

Lords of the Earth

Campaign Nineteen

Turn 70

Anno Domini 1246 - 1250

TURN 70 ORDERS DUE BY: Friday, July 28th. Orders will not be accepted after Midnight MST on Saturday, July 29th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A

Price Increase:

Due to increasing workload, the sign-up/per turn cost is now \$7.00. I apologize for any inconvenience this decision may cause.

Fractional NFP: You may now save fractional NFP. Any spending of NFP must be in whole units however. At some point, when the updated rules are completely implemented, you will be able to spend fractional nfp on things like ship crews.

Field Forts: at the end of this turn, the max number of field forts allowed in a region will be 5 (five) times the GPV. Any excess will be converted into regular infantry at that time. Regions with a GpV of 0 or “-“ may have a max of 5 field forts. This will also be appearing in the updated rules.

More HBZ Stuff: in an attempt to make determining where you can build mobile units more easier, friendly cities that are within your HBZ are marked on the map with a dot in white (or red). Your respective capitals will also be marked on the map with a diamond symbol (in white or red). (Couldn't find a single star in Wingdings, go figure...). Please remember that mobile units may only be built in friendly cities.

Missionaries

From this point, any player who sends missionaries to an uncontrolled area that is of a **hostile** organized religion will get no conversion result and a bunch of dead missionaries.

Leaders & Espionage Actions (Battle Assistance): In order for a leader to perform this action he must remain with the army he is aiding. APs spent in moving around with the army do not count towards the action itself. The maximum bonus a leader may make using this action is +1. So make sure you've got leaders with high CHA scores on this.

More on Leaders & Espionage Actions: I am beginning to get the feeling that this rule is being abused and I may excise it entirely in the near future.

The Cause Mutiny Operation (CM): players attempting this operation must produce a valid reason as to why the mutiny would occur or it will automatically fail. And no, “Because I think it should succeed.” is not a valid reason.

The HC Operation: from this point forward, all HC operations must be done in the Capital (if the nation has one) or the Homeland region. If the monarch is female and the HC die roll is successful, she may do nothing but HC for a full year (measured in AP) and undergoes a leader mortality check at the

conclusion of that period. If the HC check is unsuccessful, she may do any other activity that you've put in her orders.

Interactions between the Hemispheres: at this point only the Seafaring cultures may sail between the Hemispheres. Once people hit Renaissance, then they may attempt to do so as well. So the New World players should stop trying to get to Europe and Non Seafaring Old World players should do likewise.

Building units: The vast majority of units must be built in a city within your HBZ. The exceptions are as follows:

- 1) Ships may be built in a port outside the HBZ if it is the only one available.
- 2) Field forts may be built in any region at NT status or higher.
- 3) Inexperienced infantry may be built in a F region within your HBZ.
- 4) Nomad/Barbarian cultures may build units at a Trade Center within their HBZ.

In all these instances please be aware of the yard capacity for all ships and all heavy class units.

Some advice that will (hopefully) speed up processing time):

- 1) When players are increasing a city, please indicate what the new size will be.
- 2) For ships to be built for conversion to MSP, you can also put what route they're going into in the Builds section. Projects may also be put in the Builds section.
- 3) When building a road link, indicate which region it starts in and which region it's going to. Don't give me city names.
- 4) For players who are not using a standard WORD or XTEL format, please put the information in the following order: Revenue; Maintenance, Investments, Builds, Transfers, Projects, Trade Routes, Intel Ops, Religious Ops, Leader Actions. When indicating an expense, please list gps first then nfp.

CONTACTING & PAYING THE REFEREE

I will no longer be taking money directly for turns. Instead, players sending funds by mail should make all checks payable to Thomas Harlan and send them either to the 2nd Street address or to Thomas' address, which is:

Thomas Harlan
3210 E. 23rd Street
Tucson, AZ 85713-2261

Below is my Email address, I have moved but all snail mail correspondence should go through Thomas' address above.

Email: ancaric@throneworld.com

Payment: When paying via Paypal, please send all funds to this account:

lords19pmts@throneworld.com

ZERO AND NEGATIVE CREDIT: CONSEQUENCES

Players at zero or negative credit **at the time of deadline** or will have a negative balance at the conclusion of processing

will not have their orders processed, plain and simple. So get your orders and payment in before processing starts or life will become very unfair very quickly. Finally, players with a negative balance are liable to get their country reassigned without notice. You have been warned.

RULE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

The complete list of rules changes (including the happy stuff on Smallpox) can be found on the Lords 19 page on the Throneworld website. If you haven't read them, please do so. Reading them will save you (and me) a lot of grief.

JAPAN & THE PACIFIC RIM

THE EMPIRE OF NIPPON

Taira Jiro, Daimyo of Kwanto, Shogun of Japan.

DIPLOMACY Tottori, in Shimane (No effect)

Japanese activity in the north continued with the founding of two new ports: Sapporo, in Hokkaido; and Manchukou, in Sikhote. Sakhalin was settled by sturdy Japanese peasants to a (-/5) and Amur, in the far north, to a (-/6). Closer to home, the cities of the Empire continued to expand.

| City (Region) | New Size |
|------------------|----------|
| Kyoto (Aichi) | 10 |
| Edo (Saga) | 12 |
| Takaoka (Toyama) | 5 |
| Nagaoka (Nigata) | 5 |
| Heian (Yamato) | 11 |

THE MOLUCCAS SEAHOLD

Rokaku VI, Lord of the Spice Islands

DIPLOMACY None

The colonization of Borneo continued with the jungles of Selatin being settled to a (1/5). Brunei also grew to a size 4 port.

THE MAREE KINGDOM OF AUSTRALIA

Doongara, Prince of Maree

DIPLOMACY None

Desiring an heir, Doongara sired three children in as many years...all girls (AAAAAARGH!). In other, less intimate events, work began on a royal road link between Eha-Rana and Aanx and links between that place and both Arukun and Camoweal were completed. Port areas were built in Oanx and Toowomba and Biruu grew to size 5.

CHINA

THE KINGDOM OF SHAN'SI

Xoing Sung, King of Shan'si, Watcher of the Northern Marches

DIPLOMACY Tumet (f)

The Shan'si continued their efforts to convert, develop, and otherwise civilize their northern nomadic neighbors. Kin was put under cultivation and both Lang Shan and Shangtu were converted to the Buddhist faith. In the more sedentary parts of the Kingdom, urbanization continued apace.

| City (Region) | New Size |
|---------------------|----------|
| Tianshu (Huang) | 5 |
| Ta'Tung (Yun) | 7 |
| Bitter Wind (Ordos) | 5 |
| Morning Calm | 9 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| (Koguryo) | |
| Iron Mountain (Bao'ding) | 10 |

THE KINGDOM OF HUPEI

Cao Hui Rong, King of Hupei

DIPLOMACY No effect

Efforts on the borders of Tartary continued with mixed results. Diplomatic efforts in Tuhnwang and Lang Shan continue to meet with a deaf ear and missionary efforts in the latter region were stymied by the fact that the Shan'si had beat them to it. On the other hand, Great Wall segments were built in Yanzhi on the borders with Suzhou and Lob Nor and work began on a road link between the latter place and Lang Shan. Some missionary efforts were also made among the Bulinger.

THE KINGDOM OF KWANGSI

Wu Juan II, Prince of Kwangsi

DIPLOMACY None

Continuing to expand cities and not much else.

| City (Region) | New Size |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Ha'lou (Hainan) | 4 |
| Kunming (Gouangxi) | 4 |
| Dayu (Ganzhou) | 8 |
| Kian (Kiang'si) | 6 |
| Chou (Lingnan) | 8 |
| Guiliyang (Miao Ling) | 3 |
| Fujhan (Kienchou) | 3 |
| Tang (Lingsi) | 6 |

SOUTHEAST ASIA & INDIA

THE EMPIRE OF SRI VIJAYA

Khavirhan III, Maharaja of the Khemer People, Prince of Champa, Lord Protector of Java

DIPLOMACY Khemer (+7 YfC)

Khavirhan came of age and took the throne in 1249. He immediately married a Khemer noblewoman (an action that did not prove very effective in inducing the Khemer people to soften their view towards their Champan overlords) and changed the name of his realm to something more grandiose.

Two cities were renamed; Hue became Indrapura and Ban Meh was rechristened Amaravati. A colony was emplaced among the hostile citizens of Krung Thep. Finally, there were the usual city expansions (although attempts to expand the cities in Perak and on Java failed because no ships were allocated to transport the materials hence):

| City (Region) | New Size |
|----------------------|----------|
| Tonkin (Annam) | 6 |
| Amaravati (Dai Viet) | 2 |
| Indrapura (Mison) | 5 |
| Phnom Song (Preikuk) | 2 |
| Pattaya (Phan Rang) | 5 |

THE KINGDOM OF MAGHADA

Gunaratna, Raja of Bengal

DIPLOMACY Uttar Pradesh (f), Chitor (ea)

Construction of royal road links into the northwest continued with new links between Tarain and Chito and between Uttar Pradesh to Tarain. Urban expansion continued at its usual frenetic pace.

| City (Region) | New Size |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Chapra (Jaunpur) | 3 |
| Aisha (Gaur) | 11 |
| Tamralipti (Palas) | 10 |
| Karimganj (Assam) | 10 |
| Naupada (Kalinga) | 9 |
| Parganas (Nadivaria) | 9 |
| Patna (Chandela) | 10 |
| Chittagong (Samatata) | 9 |
| Sittwe (Arakan) | 7 |
| Tezu (G'tsang) | 8 |

Diplomatic activity continued with mixed results. While Uttar Pradesh and Chitor drew closer to the Kingdom, an envoy to Jats died en route and the diplomat in tarain had absolutely no success whatsoever.

Events took an interesting turn when Pramsu died in late 1239. His son and heir, Gunaratna, celebrated his ascension by hacking his father's corpse to pieces the minute the man expired. He then waltzed into the Royal crèche and systematically murdered every single one of his sons and brothers. Then he had the corpses stitched together to form a rather gruesome tableau (and people say art is inaccessible).

THE KINGDOM OF CHOLA

Jagrav, King of Chola, Lord of Tanjore

DIPLOMACY Gujerat (nt), Dahala (c), Kalanjara, in Vatsa (f)

Jagrav continued to develop his diplomatic contacts to the north. And there were the city expansions.

| City (Region) | New Size |
|-------------------|----------|
| Kollam (Pandya) | 7 |
| Kakinda (Madurai) | 10 |
| Kayal (Anhivarta) | 8 |

CENTRAL ASIA

THE KINGDOM OF JUNGARIA

Tab-Tangri, Lord of Karakocho.

DIPLOMACY

A quiet turn of minding his own business, thank you very much.

THE EMIRATE OF SAMARKHAND

Al Abdi ibn Selim, Emir of Samarkhand

DIPLOMACY No effect...

Abdi dispatched over 30,000 troops to secure lands your grandmother wouldn't want. These unfortunates then spent the next five years subjugating the deserts ofg Khazakh and Kul'sary. More agro was sent to the Khazars and the road link between Afghanistan and Und was completed. Abdi's diplomacy was notoriously bad, and there were some city expansions.

| City (Region) | New Size |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Tashkent (Otrarsh) | 5 |
| Kar-Kalanis (Bactria) | 8 |
| Shustar (Baluchistan) | 6 |
| Khiva (Khwarzim) | 9 |
| Tamaresh (Bandar) | 5 |

THE KHAZAR KHANATE

Isaac Andronicus, Regent for...

Bulan, Kagan of Khazar and Saksiny

DIPLOMACY No effect

Khan Atakhazar died in early 1247 and a regent was appointed to rule in the stead of his seven year old heir, Bulan. Aside from some public works and the beginning work on a canal along the Don River things were pretty quiet. Grain arrived from Samarkhand.

THE NEAR EAST

THE HAMADID SULTANATE

Faruq al-Motresh, Sultan of Damascus and Protector of the Holy Places

DIPLOMACY Cappadocia (fa)

Faruq shuffled troops and leaders about, the better to get ready for the war to come. His son and heir Selahadine sailed to Alexandria with the Syrian fleet to support the Egyptians. (see below).

THE BUWAYID EMIRATES.

Azzam ibn Hassim, Emir of Emirs, Protector of the Caliph.

DIPLOMACY None

Port areas were built in Abadan, Kuwait, Mand and Fars. That and a whole bunch of troops were shuffled around. Grain was shipped off to the Byzantines.

THE EMIRATE OF ADEN

Ishaq ibn Mansoor, Emir of Aden and S'ana.

DIPLOMACY None

No orders...

EASTERN EUROPE

THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

Ion Constantine, Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire.

DIPLOMACY Wallachia (f), Bosnia (ea)

There was a brief scare when the commander of the Eastern Themes, General Phokas was discovered plotting against the Emperor. Fortunately, the plot was discovered in time and the traitorous leader was impaled for his temerity. In other events, a road was built between Thrace and Macedonia.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF MUSCOVY

Olga, Boyaress of Muscovy

DIPLOMACY Pechneg (f)

Respublica grew to a size 9 whilst diplomatic efforts in Pechneg and in Pinsk had mixed results. But the big news was the death of Igor himself whilst leading an enslaving expedition against the Cuman and Murom. The campaign was successful and the unfortunates were sent off to be worked to death cultivating Mordva, but the Boyar was killed in the final battle, leaving the army parked in Murom. As both of Igor's brothers were elsewhere as well, rule devolved to his sister Olga, who actually proved quite adept at administrating the place.

THE KINGDOM OF POLAND

Borison, King of Poland

DIPLOMACY Lithuania (nt), Galich (hostile!)

Several new royal road links were built. One from Volhynia to Bialoweza and another from Poland to Masuria and hence to Courland. A new city, Minsk, was also built in Courland. Other Polish cities continued to expand:

| City/Region | New Size |
|-------------|----------|
|-------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Krakow (Bochnia) | 8 |
| Dadrowa (Masuria) | 4 |
| Warsaw (Poland) | 7 |
| Stettin (Pomerania) | 5 |

Polish diplomacy continues to be disappointing with the Galich being dreadfully offended and progress in Lithuania proceeding at a glacial pace.

THE DUCHY OF ESTONIA

Jaak Viikberg, Duke of Estonia

DIPLOMACY None

Vaasa was colonized to a (2/8) region and Oulu was put under cultivation.

WESTERN EUROPE

THE DUCHY OF BOHEMIA

Kurnik Govner, Duke of Bohemia

DIPLOMACY None

Shipyards along the Rhine were a-hum, building new transports for the Great Assault (see below). At home, Trier expanded to size 10 and Saarbrucken to size 9. Work on the *Ostwerke* continued with a great wall segment going up between Pomern and Lausatia. There was a brief scare when General Dirken attempted to seize control of the army in Munich but the plot was uncovered and the General ended his life at the end of a noose.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lucius IV, Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Christ

DIPLOMACY See below...

The new Pope got into a contretemps with the French (see below). Despite these problems, Papal holdings continued to grow. Finally, money was sent to the Poland, Iceland and England.

| Region | City |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Vermandois (ch) | |
| <i>Brabant</i> | Flushing (ch) |
| Norway (ch) | |
| Shetlands (ch) | Haraldswick (ch) |
| Faeroes (ch) | |
| Old Castille (ch) | |
| Aragon (ch) | |
| Malta (ab) | |
| <i>Slovakia</i> | Budapest (ch) |
| <i>Poland</i> | Warsaw (ch) |
| Danzig (ch) | Gdansk (ch) |
| <i>Skane</i> | Malmo (ch) |

THE VERNONIAN EMPIRE

Claudia Drusilla, Regent for...

Valdemar IV, Emperor of Italy

DIPLOMACY None

Valdemar decided to give attacking the Egyptians another go (see below). He then promptly died in late 1246, leaving naught but his sister to try to hold the country together until his three year old son came of age. In other news, Reggio grew to size 7 and Naples to size 6.

LE ROYAUME DE FRANCE

Dareau, King of the Franks

DIPLOMACY None

Dareau mobilized almost the entire French nation for war (see below for all of that). In other events, the King's attempts to reduce the influence of the Church in French lands ran smack into Papal attempts to increase said influence, with the result that both sides' efforts kinda cancelled each other out. With both sides exchanging raspberries over the whole thing is where the matter stands now.

THE EL REINO DE NAVARRE

Alvaro Aroca I, King of Navarre

DIPLOMACY None

Another French attempt to infiltrate the Spanish university system was thwarted. Ithixa grew to a size 10. Other than that, things were pretty quiet.

NORTHERN EUROPE

THE KINGDOM OF WESSEX

Cearl, Aldwulfson, King of the Angles and Saxons

DIPLOMACY: None

Cearl did little of note. Missionary activity among the Culdic under-classes in Munster continued however. Some grain was also shipped to Iceland.

THE KINGDOM OF THE SVEAR

Erik IV, King of the Swedes

DIPLOMACY None

A new port, Sundsvall, was built in Jamtland and both Karelia and Vadvet Jakko were colonized to their full capacity [(2/6) and (2/3), respectively].

THE NORSE KINGDOM OF ICELAND

Erik Ottarson, King of the Norse, Dragon King of the Isles

DIPLOMACY None

Erik returned from the Tripolitanian deserts to the wintry Shetlands and took up his rule. Stormport was increased to size 7 and Stormport to size 3.

NORTH AFRICA

THE MAGHREB EMIRATE

Mohammad ibn Bulent, Emir of Morocco

DIPLOMACY Ghadames Oasis (nt)

Mohammad decided to try his fortunes in the fighting to the East (see below).

AL FATAMID CALIPHATE AL QAIRA

Muhtadi Fath ibn Abdul, Fatamid Caliph of Egypt

DIPLOMACY None

Orders too late. Armies and navies automatically on defend /react with nominal BA support.

THE THIRD (OR IS IT FOURTH (I CAN'T REMEMBER)) EGYPTIAN WAR.

Bohemia, France, and Verona versus Egypt, Syria and Tunisia.

Sing O Muse! (Or try a gurgling sound if you can).

A.D. 1246: having decided that another attack on Egypt just had to be done, the Catholic powers went about it with a will! Never mind that the King of France was alienating the Pope! Never

mind the attempt by a Bohemian general to seize control of an army was barely averted! Never mind that the Roman Emperor is dead and his aunt is running the show! By God there are scum-sucking infidels to kill!¹

Bohemia: While general Goldbull waits in Trieste, Marshall Sumava marches south with some 84,000 troops, arriving in Trieste in September where he drops roughly half the army into Garrison and waits himself. General Armin picks up some transports in Amsterdam and sails first into the Channel and hence into the Rhine River where he collects transports in Freiburg and Trier. To the north, Prince Kyle moves to Lubeck to pick up the shipping there and eventually winds up in the North Sea.

France: Dareau marches south at the head of some 86,000 troops whilst passing through Basel, word reaches him of the death of Marshall Anthony in LaCroix. Muttering darkly, Dareau arrives at Massalia, drops his troops into garrison, moves over to LaCroix, picks up the troops and ships there (584 vessels and 10,000 troops) and returns to Massalia. To the north, Captain Raymond moves to Basel himself and picks up the ships and troops there (102 ships, 10,000 troops) and his APs drop to a glacial four per year (Raymond is not the most competent of leaders), despite this by August he has picked up additional forces in Chalons, swelling his force to 158 ships and 17,000 troops. Baron Apollos also collects forces, these from Bruges and Rennes, totaling 142 ships and 18,000 troops by the end of the Season. Finally Captain Etienne collects the forces in Nantes, Caen and Bordeaux (total number: 502 ships, 23,000 troops).

Verona: the army in Tripolitania (over 75,000 strong) stands guard whilst the navy (800 ships plus 20,000 marines) Cruise the Ionian Sea.

Syria: Whilst Faruq's generals keep watch on the perfidious Byzantines, his son and heir, prince Selahadine, sails down to Alexandria with 260 ships and 10,000 marines to join up with the Egyptian fleet based there.

Tunisia: Emir Mohammad, along with Crown Prince Aslar and Prince Zekhar travel east at the head of 36,000 cavalry. By year's end, they're crossing into Tripolitania.

A.D. 1247:

Bohemia: Sumava and Goldbull continue to wait in Trieste for additional ships. Goldbull dies at the end of the year and Sumava assumes command of his forces. Armin departs Trier and picks up additional shipping in Saarbrücken (36 ships). By campaign season's end, he's in the Bay of Biscay, sailing south. Prince Kyle is even further south, having reached the Sea of Portugal after picking up an additional 12 ships in Bremen.

France: Similar to his Bohemian counterparts, Dareau hangs out in Massalia, waiting for the other contingents to arrive. To the north, Raymond slowly continues to collect detachments of troops (2,000 troops in Flushing). Apollos and Etienne make better progress; collecting ships and troops in Avranches (42 ships, 18,000 troops) and winding up in the Bay of Tunis (by contrast, Raymond only gets as far as the Bay of Biscay).

¹ Yes I know all of these things happened after the war was initiated, but it makes good copy. OK, mediocre copy.

Verona: whilst this is happening, things are a-popping down in Tripolitania, where Mohammad's 36,000 troops start an AT action. The Italian commander, Augustus Romus, is a bit surprised to say the least, *The Tunisians were always so docile!* Nevertheless, he responds quickly with his 75,000+ troops and smacks the Berbers about decisively at **El Aghelia**, putting the Tunisians to flight. Only a quarter of Mohammad's troops survive to return to Fez, the rest are dead or enslaved. First blood goes to the Christians. At sea, the Veronan fleet moves down to the Sea of Lybia

Syria/Egypt: Selahadine takes the combined Syrian-Egyptian fleet (740 ships, 69,000 marines) into the Gulf of Cyprus and goes on

Tunisia: Out of it...

A.D. 1248:

Bohemia: Armin and Kyle's squadrons enter the Middle Sea, getting as far as the Bay of Tunis and the Adriatic Sea by the end of the campaigning season.

France: In Massalia, Dareau bestirs himself and moves the vast majority of the fleet and army present (36,600 troops, 604 ships) and moves into the Bay of Tunis, where he hopes to meet up with the squadrons from Europe. Here he manages to rendezvous with Apollos and Etienne's squadrons, swelling their numbers to 1,300 ships and 82,600 troops. They then spend the next three months milling about waiting for Raymond's detachment to show up.² When that dilatory fellow shows up, the French fleet is truly immense (1,496 ships and over 100,000 troops).

Verona: in typical fashion whilst all these mamby-pamby French and Bohemian wusses are getting their act together, the manly men of Verona are doing the fighting...and dying. After cruising a bit in the Sea of Lybia, Admirals Romano and Nero with their 800 ships and 20,000 marines move into the Gulf of Cyprus and attempt to attack Egyptian shipping. Setting upon a fat convoy just off the coast of **Sidi Barrani**, Romano set to pursue with a will, the merchantmen scattered...and revealed Selahadine's fleet of 740 ships, (laden with marines) bearing down upon him. The resulting battle went very poorly for the Italians, while Romano was competent; the same could not be said for his colleague, Nero (as I've said before, a poor military leader will drag down the proficiency of the force, regardless of who is in overall charge). By contrast, Selahadine was a superb leader (guess that's why Thomas named him Saladin, huh?) and he was ably supported by competent subordinates. The result was a crushing defeat for Verona, with three quarters of the fleet being sunk or captured. Roman managed to gather the survivors and sail back to Reggio, where he died at the end of the year, leaving the hapless Nero in overall command. Round two to the Muslims.

By contrast, Veronan fortunes on land went much better. Marching into Lybia, General Augustus' forces, (60,000+) wrests submission from the local emir and inflicts a sharp check on the

² Boy you guys are lucky that, a) attrition is assessed at the end of the turn, rather than at the end of the year or the bottom of Bay of Tunis would be littered with wrecks right now; and b) such an armada would even be conceivable in this game, let alone possible outside of a modern context. The Spanish Armada of 1588 had a fraction of the number of the ships described above and yet it was a nightmare to organize and implement by comparison.

86,000-strong Egyptian home army when it reacts at **Musus**. By year's end Lybia is secure. Round three to the Christians

A.D. 1249:

Bohemia: Baron Arnim reaches Trieste and joins forces with Sumava. Prince Kyle reaches there slightly later, drops off his ships for Sumava and assumes command of half of the ground forces there, marching north to Vienna and out of our narrative. By year's end, Sumava and Arnim are in the Ionian Sea with 230 ships and some 42,000 troops.

France:

And the Dawn came like Thunder... The Great French Armada sails from the Bay of Tunis and into the Gulf of Cyprus, heading for the Sinai coast. It is off **El Arish** that Dareau, Apollos and the others encounter Selahadine, and things start to go very wrong for the French. In the first instance a good chunk of the French fleet is transports (724 of them) which don't count in combat. Second, most of the French troops are HI, which don't count as marines. Third, an inept subordinate is effecting French leadership, Raymond's incompetence is negating much of Apollos' skill (keep those lousy leaders at home guys). Finally, Selahadine got a higher success roll than Apollos and things rapidly go to Hell in a hand-basket. In the course of a running fight to the west (Apollos astutely saw the bind he was in and tried to withdraw), the French screen of warships was scattered and by mid-afternoon, under a blazing sun, that gave the sea a horrid gelatinous-like quality, the Saracens had gotten among the transports, showering the French men at arms with volley after volley of arrows, tipped with cruel steel or lit with pitch and sent into the French sails. The decks of the French ships became slippery with gore. A good number caught fire and burned to the waterline, leaving their passengers with the grim choice of drowning or roasting. Only with darkness did Apollos manage to slip away, limping back to Massalia with a quarter of his number. Dawn revealed a coastline littered with wrecked and burning hulks with countless bloated bodies awash in the surf, a horrible stench wafted out to sea on a desert wind. The Muslims, exhausted by the slaughter and sickened by the carnage, were in no mood to celebrate.

Verona: fortune now turned away from the Christian cause on land as well. Augustus, marching into Ad'diffah, runs into the regrouped Egyptian forces near **Dern'a** and is roundly thrashed. Fortunately, it's not a rout and Augustus pulls back into Lybia.

A.D. 1250:

Bohemia: Sumava leads the Bohemian fleet into the Gulf of Cyprus, ostensibly to support the French landings at Sinai. Again the Syro-Egyptian fleet sorties in reaction. The two fleets meet off of **Port Said** in April and the result sadly is much the same. The Bohemian HI is useless in a naval battle. And although Sumava has more light troops than the Muslims (21,000 versus 16,200), the latter have more warships (564 versus 120, the remaining Bohemian ships are vulnerable transports). Again the Christians are thumped. Sumava limping back to Trieste with little to show for his work.

Verona: Augustus (not being a fool and in command of a mere 22,000 troops) pulls back behind the Wall in Tripolitania. The Egyptians reoccupy Lybia and operations come to an end.

A.D. 1247

WEST AFRICA

THE KINGDOM OF GHANA

Kwazj II, Lord of Kumbi-Saleh

DIPLOMACY None
Shuffled MSPs around...

THE KINGDOM OF TOGO

Ohene, King of Togo and Akan

DIPLOMACY Teke (c), Garoua (t)

In a spell of what can only be described as optimism, Ohene ordered the construction of a series of new postal roads into his newly conquered domains From Kafin all the way to Kam via Ikego. In the west, the entire postal road net from Togo to Marampa was upgraded to Royal Road status.

THE KINGDOM OF KANEM-BORNU

Susiseko V, King of Kanem and Bornu

DIPLOMACY None

This all assumed that the Kanem were going to accept the status quo. This proved not to be the case. Susiseko turned over command of the cavalry army to general Seyfawa and marched south at the head of some 6,000 newly raised heavy infantry supplemented by additional Kredan troops. Sweeping into Kano, they quickly liberated the region and city of N'djamena, massacring work crews sent to build the postal road there. Susiseko was already marching into Ikego by the time word got back to Accra and Ohene got moving. Early the following year, after the rains, the two armies met near **Keluka**. Susiseko's 8,500 troops slammed into Ohene's 7,000 Togoans and the fight was on! Kanem numbers and leadership (two good leaders versus one) and the Togoans were swept from the field in rout. Worst of all, Ohene was captured and hauled back to Ngazargumu in chains. There he sits, in durance vile.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE KINGDOM OF NYASA

Shaka, Chief of the Nyasa

DIPLOMACY Masai (f)
Masai was put under cultivation.

THE KINGDOM OF ROZWI

Shaka III, King of Rozwi, Lord of Zimbabwe

DIPLOMACY Mbundu (nt)

New cities arose in Lunda (Mavinga) and Barotse (Senanga).

THE KINGDOM OF VAAL

Shaka II, King of Vaal and Mapungubwe

DIPLOMACY Sakalava (ea), Mahabo (f)

Shaka's diplomats continued to make nice on the big island to the East.

NORTH AMERICA

CAV COUNT: 75

Pox Reminder: You CAN repopulate regions at the reduced 10nfp/10gps per level. The reduced rate ONLY applies to repopulating old levels. New levels (for those regions hit by pox before they had reached their full colonization potential have to be colonized at the regular rate. Cities destroyed by the pox must be rebuilt as new cities.

Regions totally depopulated AND with no garrisons have been either removed from your stat sheets (or if there's a surviving city in them, marked as UN; so the Incan player is very lucky he garrisoned his Central American holdings). Roads entering or running through such regions are destroyed UNLESS they enter an existing city within the region. Roads in regions isolated by pox-depopulated regions are destroyed as well.

Yes, I know you all hate me...

THE TLINGIT PEOPLE

Ka-Seen, Chief of the Tlingit, Lord of the Far North.

DIPLOMACY None

Continue to recover slowly.

CALIFORNIA

Feathered Coyote II, Ruler of California

DIPLOMACY None

Showing remarkable recuperative powers, the Yuroks managed to repopulate Ipai, Lemhi, Mono, Patwin, Pomo, Salinan, Tucannon, Yakima and Yurok back to their pre-pox levels. In other events, Sea Coyote died in 1248 and was succeeded without incident.

THE ANASAZI NATION

Desert Wind, Chief of the Anasazi, Lord of the Chaco

DIPLOMACY None effect

Colonization efforts brought Anasazi, Hohokam and Chiricaua back up to pre-pox levels.

THE MISSISSIPPIAN EMPIRE

Kabailo, the Great Beaver of the Snake

DIPLOMACY None

Recolonization of pox-ravaged areas continued. Illinois to a (1/8); Scioto to a (1/5); and Maiam to a (1/3). Pantamon II died in 1248 and was succeeded by his son.

THE NATCHEZ CONFEDERACY

Red Bird, Great Sun of the Natchez

DIPLOMACY None

Red Bird's people also continued to dig themselves out. Taposa was resettled to a (1/5), Choctaw to a (1/3), and Caddo to a (1/7).

THE YAMASEE PEOPLE

Gliding Falcon, Chief of the Yamasee

DIPLOMACY None

Gliding Falcon died in 1247 and was succeeded by his (decidedly uninspiring) son. Yamasee was settled another level, to (3/6) (and I should have updated the map for last turn's level, sorry about that).

MESOAMERICA

THE TOLTEC HEGEMONY OF CHICHEN ITZA

Quatayilla II, Grand Hegemon of the Maya

DIPLOMACY None

Like everybody else, Quatayilla concentrated his energies on putting things back together. Ulva was resettled to (4/3); Chontal to (2/3); Cora to (1/4); Ulva to (1/6); and Tahwhaka to (1/5).

SOUTH AMERICA

THE MIGHTY INCAN EMPIRE

Ataxalpa, Emperor of the Incas

DIPLOMACY None

Caranga was settled to a (1/4) by Incan colonists. The city of Llaclapata was rebuilt in Boruca.

THE KINGDOM OF SHOKLENG

Trunka, King of Shokleng

DIPLOMACY None

The Pox roared up from the south, reaching Curitiba in 1250 and leaving a slew of bloated, pustule-ridden corpses in its wake. Among the multitudes of slain was the King himself.

THE MAPUCHE EMPIRE

Ristan, Empress of the Mapuche

DIPLOMACY None

Like Shokleng, The Pox rampaged into Mapuche, reaching the capital by 1250. Like Shokleng, untold thousands perished, including Fuego and nearly his entire family. Only his old aunt, Ristan survived and reluctantly took up the reins of power in a palace full of corpses.

