

## **Grand Campaign – Der Weltkrieg – Centenary Game**

**GT191: 6 – 9 November 1916 (2 November)**

### **General Situation**

The US Presidential election reached its climax on 7th November and President Wilson was re-elected while the world remained unaware that the German Imperial Council had resolved to resume unrestricted submarine warfare for the first time since the sinking of the Lusitania.

Such decisions could not properly stay secret, but the drafting of the announcement took a few days as there was some difficulty in framing the announcement in a manner that might confuse the neutrals. Germany was, of course, sorely tried by the Allied blockade which had steadily ratcheted up the pressure on the German Home Front. The coming winter promised to be a miserable affair. Hindenburg and Ludendorff had demanded every resource be at the disposal of the Army. The first effect of this had been a sudden draining of excess manpower such that by November there were distinct warnings that there was nothing left for industry, transport and agriculture. The news from the Hapsburg Empire was if anything more dire. In some sectors, industrial production was seizing up. All this could be presented as a result of Allied crimes against the populations of the Central Powers. However, it equally was due to the uncompromising aggression of the Central Powers who had overrun three Allied minor powers and good parts of Russia and France. Certainly, the Allies were aggressors too, the Romanians being but the latest example. However, the Central Powers had stirred a hornets' nest and they had to get stung.

### **The Near East**

Between the lines along the various Near Eastern Fronts there was little activity. Djemal Pasha's 4th Army believed it had won a victory in defeating Murray's Ramala attack. However, it was equally apparent that another attack would eventually be made. Whether it would be soon or some time away was the biggest question? Djemal had made Istanbul aware of his need for reinforcement but nothing arrived very quickly on this front.

The Turkish 6th Army in Baghdad was a little more complacent since the British Expeditionary Force had been passive for most of the year. This is not to say that the Turks in Baghdad did not feel like they had been forgotten by their government. They had a small force of German support troops with them but the respected German General Von der Goltz was no longer living and few would pretend that the Turkish leadership in the 6th Army came up to his level.





had little interest in taking prisoners and simply allowed men who abandoned their uniforms to return home.

### The Balkans

Dubrovnik fell to the 2nd Moravan Division on 8 November. There was no fighting in the city and on the following day there were demonstrations supporting the foundation of Yugoslavia whose name was now heard with increasing frequency. Many of those attending these demonstrations were exactly the same persons who had, not long previously, been pleading with the Croats in Hapsburg service not to leave them at the mercy of the Italians and Serbians.

The future of Yugoslavia was by no means certain. This was one reason the Serbians had made sure that it was their units not Italians which had occupied Dubrovnik. In addition, the war was not won and, the Allied front in Central Serbia was still falling back. The Austrians had advanced as much as 60 kilometres in the previous 10 days over the Kapaonica Mountains into the Ibar and Brvenica Valleys. On 7 November, the Austro-Hungarian 37th Division had reached Maćedonce (7-6.1003) not far from the borders of the Kosovan province.

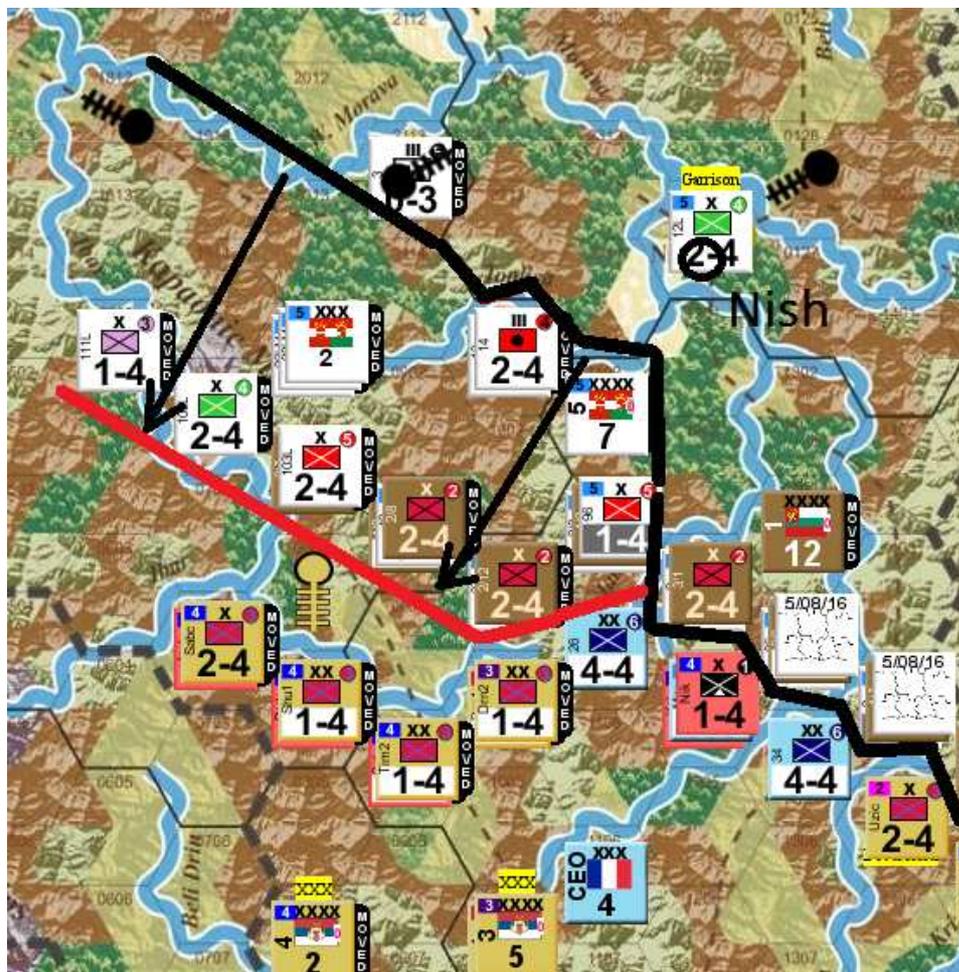


Figure 3: The advance of the Austro-Hungarian 5th Army, 28 October - 9 November 1916.

## DM Summary – November 1916

Nation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Food Deficit #	Month	Total	Morale
Germany	-	-						11	11	1501	Good
Austria-Hungary	-	-						-	-	619	Economic Collapse
Ottoman	-	-						1	1	104	Good
Bulgaria	-	-						-	-	28	Good
Central Powers	-	-						12	12	2240	
France	-	-						-	-	826	Good
Great Britain	-	-						18	18	442	Good
Russia	-	-						-	-	862	Shaken
Italy	-	-						-	-	139	Good
Romania	-	-						-	-	233	Good
Belgium	-	-						-	-	(105)	NA
Serbia	-	-						-	-	(40)	NA
Entente	-	-						18	18	2479	

# This includes the effects of submarine warfare and other monthly DM losses.

Player Notes

CP:

- *East: I have opted to push forward and hold a line along the Dniester rather than sitting back in the southeast. I can hold more ground with fewer troops this way, thus freeing up forces for use elsewhere. I do not think I will be able to knock Romania or Russia out of the war on historical timelines as they can continue to hide behind the GTL and concentrate strong defensive locations – which would be foolhardy to attack – to meet force level requirements east of the GTL. However, if he doesn't take offensive action, he hampers the overall TE war effort and allows me to concentrate greater force where I need it and he doesn't want me to do it. I have an entire German mountain army moving westwards after their successful doddle through Transylvania. Perhaps a certain Irwin Rommel is amongst them...*
- *Balkans: I still push forward another 20km in places. It is not drawing me out of position and allows, perhaps, an opportunity for some minor skirmishing.*
- *Caucasus: I am just preparing for the winter now.*
- *Mesopotamia: Still nothing of note but he is moving more troops towards Baghdad.*
- *Palestine: Quiet.*
- *Italy: I am now very strong in most places on the Italian front and seek to make myself even stronger yet. I will have a long Alpine winter in which to do it.*
- *West. I spend the turn rebuilding new divisions from the cadres remaining from the originals. I will feed them into the most vulnerable positions in expectation of TE attacks.*

*The salient NE of Nancy I will continue to man for now. It is strong enough to hold and it suits a purpose for me at the moment.*

*AP: My tour of the fronts goes to Egypt-Palestine where the British are preparing another attack on the Jaffa-Jerusalem line. This is more or less the kind of battle (when it happens) that the Allies need to fight against the Turks, one which overwhelms their replacement capability. The attack in September was a taster, next time it will be more serious. It is serious because the Allies have a line of sustainment which will allow 16 Divisions to operate from Egypt and I am sending a quarter of British supplies to this front at the moment and as many replacements and reinforcements as I can.*

*The primary Allied difficulty in the Near East is being able to inflict serious losses on the Turks who are well protected by terrain and Allied logistical limitations. Until Sinai was crossed, the total losses on this front were less than two SP per side so effectively nothing occurred in the first 20 months. To some extent this was due to the fact that neither of the sides really "got" how you support the Turkish Army in operations against the Suez Canal (the answer is you need to use the rough terrain and chain two HQ from the railhead south of Beersheba). However, that is of little materiality now.*

*I have the Allied amphibious capacity concentrated in Cyprus but it is hard to see how it could be usefully employed. In DWK, amphibious operations use double the sustainment shipping and only half the strength of a Division in the bridgehead. Therefore it does not seem that by moving a Division from the front at Jerusalem to a bridgehead that I gain anything. There may be advantageous landing opportunities nonetheless but there is a practicality hurdle to overcome.*

*Ultimately, the Allies are looking to cripple Germany by an early defeat of Turkey. At the moment with Turkish DM at 104 (out of 600 for surrender in 1918), I am distinctly behind that curve. However, if the Jaffa-Jerusalem line collapses then the situation will be changed completely.*

*For the CP, the war in the Near East has not yet been very problematic. Attrition battles on the Jaffa-Jerusalem line have already caused a notable uptick in British losses and British efforts here mean fewer German SPs are destroyed on the Western Front. Therefore so long as the J-J line holds everything is to the advantage of the CP. But will it hold? This front should be a top priority of the CP now, certainly the top priority of the Turks. Every Turkish unit that can get to southern Palestine ought to be railed there as fast as the poor railways allow. It may be too late now.*