

That would be enough

This has been issue 252 of *To Win Just Once*, published 3rd March 2025. It incorporates *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*, a game of *En Garde!*. Issues are published ten times a year, roughly every five weeks. © Paul Evans 2025

Deadlines

Orders for *Railway Rivals* and *Star Trader* to Mike by Friday 14th March 2025.

Orders for *LPBS*, Fictionary Dictionary votes and definitions and any other contributions to Pevans by 21st March 2025.

(Next deadlines: probably 18th/28th April 2025)

Waiting lists

En Garde! new players are always welcome in *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*. You will need the rules to *En Garde!* in order to play: www.engarde.co.uk

Railway Rivals – Gerald Udowiczenko and Mike Dyer are on the list for the next game: “Only two more needed for a game of *Railway Rivals!*”. (Working map and rules provided).

Star Trader – The list for the next game starts with Mike Dyer. (Rules provided)

Credits

To Win Just Once issue 252 was written and edited by Pevans. The *LPBS* masthead (page 17) is by Lee Brimmicombe-Wood as are the drawings on pages 14, 18, 19 and 21. Game and book artwork is courtesy of the publisher. Pevans took the photos, except where noted, and played with Photoshop.

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To Win Just Once

(incorporating *Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses*)



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(LPBS 389: July 1676)

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ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
HF	Hugo Furst	10	F	OK	Colonel 13F	5		Hunt	2	Graeme Morris
TB	Thierry Boule	10	RIP							John Cooke
BLC	Botte Le Chimiste	10	F	Comfy Lt.Co	GDMD/Drgn Brigade Maj.	2		Hunt	4	Tym Norris
JdA	Jean d'Aubergine	10	F	Comfy B.Bdr-General	4A	4		Hunt	3	Paul Robbins
EIF	Elroi le Flingue	10	F	Comfy Major	GDMD/GDMD Regt. Adjnt.	7		BG	4	Daniel Racke
FdB	François de Blanchefort	9	F	OK	Lt.Colonel CPC	3		BG	4	Peter Farrell
TPN	Thibault Pinot-Noir	9	RIP							Tim Rattray
AH	Arent Hayes	8	F	OK	Captain CPC	4		F&P	3	Mark Cowper
CS	Con Stantinople	8	F	Comfy Captain	QOC	6			1	Pam Udowiczenko
MHD	Marcel Hatch Dupree	7	F	Poor	Lt.Colonel RM	5			4	Graeme Wilson
PPuf	Percival Puffington	7	F	Comfy B.Bdr-General	PM	6			5	Tony Taylor
AA	Armand Alsace	7	F	Comfy B.Bdr-General	53F/2 F Brigadier	10		BG	4	Sebastian Emde
ID	Ian Dediette	6	F	Comfy Major	QOC	3		RP	2	Nik Luker
GdA	Grenville d'Arkrite	6	RIP							Gerry Sutcliff
HS	Hugo Serre	5	15	OK		6			3	Paul Murphy
SBC	Sebastiane Blanc-Chevaux	4	F	Poor	Captain 53F	1			2	Peter Card
CPL	Charles PiedLuminaire	4	F	OK	B.Lt.Colonel PLLD	8		RP	3	Nick Tyrrell
MD	Maurice Danseur	4	F	OK	B.Major GDMD	5		RP	5	Andrew Whiteley
AC	Agaric Champignon	3	F	Poor	Captain 27M	3			5	Richard Cronan
JC	Justin Cartier	3	F	Comfy Captain	27M	1			3	Steven Malecek
PDT	Pierre De Terre	3	F	Poor	B.Captain GDMD	6			2	Manoj Nair
CdF	Chemin de Fer	3	F	OK	Captain RM	5			3	Rod MacDonald
IP	Ignace Pardaillon	3	F	Poor	Private GDMD	5			3	Gregory Meurant
X1		2	0	OK		1			4	Ray Vahey
SDS	Steve De Sade	2	F	Comfy Private	GDMD	5			5	Jon Dean

An F under SPs means that the character was at the Front, RIP that he died. Ret that he retired.
 + against SL means it went up this month, - means it went down.
 Cash: Poor = <500, OK = 500-1500, Comfy = 1500-5000, Withy = 5000-10000, Rich = 10000-25000, Flthy = 25000+
 Last seen is the lady the character was last seen with in public.
 EC is Endurance Class: 1 = <60, 2 = 60-90, 3 = 91-120, 4 = 121-159, 5 = 160-200, 6 = 201+

The Greasy Pole

ID	Name	SL	SPs	Cash	Rank, Regiment/Appointment	MA	Last seen	Club	EC	Player
JJ	Count Jean Jeanie	25+	78	Filty	General/War Minister	32	Jacky	Flr	4	Andrew Kendall
BRJS	Count Beau Reese Jean Seine	24	F	Rich	B.Bdr-General RFG/State Min.	15		Flr	4	Bill Hay
BeV	Count Ben e'Volence	24	F	Withy	Lt-General/Cav Div Commandr	11		Flr	3	Ash Casey
CdB	Count Greg de Bécqueur	24	F	Rich	B.General/1st Div Commandr	13		Flr	5	Anthony Gilbert
CdP	Marquis Camille de Polignac	23	F	OK	Lt.Colonel RFG/FMshl's Aide	5		Flr	4	James McReynolds
BdLS	Count Bernard de Lur-Saluces	22	52	Filty	Lt-General	19		Flr	3	Rob Pinkerton
TC	Count Terence Cuckpowder	22	51	Comfy	B.Lt-General/City Mil. Gov	7	Morgane	Flr	6	Mike Dommett
RS	Marquis Rick Shaw	22	F	Rich	General/Chancellor	2		Flr	6	Charles Burrows
HDS	Count Henri DuShite	21	F	Filty	B.Lt-General/1 F Brigadier	16		Flr	4	Dave Marsden
JdG	Count Jacques de Gain	21	F	Filty	General/Fld Army Commndr	24		Flr	6	Ben Brown
ZUT	Marquis Zavier Ulric Turenne	20	F	Withy	B.General/2nd Div Commandr	4		Flr	1	Bob Blanchett
LR	Marquis Louis Renault	19	46	Withy	Lt-General/Min w/o Port	3	Maggie	Flr	4	Roy Bleasdale
JIT	Count Justin Thyme	19	F	Rich	Colonel QOC	17		Flr	2	Gerald Udowiczenko
LSD	Baron Louis Severin Descartes	18	F	Rich	B.Bdr-Gen GDMD/Drgn Brigadier	6			1	Chris Schotmann
CdN	Baron Claude de Nord	17	F	Withy	B.Bdr-General KM	4		Both	4	Andrew Larder
ZvT	Baron Zeold von Tu	16	F	Withy	B.Lt-General/Gds Brigadier	7		Both	3	Tim Macaire
NM	Sir Neville Moore	15	F	Withy	Captain RFG/C.Prnce Aide	1		Hunt	2	Cameron Wood
MdG	Martin de Garnache	15	F	Comfy	Major RFG/Gds Brigade Maj.	3		Both	4	Bill Howell
JH	Sir Jacques Hatt	15	F	Comfy	B.General	4		Both	3	Joel Halpern
FXC	Marquis Frank X Change	14	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel KM/Justice Min.	10		Both	4	Nigel Monaghan
BS	Earl Balzac Slapdash	13	F	Rich	B.Bdr-General DG	21		5	Matthew Wale	
HJ	Baron Hugh Jeneaux	13	F	Withy	Colonel ALC/Gen's Aide	9		Hunt	3	Bruno Giordan
FS	Baron Felipe Savant	13	F	Withy	Captain RFG	5		Both	4	Brick Amundsen
TTT	Sir Tiny Thierry Toothpick	13	F	OK	Captain RFG/CPS	5		Both	1	Jason Fazackarley
HWB	Hector William Boone	13	F	Withy	Major RFG	6		Both	5	Paul Wilson
SE	Stephane Etrange	11	F	Withy	B.Bdr-General CPC	3		Hunt	4	Neil Packer
CA	Sir Come Asiouar	11	F	Comfy	Lt.Colonel QOC	7		Hunt	4	Jacob Andersson

Chatter

I could have sworn I'd searched the text of *TWJO* 251 for any '2024's I'd missed, but no! I think I've now changed all the deadline dates to 2025...



As usual, there are plenty of daffodils out for St David's Day. Just not in our garden – though they are sprouting nicely. What we do have are some snowdrops.

Next *Railway Rivals* game

The current game will end next issue, so it's time to sign up for the next one. We have two people already on the waiting list (hi there, Mike and Gerald), so there's room for at least two more to play.

With up to four players, Mike has picked the Lake District map; if we have more than four, then it's Texas. Don't worry if you don't have these maps, we'll provide working copies (and the rules) for players.

If you're interested, let Mike or me know by 14th March.

Online stats

I put the PDFs of *TWJO* 251 on the website on 31st Jan and they were downloaded 9 times on that day. The previous issue's PDFs were downloaded 97 times in January, which brings this issue to 173 downloads in (less than) two months. There were 30 January downloads for *TWJO* 249 to make 146 since publication.

And now I have the February figures, too. Last month added 154 to the downloads for *TWJO* 251 – that's 163 in a month and a day. The PDFs of issue 250 were downloaded 38 times in Feb, so that's 211 in just over two months. And 249 goes to 176 downloads since publication with another 30 in Feb.

As always, I had a look at the 404 (page not found) errors in the stats. And, yes, there are still a lot of hits looking for Wordpress on my domain (presumably in an effort to hack into it). If nothing else this is thoroughly putting me off the idea of Wordpress as a content manager. Other errors are for expired (and deleted) *LPBS* turns – I only keep the last few turns on the website. And some are typos, which I check to make sure they're not mistakes on my pages.

Letters

Mike Pollard added this with his Fictionary Dictionary votes:

I presume you've read the Douglas Adams book of fictional definitions of actual UK towns? My favourite in that one is Limpley Stoke - an ageing thespian! I'm

Frontier Regiments

	F1	F2	F3	F4	RNHB
Colonel	N5	N4	N5	N3	N9
Attached					RS JH
Also at the Front					

This table shows the Colonels of the Frontier regiments (“N” + MA for NPCs), together with the volunteers assigned for the season.

Battle Results

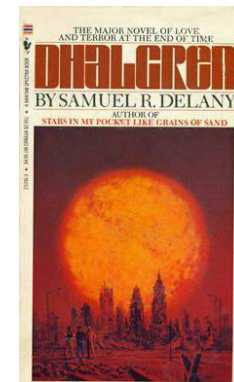
Field Army: 1	Cavalry Division: 3
First Division: 3	Horse Guards Brigade: 4
Guards Brigade: 1	Dragoon Guards: 3
Royal Foot Guards: 3	Queen's Own Carabiniers: 3
Cardinal's Guard: 1	Heavy Brigade: 3
King's Musketeers: 4	Archduke Leopold Cuirassiers: 3
1st Foot Brigade: 3	Crown Prince Cuirassiers: 2
Royal Marines: 4	Frontier Division: 5
Picardy Musketeers: 1	Frontier regiment 1: 4
Second Division: 4	Frontier regiment 2: 2
2nd Foot Brigade: 3	Frontier regiment 3: 4
13th Fusiliers: 2	Frontier regiment 4: 3
53rd Fusiliers: 1	RNHB regiment: 3
3rd Foot Brigade: 2	Dragoon Brigade: 3
27th Musketeers: 1	Grand Duke Max's Dragoons: 1
4th Arquebusiers: 3	Princess Louisa Lt Dragoons: 3

Other Appointments

King's Escort: Ensign N	Captain N
Cardinal's Escort: Ensign N	Captain N
Aides: to Crown Prince NM	to Field Marshal Cdp
Provincial Military Governors: N/N/N/N/N	
City Military Governor TC	Adjutant-General N
Inspectors-General: of Cavalry N	of Infantry N
Commissioner of Public Safety TTT (until end June 1677)	
Chancellor of the Exchequer RS (until end August 1676)	
Minister of Justice FXC (until end May 1677)	
Minister of War JJ (until end May 1677)	
Minister of State BRJS (until end January 1677)	

Shows who holds appointments outside military units (except Aides): ID for Characters, “N” for NPC, __ for vacant, “CPS” for extra posts held by the CPS

Right, the setting is the fictional US city of Bellona which is largely deserted after an unspecified catastrophe. Certainly parts of the city are on fire – the smoke in the air is a constant theme – but nothing seems to actually burn down. (Not until near the end of the book, anyway.) And there is certainly something wrong with reality as looted shops are fully stocked when next visited, a location that was near the bridge into the city is several blocks away on the next visit, two moons appear in the sky one night, a huge sun fills the sky one day...



Into this city comes a young drifter... Actually, this doesn't happen immediately. First, our barefoot (he has a sandal on the other foot) hero meets a naked woman in the woods, they have sex and she turns into a tree. No, really. At her urging, he also finds a strange chain adorned with prisms, mirrors and lenses (I'm thinking giant charm bracelet) and wraps it around himself. Then he hitches a lift to the city where he is given a weapon (a set of blades, known as an orchid, that attaches around the wrist) by a woman who's leaving.

It's chapter 3 (page 17) when he enters the city. I should mention that our hero cannot remember his name. He recalls all sorts of episodes from his life through the book (and he's certainly had an interesting life), but not his name. Tak, the first person he meets in the city, calls him “kid” because of his youthful appearance (he claims to be 27, but people think he's much younger) and kid, Kid (and sometimes Kidd) is who he becomes.

Oh yes, he has sex with Tak, too. There's an awful lot of sex in this book. I used to say it's the only book I've read where the hero has heterosexual and homosexual sex in the first chapter. In fact, it takes a whole five chapters – the first part of the book – to fit both in.

As the Kid drifts around the city we meet some of the remaining inhabitants. There is the religious/hippy sort-of commune in the park, the city's literary celebrity in his mansion on a hill (whence he somehow publishes a daily newspaper with random datelines), a family desperately trying to pretend that normal life goes on, a bar where the drinks are free (well the booze has all been looted in the first place) and the gangs of hoodlums known as scorpions.

I'd completely forgotten about the scorpions until the first time the word cropped up and it came back to me. They wear the same decorative chains as the Kid. Each has a projector that, when switched on, hides the wearer inside the holographic image of a real or imaginary creature, such as a scorpion.

Kid falls in with a young woman called Lanya, who becomes his lover for the rest of the book. Later, he falls in with a fifteen-year old boy, Denny, who makes the relationship a throuple (not that Delany, writing in the early 1970s, uses this

neologism). There is, you've guessed it, lots of sex – in pairs, as a threesome, with other people... And no jealousy. It is accepted that people will have sex with who they want without an impact on the three-way relationship. With this and Denny's age, this is definitely a novel of its times.

About halfway through the book Kid gets a battery for the projector on his chain, starts hanging out with the scorpions and eventually becomes leader of a 'nest'. That is, a group of scorpions and hangers-on squatting in a house that's far too small. Much of the rest of the book centres on the mundane details of their life. They hang around, make food, start fights, drink, have sex and occasionally go on 'runs' – lights on and looking for trouble.

Alongside this we have Kid's literary aspirations. Early on he finds an exercise book in which every other page has already been written on. Kid starts to write poems on the other pages. Later on, these are collected and published as "Brass Orchids", a (slim?) volume that takes the city by storm – and gains Kid more kudos with the scorpions. However, we never see any of these poems. The extracts of Kid's writing that make up the final part of the book are actually a narrative of what happens to him – just like the book we're reading! So did Kid write the poems? Or were they already in the book when he found it?

In the end, Kid and his gang leave the city, Kid giving his orchid to a woman who's on her way in. And the book ends with an incomplete sentence. A sentence that can be completed if you add it to the sentence fragment that starts the book. (Apparently *Finnegan's Wake* does the same thing, emphasising the circular nature of the narrative.) Not that the complete sentence makes much sense!

Dhalgren is a fascinating book. Delany has come up with a wonderfully bizarre setting in a book that I can only describe as a tour de force. However, the long-winded discussions and the lengthy chronicling of the mundane details of life in this strange place make for some boring passages.

The book leaves me with a couple of questions. Why is it called *Dhalgren*? Kid comes across a list of names that he refers to several times. It includes a William Dhalgren. Later on, Kid is interviewed (for the paper) by someone called William. Is that Dhalgren? If so, why is his name the title? My second question is why Delany always writes "curb" when he means "kerb"?

Games Events

March is Airecon (13th-16th in Harrogate, a lovely little town in North Yorkshire) which has become quite a big deal in recent years. Apart from lots of open gaming (with a games library), tournaments, seminars and so on, there is an exhibitor hall, lots of demo and playtest games and a bring 'n' buy. Full details, tickets and event bookings are on the website: www.airecon.co.uk

New Characters

Gerry Sutcliff gets the First son of a well-to-do Gentleman: Init SL 5; Cash 275; MA 3; EC 3 (X2).

John Cooke gets the First son of a Peasant: Init SL 3; Cash 11; MA 1; EC 4 (X3).

Tim Rattray gets the Bastard son of an Impoverished Gentleman: Init SL 3; Cash 36; MA 2; EC 4 (X4).

Tables

Army Organisation and 1676's Summer Deployment

Field Army (Siege)	JdG/__/__/LSD
First Division (Siege)	GdB/__/__
Guards Brigade (Siege) - RFG CG KM	
1st Foot Brigade (Siege) - RM PM	
Second Division (Siege)	ZUT/N/__
2nd Foot Brigade (Siege) - 13F 53F	
3rd Foot Brigade (Siege) - 27M 4A	
Cavalry Division (Siege)	BeV/__/N2
Horse Guards Brigade (Siege) - DG QOC	
Heavy Brigade (Siege) - ALC CPC	
Frontier Division (Siege)	N3/__/__
Frontier Regiments (Siege)	
Dragoon Brigade (Siege) - GDMD PLLD	

Organisation and Deployment for the Campaign Season with Army and Division posts (Commander/Aide/Adjutant/QMG)

Entries are ID for player characters, "N" (+ MA if needed) for NPC, __ for vacant

Brigade Positions

Guards Brigade	ZvT/N/MdG
Horse Guards Brigade	N6/N/N1
Heavy Brigade	N6/N/__/
Dragoon Brigade	LSD/__/BLC
First Foot Brigade	HDS/N/N5
Second Foot Brigade	AA/__/__/
Third Foot Brigade	N4/__/N4
Fourth Foot Brigade	N2/N/__/

Current CO/Aide/Brigade Major of each Brigade; entries are ID for player characters, "N" (+ MA if needed) for NPC, __ for vacant

Notes

The *En Garde!* rules are available to LPBS players at a reduced rate: see any month's Points Arising page at www.pevans.co.uk/LPBS.

There's an email group for *En Garde!* players and GMs, providing a forum to swap stories and ideas. Sign up at: <https://groups.io/g/EnGarde>

Reminders: It is worth sending orders in even if they're late: I may be

able to action the orders and should be able to use any press. It also reassures me that you're still there.

Orders (and press) should be emailed to lpbsorders@pevans.co.uk – you'll get an automated reply when the message arrives in my mailbox. Please give your name and your character's name and specify actions in full detail. If you want a query answered before the deadline, please use LPBS@pevans.co.uk instead.

Announcements

All characters may use Influence (and/or a bribe) for or against these actions.

Maurice Danseur applies for Aide to Lt. General (but won't get it as he's no longer a Captain)

Tiny Thierry Toothpick asks NPC Captain 3 of Royal Foot Guards to resign (but that's now him!)

Tiny Thierry Toothpick asks NPC Lt.Colonel of Cardinal's Guard to resign

Duels

Results of July's duels

None

Grudges to settle next month

Still none!

"adv." shows who (if anyone) has the advantage of higher Expertise: his first duelling sequence need only contain six actions.

All duels listed above (including any to be voted on) must be fought next month. Orders conditional on a challenge being voted cause are acceptable.

Duels held over to September

Beau Reese Jean Seine versus Terence Cuckpowder.

Camille de Polignac versus Terence Cuckpowder.

A couple of weeks later and it's Shake, Battle and Roll (formerly Stabcon South, apparently): 28th-30th March at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel in Southampton. I don't know much about this one, but it's billed as a "combination of Board Games, Role Playing Games, CCGs, LCGs, Social/Party Games and all other related silliness." And there's an "extensive board games library" to help. Take a look at www.shakebattleandroll.com to find out more.

And the next Tringcon is on 5th April in Marsworth village hall (near Tring in Hertfordshire!). This is a day of open gaming with a convivial bunch of gamers – see tringcon.org for details and to book.

Swiggers: games club that meets on Wednesday evenings (co-ordinated on WhatsApp) upstairs at The Shipwright's Arms, 88 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TF (next to London Bridge station) – though without me these days. For more info, see www.pevans.co.uk/Swiggers or the BGG Guild at boardgamegeek.com/guild/1672

UK Games Expo: 30th May – 1st June 2025 at the NEC. This is a public event that showcases games of all sorts with a huge trade hall plus demonstration and participation games and guests. For gamers there are lots of tournaments and open gaming. For details see www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk

Spiel: *the* board games event of the year. 23rd-26th October 2025, at the Messe (Exhibition Centre) in Essen. Contact Friedhelm Merz Verlag, Postfach 210250, Bonn, 53157 Germany or see www.spiel-messe.com/en

MidCon: 31st Oct–2nd Nov 2025 at the Derby Mickleover Hotel in Mickleover (two miles from Derby city centre). **MidCon** is a friendly board games convention, now in a comfortable modern hotel. It's largely open gaming, but the new website allows games to be scheduled in advance – useful if you want lots of players for something. There's also a Bring 'n' Buy and a quiz on Saturday night. See midcon.org.uk

Subscribing to TWJO

TWJO is published on paper and online at www.pevans.co.uk/TWJO (as a free PDF). If you want to play in any (or all) of the games in TWJO, you have two options. You can subscribe to the paper edition, which includes playing in the games. Or you can take the PDF edition and pay the "games only" subscription.

The table shows the subscription rates for the paper edition, including postage, and the games only sub.

	UK	Rest of World	Games only
10-issue (1 year) subscription	£39.00	£50.50	£5.00

To subscribe, send your name, address and payment to *To Win Just Once*, 180 Aylsham Drive, Uxbridge UB10 8UF, UK or TWJO@pevans.co.uk. You can pay by bank transfer (contact me for the account details), by UK cheque (payable to Margam Evans Ltd) or by PayPal to Games@pevans.co.uk. Or subscribe online at www.pevans.co.uk/TWJO, where you can pay by credit card or PayPal.

Fictionary Dictionary

First off, my apologies to all participants for leaving their names on last issue's entries – they're supposed to be anonymous. Hopefully I've got it right this time.

Round 1 scores

Graeme Morris wants to be clear about his votes: "in the absence of anonymity and in the interests of objectivity, I let Carole do the choosing."

Champerty is, of course, an illegal bargain between a party in litigation and an outsider whereby the latter pays for the action and shares in the proceeds. You have been warned! While imbricate is actually an adjective applied to things that overlap in architecture (tiles), botany (leaves, scales) and interior decoration (tiles or representations thereof).

Everybody scores points to start us off, but Colin Bruce, Andrew Kendall and Nik Luker do best.

Round 2 definitions

Here are the proposed definitions for the next two words and we have a few more entries this time. All you have to do (whether or not you submitted anything) is let me know your favourite definition for each word.

Kinnikinnick

1 "Having just been proven to be alive". Kinnikinnick is an abridged form of a much longer (115-letter) word 'typed' by Schrödinger's cat as it exited alive (and in a state of some considerable agitation) from a certain infamous box and made its escape

The scores		
Player	This round	Total
Colin Bruce	5	5
Mark Cowper	3	3
Anthony Gilbert	3	3
William Hay	3	3
Andrew Kendall	5	5
Nik Luker	5	5
Tim Macaire	1	1
Nigel Monaghan	1	1
Graeme Morris	3	3
Pam Udowiczenco	2	2
Andrew Whiteley	1	1

across the physicist's desk and over his typewriter.

2 A relative who is an over-enthusiastic police officer.

3 A sealskin coracle used by the Kinni Indians of British Columbia until their unfortunate extinction from smallpox in 1823.

4 A sharp knife used by Scottish lairds on traitorous members of their own clan.

5 A variety of Eskimo scraping tool that is used for bear fur rather than moose hide.

6 Descriptive of the sound made by the player of a set of bones in an Irish music session. E.g. "Would ye start us

So I spilled them all out, when I cut him stark dead
And turned him to Chicken Chasseur.

In July, Agaric's career has its start:

A gentleman in Paris is his part.
He hopes that his story
Yields fortune and glory
And won't just fizzle out like a fart.
† Agaric Champignon

Points Arising

Next deadline is 21st March

For next month **First and Cavalry Divisions will be re-assigned to Field Ops** as they march to relieve the Siege of Maastricht.

The Minister of State has decided that all eight Brigades will be in action in next year's campaign. Their Deployment was decided by sticking a finger in the air (74 in the rulebook).

First Army (Field Ops)

First Division

Guards Brigade – RFG CG KM

Dragoon Brigade – GDMD PLLD

Cavalry Division

Horse Guards Brigade – DG QOC

Heavy Brigade – ALC CPC

Second Army (Siege)

Frontier Division

Frontier Regiments

Third Army (Defence)

Second Division

3rd Foot Brigade – 27M 4A

4th Foot Brigade – 69A Gascons

RNHB Regiment

Third Division

1st Foot Brigade – RM PM

2nd Foot Brigade – 13F 53F

All military appointments lapse at the end of August and the new posts (according to the new organisation above) will be filled at the beginning of September. **With your orders for**

August let me have your applications for posts (to be resolved at the start of September) Your applications may be conditional on possible promotions in August. Remember: if you have a brevet rank, you can **only** get a military appointment at that rank (unless it expires at the end of August, when you can also apply for appointments at your permanent rank).

Appointments are resolved in reverse order of the Military Appointments Table in the rules (that is, from Army commander down to Trooper in the King's Escort) and then in order of unit (Guards to 4th Foot Brigades, for example) where appropriate.

Rick Shaw's appointment as Chancellor of the Exchequer expires at the end of August. Again, anyone who wants to apply for this should do so with their August orders – though the position will be appointed by Minister of State Beau Resse Jean Seine (at the start of September)

Absent friends

I was feeling lenient, so I repeated June's orders for SE as I didn't get anything from Neil Packer.

And I gave Ray Vahey the benefit of the doubt and floated X1.

Here the clerk waved a hand at the locked chests behind him, “all the papers have been packed away ready for us to leave for the front. And once we’ve paid you as a Captain, well you might as well just get used to being a Troop Commander. So, Congratulations, Captain Danseur, and welcome to the GDMD.”

Lord Percy Percy says, as a short neck is in fashion, Felipe Savant is extremely fashionable.

His Majesty’s Royal Foot Guards Regt Messieurs,
My name is Steve de Sade: professional raconteur, gifted womaniser and the finest blade in all of South West France.

I look forward to tossing my orb amongst you – the cream of Parisian society.

“Tossing my orb”? Is that a euphemism?
† Le Roi

To:

Baron (!) Claude de Nord, King’s Musketeers

Bvt Brigadier General de Nord
You have asked me to apologise so that I may be reconsidered for acceptance to the King’s Musketeers... An interesting suggestion and one that I will definitely consider. In fact, I’d love to chat with you face-to-face, to share a few glasses of fine champagne and wholesome foods within the confines of a most prestigious establishment such as the Fleur de Lys.

Perhaps you and Lt Colonel X Change would therefore care to join me there upon our return from the Front in

September. Shall we make it the first week of the month? And I’m sure that you’ll be pleasantly surprised at the treat I have in store for you both, just to show that we can all be friends again etc.

Sincere regards,

† Captain Toothpick

Poetry Corner

(All signed poetry submissions gain their author at least 1 SP)

There was a young man from Anglet,
Who joined the Parisian set.
His social level is low,
But soon it will grow
Or de Sade will be very upset.

† SDS

Here’s a lesson in siege education:
Know your Bastion from your contravallation;
Ditches and glacis, it’s not too hard;
Know how to defend and enfilade;
Stay alert all day and night,
Keep the enemy held in tight.
Their remaining food will be Dutch cheeses
’Til they get typhus or some other diseases
You’ll know the city is about to fall
When they use edam for cannonballs.

† FXC

Eulogy for Cock-a-trice

1 Say me no Nays, But me no Buts,
Young Cock was certainly brave.
So I opened him up to show he had guts
As I hurried him into his grave.
2 He also had brains in that little head,
But clearly knew not what they’re for.

off wid a bit of de old kinnikinnick dere, Seamus?”

7 Early version of a character name from Grease, simplified when a time warp showed a Sunderland pop band couldn’t pronounce it.

8 Scots dialect word: the small children of distant relatives. Originally meaning the children belonging to your clan, more recently those of second cousins.

9 Someone who abandons a round of golf and heads for the bar, needing a drink.

10 The noise made by a double-bogeyed railway carriage. “James was lulled to sleep by the steady kinnikinnick as the train sped towards Edinburgh.”

11 The state of smugness exhibited by politicians, when they think they’re about to win an election, but actually end up losing. For an example, see Neil Kinnock and the 1992 British General Election.

12 To hold a massive victory rally before losing an election.

13 To tumble clumsily into surf in public, and then gesticulate wildly.

14 Trump’s new state capitol for Greenland.

15 When a leader of the opposition is convinced they are doing well but in reality are facing electoral disaster at the polls. Nigel Farage is a right “kinnikinnick” if he thinks he is going to be the next PM of the UK.

Nombles

1 A feeling of peckishness. “James awoke an hour after his usual tea-time, full of the nombles, and headed immediately to the buffet car.”

2 A temporarily incapacitating disease that affects horses.

3 A variety of small furry creature that survives by nomming food that everyday folk leave behind.

4 An area of outstanding natural beauty desecrated by fly-tipped rubbish, due to the lack of local volunteer rubbish collectors (i.e. NO WOMBLES).

5 Black balls formerly placed by Trinity House on top of seaside houses to create leading marks for shipping.

6 Colloquial term for the best and easiest to eat food for hikers.

7 Eroded rocks off Cape Otway in Victoria, Australia. Named after the Mumbles but mis-spelt by a map maker with poor hearing.

8 Found in southwest London, these rarely-seen creatures let litter lie where humans have dropped it.

9 Party snacks made from dead Wombles.

10 Small protrusions on the bottom of an ice cube tray to keep it from sticking to non-porous surfaces.

11 Sub-prime numbers, largely responsible for the global credit crunch.

12 The correct term for the indistinct (one might say mumbled) sounds of

appreciation that may accompany the wholehearted enjoyment of food. These emotive interjections are generally transcribed in reported speech as “Nom, nom ...”

13 The name originally coined by Elisabeth Beresford for her cuddly fictional eco-warriors on Wimbledon Common. Changed to Wombles by her book editor, in case people thought they were related to gnomes. Gnomes

Words for round 3

Aspersorium and Wrasse

What do you think they should mean? Send me your definitions.

What's this all about?

This game is open to all readers and I guess most of you will have come across some variation of it. Each issue I will put up a couple of obscure (or not) words. Anybody who wants to participate writes in with a fictional definition for each word. (For example: “Geranium: a ceremonial dagger used by Aztec priests for human sacrifice.”) I publish the definitions, anonymously.

All readers (not just those who contributed) vote for their favourite/most plausible/most amusing definitions (any vote for yourself will be ignored). Players score points for the number of people who choose their definition. (In other versions of the game, the definitions include the correct one and players get points for spotting it. However, the internet makes this too easy, so I've left this bit out.)

We'll run this for 10 rounds. The winner will be the player with the most points at the end.

**Send your votes and definitions to Pevans at
180 Aylsham Drive, UXBRIDGE UB10 8UF or
to TWJO@pevans.co.uk by 21st March 2025**

being, as he advised her, ‘creepy as hell’.

14 The small balls of mozzarella commonly found on pizzas.

15 Trade name for meatballs made from Wagyu beef, black truffles and Napoleon brandy. Advertised with the slogan “The best meatballs in the world. Don't you wish you could afford them? Nom, nom!”

Press

Announcements

**** Join the QOC ****

Gentleman of Paris, if you are new to the city or are looking for a new Regiment, then you can do no better than join the Queen's Own Carabiniers.

Please contact me for more details, and some financial help is available.

† Viscount Thyme

Attn All Colonels or higher ranks:

As those in situ in service of the crown, I invite opinions on the need to appoint new Inspectors General.

† JJ
Minister of War

Despatches from the Front

In reference to recent defeatist letters labelled “A Dragoon”, I want to make it completely clear that no trooper of the Dragoon Guards is responsible for this outrage. I have had one in four of the troopers – and their horses – whipped: “Pour encourager les autres”.

I suggest Le Roi turn his wrath towards the Dragoon Brigade. My men want nothing but to charge headlong into the arrayed mass of the *stropwaffel*-eating, dyke-building, Dutchies. Death or glory!

† Balzac Slapdash

A Fusilier writes:

“After all, out of “Death or Glory” there is one clear preferred outcome.”

Social

Apologies for having to cancel my party, I was unexpectedly called to the Front.
† BLC

Gentlemen of Paris,

As usual during week 2, Miss Nifisent and I will again be dining at my club and be delighted to receive gentlemen and their ladies. Refreshments will be at my expense.

† Marquis Louis Renault

Personal

Scene, the Regimental Clerks' Office, GDMD.

“Yes, M. Danseur, was there something else?”

“There appears to be a mistake on my Commission. It states here that I now hold the rank of Captain.”

“Indeed so. Congratulations.”

“But I specifically asked to join the regiment as a Subaltern so I could become an Aide to Col Descartes! It's on my letter of application.”

“Oh dear. That's a pity. Never mind, you get more pay as a Captain.”

“Can't you just correct the mistake?”

“Oh no, not that simple. We would need the Regimental Adjutant to establish an enquiry to investigate if there actually was a mistake and, if so, who was responsible and what should be done about it. Then the report would need to be written out in triplicate and approved by the Adjutant, your squadron commander and the Col. We might be able to get it done by the end of the month but...”

Who was where – in the clubs				
Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Fleur de Lys	TC + Morgane	JJ + Jacky LR(G) + Maggie . HS		JJ + Jacky
Shows who was in or outside a club: . = Toadying to character above; (G) = Gambled; CP = Crown Prince; (id) = expected host.				
Who was where – with the ladies				
Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Sue	HS fails			
Maggie		Out		
Jacky		Out		Out
Morgane	Out			
Shows who was with a mistress or on a doorstep: Out = Mistress with current lover; I = Indiscreet (+ mistress name); EX-id = Pinched from former lover.				
Who was where – round and about				
Where	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Bawdy houses				HS + FC
FC = Female Company; Mug n = Mugged & amount lost; (G) = Gambled.				
Practising	JJ - Rapier BdLS - Cutlass LR - Rapier	TC - Sabre BdLS - Cutlass	JJ - Rapier TC - Sabre BdLS - Cutlass LR - Rapier	TC - Sabre BdLS - Cutlass LR - Rapier
Busy doing nothing			HS -SL (Ella)	
Shows everybody else: FC = Female Companionship; Mug n = Mugged & amount lost; (G) = Gambled; Weapon = Weapon practised with. For those doing nothing: -club = not in a club; -Cash = insufficient funds; -SL = insufficient Social Level. * Despite not being in a regiment				

The Wizard of Anharitte (*Star Trader* game 12)

Turn 10

ROCKET TRADERS were again first out of the blocks this Quarter, jumping their ship to Mu Herculis Spaceport and berthing it. Where it was almost immediately rocked by a series of explosions. The ship wasn't lost, though over half the pods were damaged. Added to the surprise of Alloys being found in large quantities with its effect on prices in the Quadrant, plans didn't always work out

Trading at Epsilon Eridani saw SOLAR SPICE & LIQUORS selling 9 Monopoles for 17 HTs each, while ROCKET TRADERS sold 2 Spice for 6 HTs apiece.

COSTA NOSTRA COFFEE, INC tried to sell Alloys at Tau Ceti for 12 HTs each, having no knowledge of the recent discovery of large stocks in the Quadrant and so sold nothing.

ROCKET TRADERS sold 10 Alloys for 11 HTs each at Mu Herculis and expected to sell Isotopes at the price of 12 HTs as well. However, they were stymied by TREKBOER selling 14 Isotopes at 7 HTs each, which dropped the floor out of the market. TREKBOER gained a Dealership. ROCKET TRADERS also bought 6 Monopoles for 14 HTs each.

At Sigma Draconis MADNESS & MAYHEM sold Monopoles at the 16 HT price.

At Beta Hydri ROCKET TRADERS sold 2 Isotopes for 6 HTs apiece and finished trading by selling 5 Spice on their Contractor's position. COSTA NOSTRA COFFEE, INC had hoped to sell Spice at 12 HTs but SOLAR SPICE & LIQUORS offered theirs at 11 undercutting them to sell 8 units and gain a Dealership.

TREKBOER bought 3 Isotope Factories at Sigma Draconis.

ROCKET TRADERS sold the remaining Cargo Pods on the Gemini with Light Weapons and launched their new Corco Iota Hull at Tau Ceti, naming her Vanguard, with augmented jump, 6 light weapon pods and A class crew.

COSTA NOSTRA COFFEE, INC bought three Alloy Factories at Gamma Leporis and laid down a Corco Iota hull at Beta Hydri shipyards, naming it Pumpkin Latte.

MADNESS & MAYHEM upgraded both their ships with A class crews and left the other Corporations guessing as to where they will next appear.

SOLAR SPICE & LIQUORS loaded passengers on one ship and increased their Criminal Connections.

Press

CNCI are launching a new Brand, Cinnamon Latte, a spicy little number with a bit of a bang using the new Corco beans. Look out for a delivery any time soon.

The CNCI board strongly opposes the tariffs proposed by M&M causing a blockade at Mu Hercules and, if this is not lifted soon, we will be forced to join other Corporations in taking retaliatory action against M&M assets.

News

EV 14 took place at the start of the turn.

Turn 12 **C4**

Turn 13 **P3**

There are two new News chits this turn. The current list (new chits in **bold**) is:

Turn 11 **B5**

(Chits are identified by the Connection type and level required to see them and disappear/take effect in the News Phase of the turn listed.)

Corporation Table

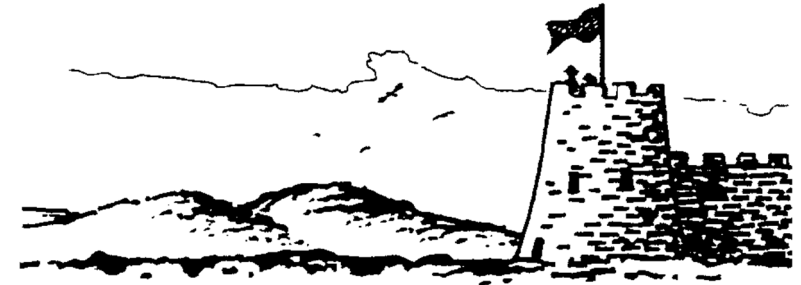
Corporation letter and name	Connections Bus/Crim/Pol	Init'v Bid	Turn order	Cash Rep	Player
A Costa Nostra Coffee	10 0 1	1	3rd	130 34	Mark Cowper
B Madness & Mayhem	8 5 0	0	4th	57 19	Anthony Gilbert
C Solar Spice & Liquors	7 3 4	+4	2nd	720 39	Paul Evans
D TrekBoer	4 7 2	0	5th	766 37	Mike Dyer
E Rocket Traders	10 0 8	13	1st	291 40	Przemek Orwat
N under Initiative Bid means No move received, F indicates the Corp was floated					

GM Notes

If you want to take an illegal News chit, such as Slaves, Weapons, or Tempus. you have to land ON PLANET. Being in the Spaceport or System Space doesn't cut it.

When building ships: turn 1 order and lay down a hull in a named shipyard. Turn 2 order and pay for pods and crew (if not done on turn one) and ship launches. You can load it at the end of the turn, but it will not jump until Turn 3.

**Orders to Mike Dommnett, 12 Watton Park, Bridport DT6 5NJ
or by e-mail to mike_dommnett@yahoo.co.uk
by 14th March 2025**



PiedLuminaire redeems last month's behaviour to be brevetted to Lt-Colonel. That's worth a MiD. And he gets a pat on the back into the bargain.

Grand Duke Max's Dragoons have another successful month showing their Spanish opposition how it's done. As a result, their leader, Louis Severin Descartes, is Mentioned twice, collects nearly a thousand crowns' worth of goodies, is made a Baron and takes over command of the Brigade. There's just booty for Major Elroi le Flingue – a thousand crowns' worth. And there's just a vicious sword thrust for Captain Grenville d'Arkrite. A fatal one. RIP. Disappointed at not getting the Aide position he wanted, Captain Maurice Danseur leads his troop in a "do-or-die charge into the teeth of the enemy." He is promoted to fill the junior Major's slot, buying the extra horses he needs, and patted on the back. There's no reward for Captain Pierre De Terre this month. The new Troopers are rather different. Steve De Sade gets himself well over a thousand crowns' worth of loot. While Ignace Pardaillon skulks about at the back to avoid any risk and is hauled over the coals by his superiors.

The big news at the end of the month, however, is that, while the French army is besieging Dutch positions, that sneaky Orange Prince William has amassed a force (comprising Dutch, Spanish, English, Brandenburgers and Neuburgers contingents) and is laying siege to key French possession Maastricht. Something must be done! Probably involving the Cavalry division and the Guards...

One for the ladies

Hugo Serre is one new face in Paris who is in Paris. He clearly has an eye for the ladies, but rather over-reaches himself. His gifts of "flowers and a caged songbird" in one case and "flowers, fine wine, and candied fruits" in the other are accepted, but he is not! However, he finds time to be the sole guest of Louis Renault and Maggie Nifisent at their monthly get-together. Thus he witnesses Louis's flutter on the gaming tables. Despite losing his first 200-crown bet, Louis continues. He wins the next two and stops while he's ahead.

Paris at large is treated to the spectacle of small, orange-painted people parading around the streets with bugles, drums and banners proclaiming "Toothpick will prise out the Traitors" and "To the Bastille with the Big People! ❖"

Captain, Justin Cartier, hits the jackpot, finding the Spaniards' command tent and pocketing nearly fifteen hundred crowns in actual cash.

The cavalry is getting bored of all this siege work – they're champing at the bit for some real, sweeping-across-the-countryside action. But it's not to be. The consolation is that foraging does allow the accumulation of plunder. Cavalry Division commander Ben e'Volence, for example, enriches himself to the tune of over fifteen hundred crowns.

Balzac Slapdash, commanding the Dragoon Guards, gets well under the 1,500. Still, he's also Mentioned in Despatches ("Forage, forage..."), brevetted to Brigadier-General and elevated to an Earldom. His sister regiment (and bitter rivals) in the Horse Guards, the Queen's Own Carabiniers, is led by Colonel Justin Thyme. He just gets made a Count. Lieutenant-Colonel Come Asiouar loots over 500 crowns' worth of goodies. Major Ian Dediette is back at the "well under 1,500" mark, but that's more than twice as much as Come took. And Captain Con Stantinople survives.

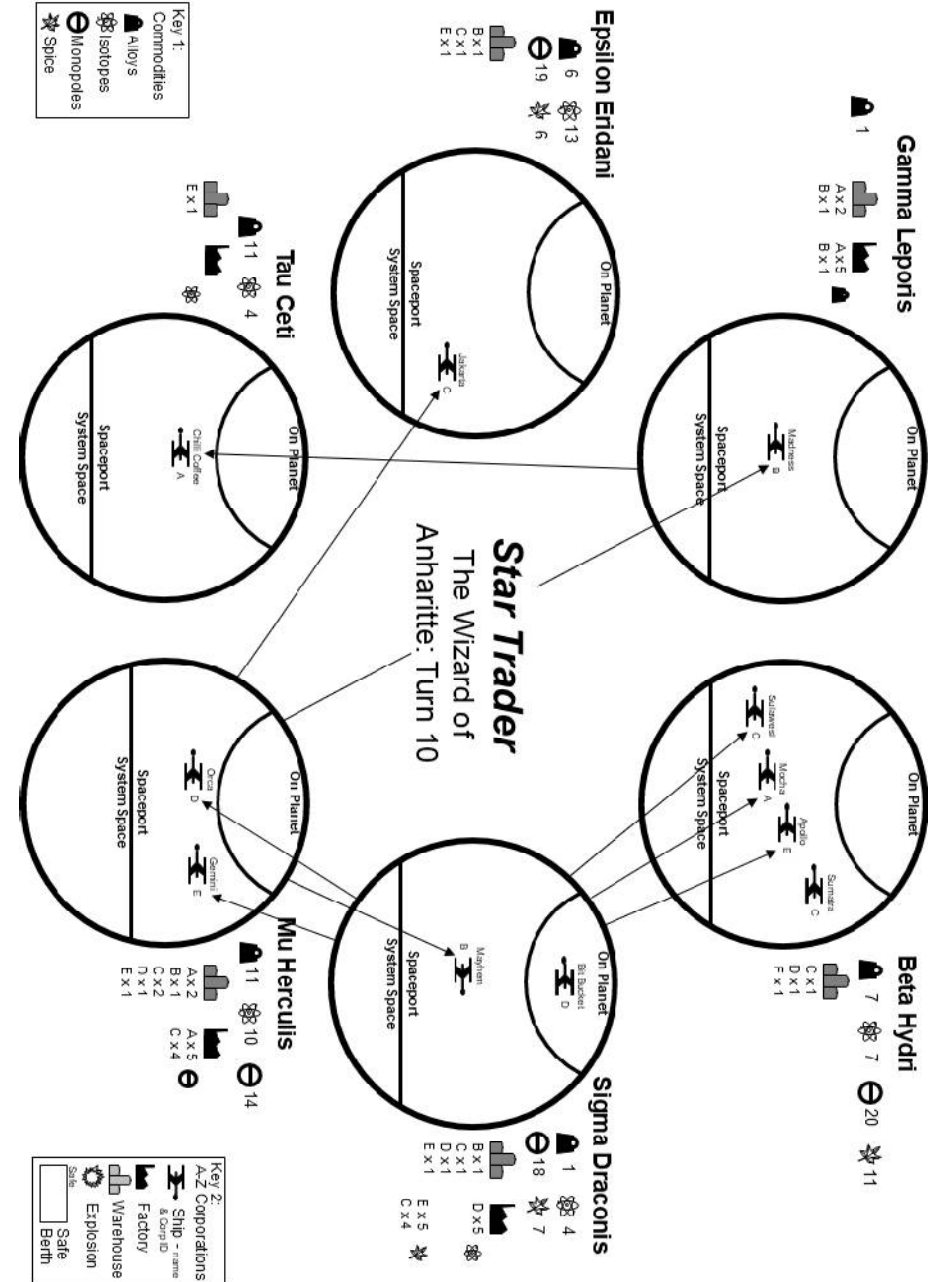
Things are a bit different in the Heavy Brigade. Though not for Hugh Jeneaux in charge of Archduke Leo's Cuirassiers. He snaffles close to a thousand crowns for himself and turns down promotion to Bdr-Gen.

It's the Crown Prince Cuirassiers who see action, mixing it with some Imperial cavalry. This follows the regiment's pickets intercepting a furtive fellow sneaking out of camp one night. This Dutchman's satchel contained a copy of the regiment's orders, but it's not clear how he got them. Consequently, CO Stephane Etrange has the regiment taking precautions against an ambush. They spot the Imperials lying in wait, but the ensuing fight is fierce. Stephane takes over a thousand crowns as his share of the booty and receives a Mention in Despatches. But his Lt-Col, Thibault Pinot-Noir, loses out. He charges into the middle of the fray only to find he's surrounded by Germanic sabres. RIP. Major Thierry Boule is not as brave, but still falls to those Teutonic blades. RIP. Benefitting from this is junior Major François de Blanchefort, who is promoted to fill the vacancy at Lt-Col. Captain Arent Hayes stays out of trouble.

And besieged

There's nothing much to report from the Frontier regiments. However, there are two Generals leading battalions of the RNHB. General Rick Shaw has a comfortable month directing his men and secures well over a thousand crowns' worth of loot from their endeavours. In contrast, General Jacques Hatt leads from the front and his bravery nets him 500 crowns' worth of booty. Plus a substantial Mention in Despatches.

This leaves the Dragoon Brigade, which is rather detached from the rest of the army. Brigade Major Botte Le Chimiste gets a piece of the action. A piece that's worth over a thousand crowns. In Princess Louisa's Light Dragoons, Major Charles



Troodos (Railway Rivals game 18 – RR2528CY)

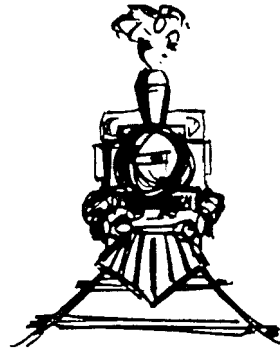
Turn 11

Race results

Race	From	To	MT	CR	AGTM	III
25	11 Paphos	31 Paleokhoro	20-4		5JR + 4	5JR
26	16 Limassol	66 NE Cyprus		5-2	10JR	10JR+ 2
27	44 Nicosia	24 Pedhoulas	20-3	10+1		+2
28	54 Kythrea	33 Lefkara	20			
29	26 Troodos	51 Lapithos		10-5	0-3	20+8
30	46 Nicosia	62 Famagusta	0-3	10	20+3	
TOTAL			50	29	39	47

JR = Joint Run; ERP = Exchange of Running Powers

MEDITRAINEAN had a better run of races and has a small lead going into the final round, though all three are close at the top with INLAND IRONHORSE INTERNATIONAL and CANTERBURY RAILWAYS almost alongside. ALL GREEK TO ME has lower ambitions: taking part.



Builds and Points

MediTrainean (MT), Anthony
 Gilbert – Red
Starts: Larnaca
Builds:
 None
Points: 216 +50 = 266

Canterbury Railways (CR), Rob
 Pinkerton – Blue
Starts: Famagusta
Builds:
 None
Points: 216 +29 = 245

All Greek To Me (AGTM), Mike Dyer
 – Black
Starts: Kyrenia
Builds:
 (C68) – Athna
Points: 118 -2 +39 = 155

Inland Ironhorse International
 (III), Chris Rudram – Green
Starts: Lapithos
Builds:
 None
Points: 213 +47 = 260

over 500 crowns in booty as his reward. Lt-Colonel Camille de Polignac is right with him and gets exactly 500 crowns' worth of loot. It's the same for Major Hector William Boone. Senior Captain Neville Moore keeps his head down, which produces nothing for him. Captain Felipe Savant is so brave he gets Mentioned in the Despatches ("a brave Captain!"). While Captain Thierry Toothpick is equally brave, yet is overlooked (he's used to it).

Claude de Nord leads the King's Musketeers, who have a quiet month. So Nord and Lt-Col Frank X Change go looking for trouble and find a Dutch patrol. The exchange brings more than 500 crowns' worth of plunder for Nord, while Change picks up just over a thousand crowns' worth. Unsurprisingly, both men receive lengthy Mentions in Despatches.



The Picardy Musketeers are the success in First Foot Brigade, their gunfire downgrading the Dutch defenders opposing them. Colonel Percival Puffington is promoted to (brevet) Brigadier-General and pockets over 500 crowns.

There are more promotions in the Royal Marines. Captain Chemin de Fer has his brevet rank made permanent, while Major Marcel Hatch Dupree becomes Lt-Colonel.

First Foot Brigadier Henri DuShite basks in the Picardies' success and the MiD this brings him. Not to mention his new title of Count. And over a thousand crowns' worth of loot.

Besieging

Second Division does a bit better than First, though the only thing Division commander Zavier Ulric Turenne gets is 500 crowns' worth of booty.

In Second Foot Brigade, the 13th Fusiliers make headway against the Spanish garrison facing them. Lt-Col Hugo Furst runs the regiment and receives promotion to Colonel. Armand Alsace leads the 53rd to exploit this success, overrunning the enemy positions. Following the incapacitation of the Brigadier, Armand takes over command of Second Foot Brigade. Captain Sebastian Blanc-Chevaux is new to all this and gains no recognition.

4th Arquebusier Colonel Jean d'Aubergine can't make any headway with his regiment, but is still promoted to (brevet) Bdr-Gen. He makes sure to dip into the loot, taking over five hundred crowns. The 27th Musketeers provide Third Foot Brigade with its own success. Captain Agaric Champignon survives a close call with enemy pikes as he storms the defensive lines, but gets nothing. His fellow

Next turn's races

Race	From	To
31	12 Paphos	21 Polis
32	15 Limassol	23 Evrykhou
33	35 Larnaca	45 Nicosia
34	61 Athna	32 Dhali
35	55 Akanthou	65 Theodoros
36	52 Kyrenia	43 Nicosia

GM Notes

You may enter up to **four** of the six races – any that nobody enters will be held over to next turn. If working with another player, please make it clear whether it's a JOINT RUN or EXCHANGE OF RUNNING POWERS and state what route is to be taken (which might be “accept MT's route”, for example).

This is the last round of races, so there'll be no building afterwards.

Please send in any Game End Statement (GES) you may wish to make about the map, unfairness of the routes and the GM's dice rolling.

Orders and GESs to Mike Dommett, 12 Watton Park, Bridport DT6 5NJ or by e-mail to mike_dommett@yahoo.co.uk by 14th March 2025

Railway Rivals game 19

This will be on the Lake District map (with up to four players) or Texas (if we have more). As usual, we'll provide working copies (and the rules) for players.

Gerald Udowiczenko and Mike Dyer are already on the waiting list. If you're interested in playing let Mike or Pevans know by 14th March.

Les Petites Bêtes Soyeuses

Being a correspondence game of *En Garde!* run by Pevans since April 1986 and now published as part of *To Win Just Once*.

New players are always welcome. If you'd like to play, you'll need to subscribe to *TWJO* (see page 7). You will also need (access to) a copy of the published rules to *En Garde!* (see www.engarde.co.uk).

**Orders for August 1676 to Pevans at
180 Aylsham Drive, UXBRIDGE
UB10 8UF, UK or
lpbsorders@pevans.co.uk
by 21st March 2025**

**July 1676 (388)**

The army may be in action in the Low Countries, but there are still recruits and promotions to deal with. Not to mention some financial transactions – such as Louis Severin Descartes writing off his months-old loan to his colleague, Elroi le Flingue. Terence Cuckpowder is spreading largesse around, as his wont, donating sums to new arrivals in Paris. And the moneylenders are very happy when someone on active service repays their loan. As Chemin de Fer does, for example.

The 27th Musketeers is one regiment attracting applicants. Both Agaric Champignon and Justin Cartier are accepted when they put themselves forward. Justin would like to take the vacant Major's position, but doesn't have the funds for the necessary horses. Perhaps he should have taken out a larger loan. Still, he can afford to be a Captain. Agaric did borrow plenty of cash, but Captain is the limit of his current ambitions.

Sebastian Blanc-Chevaux signs up with the 53rd Fusiliers, courtesy of CO Armand Alsace, and can afford a Captaincy without any need to borrow.

Another new arrival, Ignace Pardaillon, offers his services to the Crown Prince Cuirassiers only to be rejected by their commander, Stephane Etrange. The Royal Marines are not interested, either. However, Louis Severin Descartes welcomes him to the Grand Duke Max's as a Trooper. Louis also signs up Steve De Sade, another Trooper.

“Tiny” Thierry Toothpick resigns his two-month old commission as a Major in the Cardinal's Guard to re-apply to the Royal Foot Guards. RFG boss Beau Reese Jean Seine is happy (!) to accept him, though a Captaincy is the highest rank available