

Chess Is Fun

The Double Bishop Sacrifice

Jon Edwards



**Chess is Fun:
The Double Bishop Sacrifice**

by Jon Edwards

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Introduction

How best to learn tactics? In my teaching, I follow a straight-forward approach. I show off the basic positions and then make small changes to observe how the combinations change. That's the idea of this e-book. In 10 positions, we will see how small changes can have a large impact on the verdict.

It was Amos Burn (with the black pieces!) and a young Emanuel Lasker (playing White) who first uncorked the double bishop sacrifice.

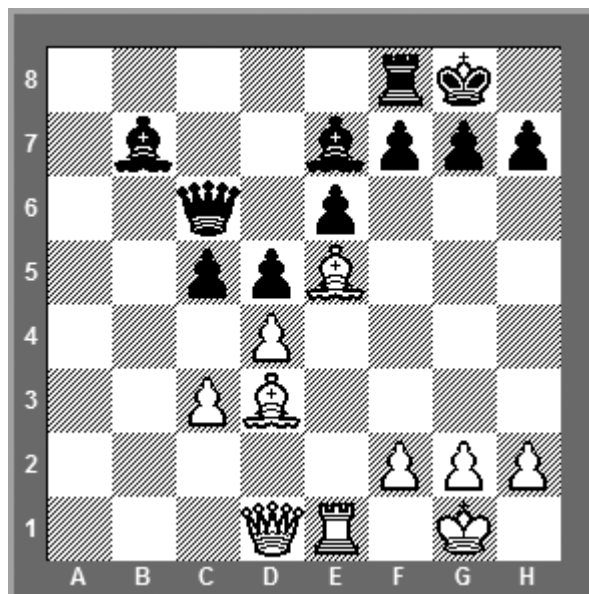
The sacrifice is lovely, and indeed quite instructive. In my 2010 Russell Enterprises book on the Greco sacrifice, Sacking the Citadel: The History, Theory, and Practice of the Classic Bishop Sacrifice, I promised a similar look later at other sacrifices. So here's my effort on the double bishop sac. As you will see, it looks easy but contains a number of fascinating surprises.

The sacrifice is less often played than the Greco Sacrifice. My chess database exploration of the Greco sacrifice on h7 for my book, I located more than 3,000 games. By contrast, searches for the double bishop sacrifice yield only about 500.

The first numbered positions are the building blocks of the sacrifice. I rely here on the same pedagogic technique, making minor changes to the position to observe the impact of each change.

Review these and then review the 25 games in this collection. You will discover, by the end of this collection, that you will be seeing deeply and accurately into the positions.

Position #1: The basic double bishop sacrifice



Here's a basic position to introduce the double bishop sacrifice.

1.Bxh7+

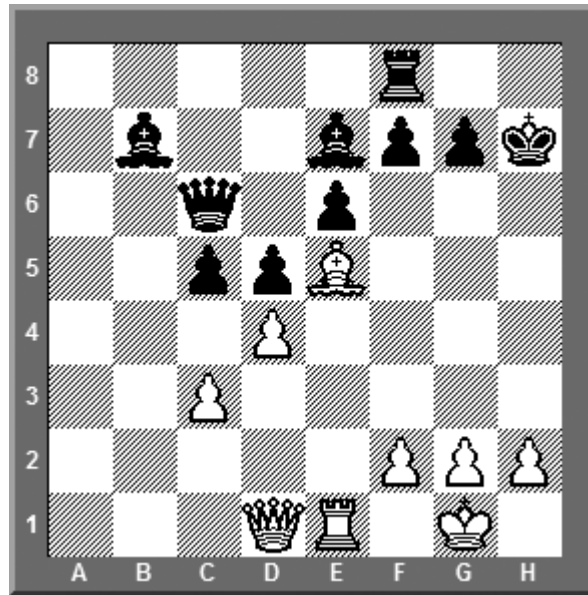
To succeed, the successful sacrifice requires a light-squared bishop that can reach h7 (or h2 for Black), a dark-squared bishop that attacks g7, a queen that can reach h5, and one other powerful asset, most typically a rook that can quickly swing to the kingside to assist the mopping up operation. Occasionally, that asset will be a supported pawn on g5.

It is important that Black's king rook rest on f8. Otherwise, the king has an easy time escaping towards the center.

And of course, all of Black's kingside pawn must be on the original squares when the sacrifice begins.

1...Kxh7

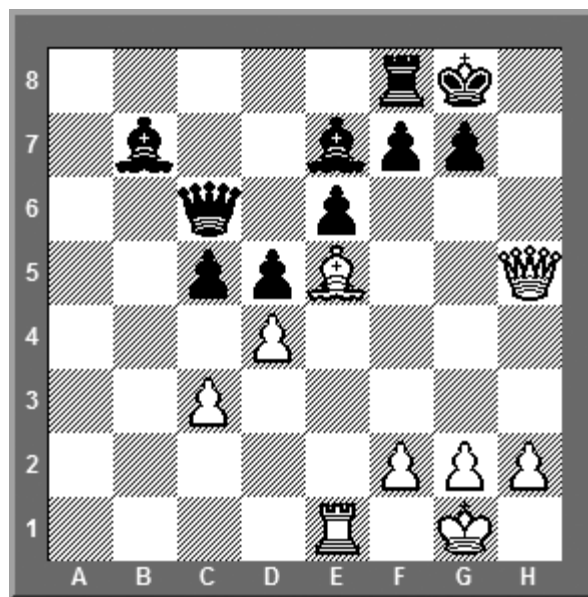
Declining the sacrifice would simply cede the pawn and invite White to continue the attack with Qh5.



2.Qh5+

The queen is best when it can reach h5 since other squares may permit Black to consider ...Kg6.

2...Kg8



3.Bxg7

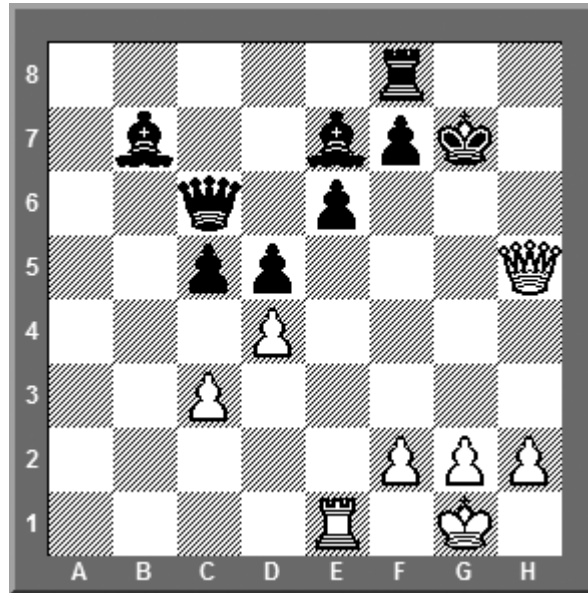
In for a penny, in for a pound. The bishop must be captured to prevent Bxf8 and Qh8#.

3...Kxg7

White can now complete the attack with two moves, Qg4 check (with the idea of a rook swing via e3-h3) or simply Rg3 with a crushing attack.

3...f6 meets 4.Bh6! The important thematic continuation. (Not 4.Qg6 Qe8)

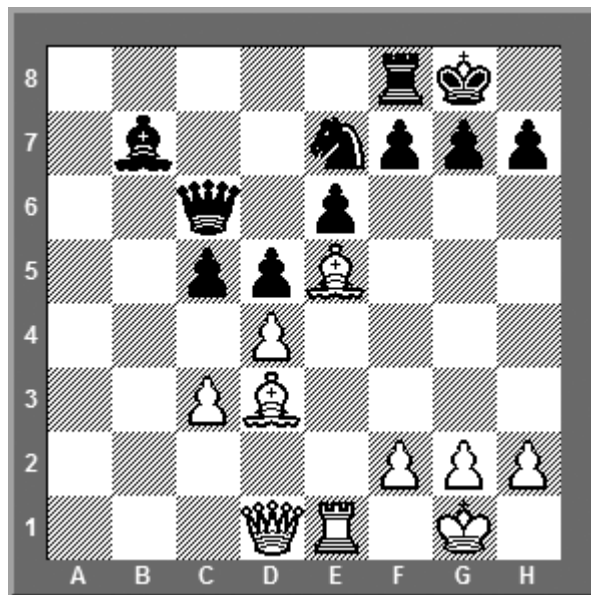
3...f5 4.Be5+-



4.Qg4+ Kh7 5.Re3

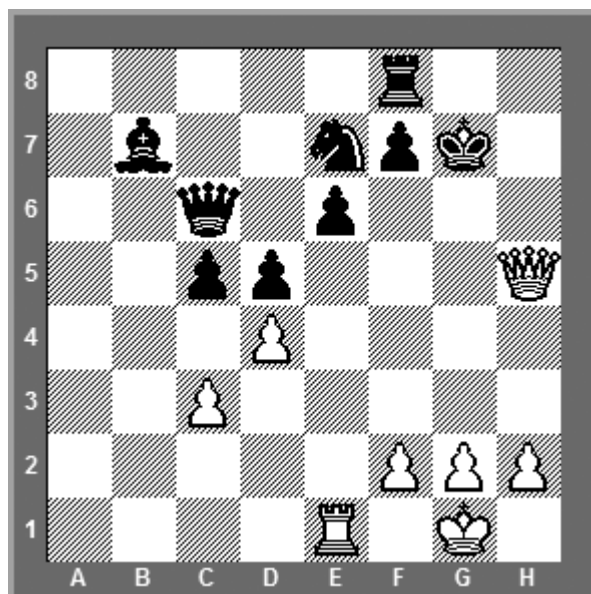
When Black can avoid the mate only by giving up the queen with ...e5 and Qh6.

Position #2: Black defends with Ne7-g6



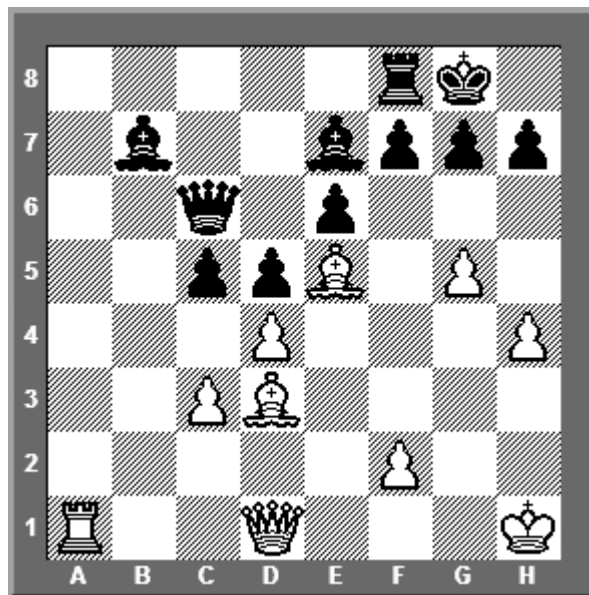
The only change here, of course, is that the knight replaces the bishop on e7.

1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7



And there's no reasonable follow-up for White with the Ne7 able to gum up the g-file with ...Ng6. The sacrifices here fail.

Position #3: White has a kingside pawn storm



Once again we have the makings of a successful double bishop sacrifice. The bishops are aiming towards h7 and g7 and the queen can reach h5. White does not have a rook that can swing in the usual manner to the kingside, but instead White has an advancing kingside pawn storm.

1.Bxh7+

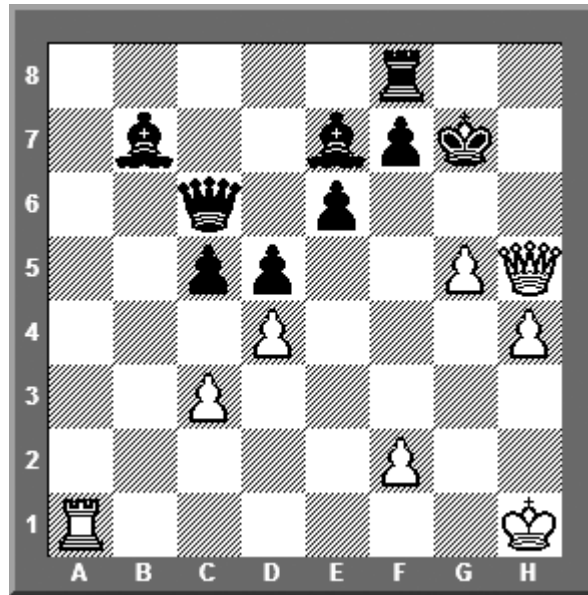
The first sacrifice.

1...Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7

And now the second sacrifice.

3...Kxg7

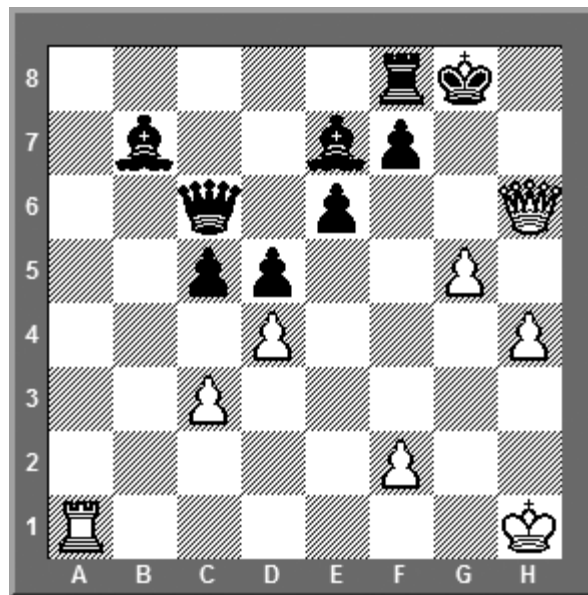
On the movement forward of the f-pawn, White simply advances the g-pawn to g6 with devastating effect.



4.Qh6+

The g5-pawn plays a key role, first assisting the queen to progress to the h6 entry square.

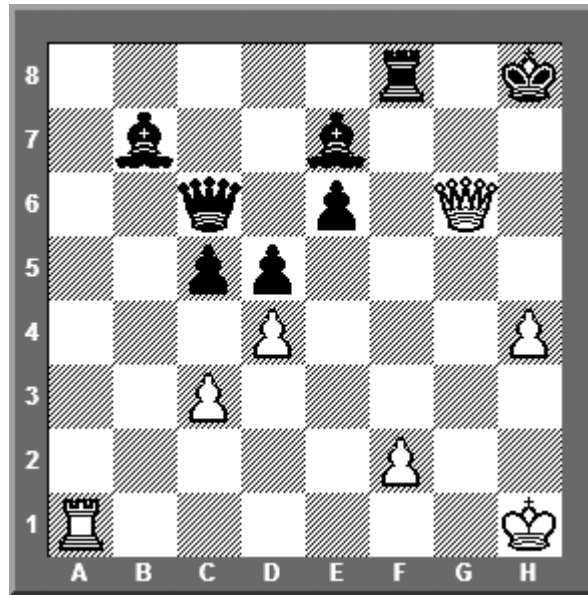
4...Kg8



5.g6

And now the coup de grace. The immediate threat, of course, is Qh7# and on the capture, White gains an open g-file for the rook.

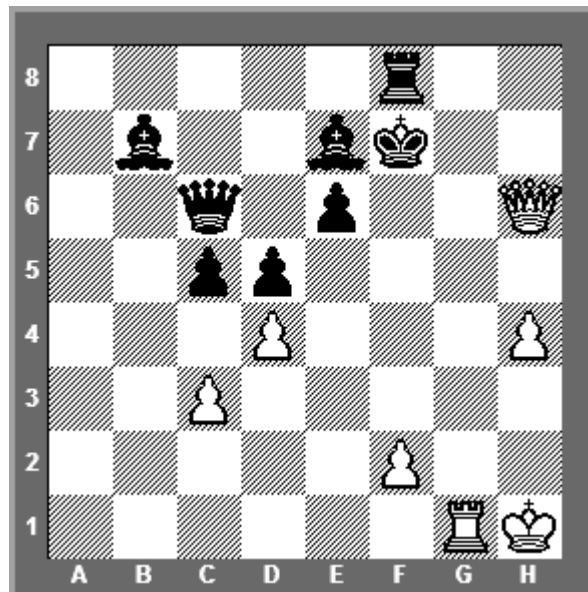
5...fxg6 6.Qxg6+ Kh8



7.Qh6+

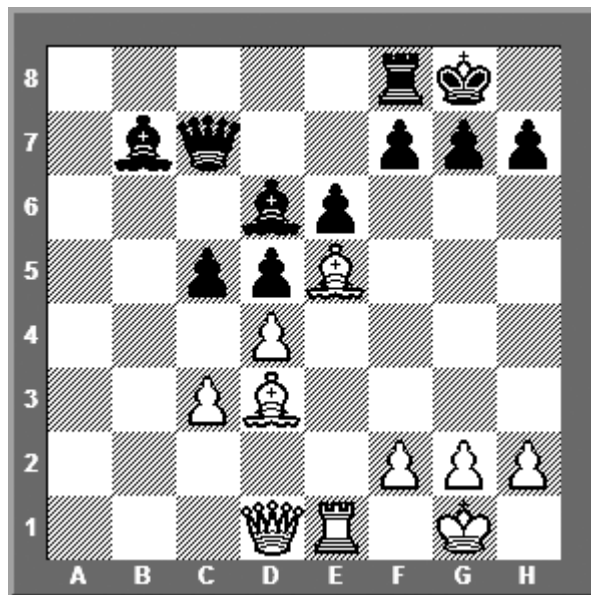
Forcing the king back to the now open g-file.

7...Kg8 8.Rg1+ Kf7



9.Qg6#

Position #4: Black has an anchored queen on c7



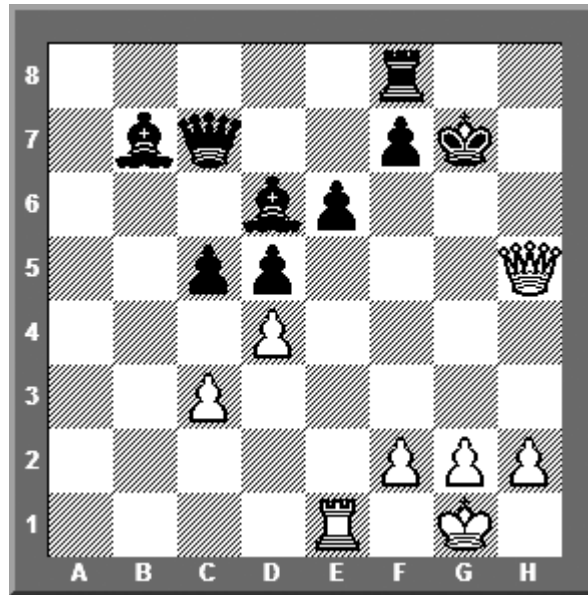
Here's another key consideration. The bishops are bearing down on h7 and g7, the queen can reach h5, and the rook is ready to advance and swing to the kingside. But note Black's queen on c7. It rests there with an anchor, ready to swing across the board to g7 or h7

1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7

All as we have previously seen.

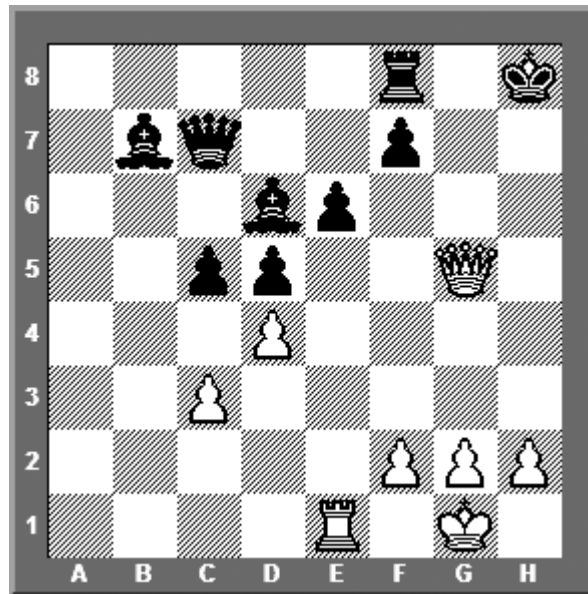
3...Kxg7

There's no point here in 3...Bxh2+ 4.Kh1 when the bishop in h2 will hang in later lines.



4.Qg5+ Kh8!

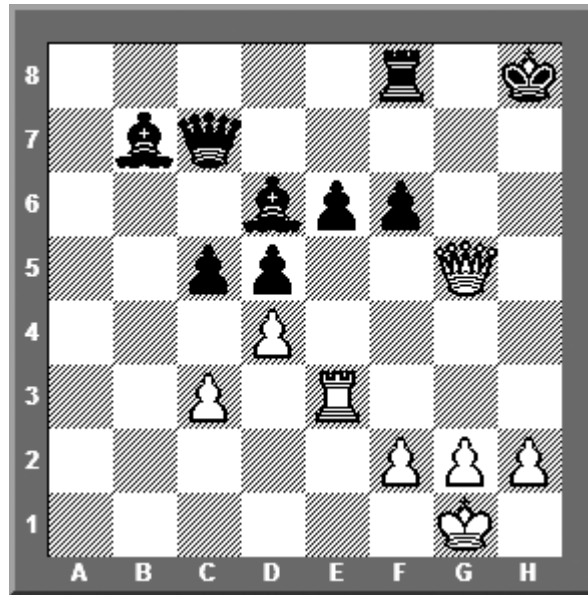
Making sure to leave h7 for the queen.



5.Re3

Of course White has a perpetual check for the taking, but if White tries to swing the rook for the mate, Black delivers a terrible surprise, thanks to the anchored queen on c7..

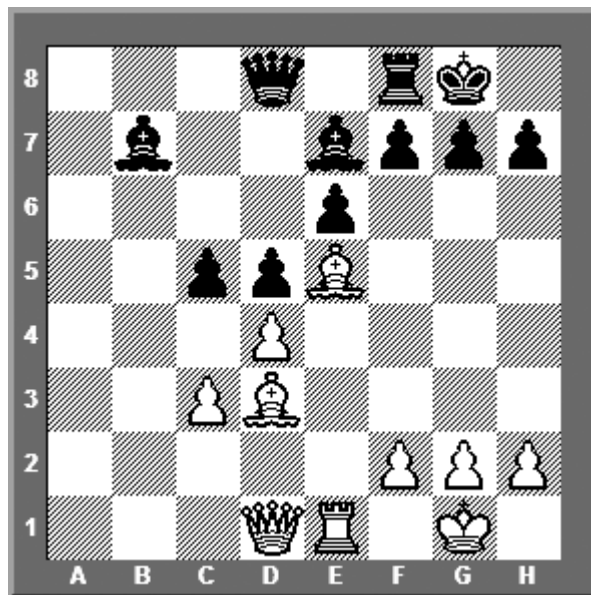
5...f6!



6.Rh3+ Qh7

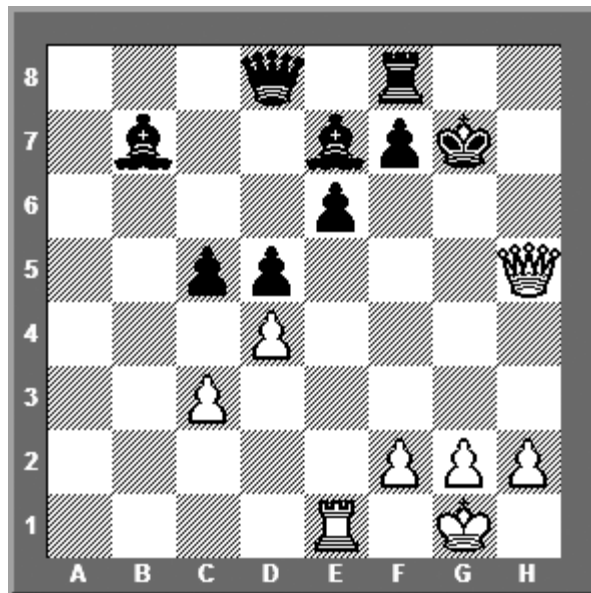
We are dealing here with a positional fragment, but keep in mind that Black is essentially trading the queen and two pawns for a rook and two bishops, a relatively even trade. Such positions are very difficult to evaluate and should be carefully considered before embarking on the double bishop sacrifices.

Position #5: Black defends with a diagonal battery



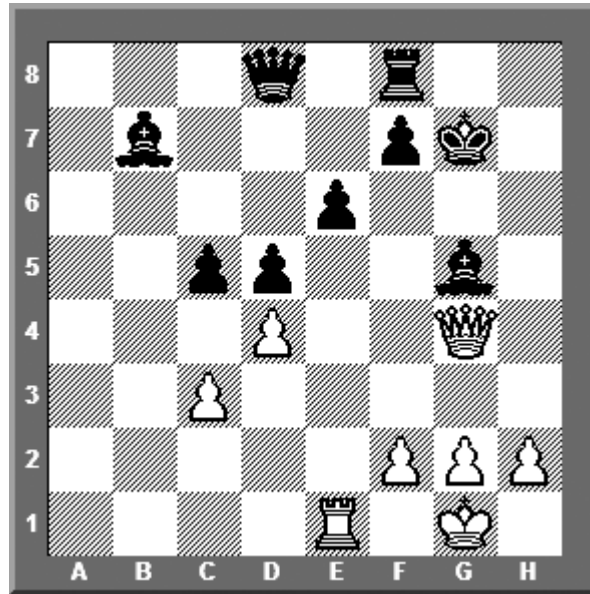
Here's our fifth introductory position. Note that the main difference here is Black's diagonal battery with the queen on d8 and the bishop on e7. With both of them there, the bishop sacrifices will fail!

1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7



4.Qg4+ Bg5–+

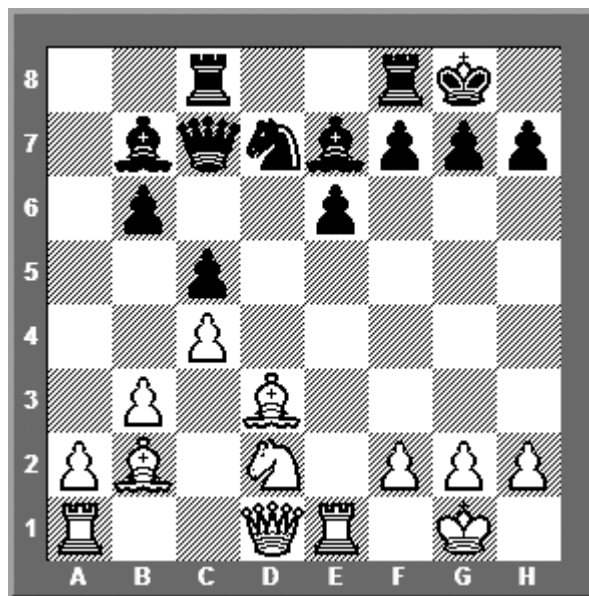
Or 4...Kf6 5.Re3 Bd6 and the king escapes.



5.f4

The point. No matter how White now captures on g5, the attack will quickly end. On Qxg5, the queens will come off the board. On fxg5, the g5-pawn closes down White's pressure down the g-file.

Position #6: An anchored Qc7 has minor piece help



The White bishops, queen, and Re1 are all primed for the sacrifice.

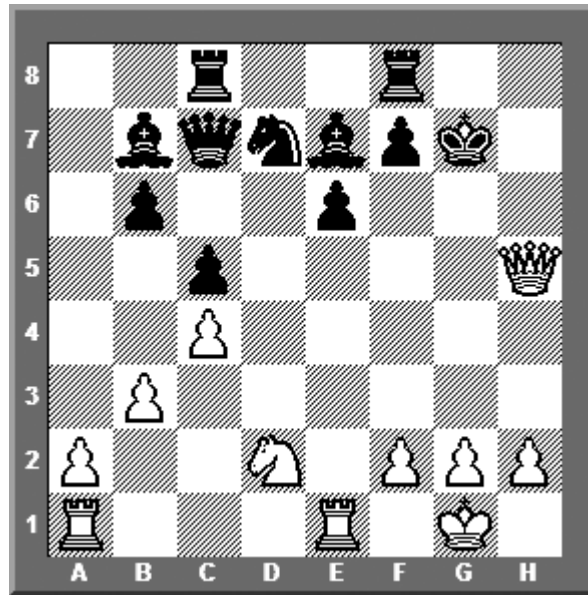
On the defensive side, note that the black queen is anchored by a rook and Black has a knight on d7 as well as a bishop on e7.

This well coordinated defense succeeds here easily.

1.Bxh7+? Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7

No better is 3.Re3 Qc6+

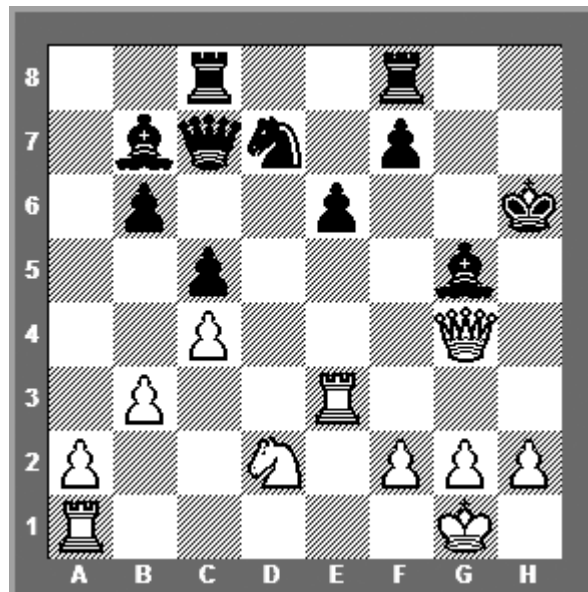
3...Kxg7



4.Qg4+

4.Re3 Rh8 5.Qg4+ (5.Rg3+ Qxg3--+) 5...Kf8--+

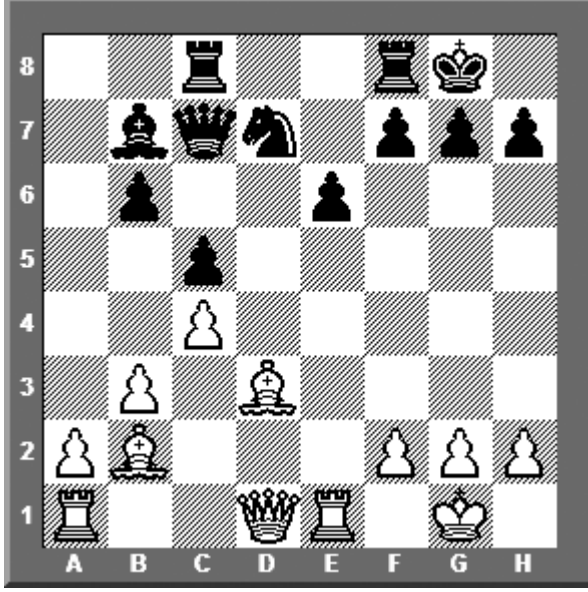
4...Kh6! 5.Re3 Bg5



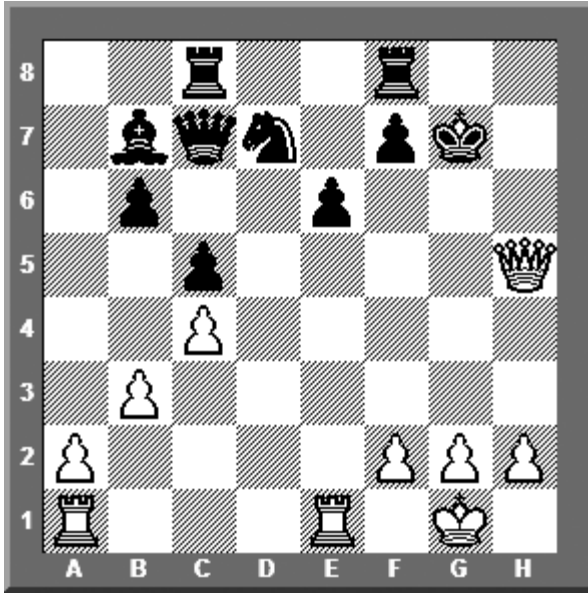
6.Rh3+ Kg6 7.f4 Qxf4--+

Position #7: The same position without the Be7

Take away the defending bishop, the Be7, and the attack crashes through.



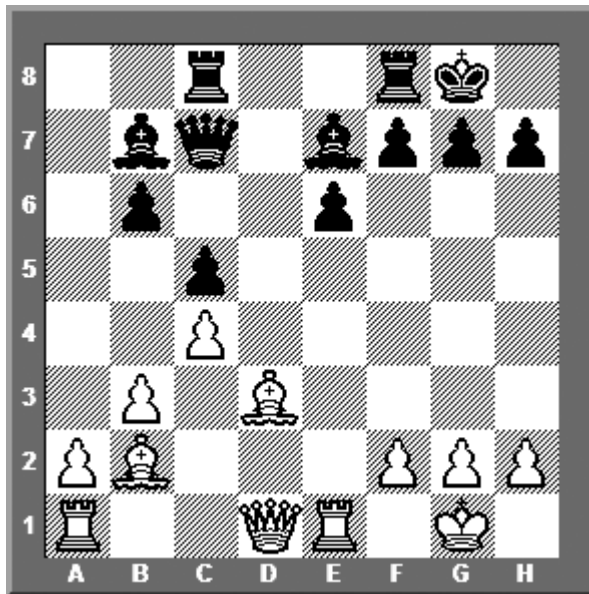
1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7



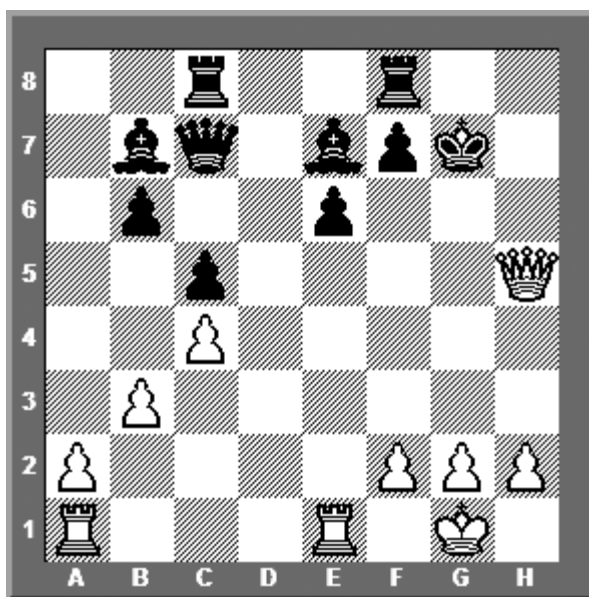
4.Qg5+ Kh8 5.Re3+-

Position #8: This time without the knight on d7

The defense is more prevails with the anchored queen and the Be7. There's simply no breakthrough here for White.

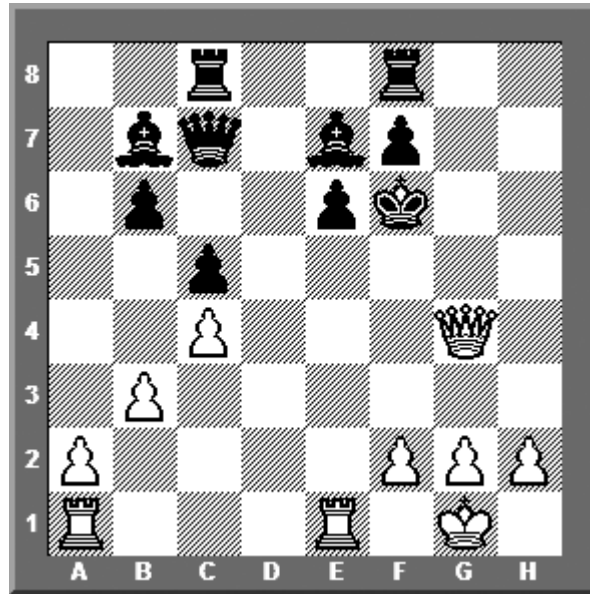


1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7

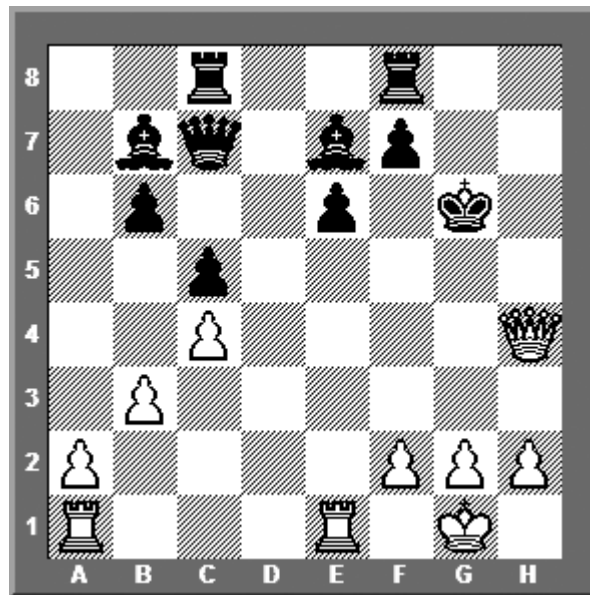


4.Qg4+ Kf6

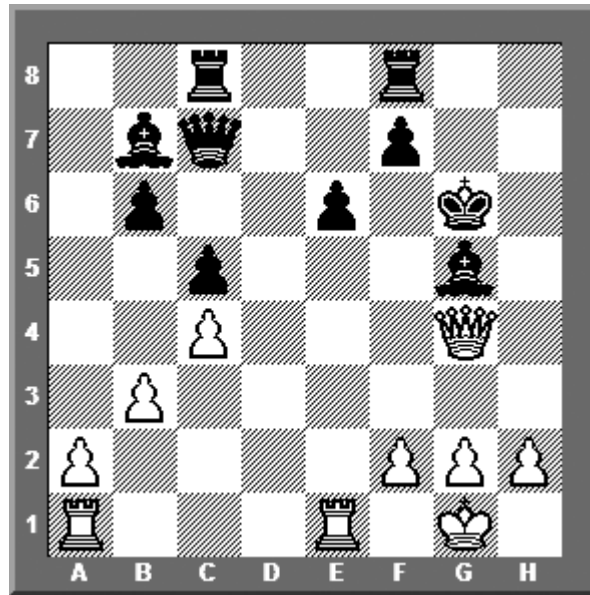
Also winning is 4...Kh6 with the idea of ...Bg5.



5.Qh4+ Kg6



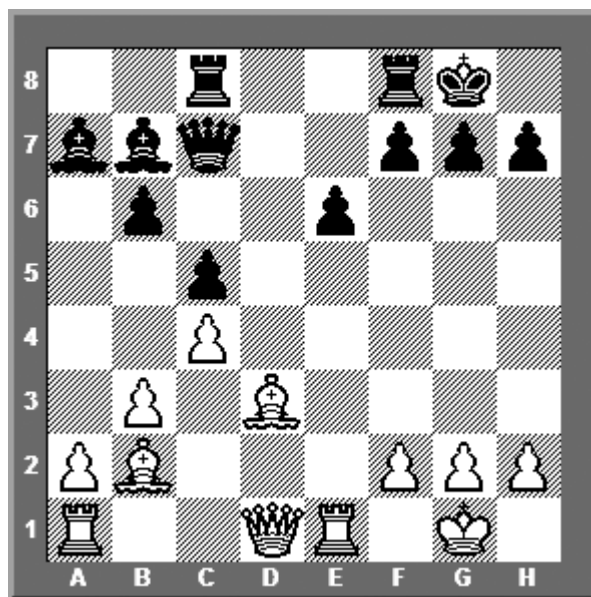
6.Qg4+ Bg5



7.h4 Qf4+

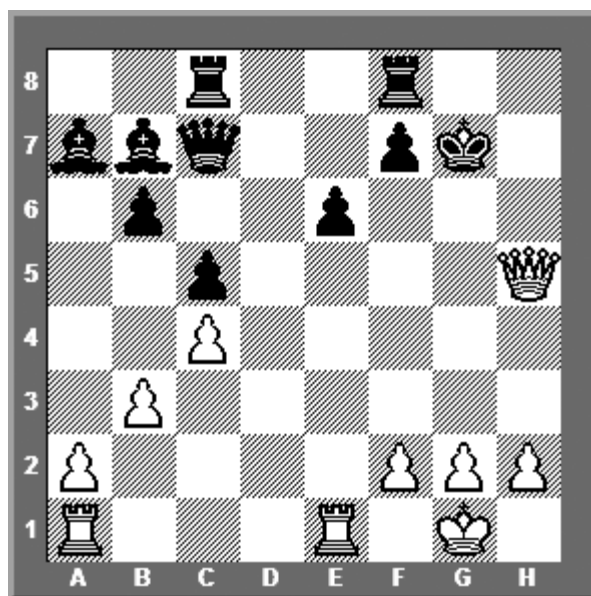
Position #9: An anchored Qc7 with no meaningful minor piece help

As you might expect, without support from minor pieces, Black is in trouble here. It's an easy win for White.

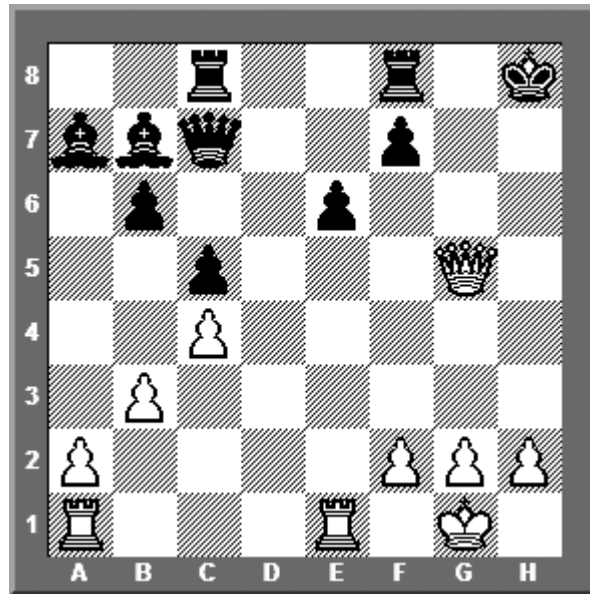


1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7

On 3...f6 4.Qh8+ Kf7 5.Bxf8+- since the recapture with the rook leaves the queen unanchored.



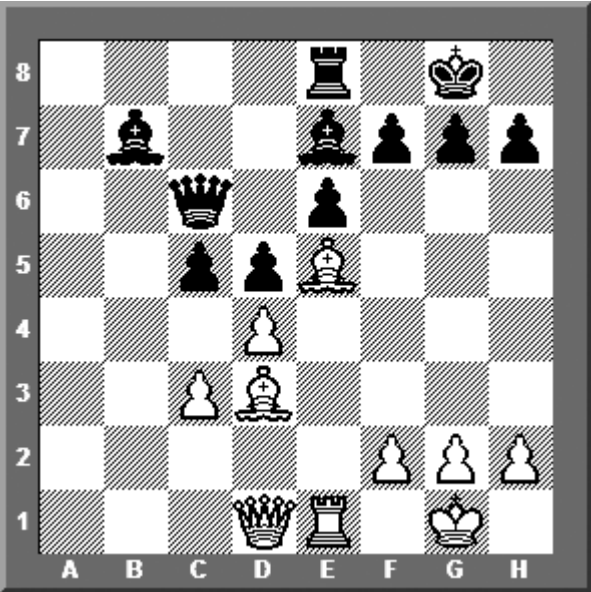
4.Qg5+ Kh8



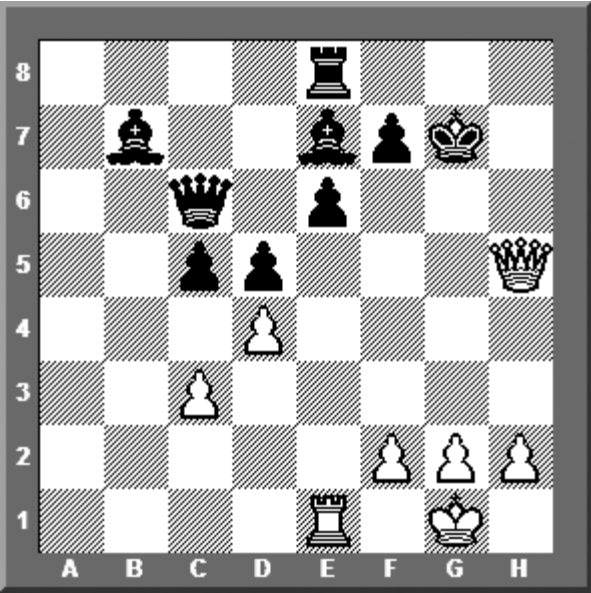
5.Qf6+ Kh7 6.Re3

Position #10: Black's Rook is off f8

Here's an easy, final position before we review the games. The attack will very likely fail if the black rook has vacated f8.



1.Bxh7+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Bxg7 Kxg7

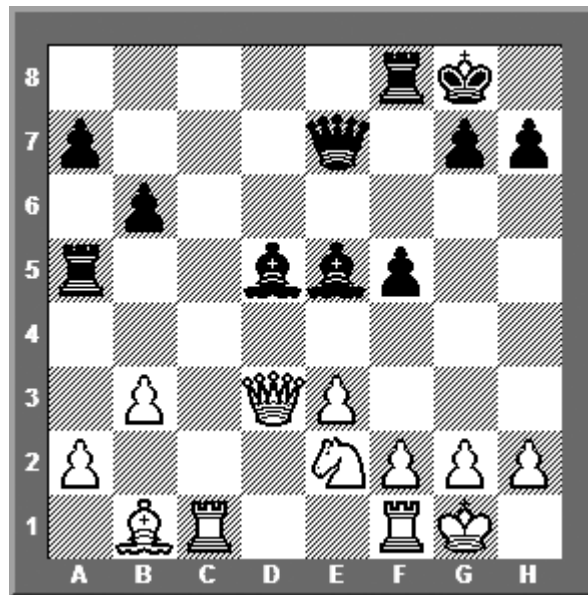


4.Re3 Bf6

Beliavsky, Alexander G (2640) - Tal, Mikhail (2610) [E52]

Aker Brygge, 1989

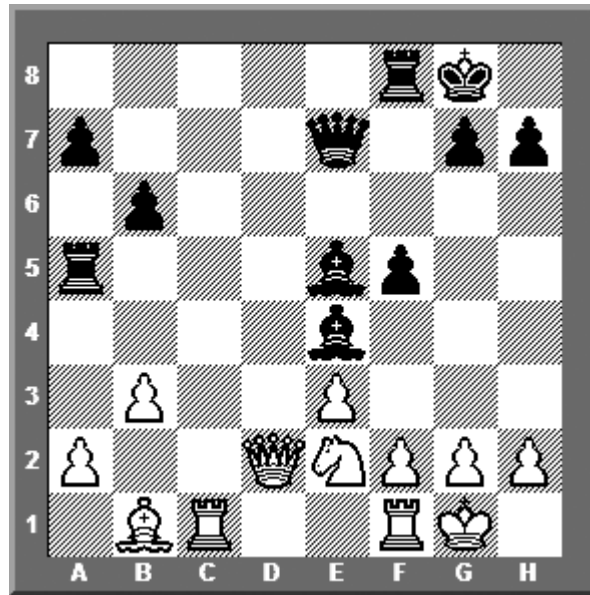
**1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7
8.cxd5 exd5 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.b3 c5 11.Bb2 Rc8 12.Rac1 cxd4 13.Nxd4
Ne4 14.Nde2 Ne5 15.Qd1 Qe7 16.Bb1 Rcd8 17.Qd4 Bc5 18.Nxd5 Rxd5
19.Qxe4 f5 20.Qf4 Bd6 21.Bxe5 Bxe5 22.Qa4 Ra5 23.Qc4+ Bd5 24.Qd3**



24...Be4

Not yet 24...Bxh2+ 25.Kxh2 Qh4+ 26.Kg1 Bxg2 27.Kxg2 Qg4+
28.Ng3+-

25.Qc4+ Bd5 26.Qd3 Be4 27.Qd2



27...Rd8

And not here either with the knight on e2. 27...Bxh2+ 28.Kxh2 Qh4+ 29.Kg1 Bxg2 30.Kxg2 when there's no possible follow up with the rook frozen to the back rank and the knight able to reach g3.

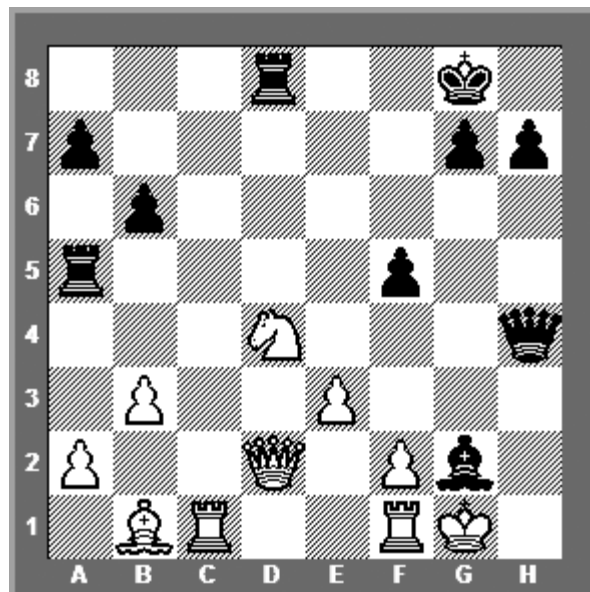
28.Nd4

But now moving the knight off its defensive perch on e2.

28...Bxh2+

Tal knows that the sacrifice offers at least a perpetual.

29.Kxh2 Qh4+ 30.Kg1 Bxg2



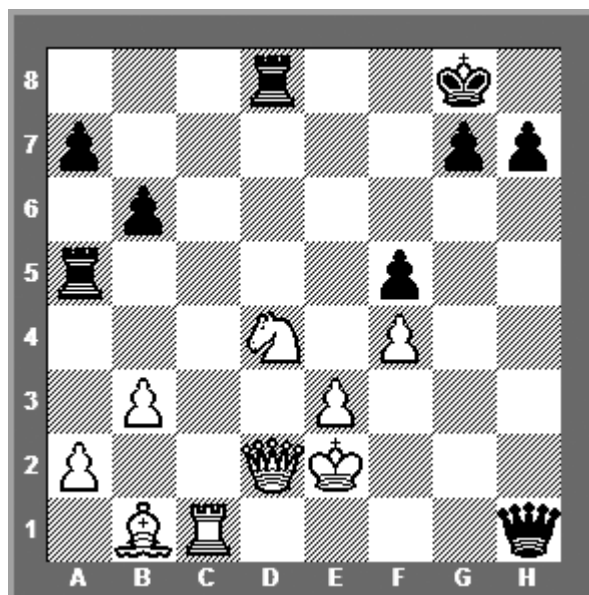
31.f4

31.Kxg2 and Black has nothing better than a draw by perpetual check.

31...Bxf1

31...Qh1+ 32.Kf2 Bxf1 33.Rxf1 Qh4+ 34.Ke2 Rc5 with even chances.

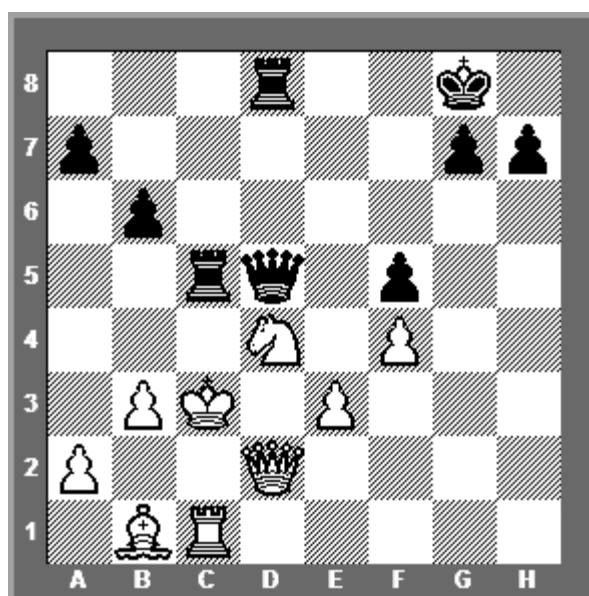
32.Kxf1 Qh1+ 33.Ke2



33...Qg2+!?

33...Qh5+=

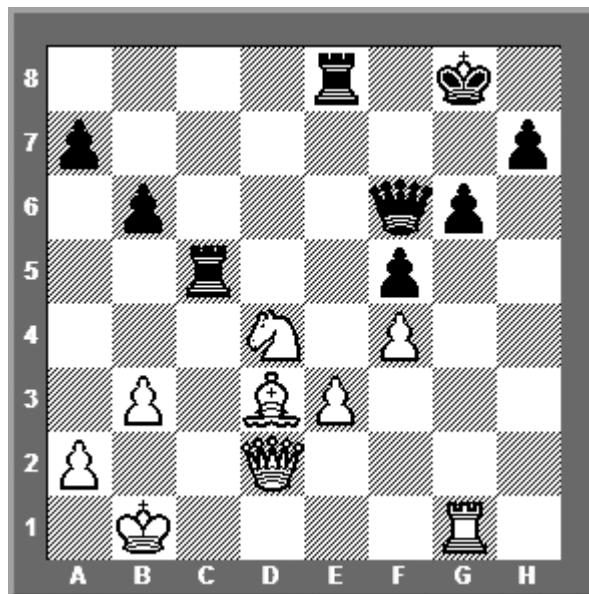
34.Kd3! Qd5 35.Kc3 Rc5+



36.Kb2

Beliavsky's king has escaped.

36...g6 37.Rg1 Qd6 38.Bd3 Qf6 39.Kb1 Re8



40.Nf3

Missing the win with 40.b4 Rc7 41.Bxf5

40...Rd8 41.Ne5 Kg7 42.Qb2 Rcd5 43.Bc2 Rc8 44.Rg2 Rc7 45.Qa3 Qd6 46.Qxd6 Rxd6 47.Bxf5 Rd1+ 48.Kb2 Re1 49.Rg3 Kf6 ½-½

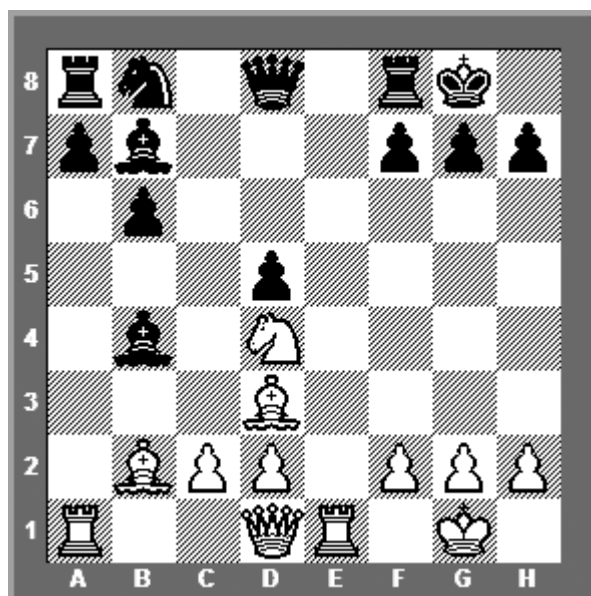
Book - Ingerslev [C00]

1929

1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Nf3 c5 4.Bd3 d5 5.a3 Ba5 6.b4 cxb4 7.axb4 Bxb4 8.Bb2 Ne7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 b6 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 exd5

The sacrifice is premature here because the Nf3 blocks the queen's access to h5.

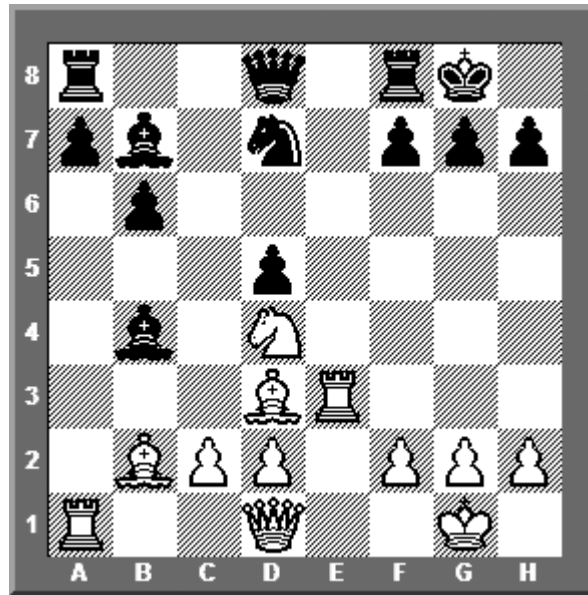
13.Nd4 Bb7



14.Re3

Also winning is 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Nf5 d4 17.Re3!

14...Nd7



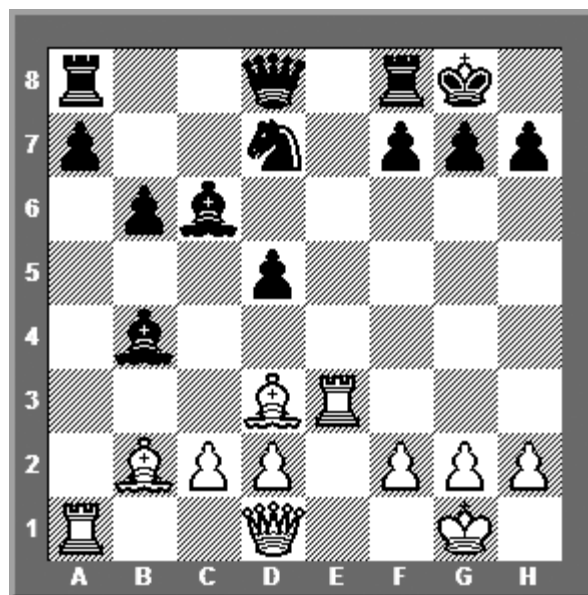
Let's take stock here. The bishops are primed, but the Nd4 stands in the way of White's dark-squared bishop. The white queen has immediate access to h5, and the rook on e3 is already ready to swing to the kingside.

15.Nc6

Dumping the knight, which acts like a marauder, simply moving to an active square in order to initialize the rest of the nice combination.

Also winning is the immediate 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 when White now wins with either 17.Nf5 or with 17.Rh3.

15...Bxc6



16.Bxh7+

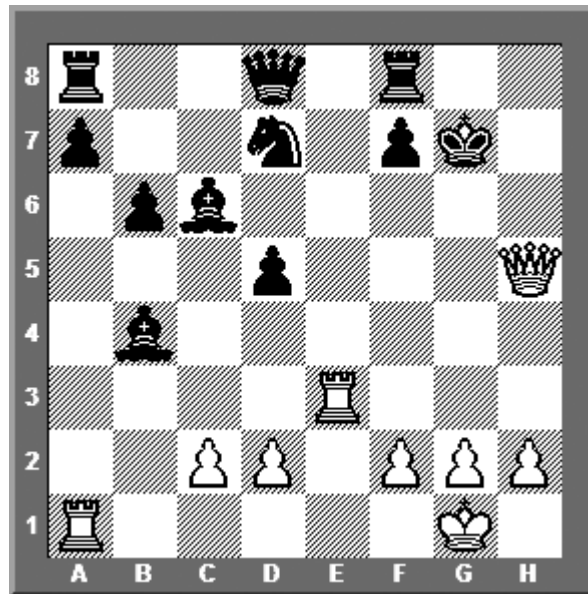
It's even stronger now!

16...Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Bxg7

Simply crushing with the rook already on e3.

18...Kxg7

18...f6 19.Bh8 The best move, with the king's rook already primed for the swing.

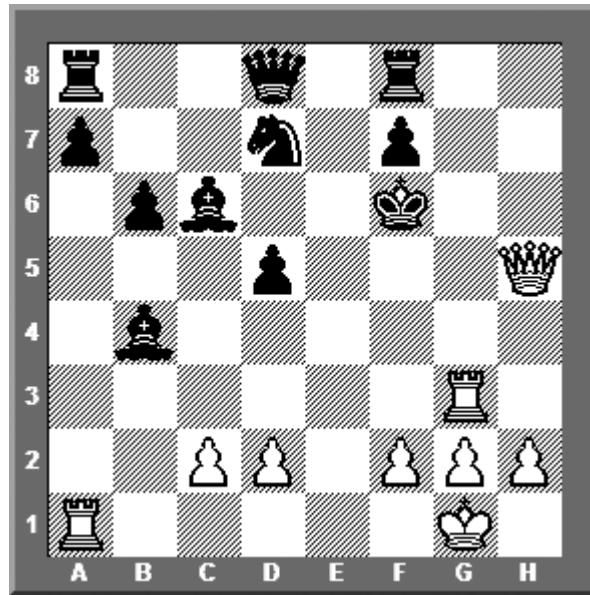


19.Rg3+!

It's mate in a few.

19.Qg4+ Kf6 20.Rae1 works but is a move slower.

19...Kf6



20.Rg8

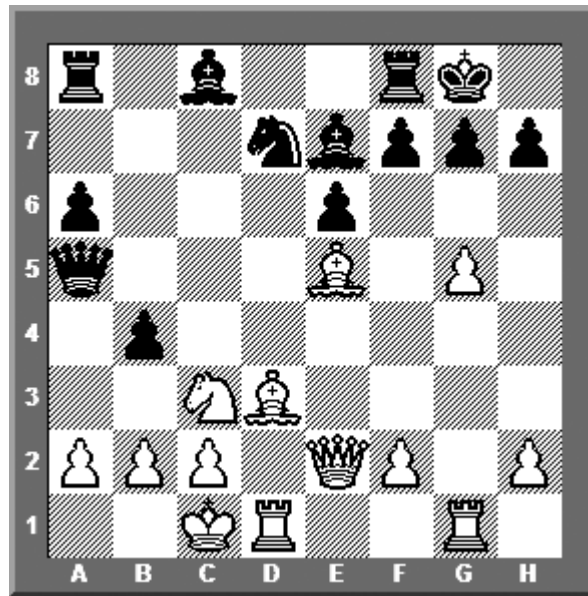
Cutting off the king's retreats.

20...Rg8 21.Qf3# 1-0

Browne, Walter S (2530) - Knaak, Rainer (2478) [B89]

1985

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3 Be7
8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.Rhg1 Qc7 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Bd3 b4
14.e5 dxe5 15.Bxe5 Qa5 16.g5 Nd7**

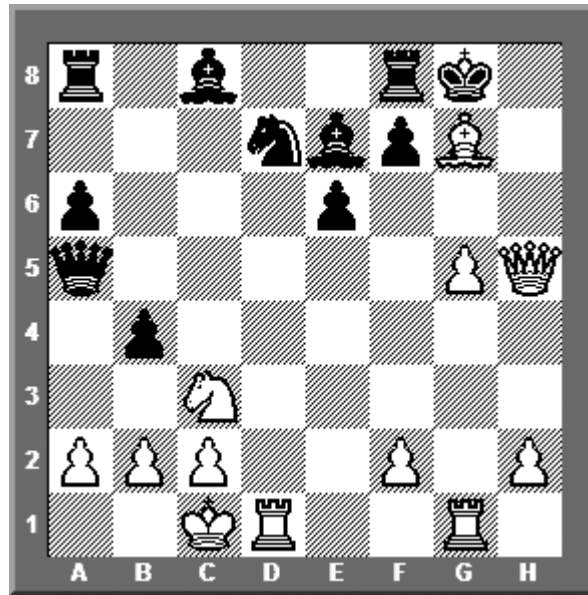


With the Nd7 bearing down on White's dark-squared bishop and the Nc3 en pris, it's now or never for the double sacrifice.

17.Bxh7+

Also strong is 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qh5+-

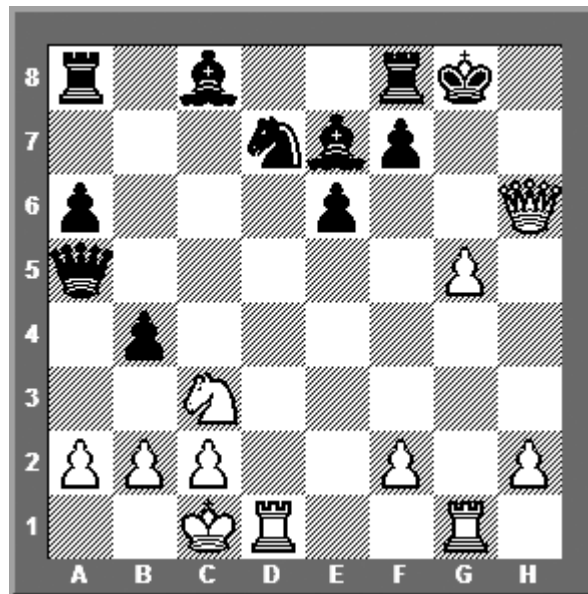
17...Kxh7 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Bxg7



19...Kxg7

19...f5 20.Bf6+- exploiting the activity of the Rg1.

20.Qh6+ Kg8

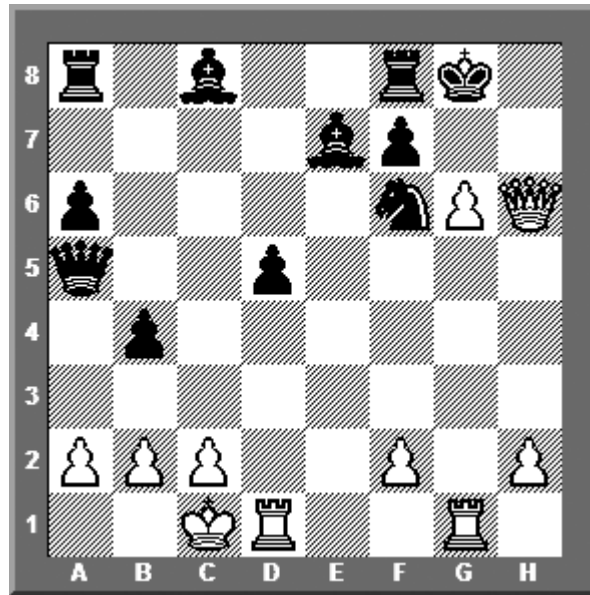


21.Nd5!

Initiating a quick, mate in five, blocking the queen's access to g5.

21.g6 also wins, of course.

21...exd5 22.g6 Nf6



23.g7

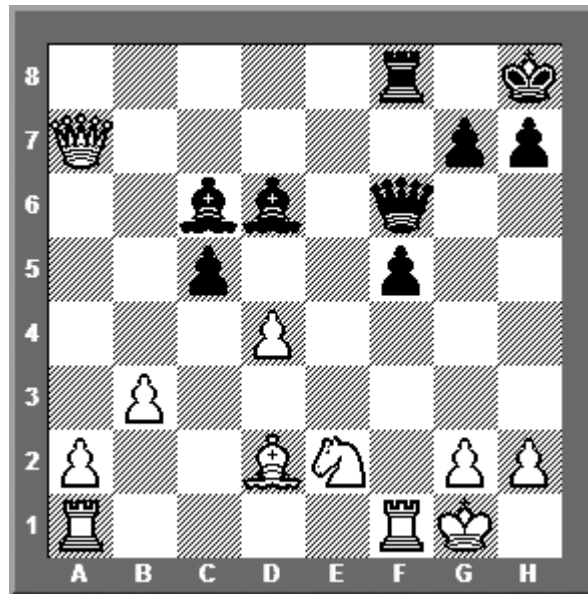
With two threats, gxf8(Q) double checkmate, and Qh7#

23...Nh7 24.gxf8Q# 1-0

Bu Xiangzhi (2714) - Shabalov, Alexander (2585) [D31]

Beijing Rapid, 2008

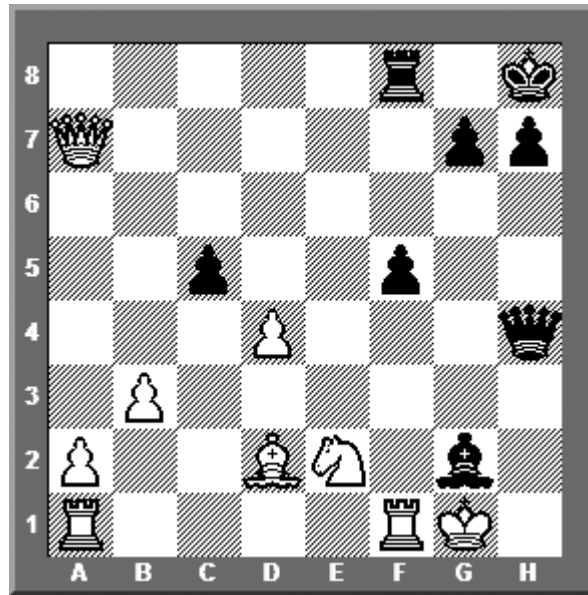
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 c6 4.e3 Bd6 5.b3 f5 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.Nge2 0-0 8.f3
Nbd7 9.0-0 b5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Qc2 Qf6 13.Bd2 Bb7
14.e4 c5 15.Bxb5 dxe4 16.fxe4 Bxe4 17.Qc4+ Kh8 18.Bxd7 Rad8 19.Qe6
Rxd7 20.Qxd7 Bc6 21.Qxa7



Down a rook, Black initiates the sacrifices out of desperation.

21...Bxh2+ 22.Kxh2 Qh4+ 23.Kg1 Bxg2

The back rank prevents Black from bringing up the rook to swing to g6 or h6.



24.Qxc5! Re8 25.Rxf5

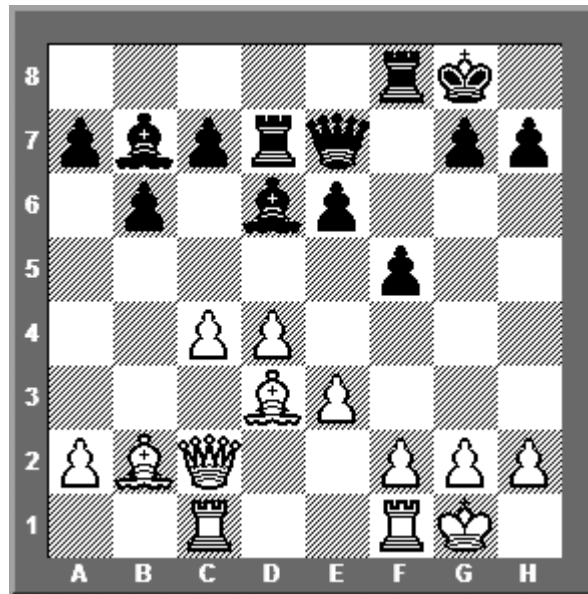
The end might be 25.Rxf5 Qh1+ 26.Kf2 Qh4+ 27.Kxg2+-

1-0

Burn, A - Owen, J [A47]

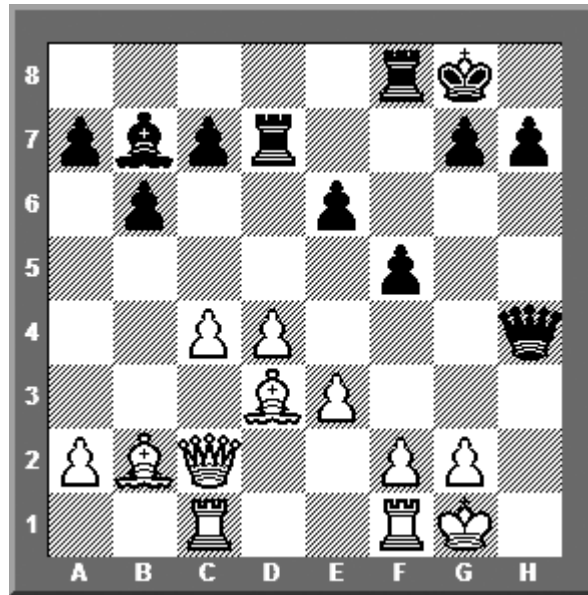
Liverpool, 1884

1.Nf3 e6 2.d4 b6 3.e3 Bb7 4.b3 Nf6 5.Bb2 d5 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0
8.c4 Nbd7 9.Rc1 Qe7 10.0-0 Ne4 11.Qc2 f5 12.Ne5 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Rad8
14.Nxd7 Rxd7 15.Qc2 dxc4 16.bxc4



The stage is set. Both bishops are taking aim at g2 and h2, the queen can reach h4, and the rook can swing, but the white queen is anchored on c2.

16...Bxh2+! 17.Kxh2 Qh4+ 18.Kg1



18...Bxg2?

With the queen anchored on c2, the second sacrifice fails. [But Black wins with the remarkable 18...Bf3! 19.Be2 and only now can Black complete the second sacrifice, because the queen has lost its anchor! (Not 19.gxf3 Qg5+ 20.Kh1 Rf6) 19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 (20.f3 Bh3 or ...Qg3 or ...Rf6) 20...Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Rf6—+]

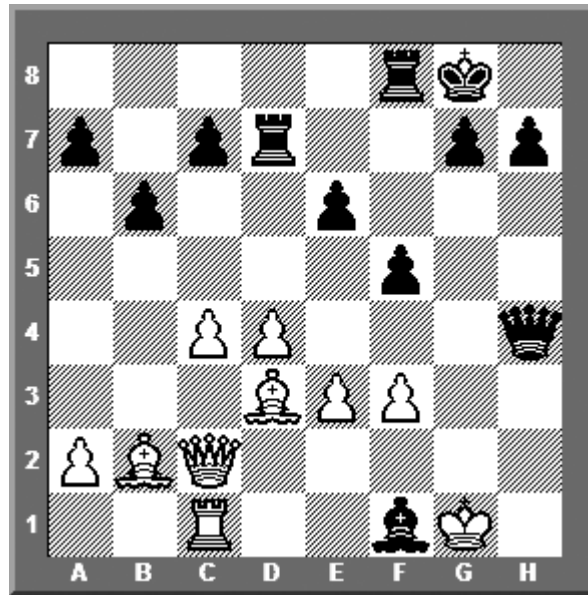
19.f3!

Not 19.Kxg2 Qg4+ 20.Kh1 Qf3+ 21.Kg1 Rf6—+

Also playable is 19.f4 Bxf1 20.Kxf1=

19...Bxf1

The sacrifice is usually in trouble when the attacker must settle for the win of the exchange.



20.Bxf1

20.Kxf1!=

20...Rf6

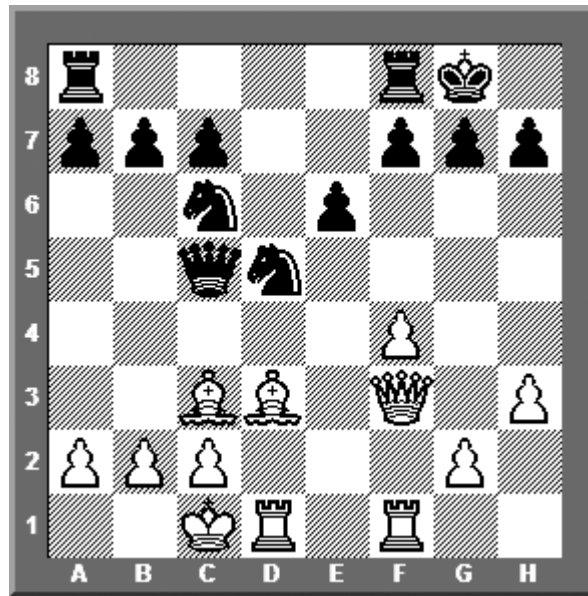
Better is 20...Qg5+ 21.Kf2 f4 22.exf4 Rxf4

21.Bg2 Rh6 22.d5 exd5 23.Qxf5 Qe7 24.Bd4 c5 25.Be5 dxc4 26.Rxc4 Qd8 27.Rg4 Rf7 28.Qc2 Rh5 29.f4 Kf8 30.Bf1 Rd7 31.Qc3 g6 32.Bf6 Qc8 33.Bg5 Rg7 34.Rg2 Qd7 35.Bc4 b5 36.Qf6+ Ke8 37.Qe5+ Kf8 38.Qb8+ Qe8 39.Qd6+ Re7 40.Qf6+ 1-0

Czirnich, Wolfgang - Ertl, Daniel [A03]

Wuerzburg op, 1996

1.f4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd3 5.Bxd3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3
Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6 9.Bd2 Bc5 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.Ne4 Bd6 12.Bc3 Nd5
13.Nxd6 Qxd6 14.Rhf1 Qc5



All looks well for the double sacrifice, but pay special attention to the lowly pawn on h3. A rook swing across the third rank cannot now bring the rook to h3.

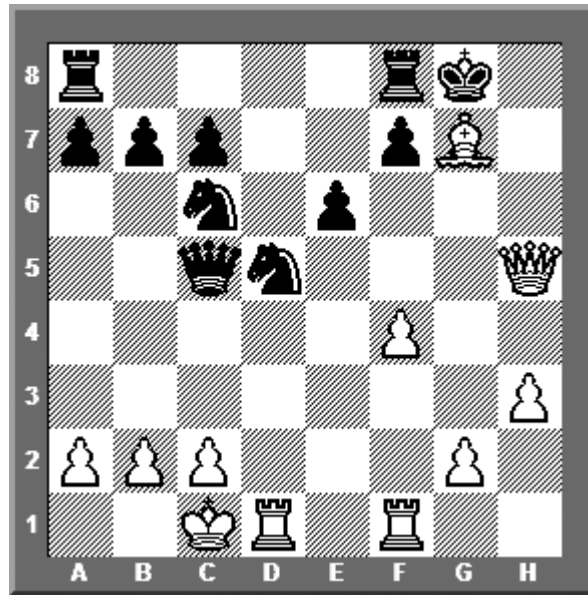
15.Bxh7+

There's nothing better to try here.

15...Kxh7

15...Kh8 16.Rxd5 Qxd5 17.Be4! Forcing the queen off the fifth rank in preparation for Qh5+.

16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Bxg7

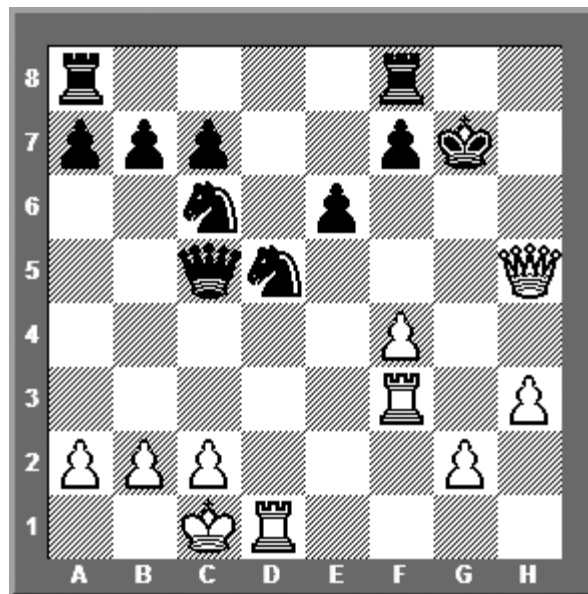


17...Kxg7

Black can insert the queen check here without affecting the verdict.
17...Qe3+ 18.Kb1 Kxg7 19.Qg4+ Kh8 20.Qh5+=

18.Rf3?

Simply hopeless. White needed to take the perpetual check with Qg5+



18...Rg8!

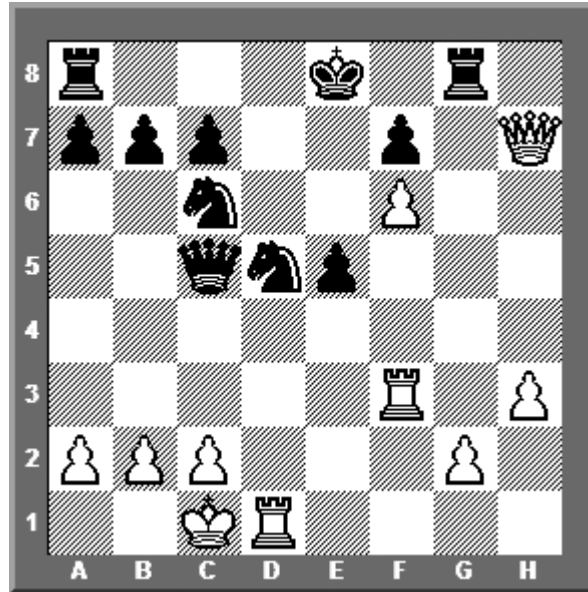
Black is winning!

19.f5

A vain effort to set the pawn on f6.

19.Rg3+ Kf8 20.Qh6+ Ke7—+

19...e5 20.f6+ Kf8 21.Qh6+ Ke8 22.Qh7



22...Rf8

More accurate is 22...Rxc2 23.Qh8+ Kd7 when Black's mate threat on c2 makes the Ra8 immune.

23.Qe4 Rd8 24.g4 Ndb4 25.Re1 Qd4 26.Qxd4 Rxd4 27.c3 Nd3+ 28.Rxd3 Rxd3 0-1

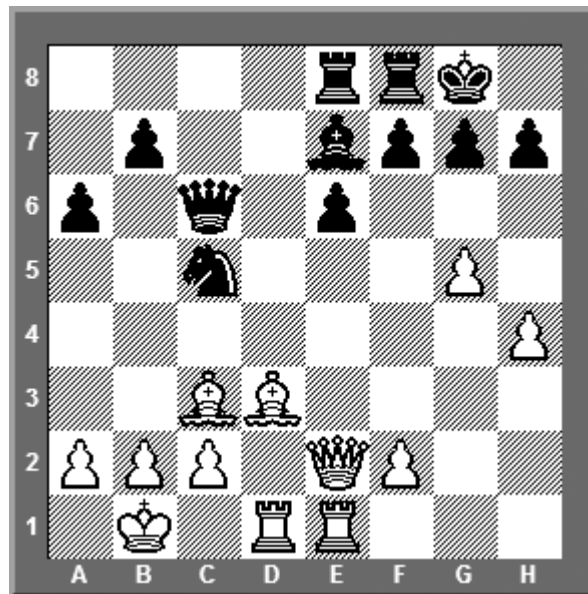
Delchev, Aleksander (2587) - Collet, Philippe [C10]

Creon, 2001

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.Qe2 Be7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Nxc5 Nxc5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bg5 Be7 11.0-0-0 Qa5 12.Kb1 a6 13.h4 Bd7 14.Ne5 Bc6 15.Rhe1 0-0 16.g4 Rae8 17.Bd2 Qc7 18.g5 Nd7 19.Bc3 Nc5 20.Nxc6

Making room the dark-squared bishop.

20...Qxc6

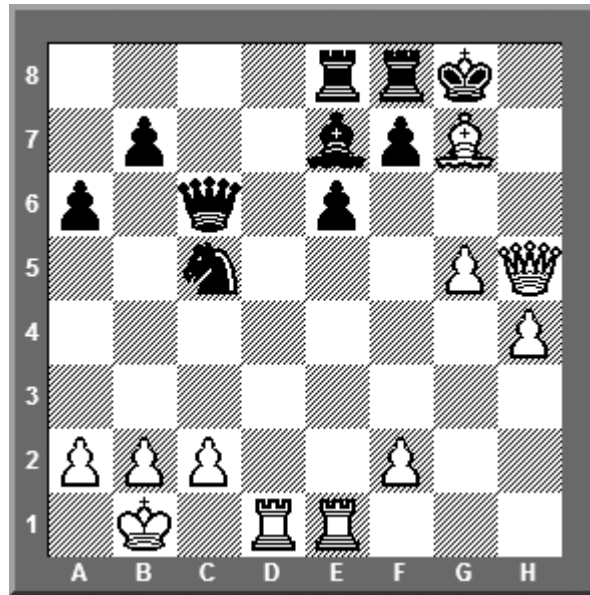


This position is unusual because White's additional attacking asset is the kingside pawn storm. There will be no rook advance and swing, but rather the use of the pawns to open a file for the rooks.

21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qh5+

The queen still reaches h5.

22...Kg8 23.Bxg7



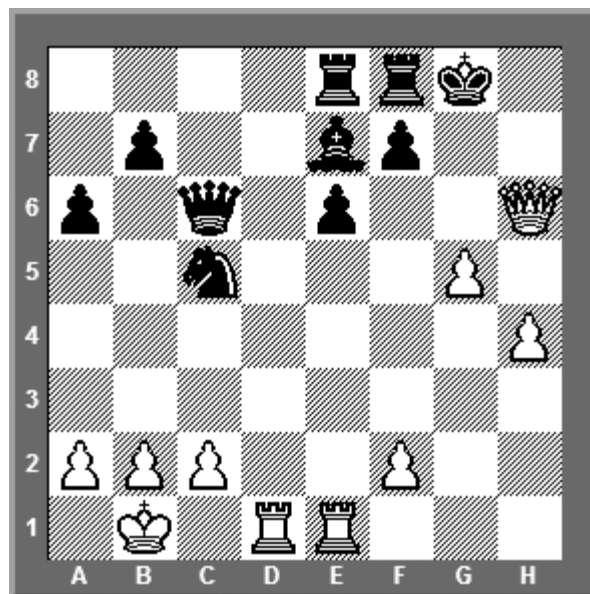
23...Kxg7

Now on 23...f6 or ...f5, the advanced pawn decides. 24.g6

24.Qh6+

First using the g-pawn to support the queen's entry on h6.

24...Kg8



25.g6

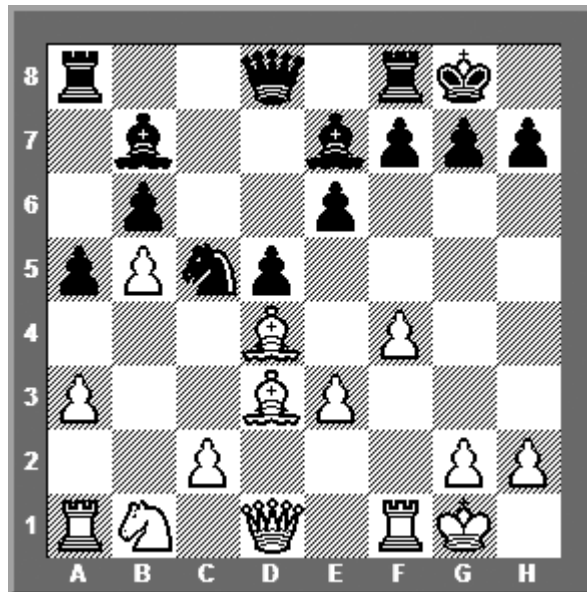
25.g6 fxc6 26.Qxc6+ Kh8 27.Qh6+ Forcing the king on to the open g-file. 27...Kg8 28.Rg1+ Kf7 and it's checkmate in one in several ways. 29.Qg7#

1-0

Dus Chotimirsky, Fedor Ivanovich - Levenfish, Grigory
[D04]

Karlsbad, 1911

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.dxc5 e6 5.a3 Bxc5 6.b4 Be7 7.Bb2 a5
8.b5 Nbd7 9.Bd3 b6 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 0-0 12.0-0 Nd7 13.Bd4 Bb7
14.f4 Nc5**



The stage is set for the double sacrifice. Both bishops have access to g7 and h7, the white queen can reach h5, and the Rf1 is ready to swing. But note the location of Black's queen and dark-squared bishop, together providing timely support for ...Bg5.

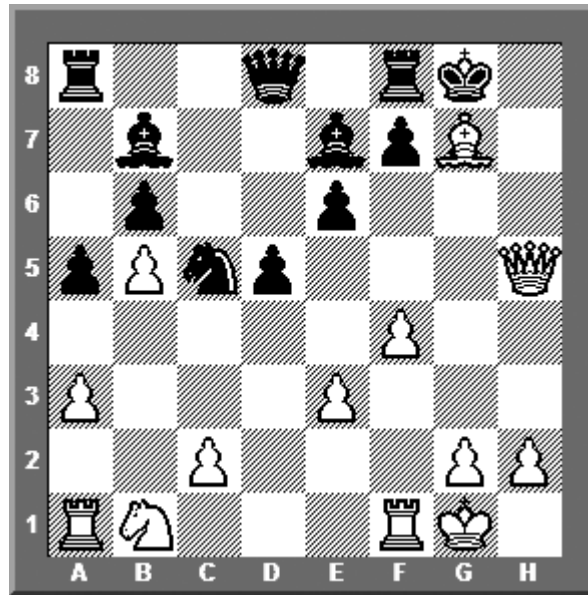
And so, we have a rule for the defense. Black will draw if the queen is on d8 or e7. White will lose if Black has a queen on d8 and the bishop on e7.

15.Bxh7+?

Better to develop with 15.Nd2.

15...Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Bxg7

The consistent play. But Black has no intention of rolling over and resigning.



17...Kxg7

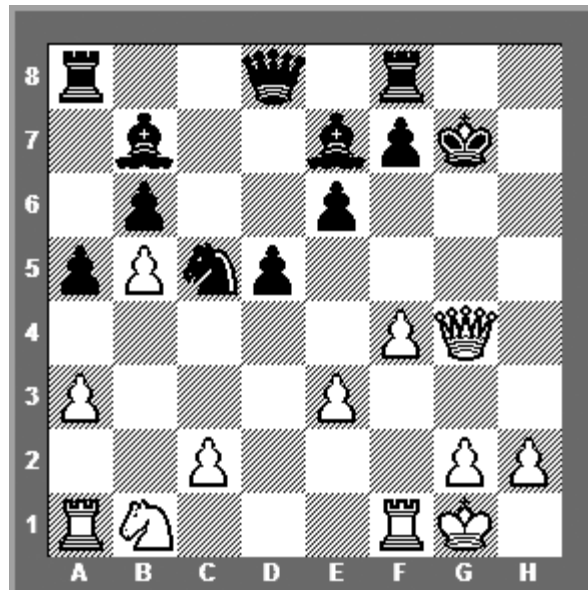
All other moves lose.

17...f5 18.Be5 Rf6 19.Rf3+-

17...f6 18.Rf3 Qe8 19.Qh8+ Kf7 20.Qh7+-

18.Qg4+

On 18.Rf3 Ne4+- with further control over g5.



18...Bg5!

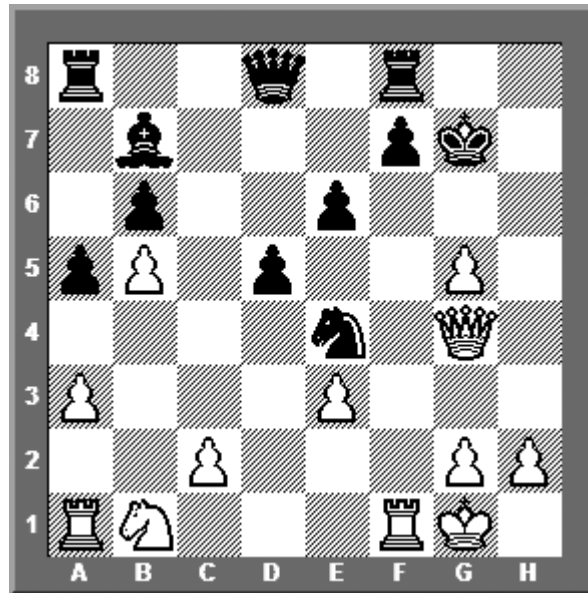
Gleefully returning a bishop, but only one.

19.fxg5

19.Qxg5 leads to a queen trade and the end of White's attack.

19...Ne4

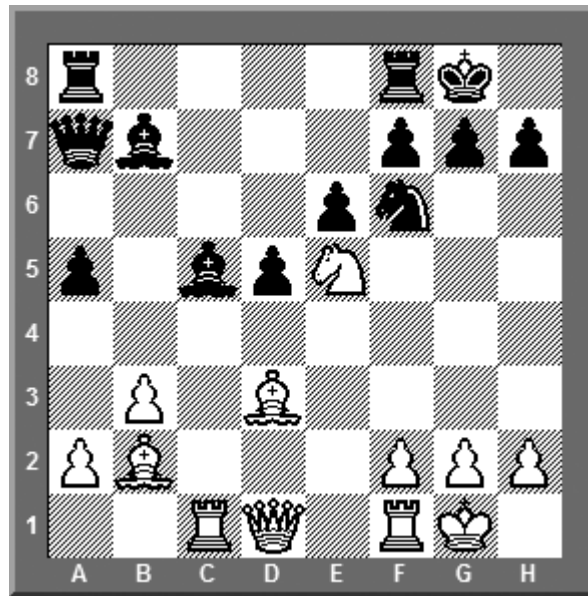
Ending White's attacking ambitions. The rest shows Levenfish's sterling technique.



20.h4 Qc7 21.Nd2 Qg3 22.Qxg3 Nxc3 23.Rf6 Rh8 24.Kh2 Nf5
25.Nf3 Nxe3 26.Ne5 Rxc4+ 27.Kg3 Re4 28.Rxf7+ Kg8 29.Rxb7 Rxe5
30.Rh1 Rf8 31.Kh4 Rf7 32.Rb8+ Kg7 33.Rxb6 Nxc2+ 34.Kg4 Ne3+
35.Kh5 Re4 36.Rh4 Re5 37.Ra6 Rff5 38.Ra7+ Kf8 39.Ra8+ Ke7 40.Rg8
Nc4 41.Kh6 Nd6 42.g6 Nxb5 43.g7 Rg5 44.Ra8 Nd6 45.Rh2 Ne8
46.Ra7+ Kd6 47.Ra6+ Kc5 48.Rxa5+ Kb6 49.Ra8 Nxc7 50.Rg8 Rh5+
51.Rxc5 Nxc5 52.Kg6 Rf5 53.Re8 Nf4+ 54.Kh6 e5 55.Rb8+ Kc5
56.Rc8+ Kd4 57.a4 e4 58.a5 e3 59.c3+ Ke4 60.Re8+ Re5 0-1

Fressinet, Laurent (2658) - Kempinski, Robert (2616) [D45]
Germany, 2009

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e3 a6 6.c5 b6 7.cxb6 Nbd7
8.Bd3 c5 9.0-0 Qxb6 10.b3 cxd4 11.exd4 Bd6 12.Na4 Qa7 13.Bb2 Bb7
14.Rc1 0-0 15.Nc5 a5 16.Ne5 Nxc5 17.dxc5 Bxc5**



If the knights were off the board, the sacrifice would work beautifully. Knowing that, White sacrifices his knight too!

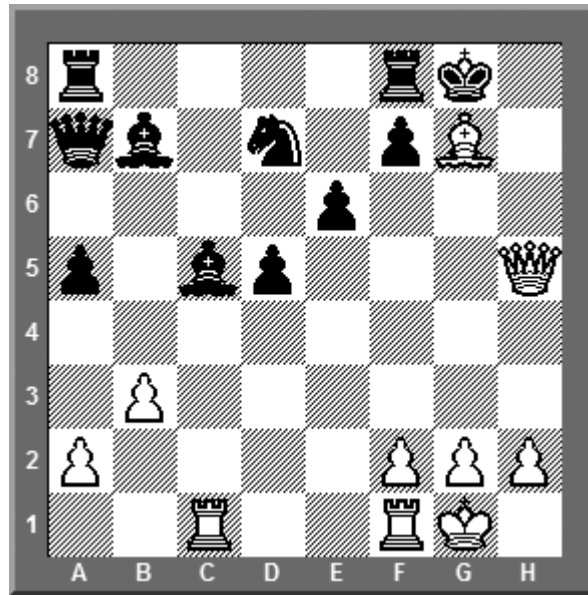
18.Nd7

White launches in effect a three minor piece sacrifice! Black must capture the knight, which hits the Rf8 and the Bc5.

18...Nxd7 19.Bxh7+

Sacrifice number two. Once again, Black must cooperate by capturing the bishop.

19...Kxh7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Bxg7



21...Kxg7

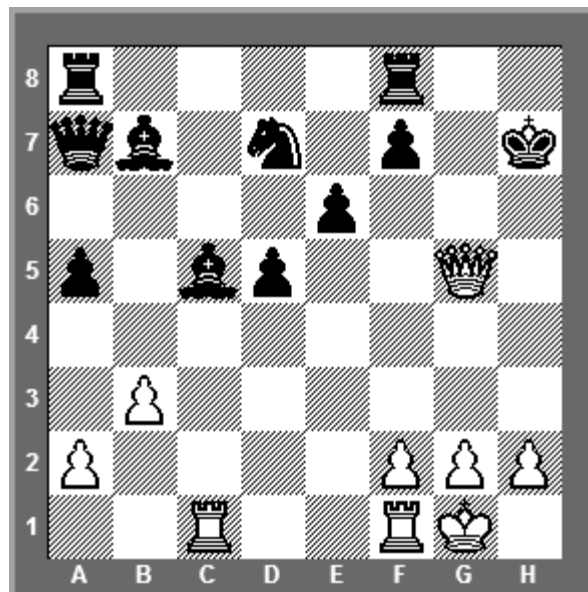
21...f5 22.Qg6+-

21...f6 22.Bh6 Ne5 23.Rc3+-

22.Qg5+ Kh7 23.Qh5+ Kg7 24.Qg5+

Gaining time on the clock.

24...Kh7



25.Rc3

This time, the rook swing comes from the c-file.

25...Be3

All of the sacrifices have made it possible for Black now to give back material to blunt White's attack. Note the coordination of Black's forces on e3.

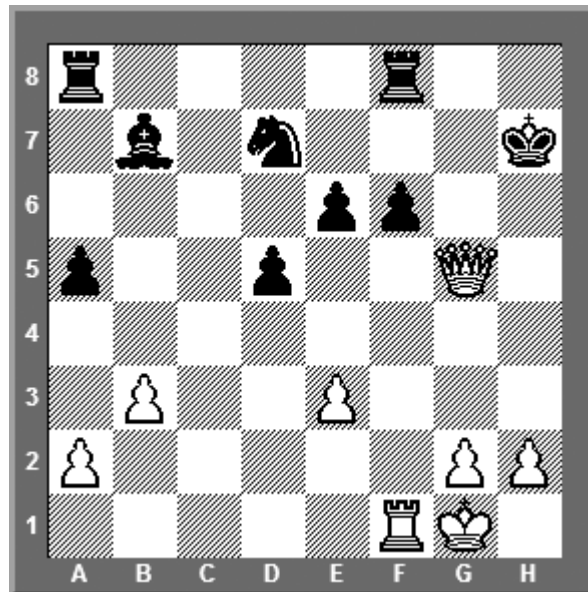
26.Rxe3 Qxe3!

The only reasonable way to prevent the checkmate on h3. Black gives up his queen but nets another rook!

27.fxe3

All forced.

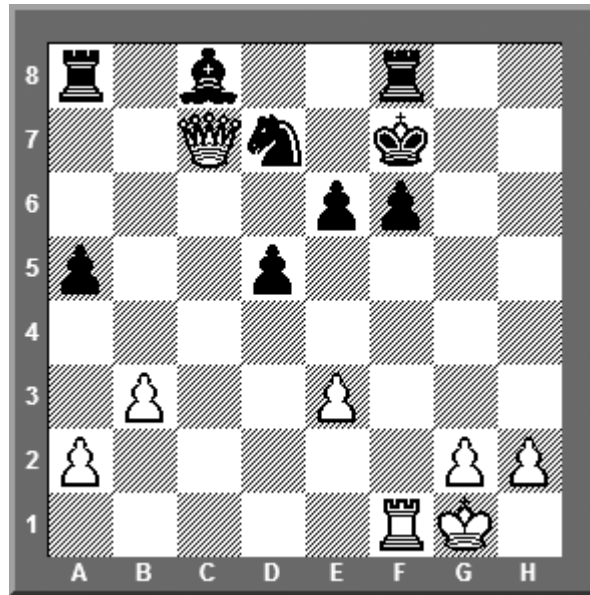
27...f6



28.Qh4+

Or 28.Qh5+ Kg7 29.Rf3 Rf7 30.Qg4+ Kf8 31.Qxe6 Ra6 32.Qf5 Rc6 33.h3

28...Kg7 29.Qg3+ Kf7 30.Qc7 Bc8



31.Rf3

The second rook swings into action.

31.Rf4!

**31...a4 32.b4 Rb8 33.a3 Rb7 34.Qd6 Rb6 35.Qc7 Rb7 36.Qd6 Rb6
37.Qc7**

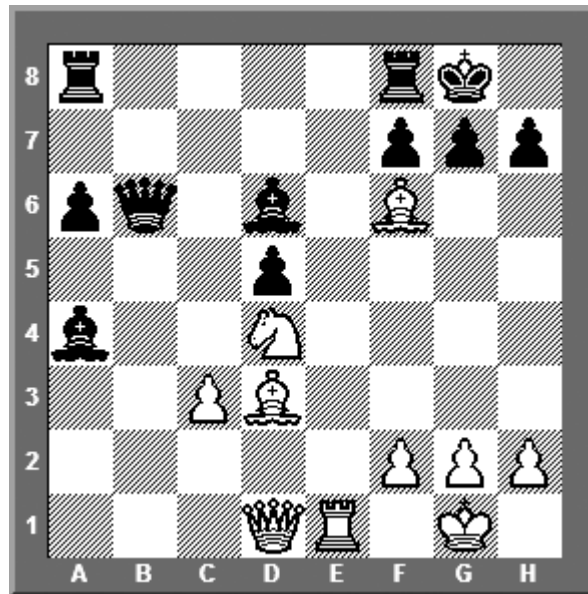
A very well played draw!

½-½

Gaudin, Raoul - Oskam, Gerard [B21]

Bromley, 1920

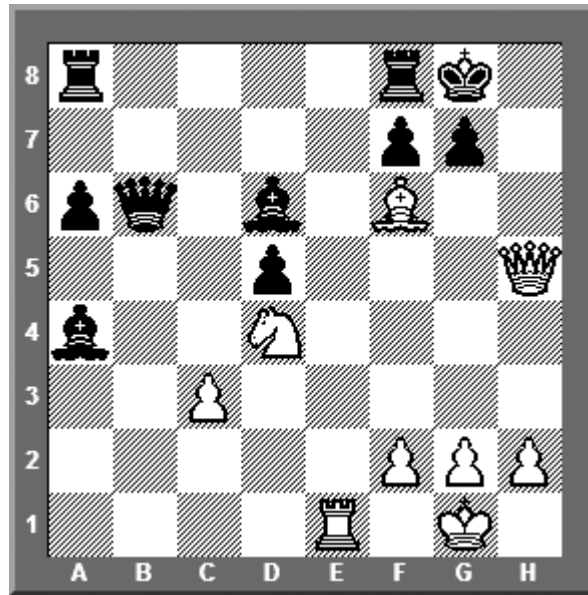
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 Qa5+ 4.Bd2 Qb6 5.Na3 Nc6 6.Nc4 Qc7 7.c3
b5 8.Na3 dxc3 9.bxc3 a6 10.Bd3 Nf6 11.0-0 e6 12.Nc2 d5 13.exd5 exd5
14.a4 bxa4 15.Rxa4 Be7 16.Bf4 Qb7 17.Ne5 0-0 18.Re1 Bd6 19.Nxc6
Qxc6 20.Nd4 Qb6 21.Bg5 Bd7 22.Bxf6! Bxa4



To initialize the double bishop sacrifice here, White has also sacrificed the Ra4.

23.Bxh7+! Kxh7 24.Qh5+ Kg8

White has carried out the initial sacrifice and the following queen move to h5. The second sacrifice on g7 is not forced and is sometimes unproductive. Note here the black's ability to reach the kingside after the ...Bxh2 counter sacrifice.



25.Bxg7?

Throwing away the win!

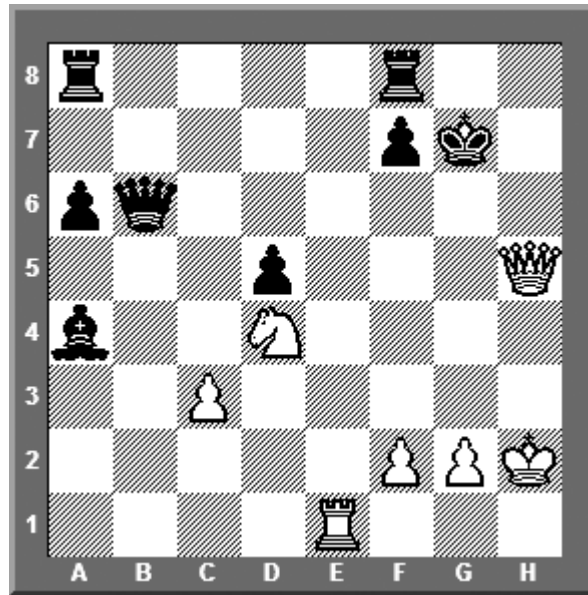
The winning line is fun to play through. 25.Nf5! Threatening rather than playing Bxg7. The knight eyes e7# should the Bd7 sacrifice on h2. 25...Bxh2+ 26.Kxh2 Qxf6 Stopping the immediate threat of Bxg7, but now 27.Ne7+ forces Black to give up his queen. 27...Qxe7 28.Rxe7 Bc6 29.Re3 Rfe8 30.Rh3 f6 31.Qg6 With a very clear advantage, though White still has work to do.

25...Bxh2+?

Returning the favor.

25...Kxg7!= 26.Qg5+ Kh7 When White should take the perpetual check because the attempted rook swing with 27.Re3 runs smack into a quick back-rank checkmate. 27...Qb1+

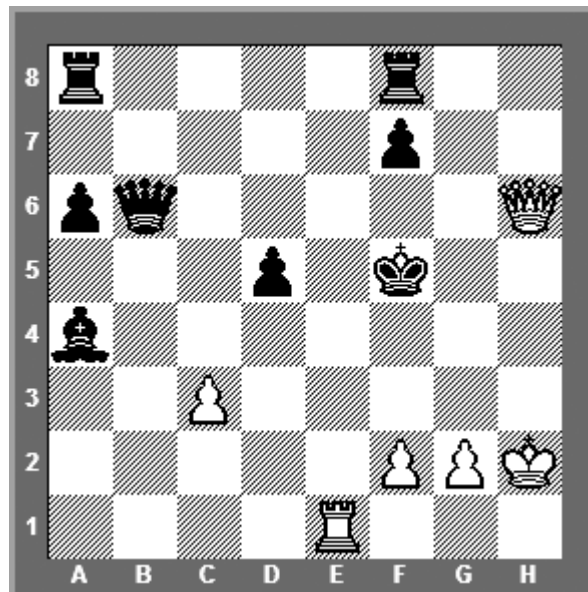
26.Kxh2 Kxg7



27.Nf5+!

Queens and knights work together very harmoniously.

27...Kf6 28.Qh6+ Kxf5



29.Qxb6

Tough to turn down a free queen.

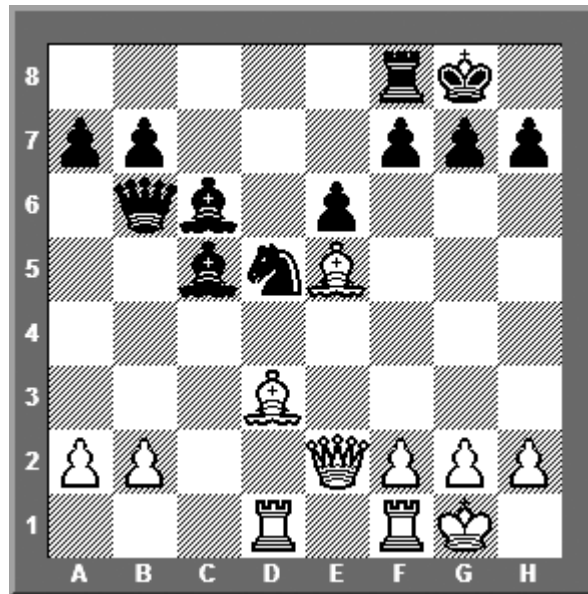
Also overwhelming is 29.g4+ Kxg4 30.Rg1+ Kf3 31.Rg3+-

29...Bb5 30.Re3 f6 31.Qe6+ 1-0

Gelfand, Boris (2685) - Kramnik, Vladimir (2710) [C10]

Munich blitz, 1994

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6
7.Bd3 c5 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Qe2 Qc7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Rad1 Bd7
13.Ne5 Rad8 14.c4 Bc6 15.Bf4 Bd6 16.c5 Bxc5 17.Ng6 Qb6 18.Nxf8
Rxf8 19.Be5 Nd5

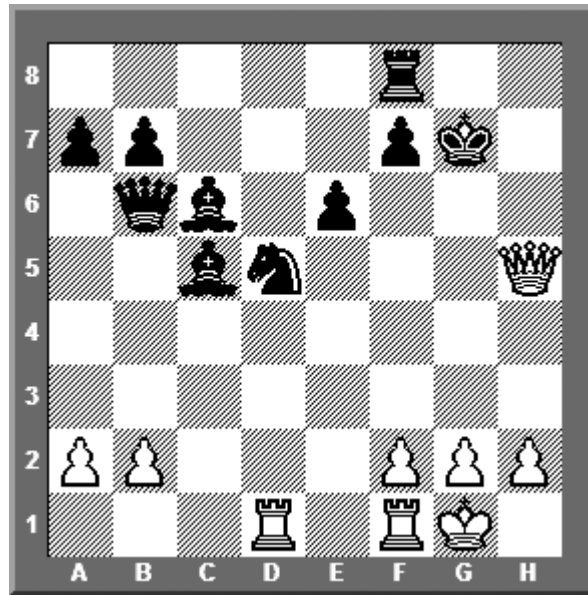


Both sides are primed for the double sacrifice. White's bishops are ready to assault h7 and then g7. The queen can reach h5, and the rook is ready to swing via d3. But Black has organized resistance around the e3 square with the aim, should the sacrifices occur, of impeding the rook swing from d3 to the kingside.

20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Bxg7 Kxg7

22...f6 23.Bh6+-

22...f5 23.Be5+-

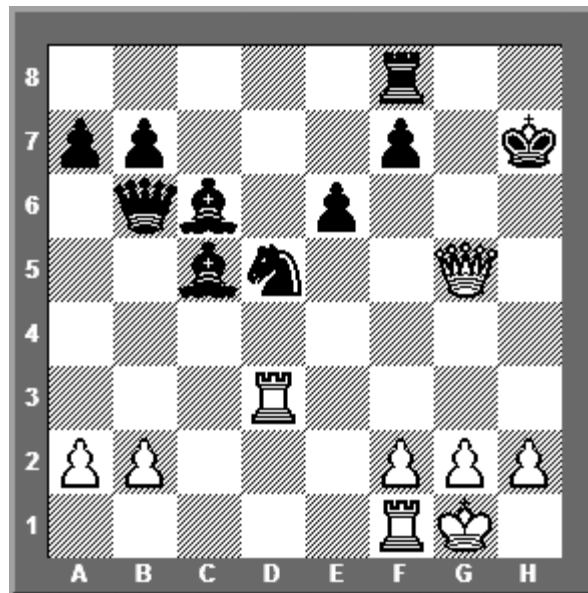


23.Qg5+

White has the usual perpetual, of course.

23...Kh7 24.Rd3

But White wants more.



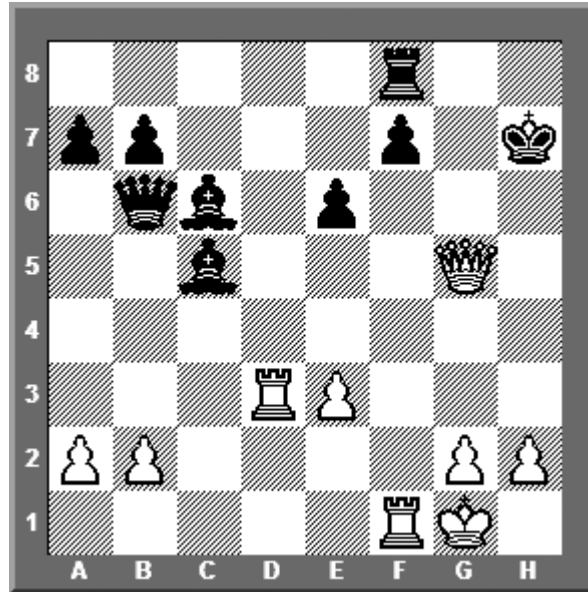
24...Ne3!

Blocking the rook from joining the attack.

On 24...Be3!? 25.fxe3 f6 26.Qh5+ Kg7 27.Rf3 Rf7 28.Qg4+ Kf8 29.Qxe6 Qxb2 30.Rxd5 Bxd5 31.Qxd5 Qc1+ 32.Kf2 with an endgame advantage, though there is no clear win in sight.

25.fxe3

The Rd3 can no longer reach g3 or h3, and the e3 pawn, though well enough defended, cannot push through owing to the pin.



25...Be4?

Crumbling under the defensive burden.

On 25...Qxb2 26.Rf4 Qa1+ 27.Kf2 Qxa2+ 28.Ke1 Qb1+ 29.Ke2 Qb2+=

The key line is 25...f6! 26.Qg3 f5 27.Rf3 Rf6 28.Qe5 Bxf3 29.Qxf6 Bd5 and White's attack has failed.

26.Qh4+

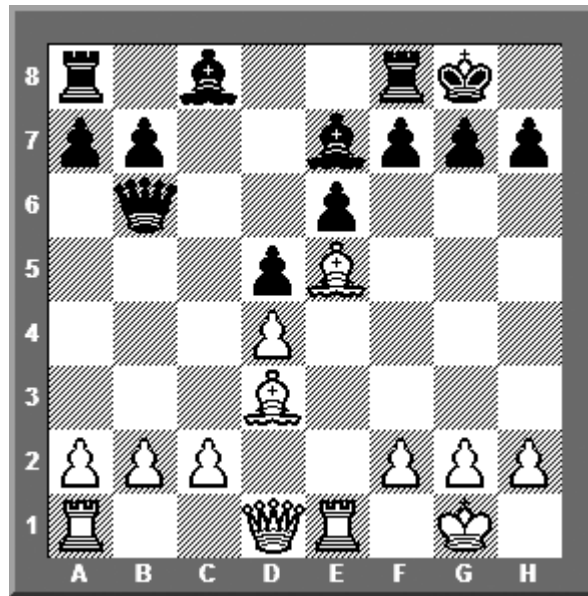
Picking off the unanchored bishop.

1-0

Edwards, Jon - Anonymous [B01]

Playchess, 3m, 2012

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Qa5 4.Bc4 e6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.d4 Be7 7.0-0 c6 8.Re1 0-0 9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.Bf4 Nd5 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.Bd3 Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Qb6



Here's the true motivation for this month's e-book. I reached this position a week ago! Does the double bishop sacrifice work?

Mind you, I spent three years writing a book about Greco's bishop sacrifice, but the fact is that I had never actually pulled that off in a game.

14.Bxh7+!?

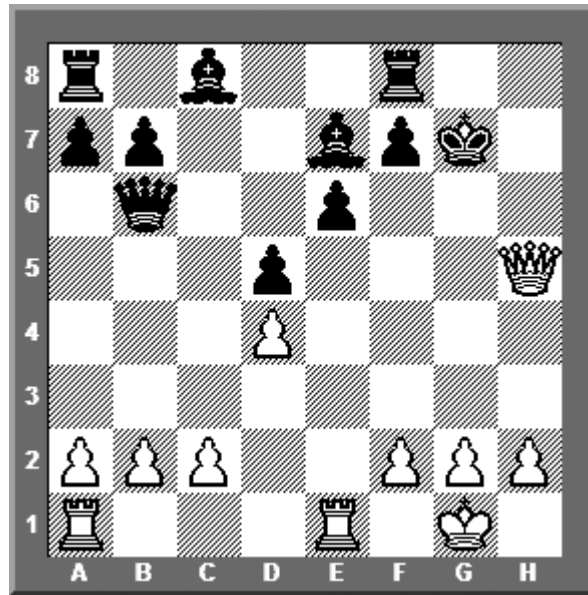
In a friendly three minute game, I simply could not resist.

14...Kxh7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Bxg7

There's no time to try 16.Re3 f6-+

16...Kxg7

Here's the key. Should White play Re3 or Qg4+. Does it matter? I was amazed after the end of the game to discover that the position is extremely complicated.



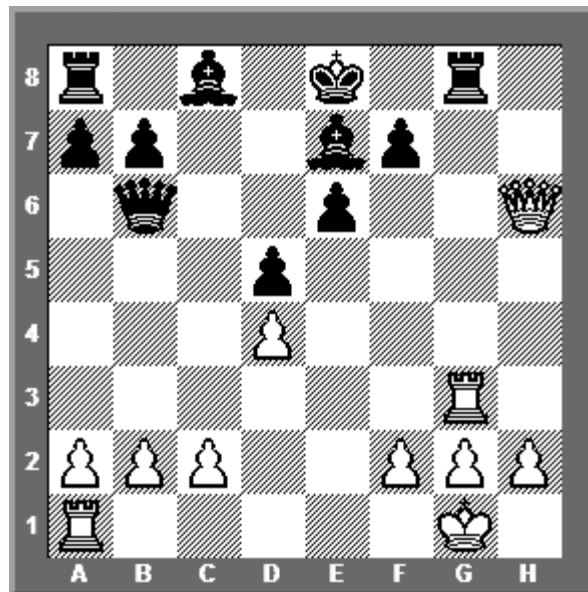
17.Re3!

17.Qg4+ Kh6 18.Re3 Bg5 19.f4 Kh7! Amazing! If White now captures on g5, Black will play Qxd4 pinning the rook!

17...Qd6?

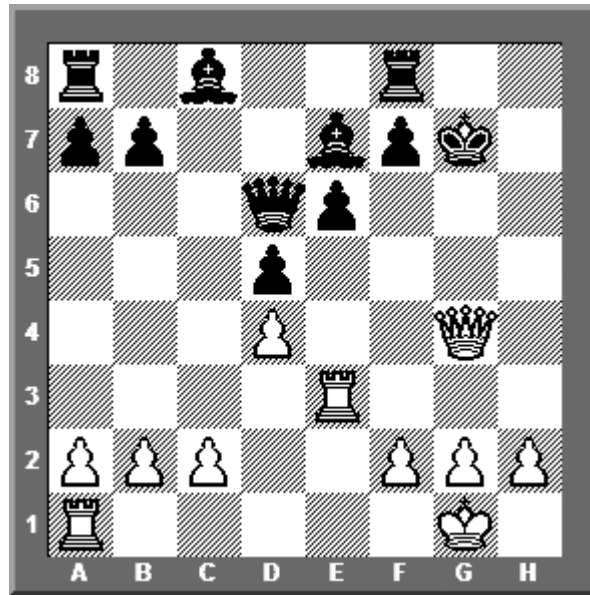
Losing instantly.

The toughest defense is 17...Rg8 18.Rg3+ Kf8 19.Qh6+ Ke8



20.Rxg8+ Kd7 and the game will go on for a while.

18.Qg4+



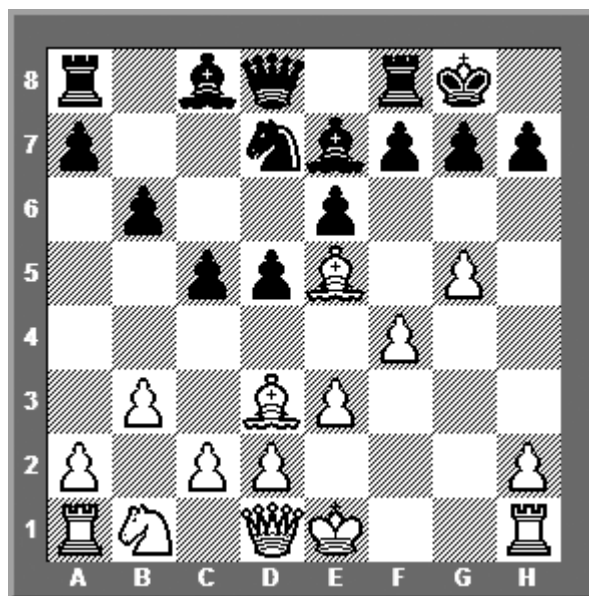
It's mate in two.

1-0

Johnson Bjorn (SWE) (2380) - Franks Keith (ENG) [A03]

2000

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 d5 4.b3 c5 5.Bb2 Be7 6.Ne5 0-0 7.Bd3 b6 8.g4
Nfd7 9.g5 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Nd7

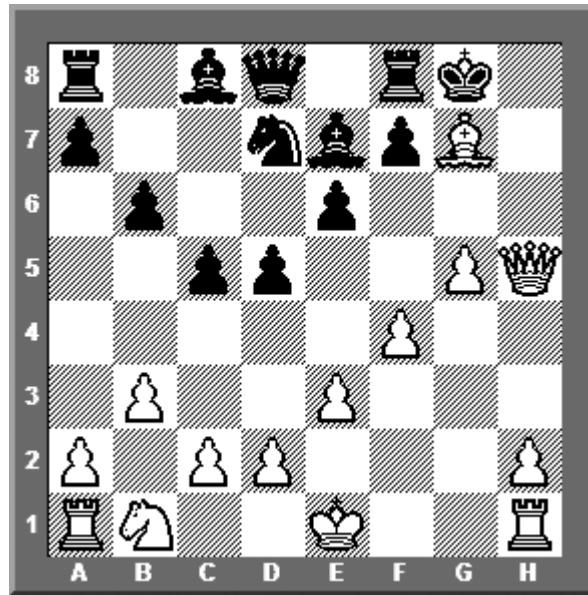


White's bishops and queen are ideally situated, and the pawns provide a needed assist, but Black's dark-squared bishop and queen are well placed to counter the combination.

11.Bxh7+! Kxh7

Not 11...Kh8 12.Qh5+-

12.Qh5+ Kg8 13.Bxg7!

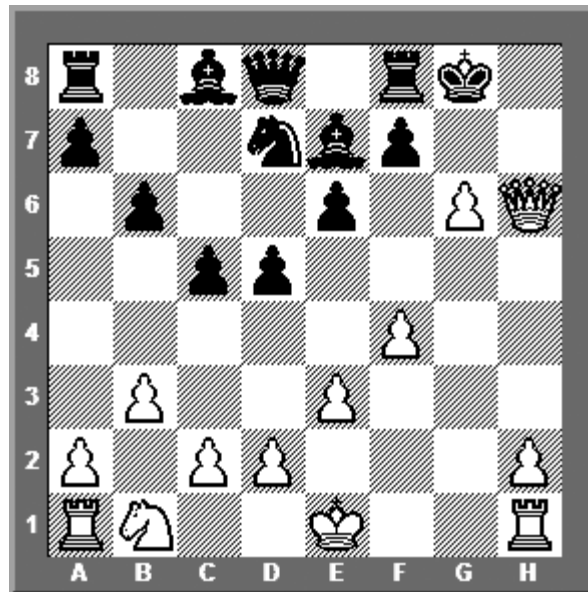


13...Kxg7

13...f6 14.g6 with mate next move.

13...f5 14.Qg6! (Not 14.g6 Bh4+ 15.Ke2 Kxg7 16.Qh7+ Kf6) 14...Rf7 15.Bh6+ Kh8 16.Qxf7+-

14.Qh6+ Kg8 15.g6

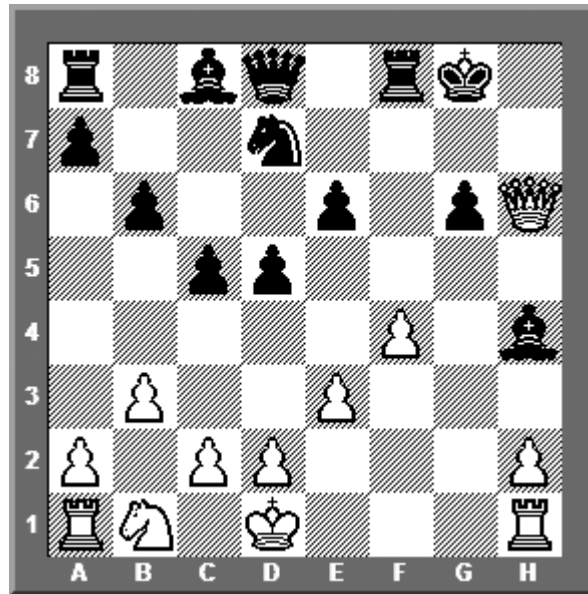


15...Bh4+

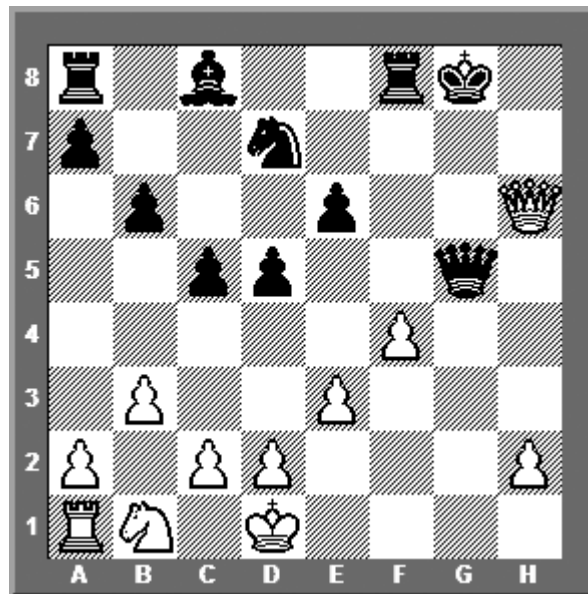
On 15...fxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Qh6+ Kg8 18.Rg1+ Bg5 19.Qg6+ Kh8 20.Rxg5 Qxg5 21.fxg5+-; 15...Nf6? 16.Rg1+-

16.Kd1 fxg6

16...Nf6 17.Rg1+-



17.Qxg6+ Kh8 18.Qh6+ Kg8 19.Rg1+ Bg5 20.Rxg5+ Qxg5



21.Qxe6+! Rf7 22.fxg5

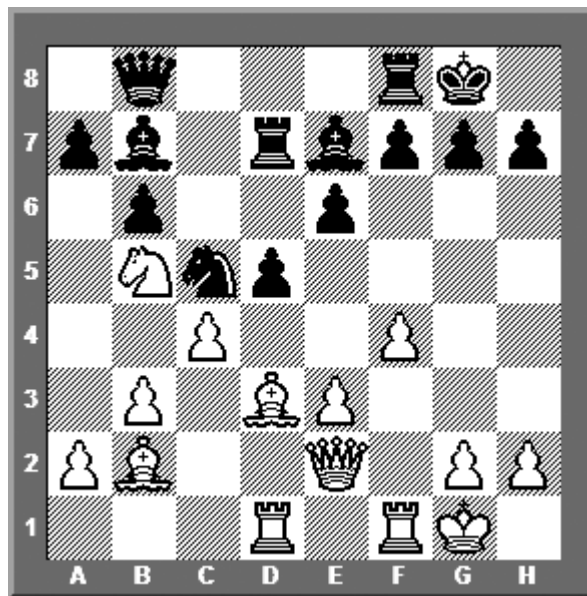
After along sequence, White is fully winning, with a queen and three pawns for a rook and bishop.

22...Nf8 23.Qxd5 Bb7 24.Qd6 Re8 25.Kc1 Rg7 26.Qg3 Ng6 27.Nc3 Rf7 28.Kb2 Ne5 29.h4 c4 30.h5 Rd7 31.h6 Rxd2 32.g6 1-0

Junge, Klaus - Kottnauer, Cenek [D46]

Prague, 1942

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nd7 5.Bd3 Ngf6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0
8.b3 b6 9.Bb2 Bb7 10.Qe2 c5 11.Rad1 Qc7 12.Ne5 Rad8 13.f4 Ne4
14.Nb5 Qb8 15.Nxd7 Rxd7 16.dxc5 Nxc5



The conditions are all set. The bishops reach their key squares, so does the queen, and the Rf1 can swing.

One of the keys is the placement here of the black queen, well out of play and unable to assist the defense.

17.Bxh7+! Kxh7

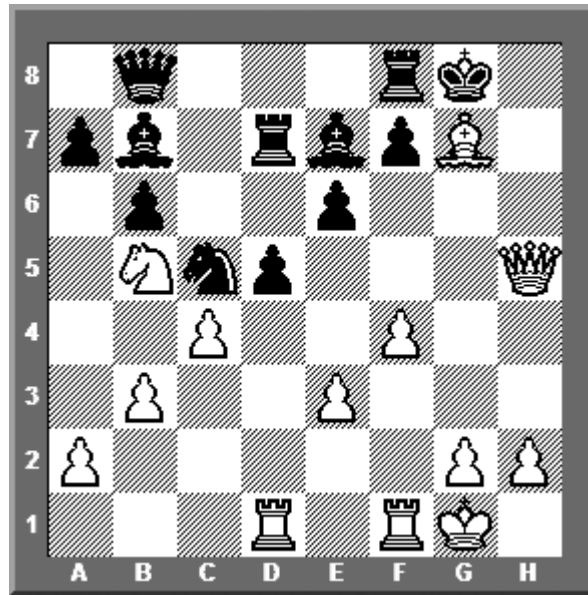
Black cannot long survive by declining the bishop. 17...Kh8 18.Qh5 Bg5 19.Be4+ Bh6 20.Qxh6+ Kg8 21.Qxg7#

18.Qh5+

The obvious second move of the combination.

18...Kg8 19.Bxg7!

The second bishop sacrifice.



19...f5

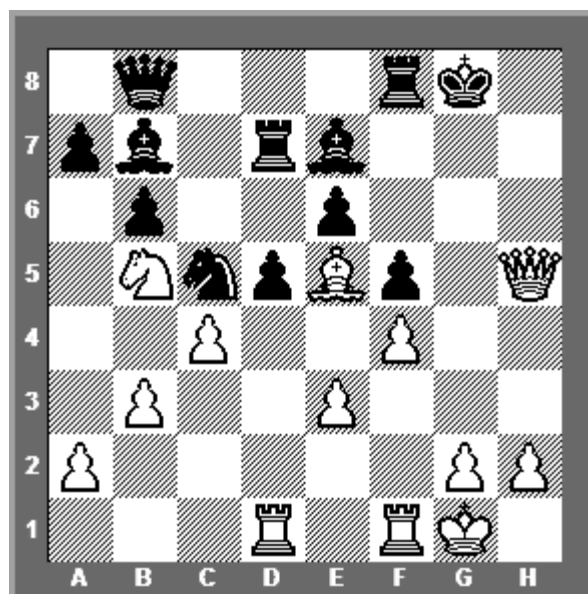
On 19...Kxg7 The best defense. 20.Qg4+ Bg5 (20...Kh8 and White finishes up with the familiar rook swing. 21.Rf3+-) 21.Qxg5+ Kh8 22.Qh6+!+- Preparing rather than executing the rook swing.

19...f6 20.Bh6+-

20.Be5

With two powerful threats, the capture of the queen and Qg6#

Black defended the mate with ...Bf6 and played on for a while a queen down. Resignation was a fine alternative.

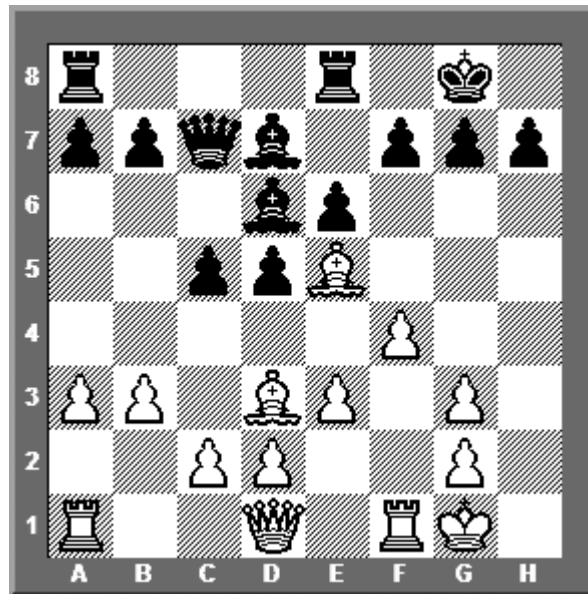


**20...Bf6 21.Bxb8 Rh7 22.Qe2 Rxb8 23.Nd6 Ba6 24.b4 Na4 25.b5 Nc3
26.Qc2 Nxd1 27.Rxd1 Rd8 28.Nxf5 Bb7 29.Nd4 dxc4 30.Qg6+ Bg7
31.Qxe6+ Kh8 32.Qe7 1-0**

Kabanov, Nikolai (2504) - Krivonosov, Oleg (2432) [A03]

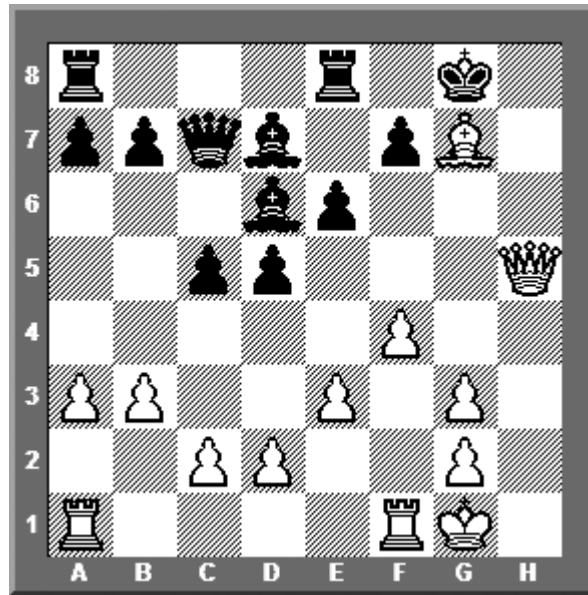
ChessPlanet.ru, 2006

**1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.f4 c5 5.Nf3 Be7 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bd3 0-0
8.0-0 Nc6 9.Nc3 Nb4 10.Be2 Re8 11.Ne5 Nc6 12.Bd3 Nb4 13.Be2 Bf8
14.a3 Nc6 15.Bd3 Qc7 16.Ne2 Ne4 17.Ng3 Nxc3 18.hxc3 Nxe5 19.Bxe5
Bd6**



This one is unusual. Instead of a rook swing, White relies upon Kf2 and Rh1 to activate the rook.

20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Bxg7



22...Kxg7

Here, the only way to win.

On 22...f5 23.Bf6 Bc6 24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.Qg7#

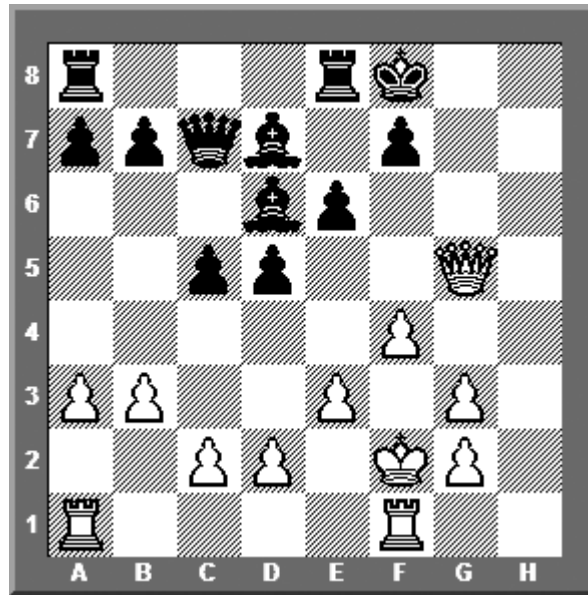
23.Qg5+

But note here that Black's rook is on e8 rather than f8. As a result, the king need not now head to h8.

23...Kf8

23...Kh8? 24.Kf2+-

24.Kf2



24...Bxf4!

Returning one of the bishops.

25.gxf4 Qd8

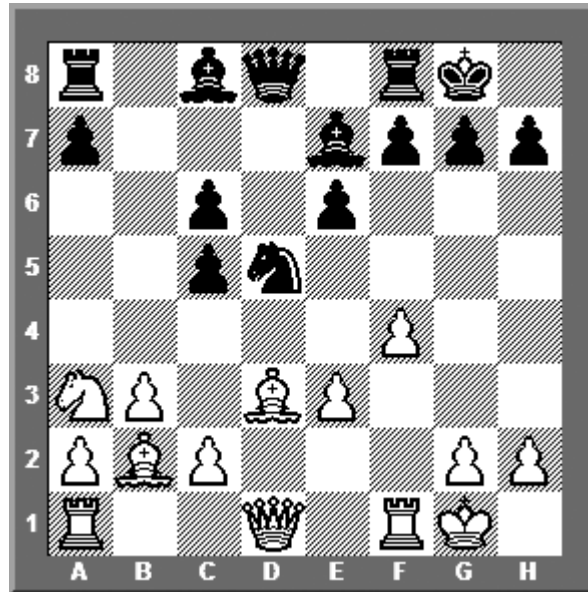
Putting an end to White's attack.

**26.Qh6+ Ke7 27.Rh1 Rg8 28.Rh5 Qf8 29.Rah1 Qxh6 30.Rxh6 Rg4
 31.Rh8 Rxh8 32.Rxh8 f5 33.Ra8 a6 34.Rb8 Bc6 35.Rh8 Rg7 36.g3 d4
 37.exd4 cxd4 38.c3 dxc3 39.dxc3 Kd6 40.Rd8+ Rd7 41.Re8 Re7
 42.Rd8+ Kc7 43.Rh8 e5 44.fxe5 Rxe5 45.Rf8 Be4 46.Ke3 Rd5 47.Kf4
 Rd3 48.g4 Rxc3 49.gxf5 Bxf5 50.Rxf5 Rxb3 51.a4 Rb4+ 52.Ke5 Rxa4
 53.Rf6 Ra5+ 54.Kd4 Rb5 55.Kc4 Rb6 56.Rf7+ Kb8 57.Kc5 Rb1 58.Rg7
 Ka7 59.Rh7 a5 60.Rg7 Ka6 61.Rg8 b6+ 62.Kc4 Rb4+ 63.Kc3 Rh4
 64.Rg5 a4 65.Rf5 b5 66.Rf8 Rh3+ 67.Kb4 Rb3+ 68.Kc5 a3 69.Ra8+ Kb7
 70.Ra5 b4 71.Kc4 Rb2 72.Ra4 a2 73.Kd3 b3 74.Kc3 Rb1 75.Ra3 Kc6
 76.Kc4 a1Q 77.Rxa1 Rxa1 78.Kxb3 Kc5 79.Kb2 Rh1 80.Kc2 Rh3
 81.Kd2 Kd4 0-1**

Kappelt, Joerg (2180) - Mersch, Heinz (1741) [A03]

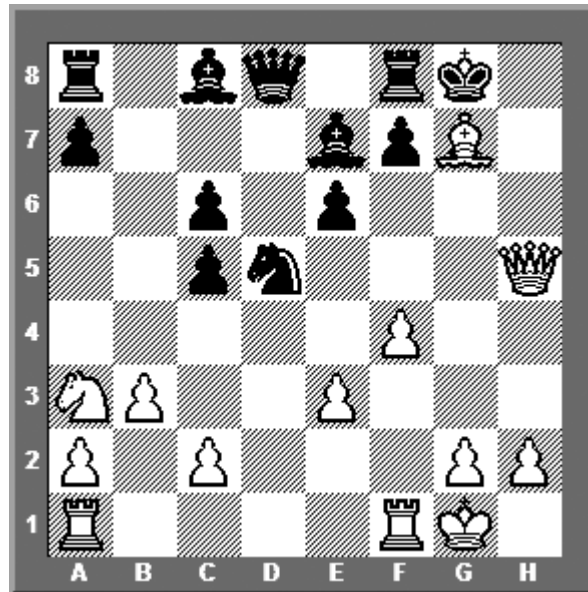
Duesseldorf, 2005

1.f4 Nf6 2.e3 c5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.b3 e6 5.Bb2 Be7 6.Bd3 d5 7.0-0 0-0
8.Ne5 d4 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Na3 dxe3 11.dxe3 Nd5



The key here is that Black's dark-squared bishop and queen are ideally positioned for the defense and that indeed, the combination should fail. But the defense faces a tough burden, especially with the king so exposed on the kingside.

12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Qh5+ Kg8 14.Bxg7



14...Kxg7!

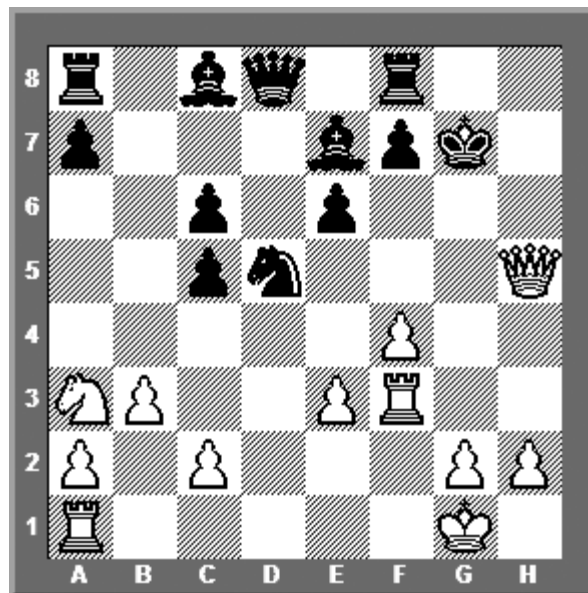
Once again 14...f6 is foiled by 15.Bh6+-

And 14...f5 is crushed by 15.Be5

15.Rf3

With the obvious idea of swinging the rook to g3.

There's not even a draw to be had because after 15.Qg4+ Bg5 and both captures of the bishop end White's pressure.

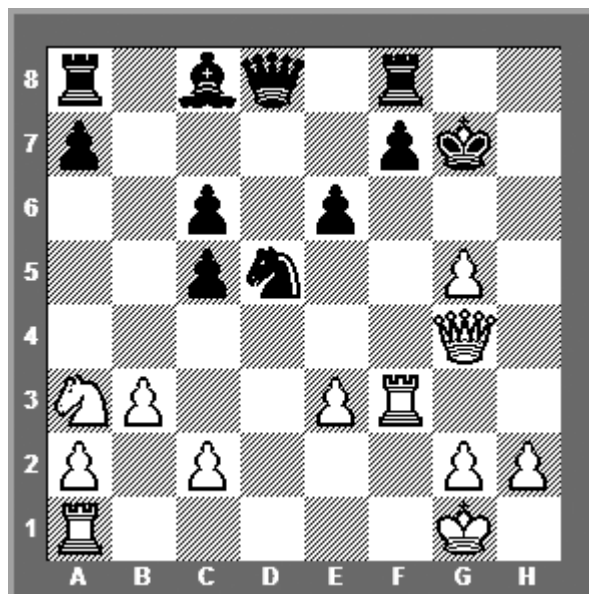


15...Bh4?

Missing 15...Nxf4! 16.exf4 (16.Qe5+ f6 17.Qxf4 Kf7–+) 16...Qd4+ and the Ra1 falls with check.

16.Qg4+ Bg5 17.fxg5

With even chances, despite the final result.



17...Ba6?

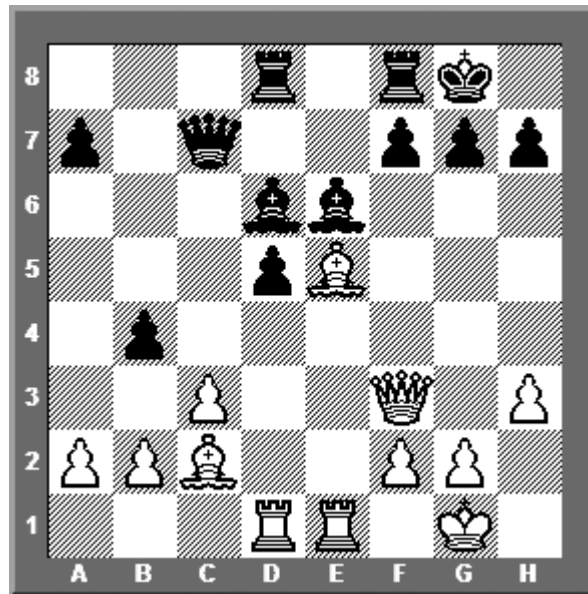
17...Ne7=

**18.Qh5 f5 19.gxf6+ Rxf6 20.Rg3+ Kf8 21.Qh7 Ke8 22.Nc4 Bxc4
23.bxc4 Nxe3 24.Rxe3 Qd4 25.Rae1 Rd8 26.h3 Rd7 27.Qg8+ Ke7
28.Kh2 Qf4+ 29.Kh1 Rd6 30.Rg3 Rf7 31.Rb1 Qxc4 32.Rb7+ 1–0**

Koltanowski, George - Defosse [D05]

Belgium, 1936

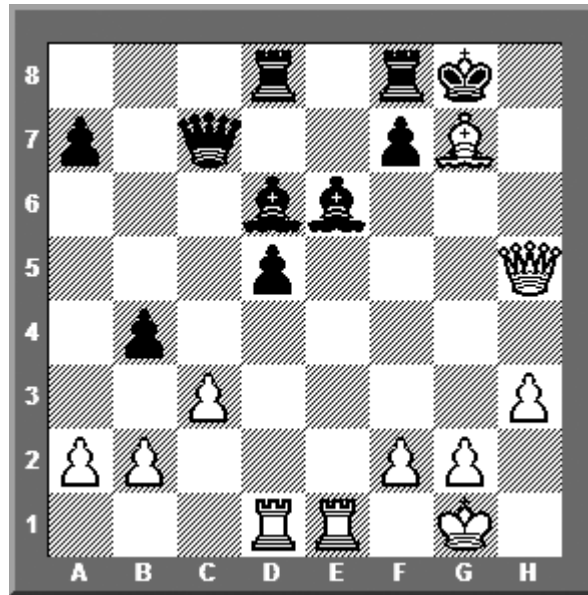
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 d5 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0
8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 Qc7 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.Re1 Ng4 12.h3 Nge5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5
14.exd5 exd5 15.Nf3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Be6 17.Be3 Rad8 18.Bc2 b5 19.Bd4
Bc5 20.Rad1 b4 21.Be5 Bd6



For White, the bishops and queen are on target, and two rooks are ready to swing, but the h3 pawn prevents the White rooks from gaining access to h3. Black can proudly point to an anchored queen on the seventh rank, but movement of the f-pawn will leave the Be6 unanchored.

22.Bxh7+! Kxh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Bxg7!

Not 24.Bf6 gxf6 25.Rd4 The rook must swing to h4. 25...Rfe8+!

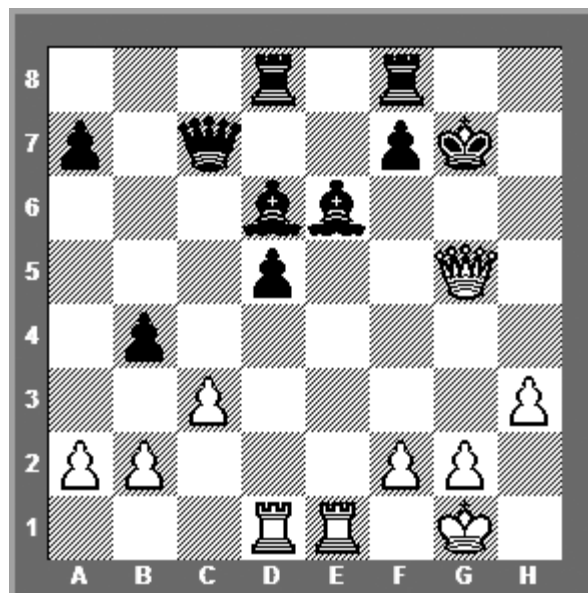


24...Kxg7

24...f6 25.Qh8+ Kf7 26.Bxf8 Rxf8 27.Qh7+ Ke8 28.Rxe6+ Kd8

24...f5 25.Bd4 Qh7 26.Qg5+ Kf7 27.Qf6+-

25.Qg5+



25...Kh7

25...Kh8 26.Rd4+- Swinging to h4!

26.Rd4 Bh2+

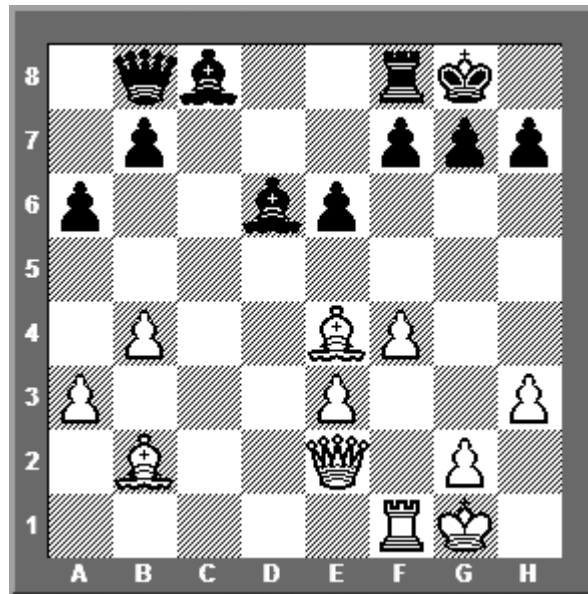
Black can resign.

27.Kh1 Qf4 28.Rxf4 Bxf4 29.Qxf4 Rg8 30.Re5 1-0

Koneru, Humpy (2508) - Nemeth, Zoltan (2370) [D27]

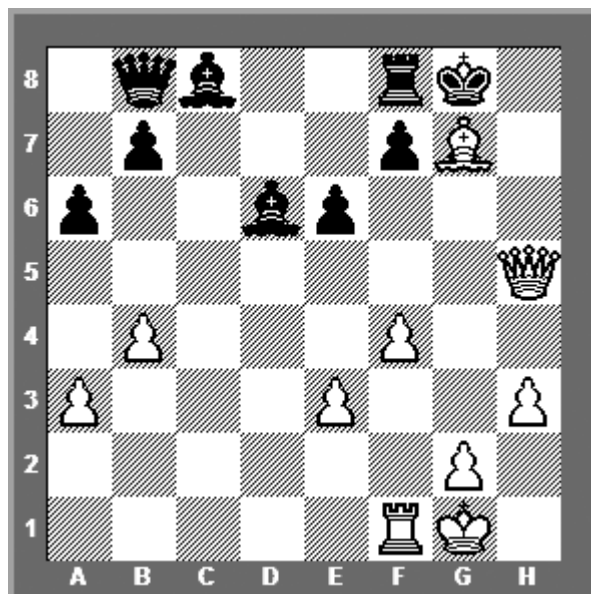
Budapest, 2005

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.0-0 c5 7.Bd3 Nc6
8.Nc3 Bd7 9.a3 Rc8 10.Qe2 Qc7 11.h3 Bd6 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.b4 Bd6
14.Bb2 Ne5 15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Rac1 Qb8 17.f4 Bd6 18.Ne4 Nxe4
19.Rxc8+ Bxc8 20.Bxe4 0-0



All features are fine for White save the presence of the pawn on h3 limiting the swing options to g3 alone.

21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Bxg7



23...Kxg7

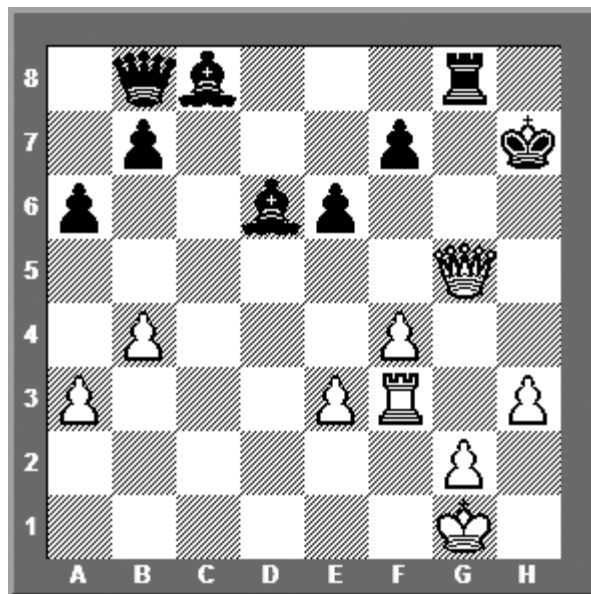
23...f6 when Qg6, Rf3, and Bh6 are win.

23...f5 when again White can choose from among Bd4, Qg6, and Rf3.

24.Qg5+ Kh7 25.Rf3

Ready to drive the king back to the g-file with Qh5+.

25...Rg8



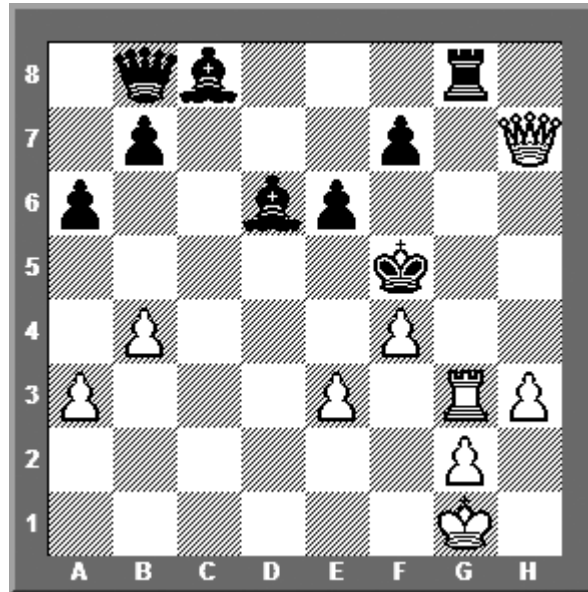
26.Qh4+!

26.Qh5+ Kg7 27.Rg3+ Kf8 28.Qh6+-

26...Kg6

26...Kg7 now walks into 27.Rg3+ Kf8 28.Qd8#

27.Rg3+ Kf5 28.Qh7+



28...Kf6

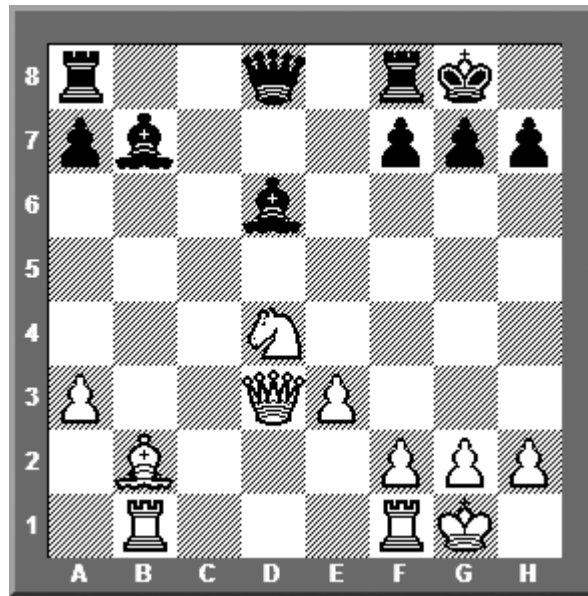
28...Rg6 29.Qxf7+- Rf6 30.Qh7+ Rg6 31.Qxg6#

29.Rxg8+- Qa7 30.Qh4+ Kf5 31.Qg4+ Ke4 32.Qf3+ Kd3 33.Qd1+ Kxe3 34.Qxd6 Bd7 35.Qxd7 1-0

Kozul, Zdenko (2580) - Farago, Ivan (2520) [E14]

Slovenia, 1995

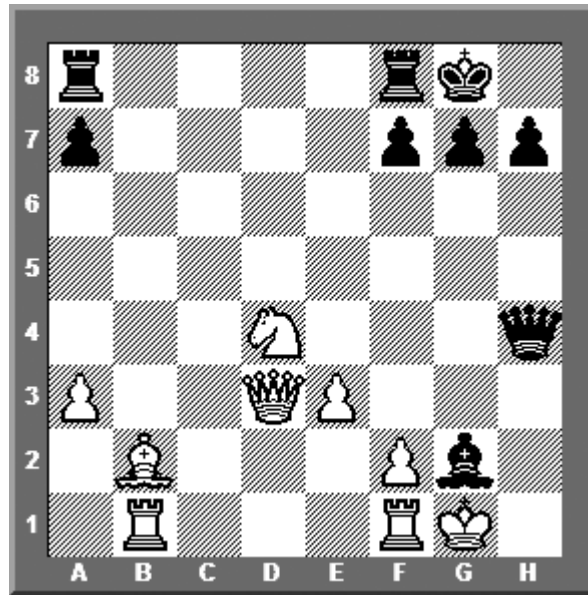
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3 Ba6 5.e3 d5 6.b3 Bb7 7.Bb2 Bd6
8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Ne4 11.b4 c5 12.cxd5 exd5 13.dxc5 Nxd2
14.Qxd2 bxc5 15.bxc5 Nxc5 16.Rab1 d4 17.Nxd4 Nxd3 18.Qxd3



Down a pawn and with the less active major pieces, Black launches the double sacrifice with aim of a quick perpetual.

18...Bxh2+ 19.Kxh2 Qh4+ 20.Kg1 Bxg2

And here, they agreed to a draw.



21.Kxg2

But the draw after 21.f4 is much more complex: 21...Qh3 (21...Bxf1) 22.Rfc1 Bd5 23.Kf2 Rfe8 24.Rg1 Be4 25.Rxg7+ Kf8 26.Qc4 Qh4+ 27.Ke2 Qh5+ 28.Kf2=

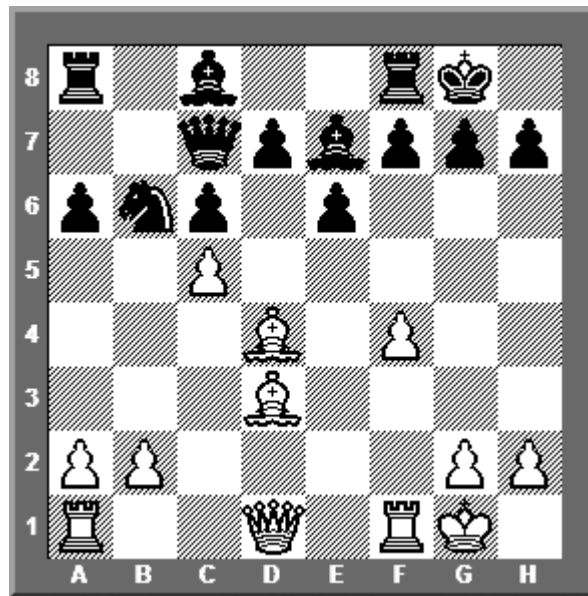
21...Qg4+

is indeed a perpetual. ½–½

Kuzmin, Gennadi P (2575) - Sveshnikov, Evgeny [B49]

Moscow, 1973

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 Nf6
8.Be3 Bb4 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Na4 0-0 11.c4 Bd6 12.f4 Nxe4 13.Bd3 Nf6
14.c5 Be7 15.Bd4 Nd5 16.Nb6 Nxb6**

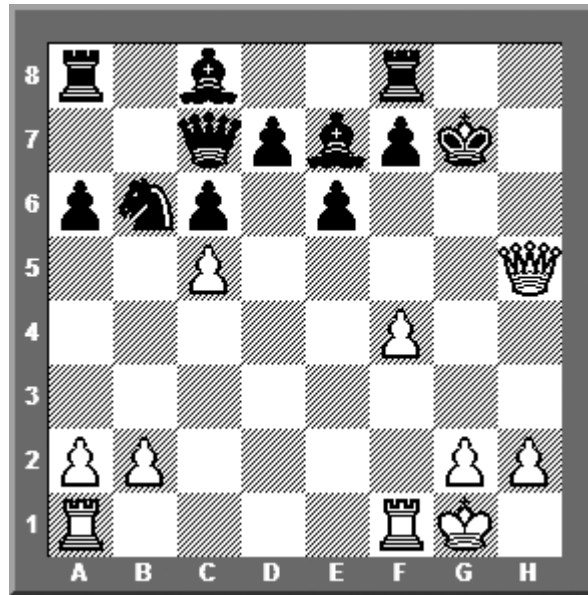


The double sacrifice is devastating here.

17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7

19...f6 20.Qg6+-

19...f5 20.Qg6+-



20.Qg4+!

Not 20.Rf3 Bxc5+--+

20...Kh7 21.Rf3

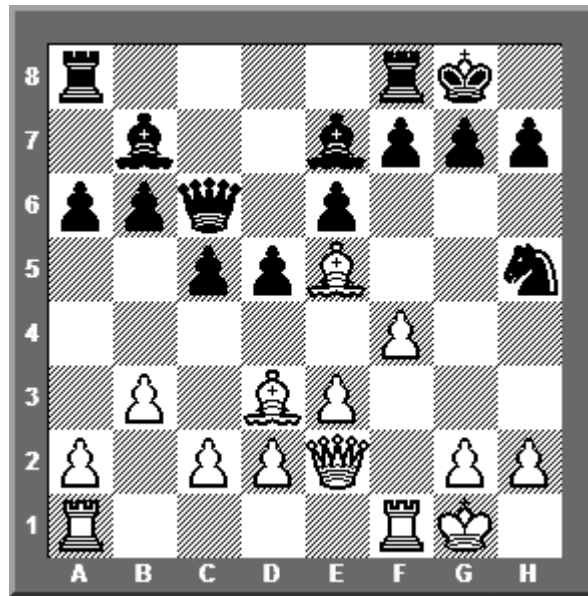
21.Rf3 Bxc5+ 22.Kh1 when Black must begin ditching pieces to delay the mate.

1-0

Lasker, Emanuel - Bauer, Johann Hermann [A03]

Amsterdam, 1889

1.f4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.b3 e6 4.Bb2 Be7 5.Bd3 b6 6.Nf3 Bb7 7.Nc3 Nbd7
8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne2 c5 10.Ng3 Qc7 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.Bxe5 Qc6 13.Qe2 a6
14.Nh5 Nxh5



This was the second known game that involved a double bishop sacrifice.

15.Bxh7+

The first bishop sacrifice.

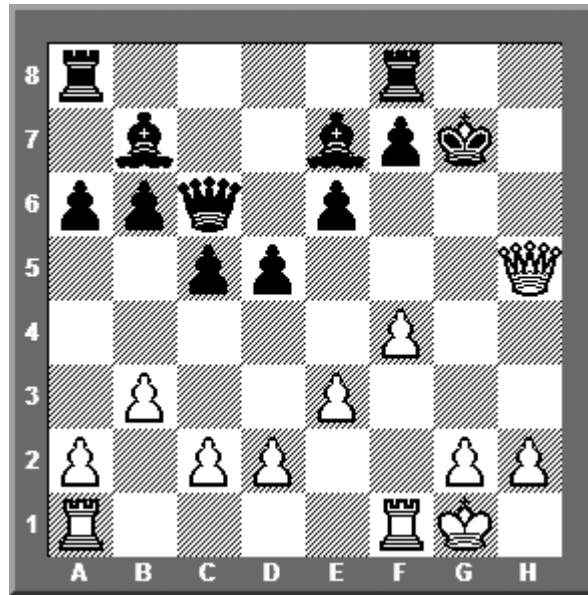
15...Kxh7 16.Qxh5+

The queen arrives on h5 capturing a piece.

16...Kg8 17.Bxg7

The second bishop sacrifice.

17...Kxg7

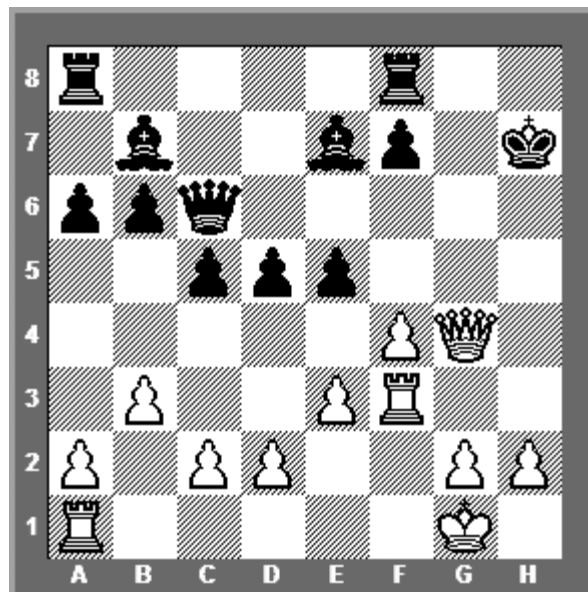


18.Qg4+!

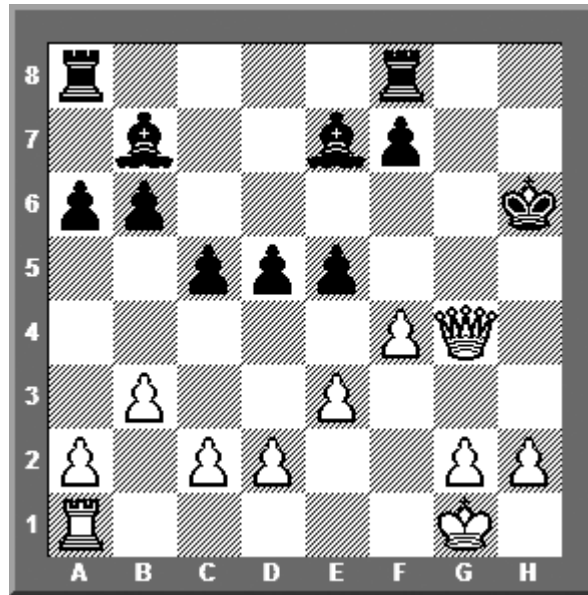
18.Rf3 Rh8 19.Rg3+ Bg5 20.Qxg5+ (Not 20.Rxg5+ Kf6 holding)
20...Kf8 and Black is surviving the onslaught.(20...Kh7 invites mate in one
 from the rook or the queen.)

18...Kh7 19.Rf3 e5

Needed to avoid immediate mate from the rook swing to h3.



20.Rh3+ Qh6 21.Rxh6+ Kxh6



22.Qd7

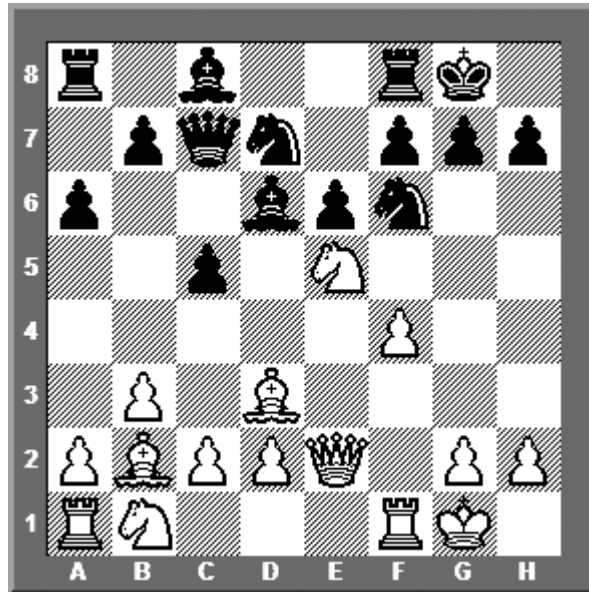
Most efficient, picking up one of the two unanchored bishops. The rest is well played and an illustration of careful technique.

22...Bf6 23.Qxb7 Kg7 24.Rf1 Rab8 25.Qd7 Rfd8 26.Qg4+ Kf8 27.fxe5 Bg7 28.e6 Rb7 29.Qg6 f6 30.Rxf6+ Bxf6 31.Qxf6+ Ke8 32.Qh8+ Ke7 33.Qg7+ Kxe6 34.Qxb7 Rd6 35.Qxa6 d4 36.exd4 cxd4 37.h4 d3 38.Qxd3 1-0

Maddex, Bill - Umezinwa, George (2325) [B50]

Illinois, 1993

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b3 d6 4.Bb2 Nf6 5.e5 dxe5 6.Nxe5 a6 7.Bd3 Qc7
8.0-0 Bd6 9.f4 Nbd7 10.Qe2 0-0**



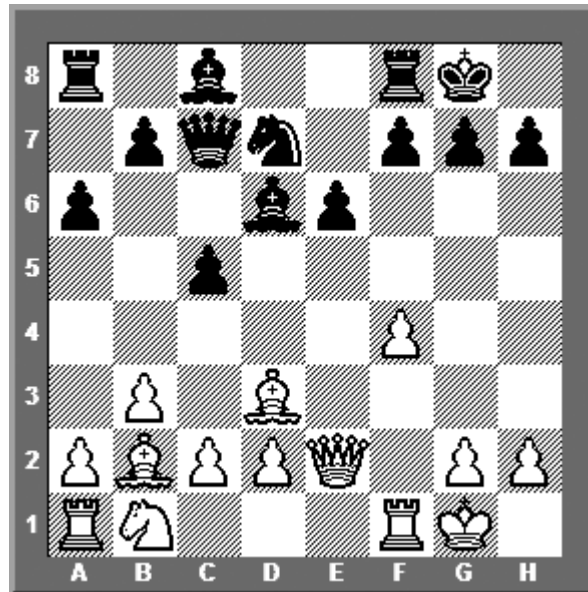
11.Nxd7

White initiates the sacrifices by first capturing on d7.

11...Nxd7

The other recaptures permits Bxf6 with an overwhelming attack.

For example 11...Bxd7 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Qh5+ Kg7
15.Qg4+ Kh8 16.Rf3



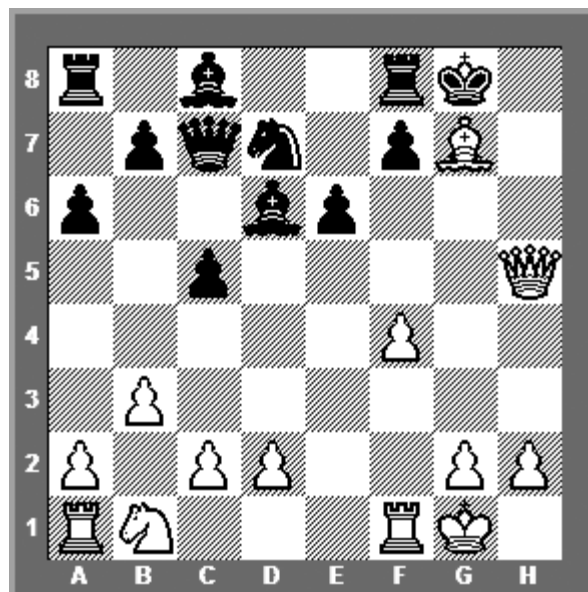
12.Bxh7+

The first bishop sacrifice, which must be accepted since there's no hope for Black after 12...Kxh8 Qh5 +-

12...Kxh7 13.Qh5+ Kg8 14.Bxg7

The second bishop sacrifice, which must be declined.

Not 14.Rf3 f6+



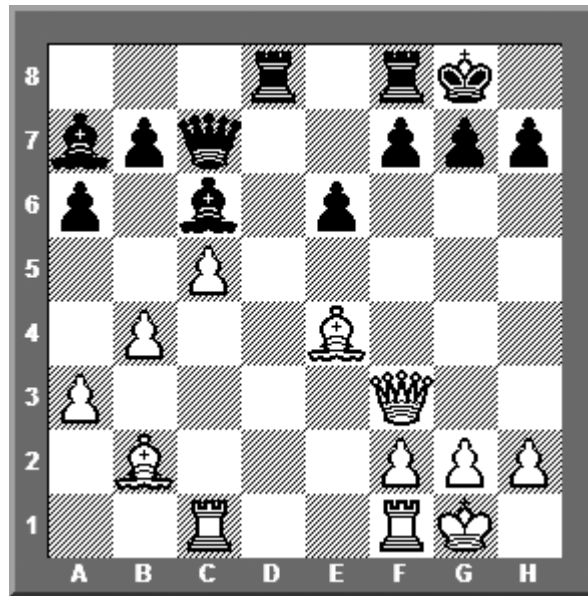
14...f6

14...Kxg7 15.Qg4+ Kh7 16.Rf3 Bxf4 17.Rh3+ Bh6 18.Qg5 with mate soon to follow.

Miles, Anthony J (2510) - Browne, Walter S (2550) [D40]

Luzern, 1982

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.e3 Nc6 5.d4 d5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.a3 a6 8.b4 Ba7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Rc1 d4 11.exd4 Nxd4 12.c5 Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 Bd7 14.Bd3 Bc6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Qc7 17.0-0 Rad8

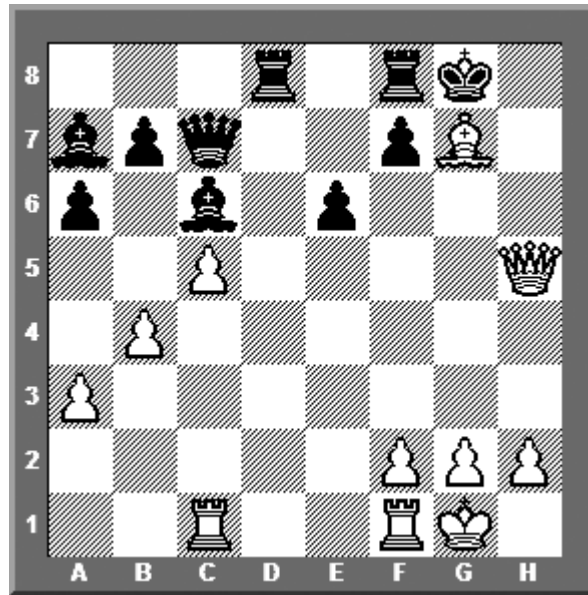


All the conditions are set for the double bishop sacrifice. The bishops are primed, the queen can reach h5, the Rc1 can swing, and Black can neither prevent the rook swing or organize resistance along the d8-h4 diagonal.

18.Bxh7+

Black now regrets not having exchanged the light-squared bishop on the last move.

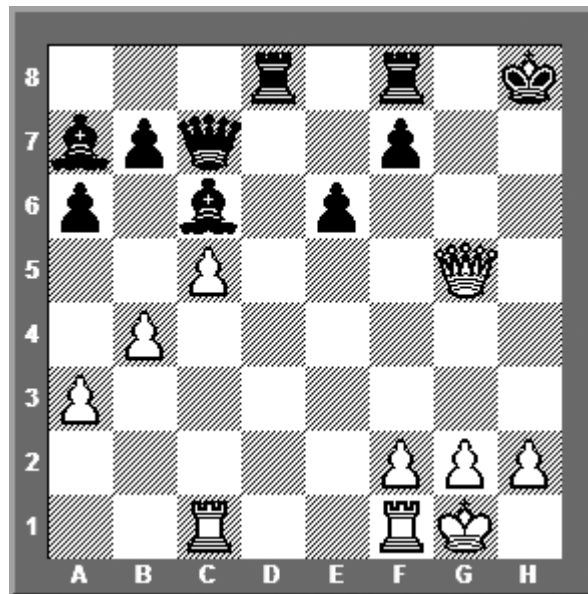
18...Kxh7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Bxg7



20...Kxg7

20...f6 21.Qh8+ Kf7 22.Bxf8+-

21.Qg5+ Kh8



22.Qf6+!

Brutally accurate.

22.Rc3? Be4=

22.Rc4 f6 23.Rh4+ Qh7 and Black can play on.

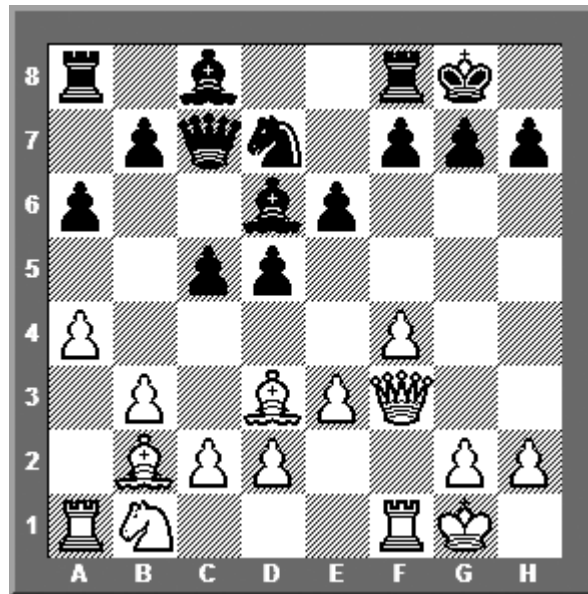
22...Kg8 23.Rc4

Well played. Selecting the right file, aiming for h4 but simultaneously preventing ...Be4.

1-0

Molano Lafuente, Ismael (2087) - Sierra Casado, Manuel (1949) [A03]
Spain, 2009

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 Nbd7 4.b3 c5 5.Bb2 e6 6.Bd3 a6 7.a4 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ne5 Qc7 10.Qf3 Bd6 11.Nxd7 Nxd7

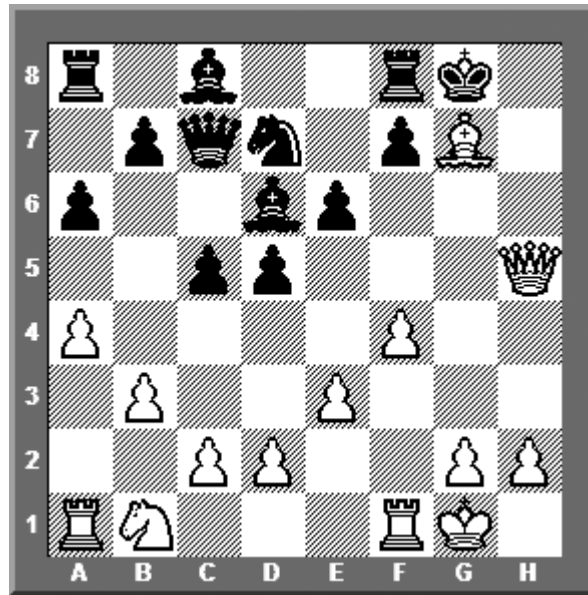


An easy calculation here. The bishops and the queen are primed, the rook has an unobstructed swing to g3 and h3, and Black's dark-squared bishop and queen are unhelpful to the defense.

12.Bxh7+! Kxh7

12...Kh8 13.Qh5+-

13.Qh5+ Kg8 14.Bxg7!



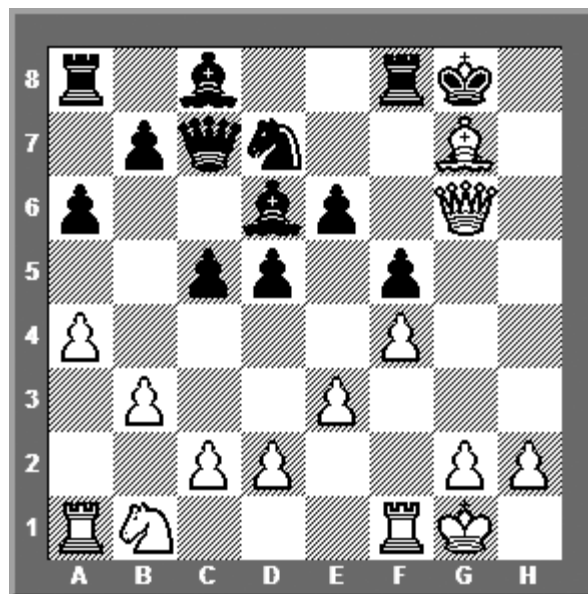
14...f5

Here, the best practical chance.

14...f6 15.Bh6+-

14...Kxg7 15.Qg5+ Kh8 16.Rf3+-

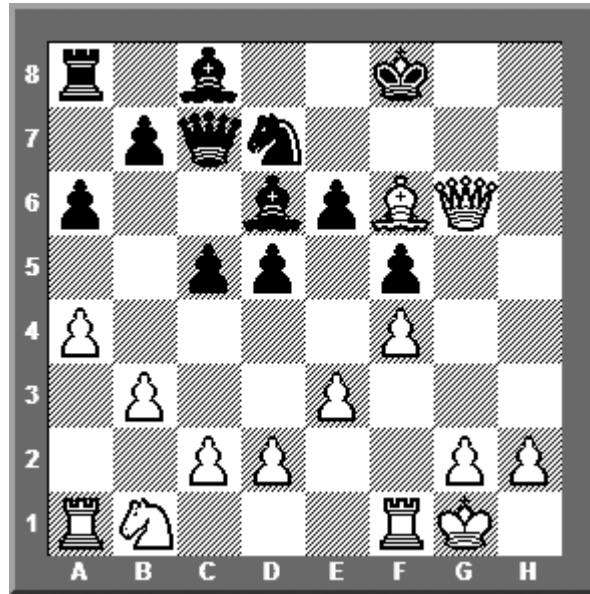
15.Qg6!



15...Rf6

15...Rf7 16.Bh6+ Kh8 17.Qxf7+-

16.Bxf6+ Kf8



17.Rf3

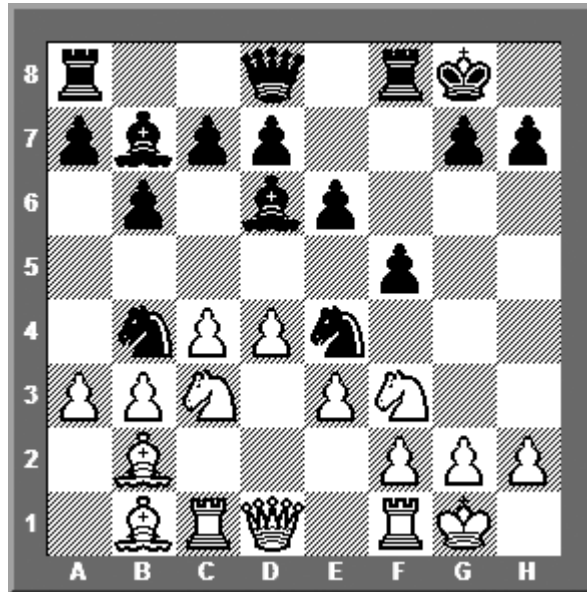
17.Bg5+-

17...Nxf6 18.Qxf6+ Qf7 19.Qd8+ 1-0

Narraway, James Ephraim (CAN) - Young, F [A85]

Ottawa-Boston, 1903

1.Nf3 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.d4 Be7 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.b3 Bb7
8.Bb2 Ne4 9.0-0 Na6 10.Rc1 Nb4 11.Bb1 Bd6 12.a3



Black can retain a relatively balanced game by retreating the Nb4, but instead gets carried away by a memory of Lasker's sacrifice.

12...Nd2? 13.Nxd2!

Picking up the knight but allowing the double bishop sacrifice.

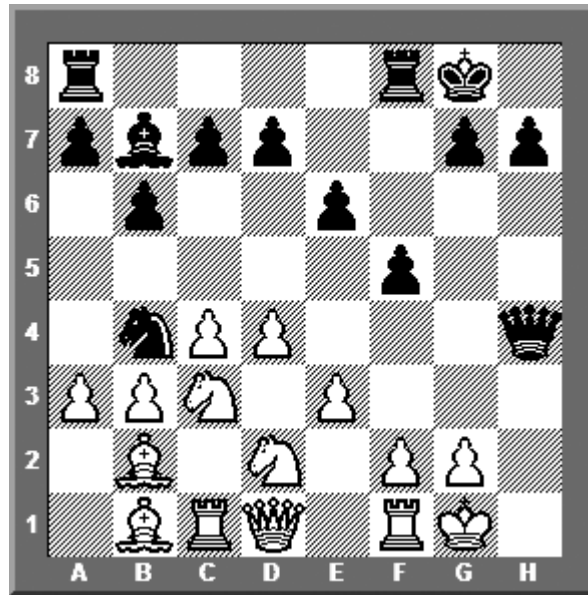
On 13.Qxd2 Black can draw with 13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Qg5+ 15.Kh1 Qh5 16.f4 Qf3+ 17.Kg1 Qg4+ with a perpetual check.

13...Bxh2+

The double sacrifice fails. Do you see why?

14.Kxh2 Qh4+ 15.Kg1

All logical and forced.



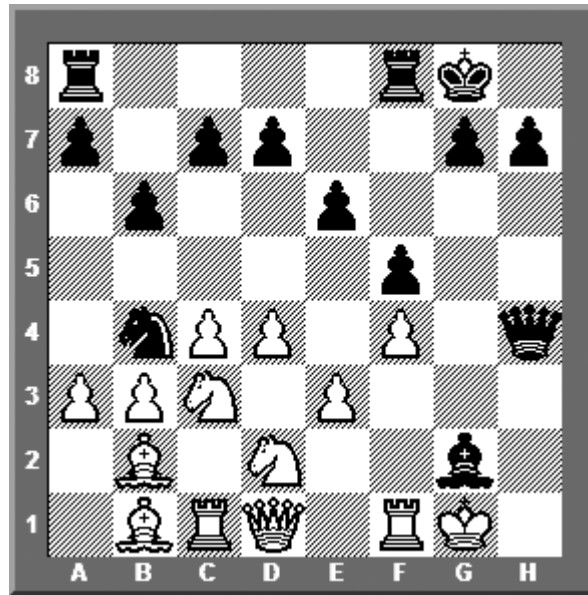
15...Bxg2

The second sacrifice, but White is not obliged to recapture

16.f4!?

Indeed, on 16.Kxg2 Black has a quick perpetual check with 16...Qg5+
17.Kh2 Qh4+=

White's clearest win. 16.f3 Rf6 with huge complications, as you will see, but the fact is that the Nb4 is under attack and provides White with winning continuations. (16...Qh1+ 17.Kf2 Qh4+ 18.Kxg2 and the king will escape the checks.) 17.Qe1! Qh1+ 18.Kf2 Qh2 19.Ke2 Bxf1+ It's almost always a bad sign when the attacker has to settle for the win of the exchange. 20.Kxf1 Rg6 21.Qf2 Qh3+ 22.Ke1 Rg2 Here's the point. White can now sacrifice the queen for the rook, the knight, and the bishops. 23.axb4 Rxf2 24.Kxf2.



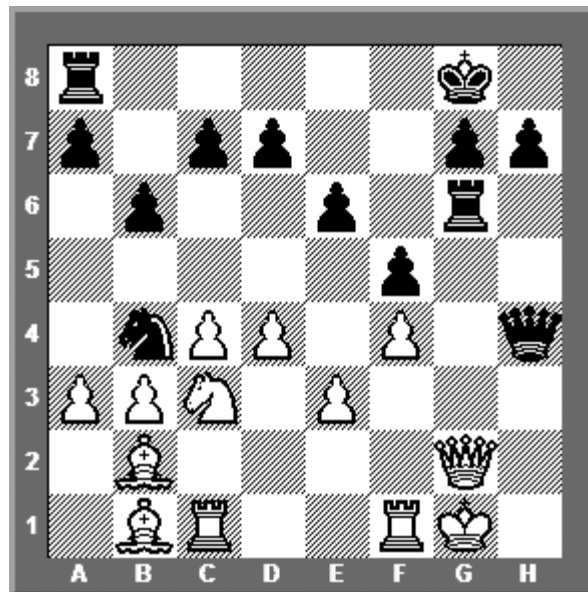
16...Rf6!

The reinforcements!

17.Nf3!?

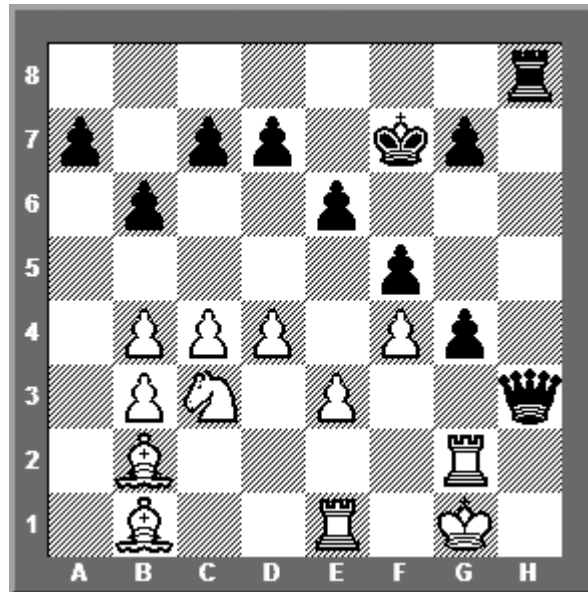
17.Qe1 Qg4 18.Ne2 Rg6 19.Qg3 Qh5 20.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 21.Kxg2 Qxe2+ 22.Rf2 Qg4+ 23.Kf1 Nc6 with only a small advantage.

17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Rg6+ 19.Qg2



19...Qh3

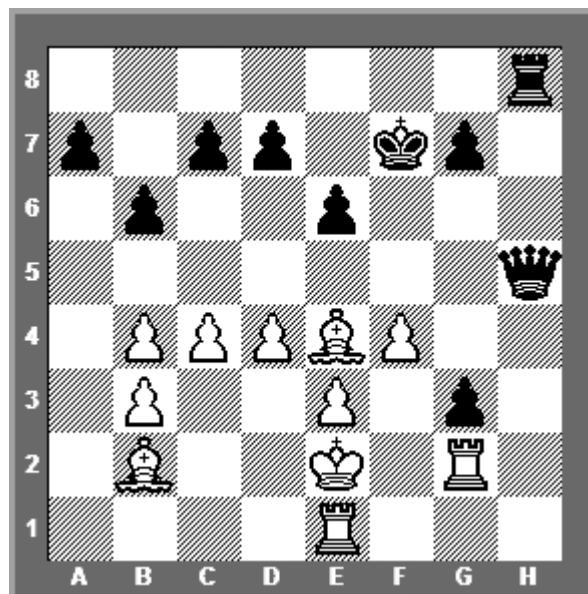
19...Rxg2+ 20.Kxg2 Qg4+ 21.Kf2 Nc6=



25.Ne4

Well played and necessary.

25...fxe4 26.Bxe4 Qh1+ 27.Kf2 g3+ 28.Ke2 Qh5+



29.Bf3

With all the play.

29...Qf5 30.Kd2 Rh2 31.Rf1 g5 32.fxg5 Kg6 33.d5 Kxg5 34.e4 Qh3 35.Rfg1 Kf4 36.Ke2 exd5 37.cxd5 c6 38.dxc6 d5 39.Bc1+ Ke5 40.exd5 Qh7 41.Rxh2 gxh2 42.Rh1 a5 43.Bd2 Qe7 44.Rxh2 Kd4+ 45.Kf2 Kd3 46.Bf4 Qxb4 47.Kg3 Qe1+ 48.Kg4 Qe8 49.c7 Kc3 50.Re2 Qg8+ 51.Bg5

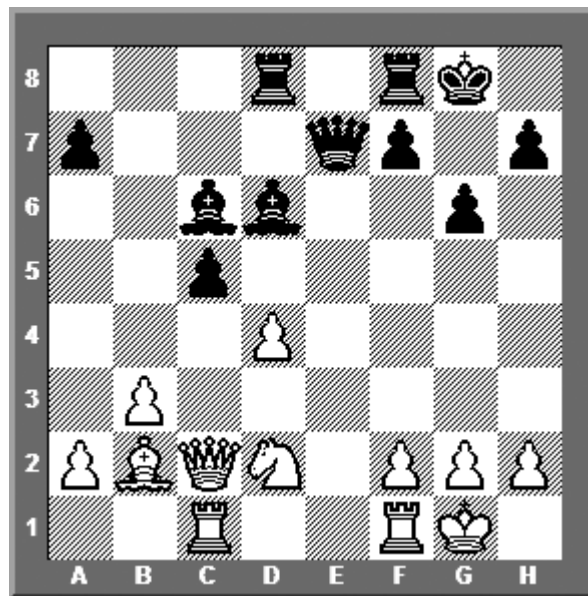
**Qc8+ 52.Re6 b5 53.Bd8 Kxb3 54.Kf4 Qd7 55.Bg4 Qxd5 56.Re3+ Kb2
57.Bf6+ Kb1 58.Re1+ Kc2 59.c8Q+ Qc4+ 60.Qxc4+ bxc4 61.Ke3 a4
62.Bd1+ Kb1 63.Bb3# 1-0**

Nimzovitsch, Aaron (2676) - Tarrasch, Siegbert (2661)

[D30]

St.Petersburg, 1914

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.c4 e6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.b3 0-0
8.Bb2 b6 9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.Rc1 Qe7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nh4 g6 13.Nhf3
Rad8 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Bb5 Ne4 16.Bxc6 Bxc6 17.Qc2 Nxd2 18.Nxd2 d4
19.exd4**



Down a pawn but with the very active bishop pair, Tarrasch launches our double bishop sacrifice. The prerequisites are there, with the bishops well posted, the queen with access to h4, but without a rook on an open file ready to swing.

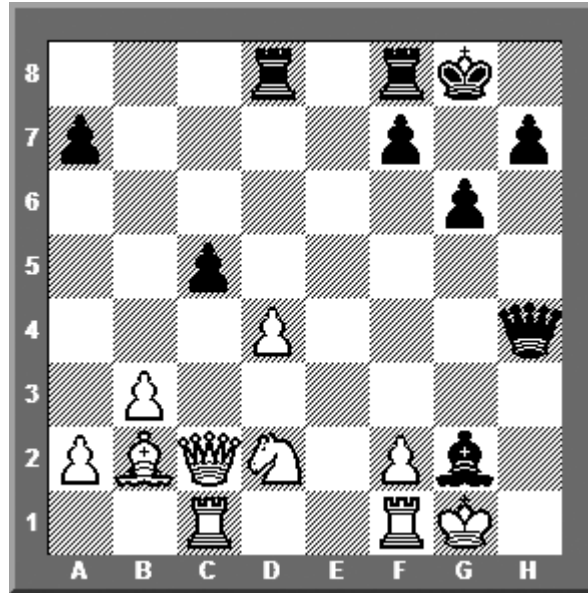
White has an extra pawn on the queenside, but the extra material has no bearing on the position. Of importance is the placement of White's queen on c2 where it hopes, after f3 or f4, to reach the kingside quickly.

19...Bxh2+

Tarrasch misses a wonderful bishop sacrifice on g2. 19...Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Qf4+

20.Kxh2 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Bxg2

And once again, the defender faces the usual three options, capturing on g2 and the movement forward of the f-pawn.



22.f3

The best try, but note that the Qc2 does not have direct access to the kingside.

22.Kxg2 Runs smack into the usual attack with the rook swing.
22...Qg4+ 23.Kh2 Rd5+

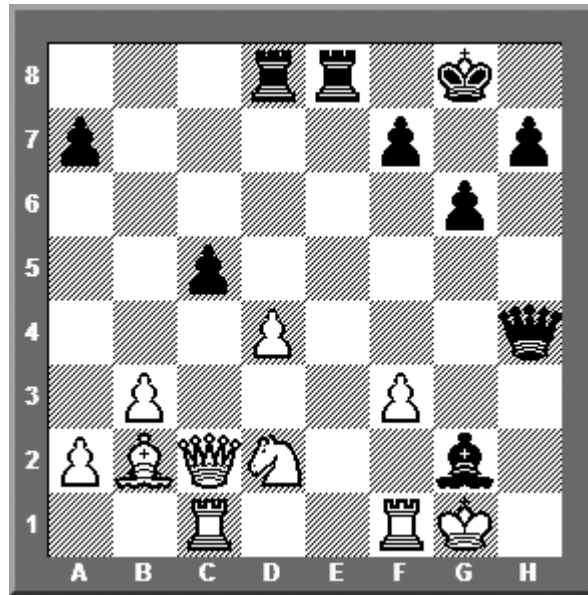
22.f4 is also hopeless. 22...Qg3! with the simple threat of a bishop discovery. 23.Rf2 Be4+ winning White's queen.

22...Rfe8!

Black must activate a rook for the swing to the kingside.

22...Rde8 23.Rfe1 making room for Nf1

Not 22...Qg3? 23.Ne4+

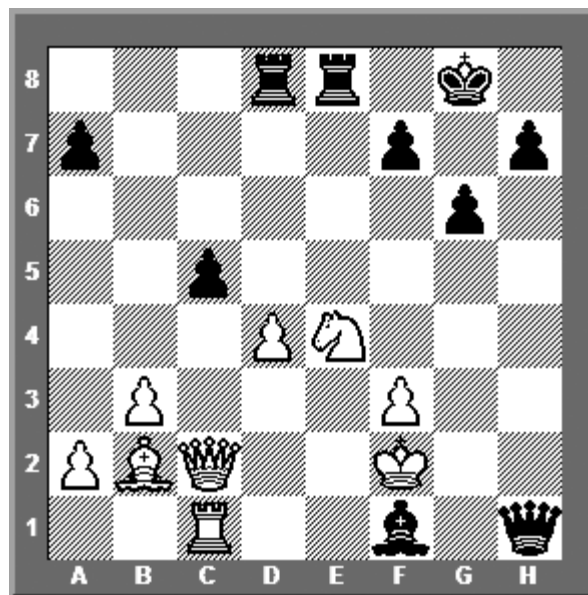


23.Ne4

Cracking under the defensive burden, making it easier, but White is lost.

23.Rce1 Rxe1+

23...Qh1+ 24.Kf2 Bxf1



25.d5

25.Rxf1 Qh2+ picking off the queen.

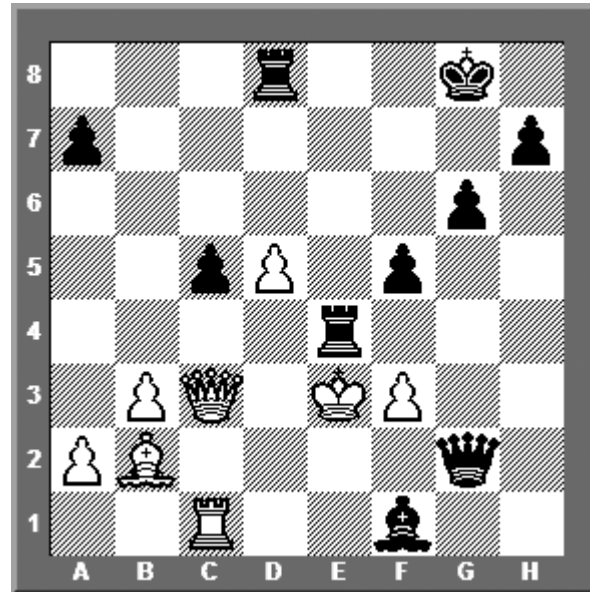
25...f5 26.Qc3

26.Ng3 Qg2#

26...Qg2+ 27.Ke3

27.Ke1 Qe2#

27...Rxe4+



28.fxe4 f4+

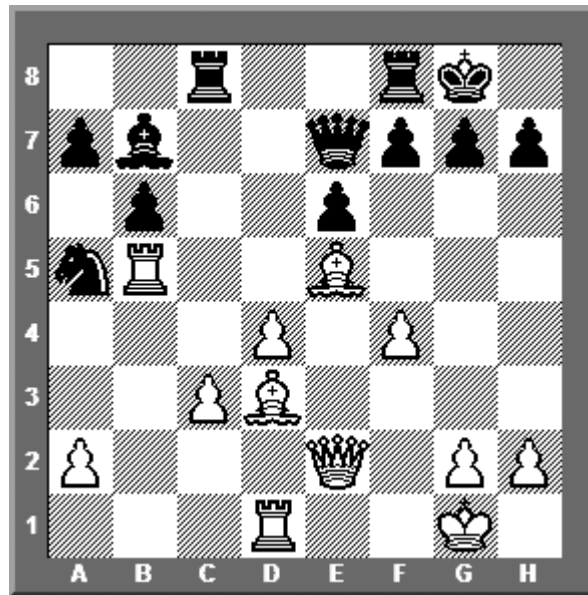
Much faster is **28...Qg3+ 29.Kd2 Qf2+ 30.Kd1 Qe2#**

29.Kxf4 Rf8+ 30.Ke5 Qh2+ 31.Ke6 Re8+ 32.Kd7 Bb5# 0-1

Pachman, L (2520) – Neikirkh, O [D41]

Portoroz, 1958

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.d4 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e3 Nc6 7.Bc4 Nxc3
8.bxc3 Be7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Qe2 b6 11.Rd1 cxd4 12.exd4 Na5 13.Bd3 Bb7
14.Bf4 Qd5 15.Rab1 Rac8 16.Rb5 Qd8 17.Ng5 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qd6
19.Bf6 Qf4 20.Be5 Qg5 21.f4 Qe7

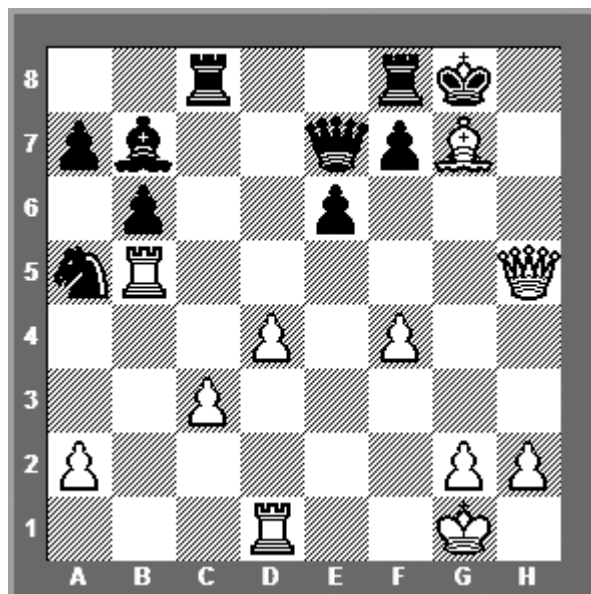


The bishops and queen are primed for their roles, and both rooks are able to participate in the attack. The key is the presence of the Qe7 which assists the defense after ...f5, which also prevents the Rb5 from entering the game quickly at g5 and h5.

22.Bxh7+

With the Rb5 already to swing, much easier is the immediate 22.Bxg7! Kxg7 23.Rg5+ Kh8 24.Bxh7+-

22...Kxh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Bxg7



24...f5!

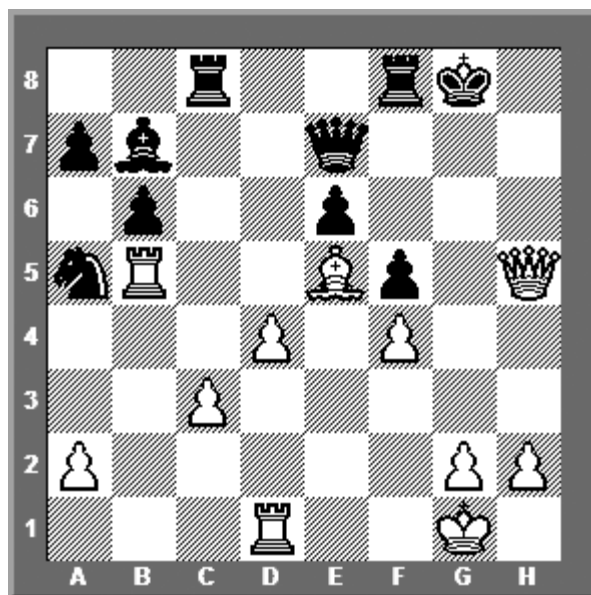
Cutting off the Rb5 and enabling the queen to reach the kingside.

24...Kxg7 25.Qg4+-

24...f6 25.Bxf6 with Rg5 to follow.

25.Be5?

Critical is 25.Bxf8 Kxf8 26.Rd3 Qf7 27.Qh4 Ke8 28.Rg3 Kd7 29.Qh6 Rg8=



25...Nc4?

A horrible mistake, permitting a mate in two.

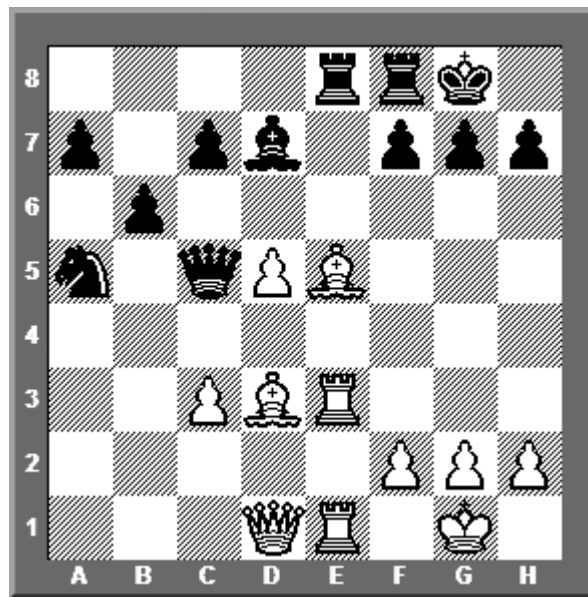
25...Qh7! 26.Qg5+ Kf7 27.Qf6+ Ke8 28.Qxe6+ Qe7 29.Qh6 Rc6
30.Qh5+ Qf7 with a playable game.

26.Qg6+ Qg7 27.Qxg7# 1-0

Polgar, Judit (2720) - Karpov, Anatoly (2690) [C42]

Hoogeveen, 2003

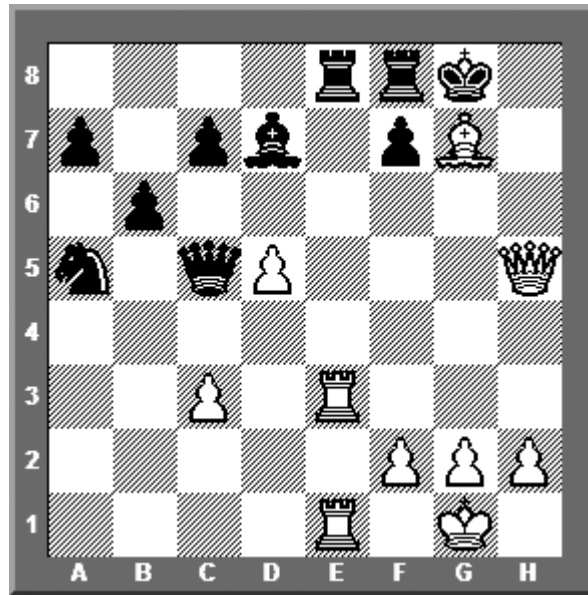
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.c4 Nb4 9.Be2 0-0 10.a3 Nc6 11.cxd5 Qxd5 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Qd6 14.Rb1 b6 15.Re1 Be6 16.Bd3 Rae8 17.Rb5 Na5 18.Rbe5 Nc6 19.R5e2 Bd7 20.d5 Na5 21.Ne5 Bf6 22.Bf4 Bxe5 23.Bxe5 Qxa3 24.Re3 Qc5



Imagine pulling off the sacrifice against the likes of Anatoly Karpov!

25.Bxh7+ Kxh7 26.Qh5+ Kg8 27.Bxg7

The second sacrifice. White wins in all lines.



27...f6

With the rooks already active, Black cannot capture on g7.

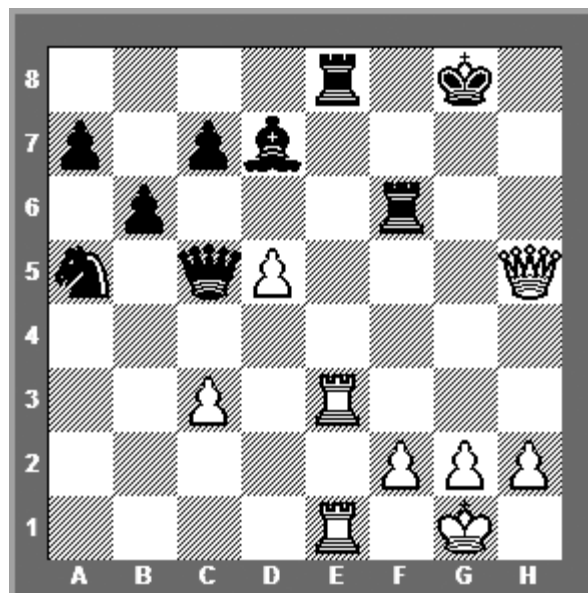
27...Kxg7 28.Rg3+

27...f5 28.Be5+-

28.Bxf6!

With multiple threats (notably Qg6 and Qh8-g7).

28...Rxf6



29.Rg3+ Kf8 30.Qh8+ Kf7 31.Rg7#

Or 31.Qg7#

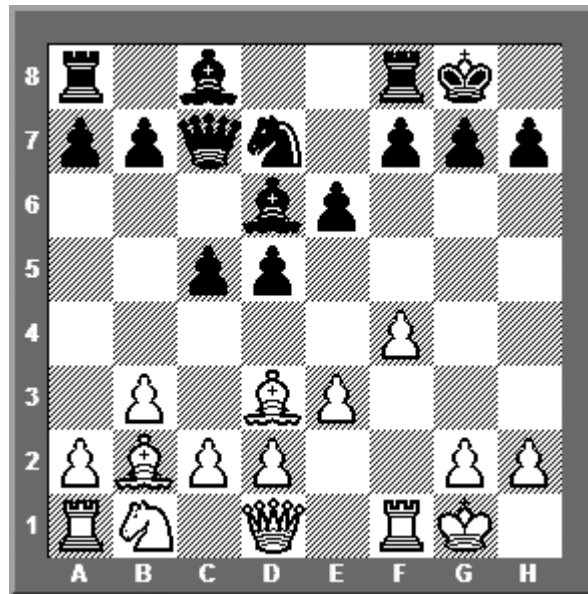
1-0

Rozhkov, Dmitry (RUS) – Demidov, Danil (RUS) (2017)

[A06]

Tomsk (Russia), 2006

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 d5 3.Bb2 e6 4.e3 c5 5.Ne5 Bd6 6.f4 Nbd7 7.Bd3 0–0
8.0–0 Qc7 9.Nxd7 Nxd7**



White's position is fully primed, but Black's defense is poorly organized. The dark-squared bishop needs to be on e7, Black also needs the queen on d8.

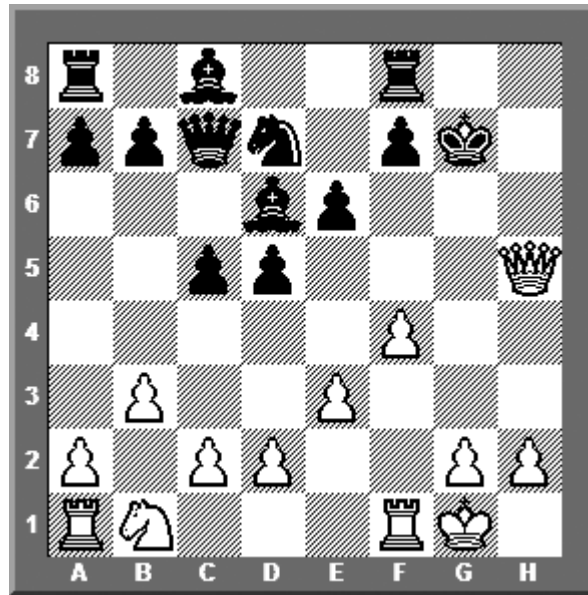
The other captures permit White to decimate Black's kingside. 9...Bxd7 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Bxh7+ Kxh7 12.Qh5+ Kg7 13.Qg4+ Kh7 14.Rf3 with the rook swing Rh3 to follow.

10.Bxh7+! Kxh7 11.Qh5+ Kg8 12.Bxg7

The only winning move!

12...Kxg7

If the black knight were not on d7, Black could defend with ...f6 or ...f5.



13.Qg5+ Kh8 14.Rf3

With mate soon to follow.

1-0

About the author

Jon Edwards won the 10th United States Correspondence Championship in 1997 and the 8th North American Invitational Correspondence Chess Championship in 1999. He is a four time winner of the APCT (American Postal Chess Tournaments) Championship and a two time winner of the APCT Game of the Year Award. He received his correspondence International Master (IM) in 1997, his Senior International Master (SIM) in 1999. He has competed on the United States Correspondence Chess Olympiad team, reaching the final round. His correspondence ICCF rating of 2580 places him in the top 200 correspondence chess players worldwide.

He has written more than a dozen chess books, notably including The Chess Analyst (Thinkers Press, 1999) which chronicles the success in the US championship, Teach Yourself Visually: Chess (Wiley, 2006), a photographically based chess primer, and Sacking the Citadel: The History, Theory, and Practice of the Classic Bishop Sacrifice (Russell Enterprises, 2011). He writes a regular column, *Tactically Speaking* for Chess Life for Kids. He is also web master of Chess is Fun [www.queensac.com], a popular chess instruction web site that receives more than 100,000 hits a week.

Jon provides chess instruction in the Princeton, NJ area. He has taught chess to more than 1,500 students over 30 years.

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