

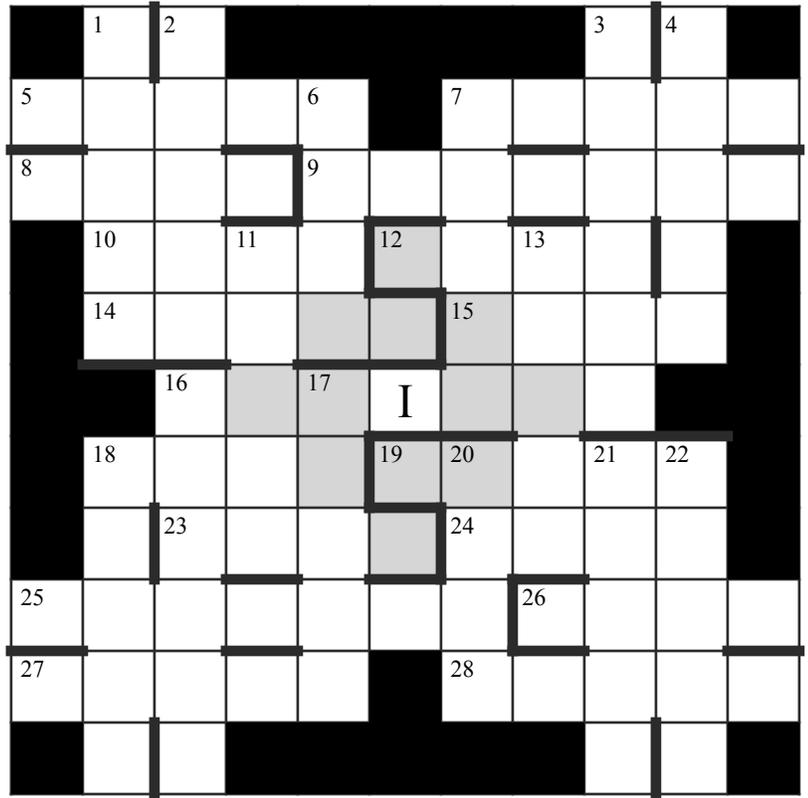
11•11 Hnefatafl by Ucaoimhu

The medieval game of *hnefatafl* has many variants, but in all of them the king (aided by his men) must reach one of a set of squares at the edge of the board, while the more numerous enemy soldiers try to stop him; pieces capture by *surrounding* opponents on two sides. Here:

(I) The king's starting square is marked I. (The lightly shaded squares indicating the starting squares of his twelve men have no other significance.) The enemy soldiers start in the T-shaped regions on the edges; no letters may go there or in the corner squares.

(II) The enemy has encoded two plans for surrounding the king and his men in two sets of clues: (i) for thirteen clues, the answer must have an extra letter added before entry, and (ii) for thirteen clues the sequence of letters the wordplay yields has an extra letter; in both cases, the letter is always surrounded by others. Below the grid, enter the first letters of the (i) clues and the last letters of the (ii) clues in the boxes corresponding to their extra letters to get another encoded message.

(III) Five Across clues remain; read the first and last letter of each to get the king's ten-step escape route. The letters the king encounters along the way will say where he is ultimately heading; read a different way, they will describe, in a particular order, three "captures" seen in both (II)(i) and also in (II)(ii). Put the twelve letters that performed these six captures onto the appropriate dashes below, to see the enemy's overall strategy; within that, you can see the king's overall escape route.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
(i)													
(ii)													

(ii)	(ii)	(i)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(i)
before	before	before	before	after	after	before	after	before	after	after	after
letter 3	letter 1	letter 3	letter 1	letter 1	letter 3	letter 2	letter 3	letter 2	letter 2	letter 1	letter 2

ACROSS

- Parched and initially red finger
- The Greek god of war horses goes topless
- Seize \$1000 carving found on cemetery grounds
- Serious ones in French clothing chiefly favor navy and yellow
- Wife abandons shoe to get better chance to win
- Arachnid touches one kind of torch at luaus
- Antiprohibitionists cook the wrong way
- Perimeters radicals might surround 75% IMHO
- Vocations of me and many a Detroit ballplayer
- Wet flower in France starts to sprout anew and regrow
- How one might cross a river that's French or Dutch
- Snarl about quartet from Gloucester an' Glasgow
- Mug #6 upsets composer Novello
- Craze hitting half of Malden for an old TV show about a guy who could shape-shift
- Be around to put down site where you can "Buy Now!"
- Receive visual evidence of phosphorus leak
- Dorset restrooms aren't winners, reportedly

DOWN

- Device that bonds scandium, internally bearing a small number
- Puzzle constructor stuffing 60% of bread with cheese
- Mimi's taking in amounts that are very low
- Yelled reports intended to inform wildebeests
- Make music together with guy on top
- Barer, fairer river in Yorkshire
- Hill separator is large, in general
- Star Trek* captain with old, very balletic company in Russia
- Impressionist who painted male alien
- Yankee leaves gala, heading towards the north corner
- She's getting laugh saying "Kings of Persia"
- JJ meets sick character who had water to fetch
- A marsupial beast's ultimate origin
- Tot of whiskey Kay put on excellent duck