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CHALLENGE



GDW's Magazine of Adventure Gaming

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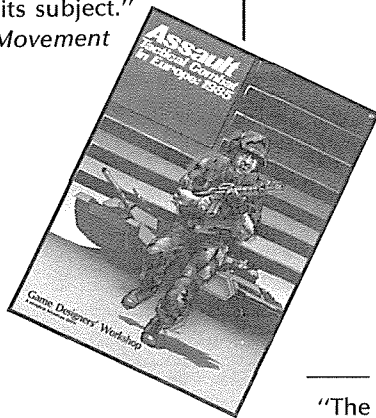
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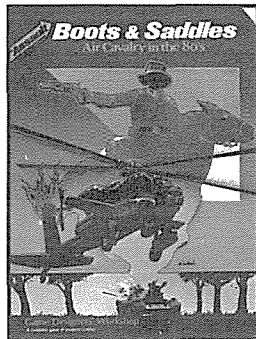
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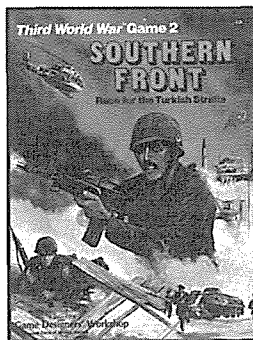
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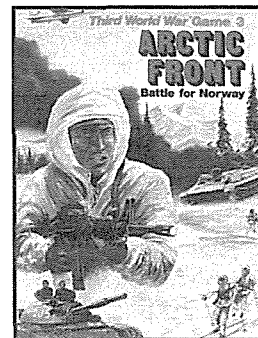
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CHALLENGE

GDW's Magazine of Adventure Gaming

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Amber Zone

Siege, by *John M. Ford*.....37

Feature Articles

The Baltic Coast: A Looter's Guide, by *Jeff Groteboer*.....3

What do We Do Now? Reflections on *Twilight: 2000*, by *Timothy Brown*5

False Knight on the Road, by *John M. Ford*.....9

Ref's Notes: On the Use of NPCs, by *Frank Frey*.....14

Fleet Escort Lisiani, by *Marc W. Miller*.....18

Bait: Q-Ships in **Traveller**, by *Steven Brinich & James Schwar*.....32

The Darrian Way of Life, by *Anders Blixt*.....34

Planetary Invasions in **Traveller**, by *Steven Brinich & James Schwar*....40

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Twilight Miniatures Rules, by *Frank A. Chadwick*.....21

Features

From The Management.....2

Just Detected.....2

Traveller News Service.....17

Using Your Model/2 Bis, by *Marc W. Miller*.....39

Ship's Locker.....43

Casual Encounter: Ringaal DeAsteria, by *J. Andrew Keith*.....46

Challenge Classifieds.....48

From the Management

Well, here's the first issue of our new format. I hope you have found it all worth the wait. Our **Traveller** readers will note that all the **Traveller** material has been placed together in a special JTAS section. Those not interested in *Twilight: 2000* can simply flip directly to the special *Journal* "cover" by looking for the black border that appears when you bend the magazine slightly.

The center eight pages of the magazine are designed to be removed. Using a tool such as a screwdriver, carefully bend up the center staples, remove the proper pages, and carefully bend the staples back down again. The miniatures rules can then be used by themselves (you may want to staple them together) and the Lisiani can be viewed its uninterrupted glory.

The new format will permit us to do a few things that we've never been able to do before, due to space constraints, but it also raises our need for articles, concerning both **Traveller** and *Twilight: 2000*, so I urge all of you who ever thought about writing something for the *Journal* to send in an SSAE for our manuscript guidelines and then get to it.

Issue #24 feedbacked as follows;

Amber Zone: Embassy at Arms.....	3.70
Amber Zone: The Lost Village.....	3.20
Religion in the 2000 Worlds.....	3.58
Data File.....	3.85
Jumpspace.....	4.47
Ref's Notes: <i>High Guard</i> and <i>TCS</i>	3.5
Using Your Model/1Bis.....	3.56
From The Management.....	3.24
Just Detected.....	2.91
Traveller News Service.....	3.53
Contact: The Dynchia.....	3.56
Ship's Locker.....	4.29
Issue 24 as a whole.....	3.74

—Loren K. Wiseman

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Just Detected

Conventions

LITTLE WARS

May 9-11, River Grove, Illinois. A strictly miniatures convention, held at Triton College, Student Building, 2000 5th Ave, River Grove, Illinois. The convention will feature over 100 Historical, fantasy, and SF tabletop miniatures battles, a dealer room and much more. For more information, send SSAE to Todd Fisher, 6010 N. Maramora Ave, Chicago, IL 60646. *Editor's Note:* Frank Chadwick and I plan on attending this one.

MIGS VII

May 25, 1986, Cambridge, Ontario. Tutorials, seminars, painting contests, board games and adventure role playing tournaments, plus a dealer area and flea market. The event will be held at the Kitchener-Waterloo Regional Police Association Recreation Centre, RR2, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. For more information contact Les Scanlon, President MIGS, 473 Upper Wentworth St, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L9A 4T6.

SEAGA 86

June 20-22, Atlanta Sheraton Hotel. This is the 4th annual Atlanta Gaming Festival. For more information write SEAGA Inc., PO Box 16564, Atlanta, GA 30321.

LA ORIGINS '86

July 3-6, Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel. Roleplaying, wargames, miniatures, computer and family boardgame tournaments, flea markets, auction, seminars, demonstrations, and exhibitor area. This is one of the big ones, so attend if you possibly can. For more information, contact LA Origins '86, C/O DTI, PO Box 8399, Long Beach, CA 90808, or call (213) 420-3675.

OKON 86

July 18-20, Tulsa, Oklahoma. This is an SF convention with gaming events. Guests include Kelly and Polly Freas, Glen Cook, Carl Lundgren, Forest J. Ackerman and C.J. Cherryh. For more information, send an SSAE to OKON 86, PO Box 4229, Tulsa, OK 74159.

ARCHON 10

July 1986, St Louis. This is the tenth edition of the St Louis SF & Fantasy Convention. For information, write Archon 10, PO Box 50125, St Louis, MO 63105.

OMACON 6

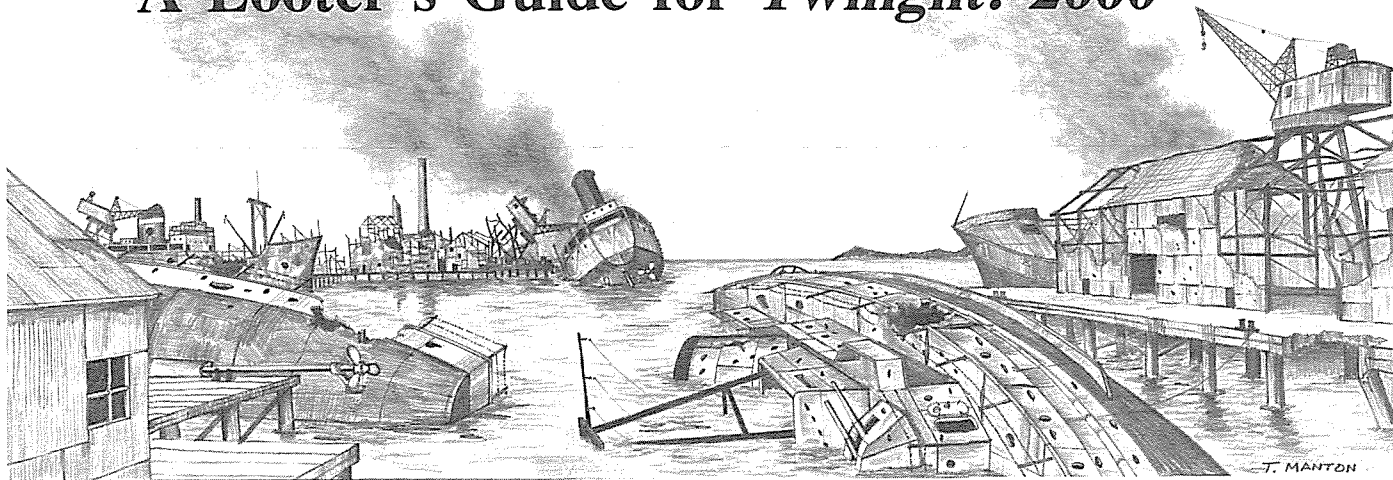
August 1-3, Omaha, Nebraska. Omacon is a SF convention with a strong gaming element. For more information, write Omacon 6, 556 S. 35th St, Omaha, NE 68131.

EARTHCON VI

September 19-21, Holiday Inn Cleveland. This is the North-east Ohio Science Fiction Association's annual SF/Fantasy convention. Guests include Gordon R. Dickson and C.J. Cherryh. For information contact EARTHCON, PO Box 5641, Cleveland, OH 44101.

continued on page 44

The Baltic Coast: A Looter's Guide for *Twilight: 2000*



Poland's Baltic Coast suffered greatly during the war—many coastal cities and towns were destroyed during the initial hostilities, and many more were attacked and looted in the aftermath which dominates the world of *Twilight: 2000*.

The overall terrain along Poland's coast consists of low hills. Few trees remain; most of these are young pines. The only beaches are in the Bay of Danzig, and these were rendered radioactive by the nuclear attack on Gdansk. The weather is moderate, reaching freezing in winter and exceeding 17°C in summer. Southerly winds from the Baltic Sea predominate, although fog is quite common in spring.

Poland's major naval bases were Gdynia, Hel, and Swinoujscie. Major commercial ports were Gdansk, Gdynia, Szczecin, and Ustka. The four major commercial ports also contained major shipyards.

Most major commercial and naval sites were destroyed in 1997 when, in order to secure their southern naval flank, NATO forces launched attacks against Polish vessels. Poland's major combatants were quickly defeated, although the Western units involved suffered heavy casualties at the hands of Poland's missile attack boats.

Although only Gdansk and Szczecin suffered under nuclear attacks, Gdynia, Hel and Swinoujscie were heavily bombarded. The devastation done was similar. Ustka is the only major shipyard still in operation, although the lack of petroleum and electric power prohibits large-scale industry. Small-scale repairs are available, although they are prohibitively expensive. Most new ships are being built of wooden hulls.

Individual locations are presented here, in east-to-west order:

THE GULF OF DANZIG

Gdansk: Not much is left of this city. The area is dominated by a large nuclear crater. The 7th Amphibious Assault Division, headquartered in Gdansk, was not there when Gdansk was hit by the nuclear blast which destroyed it. The 7th AAD now has its HQ just south of Gdynia.

Sopot: Formerly a small city (pre-war population: 48,000)

along the coast, it has been reduced to small clusters of tents and corrugated tin shacks amidst the ruins. There is no government left; groups of inhabitants and families vie for arable land and clean living space. Encounters along this strip of coastline will carry a 2% higher chance of disease due to the lack of fresh water and civilization. Various sentiments exist throughout the area: everything from outright hostility against any warriors, to friendliness (mixed with necessary caution) toward anyone.

Gdynia: Almost wholly bombed-out, Gdynia houses a fraction of its pre-war population of 168,000. The ruins along the coast are very dangerous, since the war's bombings covered the slipways and drydocks with layers of rubble. Encounters in this area are often pitfalls of up to 30 meters, as well as foragers and scroungers. Further inland in the ruins of Gdynia, a small civilization has rebuilt itself based on fishing in the Gulf of Danzig, under the protective waterbreak provided by the Hel Peninsula. Although they are independent of any central government, they must, nevertheless, constantly deal with the remnants of the 1st Polish Army, which has its headquarters there. Many troops of the 3rd Border Guard Brigade have defected to the Gdynia civilian population, while others simply left the area altogether. The 3rd BGB presently numbers 240. The 2nd Polish Cavalry Division remains almost intact, numbering 190. Gdynia is also the home of the 2nd Naval Infantry Battalion, presently numbering 1100. The remnants of the Polish Navy have their headquarters just outside Gdynia, where they have set up their own naval base. The 7th Amphibious Assault Division now has its HQ just south of Gdynia, where it maintains a strength of 350, co-located with the 2nd Naval Infantry Battalion.

Major Polish Naval vessels which are still active have the Nowy Gdynia Naval Base as their homeport. The naval presence is only 230, however, so many vessels lie at anchor in the harbor, unused and rusting. The current Polish naval presence at Gdynia consists of one Whiskey-class submarine, three Osa-class guided-missile patrol boats, five P-6 class patrol torpedo boats, and one T-43 class ocean minesweeper. The 7th AAD operates 2 Marabut-class landing craft, although fuel for these

vessels is increasingly scarce. The majority of alcohol produced by the navy base goes to the P-6 class PT's, which are used for coastal defense (although they are run less and less as parts wear out and replacements become increasingly hard to find).

Despite the large naval presence in the area, there is virtually no commercial shipping.

Puck: Further up the coast from Gdynia, the town of Puck was left almost unscathed by the war. Somewhat isolated, the locals compete peacefully with their neighbors in Gdynia for the fish in the Gulf of Danzig. They also farm the sparse land nearby.

Hel: On the Hel Peninsula, this naval base was bombarded heavily during the war. Since the peninsula does not contain arable land, it is not inhabited, although occasionally looters will sail there to scrounge ammunition and other naval supplies. Traversing the peninsula by vehicle is practically impossible due to the large craters left by the bombs. The wreckage of three ships (one Moma-class Intelligence ship, two K-8 class inshore minesweepers) is visible in the harbor, although they have been stripped of all useful materials.

THE BALTIC COAST

Leba: A small, coastal town, which nowadays relies almost primarily on coastal fishing. The surrounding areas support little agriculture—hence this town has virtually no fuels. Like so many areas, horses are the primary means of transportation and work. Small, dirt footpaths are the only roads in and out of this town. There is some trading of goods with Ustka via coastal fishing vessels, but otherwise this town remains solitary. The citizens are virulently anti-military, blaming everyone in uniform for the past holocaust. Even the local militia wear no uniforms; thus, they are difficult to distinguish from the rest of the population.

Ustka: Ustka survived the war relatively unscathed. The commercial port just outside the town was bombed, but luckily the bombs did not stray into the town. Its population therefore enjoys the benefit of limited alcohol production, which it uses to propel its fishing boats and vehicles. Numbering just over 3500, the citizens are peaceful and friendly, and are willing to trade almost any goods. The militia numbers 125. New ships are being constructed on the repaired quays at the port, but these are mostly intended for coastal fishing. The largest ship still active at Ustka is a 4,000 ton steamship which has been converted to sail power.

Darlowo: This town relies almost completely on agriculture in the sparse coastal hills. Set in from the coast, yet not on a major road, it too survived the war with little damage. Darlowo enjoys a healthy trade with Ustka; swapping fish for vegetables on a regular basis. Alcohol is also in use as a fuel here.

Koszalin: A major crossroads, Koszalin saw heavy fighting and much troop movement. It continues to be a vital link from the Baltic Coast to the Oder River area. Much of the city has been destroyed, and less than one-quarter of the city's pre-war population of 54,000 still inhabits the area. The local citizenry is extremely hateful of Warsaw Pact armies, since they pillaged the city time and time again on trips to and from the front. Although anti-Western sentiment remains due to the bombings of the war, Westerners willing to carry on peaceful trade or help the city in some way will be treated with respect and kindness.

Kolobrzeg: A pre-war city of 25,000, Kolobrzeg was heavily bombarded during the war. Little is left of the waterfront. The inland areas saw heavy fighting like Koszalin, so the people are afraid of any new troops entering the area. The local govern-

ment is weak, but stable, being led by a local hero, Lt. Pauli Dostoy, formerly of the 9th Motorized Rifle Division. The city is presently occupied by elements of the US XIth Corps, cut off from higher headquarters during the recent NATO offensive.

Trzebiatow: Now almost wholly a ghost town, the local inhabitants have all moved out of the path of advancing and retreating armies, into Mrzezyno. Trzebiatow is a ruins, with only one hotel still standing. It is run by a "crazy" old man named Viktor Vichenka. More senile than crazy, he welcomes guests, and gives directions to the local night clubs—although they are no longer standing.

Mrzezyno: This town has grown beyond its means since the influx of citizens from Trzebiatow. Housing is in short supply, and the surrounding land cannot supply enough food for everyone. Strangers with food and equipment will be waylaid if they even pass within a few kilometers of this area.

Dziwnow: Lying on the eastern bank of the estuary of the Oder River, this town played an important role in the protection of Szczecin from invasion. When Szczecin was hit by nuclear bombs, however, its importance dwindled and, little-by-little, its troops and equipment (mostly coastal artillery units) were moved elsewhere. The town is now mostly abandoned, having relied heavily on the presence of the soldiers to provide income. Many pieces of equipment were left behind, mostly office equipment, such as typewriters and filing cabinets. The local townspeople would like to see the soldiers return—so much, in fact, that they probably would not care which uniforms they wear!

Welin: This town remains strategic for its link across the Oder estuary. It saw considerable damage during the war, but the bridge managed to remain relatively intact. It remains the main Baltic Coast supply route between East Germany and Poland, although there is no regular garrison there.

Swinoujscie: This town lies on the East German/Polish border and, as such, is an important link from one country to the other. The town was almost totally destroyed by the fierce fighting as NATO forces pushed into Poland. It was heavily bombarded at the outset of the war in the Baltic, since a major Polish Naval Base was located there. The piers and docks are now totally destroyed. Local sentiment is anti-anyone. Outsiders are not welcomed; members of military units are hated and mistreated.

Editor's Note: This article represents conditions as of The beginning of July, 2000.

— Jeff Groteboer

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