get in Germany’s hair and force a wastage of BRPs by the Axis.

In several games I’ve seen, Russia puts two, sometimes even all three, fleets in the Baltic. This opens the possibility of costing Germany time in the Baltic with BRPs. Many places in the Baltic aren’t garrisoned, as Britain can’t reach them. A Russian fleet, however, can. Take a West Front offensive option, and Denmark, Norway and the K30 are vulnerable
to the Soviet. Using units in Parno or Leningrad, he can invade Copenhagen. D35 in Norway or K20 in Germany itself, and place a BH. In fact, in taking Copenhagen, the units are in supply (from Copenhagen itself) and Germany loses ten BRPs if not retaken.

Norway and K30 are much the same story. Norway has not only offers to place all BRPs, but an objective hex (Olso) as well. Even the possibility of the end of interference with Murmansk Convoys arises. Hex K30, with a flip-flop, offers the chance of capturing Berlin before the Axis can react. These tricks can burn an Axis player once, and are a unique chance to force the Axis to waste resources to recover or prevent the loss of territory and/or BRPs they should be in a position to lose.

17. RUSSIAN OPTIONS IN THE BLACK SEA

Depending on the distribution of the Russian Navy after opening placement, either none, some, or very good naval options are available in the Black Sea. If no fleets are allocated, then the only effort will be in the Baltic. The other allocations (one, two, or three fleets in the Black Sea) are discussed below.

One fleet gives Russia a very limited offensive capability. At best, only one 4-5 armor unit can be Sea Transported, or three ground factors used in amphibious assaults (two units in a 1-3 and 2-3 infantry are untransported when the fleet is tied up supplying those units until a land supply route is opened.

Two or three fleets are very good. Two is best, since some naval presence in the Baltic is desirable. With this choice, amphibious invasions can be supplied and reinforced. If the Axis go through the Crimea to get to Moldau, any landing at 14-6 can take those Axis units out of supply, and even aid in retaking Sevastopol. Even better than this is a strike in Rumania. It has a beach hex close to Bucharest. In invade with a 3-5 armor unit and exploit with another, and a Minor Ally (complete with cannon fodder troops and BRPs) are lost to Germany. Next turn, Russia could capture Ploesti. If the British meet the other requirements of Rule 33, Turkey could well activate as a British Minor Ally.

Admittedly, once the action moves further westward, the Black Sea becomes a backwater. However, the fact that the Germans have no fleets here (barring play of Advance '42) makes it very attractive sea for most of the Red Fleet to operate in.

18. SEA LION

Sea Lion is a viable option—due to the changes in naval combat and losses. Germany's Nationality DRM is +2, Britain's is +1. If four British intercept three German, the combat DRMs are +2 each, even after Ratio Advantage DRMs are factored in. Only if the Gibraltar fleets intercept is Germany at a disadvantage, and that only happens 50% of the time.

Three fleets can carry two panzer units with three naval factors to give one Short Bombardment factor. If successful, a BH is placed on hex J25, a para drop on K25 during exploitation could give Germany a port to SR into protected by a BH. Sea Transport is also safer then. Ideally, all four fleets should be used, but three are enough. If all four are available, there are three methods of getting the army, to shore to consider.

First, have three fleets carry two armor (as above) and one carry an infantry unit. With two targets, only one is catchable, unless there is one target hex or Britain bases the home fleets into more than one port. The second method is to split the fleet into two units apace. One task force carries an armor unit and the other carries either another armor unit or two infantry units. As above, there are two separate fleets to intercept, making things tougher on Britain. The last method is to group all four fleets together to carry two armor, two infantry, or one of each. It can be intercepted by British fleets in one home port, but the +2 Nationality DRM is hard to beat.

When should Sea Lion be launched? Possibly on the turn after the fall of France. If France is still alive in the Fall '40 turn, try then. Britain may have some units in Egypt, and Egypt, its home guard could be weak. Expect Britain to intercept, but don't worry, the naval losses hurt Britain more than Germany at this point. And Sea Lion shouldn't interfere with Barbarossa. The chances of a successful Sea Lion are better than ever these days.

19. OPERATION TORCH

The beginning of the Allied counter-offensive is difficult to plan for many players. The two most important questions are when and where to hurt. North Africa seems a good place to start because of the Italian early surrender rules and the need to protect Suez/Alexandria.

Why “Torch”? The Axis might fight on two fronts in Africa and are chased out more quickly, thus meeting one of the Italian surrender conditions. French North Africa and Libya give the Allies 20 BRPs when controlled, but this is a relatively minor consideration. A third reason is the capture of Tripoli, an objective hex.

Torch will require close coordination of forces in the Mediterranean and in Britain, because two of the French colonies, Algeria and Morocco, must be assaulted together to prevent an Axis counterattack from ruining the operation. If the Axis recapture any cities taken by the Allies, the Allied invasion plan and timetable must be changed.

Generally, armored units will be needed to capture the two Moroccan cities, along with Algiers and Oran. Four armor units plus two infantry are the optimum force (and are likely all that will be available), split between U.S. and British units. Basing in Gibraltar and Britain, more targets are presented to the Axis than they may be able to handle. An extra British infantry unit can come from the Malta garrison, if needed. Extra fleets beyond those used in the operation will be needed in Egypt and Gibraltar for supply, interception, and SR duties.

Allied units assault Casablanca and exploit through Fez, the other Moroccan city. Another armored unit should invade CC11, and a fourth exploit through Algiers, while the infantry (perhaps from Malta) land at Oran. This will give the Allies control of all Moroccan cities (opening a land line to Oran next turn) and two of the three cities in Algeria. If the Allies are adventurous, they can station an airborne unit in Malta and draft it on Tunis/BIZERIA if unoccupied, causing considerable problems for the Axis.

When should this offensive be launched? If North Africa is Vichy and Vichy hasn't deactivated, it's better to wait for success on a deactivation attempt. This may mean Fall '42 in most cases. If the area is Free French, the Allies can land at Oran unless the Axis have conquered the area. In that case, an invasion in the Summer or Fall '42 as outlined above can be done. American forces will be needed, so wait until substantial U.S. forces are in Britain. This, again, means the Summer '42 turn at the earliest.

20. OVERLORD IN ‘43

This operation is the most important the Western Allies will ever undertake. It is the beginning of the end of the Axis role in Europe, and the start of Operation Overlord, a necessary objective hexes for a British/U.S. Defensive Victory.

There are three tactical objectives. First is getting a descent BH of two connected hexes. Second is getting a port, either protected by a BH, or one that is the BH. This is needed for Sea Transport and SR purposes. Third is to secure a hex or two hexes to protect the BH. The most important is securing the BH, with which this passage will conclude itself.

In most cases, the Axis will have units worth four to six factors in each beach hex, for a total defensive value of 12 to 18 combat factors. For a 2:1 attack on a hex, a lot of shore bombardment and air power is needed, in addition to the two units allowed defeat. Considering the number of units for the attack and exploitation, seven to eighteen air factors will be added. Additional factors can be added to the total by use of partisans and airborne units, but these might be better used in other operations. Depending on the size of the invasion force, shore bombardment will vary from three factors to nine in most circumstances.

The number of units on each BH you want is important, and port hex stacking limitations must be considered here. Rules 6.1, 6.3 and 29.434 prevent the stacking of more than two units in a port hex used to embark the invasion force. Also, one must have the proper number of fleet factors to carry the invasion force. Generally, twelve nine-factor fleets will be enough to carry six armor units and two infantry. If only attacking one hex for the BH, use one infantry. To embargo the invasion force, four ports per BH are needed. If a more secure fleet against interception is desired, then a smaller invasion force from three ports, with four fleets per port can be used. The smaller invasion force will free three fleets to use for bombardment, adding nine combat factors to the initial assault. Adding eight ground forces (an American armored and a British infantry unit) plus seven air factors yields 24 factors. Against twelve defensive factors this is the required 2:1 attack. (To achieve a 2:1 against 18 DF, add twelve more air factors.) A supply fleet must be designated to supply the BH so exploitation can take place.

On exploitation, the armor in reserve comes ashore and goes inland one or two hexes. Some units might be able to be diverted to capture a port. The airborne and partisans can grab hexes adjacent to the BH, allowing the armor to exploit even further, perhaps right to Paris. Thus, in one offensive, a BH two and a half BRPs deep is established, and is reasonably secure against a counter-attack.

Overlord is best launched after Italy has fallen, spreading the available German troops out. It would make things a bit easier. Figure the Winter 1943 or Spring 1944. The extra time may be needed to get the necessary objective hexes for a victory. With any offensive action by Russia, Overlord should win through.

21. OVERLORD IN ‘44

Considering the economic situation, board position, forces available, and objective hexes required for victory, a very good case can be made for including France in 1943, rather than waiting for 1944. By minimizing the hexes deep is established, and the U.S.), the economic framework is created for a ‘43 Overlord. By accumulating the U.S. at Sturt forces in Britain, the power for invading France is generated. With Germany extended deep into Russia, the board situation is certainly favorable for such an operation. Not only does the economy of the British/U.S. team needs for victory dictates as early a return to the continent as possible.

First, let’s consider forces. The American player has, with his At Sturt forces alone, the capability to get a sizable army into Britain in 1942. Ten of 100 armored, two infantry, and four fleets is the initial deployments. Even with one 20-BRP Murmansk convoy each turn, this army can be in Britain by Winter ‘42, ready for offensive action. If one armor unit and the airborne are also built and
Economically, 1943 is a good year to invade also. The British, with any decent growth from the 1941 through 1943 YSS periods, should have between 150 to 180 BRPs. The U.S. will have over 500 BRPs. The U.S. can maintain this force, even accounting for SW losses, by sending 60 BRPs to Russia, building one armor and the airborne unit, nine SW, the DOW on the Axis, and one offensive in 1942. This would leave up to 114 BRPs for growth, adding between 40 to 60 BRPs to the U.S. base. This is plenty of economic strength for invading France plus building more armor, air and fleets.

In liberating France and Belgium in 1943, Germany loses 57 BRPs desperately needed in the fight in Russia.

Board position is equally important. There are three aspects to consider one Allied, two Axis. The Allies, with large forces of infantry and armor, can easily be ashore for good, even capturing a port. Sea Transport in following turns can increase Allied forces in Europe quicker than one might expect. So an "Overlord" seizing two or three beaches, plus airborne drops to secure adjacent hexes inland could bring breakout before the Axis can hem the army in.

German board position and SR rates are also a prime consideration. With most of the German army committed to Russia in 1943, supporting Italy against early surrender, and with partisans to fight, the Atlantic Wall is likely to be weaker than in 1944, as an invasion isn't expected until then. There may only be one infantry unit on each beach, and no air or armor reserves. By maintaining the threat of knocking Italy out (using infantry, five to six fleets, and limited air support), the Axis SR rates can be strained. With any offensive operations by Russia, something somewhere has got to give. Nine German SRs won't go very far in the face of all this. Italy can't really help Germany here, as prevention of surrender is her primary concern from 1943 onwards.

But when in '43 should Overlord be launched? Considering everything outlined above, I feel Summer '43 at the earliest, and personally prefer the Fall turn. The armored needed may still be in North Africa in the Spring after Torch if one performs that operation in late 1942, and will need one turn to be positioned for the assault. Gibraltar is an excellent staging area for fleets and armor in the Mediterranean, and yet maintains the threat of Husky-Salerno, thus tying Axis forces in the theater. If there are still Axis units in North Africa, so much better, for there will be less enemy units to try to liberate France.

There you have it—a conglomerate of ideas for different countries at different times in the best strategic simulation of all time. As I said at the beginning of this article, some ideas are meant to provoke comment. Others are intended to serve as a basis for further development of plans and strategies. I hope they give you a broader outlook on this fascinating game's many faces.

For those fans of THIRD REICH, the Buzzard's Breath is the only 'zine devoted to the play of that game I am aware of. Sample games for analysis, dialogues by the readership on rules, variant rules, short pieces similar to the above, and lengthy articles on strategy enliven each issue. For current subscription rates, contact Mr. Matuschak (whose address is given above).
Most wargamers prefer the excitement of a living, breathing opponent the majority of the time. You may even be one of the lucky ones who have a list of possible opponents for every wargame in your closet. On the other hand, you may be one of many who live in a wargamer’s desert, a place where only a miserable few exist who can read rules and count odds.

Whether you are rich or poor in opponents, you probably have days when you cannot find or do not want an opponent. You may be looking for some privacy or a wish to relax without a stressful competition. Maybe everyone is avoiding you after your faux pas, or you could just feel anti-social for the day. Whatever the reason, most players have days when opponents are not available or desirable—but they still feel like wargaming. The natural solution to this problem is the solitaire game, and I have found the solitaire system for TITAN described in this article to be a decent substitute for warm-blooded opponents.

What did I just say? Didn’t I see the “AH Philosophy” column (Vol. 20, No. 5) of The GENERAL which carried the comment, “Fantasy games . . . are very hard to solitaire satisfactorily; besides, who would care to?” Did I not notice that TITAN was rated 58th out of 66 games for solitaire play with a dismal 7.49 rating? I did, and it warrants a brief discussion.

First, the solitaire rating was thought to work on the fact that most players played solitaire to study historical possibilities or to create the “perfect plan”. If this is true, TITAN would naturally be rated poorly, because it is certainly not historical and it is not suited for “perfect plans”. But a host of challenges arise from this thought. The solitaire rating was never conducted each turn; and the Shadowtitan may never “borrow” Legion counters from one army to another.

PLAYER’S LEGIONS

The player operates his legions normally, with the following exceptions:

1. The player may place his counters face-up, since no-one exists to peek at them.
2. Contrary to Rule 4.3 of the TITAN rulebook, newly split legions may contain only one creature if desired.

SHADOWTITAN’S LEGIONS

The Shadowtitan operates his legions normally, with the following exceptions:

1. All Shadowtitan forces are placed face-up, and can be inspected at any time by the player.
2. A Shadowtitan Legion will never split before it has seven characters.
3. Once a Legion has seven characters, roll one die for it just before the Legion’s Movement Phase. The number rolled is that Legion’s Assumed Movement Range. This Assumed Movement Range acts as a test movement roll; if the Legion can engage a player’s legion by normal movement within the range given by the rolled number, it will split this turn. The Assumed Movement Range roll is conducted each turn until the Legion splits.

Example: A seven-character Shadowtitan Legion is in hex 122. The player has a Legion in hex 23. Because the player’s Legion is five hexes away on a route usable by the Shadowtitan Legion, the Shadowtitan legion will only split if it rolls a “1-4” on the Assumed Movement Range roll.

4. If the Legion does split, it will split in the following way:
   A. If the Legion has no Titan, it will split four-three (four into one Legion and three into...
the other). The player may divide this as he wishes, with one restriction—he may not split up same characters (i.e., take two Gargoyles and put one into each Legion). However, this applies only to characters which must not include larger characters; “dead-end” characters like Rangers and Hydra, or characters which must not higher because no higher creatures are left in the character's stacks, that can be split up. A list of dead-end characters is given in the play-assist notes following.

Exception: Sometimes, though play, an unnecessary number of the same characters will be in the same Legion. In this case, the player may split them off the unnecessary one. This exception never applies to dead-end characters.

B. If the Legion has a Titan, it will split five-two—with the Titan taking the four characters with him that are highest on the following list:

Titan Legion Split List
1. Colossus
2. Serpent
3. Hydra
4. Giant
5. Dragon
6. Colonel
7. Wyvern
8. Griffin
9. Unicorn
10. Warbear
11. Minotaur
12. Warlock
13. Guardian
14. Cyclops
15. Troll
16. Lion
17. Gorgon
18. Ranger
19. Centaur
20. Ogre
21. Gargoyle

Exception: Sometimes a Titan legion must split four-three because the characters lowest on the list are in a group of three, and are not dead-end characters. This applies, for instance, to three Centaurs, Ogres, Cyclops, Trolls and Lions.

Example: If only one character lowest on the list is in the Legion, and the lowest next characters are an unsplittable group, the low character is paired with a dead-end character. No dead-end character exists, the Legion will split six-one.

Examples of exceptional splits: In a Legion consisting of a Titan, Guardian, two Griffons, three Lions, the Lions split off to make a four-three split. In a Legion consisting of a Titan, Wyvern, Hydra, three Trolls, Ogre, the Ogre splits off with dead-end Hydra because Trolls must stay together. In a Legion consisting of a Titan, two Griffons, three Lions, Warbear, Centaur, the Centaur splits off alone because Lions must stay together.

5. Important: A Legion made purely of dead-end characters will never split until it somehow acquires a non-dead-end character.

PLAYER'S MOVEMENT PHASE

The player conducts his Game Turn first. His movement procedure is as usual except for one change. Instead of getting a “First Move Mulligan”, the player receives three movement re-rolls which he can use at any time during the game. He may use any number of the re-rolls on any single turn.

SHADOWTITAN'S GAME TURN

The Shadowtitan has two separate Game Turns, one for each army. The first army moves, conducts combat and musters, then the second army takes its turn as if it were a different player. However, the Legions of one army may freely pass over Legions of the other army during movement; they never fight each other.

This two-army system allows the Shadowtitan forces to attack a player's Legion twice before it moves, but it can also cause “traffic jams” between the two armies when the non-moving army is on a hex where a moving Legion would like to go.

SHADOWTITAN LEGION MOVEMENT

Shadowtitan movement is conducted normally, with three changes:

1. The Shadowtitan has no “First Move Mulligan”.
2. The Shadowtitan Legions never use either Titan or Tower Teleportation.
3. The Shadowtitan is not required to move at least one Legion.

The player may move the Shadowtitan’s Legions in any order, but he should do it quickly, without studying the situation; if one Legion blocks the move of another, he must attempt to move the blocking one first. The player moves the Shadowtitan Legions according to a set of priorities. To use the priorities listed below, first determine which of the three types of Legions the Legion being moved is classified as, then follow that Legion's priority list until the Legion's move has been narrowed down to one possibility. You will find that the lists are easily memorized after a little play experience.

The three types of Legions are shown below. Their listed order is important, because some Legions may qualify for more than one type. In this case, the Legion is of the type first listed.

1. Battle Legion—A Legion containing seven characters.
2. Colossus Legion—A Legion containing at least one Minotaur, Warbear, Giant, Dragon or Colossus. This Legion type ceases to exist once all Colossi are mustered from the stacks.
3. Standard Legion—Any Legion not falling under the above two categories.

Priority List for BATTLE LEGION

A. Attack: If the Legion can engage a player’s Legion, it will. If two or more Legions are attachable, it will attach the one with the most characters. If still tied, the player decides which one the Legion attacks by a die roll.
B. Pursue: If the Legion cannot attack, it will move to a position where it will closest to engaging a player’s Legion and within six hexes. Being “closest” does not mean mere proximity, but also requires the pursuing Legion to have a move route option to the player’s Legion. If the Legion can get equally close to two or more player’s Legions, the player decides which way it moves by a die roll.
C. Position: If the Legion cannot move so that it is within engagement range (six hexes) of a player’s Legion, it will move to a hex that gives it more move route options than it currently has. It will not move into a Tower.
D. If none of the conditions above are fulfillable, it will move if blocking another Legion’s move, but only if it does not lose move route options in the process.

Priority List for COLOSSUS LEGION

A. Circle Muster: A Legion adjacent to the center circle will enter the circle if it can land on a hex that will give it a Minotaur, Warbear or better. If the Colossus Legion can do this by either an unopposed move or by engaging a player’s Legion, it will engage if the player’s Legion has less characters; otherwise, it will move to the unopposed hex. A Colossus Legion which does not move for any reason will not move from its hex adjacent to the center, and no further priorities are consulted. If one must because of stacking, the Legion containing the least number of characters will move out of the hex if it can.
B. Circle Move: If a Colossus Legion is not adjacent to the center circle, but can move there, it will. If it must attack a player’s Legion to do so, it will only if the player’s Legion has less characters.
C. Change List: If neither A or B is possible, revert to the Standard Legion list below.
Ranger strikers will not engage, but will find places until they will not enter bramble or snow drifts (unless native). He plays the Shadowtitan's characters to the best ways:

It will settle for lower priorities. If a Standard Legion moves into a Tower and is eligible to muster only the three Tower creatures, the player decides which creature type is mustered.

Position: The Legion will move to a hex that gives it more move route options than it currently has.

D. Clear: If another Legion has a priority to move to the hex occupied by the Standard Legion, the Legion will move clear only if it does not lose move route options in the process.

Stacking: A Standard Legion will move to unstack if possible. If none of the conditions above are fulfillable, the Legion will not move.

Important: If a Legion is blocked from its best priority by a friendly Legion that will not move, it will settle for lower priorities.

**CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENT**

The player conducts his own characters normally. He may run the Shadowtitan's forces in one of two ways:

Option 1: Play-off

The player runs both sides as if they were his own. He plays the Shadowtitan's characters to the best of his ability; this is not difficult to do in TITAN if you just use common sense.

Option 2: Mindless Rush

For this option, the number of hits required to kill a Shadowtitan character (except Titans) is increased by 50%, rounded down (i.e., a Centaur would take three hits instead of three). After all, zombie creatures are tough to put out of action. Realize that this does not increase their number of attack dice, just their endurance.

When moving, the Shadowtitan forces will move as fast as possible towards the player's forces, but will not enter bramble or snow drifts (unless native) until all other hexes adjacent to enemies are taken. Ranger strikers will not engage, but will find places to strike from. Shadowtitan characters will always strike at wounded characters if possible, or gang up on one character.

The Shadowtitan's Titan will not attack until all of his forces are dead. Shadowtitan forces defending in a Tower will not leave the Tower unless attacked by more than two Ranger strikers. The Titan will always be placed on the center hex of the Tower.

**RESULTS OF ENGAGEMENT**

The player musters and scores points for a victory like normal. The Shadowtitan does something quite different. He scores no points for a victory but rather, after he gets his normal reinforcement or mustering, he takes all player characters killed in the battle and adds as many as can fit into his victorious Legion. He cannot take his own killed characters. He takes the characters highest on the Titan Split List first.

The Shadowtitan may not take Lords or Demilords; they are immune to the Shadowtitan's power. If the player leaves characters out of a battle and loses, the Shadowtitan may take these. If the player opts to flee, the Shadowtitan may only take one of the fleeing creatures. He has the full ability in any time-loss victories.

**SCORING AND TITANS**

Scoring is normal for the players, but the Titan's maximum strength is 15. Angels are still received for every 100 points. The Shadowtitan never scores points, and therefore never receives Angels.

The Shadowtitan has four Titans, two for each army. An army will surrender only when both of its commanding Titans are killed. Each Shadowtitan Titan starts at a certain point level and will not change throughout the scenario.

**SCENARIO ONE: Nibbling at the Edges**

First priority for your hunted army is to stay alive, and striking back seems to be the way to alleviate pressure. You decide to cut some fingers of the Shadowtitan's groaning hands.

Player's Forces: Normal setup in Tower 500

Shadowtitan: Army #1 in Tower 300—Two Legions, each having:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titan</th>
<th>(begins 8-4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ogre</td>
<td>Gargoyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army #2 in Tower 100—same as Army #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCENARIO TWO: The Tempering**

Sensing the danger you represent, the Shadowtitan throws mainline armies against your small but annoying army. You offer battle.

Player's Forces: Normal setup in Tower 500

Angel, Guardian in Tower 600

Shadowtitan: Army #1 in Tower 300—Two Legions, each having:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titan</th>
<th>(begins 10-4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyclops</td>
<td>Troll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>Army #2 in Tower 100—same as Army #1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCENARIO THREE: The Melting Point**

After several unprecedented victories, your allies send in ample assistance, and you suddenly find yourself on the offensive. You decide to send a large army to harass the enemy forces buildings. Three suns later, the remnants come back, shattered and disorganized, pursued by the Shadowtitan's Legions. You have no option but to try an inadequate stand against them. Any error is fatal.

Player's Forces: Normal setup in Tower 500

Lion in Tower 600

Troll in Tower 400

Shadowtitan: Army #1 in Tower 300—Two Legions both having:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titan</th>
<th>(begins 12-4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warbear</td>
<td>Griffon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behemoth</td>
<td>Army #2 in Tower 100—same as Army #1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCENARIO FOUR: A War of Absolutes**

The destruction of the enemy armies opens a route which reaches to the gates of the Shadowtitan's fortress. After regaining strength, you prepare for the final assault. But the Shadowtitan is not staying passive. His personal power continues to grow, and you realize that as soon as the allies will not need armies to conquer. Your attack must be premature; you just hope it is premature enough.

Player's Forces: Normal setup in Tower 500

Angel, Warlock in Tower 600

Angel, Guardian in Tower 400
Shadowtitan: Army #1 in Tower 300—Two Legions, both having:

Titan (begins 10-4)
Troll
Lion
Cyclops

Army #2 in Tower 100=same as Army #1
Shadowtitan Legion in Tower 200 (flip face-down for identification):

Titan (begins 15-4)
Ranger
Gorgon
Unicorn
Serpent
Hydra
Colossus

Special Rules for Scenario Four:
1. The Shadowtitan Legion never moves. Shadowtitan army units may move over it normally. When attacked, the Shadowtitan is always placed in the center tower hex and moves only if attacked by two or more Warlocks. If the Shadowtitan is killed, the game is over.
2. Contrary to Rule 19.4, the player receives Angels for the half points when an army is destroyed and disbanded; he may place these Angels in any Legion.
3. If the player can destroy one army before Turn 12, he may add two Angels to any of his Legions. If he can destroy both armies by Turn 20, he may add another three Angels anywhere.
4. The player must not only destroy the Shadowtitan, but also do it as soon as possible. For this reason, the player must keep track of the turns played. The player’s level of victory depends on how many turns it takes to kill the Shadowtitan:

TURNS
35 or under Complete victory. The Shadowtitan never knew what hit him.
36-40 Victory. The Shadowtitan is killed before he causes substantial chaos.
41-45 Nick of Time. The Shadowtitan is killed minutes before he unleashes some very nasty powers.
46-50 Pyrrhic Victory. The Shadowtitan is killed, but not before half of the living creatures in your world are killed.
51+ Too late. End of story.

Your enjoyment of this solitaire system does not need to stop with these four scenarios. Feel free to devise your own scenarios: Shadowtitan II, Return of Shadowtitan, Revenge of Shadowtitan, Son of Shadowtitan, Shadowtitaness. A solitaire system is as enjoyable as you wish it to be and I hope that for whatever reason you play solitaire, you find this system to be a reasonable substitute for a living opponent.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE GENERAL

Readers will note that, to make space available for back cover advertising, the “Opponent's Wanted” feature has been moved into the body of the magazine. This move gave the editors the chance to at last set these ads in a larger typeface, hopefully easing the collective eye strain of potential opponents. It also gave us the opportunity to make the “Letters to the Editor” a “floating feature”, giving us the freedom to place it on a color-plate when deemed necessary (as in this issue). We hope that these lay-out changes meet with your approval.

REFITTING LUFTWAFFE

A Better LUFTWAFFE

By Michael Anchors

LUFTWAFFE is something of a phenomena in the Avalon Hill Game Company line. Introduced in 1971, the game always sold quite well. It ranked eighth on the last “All-Time Bestsellers” listing. As the GENERAL INDEX and Company History pointed out, the superb cover art and appealing title are major selling features. Nevertheless, the game ranks 52nd (fourth from the bottom) on the “Wargame RPG”. It has been widely cited as unrealistic (Seth Owens, “A Historian’s Guide to AH Wargames in Vol. 19, No. 6) and boring (Kenneth Erbery, “Tactical Level Luftwaaffe” in Vol. 18, No. 4).

LUFTWAFFE is thus widely owned, but seldom played or enjoyed.

That is too bad, because sleeping inside the box with the diving Messerschmidt is a potentially great game! Every component of the game, except the rules, is superb. In this article I have attempted to revise certain rules to create the exciting game the designer and developer were hoping to produce. Assume that all original rules are in effect, except as modified below:

A. No more than one German squadron (two aircraft factors) can land or take off from an airbase per turn. One squadron can take off, and another land, each turn at each airbase.
B. It takes one full turn to refuel. While the aircraft type if being refueled, its aircraft factors per quarter. This can be increased by one factor if being refueled, its airbase airbase.
C. Aircraft entering a hex to attack enemy aircraft end their movement in that hex. However, aircraft may pass through hexes containing enemy aircraft without attacking.
D. Bombers do not remain in their target hex after bombing, but continue movement to the limit of their factorlquarter.
E. German aircraft sharing a hex with enemy aircraft during the German Movement Phase are attacked by city AA fire.
F. Air combat is handled in a completely different manner than previously:
Step 1: At the beginning of combat in a hex, the German player opens fire on the opponent's aircraft into two groups—A and B. The US player then divides his escorting fighters into two groups-C and D. Groups may be reded for each combat turn.
Step 2: Groups A and C conduct combat against each other; losses are extracted separately. The planes in Group C are detached from close escort duty for the remainder of the quarter.
Step 3: Surviving aircraft in Group D can now attack Group B. Group B cannot return fire.
Step 4: Surviving aircraft of Group B now attack the bombers. Bomber defensive fire is directed at Group D only.

Note: The US player must name a target aircraft type, not just a target E rating. Consequently, he cannot selectively attack “school” units, if non-school units of the same type are in the hex.

H. During the US player turn, US fighters may only attack German fighters in the air that began the player turn in a hex with US aircraft.
I. American planes may strafe airfields only if the names of the bases and the I.D. of the strafing planes are pre-recorded on the Mission Sheet. Bombers may bomb bases only if the base I.D. number of the bomber unit is pre-recorded.
J. For AA fire and strafe attacks, one die is used to resolve combat. For air-to-air combat, two dice are used. The lower of the two dice is modified by the E rating difference and applied to the CRT.

The following rules apply to the Advanced game only:
K. Replacements: German replacements are amassed at a rate of one factor for every un-bombed aircraft factories. Each quarter in which the US player bombs the last target of one of the types listed below, German replacements for the next quarter (only) are cut in half (rounded down):
Ball Bearings
Chemicals
Steel
Oil
Rail Center
Transportation Center

The US replacement rate is a flat eight aircraft factors per quarter. This can be increased by one factor/quarter for each Shipping (i.e., U-boat) target bombed.
L. There are no RAF attacks.
M. Victory Conditions: Each turn the US player receives one victory point for each target-cities bombed in the present and all previous quarters. The US player wins whenever it becomes inevitable that he will accumulate 300 or more points by the end of the April 1945 quarter.
N. Players may use the original Advanced Game US and German OBs, recognizing that they represent a hypothetical situation in which the Fuehrer did not delay jet development. If the players desire a more historical game, don’t substitute jet units (starting in Jan 1944). However, for play balance, penalize the US player one victory point for each squadron of the 9th and 12th Air Forces he uses each turn. These aircraft are shown in red on the variant US OB card accompanying this article. Destroyed or partially destroyed squadrons from one’s own 9th or 12th Air Forces must be brought up to full strength before they can be returned to the hexes; hence, for each turn destroyed or damaged, also deduct one victory point from the American total.

Note: Destroyed or partially destroyed squadrons that you cannot immediately replace are shown in red on the variant US OB card accompanying this article. Destroyed or partially destroyed squadrons from the 9th and 12th Air Forces must be brought up to full strength before they can be returned to the hexes; hence, for each turn destroyed or damaged, also deduct one victory point from the American total.
Turn | Advanced Game
-----|---------------------
1    | Jan 43: B.17 3
2    | Apr 43: P.47 3
     | P.38 2
3    | Jul 43: B.17 3
     | P.26 4
4    | Oct 43: B.17 3
     | B.24 3
     | P.47 3
     | P.26 4
5    | Jan 44: B.17 3
     | B.24 3
     | P.47 3
     | P.47 3
6    | Apr 44: P.47 3
     | P.47 3
8    | Jul 44: B.17 3
     | B.24 3
     | B.24 3
     | B.25 4
9    | Jan 45: A.20 5
10   | Apr 45: A.26 5
     | P.38 2
11   | Apr 44: P.47 3
12   | P.47 3
13   | P.47 3
14   | Jul 44: P.51 4
     | P.51 4
     | A.20 5
15   | Oct 44: P.51 4
     | P.47 3
16   | Jan 45: P.39 0
     | P.47 3
17   | Oct 45: P.39 0
     | P.47 3
18   | Jan 45: A.26 5
19   | Apr 45: A.20 5
20   | P.38 2

Remove from Play one Unit of this type
A couple of years ago, I drafted an article on our new game B-17: QUEEN OF THE SKIES (Vol. 20, No. 6 of The GENERAL). It looked at the odds for various aspects of the game in a fairly straightforward manner. What I had not anticipated was the response from avid players of this unique solitaire game; even yet I get the occasional letter from a rueful wargamer detailing his tale of woe or saga of success. This game, played in that splendid isolation that allows one to forget disaster and wallow in the glory of an on-target mission away from the prying and critical eyes of an opponent, seems to be addictive. After all, what was the last game you played one thousand times?

Take the case of Mike Hagen (Santa Ana, California). He created a squadron to command, the 71st “Ghost” Squadron, and proceeded to launch it on three raids. This meant, quite simply, playing the game with the same destination for each plane of the squadron. In his first raid, on Rouen, some 40 bombers left their base in England (Mr. Hagen supplied full particulars for each of his raids). The average percentage of bombs on target was an incredible 39.8%, but in the process 13 bombers failed to return (seven from the high squadron alone). While claiming 59 enemy fighters downed, he also acknowledged crew losses of 94 KIA and 54 missing. In his squadron’s next mission, 15 bombers struck at Lorient; with only three lost, his bombers placed 31.4% of their drop on target and shot down 46 enemy planes. In the third raid of the Ghost Squadron, bad weather over the target (Hamm) and furious enemy activity saw a third of the 15-plane force go down . . . and every other bomber of his.

The 500-Plane Raid

Surely the most dedicated player of B-17 must be Robert Olinski (El Paso, Texas). By August 1984 he had recorded some 520 missions, and decided to pass along the results to us. His initial contact with me was a series of letters considering the percentages I quoted in the article “The Lonely Numbers” in Vol. 20, No. 6 of The GENERAL. The following statistics were gleaned from that correspondence. In flying 520 missions, he had used 74 bombers (of which two completed 25 missions and one was still in service). In the process, he had shot down 869 enemy fighters—446 109s, 240 190s and 183 110s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Damage*</th>
<th>Missions**</th>
<th>Bomb Run Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbeville</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Bremen</td>
<td>245</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11</td>
<td>20.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilhelmshaven</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*—The aggregate total of the “Bombing Accuracy” Table (6-7) results for all missions flown to the target city.
**—All flights to the target city are shown, including those in which the plane aborted or was shot down before making its bomb run.
The 1000-Plane Raid
By the time Mr. Olimski had completed 1000 missions, he had lost 157 (of 161, only four survived to be retired at the "magic 25") planes. The following outlines those losses, and the fate of the crewmen.

Lost in the Air:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Crew Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Tank Fire</td>
<td>4 (claim 1 planes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Engine Fire</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Engine Runway</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fuel Tank Fire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fuel Tank Explode</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Engine Fire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Engine Runway</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fuel Tank Explode</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Engine Fire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Engine Runway</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BIP in Port Wing | 1
BIP in Starboard Wing | 1
BIP in Tail | 1
Oxy Fire in Radio Room | 1
Oxy Fire in Bomb Bay | 1
Fuel Leakage (various) | 1
Three Engines Out | 1
Bombs Explode | 1
Fuel Tank Explode | 1
Fuel Tank Fire/Elec System | 1
Electrical System Out | 1

Wrecked upon Landing:

- Multiple Neg Modifiers | 3
- Pilot/CoPilot Dead | 4
- Starboard Landing Gear | 7
- Bombs Explode | 1
- Port Landing Gear | 2
- BIP in Radio Room | 1
- Crew Abandoned Over England | 2

Irreparably Damaged:

- BIP in Radio Room | 1
- BIP in Waist | 1

Crew Statistics:

- Total Crew: 1745
- Ace Status:
  - KIA—766
  - DOW—46
  - IH—241
  - Captured—520
  - LASS—159
  - Completed 25-13

lost few planes sustain severe damage. One B-17, the True Blue II, landed with a BIP in the radio room, five of the crew KIA and one seriously wounded (every other crewman had sustained a light wound).

It was obvious from the tenor of Mr. Hagin's letters that this was no mere game. He had built the "Ghost" squadron with his own imagination and wit, and suffered with it as it was sent out into the dice-ridden skies of B-17. In effect, he crafted a true campaign version for this solitary game. By allocating bombers to missions, allowing time for repairs of those damaged, keeping full duty rosters for his fictitious crewmen, and doing the best with what was available in the face of stiff odds, he simulated the concerns of the squadron commanders of the USAAF heavy bomber wing. In the process, he played the game through 70 missions.

Most players who were kind enough to write recounted the harrowing experiences of one bomber early in its 25-mission cycle. (In the original article, I made the comment that the first ten missions should prove to be a "milk run"; a great many players sought to enlighten me contrariwise.) Each had a favorite account to recite, and wrote with verve in detail the death ride. And each swore they'd be flying again before the day was out!

Like Rudy Ries (Williamsville, New York), he sent up the Martha My Dear to attack Lille. A fine approach, a perfect bomb run. But on the return flight she was bounced by three Me-109s and a Fw-190, which set the outboard port fuel tank afire. The Martha My Dear would fly no more. But that same evening Mr. Ries launched the Sextie Sadie, who was promptly shot to pieces over Antwerp by flak and three waves of enemy fighters. While still aboard has a disquieting effect on novices. Yet, for all that, these birds are tough planes and the odds of losing one to a single shot slim.

Of course, the explosion of the bomb load while still aboard has a disquieting effect on novices. Yet, for all that, these birds are tough planes and the odds of losing one to a single shot slim.

With no better luck. After a 30% bomb run, in a towering epic of the air (which saw the plane shot to pieces, the engine assume the controls after both the pilot and his plane had been seriously wounded, and the crashed plane crash at the end of the runway while attempting to land), the Devil's Dice crapped out. There are no "milk runs" in these skies after all.

Although most B-17s lost are chewed apart by bit (remember Eric Prasse of New Orleans and his letter detailing the destruction of his plane in Vol. 2), dismally; and being on the first flight or 25th flight equally provide no protection from those dreaded shots that can bring a bomber down in one fell swoop. "Walking Hits" and BIPs will always take their toll—like the loss on their first missions of Steve Gregg's (Oakland, California) Mission Impossible and John Ockleman's (Eugene, Oregon) Texas Male Train.

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ASSAULT ON A QUEEN

Cellular Destruction in SST

By Wesley L. Doody

STARSHIP TROOPERS, to the distain of many wargaming purists, was Avalon Hill's first major step into the science fiction/fantasy realm—and a successful one at that. Unlike the then traditional games, SST recreates battles that have not yet happened and therefore does not have a broad "history" to fall back on for those fans wishing to simulate the other battles of this interstellar conflict. Heinlein's book, though thoroughly entertaining, is fuzzy at best when one wants to research for a new scenario. Fortunately, The GENERAL has published a number of excellent DYO scenarios. This is intended as another.

This scenario has been designed to explore an aspect of SST which is only hinted at by the game and the GENERAL addenda. With the exception of Mr. McLaren's "SST Expansion" (Vol. 15, No. 5), the Arachnid Brain Complex includes a Queen and a Master Brain cell which seem to serve mostly as decoration in all previous scenarios. Assault on a Queen gives both of these cells a specific (and sometimes devastating) function. This scenario is essentially a search and destroy mission based on modifications drawn from earlier published SST articles in these pages. An optional rules section is also included which noticeably alters the play of the game.

The Situation

2157.12.21 (UC): The Terran High Command desperately needed information about the biology and behavior of the Arachnids in order to formulate more efficient battle plans and bio-chemical weaponry. (The M.I. already knew "Bugs" were deadly and skilled warriors, but little else.) Established outposts were reporting that previously "wasted" hive complexes were becoming active. Since the Terran Navy has prevented re-invasion of these planetoids by Arachnid forces, it could only mean one thing—the "Queens" must be reproducing! This could be disastrous to the Terran strategy if such growth went unchecked. ("It takes a minimum of a year to train a private to fight... a Bug warrior is hatched able to do this.")

This scenario depicts the attempt by the First Platoon, C Company, Second Battalion, Third Regiment, First Mobile Infantry Division (known as "Warren's Wolverines") to study and destroy a Queen cell on an isolated Arachnid planetoid. Following a previous raid made the day before which had been turned back by excessive casualties, Warren hoped to fulfill his mission by utilizing un-repaired breaches to reach the hive center.

The Scenario

Set Up:

Arachnid: Construct a tunnel complex such that all the breaches listed below are connected by tunnel segments (the listed hexes represent known breaches from a prior Terran raid). In addition to the standard hive complex, a total of 30 additional tunnel hexes may be added to the complex providing that these additional segments are connected via legal Tunnel Construction Procedures. These new segments may be divided in any manner among the Combat Cells and may be used to connect the listed breaches to the complex.


Terran: Force A consists of one M.I. Platoon equipped with four Listening Devices, six DAP, eight HNG, six Nuclear Launchers, six DAR, 12 HE and one BOS (see below, Rule 3). Force B consists of all Engineers and one Special Talent, nine HE, nine NUC charges, one BOS, two beacon, and two retrieval boats.

Force A sets up second as per the Initial Drop Procedures. Force B may enter any time after Turn 1 via Soft-Landing Procedures. Beacon location and turn of arrival must be pre-recorded on paper (to be shown to the Arachnid player when the game is over).

Game Length:

20 Turns. All normal rules of SST are applicable unless otherwise stated in the Special Rules or modified by chosen Optional Rules.

Victory Conditions:

Arachnid: Prevent Terran victory conditions from being reached and accumulate 20 or more victory points as per SST Rules of Scenario 5A.

Terran: record biological/behavioral data and destroy the Queen cell and prevent the Arachnid player from attaining his victory conditions.

Any other result is considered a draw.

Special Rules:

Though most of the Bug warriors and workers were destroyed in the previous Terran encounter, some cells (even though severely damaged) were still functioning. Combat cells which were damaged or destroyed would eventually be replaced by the Queen by reproduction if she is left alive. The Queen cell, therefore, is central to the future existence of the hive. Additionally, "brain cell replacement" allows for the retention of the "old Bugs" along with the "new Bugs", provided that the "old Bugs" live through the transition.

1. To simulate Bug survivorship from previous M.I. raids, a die is rolled three times for each Combat Unit in order to determine the number of Bugs left to that Brain. (Substituting numbered chips for die rolls will provide a more permanent record.)

A. Workers: One die per Combat Brain. The number rolled is the number of Workers that survived for that cell. A "6" means no "old" Workers survived.

B. Warriors: Follow the same procedure as in A. above.

C. Heavy Beam Weapons: A die roll of "1" or "2" indicates that the old beam is still functional; any other result means the weapon was destroyed. (If you feel that 33% is too high, change the survival number to "1").

2. "New Bugs" enter the fray as they hatch. They hatch in the following order:

A. All new Workers hatch on Turn 2.
B. All new Warriors hatch on Turn 3.
C. All new Heavy Beam Weapons (completed by the new Workers) are ready on Turn 5.
D. New engineer units hatch on Turn 6 (there were no surviving engineers). Engineers can begin tunnel repairs immediately upon hatching. On Turn 6, engineers may repair/construct any main tunnel segment connected to the Combat Brain. The engineer may not pass through a damaged tunnel segment in order to perform this activity. Starting with Turn 7, tunnel construction proceeds normally. Starting with Turn 8, new breaches may be constructed.

3. Terrans hope to study the biology and behavior of Bugs using the Biological Observation System (BOS). BOS emplacement requires two undisturbed turns (not necessarily sequential) in order for BOS to be successful. BOS records data when emplaced above the Queen's cell only, and remain functional depending upon the status of the M.I. unit operating it. (Any convenient marker is used to represent a BOS; when BOS is not in use, the marker is removed from the board.) BOS is not functional if the operating M.I. unit is "stunned". Further, if the operating unit suffers severe damage, the effects on the BOS is determined as per the SW&E Chart. Only one BOS may be deployed at a time.

A. During the first turn of emplacement, during the Arachnid Player Phase the Arachnid Player must identify what—if anything—the BOS is showing (engineer, Combat Brain, Queen, Master Brain, nothing). Remember that BOS recordings of the Queen only serve for Victory Conditions.

B. BOS must be deployed for two complete turns (not necessarily consecutive) without being moved, nor the operator disturbed (as indicated above).

C. Each M.I. may carry only one BOS; possession is indicated on the M.I. Control Sheet. BOS may be exchanged with other M.I. units as per the usual SW&E rules.

4. After biological/behavioral data has been recorded, the Queen cell may be destroyed as per normal procedures. Destruction of the Queen still allows other Arachnid units to function normally.

5. Terran Player is not required to execute retrieval of forces before the end of the scenario. The retrieval boat may rescue casualties at the Terran Player's option, however, when it lands with Force B.

The Optional Rules

The following optional rules, adapted from previous SST articles published in The GENERAL, may be used to add additional flavor and excitement. These rules may be used separately or in any combination desired.

1. Terran Force B may use the Spaceport Landing Rules (found in "Mission Scenarios" in Vol. 15, No. 3) to move the retrieval boat would be allowed to land without the use of a beacon in hex F55 or E77. Only the turn of arrival need be specified. The retrieval boat must still remain on the ground for one complete turn after arrival, after which it must lift off.
If this option is exercised, Force B may not arrive before Turn 3. Spaceport hexes are subject to destruction by Arachnid Demo Charges; a spaceport hex is considered destroyed if a Terran or Arachnid Demo Charge or nuclear warhead has exploded in the hex. If both spaceport hexes are destroyed, Force B must resort to soft-landing procedures. Landings at operational spaceport hexes are not subject to drift or direction of launch.

2. Arachnids may use offensive Demo Charges (also from "Mission Scenarios"). If this option is used, consider the Arachnid complex to have a "store" of 10 additional unused demo points. Brain engineers may emplace them in any tunnel hex or adjacent hex (except in a Queen or Brain hex) during the Special Function Phase. This is a "special function" and would prevent the engineer from operating in any other capacity. Only one charge, regardless of size, may be laid each turn. A charge is considered active at the end of the Special Function Phase during which it was emplaced and may be set off in accordance with usual demo procedures. (If this option is exercised for this scenario, give the Terran Player one additional NUC launcher in Force A.)

3. Contrary to Mr. McLaren’s ideas in "SST Expansion", the Arachnid Queen, like any social anthropod queen, is solely a reproductive unit. The rest of the hive functions to protect her and thus to insure its continued survival. Destruction of a Queen would result in the gradual death of the hive. The Queen has no other function.

The situation regarding the Master Brain is different. If a Combat Brain is destroyed, the Master Brain may control any three units of that Combat Brain (one of these units, of course, may be a heavy beam weapon). All excess units are considered functionless and therefore destroyed and removed from play. The Master Brain may switch its control from one destroyed Combat Brain to another during play. However, switching in this manner will result in the immediate death of any surviving Bugs within the abandoned Combat Brain complex. If the Master Brain itself is destroyed, the attack factor of all units of the hive (except the heavy beam weapons) is reduced by two.

4. To fit the "Recruits Option" into the campaign designed by Richard Hamblen ("Saga of the Bug Wars" in Vol. 13, No. 6), this scenario should follow Scenario B5 and precede Scenario 6. In so doing, the Commanders Rules and Replacement Commanders Rule can now be used. If however, this scenario (or any other) is to be played out of sequence, the Recruits option can still be used by simulating casualties in previous actions. To determine the number of casualties, roll one die for each M.I. unit; if a "6" is rolled, that unit is considered to have been a casualty. Each "casualty" must then be replaced with a recruit counter which is subject to Mr. Hamblen’s rules.

Final Comments

Die rolls for setting up the Arachnid OOB should be made and recorded in secrecy. As an alternative, a series of numbered slips (1-6) can be substituted for these die rolls—being an easier and more permanent method of record keeping. These slips should be invented and maintained in the original order of selection and then revealed to the Terran Player only at the end of play. Following this procedure will result in a tactical guessing game for the Terran Player.

Since chance will heavily determine the available Arachnid forces, it is difficult to suggest a Terran battle plan that will be successful in every play of this scenario. One certainty, though, is that by the eighth turn the Terran will be facing at least one fully operational hive. Given the best of Arachnid luck, in terms of enemy counters this could be the equivalent of two full hives. It is quite possible that the "luck of the die" may be the foundation for a Terran disaster. As a general tactic, get the I.D.'s into action before Turn 4, since you will only have to worry about "old Bugs" for the first three turns. Additionally, HNG can be dropped in existing breaches to hamper early Arachnid tunnel movement, forcing the engineers to reconnect routes instead of allowing them to build new ones.

Whatever your plan, do it quickly because time is on the Arachnid's side. When Turn 10 has ended and the Terrans have fired only ten old workers and have not located the Brain complex, you are in trouble. Remember, your mission is to record and destroy the Queen and depart as soon as possible. Destroy Bugs when you can, but don't be mislead into hunting for every one of them.

Due to the fluctuations in the Arachnid OOB, the Terran Player cannot sit back and expect to win; aggressive play is a prerequisite to victory. The Arachnid Player, on the other hand, can afford to be patient. Take time in designing the tunnel complex. Its early discovery by the Terran player could lead to a very short game. Variations offered by the listed breaches and additional tunnel segments will allow placement of the Brain complex almost anywhere on the board. The stronger the Arachnid OOB, the longer Arachnid attacks can be delayed. However, if the Terran Player locates the Brain complex on the first turn, it is time to throw caution to the winds. Generally, the Arachnid Player should play to achieve his twenty victory points and then adopt a strong defensive strategy. Slugging it out with the M.I. on the surface can be very costly and may result in a draw or a loss.

EDITOR’S CHOICE AWARDS

This issue marks the beginning of another volume year for The GENERAL; it is time once again for the editors to offer their nominations for the best articles of the past year. A poll of the readers will determine one author from the list to be named "Editor’s Choice". The winner receives a lifetime subscription of The GENERAL, in addition to a $100.00 bonus. Please vote for only one of the nominees and vote only if you have read all the articles nominated. Eliminating those articles written by paid AH staff members from consideration, we offer the following articles from Volume 22 to select from:

- RETURN TO THE FRONT
  by Jim Burnett and Ron Whaley, No. 2
- PACIFIC DREAMS
  by Fred Heffelfinger, No. 2
- THE BEND IN THE CORRIDOR
  by David Schaffer, No. 3
- THE BATTLE FOR THE TRENCHES
  by James Lutz, No. 3
- BEFORE THE SNOW FLIES
  by Dan Thompson, No. 4
- A DEVIL OF A FIGHT
  by David Bielecki, No. 5
- THE BATTLE OF THE INNOCENTS
  by Craig Posey, No. 5
- FIRST IMPRESSION
  by Robert Medrow, No. 6
- STRUGGLE FOR EL SALVADOR
  by James Werbaneth, No. 6

CONTEST #131

As a change of pace, we’ve decided to unshackle the frustrated artistic talents of our readership this time around. Contest 131 is quite straightforward: think up a name and appropriate nose art for a B-17. On the contest entry form on the insert of this issue is a black-and-white rendering of the nose section of a Boeing B-17F, the celebrated version of the "Flying Fortress" found in our game B-17. As anyone who has played that enjoyable solitaire game knows, half the fun lies in naming the plane and its occupants. Now, not only do we want you to think up a name, but sketch out the nose art you’d see on it at war as well. (As any historian of the air war will tell you, the amateur renderings on these bombers became a mark of distinction and a distinctive school of art in itself.) Use any medium you care to, but make sure that your sketch is in color.

To answer this contest, please send your artwork to us on the official entry form (or a reasonable facsimile). Enter the name of your plane on the space provided. Vulgar artwork and names will be automatically dropped from consideration. Selection of winners will be purely subjective, and will be chosen by a panel composed of Bruce Shelley, Charlie Kibler and Rex A. Duy. Ten winners will receive merchant (credit) cards from The Avalon Hill Game Company. To be valid, an entry must be received prior to the mailing of the next issue and include a numerical rating for this issue as a whole and a listing of the three best articles. Charlie Kibler’s sample "solution" to Contest 130 will appear in Vol. 23, No. 2 and the list of winners in Vol. 23, No. 3 of The GENERAL.

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING

Title Listed: 102
Total Responses: 365

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Rank Times</th>
<th>Last On</th>
<th>List Ratio</th>
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<td>Russian Front</td>
<td>AH</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Squad Leader</td>
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<td>Third Reich</td>
<td>AH</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Advanced SL</td>
<td>AH</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<td>Up Front</td>
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<td>Russian Campaign</td>
<td>AH</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Diplomacy</td>
<td>AH</td>
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<td>Cross of Iron</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Guns of August</td>
<td>AH</td>
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</table>

Continuing strong, RUSSIAN FRONT again tops our poll of player preferences while ADVANCED SL climbs. And, as usual, a number of titles slipped from the poll due to our arbitrary cut-off in listing the top 20. Mount of the new entries is "Flat Top", which for the first time in two and a half years does not a
THE FIVE-SECOND GAME
RICHTHOFEN'S WAR, The 2nd

By Richard J. Burley

. . . Your engine roaring, you bank hard right and pounce on the blood-red Fokker, your Vickers spitting out bullets that perforate the Fokker's fuselage. As the triplane falls apart and smoke trails across the sky, success fills your soul and victory's glory gleams in your eye. Just as you are about to finish off the German pilot's career, your guns won't fire and your plane stops in midair! . . . Your turn is over. The Fokker's battered remains make a slow wide arc to the left, turning around and now heading for you, its guns flashing! You hear the bullets screaming by you, and you see your upper left wing surface shear off, sending your Sopwith spinning down and down in a death spiral, out of control! You see the ground coming closer and closer and closer and . . .

How many times has this happened to you, you are winning but your opponent exploits the game's most severe weakness... the hexside. This, which turns victory into instant defeat? I'm afraid that it is for that reason that I must agree with the words of Mr. Greenwood (Vol. 14, No. 4), "RICHTHOFEN'S WAR has always lacked something in the eyes of your editor." This is the reason for my writing this article.

When a friend of mine was once in desperate need for some money, he sold me some of his wargames in a package deal, with RW included in this deal. I had my doubts about this game and they were soon confirmed. The reason for my less-than-average enjoyment of elder Dean of airwar games is the infamous "Trading Shots Syndrome." Of it, the Richthofen's Unexpected Maneuver cards add much flavor to the game but they do not accomplish all that can be done to improve RICHTHOFEN'S WAR.

The time scale of any wargame is one of its often overlooked crucial aspects. In a game where you have tactical aircraft combat, the ten second/one turn time scale of RW (see designer's notes) is just too large at these speeds, even for these antique aircraft. It is this too-long time scale which causes the Trading Shots Syndrome. My solution to this problem is a surprisingly simple one: cut the time scale of the game turn in half, from ten seconds to five seconds. By cutting the time scale in half and not the scales themselves, one can cut the movement factors of an aircraft in half and in so doing eliminates the capability of being fired on in an opponent's turn, and then in turn making a turn and firing on that opponent (i.e., trading shots).

A. MOVEMENT

As already stated, the cutting of the time scale in half will cut the MF of an aircraft in half. Thus, the maximum speed of any aircraft is cut in half, rounding any fractions up to the nearest MF. The minimum speed of the aircraft is also cut in half, with any fractions being rounded down. If the readers will take note, the maximum speed is rounded up while the minimum speed is rounded down; the same reasoning is used to provide the pilots with a greater number of strategic options and possibilities. Note however, that this will leave us with a unique situation. An aircraft in the original RW that has a minimum speed of 3, now has a minimum speed of 1 (3 divided by 2 = -1½, rounded down to 1). If an aircraft with a speed of one must proceed into the hex directly in front of him on every other turn, and may turn a maximum of only one hexside per hex.

EXAMPLE: A Sopwith Pup is moving at a speed of "1'". On this first turn, he must move the one hex straight ahead. On his next turn he now has the option of moving another hex forward or turning one hexside. If he turns the hexside, he must then move one hex straight ahead next turn. Notice in this example the aircraft has a maneuver schedule B.

As stated in the standard RW rules, any aircraft may change its movement factor by up to two MP's at the beginning of his turn. Logically, in half the time one can change speed only half as much, thus maximum speed change is now only one MP per turn.

In the standard game, the first hex any aircraft may enter is the one directly in front of him. This represents the pilot's inability to act instantly to his opponent's move. Common sense would say that since the new time scale is one half in proportion to the old time scale, to equal the pilot's reaction time, one would need to spend twice as many MP's in the new half-time scale. Although this sounds nice, playtesting has shown that two straight hexes are just too great a percentage of an aircraft's total movement allowance, so it should remain at one hex as in the standard game.

B. CLIMB AND DIVE

In RW, climbing and diving, like movement, is a direct function of time (meters per second). So, as is true in the movement factors, the maximum climb and dive rates are also cut in half. Note again that the maximum climb rates are rounded up to the nearest 50 meters, while the maximum dive rates are also rounded up to the nearest 50 meters.

EXAMPLE: An aircraft that has a maximum climb rate of 150 meters and a dive rate of 250 meters in the standard RW, now has a maximum climb rate of 100 meters (150 divided by 2 = 75, rounded up to 100) and a new dive rate of 100 meters (250 divided by 2 = 125, rounded up to 150)

As with the movement factors, the rounding of the climb and dive up is to create more options for the pilots.

The Maximum Dive Speed (Tournament Rules) is also cut in half, but with any fractions being rounded down. It is rounded down to give the pilot greater opportunities to dive. Also, using the Tournament Level Rules, one will get a movement bonus or loss corresponding to the extent of a dive or climb which is one MP for each 100 meters and remaining 50 meters. This is a function of the hex scale of the game (one hex = 50 meters) not of the time scale. Therefore, the movement gain or loss is not affected by the new time scale, nor is the 100 meter per hex dive maximum or the gain of maneuver in a dive hex affected, as these too are in relation to the hex scale, not the time scale.

C. OVERDIVE

Overdive (Tournament Rules) is treated just as diving, only now one is allowed only up to an extra 100 meters of dive, instead of the extra 200 meters allowed in the standard game. The reason for this is similar to cutting the dive rates in half. The overdive speed is, like the maximum dive speed, cut in half with any remaining fractions being rounded down. Note however, that the special die roll for aircraft survival ("1'" or "2") means that a wing has been lost and the plane has crashed, is not in itself a function of time, but rather a strict percentage of the risk of destruction for diving beyond the safety limits of the aircraft, and as such it is not changed.

D. MANEUVERING

Since the movement points necessary to turn an aircraft's facing within a hex represents that aircraft's ability to turn within a 50 meter hex area in respect to other aircraft and is not necessarily related to time, there is no change to the Maneuver Schedule Chart. Unfortunately, this factor leads to one serious drawback of the new five-second scale. The drawback is that actually, in the real war, most of the aircraft in RW could do a complete 180-degree reverse within a radius of 50 meters (one hex) but now with the aircraft's lesser movement factors and no change in the Maneuver Schedule Chart, few aircraft can now do a complete 180-degree turn within a single hex. But I find this a very small loss when compared to the advantage of this new RW system.

E. MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

In no way whatsoever does the time scale, old or new, have anything to do with any aircraft's maximum altitude. Maximum altitude depends entirely on the physical capabilities of the aircraft itself. For this reason any aircraft's maximum altitude is not affected in any manner.

F. COMBAT

Here we've come to the meat of the situation and the main purpose of the new time scale. Airplanes will no longer have the MP's to turn circles and trade shots with one another, they now must maneuver to get on each other's tails or try to shake them off if their opponent succeeds at accomplishing this first. First—in combat resolution, since the hex scale is
not affected by the five-second time scale, range
determination, the 200 meter maximum altitude
difference (standard game, it is 290 meter in the
Tournament Game) and the angle of deflection
(an optional rule which I highly recommend) are
affected in no way at all. But the other side of com-
batt resolution, the amount of damage inflicted, is
the other side of this coin.

Since it was mentioned nowhere in the Designer's
Notes of RW, I have assumed that this too is largely
a function of time. Since fire usually could inflict
about half the punishment in half the time, one could
cut the damage inflicted in half. But instead of doing
this (which would include messy fractions and
rounding), the same effect would be achieved by
doubling each aircraft's accumulated damage factor.
The easiest way to do this is to draw a horizontal
time line through each of an aircraft's damage boxes, thus
dividing it into two new boxes. Now as damage is
taken, one simply marks off the number of half
boxes as the damage number listed on the combat
table (remember that no changes are made to the
Target Damage Table.) Likewise, when consider-
ing an aircraft's ammunition supply, if it can only
fire half as much ammo in one turn on a five-second
scale as in a ten-second scale, that aircraft's ammo
supply should last twice as long in the new five-
second scale. So double each aircraft's ammo
supply in the same manner as you have doubled its
accumulated damage factor.

G. ACCUMULATED DAMAGE

(Tournament Level)

Tournament Level Accumulated Damage, the
reduction of an aircraft's maximum speed and climb
capacities due to the damage it has taken in com-
batt, is slightly modified in the new five-second ver-
sion of RW. It begins, as it does in the standard
game, when any aircraft has received damage equal-
ing or exceeding one-half of its maximum accumu-
lated damage factor. In the standard game, one MP
is lost from an aircraft's maximum speed and 50
meters is lost off the maximum climb for each dam-
age point sustained beyond that aircraft's
accumulated damage point. Now, under the one-
half time scale, if we take one MP off the plane's
maximum speed and 50 meters off its maximum
climb for each damage box beyond its midway point,
that is equal to two MPs and 100 meters of its climb
under the original ten-second scale. This is obvi-
ously not equal. So, to keep things equal with one
MP and 50 meters per damage box as was true in
the ten-second scale, we must use half a MP and
25 meters off the climb per box in this five-second
scale. But since we do not use half movement points
or 25 meters, we must change the half-MP and 25
meters for one damage box to one MP and 50 meters
for every two damage boxes. Therefore, in this new
time scale version of RW, one must subtract one
MP off an aircraft's maximum speed and 50 meters
off its maximum climb for every two boxes (four
half boxes), beyond that aircraft's 50% damage
point.

EXAMPLE: You pilot a Fokker DR-1 triplane
whose maximum speed is "5" and
its minimum speed is "1". Its
maximum dive is 200 meters and its maximum climb is 150 meters. Its
accumulated damage is 10, (see
diagram). When during combat, its
accumulated damage factor crosses
its half damage line at 5-6, the
Fokker would lose one MP off its
maximum speed and 50 meters off
its maximum climb. It would lose
another MP and 50 more meters off
its maximum climb when it received
more damage and had crossed the
next line between three and four.

H. SIGHTING (Tournament Rules)

The tournament level sighting rules, that of having
to spend the last two MPs with the target aircraft
in line of fire, does not fit well with the new shorter
time scale. The two hexes in line of fire is just too
great a percentage of any aircraft's total movement
factor for that turn, so instead of two hexes in your
line of fire, reduce it to one hex.

[One last word about combat itself. Some sneaky
soul—we all know these, the ones who take advan-
tage of miniscule loopholes in the rules—may try
to get his enemy off his tail by doing the move as
shown by aircraft A in figure 1. If aircraft B would
follow, doing the same move as aircraft A, his last
MP would be expended turning in its final hex to
keep on A's tail, thereby he would not satisfy the
tournament level sighting rules. So therefore air-
craft B would be forced, if he ever wanted to attack
aircraft A, to take the path shown in figure 2, but
now he is one hex farther away and at an angle of
deflection. So, instead of allowing this to happen,
we shall create one new optional rule: if an attack-
ing aircraft follows the exact same path as the tar-
get aircraft (including, of course, the whole time as in
figure 1) and finishes his move with the target air-
craft in his line of fire (ignoring the tournament level
sighting rules), the attacking aircraft may fire at full
effect. Please note that the attacking aircraft does
not have to be adjacent to the target aircraft to
employ this new optional rule (see figure 3). In
figure 3, aircraft B has been right behind aircraft
A during his move, and finished with aircraft A in
his sights, at a range of two hexes. Therefore air-
craft B may attack, at a range of two.]

I. CRITICAL HITS

Critical hits are one of the most exciting aspects
of RICHTHOFEN'S WAR, much too exciting to
throw them out. I'm sure that the original designers
of RW did not put the asterisks on the Target
Damage Table to indicate a critical hit because it
looked like a pretty spot; I'm sure that their place-
ment was dependent on the probability of rolling
that number and other such factors. Keeping that
in mind, we would not want to increase the rate that
critical hits happen. But now, with the damage
capacities of all aircraft doubled, leading to twice
as much combat, the number of critical hits would
also roughly double, probably becoming much too
important a factor in the game. To make sure that
this does not happen, whenever a critical hit is
rolled, roll one additional die—if that die comes up
1, 2, or 3, that critical hit has no effect whatsoever;
but if the die comes up a 4, 5, or 6, the critical hit
takes immediate full effect as normal.

The effects of any critical hit are not changed by
the time scale change except for numbers "4" and
"11", (engine damage), and number "10" (gas tank
punctured). When the engine is damaged, the
damaged aircraft's maximum speed is reduced by
½ that stated on the Critical Hit Table (1MP for
hit No. 4, and 2MP for hit No. 11). In regards to
critical hit No. 10, in which the fuel tank is punc-
tured and one has but six turns before he is out of
gas, those six turns on the original ten-second scale
are equal to 60 seconds. That would be equal to 12
turns on our new five-second scale.

J. SUMMARY

This new five-second time scale greatly enhances
the excitement of RICHTHOFEN'S WAR for all. The
main way it does so is by eliminating, (in most
cases), the "Trading Shots Syndrome." The first
of the two major drawbacks of this modification is
that it does significantly increase the length of a
game of RW. But I see this as a small price to pay
for the additional realism and excitement gained.
The second major drawback is that, due to the
rounding of fractions, there will be a loss of dif-
cference between aircraft. One that had a slight
advantage in maximum speed in the original ver-
sion, now may have no advantage. However I think
that this loss is also acceptable.

Thus, a simple change in time scale can make a
good game great. May this simple change make you
gloriously victorious as you take off again, to do
battle for the skies!
Dear Sir:

It's Sunday morning. I've been sitting at home, lately drinking coffee and thumbing through old issues of The GENERAL, and trying to psyche myself up for another solo round of ASL. A few minutes ago, my mind began to wander a bit further than usual, and it ran something like this:

What is it that makes me so eager to delve into a complex monster like ASL, yet so reluctant to play a monster, reminiscent of my old favorite like BULGE! And what ever happened to other old favorites like WATERLOO, STRUGGLE OF NATIONS, D-DAY, 1914, GETTYSBURG...? All these have fallen by the wayside, while SQUAD LEADER has held my interest for five or six years now. THIRD Reich too—that's another game that I never lose interest in. Is it complexity itself that holds my attention? No, that can't be; I've let go of many complex games—1914, PANZER LEADER, Advanced GETTYSBURG, STRUGGLE OF NATIONS, only to show up at re-runs of "Bonanza", and complain that there's still something to grow tired of them if they had just repeated the same plot over and over, with minor variations. But no—they hold our interest by showing us something different each time. And, paradoxically, the more it resembles the same: we come to know and love the familiar characters, the setting, the ads say. One never grows tired of it, but simply moves on to new scenarios. The same goes for ASL and SRE; the game itself is so all-encompassing that even a minor change, like the employment of optional rules, each of the RN guerrilla squads listed is so unique, so distinctive, that it's similar to playing all the ASL scenarios simultaneously. And, if that's not enough, there's that long list of variants (and the GENERAL keeps adding more). But "operational-level" games have no natural expansiveness, WATERLOO is just WATERLOO, over and over again. BULGE is just the Battle of the Bulge, in spite of "Plan Martin" and the other "what-if" scenarios. The only way for these games to grow, or expand, is inwardly, in the form of variants which allow us to look at the same battle from a different aspect. Almost as a sign of desperation, they include speculative scenarios, inviting us to examine the subject from a different, imaginative angle. Anything to try and keep the game alive in spite of its limited confines.

Patrick Carroll
Mountain View, California

Dear Mr. Martin:

I must apologize for the "flap-up" that occurred to the illustration in Mr. Murrell's fine article. When we began pass-out, Dale Sheshef had completed most of the work, but his departure in the midst of the effort forced Charlie Kibler into the unaccustomed and demanding (given his usual lack of any graphics artistry role of completing the job. In the process, the first illustration was repeated somewhere. My fault for not checking the proofs with closer attention. I can only plead that Dale's expertise had made me lazy in this respect. For all of those who were re-painting one of my more blatant errors, here is the mysterious second figure for Mr. Murrell's piece as it should have appeared.

Best Murrell
 Jerome, Idaho

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for printing my article on PANZERGRUPPE GUDERIAN entitled "The Quagmire Defense" (Vol. 22, No. 4). I greatly appreciate your judicious editing, having been "burned" by editors on other occasions. Unfortunately, there was a foul-up in the illustrations; Figure 2, instead of the deployment if neither Russian army can move, was instead a duplicate of Figure 1. Below is what Figure 2 should look like.

Brett Murrell
Jerome, Idaho

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Dear Mr. Martin:

Recently I received my copy of The GENERAL Volume 22, Number 4, with my article "Struggle for El Salvador". I was very pleased with the presentation of the article. However, there are a few clarifications that I would appreciate if you passed on to the readers.

First, I would like to point out that for the squad groups listed in the Scenario Design Guidelines, each of the RN guerrilla squads listed is one of three in an "RN" Guerrilla. Second, the FMLN Equipment List should include RFL5, RFL7 (various types) and RFL10 (M16A1). As these weapons are listed in the introduction to the Scenario Design Guidelines, their absence from the Equipment Lists should be of little inconvenience to the reader designing scenarios of his own for the Salvadoran revolution.

Two clarifications should be made in regard to the scenarios. In "Ambush 1984", the LFL available to the PFL player is an LPL3. In "Battle at La Union 1985", the FMLN player is an LPL3, FPL10 should be added to the Extra Equipment and Ammunition section of the FMLN order of battle.

I am exceptionally pleased with Michael Croghanhead's "Playtesters' Note" that followed "Struggle for El Salvador". I heartily endorse all of his recommendations concerning the employment of optional rules, though I seldom use Rule 16.5 of FIREPOWER (dealing with written orders). But I find all of the others cited by Mr. Croghanhead to be essential.

James P. Werbaneth
Allison Park, Pennsylvania

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Dear Mr. Martin:

Thought you might like to see the statistics after my first 300 "official" games of UP FRONT. Please keep us informed of any new developments regarding this increasingly exciting and entertaining game.

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Figure 2 of "The Quagmire Defense"
Surprisingly, a higher number of battle game buffs are into our stat sports games than we had thought. It is no surprise, therefore, that our Statis-Pro sports games are the best-selling of all the sports games, Statis-Pro Baseball being the best-selling Avalon Hill game of them all in 1985.

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Steven Padgett, 6020 Panzer Ave., Wdburn, MA 01801, (617) 832-4599.

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Want pbm for BB'81, FE, FRED. Gulf Strike, FT, Russian Front, TRC, 3R, etc. Kenneth Tucker, 1514 40th, Lubbock, TX 79414, 747-8200.

Adult seeks pbm for BB'81, FT, 3R, VITP, FE, others. Gaming room available. Sue Grossman, 2212 5th, Apt #5, Lubbock, TX 79414, (806) 797-0422.

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24-year old seeks pbm for BB'81, ASL, FE and others. Willing to drive 30 miles. Alex Meeker, 3356 112th Ave. Ct., E. Buckley, WA 98321, 879-8234.

Adults playing for history and fun. Ftf most anything. pbm BB'81, TRC, FE, PL, others. Steve Lanagan, 1206 5th Ave., E. Seattle, WA 98102, (206) 324-7505.

Fox Valley Gamer's Club meets the 3rd Sat. every month at 7:30 PM. Contact: Pat Wateron, 1625 W. Weiland Ave., Appleton, WI 54914, (414) 731-3579.

Adults seeking pbm in area of Milwaukee, WI for TRC, BB, FE, and PB. Contact Keith Walton, 1153 Nottingham Road, Derby 665, U.K.

Adults seeking pbm in any area. John if you play BB'81, FE, TRC, PL. C. Watson, 16 Robinison Rd., SE, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1B-322, 529-9684.

Adults seeking pbm for BB'81, FT, BB', FE, RS, others. Willing to travel. John Desaerate, 7979 Vesta Lake, Austin, TX 78741, 410-517-3912.

Atlantic Front, 1410 East Boyd St., Norman, OK 73071, (405) 525-2050.

Ftes. 1433 EFE wants pbm STAL opponent with 1300 AREA rating or above. All letters answered. Jeff Simpson, 10429 Oakland Rd., Bedroom, DE 19961, (302) 595-9630.


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Contact: Keith Walton, 1153 Nottingham Road, Derby 665, U.K.

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**DEVIL’S DEN**

Tactical Game of the Fiercest Fighting of Gettysburg

$23.00

Despite the growing popularity of tactical games, only 21 readers responded in rating **DEVIL’S DEN**. However, the ratings drawn from these twenty-one were serve notice that here is an indication among all the ratings (with the exception that for Completeness of Rules) were well above average. In the normal course of events, the Overall Value (2.69) would have been good enough to take its place on our list of 57 titles old and new.

Once again Charlie Kibler’s sharpening talents in functional artwork are the most readily apparent strength of this fine redevelopment of the old OSU release. After being drawn looking inside George Parrish’s superb box art, players are not disappointed—as evidenced by the ratings for Mapboards (1.83) and Counters (2.83). And they find a very playable, balanced and exciting game as well. However, once again Complex and Game Length suffer. The players are more questioning these days and quicker at passing a game system to its limits. This game remains strong, in our judgment, the best boardgame on Civil War tactics available.

Yet it is eminently playable, as the ratings for Complexity and Game Length would indicate. Even the longest scenario should take no more than a lazy Saturday afternoon to complete. In the final evaluation, whether the player be a Civil War buff or just looking for a challenging new war-game, **DEVIL’S DEN** appears to be of high quality.

The following games are ranked by their reader-generated overall Value rating. Further aspects of reader response to our titles are indicated by the ratings in other categories. By breaking down a game’s ratings into these individual categories, the gamer is able to discern for himself where the title’s strengths and weaknesses lie in the qualities he values highly. Readers are reminded that the Game Length categories are measured in multiples of ten minutes (thus, a rating of “18” equates to three hours).

**WARGAME RBG**

The Question Box

HITLER’S WAR

Q. Can Denmark’s capital be attacked by land, even though the symbol is on an island?
A. Absolutely yes.
Q. In the Campaign Game, are the U-Boats counters still placed in the At Sea/In Port Boxes or must they be placed on the mapboard?
A. In the box.
Q. During one Research Phase, can a player pay one point for research, roll for a result, and then—without success or not—pay another point for research on the same item?
A. No, the die roll terminates the research for the turn for any particular item.
Q. Are U-Boats and ASW research unaffected by the rule “Research Special Cases” (page 13, rule 2), since no other player has these items?
A. Yes.
Q. The Soviets attack Poland in 1940. The Axis player does not occupy five Soviet Union hexes. Is it correct?
A. Yes. Transport restrictions never extend to Great Britain, regardless of distance, to which the map box, unless it is permitted to transport
Q. How do armies composed entirely of Ace Air strength points defend against advances?
A. They must defend at a strength of “0”. A very powerful air force can present with an army (even one with just airplanes).
Q. May Patton be added to an Allied army before the U.S. enters the war?
A. No, he may appear only after America is at war.
Q. The Optional Rules provide the Italians with one Infantry strength point in North Africa at the start of play. Who controls it? May it be moved in the first turn?
A. The strength point is part of the Italian forces and cannot be moved at the start of play. It cannot move while Italy remains unaligned. Once active, it no longer remains any specific tie with Italy and becomes just another Axis strength point.
Q. With the Optional Rules, who controls the unaligned Polish infantry when they appear?
A. The Western Allied player.
Q. May forts be built in Siberia?
A. Yes.
Q. When using the Optional “Naval Action”, what happens to the French fleets at size once France surrenders to the Axis?
A. Each fleet moves directly to the closest French locations: Gibraltar, France or Suez.
Q. With the Optional Rules, what happens to the French fleets at sea once France surrenders to the Axis?
A. The Western Allied player.
Q. Which are the titles strengths and weaknesses lie in the qualities he

The following games are ranked by their reader-generated overall Value rating. Further aspects of reader response to our titles are indicated by the ratings in other categories. By breaking down a game’s ratings into these individual categories, the gamer is able to discern for himself where the title’s strengths and weaknesses lie in the qualities he values highly. Readers are reminded that the Game Length categories are measured in multiples of ten minutes (thus, a rating of “18” equates to three hours).
As expected, our regular rating of the articles found in the issue past was dominated by the lead article—David Bleckley’s “A Devil of A Fight” in Vol. 22, No. 5 of The GENERAL. Surprisingly, the brief filler piece “For Want of A General” was the next highest rated of the contents. The issue as a whole pulled a middling response (an Overall Rating of 3.43)—and some interesting comments. The random sampling of two hundred readers (in which three points are awarded for a “first” selection, two points for a “second” and one for a “third”) gives the following results for the articles:

A DEVIL OF A FIGHT ............ 312
FOR WANT OF A GENERAL ....... 163
ASSAULT ON ROUND TOP ....... 150
MASTERS OF DECEIT ....... 139
THE BATTLE OF THE INNOCENTS . 126
THE SUGAR-COATED REBELLION . 69
STIFF BRIDGING ............ 53
AID TO UNIVERSAL REVOLUTION . 47
COMPLEAT DIPLOMAT .......... 41
LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT GUN .... 38
AH PHILOSOPHY ........... 37
HOW TO CRACK A PLANETARY FORCE FIELD ........... 25

Unfortunately, death is all a sulliing jolt—especially so when the one lost is a friend. Don Robert Munson, at the age of 39, was killed in an automobile accident while on active reserve duty in Tennessee. For many years, he had been a leading light among wargamers, highly competitive in the area, involved in a local wargame club in his hometown, and founder of the annual Squad Leader Open. Here we wish to extend our sympathy to his wife Peggy and his three children. We have been informed that this year’s SL Open, although delayed, will be held in tribute to his memory. Expressions of sympathy from the readership to the family may be directed to Mr. Timothy Deane, PO Box 9237, Knoxville, TN 37940.

Mr. Simon Billeness (editor of the “Zine Register”) has a new offer for hobbyists. He has established a “Zine Bank”, which offers free copies of various amateur periodicals. For a mere $2.00 (to cover postage) and a large self-addressed manila envelope, he will send 20-30 different zines. He does his best to ensure that all such sent out are still in publication, and that all carry subscription information. He has modelled this service on the very successful “British Zine Bank” he once used as a newcomer to this hobby. He asks only that those who wish to avail themselves of this offer let him know which zines they already receive so that he can avoid duplication. Too, he extends his invitation to all amateur publishers who may have surplus copies to send to him if they’d like their zine so distributed for potential subscribers. Mr. Billeness can be reached at 61A Park Avenue, Albany, NY 12202.

Ever had the urge to see your name in print? How about to be an amateur editor (where it’s in print a lot)? Mr. Bruce Linsey, one of the leading lights about to be an amateur editor (where it’s in print a lot)? Mr. Bruce Linsey, one of the leading lights about to be an amateur editor (where it’s in print a lot)? Mr. Bruce Linsey, one of the leading lights about to be an amateur editor (where it’s in print a lot)? Mr. Bruce Linsey, one of the leading lights about to be an amateur editor (where it’s in print a lot)? Mr. Bruce Linsey, one of the leading lights about to be an amateur editor (where it’s in print a lot)?

Contest 129 proved even tougher than we anticipated, since only five entries matched our solution in the major particulars. For most, it seemed that they were unsure of what to do with the 20th Georgia to better their chances of victory. The five winners, each to receive a merchandise certificate, are: Jim Burnett, Clinton, TN; William Mulligan, New Paltz, NY; Ryan Schultz, Monterey, CA; Henry Veldenz, Melrose Park, FL; Ron Whaley, Knoxville, TN.

Properly made, the Russian move for Contest 130 guarantees him no less than a drawn game and better than a 67% chance for outright victory. Winning is easy—guaranteeing at least a draw is the clever part. Because this is the last Player Turn, the German’s maximum FP on the victory hexes has already been determined (barring Hero creation) as 18—six for the SS unit, four for the 4-6-8 and eight for the 4-6-8 as PBF). Therefore, the Russian player must match or exceed that amount or find a way to reduce it. The best solution is to exceed it, because any Russian attack could jeopardize the draw by possibly creating a German hero or sniper attack. The Russian already has eight FP factors next to the W7 intersection, but these are at some risk from the 4-4-7 in Z8. It would be foolish to chance a malfunction by firing on the German during this last Player Turn when he can instead simply move out of LOS to U8 and advance back into V7 to secure his MMG’s eight FP on the victory hex. The other ten FP needed for a draw are guaranteed by declaring Double Time movement with the 5-2-7 and using Bypass movement to enter X2 along the X2/W3 hexide (1MF), entering the building in X3 (2MF), and ending its MPh in Y4 with one remaining MF which it can expend (3MF) in an attempt to recover the LMG (a 67% chance). The 5-2-7 remains completely out of LOS throughout this MPh and therefore cannot be prevented from advancing into Y5 to secure the draw (or a victory if it did indeed recover the LMG). Even if the LMG is not recovered, the Russians can still win if the 2-2-6 reaches Y4 unbroken by surviving the SS First Fire against hex W2 (double timing to W2, bypass into X2, entry of X3 and advance into Y4). This line of play is the theory that the German will realize too late the Russian intentions and allow it to exit W2 unflired upon. Lastly, it is worth noting that the very fire which prevents the 2-2-6 from winning the game for the Russians could lose it if it prompts a Russian Sniper attack.

Richard Snider reports that he is receiving letters from readers mailing late renewals who demand past issues (ie, those published between their expiration and their renewal) be charged against their new subscription. The official policy should be reiterated—Such “late” issues will not be supplied as part of their subscriptions; renewing readers must purchase such as back issues (at the normal $3.00 cost). It is for this reason we request that you “re-up” your current subscription well before the expiration date to maintain the continuity for your collection. Issues published during a subscription lapse will not be sent; please do not request that they be in your communications with our Subscription Department. Instead, make order for such direct from our Mail Order Department.

The SAFRA Wargame Club, founded to promote wargaming among Singapore Armed Forces reserve services, has extended an invitation to all wargamers who may be in the city for short visits. They play, according to the club secretary Mr. Tan, a wide range of games, including 95% of all Avalon Hill wargame titles. They’d welcome any expatriate wargamers for a session or two of their weekly get-togethers. If you happen to be traveling to the Far East, drop a line to Mr. Terence Tan, Secretary, SAFRA Wargame Club, 32 Sian Tuan Avenue, Republic of Singapore (2158).

At ORIGINS ‘86, the drawing for winners in the “GENERAL’S Subscriber Sweepstakes” was held amidst great fanfare. Unfortunately, none of the winners were present to be honored personally, but the editors would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them. Mr. H. Timmer (of Tolen, Netherlands) was named as the third place winner: a copy of 1830, DARK EMPEROR, EMPIRES IN ARMS, STREETS OF FIRE, PARATROOPER, FLIGHT LEADER and any further 1986 releases by The Avalon Hill Game Company will be sent to him. Mr. Michael Encs (Covington, Rhode Island), for his name being drawn second, will receive a life-time subscription to The GENERAL (and we are most pleased to add him to our family of friends). Finally, the first place winner will receive the dream of any
On the Road to Moscow...

As the German Wehrmacht approached the open steppes around Smolensk, the invasion of the Soviet Union was on schedule. At this rate, the army would capture Moscow and throw the Russians out of the European continent by the time the snows fell.

At the head of the Panzergruppe invading central Russia was General Heinz Guderian, the man who turned the potential of armor into the reality of Blitzkrieg warfare. Opposing him were masses of Soviet infantry and armor determined to defend their homeland, but untried in battle. With Guderian's armor and motorized infantry divisions approaching the ancient city, the stage was set for another encounter with the Nazi juggernaut.

_Guderian_ simulates this critical campaign of World War II, using the acclaimed joystick-driven system from Gulf Strike. On the full-color scrolling map of central Russia, the German player must master Blitzkrieg tactics to encircle and overrun Soviet divisions and drive deep enough into Russia to make the capture of Moscow possible. At your command are infantry divisions, panzer regiments, motorized infantry, panzergrenadiers, even the 1st German Cavalry Division.

The Soviet player must work to counter the German threat, and make attacks capable of cutting off supply to the forward units. While your army is massive, it is also untrained. Soviet units begin play with a hidden strength revealed only at the moment of combat. Uncertainty is always present. The game becomes a tense contest as German units blunder into Soviet strongpoints, while Russian attacks can suddenly turn into a rout.

_Guderian_ has a _solitaire option_ allowing you to take command of either the German or Soviet armies, as well as overrun attacks, supply rules, Soviet leaders, rail movement and optional reinforcements. The rulebook introduces new players to historical gaming, explaining clearly concepts such as zones of control, supply, combat and movement. Planning map included.

The battle for Moscow was lost on the fields of Smolensk. Now is the time for you to re-create (and rewrite) history with _Guderian_.

German Panzers overrun Russian defenses west of Smolensk.

**COMPLEXITY:** Intermediate  
**SOLITAIRE SUITABILITY:** Very high  
**TIME SCALE:** 2 days per turn  
**MAP SCALE:** 10.5 km.  
**UNIT SCALE:** Regiments and divisions  
**PLAYERS:** One or two  
**PLAYING TIME:** 1½ to 3 hrs.

_Guderian_ is ready to run on your Atari® 8-bit, Apple II family or Commodore® 64/128 home computer. $30.00

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Opponent Wanted

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3. Insert only on lines provided (25 words maximum) and print name, address, and phone number on the appropriate lines.

4. Please PRINT. If your ad is illegible, it will not be printed.

5. So that as many ads as possible can be printed within our limited space, we request that you use official state and game abbreviations. Don't list your entire collection, list only those you are most interested in locating opponents for:


CONTEST #131

Name of Bomber:

Issue a score of... (Rate from 1 to 10, with 1 equalling excellent, 10 equalling terrible)

Best 3 Answers:

1.

2.

3.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP

On a separate sheet of paper, please write answers to the following questions:

1. 

2. 

3. 

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING?

Top ten lists are seemingly always in vogue these days. Whether the subject is books on the Best Seller List, television's Nielsen ratings, or even games, the public never seems to tire of watching how their individual favorites stack up numerically against the competition. Our preoccupation with this national pastime is almost akin to rooting the home team on to victory every Sunday. So to further cater to your whims (and to satisfy our own curiosity) we unveil THE GENERAL'S version of the gamer's TOP TEN.

We won't ask you to objectively rate any game. That sort of thing is already done in these pages and elsewhere. Instead, we ask that you merely list the three (or less) games which you've spent the most time with since you received your last issue of THE GENERAL. With this we can generate a consensus list of what's being bought. The degree of correlation between the Best Selling Lists and the Most Played List should prove interesting.

Feel free to list any game regardless of manufacturer. There will be a built-in bias to the survey because you all play our games to some extent but it should be no more prevalent than similar projects undertaken by other magazines with a special interest-based circulation. The amount to which this bias affects the final outcome will be left to the individual's discretion.

The games I've spent the most time playing during the past two months are:

1. 

2. 

3. 

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY __________ STATE ______ ZIP

The GENERAL

FLIGHT LEADER $26.00

Game of Air-to-Air Combat Tactics, 1950-Present

INSTRUCTIONS:

Rate each category by placing a number ranging from 1 through 8 in the appropriate space to the right (1 equating "excellent"); 8, "awful"). EXCEPTION:

Rate items 7a and 7b in terms of minutes necessary to play the game, in ten-minute increments. (Example: If you find it takes two and a half hours to play the basic scenario of FRANCE 1940, enter "15" for category 7a.) For an explanation of the categories, refer to the AH Philosophy of Vol. 10, No. 4. Sub-categories are indicated by italics. Enter ratings only for those categories relevant to the game in question.

Note that AH's ratings for Complexity and Year of Publishing have been provided; do not rate these categories.

1. Overall Value

2. Components

2a. Mapboard

2b. Counters

2c. Player's Aids

3. Complexity

4. Completeness of Rules

5. Playability

5a. Excitement Level

5b. Play Balance

6. Authenticity

7. Game Length

7a. Basic/Shortest

7b. Advanced/Longest

8. Year of Publication

1986
Goshiken
Kawasaki Ki-100a Type 5 Fighter
PV: 18 Engine Type: R Producer: Imperial Japan
Production began spring '46. About 400 aircraft produced.
Variant: Ki-100b. PV: 18. See different modifiers for blind spots.
Loaded: Can carry two bombs.

Speed Change
- Power Factors
- Brake Factors
- Half Loop
- Half Roll
- Turn or Slip
- Bank
- Loaded

Speed Increments
Altitude Change
Maneuverability Requirements

Blind Spot Modifiers
- Dive Acceler
- Climb Deceler
- Max Dive
- Max Climb

Hit Table Modifiers
- Silhouette +2
- Fire +2

Ki-100b PV: 18.