

*****THE AFRIBORIAN HERALD*****

SPECIAL EDITION 03

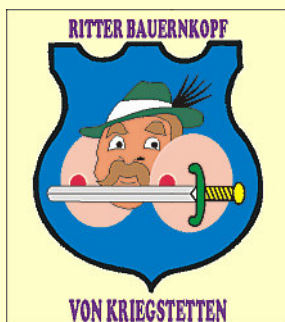
THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR IN HELIGOLAND.



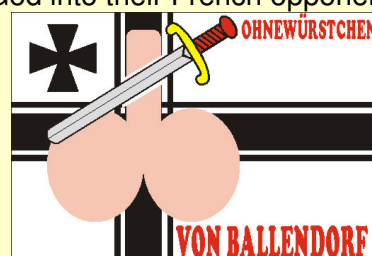
Map of Heligoland

Following the continuing German successes in the field, the outcome of the most recent meeting of the French *Ministère de la Guerre* was fairly predictable: there is no way the so called "scientific expedition" in Southern Heligoland will be ended by withdrawing Monamour's forces! **"Au contraire!"**, extra funds have been made available by the French *Assemblée Générale* to allow more troops and state of the art weapons to be shipped to Heligoland. Less than 24 hours after this bill had been voted, the news had reached Berlin and the German government immediately and unanimously backed up the Kaiser's request to strengthen the D.A.K. and its allied units...

To further boost morale of his forces and commanders, the Kaiser has decided to honour both his successful generals Ohnewürstchen and Bauernkopf (yes, him too...) by raising them into the nobility of the Great German Empire! Ohnewürstchen is now **Freiherr Ohnewürstchen von Ballendorf** and Bauernkopf (much to his own surprise and discontent of "Würstchen"...) may call himself **Ritter Bauernkopf von Kriegstetten** (or "zwischen Kriegstetten" as Ohnewürstchen mocks him now behind his back). Kriegstetten is the personal property of the Kaiser, who bought this Swiss village by mistake (he thought it to be something completely different...). To compensate Salah Dhin temporary for the loss of his "Sisters in Pray", the Kaiser has kindly sent him part of his own private collection of inflatable lifelike full size rubber dolls.



Both brand new noblemen have also received the right to carry a personal battle flag (a gift from the Kaiser himself, no less!) to strike the fear of God into their French opponents:



Freiherr von Ballendorf's motto is:
"Ich mache es oder fälsche es"
("I make it or fake it")



Ritter von Kriegstetten's motto is:
"Links oder Rechts? Vorwärts!"
("Left or right? Forward!")

More details on the German commanders' new estates can be viewed here:

http://www.lonetel.net/gem_ballendorf.html
<http://www.kriegstetten.ch/>

Management and personnel of the Afriborian Herald congratulate both German generals with their newly gained status!

The grateful Bauernkopf has offered his Majesty a life long membership of "der Fickfacker", Heligoland's exclusive private club for gentlemen, so everybody (on the German side at least) is happy now...

No new gentry on the French side, we're afraid, but – nevertheless – Monamour can't complain! Thanks to the interference of some of his lady friends (married to influential members of the *Assemblée*), he has been able to hold his position as commander in chief of the French forces in Heligoland. In order to justify sending more troops and equipment in the near future, the whole operation cannot longer be viewed as a "scientific expedition", but Monamour's army has been renamed the "**French Overseas Expeditionary Force**", in short: the "**FOEF**".

Anyway, General Ohnewürstchen isn't in the clear yet. Although Monamour hasn't been able to gain the upper hand, the Germans are still in the weaker position: they do not only have to stop the invaders but at the same time they have to protect Kaisersheim, the outlying villages and farms and whatever supplies are stored there. The French have only a base camp to defend and can easily be supplied from their bases in the Nile region, whereas all German troops and stuff must be hauled from far away Europe. The French forces have already proved to be successful in raiding German property: Kaisersheim has been threatened during "*Opération Marché-Jardin*", "*das Bauernhof*" has been torched and Salah Dhin's palace destroyed. Given the "personal interests" of the German and allied commanders, this might very well lead to a breach in the alliance. Therefore, Ohnewürstchen has decided to create a defensive line of protected emplacements and barbed wire fences, called the "*Frieden durch Sieg Linie*" ("*peace through victory line*"), in short: the "**Friedsieg Line**".

A brilliant idea (perhaps...) but certainly one that will require a lot of work and material. So far, only a few areas have been (partially) fortified. No doubt Monamour will put the system to the test!



A warehouse in Kaisersheim filled to the roof with barbed wire. This doesn't mean that the construction of the "Friedsieg Line**" has been completed (far from...).**

The Atriborian Steamtank & Landship company

Although the internal combustion engine had already revolutionized mobile warfare during the American Civil War (1860-69 – see: http://www.rudi-geudens.be/html/atriboria_vehicles.htm) a petrol engine powerful enough for larger (tracked) vehicles has yet to be developed. This remains the exclusive domain of steam engines, at least if a suitable transmission and gearbox could be built for the propulsion of heavy steamtanks or massive landships... A few years ago, a brilliant engineer by the name of Hanssen succeeded in building both a transmission **and** a gearbox up to the job. Being a technical super mind (but not much of a salesman...) he allied himself with a business man called William Gates to market his products. Gates immediately patented both inventions and suggested to his partner **not** to sell their products as such on the international market, but instead monopolize things by founding a company that would not only market transmissions and gearboxes but rather build **complete steam monsters**, thus optimising profits. In order to keep out of the grip of the Great Powers they had to base their company in a country not likely to be controlled by any of the "big boys". This left them with only one option: the island of Tebu, off the Atriborian mainland (http://www.rudi-geudens.be/html/herald_01.htm), where the "**Atriborian Steamtank & Landship company**" is now based. True to their principles, Gates & Hanssen will supply their steam propelled super weapons (or special designs made to order) to any government with the appropriate funds to spend...

Advertisement

YOUR STEAMTANKS & LANDSHIPS ARE OUR BUSINESS!

*We supply and build:
- armoured “electric men”
- steamtanks & landships.*

Browse through our catalogue for items readily available straight from our warehouse or submit your specifications to our design department for a quotation. All our steam tanks, suits and landships are built around the patented *Hanssen* transmission & gear boxes, manufactured exclusively by our company.



A.S.L. land ship Mk IX “*Big Monique*” with 100-pounder main gun.

A.S.L. ltd

*The Afriborian Steamtank & Landship company
Benghazi (Tebu) Afriboria*

William Armintrout
Afriborian Herald reporter.