

EPGS Heroics

Newsletter of The Eastern
Pennsylvania Gaming Society

June 2005

EPGS meets from 10:00 AM to 9:30 PM this Saturday, June 18th, in Oxford Valley Mall's Community Room. Subsequent meeting dates are scheduled for the first and third Saturdays each month through the end of 2005.

EPGS T-Shirts

In years gone by EPGS sold Club T-shirts and sweatshirts. Now, according to President Steve Cameron, "the demand for shirts has reached a point where I'm going to make sure we get them done by the end of the year. Anyone wishing to give input on this (or head it up) please let me know." Steve can be contacted at stevegamer@snip.net.

World Boardgame Team Championship



As most of you undoubtedly know, The World Boardgame Championships will be in nearby Lancaster from August 2-7, with "precon" tournaments in *Victory in the Pacific*, *Paths of Glory*, *Hannibal: Rome Versus Carthage* and *Advanced Squad Leader* starting July 30th. See www.boardgamers.org for more information.

Once again EPGS will have several entries in the team competition. If you are interested in participating on an EPGS team, contact President Steve Cameron at stevegamer@snip.net. Last year one of our teams (Barb Flaxington, Alex Bove, Chris Moffa and Jim Vroom) finished third.

Anniversary Gaming

Philadelphians should celebrate June 18th as Evacuation Day, the anniversary of the British ending their occupation of our city in the Revolutionary War. After all Boston celebrates its Evacuation Day, why not us? (Of course the fact that their Evacuation Day coincides with St. Patrick's Day gives Bostonians two reasons to celebrate.) As the British retreated overland to New York, I wonder if their camp site the first night was near Oxford Valley. Probably not.

June 18th is also the anniversary of one of the few times in American history that Congress passed a Declaration of War. The War of 1812 is sometimes called "The Forgotten War", which, judging from the amount of wargames published about it, is an apt title. The only strategic level games ever published on the war are *War of 1812* (Gamma Two, Columbia) and *War of 1812* (Decision/S&T#207). There are also a couple of games on individual battles, and Worthington Games is now planning to publish *For Honor and Glory: War of 1812 Land and Naval Battles* with fifteen scenarios covering various battles.



Although in the final battle of The War of 1812 at New Orleans the British suffered one of the most lopsided defeats in history, they retreated to Europe where five months later they ended the Napoleonic Wars. Countless games on the Battle of Waterloo exist, including *Waterloo* (Avalon Hill), *Napoleon at Waterloo* (SPI), *Eagles: Waterloo* (Columbia), *The Battles of Waterloo* (GMT) and *Waterloo* (Phalanx).

George Mallory, born June 18th, attempted to climb Mount Everest three times in the 1920s. When asked why he did it, he responded “Because it is there”. He did not return from his third attempt to scale the mountain in 1924. His body was found in 1999. Although some artifacts from his expedition have been found, his camera has yet to be recovered. Finding it would prove whether or not he reached the summit before perishing.

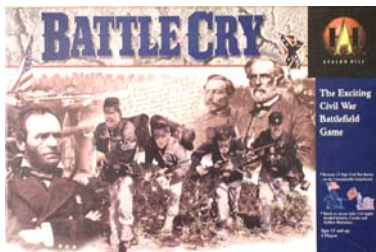
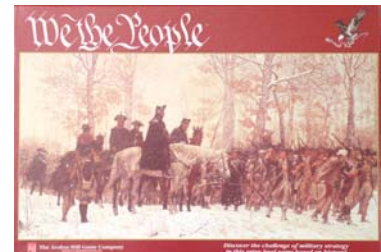
Churchill’s June 18th 1940 speech inspired the title of the game *Their Finest Hour* (GDW).

June 18th

- 1621 First duel in America at Plymouth Colony Massachusetts
- 1778 British abandon Philadelphia after nine month occupation under General Clinton
- 1787 Philadelphia Convention begins drafting the Constitution
- 1812 President James Madison signs Declaration of War against Britain, starting The War of 1812
- 1815 Five months after its humiliating defeat at New Orleans, British army wins Battle of Waterloo
- 1886 Mountain climber who fatally attempted Mt. Everest “because it is there” George Mallory born.
- 1901 Singer/actress Jeanette MacDonald born
- 1924 Basketball star George Mikan born
- 1935 Anglo-German naval treaty signed
- 1940 Hitler and Mussolini met in Munich
- 1940 Churchill’s “Finest Hour” speech
- 1942 Churchill arrives in U.S. for meeting with Roosevelt
- 1942 General Spaatz assumes command of US Army Air Force in Britain
- 1942 Japanese invade Fukien province in China
- 1942 Singer/songwriter Paul McCartney born
- 1944 Soviets break through the Mannerheim Line in Finland
- 1945 In the Philippines, Americans complete recapture of Mindanao Island from the Japanese
- 1965 B-52s used for the first time in South Vietnam
- 1979 President Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev sign SALT II treaty
- 1983 Sally Ride becomes first female astronaut. (Tereshkova was first female cosmonaut in 1963.)

July 2nd

July 2nd is the anniversary of the completion of the writing of the Declaration of Independence. *We the People* (Avalon Hill) is appropriate for this day, as one of the most important events that can happen during the course of the game is the play of the “Declaration of Independence” card. Why Avalon Hill chose this title for the game has always been a mystery to me, as it is self-evident that the phrase “We the People” comes instead from the Constitution. The game system takes much from the game of *Go/Weichi*, where the term for an open space permitting a group to live is a “Liberty”. Hence a more appropriate title would have been *Give Me Liberty*. (Shortly after *We the People* was published, 3W published a game titled *Give Me Liberty!*)



Numerous *Battle Cry* scenarios exist beyond the fifteen that come with the game. Several pertain to battles fought on July 2nd. They and many others can be found at <http://www.thewargamer.com/battlecry>. There is one for The Battle of Falling Waters by the game’s designer Richard Borg. Winning this battle enabled the Confederate troops in Western Virginia to move east and join the rest of the rebel army at the First Battle of Bull Run. Other designers have contributed scenarios pertaining to sections of the Battle of Gettysburg: Cemetery Hill & Culp’s Hill and Devil’s Den & The Wheat Field.

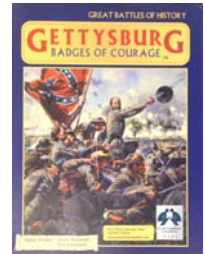
Numerous other games exist on the Battle of Gettysburg, including the first historic boardgame *Gettysburg* (1958 Avalon Hill). Avalon Hill issued several other distinct games with the same title (1961, 1977 and 1988), and its sister company Victory Games published *Across Five Aprils* with a Gettysburg scenario. Other games on the battle include *Dixie: Gettysburg* (Columbia) and *Gettysburg: Badges of Courage* (Columbia).

An appropriate game for the anniversary of Congress passing the Sherman anti-trust law July 2nd 1890 is *Anti-Monopoly* (ASS).

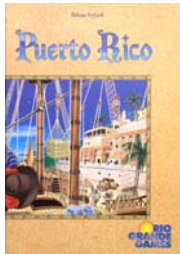
July 2nd is the anniversary of Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin's first demonstration of his airship. Games dealing with zeppelins are *Zeppelin (Jagdpanther)*, *Zeppelin* (Decision/S&T#159) and *Luftschiff* (Sierra Madre).

July 2nd

- 1776 Delegates from twelve colonies vote to declare independence from Britain. (New York abstained.)
- 1776 Admiral Howe's fleet anchors in New York harbor with 10,000 troops
- 1839 Slaves onboard *Amistad* seize control of ship
- 1850 B.J. Lane invents the gas mask
- 1861 Battle of Falling Waters, AKA Hoke's Run, near Martinsburg in what would become West Virginia
- 1863 Second Day of Gettysburg: Culp's Hill, Devil's Den, The Wheatfield and Little Round Top
- 1881 President James Garfield shot by Charles Ghiteau. He died September 19th of blood poisoning.
- 1890 Sherman anti-trust act passed by Congress
- 1900 Count Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin demonstrates first airship
- 1908 Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall born
- 1929 Philippine first lady and shoe collector Imelda Marcos born
- 1937 Aviatrix Amelia Earhart disappears in Pacific Ocean
- 1940 Hitler orders plans for invasion of England
- 1941 Germans begin retreat after First Battle of Alamein
- 1947 USSR rejects Marshall Plan assistance for Eastern Europe
- 1964 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act prohibiting racial discrimination
- 1992 1,000,000th Chevrolet Corvette manufactured



The Games We Played



This is my seventh issue as editor of *Heroics*. I had hoped to be able to complete my (18 issue) term of office without using a photo of a game more than once. But with the many plays of *Puerto Rico* last month it seems appropriate to picture it again. Also, it's the only game that was played more than once that I own a copy of. So unless you gamers cooperate and stop playing *Puerto Rico* for the rest of the year, it looks like I'll have to show it yet again next January to illustrate the 2005 cumulative list of games played. If you get the urge to play *Puerto Rico* at EPGS, just remember that the way the previous *Heroics* editor set up the games played database, all I have to type to enter *Puerto Rico* is its first two letters: "P U".

In addition to *Puerto Rico*'s five plays, the following games were played three times apiece last month: *Around the World in 80 Days*, *China*, *Diamant*, *Star Wars: The Queen's Gambit* and *Tower of Babel*. And

I was pleased to see more railroad games played this month than in any previous month since I became editor. In March we reached a low of only one game being played, and in April only two were played. Apparently the recent publication of *Ticket to Ride: Europe* (Days of Wonder) has stimulated this resurgence.

Thanks to Jason Wagner for helping compile this information.

NEW	GAME	PUBLISHER	MAY 28	JUN 4
	<i>Advanced Squad Leader</i>	Avalon Hill / Multi-Man	1	
	<i>Age of Steam</i>	Warfrog		1
	<i>Alhambra</i>	Queen		1
	<i>Amun-Re</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	1
	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i>	Kosmos / Rio Grande	2	1
	<i>Axis & Allies – Pacific</i>	Hasbro/Avalon		1
	<i>Barbarossa to Berlin</i>	GMT	1	1
	<i>Carcassonne - Hunters and Gatherers</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Carcassonne - The Castle</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Category 5 / 6 Nimmt</i>	Amigo / US Games Systems	1	
G	<i>China</i>	Überplay	1	2
	<i>Citadels / Ohne Furcht und Adel</i>	Hans im Glück / Fantasy Flight	1	
G	<i>Diamant</i>	Schmidt	3	
	<i>El Grande</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Empire of the Sun</i>	GMT	1	
G/P	<i>Fairy Tale</i>	Yūhodō	1	
	<i>Formula Motor Racing</i>	GMT	1	
G/P	<i>Friedrich</i>	Histogame	1	1
	<i>Goa</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Hive</i>	Gen Four Two	2	
G	<i>In the Shadow of the Emperor</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Kanaloa</i>	Bambus		1
	<i>Keythedral</i>	R&D		1
	<i>Louis XIV: Intrigue in the Court of the Sun King</i>	Alea / Rio Grande		1
	<i>Lunar Rails</i>	Mayfair		1
G	<i>Manila</i>	Zoch / Rio Grande	1	
	<i>Medici</i>	Amigo / Rio Grande	1	
G	<i>Monsters Ravage America / Monsters Menace America</i>	Avalon Hill / Hasbro/Avalon	1	1
	<i>Paths of Glory</i>	GMT		2
	<i>Power Grid</i>	Rio Grande	1	1
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	4	1
	<i>Ra</i>	Alea / Rio Grande		1
G	<i>Razzia!</i>	Amigo		1
G	<i>Return of the Heroes</i>	Pegasus	2	
	<i>Saint Petersburg</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		1
G/P	<i>Silverton</i>	Two Wolf / Mayfair	1	
	<i>Stalingrad Pocket</i>	The Gamers	1	
	<i>Star Wars - The Queen's Gambit</i>	Hasbro/Avalon	1	2
	<i>Taj Mahal</i>	Alea / Rio Grande	1	
G	<i>The Motley Fool's Buy Low Sell High</i>	Überplay	1	
	<i>Ticket to Ride</i>	Days of Wonder		1
	<i>Ticket to Ride: Europe</i>	Days of Wonder	1	1
	<i>Tigris and Euphrates</i>	Hans im Glück / Mayfair	1	
G	<i>Tower of Babel</i>	Hans im Glück / Rio Grande		3
	<i>TransAmerica</i>	Rio Grande		1
	<i>Traumfabrik / Fabrik der Träume</i>	Hasbro		1
	<i>Up Front</i>	Avalon Hill	1	
G	<i>War in the Desert</i>	Games Research/Design	1	1
G	<i>Warriors</i>	Phalanx / Face 2 Face	1	
G/P	<i>World in War: Combined Arms 1939-1945</i>	Splattjanst		1
15/4	TOTAL	TOTAL	30/38	31/36

G = New Game
GP = New Game and Publisher

Military Games are Red
Railroad Games are Blue

EPGS Information

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

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