

Great Finds!

Article and photos by Fred Horn

The Bombing *A new family game*

While surfing the Internet a month or so ago I noticed some exciting pictures of two World War I warships engaged in heavy battle. They were on an auctionsite and the seller, a certain Dirk Balduyk from Antwerp, described them as a game. I was interested enough to ask for more information and Dirk replied that the cardboard backing with the ships displayed was part of a game which he believed was a kind of 'Flying Hat' game from the first decade of the 20th Century. Along with this there was a cannon and some bombing chutes, all in good condition.

The rest was totally flat and not complete, all stored in a plastic bag.

Because of the poor condition (and I think the general lack of interest with it in such a state) Balduyk offered a cheap price if I was willing to come to his shop in Antwerp and pick it up. So we made the decision for a holiday trip and he was right, I had never seen anything more damaged than the remains of this game in that plastic bag. Not only was there 'normal' damage, if the idea that the game had gone under a truck is 'normal,' but also moisture had done its best to separate the paper from the cardboard.

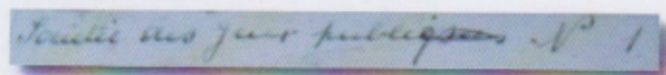


But I took it as a challenge to restore this mess into a playable game again. First I sorted out all the loose paper and tried to find the corresponding cardboard parts. Then with additional pieces of cardboard I glued the paper again onto the board to get a rough idea what the box should look like. Next, when the interior section containing the holes for the chutes was restored, I realized the cardboard backing displaying the battleships was a kind of decoration showing the edge of the 'sea.'

So after two days of hard work *Le Bombardement* was again worth looking at and also now playable! And the store where the game was originally sold became evident:



plus text inside of the lid displayed:



Society of public games No. 1

Within the chutes (shown below) there are also numbers displayed, and in two of them a name 'Geertje' and ???.

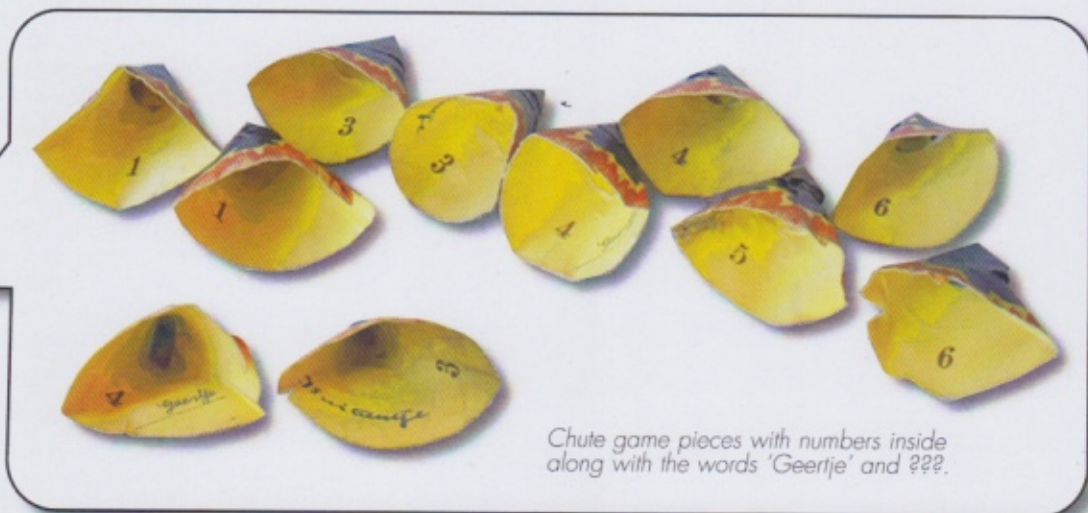
The rules are lost, so we do not know exactly what these numbers mean. Number of players? Each player gets two chutes to shoot? Then three (2; 2; and 5) are missing.

And unexpectedly there is a companion game! Eric van Waarden, my good friend and fellow collector has the following game in his collection. It is a SALA game from the same period—*DE ZEEFLAG* (The Naval Battle).

AGPC



DE ZEEFLAG, from the collection of Eric Van Waarden—box cover and game board



Chute game pieces with numbers inside along with the words 'Geertje' and ???.

C	D	Y
O	O	O
N	N	U
S	A	R
I	T	
D	I	O
E	O	R
R	N	G
		!
A	T	
	O	