

Contents

System of Signs	4
Editorial Note	5
My Mentor and Friend - Bora Ivkov	7
ENDGAMES	9
Queen Endgames	23
Pawn Endgames	81
Rook Endgames	131
Bishop Endgames	145
Knight Endgames	163
Complex Endgames	179
Remembering Bora Ivkov	193

Editorial Note

Dear readers, the book in your hands is the second part of Ivkov's "Chess Parallels", the last book of his extraordinary career of chess player and analyst.

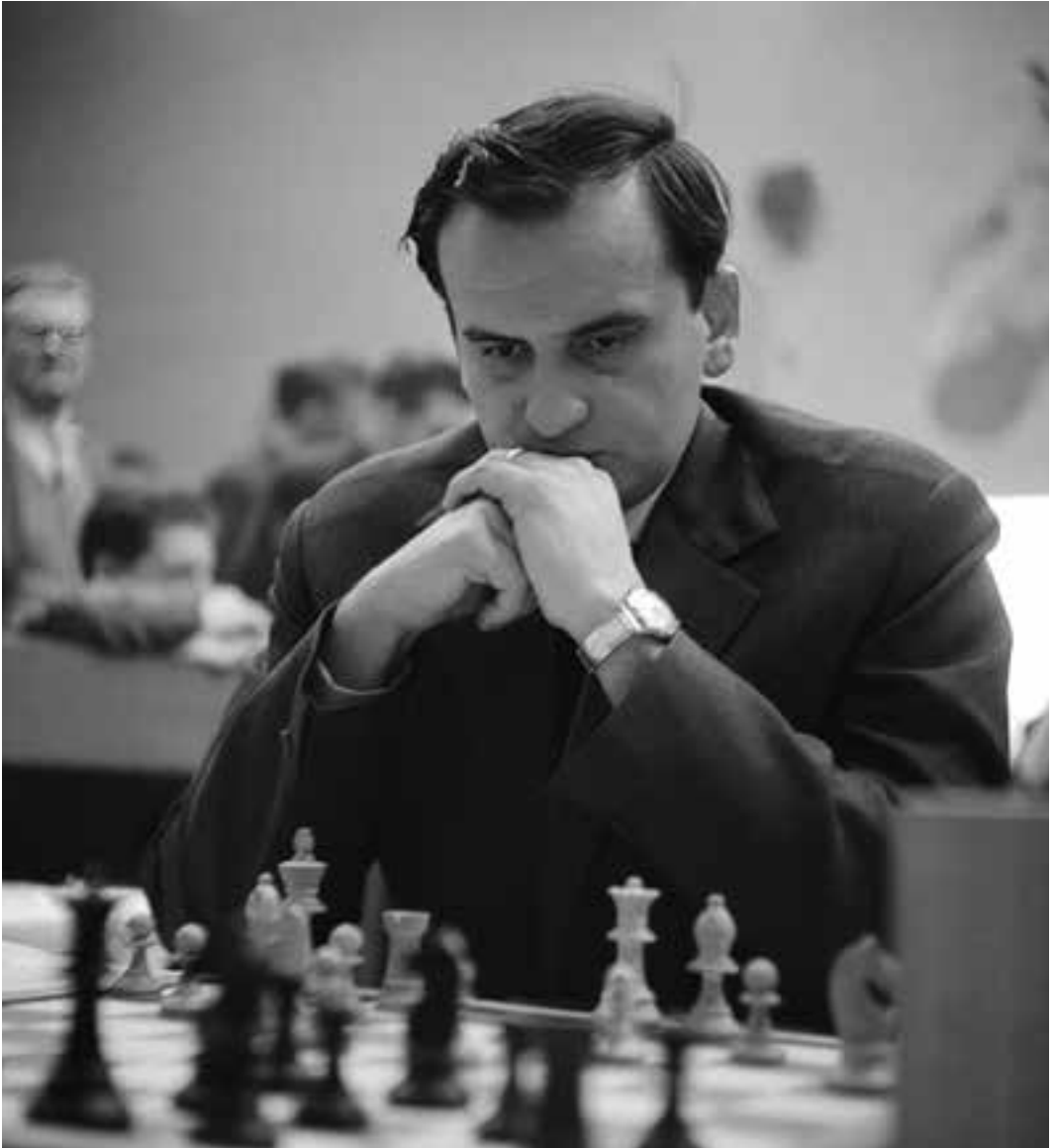
In this tome Ivkov deals with endgames and various types of queenless middlegame positions (early endgames). The examples he selected are both entertaining and highly instructive. Many of those jewels are not widely known, so a diligent reader should benefit quite a lot by examining them with patience and willingness to learn. Of course, the book could serve you well as a source of reference, as well as a collection of extremely interesting and captivating positions to delve deep into and put your brain to some severe tests! Either way, you are guaranteed to have a lot of fun and to pick up bits of chess wisdom on your journey within this book.

We hope that you will find as much enjoyment reading this book as we experienced ourselves editing it for your pleasure, since you are now well acquainted with Ivkov's thought process and mastery by absorbing the material from "Chess Parallels I&II".

Douglas Griffin

Igor Žvegljić

Beograd, November 2022.



Ivkov at Beverwijk, 1961. (photo: J. de Nijs / ANEFO, via www.nationaalarchief.nl.)

Properties of Pieces

In endgames the strength of the pieces is more tangible and clearer than in the mid-game, so it is worth repeating what we already know about the properties of the pieces.

Knight is not a long-range piece, so in some open positions, with pawns on both wings, it is not always of much use. Its greatest capacity is in the centre of the board, from where it covers eight squares. Closer to the edge of the board the power of the knight decreases, and is completely reduced when it is in one of the four corners. Then the knight controls only two squares. Considering the nature of his movement (jump), a knight is a very suitable piece in blocked positions.

Bishop is a long-range piece whose striking power is especially pronounced in the endings where pawn islands are located on both wings. Because, a bishop can be transferred from one wing to another often in a single move. Then a bishop is more valuable than knight. Its range varies from 13 to 7 squares. Bishop's strength decreases when it is limited by its own or enemy pawns.

Rook is also a long-range piece whose property is to control 14 squares from each position on an empty board. Its striking power depends on where it is located, so it needs to have open lines.

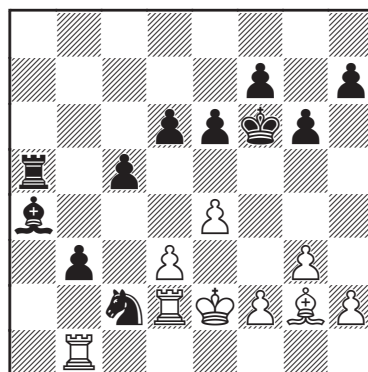
Queen is also a long-range piece which contains the characteristics of both rook and bishop. In the centre of the board under her control there are 27 squares, which is the sum of the maximum ranges of bishop and rook (13 + 14). At the edge of the board, the queen covers 21 squares. In order to show full potential she needs space - diagonals, files and ranks to operate on.

King in Action

Vladimir Miholić - Ivkov

Beograd 1947/48

Yugoslav Junior Championship



1...♔e5 2.f4+ ♕d4 3.g4 ♔c3

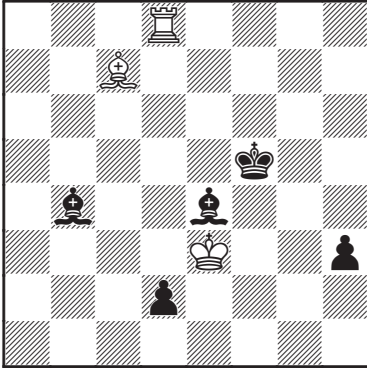


Ivkov, pictured in Birmingham, 1951.
(photo via skaksogufelagid.is)

Pawn

Vladimir Nenarokov - Nicolai Grigoriev

Take a look at the following practical ending which has a distinctive artistic value.



White's two long-range pieces control the black passed pawns. However, one square is highly unfortunate for White...

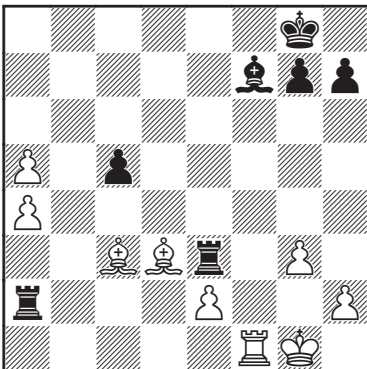
1...♙d6!!

After this problem-like move, one of the two black passers runs to promotion. **-+**

**Björn Thorfinnsson -
Einar Hjalti Jenson**

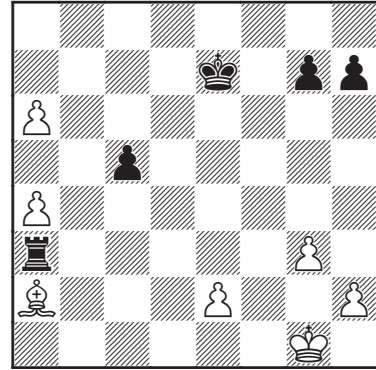
Reykjavík 2016

Ísland Chess Championship



**35.♖xf7!! ♔xf7 36.♙c4+ ♕e7 37.♙xa2
♖xc3 38.a6 ♖a3**

**38...♖c1+ 39.♕f2 ♖d1 40.a7 ♖d8
41.♙d5**

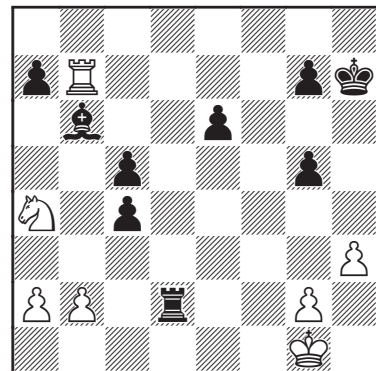


39.♙b3! c4 40.♙c2 ♖a1+ 41.♕f2

1 : 0

**Martin Ortueta Esteban - José Sanz
Aguado**

Madrid 1933



**31...♖xb2!! 32.♗xb2 c3! 33.♖xb6 c4!!
34.♖b4 a5!!**

And the pawn breaks through.

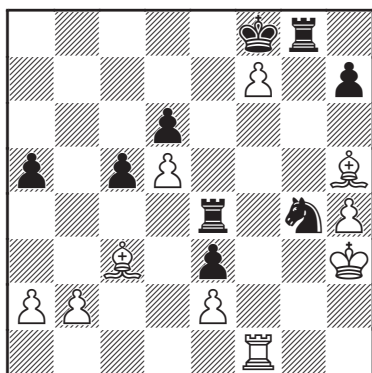
35.♗xc4 c2

0 : 1

Promotion of the Blocked Pawn

Stefano Tatai - Ivkov

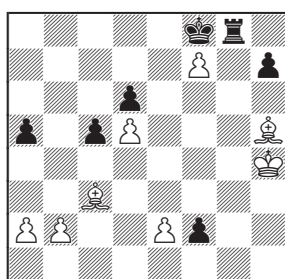
Praia da Rocha (zt) 1978 [26/604]



The black e3–pawn is blocked, playing a minor role for quite a while. White has just played 37.f7 trying to win the black rook.

39...♗f2+! 40.♖xf2 ♖xh4+!!

40...♖xh4+ 41.♔xh4 exf2



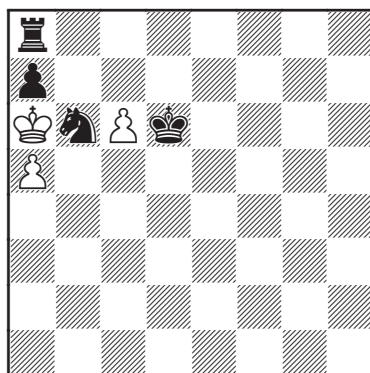
White resigned here being completely shocked and unable to capture the rook with a check. I suppose that the queen versus two bishops was winning, but anyway I was glad to win the game without the obligation to prove that!

0 : 1

Mikhail Gertsovich Kliatskin

1924

Now we shall examine a few more examples of the same nature, created by chess artists.



Black is a piece up. White has a paramount task to promote his a–pawn on the square occupied by the black rook!

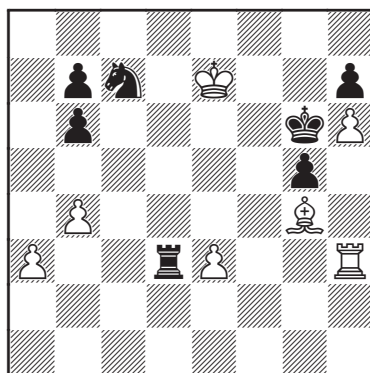
1.c7!! ♔xc7 2.axb6+!! ♔b8 3.b7!

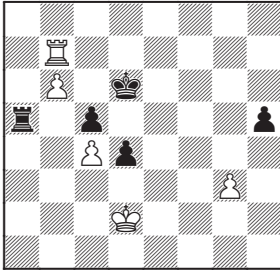
Brilliant! Black is in Zugzwang, and any move is a losing one! **+-**

Zenon Franco Ocampos - Narciso Bravo Barranco

Barcelona 2000

Spanish Championship



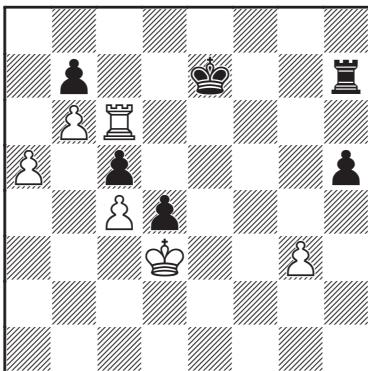


63. ♖a7!! This move causes a lot of pain to Black. However, it was not that easy to spot it when Black played ♜f5. Black has no active moves and will soon face a deadly Zugzwang.

59. a5 ♜h7 60. ♞g8 ♔c6 61. ♞g6+ ♔d7 62. ♕d3 ♕e7

Black is in Zuzwang: if he removes the rook from the h-file he drops the h-pawn, while if he abandons the 7th rank he loses either the b7 or c5-pawn. However, he should have tried 62... ♞e7 63. ♞g5 ♕c6 64. ♞xh5 ♞e3+ 65. ♕d2 ♞xg3 66. ♞h6+ ♔d7 67. ♞h7+ ♕c8 68. ♞c7+ ♕b8 69. ♞xc5 ♞a3 70. ♕c2 ♞a1 (Black loses the d-pawn. For example: 70... d3+ 71. ♕d2+-) 71. ♕d3 ♞d1+ 72. ♕e4 d3 73. ♞d5 ♕c8 74. ♞xd3 ♞e1+ 75. ♕d5 ♞a1 76. ♞h3 ♞xa5+ 77. ♕d6+- followed by checkmate.

63. ♞c6!



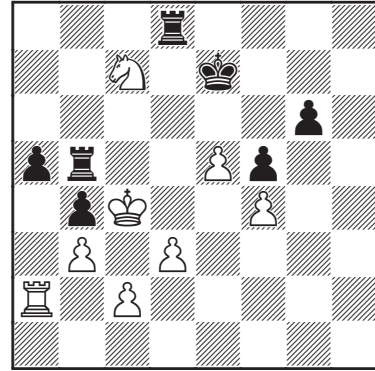
Black resigns.

1 : 0

Gedeon Barcza – Ivkov

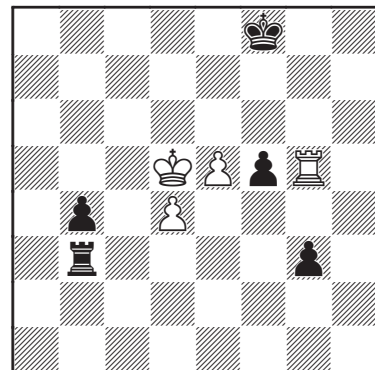
Leipzig (ol) 1960

Chess Olympiad



After five hours of play and night-long analysis we reached the diagram position. My opponent, a great endgame expert, had decent winning chances. However, he overestimated the power of the mating attack.

47... ♞xe5 48. fxe5 ♞c8 49. ♞xa5 ♞xc7+ 50. ♕d4 g5 51. ♞a6 ♞xc2 52. ♞g6 g4 53. ♕d5 ♞c3 54. d4 g3 55. ♞g7+ ♕f8 56. ♞g5 ♞xb3



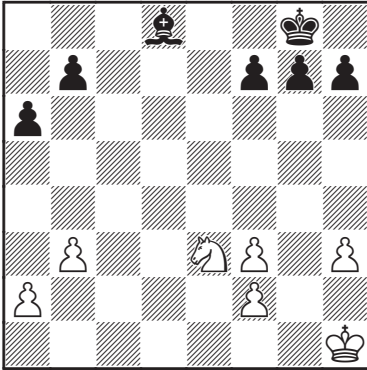
57. ♕d6 ♞e3 58. ♞xf5+ ♕g7 59. ♕e6

59. e6!?

Hans-Joachim Hecht - Ivkov

Beograd 1969

Take a look at another position with the bishop's domination over the knight.



White's main problem are his doubled pawns, so the black bishop gains even more power in such situation.

1. ♖g2 g6 2. f4

White wisely places this pawn on a dark square, as otherwise the f2-pawn would remain on the dark square as well.

2... f5 3. ♗c4 ♘c7 4. ♖f3 ♖f7 5. ♗b2 ♘e6 6. ♗d1 ♘d5 7. ♖e3 ♘d6 8. ♗c3+ ♘c5 9. ♗b1

White managed to create a "hedgehog" like formation, so Black is not able to penetrate the queenside. However, it is doubtful that White can retain such structure for much longer.

9... ♗b4 10. ♖f3 ♘c5 11. ♖e2 ♘d4 12. f3

On **12. ♖f3 ♘b2 13. ♖e3 ♘c1+ 14. ♖f3 a5 15. ♖g3 b5 16. ♖f3 a4 17. bxa4 bxa4 18. ♖g3 ♖c4 19. ♖f3 ♖d3++** and White loses his knight.

12... ♘c5 13. ♖d3 ♘d6 14. ♖d4

White gives away the pawn.

After **14. ♖e3** Black executes a several tem-

po moves forcing White to abandon his defensive stance.

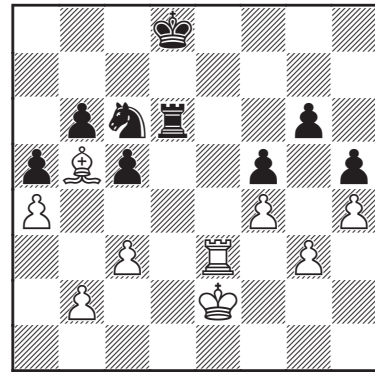
14... ♘xf4 15. ♖d5 a5 16. ♖e6 ♘c1 17. ♖f6 b5 18. ♖g7 a4 19. bxa4 bxa4 20. ♖xh7 ♖c4

White resigns being unable to preserve the knight.

0 : 1

Robert J. Fischer - Mark Taimanov

Vancouver (m/4) 1971 [11/311]



1. ♖d3

White estimates his chances to be better without rooks on the board, ascertaining his bishop to be superior to the black knight.

1... ♖c7

1... ♖d7!?

2. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 3. ♖d3 ♗e7 4. ♘e8 ♖d5 5. ♘f7+ ♖d6 6. ♖c4

White's king makes a significant progress.

6... ♖c6 7. ♘e8+ ♖b7 8. ♖b5 ♗c8

Threatening **9... ♗d6** mate!

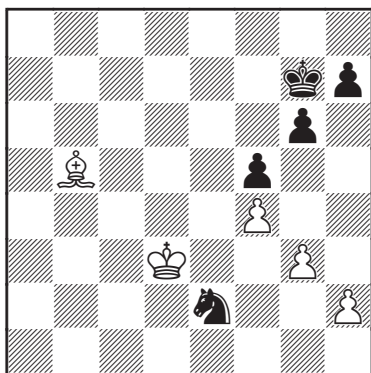
9. ♘c6+ ♖c7 10. ♘d5 ♗e7 11. ♘f7 ♖b7 12. ♘b3 ♖a7 13. ♘d1 ♖b7 14. ♘f3+ ♖c7 15. ♖a6 ♗g8 16. ♘d5 ♗e7 17. ♘c4 ♖c6 18. ♘f7 ♖c7 19. ♘e8! Zugzwang!

Bishop's Weakness

Even though bishop is a powerful, long-range piece, it has a significant weakness as well.

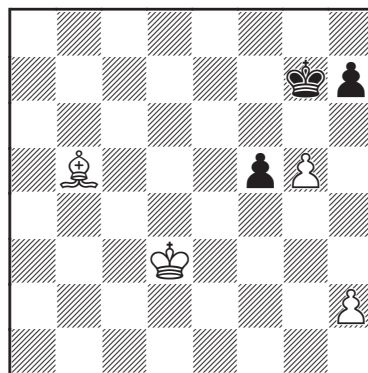
Samuel Reshevsky - Stefano Tatai

Netanya 1973 [15/6]



Reshevsky tried to catch the enemy knight, but he faced a bitter surprise.

1...♘xf4+!! 2.gxf4 g5! 3.fxg5



3...h6!!

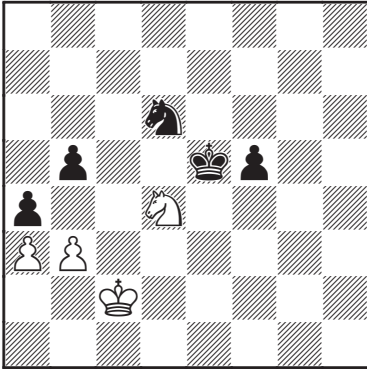
4.gxh6+ ♔xh6;

Black could have played a cunning 4...♔h8! leaving White with the wrong bishop.

1/2 : 1/2



Reshevsky v. Botvinnik, USSR v. USA Match, Moscow 1955.



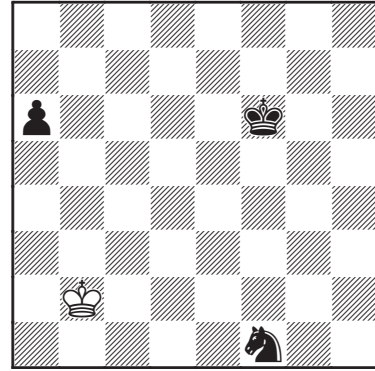
63. ♖xf5! ♗xf5 64. bxa4 bxa4 65. ♔c3
 Draw. 1/2 : 1/2

This example showed us how dangerous could be to oversimplify the position and reach the situation with insufficient material.

Vladimir Kuzmichev

1986

Kuzmichev's position illustrates the same theme.



1. ♔c3! ♗e3 2. ♔d4!



Tal - Fischer, Zürich 1959.



Anatoly Karpov

24. ♖f5!

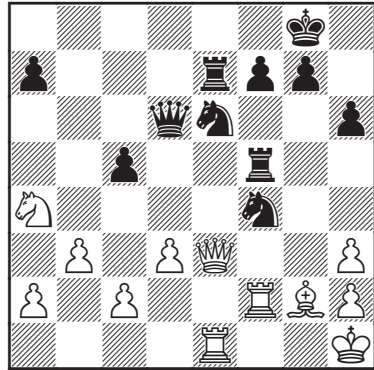
Immediately decisive.

24...exf5 25. ♖xg8+ ♔e7 26. ♖xe5+ ♕f6 27. ♖xf5+ ♕e6 28. ♖e1+ ♕d7 29. ♖xe8 - and Karpov resigned.

1 : 0

Sergey Dolmatov - Borislav Ivkov

Moscow 1985

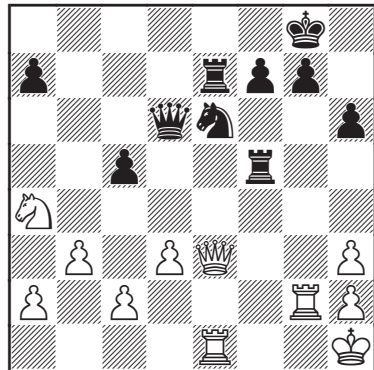
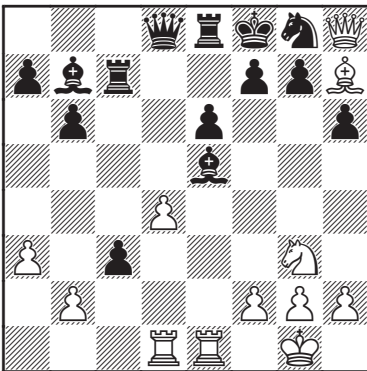


In this position Ivkov found a remarkable tactical possibility:

31... ♖xg2! 32. ♖xg2

Of course, not 32. ♕xg2? ♖f4++

The only move was 23... ♔e7!



32... ♖g5!! 33. ♖xe7 Forced.

On 33. ♖g1 Black wins simply with 33... ♜xe1 34. ♖xe1 ♜f6, etc.

33... ♜f1+

A standard "deflecting" strategem; White should now have agreed to trade his queen for both black rooks.

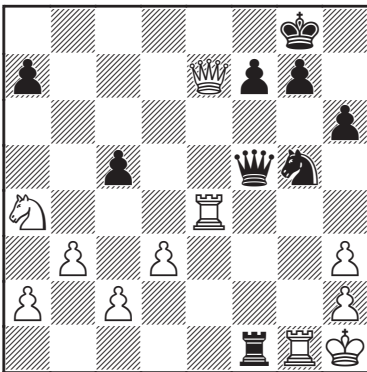
After 33... ♜f1 34. ♜f1 ♜e7 Black stands better.

White was instead tempted by

34. ♜g1 perhaps thinking that Black had blundered. Instead, the full depth of Ivkov's idea was revealed. There followed

34... ♜d5+ 35. ♜e4 - and now not **35... ♘e4?**, when there follows **36. ♜e8 ♙h7 37. ♜e4**, but the crushing

35... ♜f5!!



Suddenly it is clear that White is lost; there is no satisfactory defence against ... ♜f3.

36. ♜e3

36. ♜e3 leads to mate after **36... ♜f3+ 37. ♜g2 ♜xg1+ 38. ♙xg1 ♘h3+ 39. ♙h1 ♜f1+**

36... ♜f2! 37. ♜xg5

Or **37. ♜eg3 ♜xg1+ 38. ♜xg1 ♘f3! 39. ♜e8+ ♙h7 40. ♜e4+ ♙g6**, and White must surrender his queen to prevent mate.

37... ♜xg5 38. ♜eg3 ♜xg1+ 39. ♜xg1 ♜f3+ 40. ♜g2 ♜d1+ 41. ♜g1 ♜xc2 42. ♜xg5 ♜xd3 43. ♜g3 - and White resigned.

0 : 1

B85

Efim Geller - Borislav Ivkov

Beograd 1969 [8/433]

The following game was among those won by Ivkov on the way to his shared first place in the great international tournament held in Beograd at the end of 1969 to commemo-



Garry Kasparov