

# **CHESS DETECTIVE**

**KRIEGSPIEL**

**STRATEGIES**

**ENDGAMES AND**

**PROBLEMS**

**By David H. Li**

## CHESS DETECTIVE

### Kriegspiel Strategies, Endgames and Problems

By David H. Li

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## PREFACE

A detective is an expert in deductive reasoning. From seemingly innocuous events a detective discerns clues; from seemingly inconsequential clues he/she builds a dossier; from a seemingly incomplete dossier he/she formulates an action plan; from a seemingly ill-conceived plan he/she takes action, corners the prime suspect, and puts an end to the search.

Does the prime suspect reveal what he did to the detective? Wake up. Does he tell the detective where to find him? Perish the thought. Does he surrender without a struggle? Be real. A detective does all the work, pieces together all the information — from events to clues, from dossier to plan, from action to apprehension — all by his/her lone self, through sheer deductive reasoning.

A chess detective is an expert in deductive reasoning in a chess setting. Is an over-the-board chess player a chess detective? Not quite. In over-the-board chess, a player knows *exactly* what the opponent did, and sees *exactly* where the King is — *no* deductive reasoning is needed.

Who is a chess detective? A Kriegspiel player is.

Kriegspiel is chess played without knowing your opponent's moves. You make your moves and, through these moves, gather clues. With clues, you build a model of the opponent's position. You coordinate forces, and, when ready, march in to nab the King — all without seeing your opponent's chessmen or moves. You do all these through sheer deductive reasoning power. *That* is a chess detective!

### Playing Full-Time Detective

A detective may serve at four different levels: full-time detective, senior detective, supervisory detective, and consulting detective. So may a chess detective.

A full-time detective is assigned a case and handles it from beginning to end. He/she devises a strategy, sets up an intelligence network, witnesses tell-tale events, builds up the case, tracks the adversary down, and nabs him.

As a full-time chess detective, you play a complete game of Kriegspiel. You set up a plan, make moves, and collect clues as the game progresses. You infer what the adversary is up to, deduce his shortcomings, zero in on his hiding place, and administer the *coup de grâce* — all by your lone self.

### Playing Senior Detective

A senior detective is put in charge when a case is on the verge of breaking. He/she is given the dossier, checks all exit routes, seeks the adversary out, makes a hot pursuit as he flees, and apprehends him to close the case.

As a senior chess detective, you play a Kriegspiel endgame. You take over a case in the midst of a search, just before critical events are due to unfold. You get ready and, as the alarm is triggered, you step in, confront the culprit, and bring him to justice.

### Playing Supervisory Detective

A supervisory detective adds his/her considerable experience to a difficult case, where stakes are higher, the opponent is tougher, and the case's successful closure is less certain. A supervisory detective concentrates on top-level heavy-duty work: assessing that preparations made are well thought out, reviewing that resources deployed are appropriate, and deciding that the time to take action has arrived.

As a supervisory chess detective, you solve a Kriegspiel problem. You validate that the alert system in place is adequate, concur

that all loopholes have been plugged, ensure that the implementation plan has addressed all contingencies, and signal that the time to initiate action is at hand.

### Playing Consulting Detective

A consulting detective handles celebrity cases, where the publicity spotlight is on, the adversary is world-class, the stakes are at their highest, and the best brain is sought to counter. Perhaps a celebrity in his/her own right, a consulting detective puts his/her formidable reputation on the line, draws from his/her vast and diversified reservoir of experience, meets the kingpin head on, and concludes with the knowledge that a difficult case has been well handled and well compensated.

As a consulting chess detective, you work on a variety of extraordinary cases: solving a constraint-laden Kriegspiel problem in one instance, arbitrating a high-stake Kriegspiel-rule controversy in another, and dueling in a life-and-death Kriegspiel endgame in a third. To meet these challenges, you muster all the deductive reasoning power at your command, and, upon conclusion, gain the satisfaction that your resourcefulness has again prevailed and triumphed.

### Part I: Playing Full-Time Chess Detective Through Complete Kriegspiel Games

In this book, all four levels of playing chess detective are covered. Part I presents a condensed version of playing chess detective full time — playing Kriegspiel games from first move to checkmate. Beginning with a quick review of algebraic notations (Chapter 2) and clue-gathering techniques (Chapter 3), Part I continues with a world-class Kriegspiel game to illustrate deductive reasoning at work (Chapter 4), compares Kriegspiel to Retrograde Analysis (Chapter 5), explores strategies (Chapter 6), and discusses measures and countermeasures (Chapter 7). Readers seeking a more extensive coverage of Kriegspiel games are invited to read my *Kriegspiel - Chess Under Uncertainty* (144 pages, 1994) — the first-ever book on playing Kriegspiel.

### **Part II: Playing Senior Chess Detective Through Kriegspiel Endgames**

Playing a senior chess detective through Kriegspiel endgames is covered in Part II of this book. Discussed are various techniques of probing to effect mating moves. All cases in this book — whether games, endgames, or problems — are designed to be handled by our reader alone, without the need of an opponent nor the services of a referee. Further, each case is presented in a way that facilitates our reader's applying his/her deductive reasoning alongside that offered in the book. Part II also includes three self-test cases (Chapters 9, 14, and 15) — each at about the same level of difficulty as those presented immediately preceding.

### **Part III: Playing Supervisory Chess Detective Through Kriegspiel Problems**

Playing a supervisory chess detective through Kriegspiel problems is addressed in Part III of this book. Emphasis is on designing alert systems and on reviewing contingency plans — to ensure capturing the King under *any* and *all* circumstances. Again, all problems are designed to be handled by our reader alone. Part III concludes with two self-test cases (Chapters 19 and 20).

### **Part IV: Playing Consulting Chess Detective Through Kriegspiel Cases**

Playing an international consulting chess detective is treated in Part IV of this book. Equipped with trans-Atlantic Kriegspiel-rule differences (Chapter 21), our consulting chess detective proceeds to tackle a million-dollar Kriegspiel rule arbitration (Chapter 23). A consulting detective worthy of his/her name meets, sooner or later, a Professor Moriarty. This book narrates two such encounters: a gentlemanly let's-get-acquainted skirmish (Chapter 22) and a treacherous life-and-death duel (Chapter 24).

### **Book Written as a Journal**

To add enjoyment, the book is written in a light vein, in the form of a journal kept by an officer attending the Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard. It begins with his life as a green chess detective in training (Part I), continues as he enters the regular chess detective training course (Part II), progresses as he joins the advanced chess detective training program (Part III), and concludes as he presents himself as an international Chartered Chess Detective (Part IV).

### **Kriegspiel a Learning Device for Information Professionals**

Although a pastime, Kriegspiel is an ideal learning device for information professionals requiring detective skills in their daily work. Over the years, it has been popular among journalists (one invented the game), British and German field marshals (during World War I, though not with each other), Bletchley Park cryptologists (during World War II), foreign service officers (one wrote the very first Kriegspiel problems book), computer specialists (articles on Kriegspiel have appeared in the *Computer Journal* and *Theoretical Computer Science*, among others), research scientists, marketing analysts, university professors, and students.

### **Restoring Kriegspiel to Its Former Glory**

As a former academician, I have been impressed by the value of Kriegspiel in developing one's deductive reasoning faculty. The main purpose of this book is to continue, as a reviewer of my earlier Kriegspiel book puts it, "David Li's one-man effort to revive Kriegspiel" — to entice you and your friends to enjoy this great game — and to improve your deductive reasoning power in the process. Together, we can restore Kriegspiel to its former glory: when the "Kriegspiel night" was a popular event in world chess tournaments, when world chess champions played Kriegspiel with

relish, when a reigning president of the British Chess Federation preferred Kriegspiel to over-the-board chess, when master problemists devoted themselves to Kriegspiel compositions, when clubs dedicated to Kriegspiel playing held tournaments, and when leading chess magazines featured Kriegspiel columns and gave game scores.

### Acknowledgment

Kriegspiel, invented in 1898, has a long tradition with a rich reservoir of literature. In the course of writing this book, I had the distinct privilege of doing research at the Library of Congress and at the Cleveland Public Library — the world's greatest all-purpose research library and the world's greatest collection of chess-related books, respectively. The support I received from the dedicated staff of these two great institutions is gratefully acknowledged.

David H. Li

Bethesda, Maryland  
March 1995

## CHESS DETECTIVE

### Kriegspiel Strategies, Endgames, and Problems

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## 1 LIFE AS A CHESS DETECTIVE: AN OVERVIEW

I have been a police detective for many years. The work has been challenging. But, after a while, I feel something is missing: I no longer enjoy my work. I need a new career that would combine challenge with fun. A former colleague, now a chess detective, says that his new profession is both exciting and rewarding, and suggests that I follow his lead.

I find my friend’s suggestion irresistible. After looking into the matter further, I decide to take his advice and apply to become an officer-in-training at his alma mater, The Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard, the world’s most prestigious institution in chess detective training. In London, of course. At the Scotland Yard, no less.

### Looking Ahead

Arriving in London a day early, I walk by the Yard. Looking at the meticulously manicured ground from the outside, I cannot help being impressed by its sheer grandeur. I am awed. And this is happening even before I am inside, before the first day of class, before I am officially received as a member of this legendary institution. Whoa, I cannot wait to get in and walk *on* the ground inside the compound.

Visions dance in my head. I envisage headlines about me, shortly after graduation from the academy:

### ROOKIE CHESS DETECTIVE OUTDUELS KINGPIN

or, after I am duly promoted to a senior chess detective for gallantry:

**SENIOR CHESS DETECTIVE RISKS LIFE  
BUT NABS MOST WANTED IN HOT PURSUIT**

I am, of course, merely daydreaming. I know the road ahead of me will be rocky. The competition is simply too keen. The competition to get into the academy. The competition to get into the academy's advanced training program for senior chess detectives. The competition to deliver. The competition to excel. The competition to be recognized.

From Day 1 in the academy, I know that I must do my very best just to survive. I need to be observant. I need to study hard. I need to take notes. I decide that the best way to accomplish all three in one stroke is to keep a journal.

What follows are excerpts from this journal.

**Looking Back**

Reading back at entries in this journal, I have fond memories. The camaraderie. The sweat. The joy of making a key point. The letdown of being put down. The successes. The narrow escapes. And, of course, the hard work.

Especially the hard work. I never realize that chess detective work is so demanding. At first, as a chess detective in training, I have to attend millions of classes, take volumes of notes, and do tons of homework. And then I have to review them — every day, every class, every waking minute.

Before I know it, these notes and homework have become a part of me. My day is incomplete without adding something in my journal.

Looking back, my journal has helped me a great deal. To be able to follow in the class. To earn good grades on examinations. To be accepted by the academy's advanced training program. To be ready for the Chartered Chess Detective examination. To document differences in the Scotland Yard and Washington Circle approaches to gathering evidence in detective work, and so on.

All these, I attribute to the journal I keep, beginning with my first day at the academy and ending with my life-and-death duel with the notorious Professor Moriarty.

**Four Volume Study Guides for the Academy**

Now that I have been asked by the Dean of the Academy to prepare a series of study guides, I find the journal to be even more useful. Indeed, the journal contains so much notes and insights that I decide to make four volumes out of it.

The first volume is for the incoming class. I want to make them feel at home, to instill self-confidence in them. I want them to begin the course well prepared, without any deficiency in basic knowledge important in chess detective work.

The second volume is for officers going to the regular chess detective training course. I want to give them a sense of adventure, to promote a readiness to accept challenge. I want them to feel comfortable in using all resources at the Yard's disposal, including requesting the services of very senior officers when the need arises.

The third volume is for senior officers going into the advanced chess detective training program. I want them to be innovative in planning, to be all-encompassing in implementation. I want them to be prepared for the Chartered Chess Detective examination and join this prestigious profession.

The fourth volume is for those who aspire to become consulting chess detectives. Since I have barely become one myself, with only a few years of experience, I can only give them a glimpse of the glamour — and the danger — of being a consulting chess detective in the international arena. I suspect a consulting chess detective must be knowledgeable, daring, and unafraid to explore uncharted waters — areas I need to beef up myself. Yes, indeed, even now, I have a lot to learn.

Well, I have said enough. Let's turn the page and read my journal. I am as anxious as you are — every time I reread it, I learn something new. I am looking forward to rereading every word of it.

**PART I**

**LIFE AS A**

**CHESS DETECTIVE IN TRAINING**



## **2 LANGUAGE FOR CHESS DETECTIVE WORK: ALGEBRAIC NOTATION**

On a day all Londoners think is lovely, I begin my life as a chess detective in training. “Jolly good,” so greets an upperclassman as I enter the academy. I thank him for his ready acceptance of me and rush to my first class.

I expect a large class. But, instead, I am all by myself, along with a desk-top personal computer. My first lesson is to be a self-paced tutorial on chess notations.

Since this is The Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard, a British institution, I fully expect to learn the English notation. Seeing “Touch here to begin” on the monitor’s screen, I half-heartedly do as directed. On comes a new screen, a welcoming message. It then dissolves into another new screen, which reads, in capital letters:

**THIS ACADEMY USES  
THE ALGEBRAIC NOTATION  
IN ALL ITS INSTRUCTIONS  
AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Algebraic Notation**

Well, that is a pleasant surprise. Before I come to my senses, the background for the words **THE ALGEBRAIC NOTATION** is changed from blue to red for emphasis. Then, the lower portion of the screen flashes the following directive:

**MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.**

WHEN YOU ARE READY, PRESS "ENTER" FOR  
THE NEXT SCREEN.  
IF YOU NEED A PRINTOUT OF THIS SCREEN OR  
ANY OTHER SCREEN, PRESS "PRINT."

I press "Enter" as directed. On comes another screen, showing the 64 squares in algebraic notation. Although I am familiar with the algebraic notation, I decide to keep a copy for future reference. I press "Print" for a printout [Diagram 1].

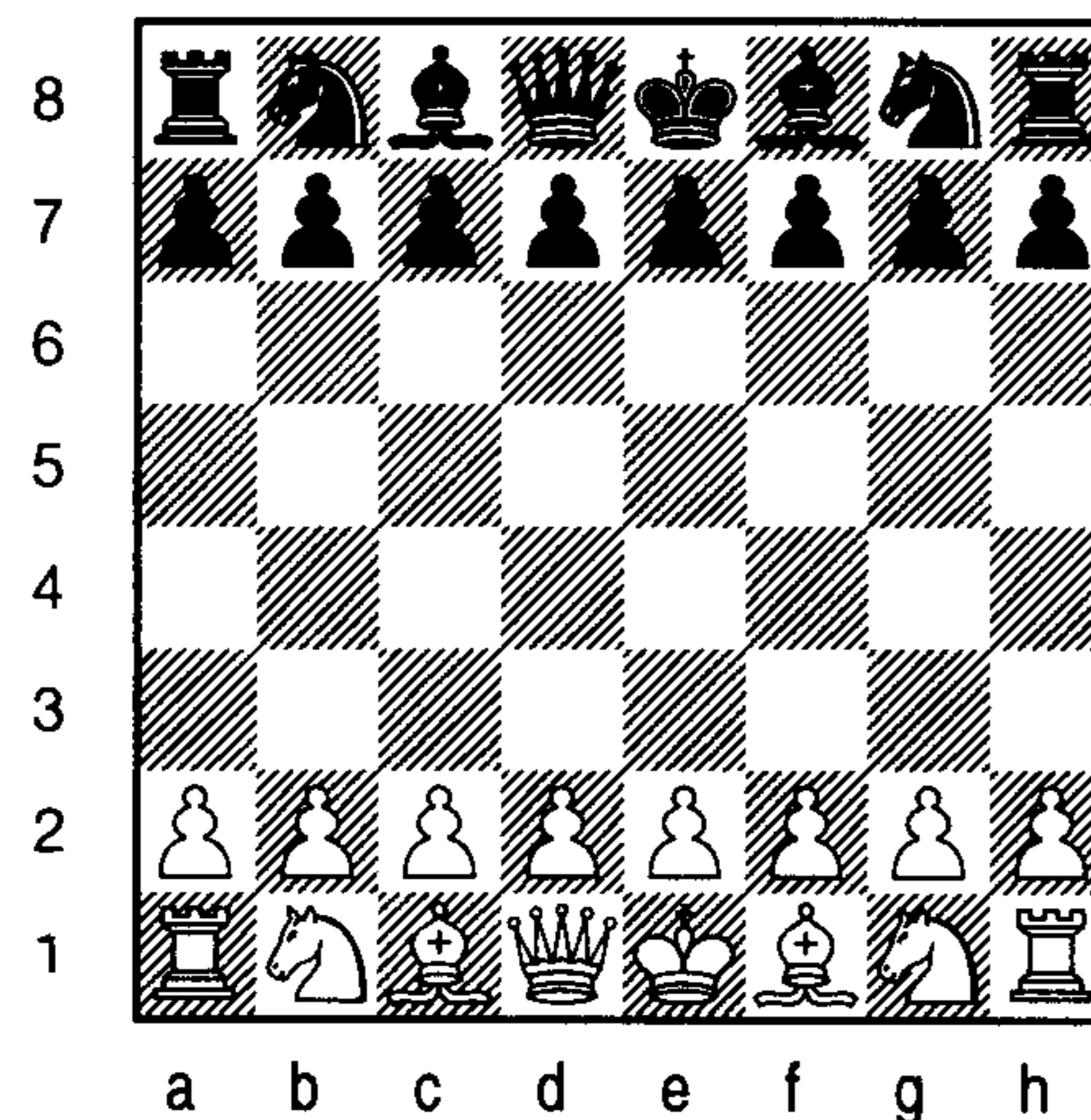


Diagram 1

Algebraic System of Chessboard Notation

Presto, out comes a copy. I love it, I say to myself. It's going to be a breeze.

### Symbols for Chessmen and Moves

I press the "Return" key and on comes another screen. This time, it lists symbols used to represent various chessmen and moves. I definitely need a copy of this [Chart 1].

Chart 1

### Symbols for Chessmen and Moves

K	King
Q	Queen
R	Rook
B	Bishop
S (or Kt or N)	Knight
P (or when omitted)	Pawn
0-0	Castling King side
0-0-0	Castling Queen side
-	Played to
=	Promoted to
e.p.	<i>en passant</i> capture
+	Check
dis. ch.	Discovered check
dbl. ch.	Double check
++	Checkmate
Rank	1 through 8
File	<i>a</i> through <i>h</i>

### Symbol for Knight

Again, I have no difficulty, except *S* for Knight. As if the computer can read my mind, as soon as I press "Return," on comes another screen, inviting me to choose among *S*, *Kt*, or *N* to represent the Knight. I choose the last option. The computer automatically makes the change and out comes another printout.

Boy, am I happy. What a first-class institution. Although venerable, it has technology for the 21st century. While I have yet to meet an instructor in person, the computer has anticipated all questions and has catered to all my needs. What else do I need?

It's going to be a great program. No question about it. I hope my new career will be as promising as this first session is easy.

### 3 EVIDENCE GATHERING FOR CHESS DETECTIVE WORK: REFEREE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

When I walk into the lecture room on Day Two, about a dozen aspiring fellow chess detectives are already present. I am barely seated when the instructor begins.

"White to move," he says.

I am startled by this opening remark. Looking around, I sense that others have the same reaction. Taking advantage of the attention thus generated, our instructor continues.

#### **The Environment of Chess Detective Work**

"On behalf of the faculty of The Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard, we welcome you to our academy and to this training program. My name is Boynton. Charles Boynton. I'll be your instructor for the first part of this course.

"Now, you might ask: Why did you begin your lecture with 'White to move'?"

"The reason is quite simple. We want you to be acclimated to a new environment, the Kriegspiel environment, the environment of chess detective work." Mr. Boynton stops momentarily to look at each one of us in the room.

#### **"White to Move" Begins a Game**

"Let's begin with the referee's role in Kriegspiel. It is similar to a lecturer in a classroom. A referee directs a Kriegspiel game as an instructor conducts a class. His 'White to move' begins a Kriegspiel game as my 'Good morning, ladies and gentlemen' begins a class.

### Gender Formality

“Now, let me take care of one more formality, the third-person-singular pronoun business: *he* and *she*, *his* and *her*, that sort of things. We all know that we have outstanding chess detectives of either gender. But for convenience in our discussion, I shall use the masculine form, *he*, *his*, and the like, to refer to a person of either gender, male or female. For ladies in our midst, please accept my apologies and please do not feel slighted.” Mr. Boynton stops again to look at each member of the female contingent. There are three.

“Now, we can begin in earnest. Let’s first review the rudiments of playing Kriegspiel.

### Players Follow the Referee’s Direction

“After White follows the referee’s direction and makes his first move, the move is duplicated on the referee’s board. Then the referee directs Black to move by declaring: ‘Black to move.’ Each player then makes one move in turn, after being so directed by the referee.

### Query on Pawn Capture

“Whenever it is a player’s turn to move, he may ask the referee: ‘Are there opportunities for any of my pawns to make a capture?’ This is because the pawn moves diagonally only in the process of making a capture — otherwise, it moves forward in the same file.

“When the referee responds with ‘You may try,’ that player must then make one attempt to capture with a pawn — let’s use the phrase ‘pawn-capture attempt.’ If a pawn-capture attempt is successful, it becomes that player’s move — his opponent’s chessman sitting on that square is captured and removed. If it is unsuccessful, he may make other attempts — one attempt at a time, of course — using either the same pawn or any other pawn on the board — until he succeeds. Or, he may abandon this pursuit and make a

move with another chessman. Regardless, the key point is that, upon hearing a ‘You may try’ response to his query, that player must — and I emphasize *must* — make at least one pawn-capture attempt before he can do anything else.

### “Any?” “Try” and “No”

“Let me stop here and illustrate the point.” He turns on the overhead projector, inserts a transparency [Diagram 2], and continues: “To save time, the query may be shortened to ‘Are there any?’ or even ‘Any?’, and the referee’s answer is similarly curt, to ‘Try’ or ‘No.’”

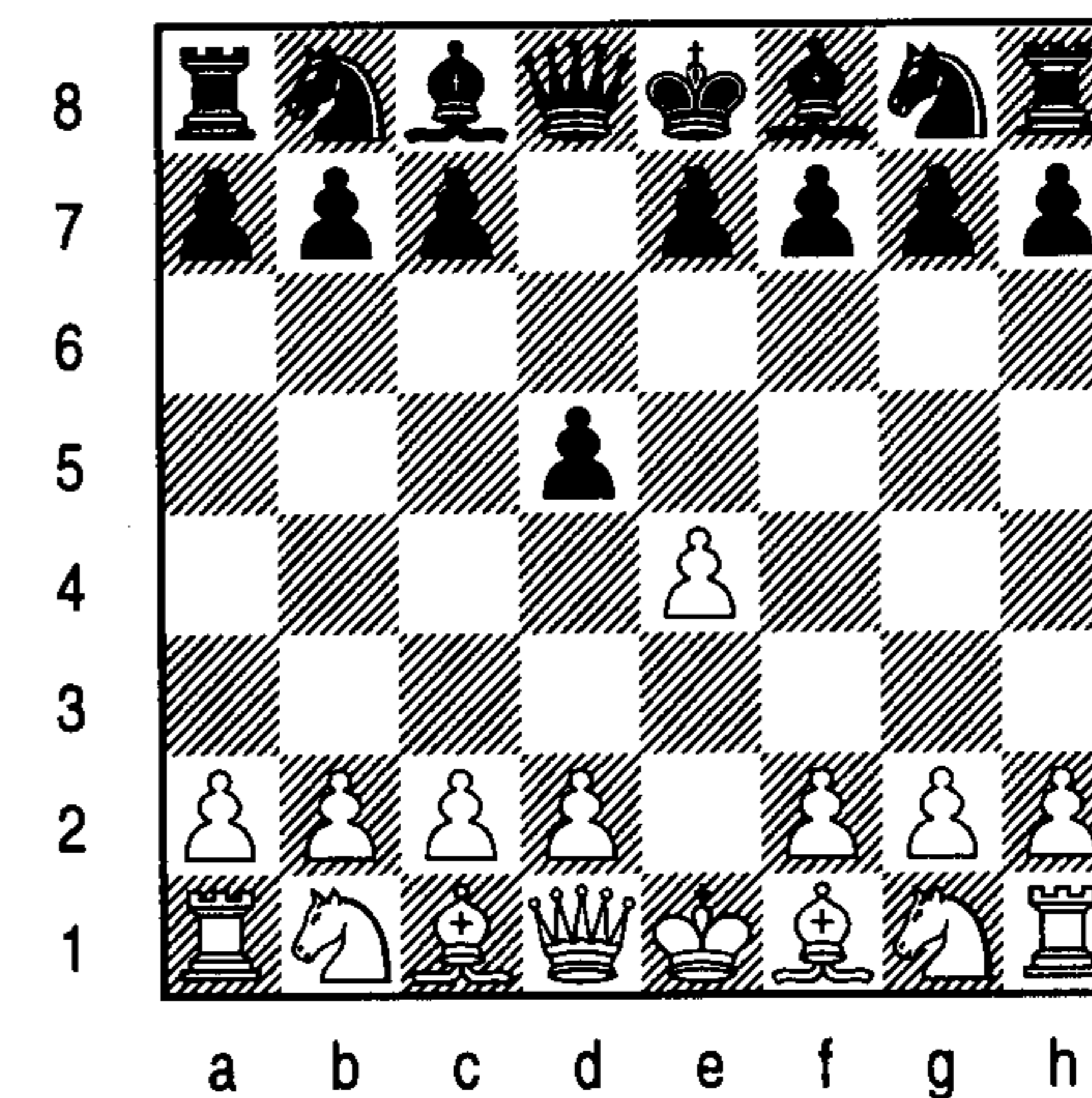


Diagram 2

Queries and announcements on pawn capture

“Here, White plays 1 e4 and Black counters with 1 ... d5. Before White’s second move, he may inquire: ‘Any?’ Since White’s e-pawn can effect a capture, the referee answers the query with: ‘Try.’

### Mandatory Pawn-Capture Attempt

“White must then make one pawn-capture attempt. Let us say that he attempts with his pawn on e4 moving diagonally to f5 — 2 Pe4-f5\* — for a hoped-for capture. Since the f5 square is vacant, no capture is possible; that move is not playable. The referee must rule: ‘No,’ and White must attempt another move.

“If White is keen on capturing with the e-pawn, he has the option, after his mandatory pawn-capture attempt is ruled ‘No,’ to make another pawn-capture attempt — this time, diagonally in the other direction, to d5, 2 Pe4-d5. Since this is playable, the result is a capture; that successful attempt then becomes his move, 2 ed. If he is not keen after his mandatory pawn-capture attempt, he may make a new move with any chessman, including the same pawn, such as moving it forward, 2 e5.

### Referee's Announcements on Unplayable Moves and on Captures

“Since a player does not know his opponent’s position, after each attempted move, he must stop and await a ruling from the referee. If a move is not playable, the referee gives a ‘No’ ruling, and the player attempts another move.

“If a move results in a capture, the referee announces the square at which the capture takes place and then directs the other player to move.

“In our illustration, if White does play 2 ed for a capture, the referee announces: ‘White captures on d5. Black to move.’ The identity of the chessman doing the capturing is not disclosed, nor that of the captured chessman.

“Are there any questions?” Mr. Boynton glances over the class quickly. There being none, he resumes.

---

\* For clarity, a pawn-capture attempt may show both the square the pawn is on and the square to which it attempts to move.

### Referee's Announcement on Check

“When a player’s move results in a check, the referee so announces, along with its direction: ‘Check file’ for a vertical check; ‘Check rank’ for a horizontal check; and ‘Check long’ or ‘Check short’ for a long-diagonal or short-diagonal check. The chessman doing the check is not disclosed, unless it is a Knight, in which case the referee announces ‘Check by Knight.’

“When a player is checkmated, the referee so announces, and the game is over.”

Mr. Boynton stops and turns off the overhead projector. Surveying the room, he says: “I’m sure you have questions.”

### “Check Long” and “Check Short”

“Sir, I can follow your lecture except that I am unclear about ‘check long’ and ‘check short.’ Will you please elaborate?” asks a class member.

“Name?”

“Jonathan, sir.”

“Jonathan, that’s a good question. Regardless of the square upon which the King sits, it is always at the intersection of two diagonals. These two diagonals are of unequal lengths, one being longer than the other.”

Mr. Boynton turns on the overhead projector again and continues.

“For example, on the screen [Diagram 2 on page 23], the White King, sitting at e1, is at the intersection of two diagonals. The a5-e1 diagonal and the e1-h4 diagonal. The former, with five squares, is longer than the latter, with but four squares. Thus, in this instance, the a5-e1 diagonal is the long one, while the e1-h4 diagonal is the short one.

“If a Black Bishop or Queen gives a check on a square along the a5-e1 diagonal, it is a ‘check on the long diagonal,’ or, simply, ‘check long.’ If a check comes from a square on the e1-h4 diagonal, it is a ‘check on the short diagonal’ or, simply, ‘check short.’

“Are there other questions?” So saying, Mr. Boynton stops and surveys the room again.

### **Announcing Check at a Corner**

“Sir, what happens when the King sits at a corner, say, a1? Edward is my name, sir.”

“Edward, that’s another good question,” the instructor seems genuinely interested in our asking questions. “Even when the King sits at a corner — a1, h1, a8, and h8 — it is still at the intersection of two diagonals, technically, the shorter one being reduced to zero.

“So, when the King in a corner is in check diagonally, it is announced as ‘check long.’”

The bell rings. “Let’s stop here and digest what we have discussed. We’ll resume tomorrow. Good day.” So saying, he leaves the room.

So ends my second day of class. There is indeed a lot to chew on. I’m glad I am taking a lot of notes for review in my room.

## **4 MASTER CLASS DEMONSTRATION: DEDUCTIVE REASONING IN ACTION**

On Day 3, we are directed to show up at the academy’s auditorium for an assembly. A chief inspector with a distinguished service record is to give a master class, on how he captured the man he was after in a celebrated case. By the time I find the auditorium, the lights are already off, and our guest is ready to start.

### **Be Original and Innovative**

“To be a successful chess detective, you must first assume that the man you are after is fully your match. In other words, don’t ever underestimate him. Which means, to be successful, you must be original — you must outwit him. You must do things that would either lull him to complacency or catch him by surprise, or both.

“So, before you make your first move, think and plan. Do mundane things and you make your life difficult; do innovative things and you become a candidate for the honor roll.

“Let me illustrate this point with a case I handled a few years back. After the referee directed me, as White, to make my first move to begin the game, I played 1 c4.

### **White Has a Pawn Try**

“After Black’s first move and before my second move, I inquired: ‘Any?’ and the referee responded with ‘Try.’ This meant that Black had played either 1 ... b5 or 1 ... d5, and that I had to make at least one pawn-capture attempt.

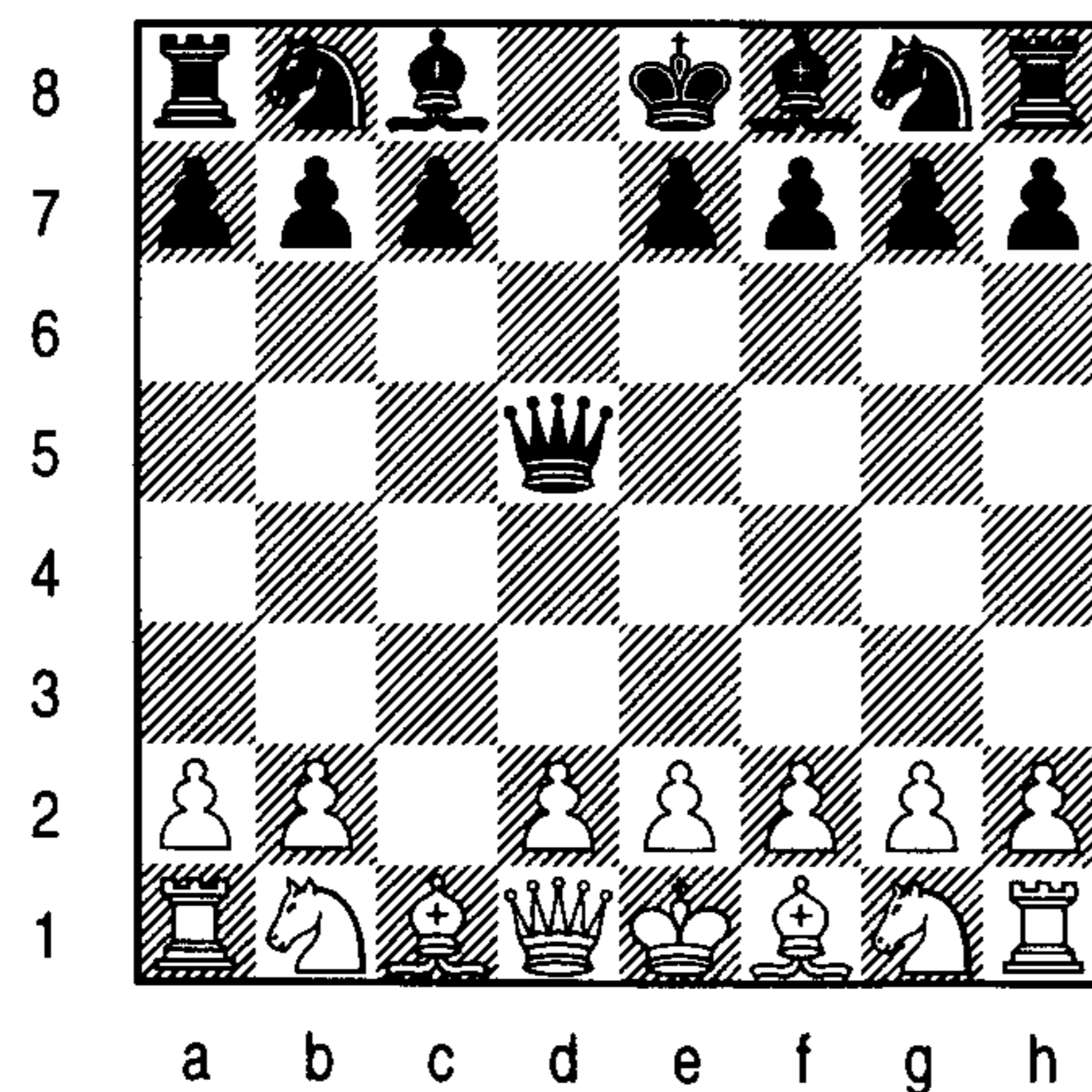
“In trying to feel my opponent out, I attempted 2 Pc4-d5. Not surprisingly, that move was allowed to stand, as the referee announced: ‘White captures on d5. Black to move.’

“Almost immediately, the referee announced: ‘Black captures on d5. White to move.’ It was obvious that my opponent had used his Queen to recapture, 2 ... Qd5.

**White Has More Information After Two Moves**

“Now, even after two moves, I was ahead of the game. I knew *exactly* what Black had played: his d-pawn was gone, and his Queen was out at d5. Conversely, my opponent had no definitive information about my moves — he could not be sure whether I used my c-pawn or my e-pawn for the capture.

“The position at that point, based upon my knowledge of Black’s moves, is shown on the screen [Diagram 3].



**Diagram 3**

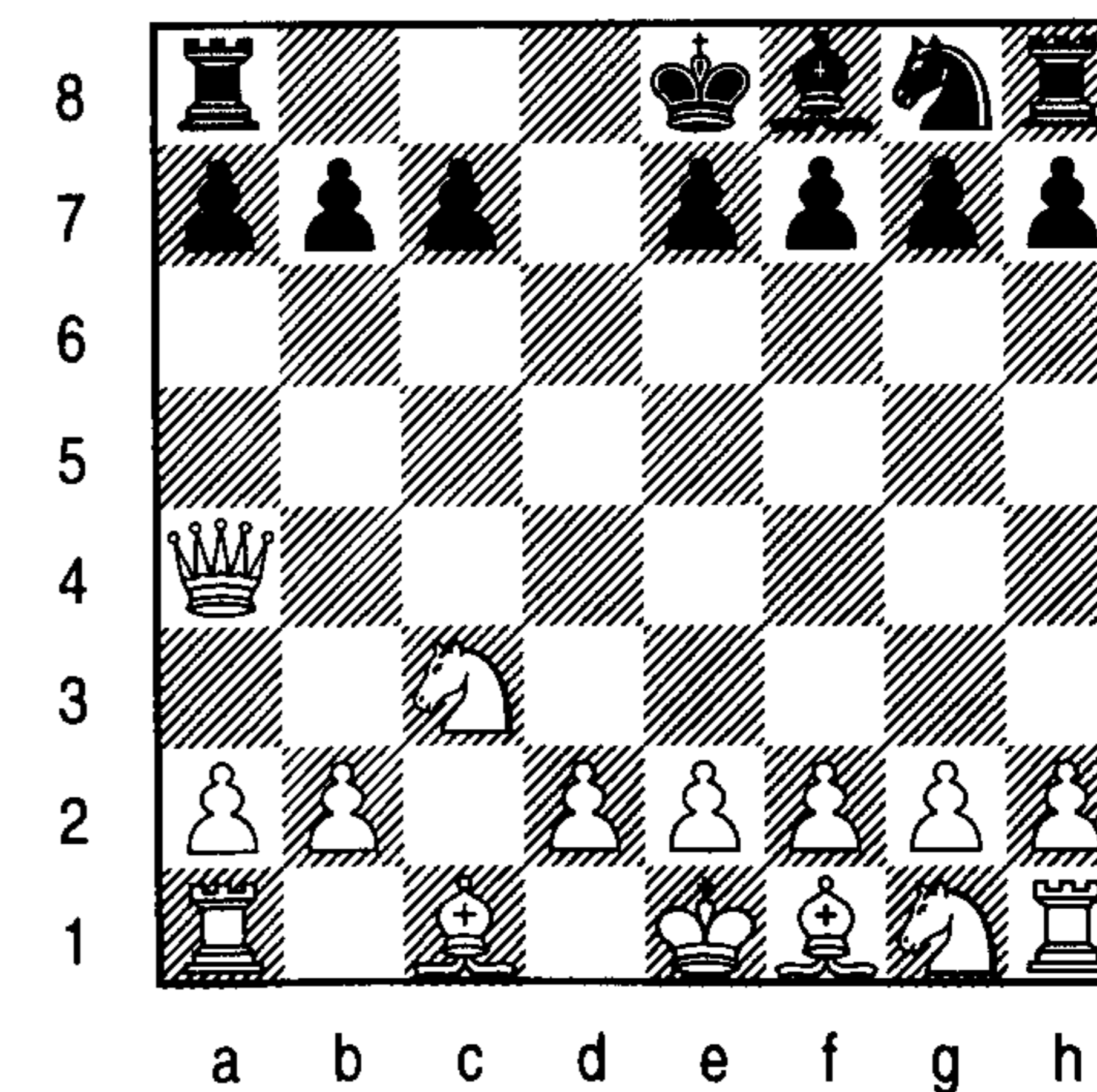
Case 1

Position after Black’s second move  
(Showing all White chessmen and  
all Black chessmen known to White)

“Before I made my third move, I routinely asked ‘Any?’ Receiving a ‘No,’ I temporized with 3 Nc3. With that move, my Knight at c3 was in a position to capture the Queen at d5. But, with due respect to my adversary, I fully expected Black to move his Queen out of the way. Of course, if I could establish, within the next move or two, that my opponent was unconcerned enough to leave his Queen at d5, I certainly would not mind capturing it.

**White’s Expected Check Did Not Materialize**

“After Black’s move, for my fourth move, I again asked ‘Any?’ and received another ‘No.’ I played 4 Qa4 and fully expected the referee to announce a long-diagonal check. But the referee’s announcement was simply: ‘Black to move.’ The next slide [Diagram 4] shows the position of all chessmen known to me after my fourth move.



**Diagram 4**

Case 1

Position after 4 Qa4 (With Black not in check)  
Showing all White chessmen and  
all Black chessmen known to White  
(Black Queen, Bishop, and Knight not shown)

“Now, this lack of a King-in-check announcement was most revealing. This meant that the a4-e8 diagonal was covered. Looking at my board [Diagram 4], I could identify only eight possible moves to bring this about:

- a. 3 ... Qd7
- b. 3 ... Qc6
- c. 3 ... Qb5
- d. 3 ... Bd7
- e. 3 ... Nd7
- f. 3 ... Nc6
- g. 3 ... c6
- h. 3 ... b5

“If Black asked ‘Any?’ at this point — before making his fourth move — he probably had played 3 ... c6 or 3 ... b5. Since Black did not ask, I could rule out the last two possibilities. Incidentally, had Black indeed played 3 ... b5, he could proceed to capture my Queen, with 4 ... ba. This, of course, meant that his Queen was still sitting at d5, and I could play 5 Nd5 and capture his Queen in return.

#### Deductions From A Pawn Try

“After Black made his fourth move, I again routinely asked ‘Any?’, expecting another ‘No.’ But, to my surprise, the referee responded with ‘Try.’ This was most intriguing. Looking at my board, the following thought rushed to my mind:

“a. The Black chessmen able to reach my third rank at this stage of the game may only be the Queen or a Bishop.

“b. Moving the Queen to explore was unlikely, because of the high risk involved. Indeed, the Black Queen was probably pinned by my Queen at a4 and may not move at will.

“c. This left only the Bishop. And the only possible move by a Bishop to reach my 3rd rank would be 4 ... Bh3.

“d. To bring about 4 ... Bh3, the c8-h3 diagonal must be clear. This meant that the Black Queen could not be at d7, meaning Black’s third move was either 3 ... Qc6 or 3 ... Qb5.

“e. As between 3 ... Qc6 or 3 ... Qb5, I felt that playing the former was more likely, for two reasons. One, it would be out of reach of any of my pawns; Black’s assessment that I might play 3 a4 or 3 c4 could not be faulted. Two, if the Black Queen at c6 were taken by one of my chessmen, Black could at least recapture without difficulty.

#### Assessment of Opponent From Analyses

“At this point, with the above analysis, I had to downgrade my opponent at least three notches. One, for not playing 3 ... Qd8, 3 ... Qd7, or 3 ... Qe6, thereby exposing the Black King to a possible mate. But that would be fatal only in another scenario, so let’s not pursue that here. Two, for not testing with 3 ... Qh1, to see whether I had pushed my g-pawn to g3, before landing his Bishop at h3. Incidentally, had I played g3 on either my third or fourth move, 4 ... Qh1 would be playable, and my Rook on h1 would be gone.

“My adversary’s third miscalculation was to assume that I would be keen to capture his Bishop sitting at h3, and further assumed that I would use my g-pawn for this chore, 5 gh, thus vacating the g2 square for the Black Queen to march down to grab my Rook.

“As we can see from the slide [Diagram 4 on page 29, adding a Black Bishop at h3, not shown], were I inclined to capture that Bishop, instead of using the g-pawn, I could call on my Knight to do this chore, so that the g2 square need not be vacated. In a way, my opponent had underestimated me. And I had to teach him a lesson he would not soon forget.

#### Making a Smart Move

“Of course, I had no intention of capturing that Bishop. But, having asked ‘Any?’ and having received ‘Try’ as my response, I



had to make a pawn-capture attempt to meet the requirement. This requirement I met by playing 5 Pb2-a3, knowing fully well that the a3 square was unoccupied and that the attempted move would not be playable. Sure enough, the referee gave me a resounding 'No' to this attempt.

"With this obligation out of the way, I then uncorked a smart move, 5 Nb5. Let me show you this move in our next slide [Diagram 5].

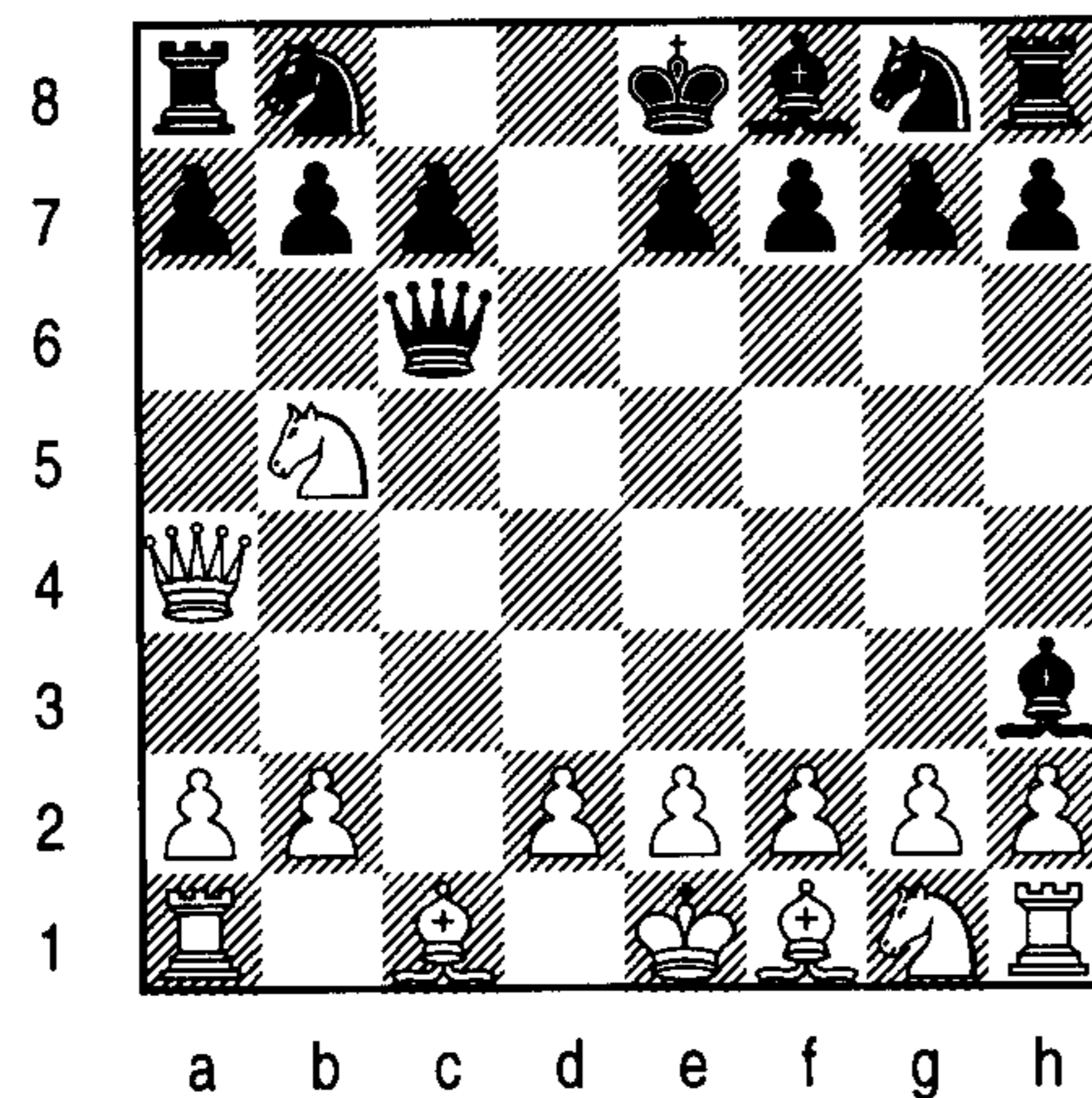


Diagram 5

Case 1

Position after 5 Nb5  
(Showing all White chessmen and  
all Black chessmen known to White)

"Now, you might ask, 'Since you have placed the Black Queen at c6 and not at b5, why bother to move the Knight to b5? You know you would not get the Queen.'

"Well said. But, the purpose of my move was not to capture the Queen. Of course, if it were indeed there, I would not mind capturing it. My purpose was far more devious. I wonder if any one in this auditorium would care to shed some light on this devious plan?"

Our guest lecturer pauses. Although the auditorium is dark, I can see that no one raises his or her hand for recognition. After a moment of maddening silence, our guest lecturer mercifully continues.

### Expert Thinking Analyzed

"Well, I sensed that my adversary's next move was to take my g-pawn, 5 ... Bg2. After I retaliated with 6 Bg2, he would use the Queen for a recapture, 6 ... Qg2, and continue with 7 ... Qh1 to capture my hopelessly cornered Rook.

"But, as you can see from the slide [Diagram 5 on page 32], the Black Queen at c3 was pinned; it could not be called upon to do the recapturing. When he tried to do this and received a 'No' ruling, it might tip him off of the impending danger and alert him to do some thinking.

"He could conclude that the c6-h1 diagonal was blocked. Or, being a premier-leaguer — and we must still allow him that, despite our having downgraded him by three notches — he could come to the realization that the Queen was pinned and that something needed to be done to remedy the situation.

"Am I making any sense so far?"

Our guest lecturer again stops. I can sense that he is very proud of that move. I can also sense the tension of that contest, with two world-class combatants trying to outwit each other. And, of course, I admire our speaker's ingenious plan to lull his opponent to complacency.

I am really enjoying this. Lectures like this do me a lot of good. They give me a chance to follow the way an expert chess detective thinks.

With no reaction from the audience, our distinguished speaker continues.

### Move to Lull the Opponent

"So, in order not to alert him, in order to give him a false sense of security, I deliberately blocked the a4-e8 diagonal, allowing the

Black Queen at c6 to move out without receiving a 'No' ruling. In other words, I set a trap for him.

"Lo and behold, he fell for it. He played 5 ... Bg2 to capture my g-pawn, just I figured he would. I countered with 6 Bg2, to capture the Bishop and bait Black to recapture with the Queen. Sure enough, the referee then announced that 'Black captures on g2. White to move.' That was an unequivocal confirmation that Black played 6 ... Qg2, and that, before the move, Black Queen was indeed at c6.

### Ready for the Kill

"Now the stage was set for the kill. I announced 'Mate in two,' similar to a police detective's announcing 'Police' before knocking down the suspect's front door for a capture.

"I played 7 Nd6, fully expecting the referee to announce a double check. The position after my seventh move is shown in our next slide [Diagram 6].

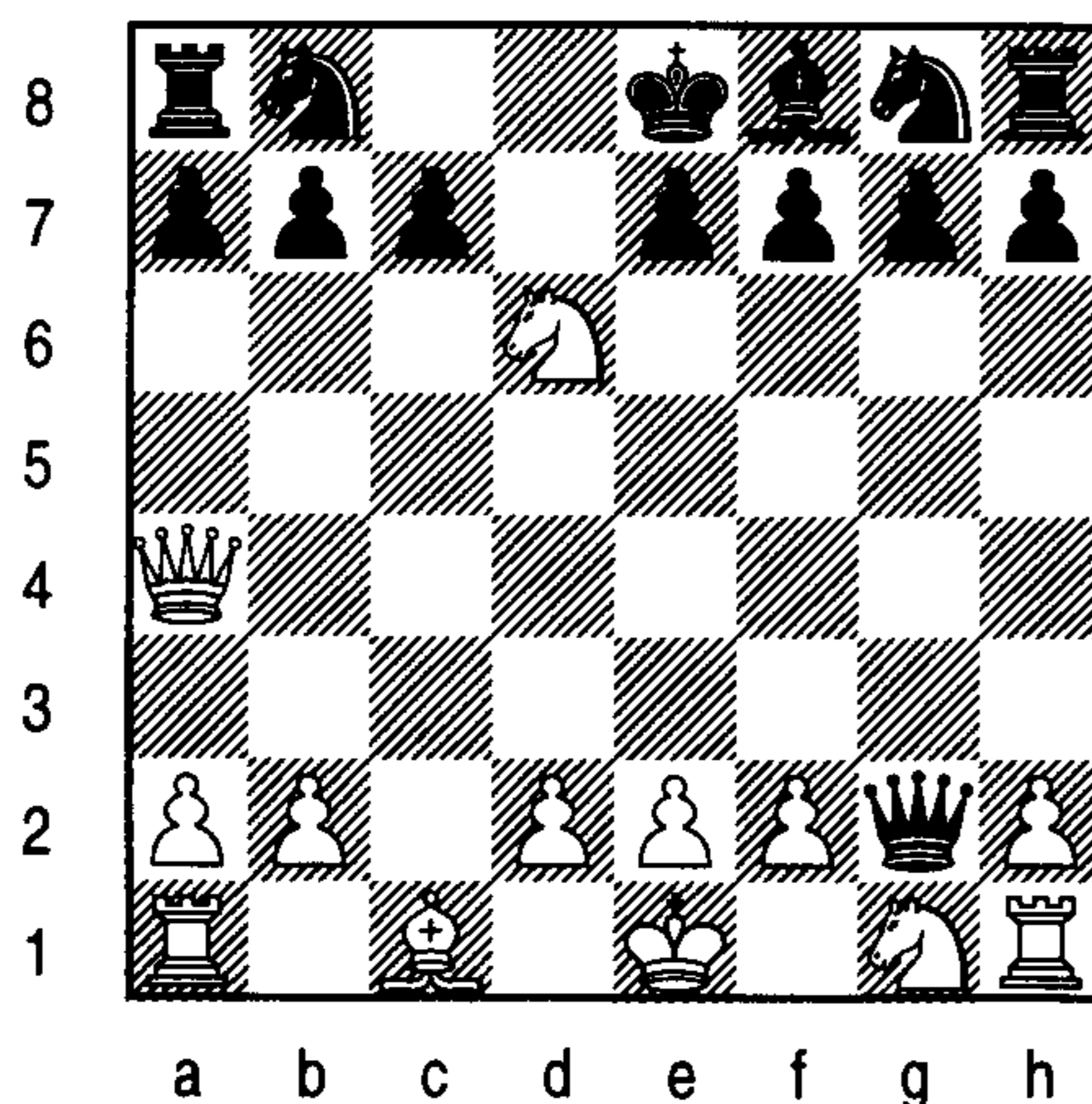


Diagram 6

Case 1

Position after 7 Nd6 dbl. ch.  
(Showing all White chessmen and  
all Black chessmen known to White)

"After the referee's announcement, the poor Black King had only one square to retreat to, 7 ... Kd8. Since everything was breaking the way I expected, I wasted no time and simply played 8 Qe8 for a mate.

### Move-by-Move Score

"Afterward, I filed a report covering this case. Our move-by-move score [Chart 2] was included in that report. Let me use it as a summary. I also have prepared copies for your files."

He flashes another slide while handing out copies made from the slide.

Chart 2  
Moves for Case 1

(Moves played shown boldface;  
unplayable moves attempted shown in parentheses;  
players' queries and the referee's rulings shown  
between quotation marks)

1	<b>c4</b>	<b>d4</b>
2	'Any?' 'Try' <b>cd</b>	<b>Qd5</b>
3	'Any?' 'No' <b>Nc3</b>	<b>Qc6</b>
4	'Any?' 'No' <b>Qa4</b>	'Any?' 'No' <b>Bh3</b>
5	'Any?' 'Try' (Pb2-a3) <b>Nb5</b>	'Any?' 'No' <b>Bg2</b>
6	<b>Bg2</b>	<b>Qg2</b>
7	<b>Nd6</b> dbl. ch.	<b>Kd8</b>
8	<b>Qe8</b> mate	

Thus ends the lecture, amid a round of applause, a genuine appreciation to a first-class job done by a master chess detective, who takes time out from his busy schedule to enlighten us.

I am really motivated by this. Some day, I wish I could I do equally well.

## 5 CHESS DETECTIVE'S GOAL COMPARISON WITH RETROGRADE ANALYSIS

On Day 4, we have a special session for all who participated in the assembly the day before. The session is presided by Chief Inspector Perry, the Dean of the Faculty. The purpose is to go over our distinguished guest speaker's lecture and to answer questions.

### Retrograde Analysis as Chess Detective

As soon as the preliminary is over, an upperclassman raises his hand and asks: "Who are the real chess detectives? Those who work in a Kriegspiel environment? Or those who do retrograde analysis?"

To be quite honest, I have never heard of retrograde analysis before. At any rate, I feel the question is not germane, since the guest speaker never used the term *retrograde analysis* in his presentation.

Of course, I keep my mouth shut — and feel lucky that I do so. Because our Dean responds immediately by praising him. "Timothy, that is a most perceptive question. You have been thinking. Excellent."

Seeing the quizzical expressions on many faces, particularly those belonging to the underclass, the Dean continues. "Timothy, suppose you tell us what you know about Retrograde Analysis first."

### Domain of Retrograde Analysis

"Yes, sir. As I understand it, Retrograde Analysis looks at a given position and tries to establish moves that would lead to that position," says Timothy.

"Excellent, Timothy," the Dean cuts in. "Let's stop right there and ask ourselves some questions. First, Timothy apparently feels that Kriegspiel and Retrograde Analysis are sufficiently similar. In what ways do you think the two are similar?"

### Retropective Analysis Is Done in Kriegspiel

"Well, if Retrograde Analysis tries to deduce earlier moves that would lead to a given position, it seems to me that Kriegspiel does it also." In an attempt to impress the Dean, I venture my two-bits' worth, or, as Londoners would say, my tuppence's worth.

"Carry on."

Apparently, being a member of the underclass, the Dean does not know my name. "Leigh is the name, sir. Our guest speaker said that, when he was ready to make his fifth move, he was able to deduce what Black had played on his third move. ..."

Thomas, a fellow member of the underclass, cuts in. Obviously, impressing the Dean is everybody's aim. "Not quite. White was reasonably sure, but not absolutely sure, about what Black had played as his third move. Black could have played 3 ... Qb5 rather than 3 ... Qc6, his actual move." Thomas speaks slowly, making sure that the words *reasonably* and *absolutely* are properly emphasized.

"That's quite true. But, after Black made his sixth move, 6 ... Qg2, White was absolutely sure what Black's third move was," I have to defend myself.

"Quite so, Leigh," the Dean says. Hey, I'm making an impression. Smashing!

### Retropective Analysis Versus Retrograde Analysis

"White did indeed make a retropective analysis to pinpoint Black's moves. But, does that make retropective analysis in Kriegspiel the same as that in Retrograde Analysis?" The Dean asks another question.

With no takers, the Dean continues. "Let me rephrase the question. What is the object of Retrograde Analysis? Timothy, I'm afraid I have to call on you again to answer it for us."

### **Purpose of Retrograde Analysis**

"I'm happy to do so, sir. The object of Retrograde Analysis is to find out what moves have been made that would lead to the position at hand," Timothy answers.

"And then?" the Dean pumps.

"That's it. The job is done," Timothy says, shrugging his shoulders for emphasis.

"What do you mean 'That's it'? Is looking at the past the sole purpose of Retrograde Analysis? I don't get it." I am surprised at myself that I open my big mouth again. Perhaps my eagerness to learn more about Retrograde Analysis prompts me to ask. I hope I don't make a fool of myself.

"By 'That's it,' I mean literally that. The object of Retrograde Analysis is accomplished. Once one can figure out what moves led to the position at hand, that is Q.E.D. in Retrograde Analysis." Timothy looks at me piercingly, perhaps angry at my drilling him.

### **Finding Out "What Happened?" Is Object of Retrograde Analysis**

"To me, that is like doing an autopsy," Jonathan, who broke the ice on Day 1, cuts in.

The Dean suddenly becomes very interested. "In what way, Jonathan?" Funny, how come the Dean knows Jonathan's name and not mine?

"Well, the object of an autopsy is to find out the cause of a person's death. A medical examiner performs an autopsy to establish how a person was killed, and gives an approximate time of that dreadful event. That sort of thing."

"And then?" the Dean queries.

"That's it. That's the object of the exercise."

"The culprit can be at large," the Dean is leading him.

"Most likely."

"And you are telling me 'That's it.' You don't want to do anything else?"

"Well, that's the object of an autopsy. That's the role of the medical examiner. Apprehending the culprit is looking at the future. It is beyond the scope of the medical examiner's expertise or role. That job belongs to the police, to the detectives."

"There, I think we have it," the Dean exclaims. "The analogy is apt. Elizabeth, suppose you tell us how you see the similarities and differences between Kriegspiel and Retrograde Analysis."

I am glad that I am spared this agony. It is fair that the Dean asks an upperclassman to do the summary for the group.

### **Finding Out "What Happened" Is Background Information in Kriegspiel**

"Yes, sir. The analogy is indeed apt. It seems to me that Retrograde Analysis to Kriegspiel is like autopsy to police work," Elizabeth speaks, slowly, as if trying to gather her thoughts.

"Autopsy is static, so is Retrograde Analysis. The time dimension is frozen. One looks at a scene frozen by time, tries to find out 'What happened?' as an end in itself, and declares mission accomplished when an incident responsible for 'What happened?' is identified.

"On the other hand, police work is dynamic, so is Kriegspiel. The time dimension is real. One looks at a scene that changes from move to move, uses 'What happened?' only as background information, and declares mission accomplished only when the man we are after is in custody.

### **Retrospective Analysis Is Routine in Kriegspiel**

"I think the most important difference is that retrospective analysis is the sum total of Retrograde Analysis but is only one of the routine techniques in Kriegspiel.

"In police work and in Kriegspiel, if our job — apprehending our adversary — can benefit from a retrospective analysis, we do

it. If we do it, we do it routinely and unassumingly. We do it without even thinking that we are doing it.” Elizabeth stops momentarily to look at the Dean, as if to seek his assurance.

“Elizabeth, you are doing splendidly. Carry on, perhaps with an illustration or two?” the Dean senses that and offers a suggestion.

“Yes, sir. For example, in the case our guest speaker presented yesterday, yes, indeed, he did a retrospective analysis.” She stops momentarily to look at me. Thanks for the support, I say to myself as she continues.

“Before Move 5, our guest speaker was reasonably sure what moves Black had made; after Move 6, he was absolutely sure. But, this knowledge was incidental to his task. He was not even thinking that he was doing retrospective analysis. All he was interested in was to find out how Black’s forces were deployed.

“Having found where Black’s forces were, it was a simple matter for our guest speaker to deduce Black’s weaknesses. Using retrospective analysis as background information, our guest speaker confidently charged in and captured his man. If other techniques were more appropriate at that point, he probably would have employed them instead.

### **Kriegspiel Is Real Chess Detective**

“That, to me, is real detective work. Dynamic, real-time, ever changing, ever challenging, ever on the alert, ever ready to battle wits. That’s what detective work is all about. That’s what Kriegspiel is all about.” Elizabeth now speaks with some emotions. I am really taken by the way she presents herself. The first-class training she is receiving from the Academy is showing through and through.

The bell rings. Hearing this, Elizabeth looks at the Dean, who smiles at her as if to ask her to conclude. She does.

“Elizabeth, well done,” the Dean says. “That’s enough for the day. Class dismissed.”

Thanks to Elizabeth, we have some unexpected free time on our hands. Time to review my notes to make sure that I can decipher them for future reference.

## **6 FOLLOWING LOCAL REGULATIONS OF GATHERING EVIDENCE: FAIR PLAY**

Yesterday’s assembly, with upperclassmen, apparently went well as our instructor seems pleased. “Now that we are in our little cozy group, do you have questions on our guest lecturer’s presentation earlier this week?”

Chris speaks up. “When you lectured on the purpose and mechanics of evidence gathering, you mentioned that you would review them with us, perhaps in the context of actual cases. Now that we have heard our brilliant guest lecturer, I feel that I need clarification on several points. I’m particularly troubled by querying the referee with ‘Any?’ May I request that this be reviewed first?”

I concur with Chris’s suggestion, as I also have problems with ‘Any?,’ among other rules. This is indeed a good place to begin.

### **Querying the Referee With “Any?”**

“I’m glad you are raising the question, Chris,” the instructor responds. “Querying the referee with ‘Any?’ is indeed a most difficult and pervasive subject. We might as well tackle it right now.

“First, let us ask ourselves: Why do we allow the two combatants to ask ‘Any?’”

“To save time,” a classmate answers.

“Quite so, but there is a conceptual reason as well,” the instructor hints.

### Asking “Any” Is Akin to Seeking Warrant to Search a House

With no takers, the instructor continues. “Asking ‘Any?’ is akin to seeking a warrant from a judge to search a house. You may search a house only when you have been granted a warrant; you may not if you haven’t.” The instructor speaks at a measured pace, putting emphasis on the word *only*.

“On that basis, without a ‘Try’ from the referee, a player is prevented from moving any of his pawns diagonally. Conversely, since there is no penalty for asking ‘Any?’, many players simply ask this question before every move. ...” He continues.

“Does a first-class player do that?” asks a classmate.

“I’m afraid so. Indeed, this happened in the case used by our guest lecturer. Let me show you the position before he was to make his third move [Diagram 7].”

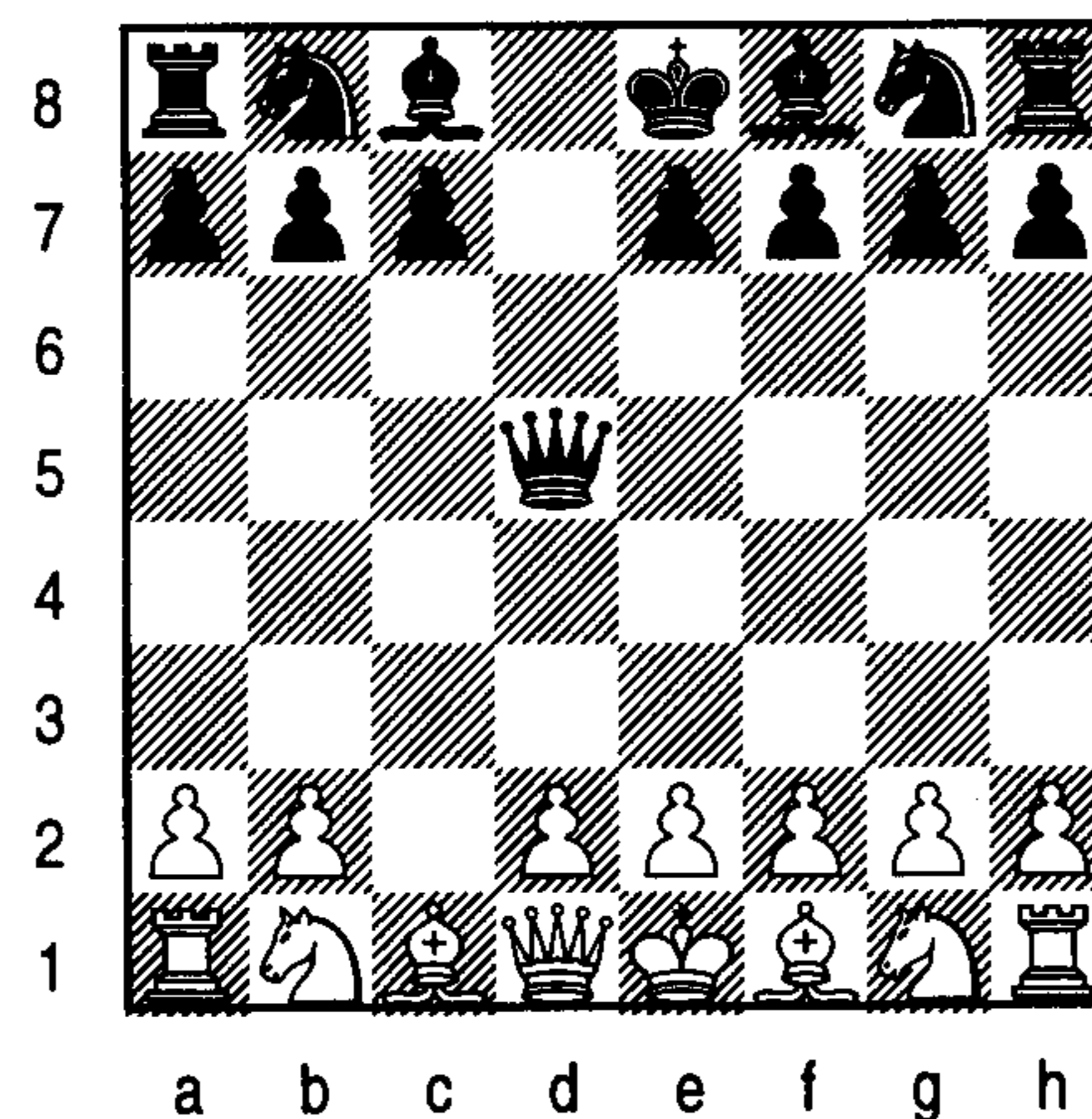


Diagram 7

Case 1

Position before White's third move  
(Showing all White chessmen and  
all Black chessmen known to White)

### Asking “Any?” Routinely

“At that point, White was absolutely positive of the board position. Does White have any pawn-capture opportunities?”

Without waiting for an answer, the instructor continues. “Clearly, the answer is ‘No.’ But, our guest lecturer nevertheless asked ‘Any?’ Of course, he phrased it very delicately: ‘With a ‘No’ response to my routine query of ‘Any?’ I played such and such as a temporizing move.’ In other words, he asked ‘Any?’ simply out of habit. Without any sinister intentions.”

“Do you accept that?” someone asks.

“Well, since this query did no harm — since Black also knew reasonably well what was going on — we simply have to take our guest lecturer’s word that he did it out of habit, without any ulterior motives.

“Let me move on to where our guest lecturer was making his fifth move. At that point, he again asked ‘Any?’ and received ‘Try’ from the referee. The game was at a crucial point [Diagram 8].”

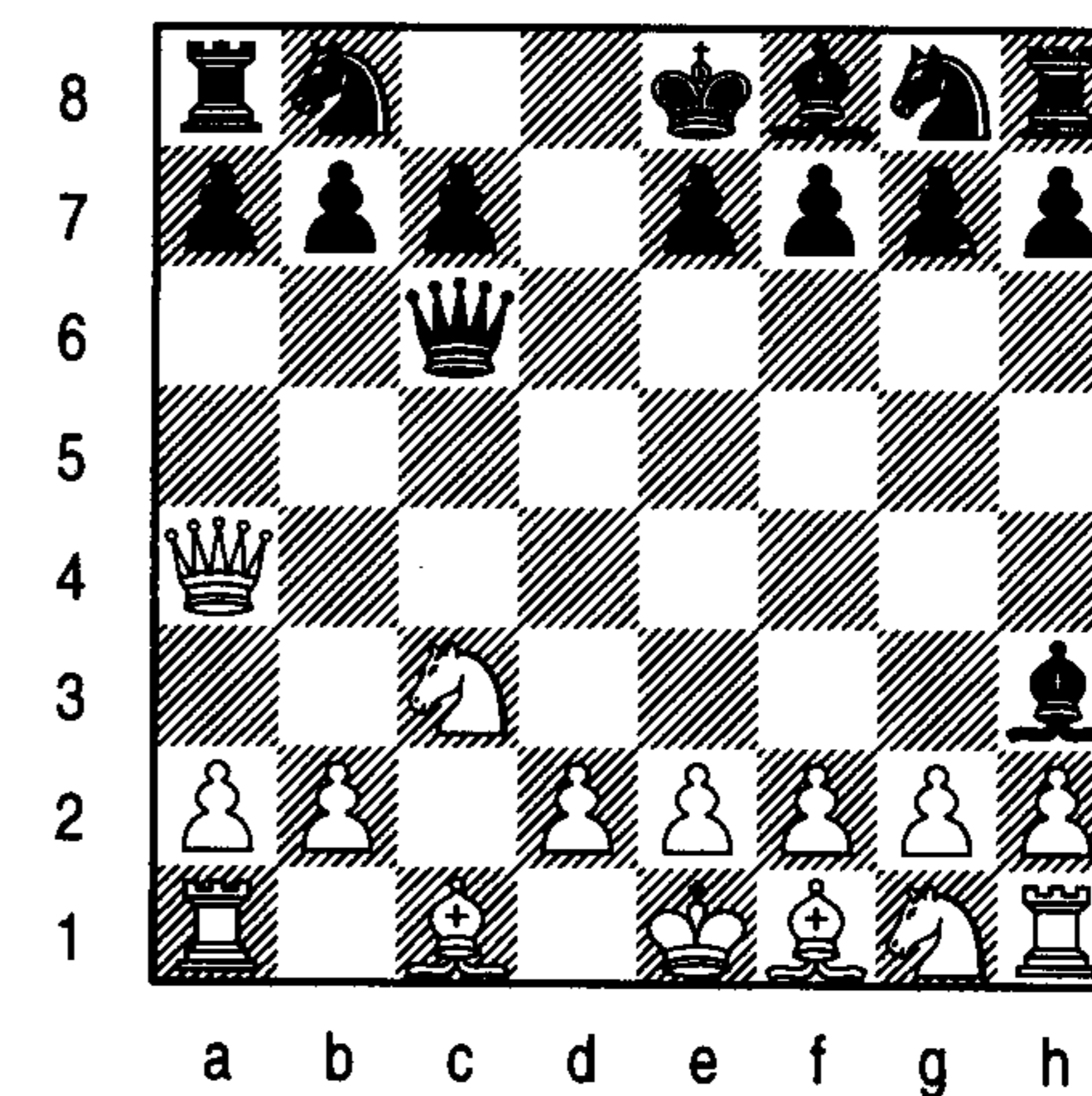


Diagram 8

Case 1

Position before White's fifth move,  
after receiving a ‘try’ response  
(Showing all White chessmen and  
all Black chessmen known to White)

### **Making a Pawn-Capture Attempt Known to Be Impossible**

“Now, having received a ‘Try’ ruling, our guest lecturer had to move one of his pawns diagonally forward for at least one pawn-capture attempt. So, do you recall what he did?”

“He attempted by moving his b-pawn to a3,” another class member responds.

“Exactly. This drew a ‘No’ ruling from the referee. And then what?”

“He abandoned making further pawn-capture attempts and proceeded with a brilliant 5 Nb5 move.”

“Precisely. And that fifth move is indeed brilliant. But, can you fathom why he tested with his b-pawn? And, is that a fair test?”

Perhaps to keep the momentum going, our instructor waits for no answers but simply continues.

“His fifth move is critical; he had no time to waste. He really did not want to capture any Black chessman at that point — he had a grander design, to march in and apprehend the Black King. Indeed, were he to capture a Black chessman with 5 Pb2-a3 — that is to say, were 5 ba playable — it would have to stand, thus spoiling his chance of playing 5 Nb5 and being brilliant. Does that make sense?”

Our instructor again stops, making sure we get the point.

### **Two Misuses of “Any?”**

“So, querying with ‘Any?’ may produce two types of misuses. One, asking the question when none should be asked. Two, making a perfunctory pawn-capture attempt when a player is obligated to make at least one such attempt.”

“It seems that allowing a player to ask ‘Any?’ has more disadvantages than advantages,” comments a class member.

“You are probably right, but many, if not most, would disagree with you.”

### **Changing Asking “Any?”**

“Have anyone attempted to change this practice?” another class member asks.

“Not in this country.”

“Has this practice been changed in other countries?”

“I know our American friends have made some changes,” our instructor says, glancing at me and a few others.

“How have they changed it?”

“Let me answer this question later — we don’t want to confuse you unnecessarily. The subject matter is difficult enough as is,” he says, apologetically.

### **Chess Detective Work Conforms to Local Regulations**

“Let me conclude today’s session by making two points.

“One, chess detective work must conform to local regulations. This is London. We are the Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard. Our cases must be handled under Scotland Yard regulations, whether we like them or not.

“On the other hand, for those of you who will be returning to America or who plan to practice international chess detective consultancy work on both shores of the Atlantic, we’ll hold a special session on the eve of your graduation. We’ll introduce local regulations applicable to the United States at that time.”

So saying, he dismisses the class.

**7 RESPECT YOUR ADVERSARY: MEASURES AND COUNTERMEASURES**

“We had two good sessions in a row,” the instructor begins, happily. “Day before yesterday, we tackled jurisdictional disputes, on whether Kriegspiel or retrograde analysis may claim as true chess detectives. Yesterday, using our guest lecturer’s case, we talked about technical and ethical aspects of evidence gathering. Today, let’s tackle our guest lecturer’s strategy and tactics in handling the case he presented.”

Edward speaks up. “As I recall, our guest lecturer said that, at the beginning of a match, we should respect our adversary, and consider him at least our equal in terms of ability and resourcefulness. ...”

“Do you have any problem with that?”

“No. No, sir. I think that is excellent advice. ...”

**Never Underestimate Our Adversary**

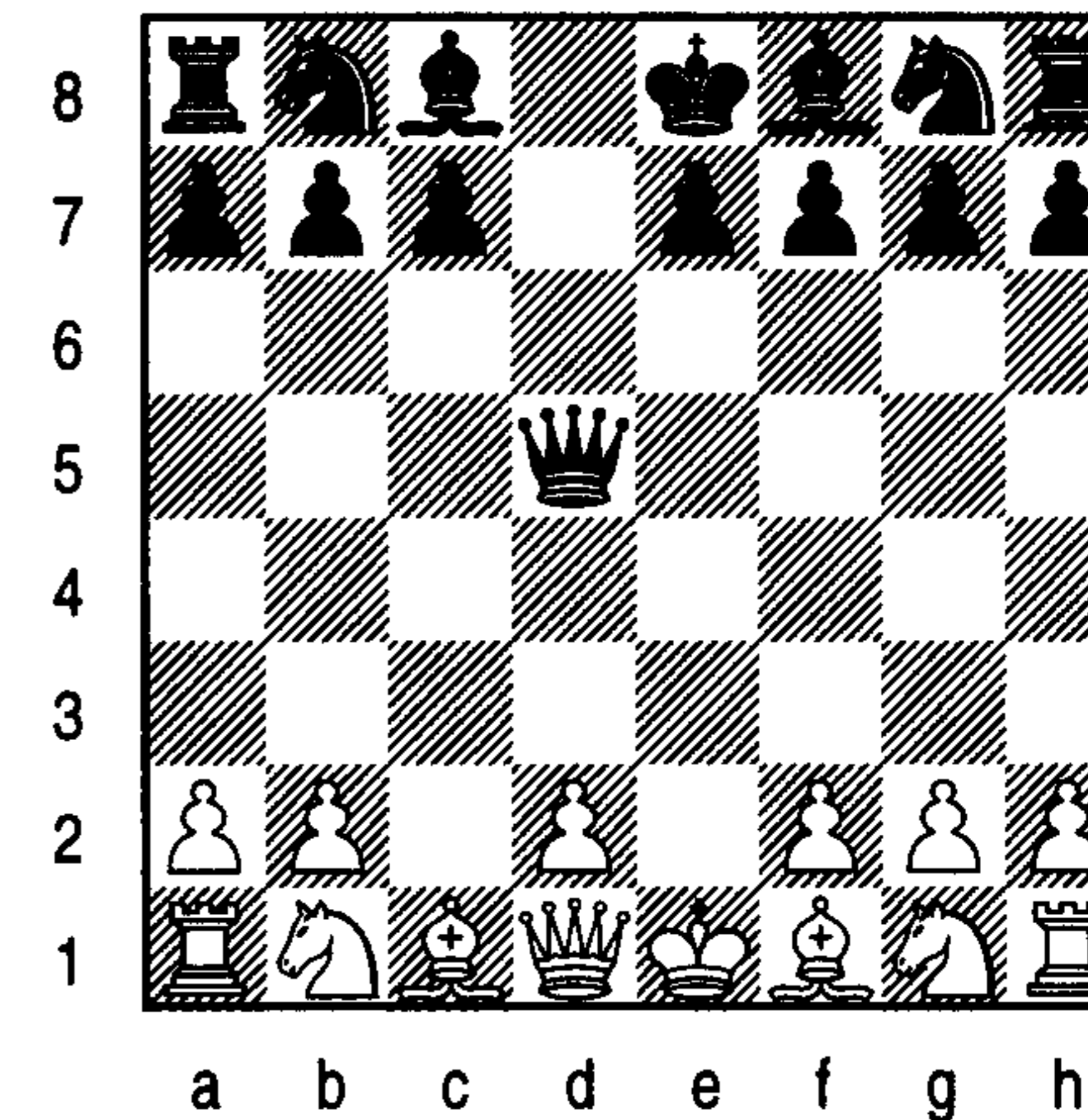
“Indeed it is. We should never underestimate our adversary’s resourcefulness, particularly when he is cornered,” the instructor cuts in to make a point, obviously important. “Now, Edward, what is your question?”

“Sir, my question is this. After three move, our guest lecturer stated that he downgraded his adversary three notches, to that of a third-rate burglar. I could not follow his logic. Would you elaborate on his reasoning?”

“Well, in my view, our guest lecturer was kind in his assessment of the adversary in the case he presented. Would you believe that, with but one minor change in scenario, he could have nabbed his adversary’s King by the fourth move?”

“By White’s fourth move?” we seem to ask in unison.

“Precisely. Let me first re-create the board, this time from Black’s perspective, after he made his second move. [Diagram 9].”



**Diagram 9**

Case 2

Position after 2 ... Qd5  
from Black’s perspective  
(Showing all Black chessmen;  
as to White chessmen, either the  
c-pawn or e-pawn is to be added back)

“Now, from the Black’s perceptive, he had no idea whether White used his e-pawn or c-pawn to capture Black’s d-pawn at d5. This lack of definitiveness is the reason why our guest lecturer said that, after only two moves, Black was already behind.

“But, more importantly, had White used his e-pawn in Move 1, he could have a mating move after Black played 3 ... Qc6. Does any one see that mating move?”

**White Mates in Four Moves**

With no volunteers, our instructor speaks again. “Let’s make our job easier. Let’s remove White’s e-pawn from the diagram and



see whether you can find a move for White, his third move, that could result in a mate by Move 4.”

“Well, I suppose White may try 3 Qg4.” You can always count on Jonathan to be the first one to see the point.

“Excellent. What then?”

“With Black’s playing 3 Qc6, 4 Qc8 would be a mating move.”

“Precisely. Well done. With this scenario, Black’s playing 3 ... Qc6 would be fatal. The game would be over in four moves. Let me illustrate [Diagram 10].”

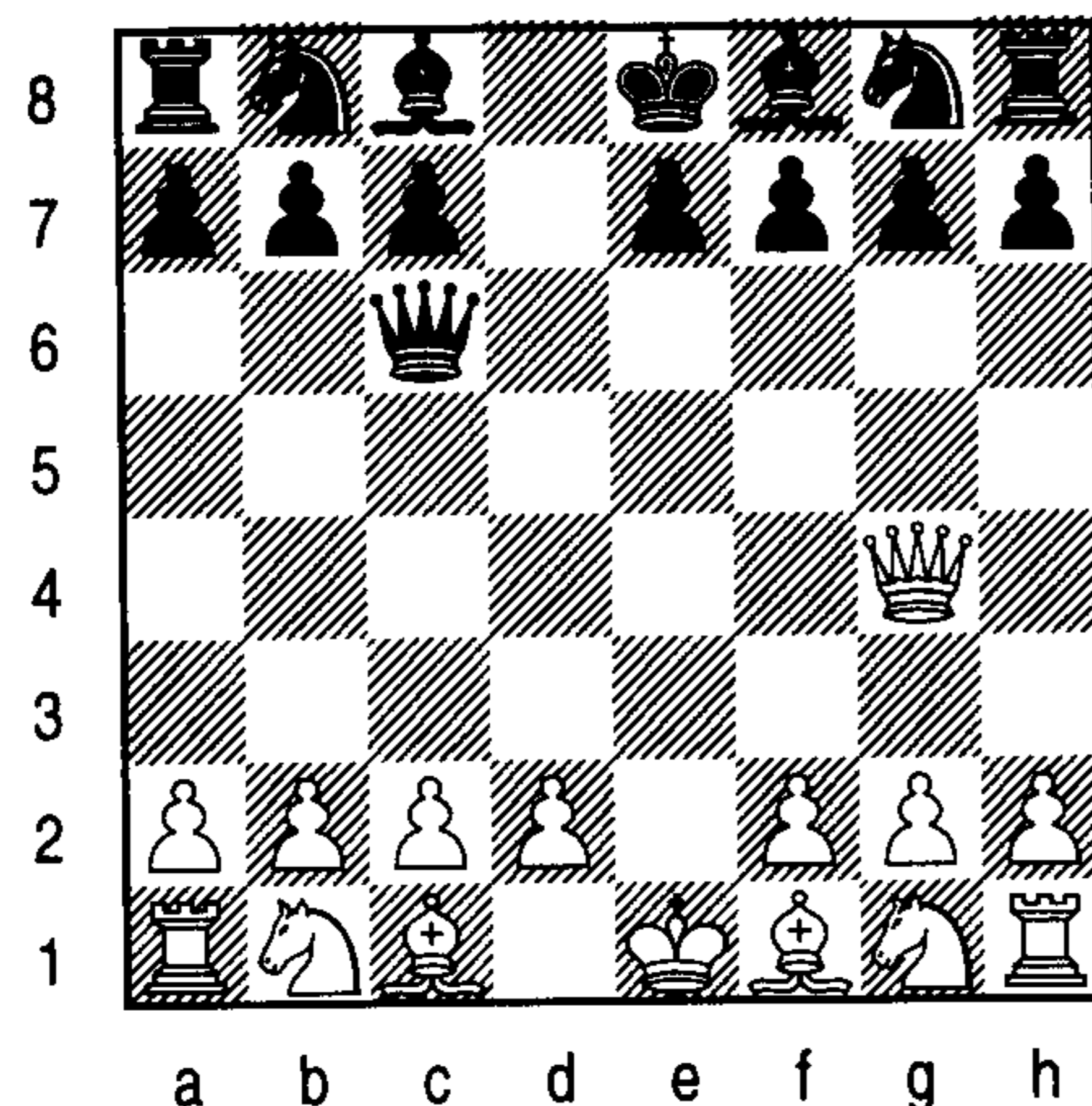


Diagram 10

Case 2

Position after 3 ... Qc6  
(Assuming 1 e4 d5, 2 ed Qd5, and 3 Qg4,  
with 4 Qc8 mate to follow)

“But, no one would be stupid enough to play 3 Qg4, since Black could have played 3 ... Bg4 and captured the White Queen.” I open my big mouth again.

“You are absolutely right — *if* you can see the board, *if* you know with certainty what your opponent is doing. Here, playing

under conditions of uncertainty, neither White nor Black is blessed with this information. ...”

“So?” someone interrupts our instructor; not I.

### Black’s Defensive Measures

“So, Black must protect himself from this contingency, from White’s playing 1 e4, 2 ed, and 3 Qg4. By ‘protecting himself,’ I don’t mean making a speculative move such as 3 ... Bg4, but a more thoughtful move. ...”

“Sir, it seems to me that Black is already in a terrible bind. For his third move, he must relocate the Queen, to guard against White’s playing 3 Nc3. He must also protect the King, for fear of White’s playing 3 Qg4 followed by 4 Qc1 mate. On top of both, he must also protect against White’s actual third move, namely, 3 Qa4 check. It is really too much to expect Black to guard against all these three scenarios.” I venture another two-bits’ worth of comment.

“You are right in your analysis, Leigh, but too hasty in your conclusion. Think again.”

Well, I certainly deserve that put down. Before I can think a way out, our instructor speaks again. “Actually, the three scenarios cited by Leigh are *not* mutually exclusive. Black must concern himself with guarding all three.”

“In scenario 1, to move the Queen as well as to take care of the King in one move, Black probably should play 3 ... Qd7 or 3 ... Qd8.” Good old Jonathan again comes to my rescue.

“Correct, Jonathan.”

“Playing 3 ... Qd7 would also block the a4-e8 diagonal, should White play 1 c4 and follow it with 2 cd and 3 Qa4, as in actual play.”

### Black’s Countermeasures

“Well done, Jonathan. Let’s revert to our initial scenario, with White’s first two moves being 1 e4 and 2 ed. Must Black recapture the pawn and risk being checkmated two moves later?”

“To be mischievous, Black probably should forsake recaptur-

ing the pawn but aim at causing White some embarrassment,” says Chris.

“You are in the right track. Carry on,” the instructor encourages.

“Black could play 2 ... Bg4, and follow through with 3 ... Bd1 to grab the White Queen.”

“Well done, Chris. Good thinking. However, there is a minor flaw. Does anyone see it?”

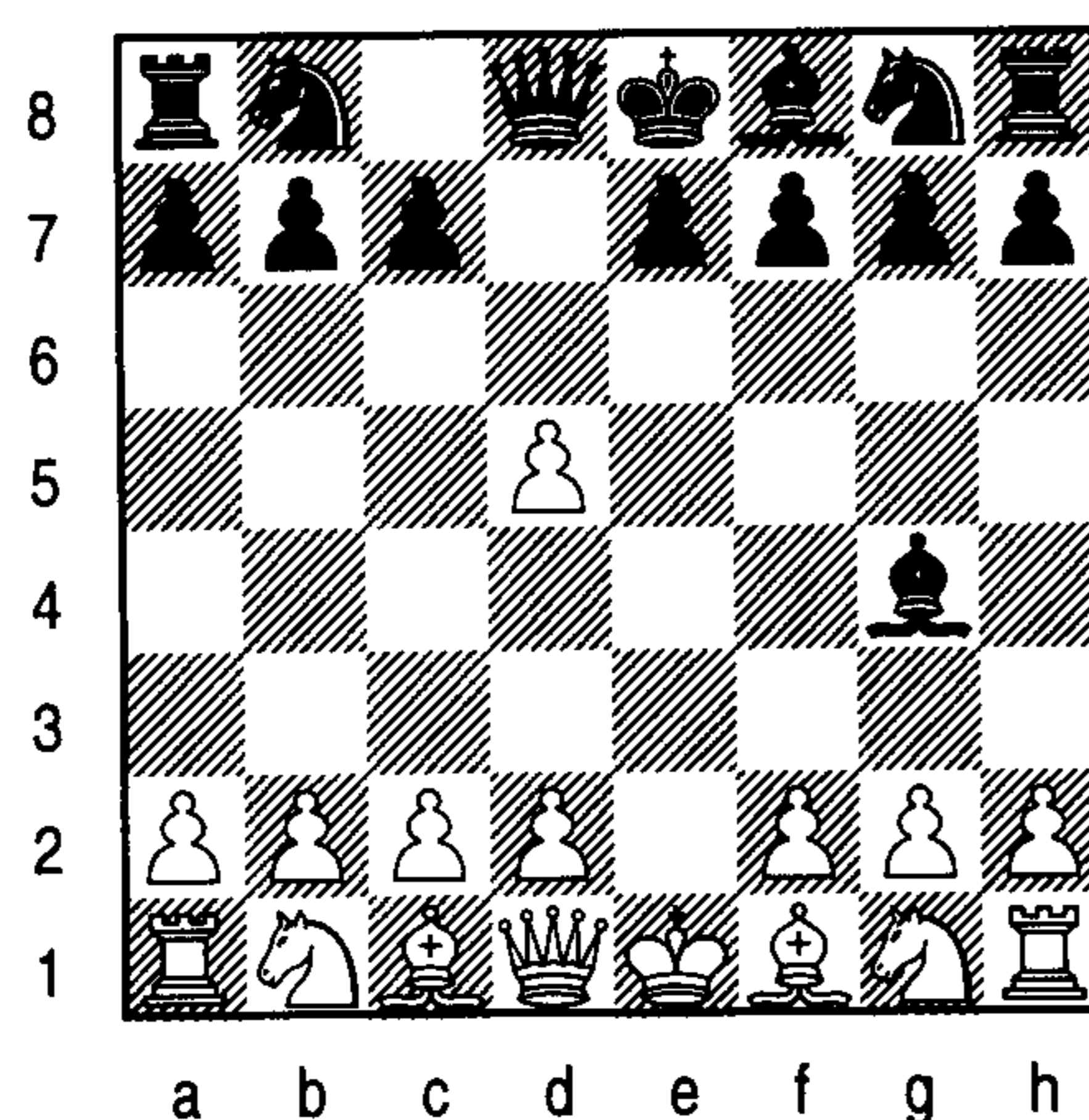


Diagram 11

### Case 3

Position after Black's second move  
(Black's second move, unknown to White,  
is shown as 2 ... Bg4 in the diagram)

Task: White to move, aimed at finding out  
whether 2 ... Bg4 was played

“The fact that Black did not recapture the pawn should tip White off,” ventures Thomas.

“True. But all White knows is that Black has chosen not to recapture and elected to play something else. How would White know whether Black's second move is indeed 2 ... Bg4 and proceed to protect himself from embarrassment?”

### White's Protective Measures

“White probably should play 3 f3, moving his f-pawn up to cover the d1-h5 diagonal and shield his Queen,” I suddenly have a flash of insight.

“True enough. But why waste a move unless Black's second move is indeed 2 ... Bg4.”

“There is no way to find this out,” I protest.

“Yes, there is,” the instructor says, mysteriously.

“Perhaps White could play 3 Pg2-g4?” Jennifer observes.

“But the g4 square might already be occupied. How could White play his pawn there?” I snicker.

“Well, White really doesn't know that. Doesn't he?” Jennifer counters.

“So?” I feel defiant.

“So, why not find out?”

“How?” I persist.

“Well, if the g4 square were indeed occupied, playing our pawn from g2 to g4 would cause the referee to give us a 'No' ruling. So, upon hearing a 'No' ruling from the referee, we may deduce that Black has indeed played 2 ... Bg4, since, two moves into the game, only that move is possible. ...”

“And then?” I begin to sound like a pest.

“Then White simply plays 3 Qg4 to capture the enterprising Bishop.”

“Well done, Jennifer. That, indeed, is a proper use of pawns to gather information.”

### When a Protective Measure Is Playable

“But if the g4 square is vacant?” I am not yet ready to concede.

“So the move, 3 g4, stands. That's no big deal; that's not a bad move at all.” Jonathan cuts in. Hey, the whole class is against me. I'd better shut up, and put my mind, rather than my big mouth, to work.

“Precisely. So, ladies and gentlemen, you see how devious this cat-and-mouse game can be. You must be careful and, above all, protect yourself from being humiliated or, even worse, from being eliminated from the contest. ...”

“That sounds serious,” Jonathan observes.

“Chess detective work is serious business, Jonathan,” the instructor replies, drily. He continues.

“But, of course, in the game our guest lecturer presented, neither he nor his adversary indulged in this type of trickery. Can anyone hazard a guess as to why not?”

“Perhaps they had too much respect for each other.” It’s Jonathan again.

“Precisely. This type of trickery is the third-rate burglary our guest lecturer so delicately put it. ...”

### When an Exploratory Move Goes Astray

“Sir, is it conceivable that, in the case presented by our guest lecturer, Black’s fourth move, 4 ... Bh3, is intended to catch White off guard?” I feel that I must play the devil’s advocate to extricate myself.

“You have a point, Leigh. Carry on.”

“Well, it seems to me that that is no really good reason for Black to land his Bishop at h3 so early in the game. Then the thought occurred to me that, perhaps, Black is trying to find out whether the g4 square is occupied. So, he played 4 ... Bh3 to test. ...” I feel the moment of glory is at hand.

“If this were his intention, wouldn’t Black have played 4 ... Bg4 instead?” Jonathan seems intent on spoiling my fun. His comment catches me off base.

### Techniques of Making an Exploratory Move

“Let me cut in and call time out,” the instructor comes to my rescue. “What Leigh just said, unbeknown to him, is indeed good technique. You want to find out whether a square is occupied, but you reserve judgment as to what you plan to do if it were. So, you

deliberately overshoot the target by one square. Here, Black wanted to test whether the g4 square was occupied, so he tested it by playing 4 ... Bh3 — h3 being one square beyond g4.

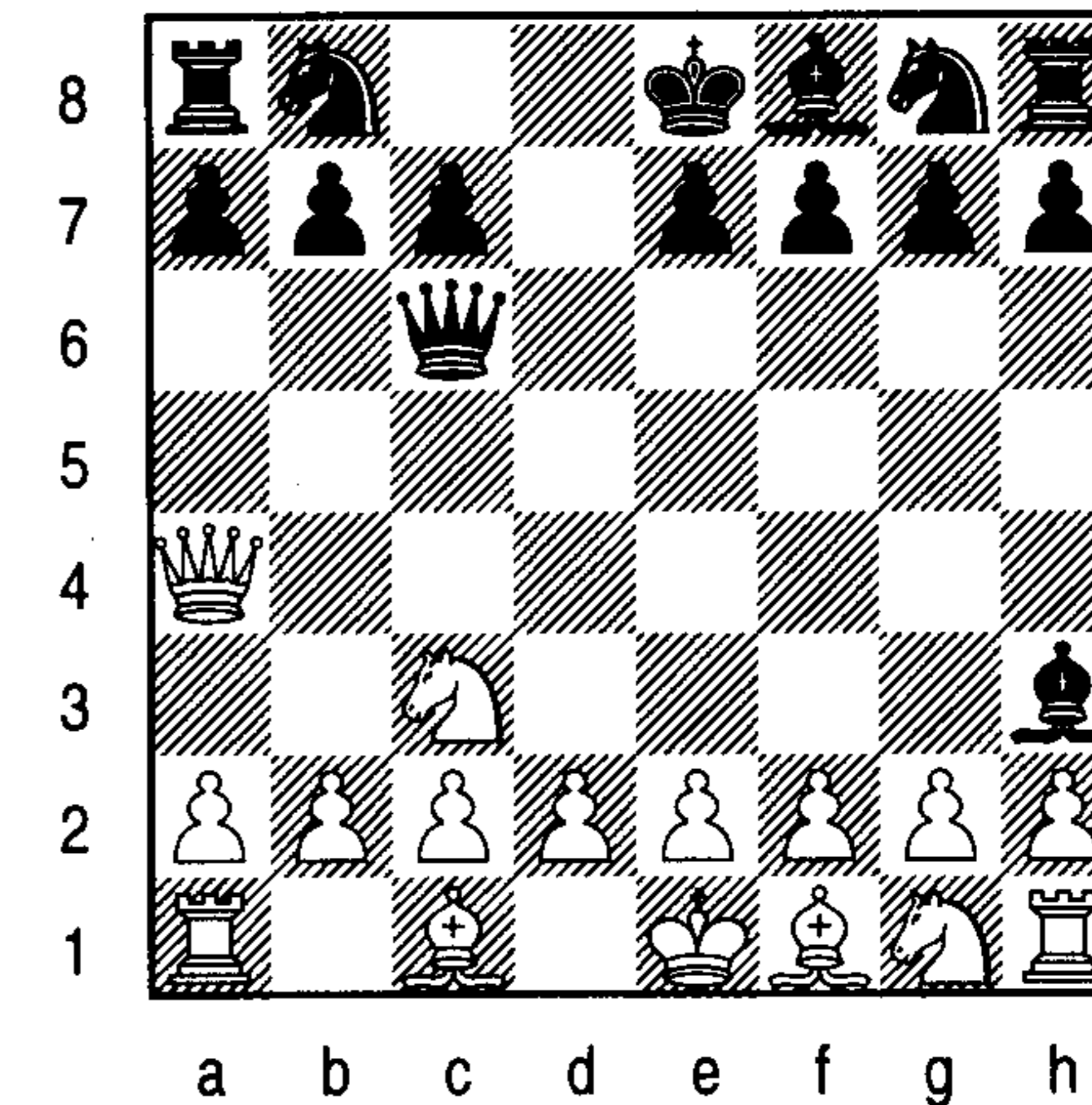


Diagram 12

Case 1

Position after 4 ... Bh3

“So, in that context, our guest lecturer’s adversary was not as stupid as we have made him. He was actually planning to do something mischievous to humiliate the best chess detective in the country. ...”

“He was merely unlucky,” I feel defending the rascal.

### Luck Plays a Part in Chess Detective Work

“Precisely, unlucky. Still, the bottom line was that the highly touted adversary was made to look foolish. This brings me to another point we need to cover: in chess detective work, luck plays a part. If you are lucky, a mundane move might appear ingenious. On the other hand, a first-class move, when played in the context of an unlucky scenario, might look foolish.

“Here, we’ll never know whether this world-class adversary was merely unlucky or simply overmatched. All we know is that our world-class master detective nabbed him in record time.” The instructor is indeed pleased at the way the class is moving. After a pause, he continues.

### **Theory Portion of Training Ends**

“This concludes the theory part of your training. Beginning next week, you’ll tackle some actual cases with you in the midst of them.

“Good luck.” So saying, he departs.

Hey, I’m beginning to enjoy myself. Chess detective work is indeed fun, particularly when you are on top of your adversary. Indeed, I feel I’m on top of the world.

## **PART II**

### **LIFE AS A**

## **CHESS DETECTIVE IN ACTION**

## 8 CLUES: BASIS FOR HOT PURSUIT - CHECKS AND COUNTERCHECKS

“Welcome to the Premier Chess Detective Training Course, ladies and gentlemen,” our new instructor begins, promptly at the hour.

“In this segment of your training, you will be exposed to a variety of situations, where you are brought in during the latter part of an on-going investigation. Your task is to nab your man the soonest. For each case, a par is set for you. If you can accomplish your task at or below the par set, you have earned a score of ‘honor.’ If you are able to accomplish your task, but at slightly above par, your score is a ‘pass.’ If, however, you are unable to accomplish your task, if you let your adversary get away, you have, of course, failed.

“My name is Whittington. Captain Whittington.” He stops and surveys the class. He is all business.

### Nabbing Your Man Is Expected

“On many occasions, when you are given a case that has been well handled since the beginning, you find yourself having many advantages vis-a-vis your adversary. Advantage in manpower. Advantage in information. And, quite likely, advantage in experience as well. When you have all three advantages, nabbing your man in one or two rounds of contact is fully expected of you. Under these circumstances, it would be unthinkable that you would, or could, botch the job. Needless to say, the academy will look dimly on you if you botch more than one easy job during your stay here.

“In other words, with two botched jobs, you are invited to leave the academy. You probably have no aptitude to be a chess detective.

“With this preface, let me introduce our first case.” He turns on the projector [Diagram 13].

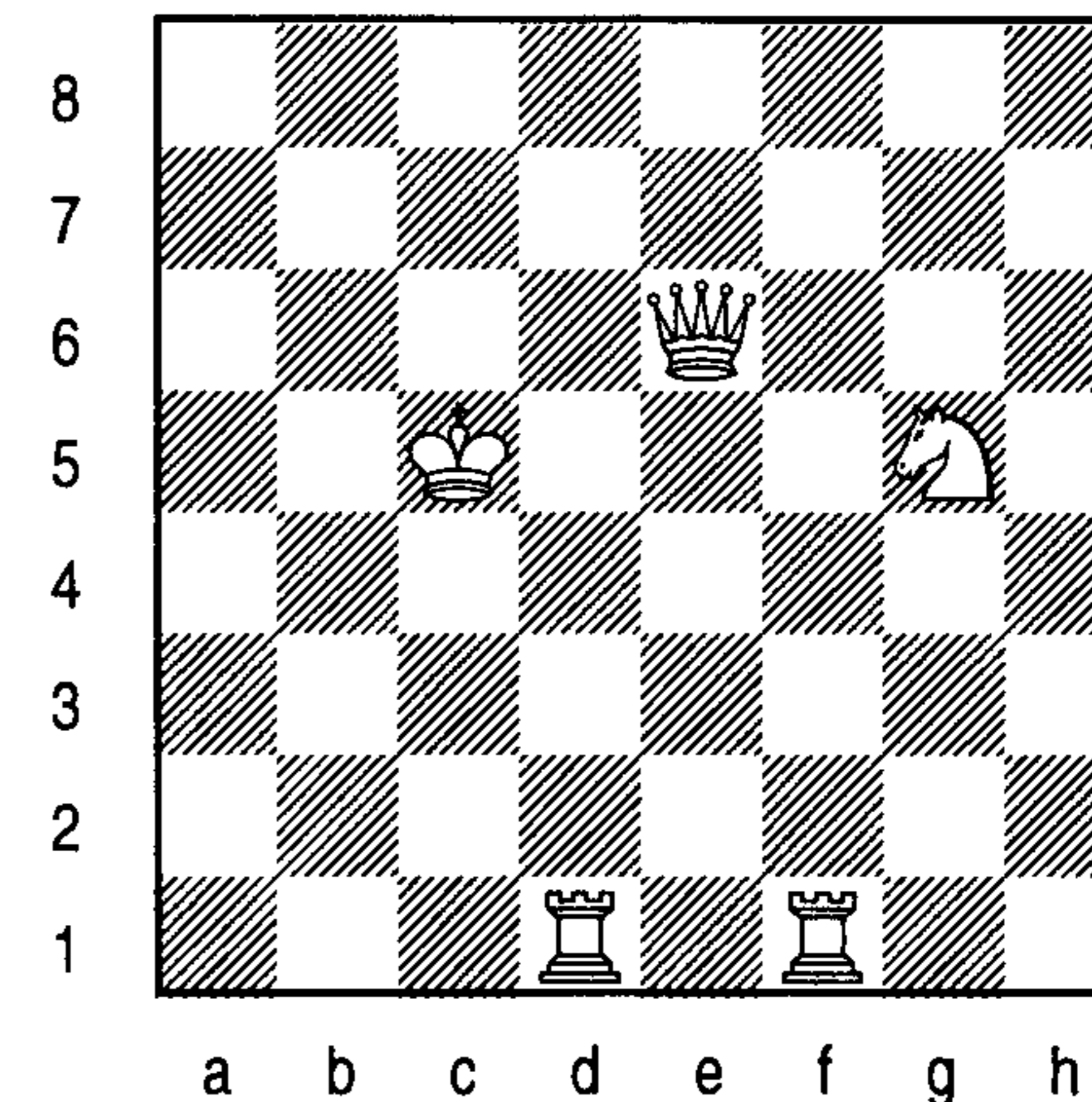


Diagram 13

### Case 4

Scenario: White played Qa2-e6,  
producing a vertical check;  
after Black's move, the referee announced  
“White is in check by a Knight”

Task: White to play and mate on the move  
(Only White chessmen are shown;  
Black is known to have  
the King and one chessman)

“In all cases to be presented, you are playing White, and only White chessmen are shown.

“As I mentioned earlier, in this first case, you have a manpower advantage. Your adversary has only the King and one addi-

tional chessman as his accomplice.

“You also have an information advantage. Here, through either good analysis or sheer luck, your move of the Queen from a2 to e6 puts your adversary’s King in check. Specifically, a vertical check, as the referee so announces.

### **Nabbing Our Man on the Move**

“Generally, this accidental piece of information — putting your adversary in check — results in his eluding you, forcing you to locate him and making your life difficult. However, if you also have an experience advantage over your adversary, you might be able to lull him into exposing not only himself but also his accomplices as well. In which case, with all three advantages — manpower, information, and experience — on your side, you should be able to nab your adversary on the move.

“In the case under discussion, after your vertical check, your adversary makes his move, following which, the referee announces: ‘White is in check by a Knight.’

“Now, nab your adversary on your next move.”

### **Locating Our Adversary**

Very interesting, I say to myself. First of all, the disparity in manpower is pathetic. Compared to our largess, our adversary has a lonely King and a meager accomplice, which has since been identified as a Knight. It is time to put this poor King out of misery by nabbing him pronto.

With our Queen giving the King a vertical check, the Black King must be on the e-file. Can we be more specific? We can rule out e1, since the first rank is under the surveillance of our Rooks. Similarly, we can rule out e4, being under our Knight’s surveillance. Further, we can rule out e5 and e7, since the King would be checkmated then and there. So that leaves e2, e3, and e8 as the possible squares on which the Black King stands.

Now, let’s evaluate Black’s defense. In one move by Black, not only is he able to parry our check, but, horror of horrors, he

also manages to give our own dear King an unwarranted scare. Only his immediate nabbing can reduce the indignity inflicted on our King and the humiliation inflicted on us.

How does he do it? It is clear that he defends by bringing in his lone chessman, the Knight, to interpose. Interposition is generally an effective way of parrying a check. But, unluckily for our adversary, the unexpected check on the White King exposes the rouse immediately.

### **Locating His Accomplice**

Now, where can the Black Knight be? Clearly, it must be on the e-file to shield his King. To give a check to our King, sitting on c5, that Knight must be on either e6 or e4. The e6 square is already occupied by our Queen; we can rule that square out. The Knight must have been moved to e4 to shield the King. Allowing the e4 square for the Knight to shield, the Black King must be at either e2 or e3. As between the two squares, it is the latter, since the second rank is under our Queen’s surveillance before moving to e6.

### **Making the Mating Move**

To nab our man, the move is to play Qe4, capturing the Knight and mating the King. Q.E.D.

I hope the instructor calls on me, so that I can show my brilliance. But, it is not to be so. I hear someone else’s name called. “Jonathan, suppose you give us your move.”

“Play Qe4 to capture the Knight and mate,” he answers flawlessly.

“Is this okay with everyone?”

We all nod. I do so, but only grudgingly.

Perhaps the instructor notices my disappointment. He suddenly calls my name. “Leigh, suppose you tell us your line of reasoning.”

I am pleased at the opportunity to shine, so I begin with a narration on how I narrow down the location of the Black King to

only one of three squares: e2, e3, and e8. Before I can continue, I am stopped.

“Hold it right there, Leigh. Let me cut in and pose a question: Is locating the square on which the King sits the way to start our analysis?”

### Take Full Advantage of Available Information

“Normally, yes. But, given the Knight check, it seems that we have a shortcut.” I look up. It is Chris speaking.

“Carry on.”

“First, we conclude that the Knight check is through its interposition on the e-file. Only one square on the board can produce this result, namely, e4. So, the Black King must be on either e2 or e3. In fact, the exact location of the Black King is immaterial, since playing Qe4 will remove the shield and expose the King to check and checkmate.” Chris continues. Her efficiency, both in analysis and in presentation, is clearly above my level.

“Well done, Chris. The precise location of the Black King is, indeed, immaterial.”

### Off-the-Mark Analysis

Turning to me, the instructor continues. “But, for argument’s sake, Leigh, suppose you tell us exactly where the Black King is.”

“The Black King is at e3, sir.”

“Can it be at e2?”

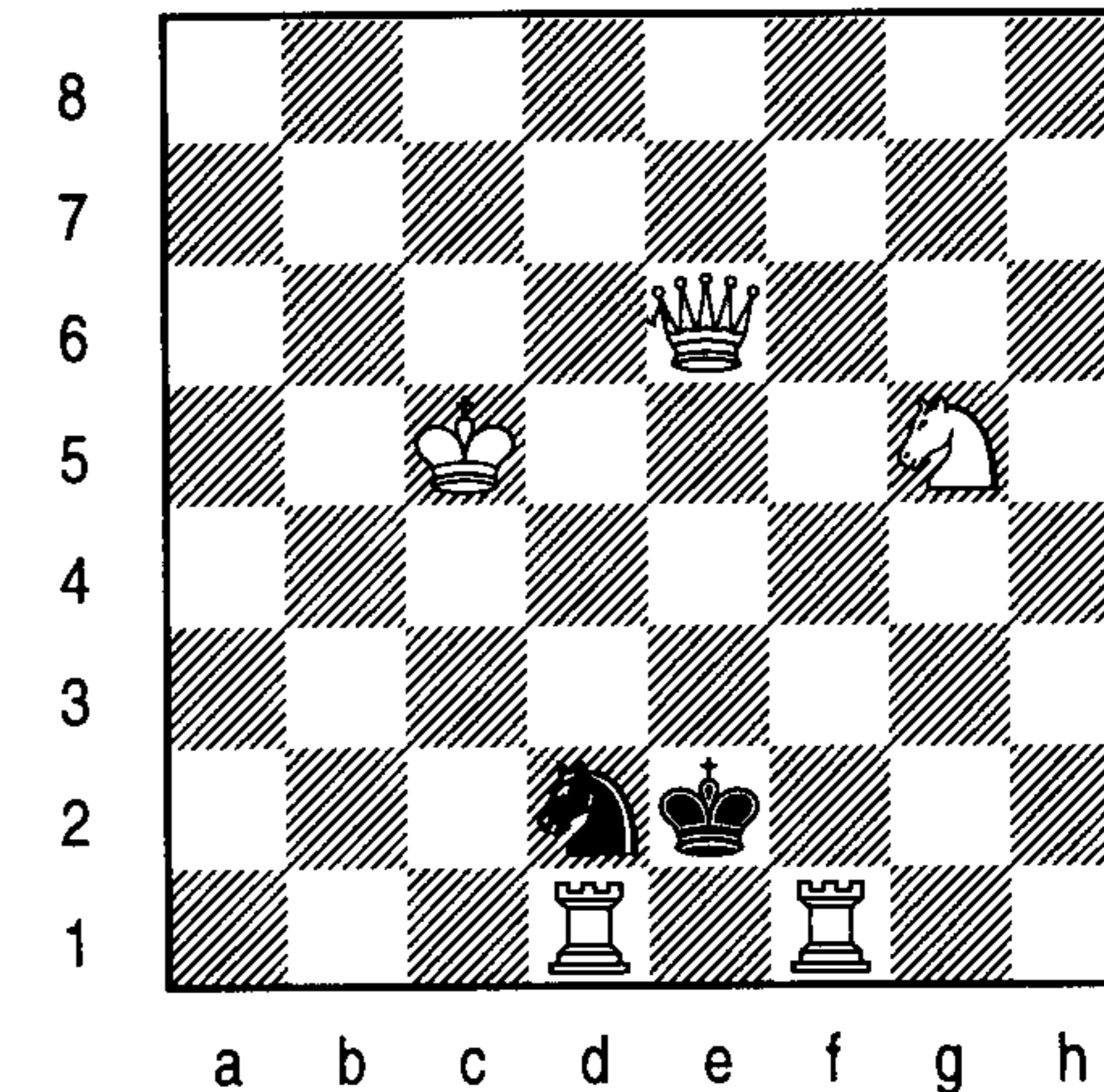
“No, sir. The second rank is under our Queen’s surveillance before her moving to e6.”

“You didn’t, by any chance, analyze where the Black Knight was before its move to e4?” The instructor presses on. I detect a trace of sarcasm in his voice. Am I in trouble or something, I ask myself.

“No, I didn’t.”

“Could it be sitting on d2 and shielding the King horizontally from the Queen before either piece moved?”

I look at the board [Diagram 14]. Indeed, it can. How stupid am I.



**Diagram 14**

Case 4

Position after 1 Qe6+

Scenario: White played Qa2-e6, producing a vertical check; after Black’s move, the referee announced “White is in check by a Knight”

Task: White to play and mate on the move (Showing all White chessmen and a likely position of Black chessmen)

“Well, this only shows that we must devise an analysis strategy that is best suited to the case at hand. Analysis by rote may be both inefficient and off the mark.” The instructor speaks softly, using the occasion most constructively. I like that, even though I have been made to look like a fool.

### Moves Unable to Parry Check Are Not Playable

“Before I forget, let me mention an important rule. When our King is in check, any attempted move that will not parry the check is ruled ‘No.’ So, in our case, even without thinking, it is conceivable that White may test with the Queen through the e-file — first playing Qe8 for a ‘No,’ then playing Qe7 for another ‘No,’ playing Qe5 for still another ‘No,’ and producing a checkmate only when Qe4 is played.

### Nabbing Our Man Efficiently

“But, of course, our purpose is not merely nabbing our man. Our object is doing it with as little unnecessary disturbance as the situation allows.

“In police detective work, when you can zero in on the exact whereabouts of the suspect you are after, you don’t go down the street and knock at every door to inquire. Why waste time? Why not show some good training and discipline? After all, Scotland Yard is a world-class institution, and we are the Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard. We do our job effectively and efficiently. We have a reputation to uphold.

“I hope this point is clear to everyone,” the instructor stops and surveys the room. Apparently he wants us to appreciate fully the need for good discipline.

“Class dismissed,” he concludes.

## 9 TUTORIAL ON HOT PURSUIT: COUNTERCHECKS AS CLUES

I feel I am behind in my class, and decide to see the instructor, wondering if he can give me more occasions to practice.

He is pleased that I want to do that. “You Americans all want to do well, and I admire you for that. You are doing okay; actually, you are strong on analysis, perhaps too methodical. But, by itself, it is not a demerit. What you need is to be more flexible in thinking — think creatively, think efficiently.”

“Yes, sir.”

“It so happens that I have prepared another case, intended to be used in our last class. But, since the class was moving so well, I decided not to introduce it. You might as well take it home and try it.

“There are two pages to this case. Page 1 gives the scenario and stipulates the task, while page 2 provides an answer. Do it and see how well you come out with it.”

“Thank you, sir.”

### Accidental Check Locates Our Adversary

I take the case home and read it eagerly. Looking at the position of this case [Diagram 15 on page 64], it resembles the one we did in class. White continues to have an advantage in manpower; if anything, the advantage is even more pronounced. The informational advantage is again represented by an accidental check by White, this time on the vertical.



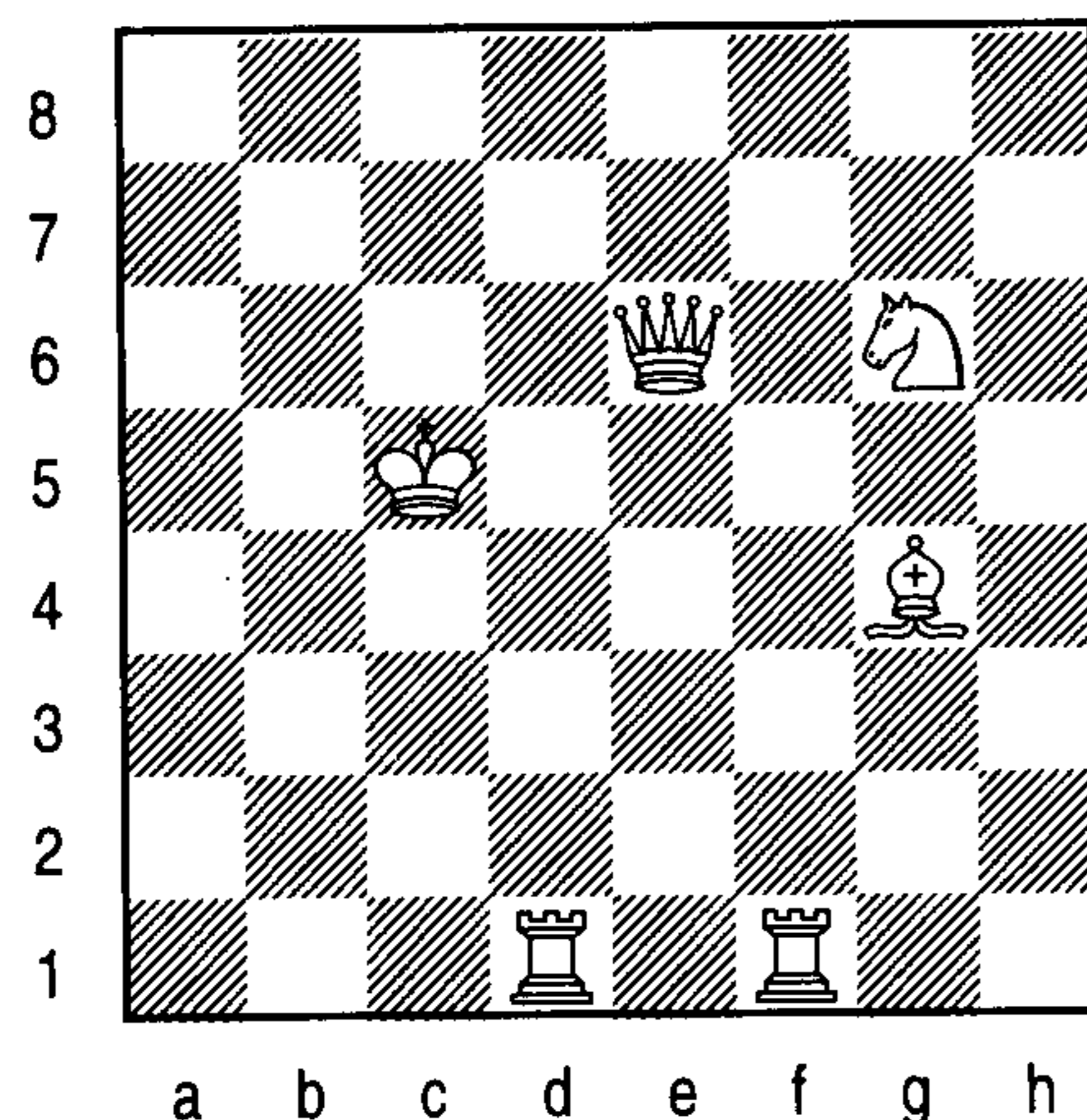


Diagram 15

## Case 5

Scenario: White played Qa2-e6,  
producing a vertical check;  
after Black's move, the referee announced  
"White is in check on the horizontal"

Task: White to play and mate on the move  
(Only White chessmen are shown;  
Black is known to have  
the King and one chessman)

Having discussed a similar case in the class, it is clear that Black is again stupid enough — or unlucky enough — to parry White's check with an interposition that produces an unwelcome check. Benefitting from the class discussion, I refrain from analyzing the King's location, but ask myself the question: Where is the interposed chessman?

## Locating His Accomplice

With the referee announcing a horizontal check after Black's check-parrying move, that check-giving chessman must be sitting

at e5. With this piece of information at hand, it is clear that the Black King has to be at either e3 or e4.

So, our mating move is clearly Qe5, capturing the interposing Black chessman and checkmating the King. Simple and straight forward. Eureka!

I read page 2 of the case, and find that the approach I have in mind is precisely that stated on the page. Hey, I am doing okay.

## Three Questions to Answer

I want to pat myself on the back and call it a day. Then, I notice that, at the lower portion of page 2, there are three questions.

Question 1 states: *What Black chessman is captured in White's mating move?*

To give a horizontal check, the chessman has to be either the Queen or a Rook. For a Rook to interpose, it would have to be on the fifth rank before moving; if so, our King would have been exposed to that Rook's check all along. So, that Black chessman has to be the Queen, moving diagonally, in either the b8-h2 or a1-h8 direction, to e5.

Question 2 states: *Where is the Black King at the time of the mating move?*

Well, it can only be e3 or e4, as e1 is under the surveillance of White Rooks; and e2, of the Bishop. As between e3 and e4, each is equally likely, but the precise location is not relevant to administer the mating move.

Q. E. D.

The final portion of page 2 directs me to add Black chessmen onto the position shown on page 1 of the exercise. This I happily comply. [Diagram 16 on page 66]

Hey, I can do it. All by myself. Nothing to it. What a great feeling!



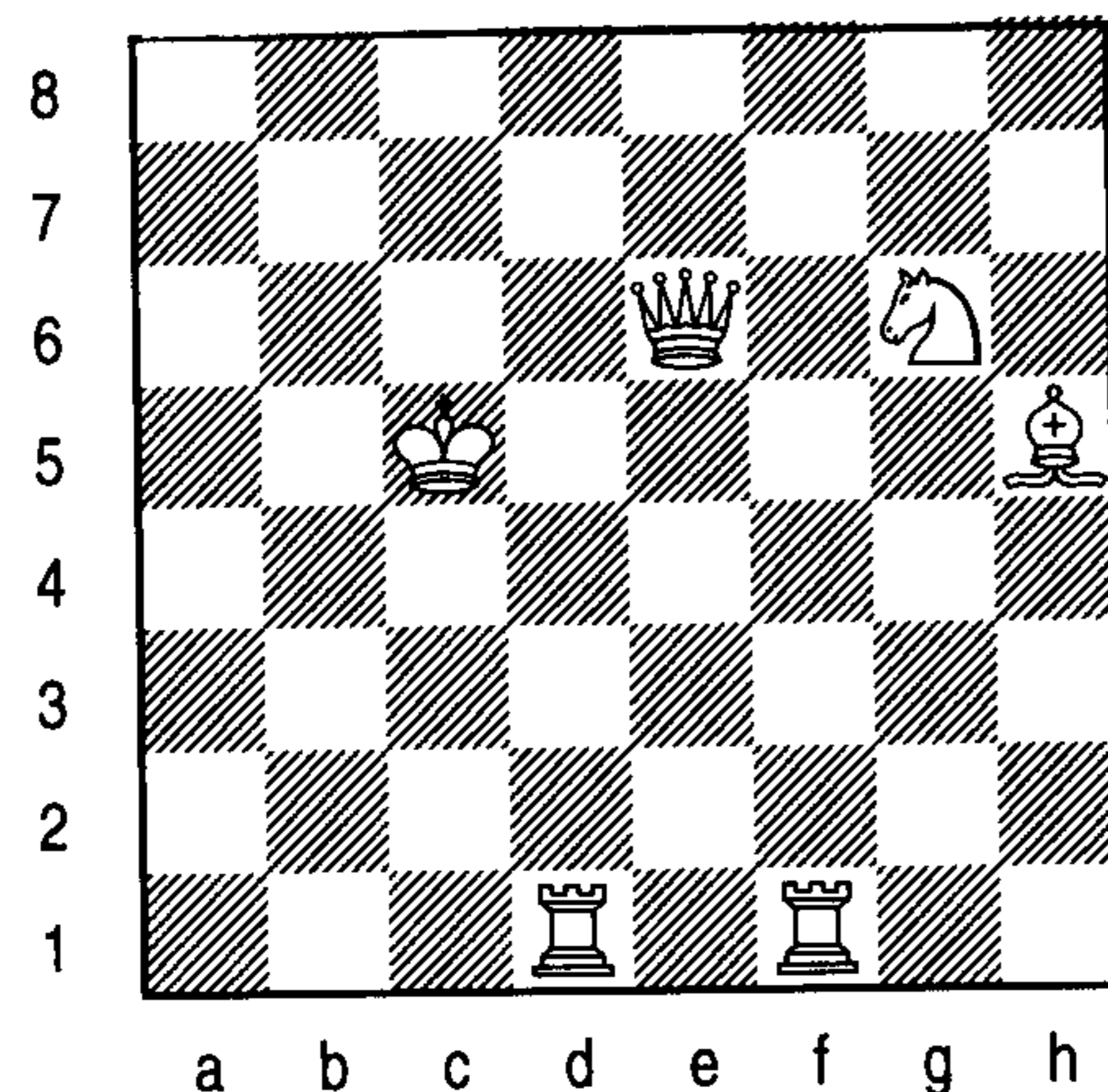


Diagram 17

## Case 6

Scenario: White played Qa2-e6,  
producing a vertical check;  
after Black's move, the referee announced  
"White is in check on the diagonal"

Task: White to play and mate on the move  
(Only White chessmen are shown;  
Black is known to have  
the King and one chessman)

"So, let's see what we can do with this scenario. Leigh, suppose we give you a chance to shine."

"Thank you, sir. I'll approach it this way. First, we need to establish how this comes about. We conclude, using the same approach we followed yesterday, that Black's move is an interposition. We then look at the board and see that only two squares can do this double duty of shielding his King on the e-file and giving our King sitting on c5 a diagonal check, namely, e7 or e3. ..." I feel more confident today. The additional exercise I did yesterday certainly is a great help.

"That's good enough, Leigh. Chris, suppose you carry on. What next?"

### Additional Clue Needed to Locate Our Adversary

"As Leigh said, the Black chessman may be at either e7 or e3. Since they are on opposite sides of where our Queen is, the situation is not as simple as yesterday's, where the two likely squares are on the same side of our Queen. So, here, we need additional information to give us clues as to which direction to turn.

"With the Black chessman shielding the e-file at e7 or e3, the King must be at either e8 or e2. Looking at the board again, we see that the e2 square is under the surveillance of our Bishop. Eliminating that square, the Black King must be sitting on e8. So, playing Qe7 will capture the interposed Black chessman and checkmate our adversary at the same time."

### Identifying the Interposed Chessman

"Well done, Chris. Now let me put on a slide to show the likely position of this case prior to the mating move. But, before I do that, let me ask this question: Which Black chessman is doing the interposing? Is it the Queen? Or is it a Bishop?"

"The Queen," one class member answers.

"A Bishop," another one adds.

"It can be either one," Jonathan says with some conviction.

"In the absence of other information, 'It can be either one' is the correct answer. Let me, for the purpose of our discussion, assume that the Black chessman is the Queen. This is so shown in the slide [Diagram 18 on page 70].

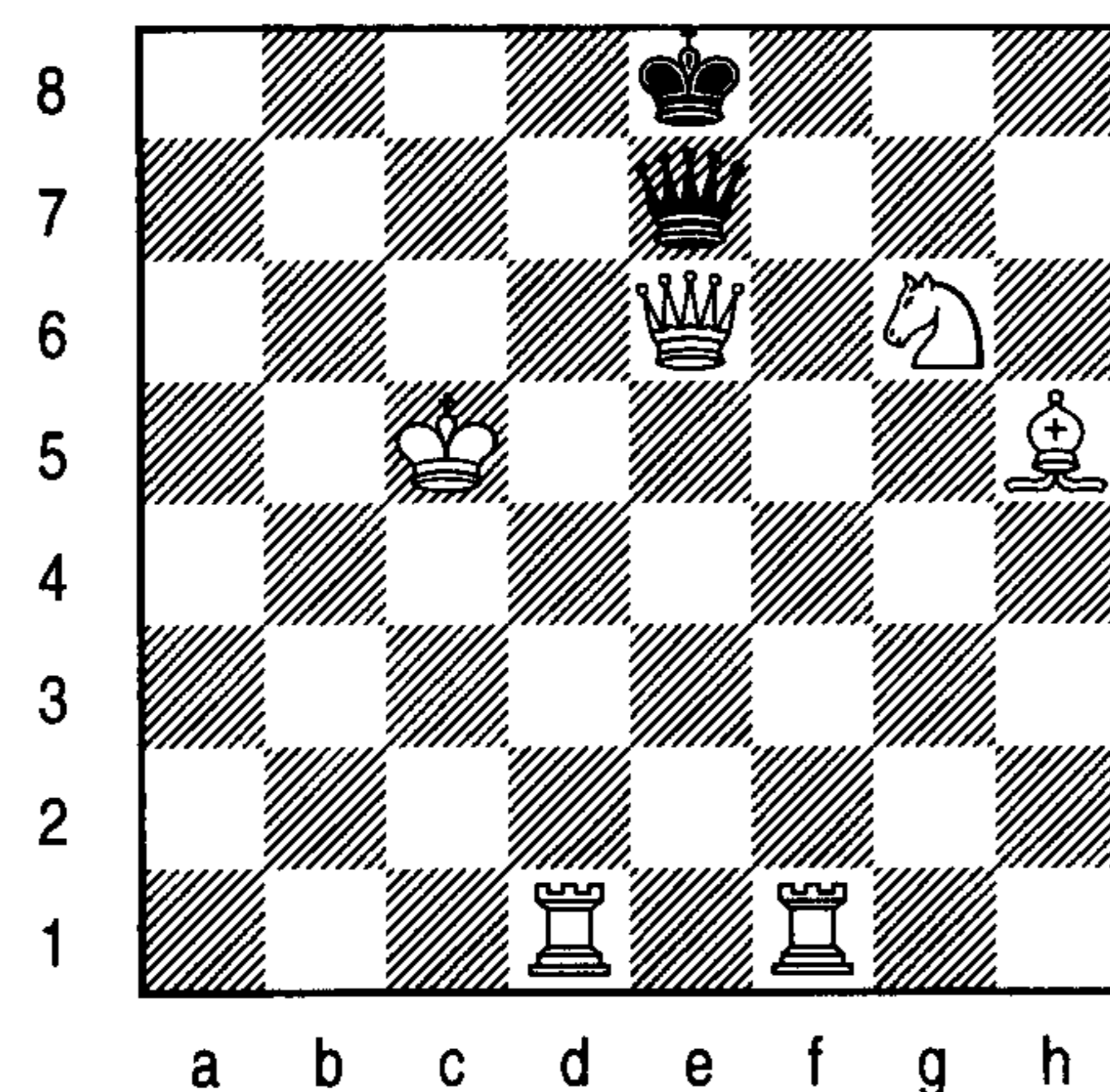
"Now, although White's move of the Queen, Qa2-e6, is the same in this case and in the case discussed yesterday [Diagram 14 on page 61], today's move is much riskier. Do you see the difference?"

### Giving Check With an Unprotected Chessman

"In the case at hand, the White Queen is not protected at e6," Edward observes.

“Quite correct, Edward. Can you fancy a situation where the White Queen could be captured?”

“The Black Queen may be at d7, f6 or f7, in close proximity of her King. If so, instead of interposing at e7, Black simply plays Qe6 and removes the White Queen from the board. ...” Edward adds.



**Diagram 18**

Case 6

Scenario: White played Qa2-e6,  
producing a vertical check;  
after Black's move, the referee announced  
“White is in check on the diagonal”

Task: White to play and mate on the move

(Showing all White chessmen and  
assuming the Black chessman is the Queen)

“And then? Jennifer, suppose you give us an assessment.”

“Well, White does not have a play to recapture the Black Queen at e6. The outcome could become cloudy, except for a fortuitous situation in this case — White may reply with a mating move,” Jennifer answers, cautiously.

“Well done, Jennifer,” the instructor cuts in.

### Play Safe

“Now, all this leads to an important point — above all, play safe. In the case at hand, assuming White is keen on moving to the e-file, does he have an alternative move?”

“A safer play is probably Qe2, since that square is protected by the Bishop. This move will also produce a vertical check and the same mating move.” You can always count on Jonathan making the penetrating remark.

### Avoid Stalemate

“Exactly. Playing Qe2 is also superior on another front — it reduces the probability of a stalemate. Let me discuss it in the context of a slightly altered scenario.

“Let us assume that, although we know Black has but one accomplice, we do not know its identity. That is to say, the accomplice may be the Queen, a Rook, a Bishop, a Knight, or even a pawn.

“Let us further assume that that sole accomplice is sitting at e7 before White moves his Queen to e6. With this assumption, we may rule out the Queen or a Bishop as the accomplice — since our King will be in check otherwise. Still, it may be a Rook, a Knight, or a pawn — in the slide, it is shown as a pawn. [Diagram 19 on page 72].

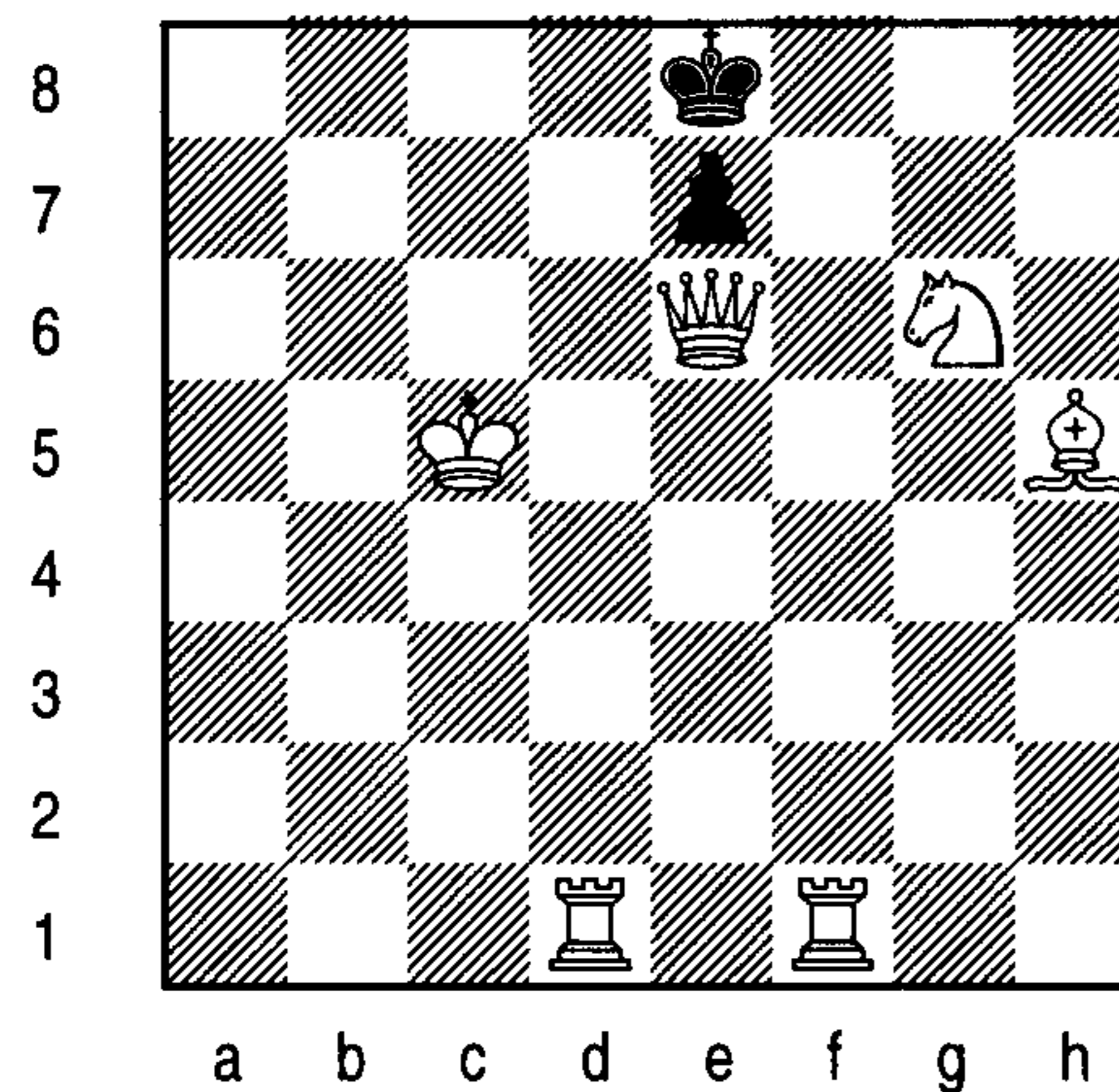
“Now, if the Black King is at e8, after the Qe6 move, Black's only move is with that unidentified chessman. If it is a Rook, it must play to the e6 square and capture our Queen — a distasteful scenario we have analyzed before.

“If that unidentified chessman is a Knight or a pawn, then Black would have no legal move at his disposal, and the contest must be ruled a stalemate — an even more distasteful scenario, the ramification of which we'll discuss later in this session.

### Reduce the Probability of a Stalemate

“Now, how will White's play of Qe2 reduce the probability of

a stalemate? If the Black chessman is the Knight, whether we play Qe6 or Qe2, the result is the same — a stalemate. But, if the Black chessman is a pawn, playing Qe2 leaves the e6 square open, allowing Black to push the pawn up and avoiding a stalemate.



**Diagram 19**

Case 7

Scenario: White just played Qa2-e6

(Showing all White chessmen,  
the Black King at e8, and the  
lone unidentified Black chessman  
[included in the diagram as a pawn], at e7)

“So, playing Qe2 — instead of playing Qe6 — gives White two advantages: protecting his Queen and reducing the probability of a stalemate.

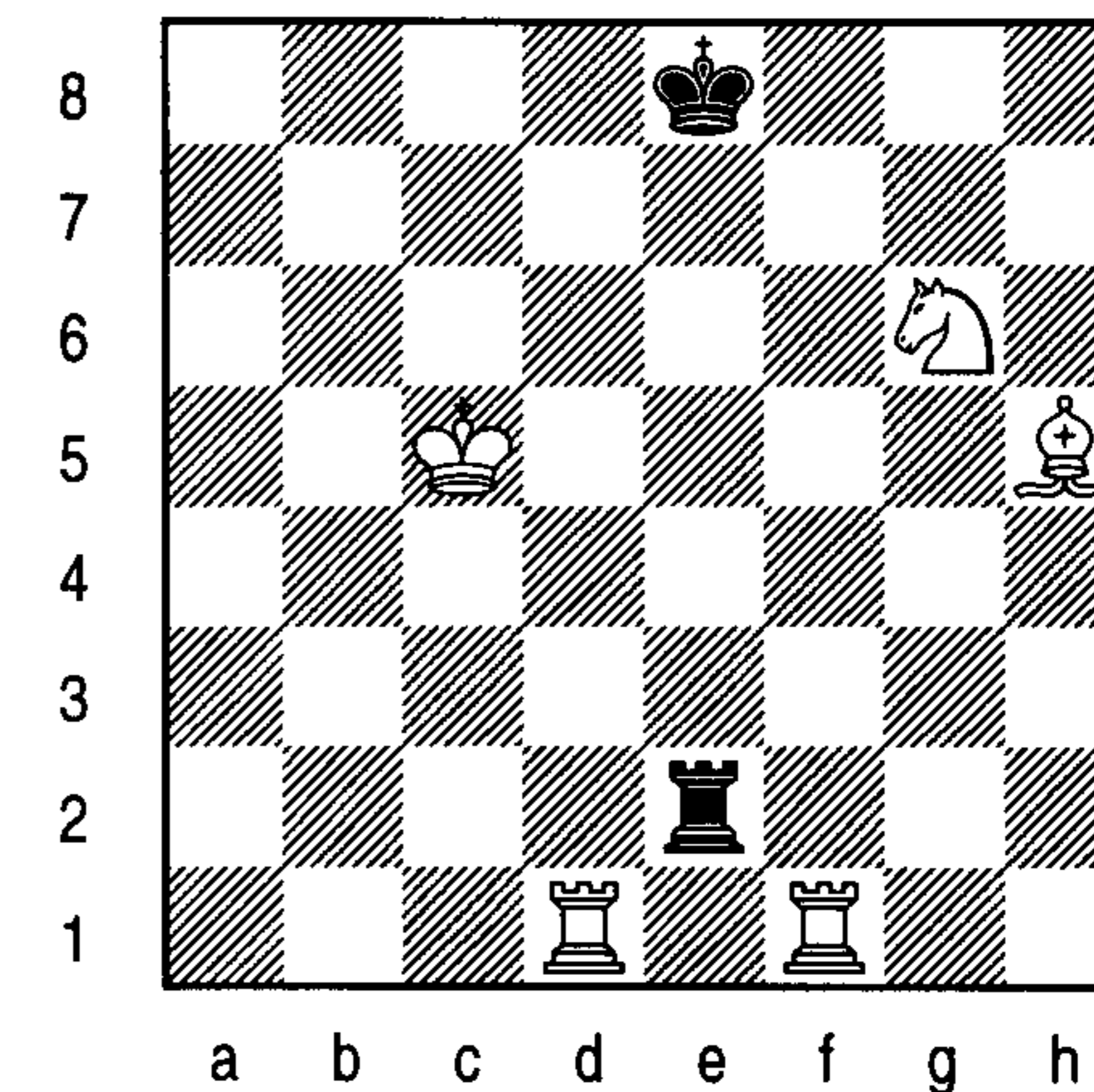
### Ramifications of a Stalemate

“Now, in chess, stalemate is ruled a draw. But, realistically, this is a slap in the face of the player with superior manpower. In police detective, we don’t look good if, despite our overpowering resources, we cannot lay our hands on the culprit because of a

technicality. The same is certainly true in chess detective work. A stalemate is a moral victory for the underdog, and a severe blow to the academy’s reputation if we let the suspect off the hook.

“Please keep this in mind.” The instructor is serious.

“Now, having said that, let’s look at the slide again. Suppose we indeed play Qe2, and suppose Black indeed responds — after 11 ‘No’ rulings — by playing his lone accomplice to e2, thereby picking off our Queen [Diagram 20]. What do we do next?”



**Diagram 20**

Case 7

Scenario: Black just played to e2,  
capturing the White Queen

(Showing all White chessmen,  
the Black King at e8, and the  
lone unidentified Black chessman  
(shown as a Rook), at e2)

Hearing no response, the instructor seems to remember something and adds. “Perhaps you are intimidated by my statement ‘after 11 ‘No’ rulings.’ Yes, the number of ‘No’ rulings is indeed important. But, we are not ready for that. Let’s simply assume

that the Black King is indeed at e8. What next?” Looking at me, he continues, “Leigh, suppose you give us a move.”

### **A Potential Stalemate**

I am going to say “Be2” — such an obvious move; I can do it without thinking. Then, a thought occurs to me that, perhaps, the instructor’s question has a catch. I need to give the slide another look before answering. Sure enough, it strikes me that playing Be2 to capture the Black Rook is not the way to go. It will result in a stalemate!

Hew, another narrow escape. Still wondering what answer to give, the bell rings. I am saved by the bell!

### **The Mating Move**

Hearing the bell, good old Jonathan volunteers an answer: “Play Rf8 for a mate.” Yes, indeed.

“Jonathan’s answer is correct. Let’s stop here and discuss the meaning of ‘No’ rulings tomorrow. Class dismissed.”

I go over to shake Jonathan’s hand. He has saved me a lot of embarrassment.

## **11 NEGATIVE INFERENCE: “NO” RULINGS AS CLUES**

“In the last couple of cases, you met an opponent who gave you an undeserved advantage by not only exposing his King but also revealing the whereabouts of his accomplices, making your life much easier. In the next couple of days, we’ll present an adversary who is more elusive. After being accidentally exposed by us, he attempts to slip through unnoticed. Our job is to nab him the soonest.” So begins our instructor for this session.

“We start with an easier scenario today. Although our adversary has an accomplice, it is put away as we begin our search. So, for practical purposes, we are dealing with an adversary all by his lone self.

### **Nab Our Adversary in Four Moves or Less**

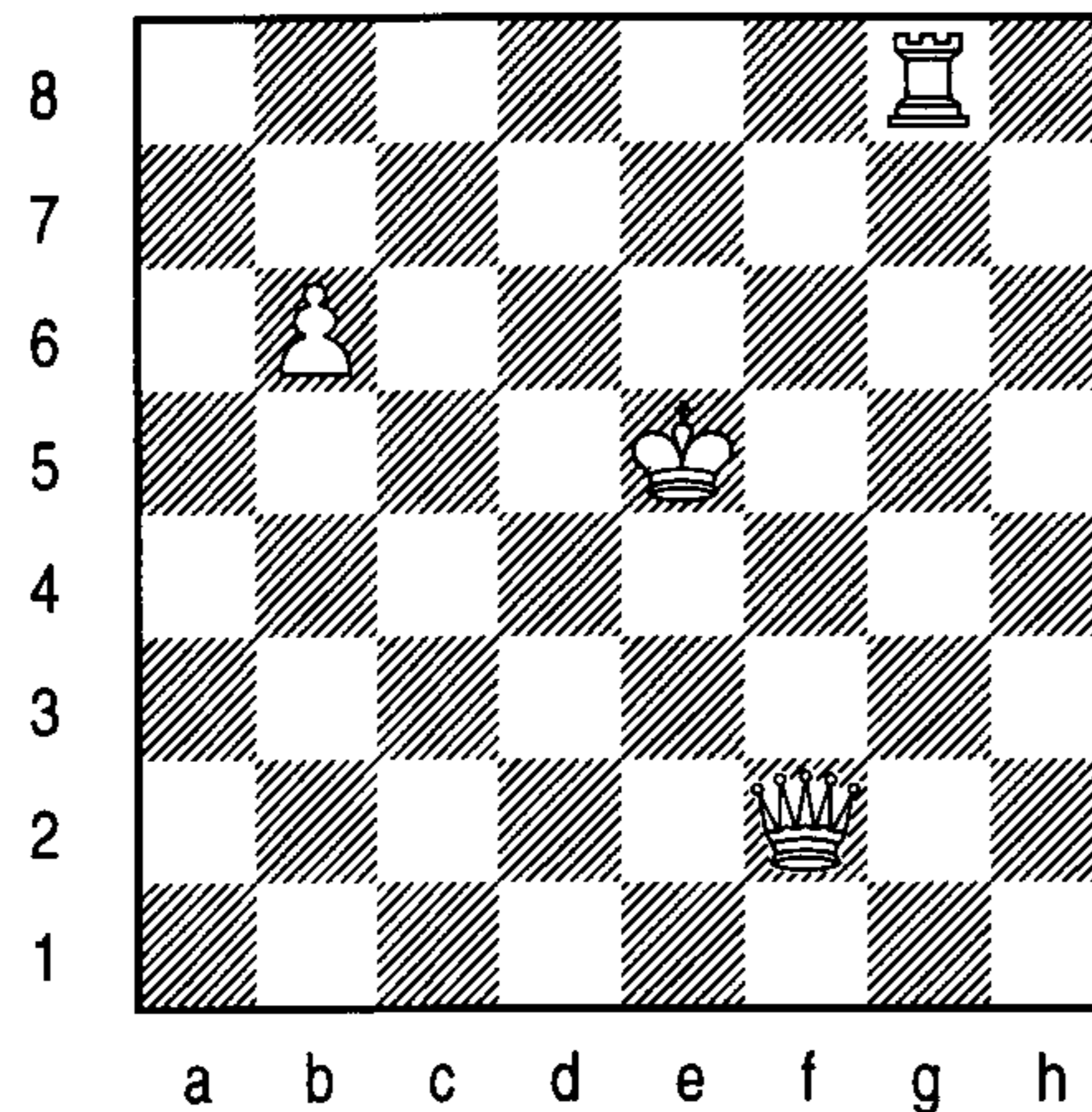
“First, let’s set up the scenario [Diagram 21 on page 76] and discuss how we may infer from the referee’s announcements.

“Let’s assume that White plays Rg2-g8, accidentally capturing the only Black chessman remaining on board at the time, and simultaneously giving the King a horizontal check. Our assignment is to nab him in four moves or less, after Black makes his move to parry the check.

### **Listen to the Referee’s Rulings**

“As Black makes his initial move, we need to pay close attention to the referee’s rulings. They may yield clues on our adversary’s whereabouts.

“After our Rg2-g8 move putting Black in check, Black’s top priority is to parry the check. If he is a veteran, his first reaction is to move his King one square on either side of him, in the direction of the referee’s announcement, with the vague hope of capturing the offending chessman.



**Diagram 21**

Case 8

Scenario: White just played Rg2-g8, capturing a Black chessman and giving a horizontal check

Task: White to move and mate in four

(Only White chessmen are shown; Black, with only the King on the board, which is somewhere on the eighth rank, made his move after four “No” rulings)

### Inference from One ‘No’ Ruling

“In the case at hand, let’s assume that we hear the referee’s giving a ‘No’ ruling. With this, we can infer that the Black King is not at h8. ...”

“Why?” I ask.

The instructor looks at me but does not seem annoyed by my interruption. Indeed, it gives him a chance to explain the point. “With our Rook unsupported, if the King were at h8, the move of Kh8-g8 would produce a ‘Black captures at g8’ announcement, and not a ‘No’ ruling.”

So it is.

“We then hear another ‘No’ ruling from the referee. We may infer that, this time, Black is moving the King to the other side to attempt a capture. This is simply standard operating procedure, fully to be expected. We continue to listen.

### Inference from Three ‘No’ Rulings

“Then we hear a third ‘No’ ruling from the referee. Edward, what can we infer from that third ‘No’ ruling? Can we rule out additional squares?”

“We probably can eliminate a8 as the square on which the Black King sits. Because, after a ‘No’ for attempting to move from a8 to b8, and another ‘No’ for attempting to move from a8 to a7, the third attempt, moving from a8 to b7, should not produce a ‘No’ ruling.”

“Precisely. Now, we can eliminate four squares: g8, where our Rook is; f8, under surveillance by our Queen; h8, after the first ‘No;’ and a8, after the third ‘No.’ Four down, four to go.

### Inference from Four ‘No’ Rulings

“Then we hear still another ‘No’ from the referee, the fourth ‘No.’ Chris, suppose you tell us what inference we can draw from that.”

“I suppose we can eliminate e8 — after three ‘No’ rulings for attempting to move to d8, f8, and f7, it can move to either d7 or e7. We can also eliminate d8 — the three ‘No’ rulings are attempts to move to c8, e8, and c7, and the available squares are d7 and e7. We can further delete c8; moving to b8, d8, or c7 is not allowed, but to b7 or d7 is. ...”

“Excellent. So what does that leave us?”

### Locating the Adversary

“b8.”

“Precisely. Now, just to make sure, let’s account for the four ‘No’ rulings the King received while sitting at b8.”

“a8, c8, a7, and c7.”

“And, from b8, where can the King go?”

“b7 is the only square available.”

“So, we have solved the first part of our task. We now know *exactly* where the King is and has to move to. We must now gear up to the task of capturing him in four moves or less. ...”

### Rationale for Locating the Adversary

“Sir, earlier, you instructed us not to waste time on analyzing the King’s location. Why are we doing it here?” I may be stupid, but I am determined to learn.

“Good question. Any one to answer it for me?”

“It seems to me that, in every case, it is necessary to find out where the King is. Doing a direct analysis of where the King is is tedious, so, where possible, we look for shortcuts,” comments Jennifer.

“The interposition by the Knight in Case 4 [page 57] — I think, Leigh, that’s what you are referring to, isn’t it — allows us to use the location of the Knight as a shortcut to infer where the King is.

“Here, we don’t have this luxury. Thus, we have to do it by the process of elimination. ...”

“Jennifer, very well done.” The instructor cuts in. “Now, let’s continue with the second part of our task — to nab our man in four moves or less.

### Don’t Let the Adversary Slip Away

“Before we start, let me present a requirement of great importance — after we have located him, don’t let our adversary slip away. On the contrary, we must restrict his mobility. Then, when the moment is at hand, corner him and put him into custody.

“Now, how do we do it? First, we must find out what his options are. [Diagram 22]

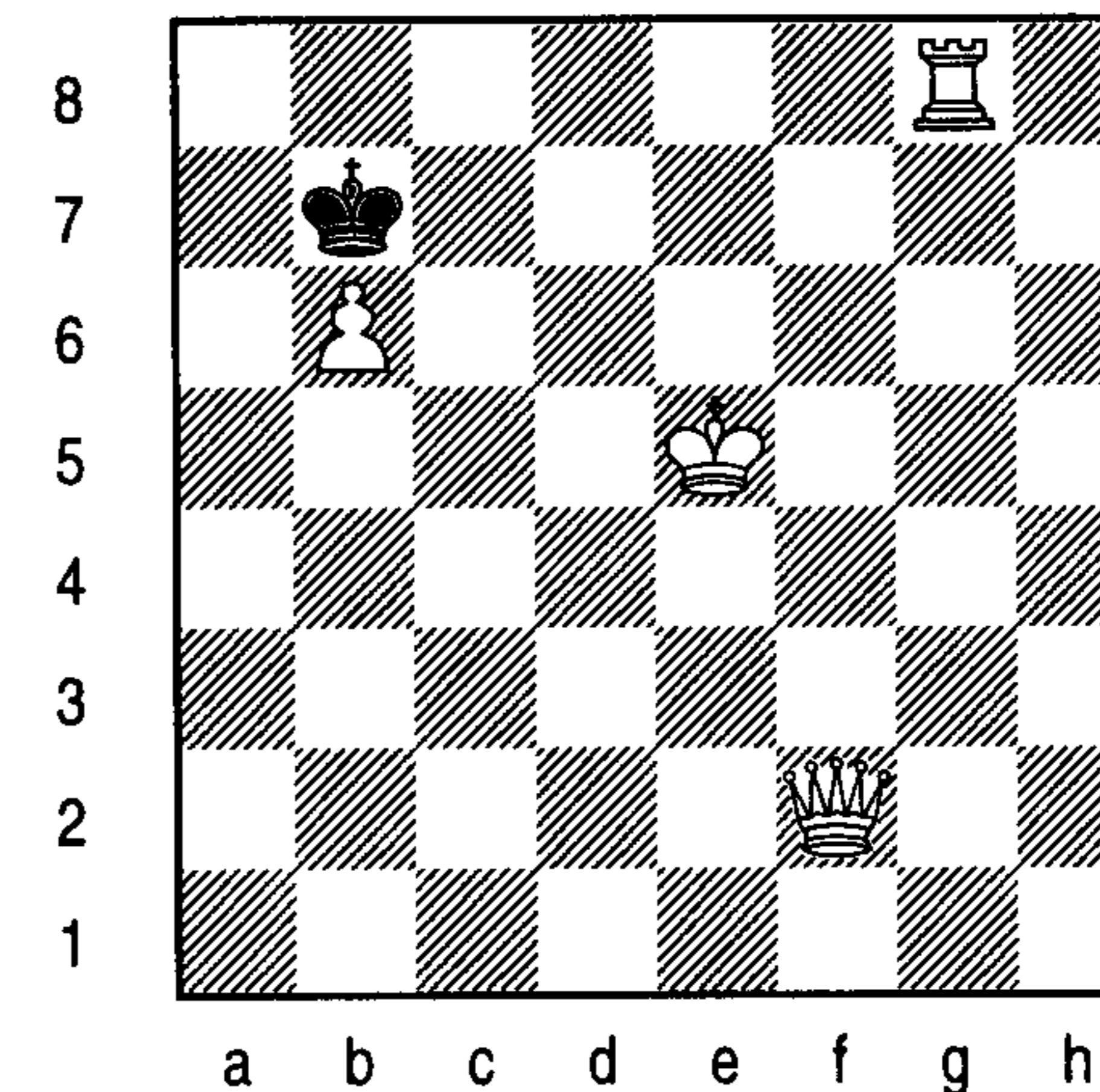


Diagram 22

Case 8

Position after Black's move,  
after four “No” rulings, to parry  
a horizontal check on the eighth rank  
(Showing all White chessmen and the  
likely position of the Black King)

“From b7, Black’s best moves are 1 ... Ka6 or 1 ... Kc6, ready-  
ing to sneak out to the fifth rank — and the wide open field —  
next. So, we must make every effort to seal off as many of these  
exits as possible — at the same time, we must ensure ourselves  
that the likelihood of a stalemate is nil.

“Here, our move is 1 Qc5. With this move, 1 ... Kc6 is off  
limits; on the other hand, the Black King can still maneuver be-  
tween a6 and b7 — so, with 1 ... Ka6 playable, there is no stale-  
mate.



### Avoid Stalemate

“When our adversary’s options are reduced to only two, we should force him to expose himself — so that we may administer the *coup de grâce*. Here, to accomplish this, our next move is 2 Ra8, giving the King a vertical check — putting the King in check is always a good way to remove the possibility of a stalemate.

“In this context, if we are careless and play 2 Rb8 instead, we would allow Black a stalemate. This would be horrible.

“After 2 Ra8, we know Black has only one square to retreat to, namely, 2 ... Kb7.

### Avoid Sacrificing Our Forces

“At this point, we have a straight forward way to nab our adversary: playing 3 Qc7 for a horizontal check, forcing Black to play 3 ... Ka8, and mating with 4 Qa7. However, this approach involves the sacrifice of our Rook, which is unattractive from a morale point of view. If there is an alternative not involving the sacrifice of any of our forces, we should take that.

“In this instance, fortunately, we do have an alternative. We may play 3 Ra7 for a horizontal check. Following 3 ... Kb8, we may play 4 Qc7 mate.” The instructor stops for a moment to make sure that we are with him.

### Negative Information Is Equally Valuable

“So, what can we learn from this case? One is that, in chess detective work, any type of information is valuable, whether positive or negative. At times, a ‘No’ is as meaningful a clue as any positive evidence, albeit requiring us to pay more attention and be more resourceful. In short, we must do our job imaginatively.

“A second point is that, once we have located the whereabouts of our adversary, we must make sure that he does not slip away; we must seal off exits without risking a stalemate. We must do our job effectively.

“A third point is that, for morale reasons, we should attempt to accomplish our mission with as little sacrifice of our forces as possible. We must do our job efficiently.

“I believe that’s all I have to say for this session. Class dismissed.”

Hey, I’m beginning to enjoy this.

**12 PUTTING OUR BOSS TO WORK:  
KING AS SUPER DETECTIVE**

“Yesterday, our case relied on our adversary’s inadvertent action that allowed us to locate him with precision and eventually nabbing him with assurance. Today, let us present a case in which the whereabouts of our adversary are less precise, requiring us to be more innovative and more daring in apprehending him. Specifically, we request our King to assist us in our mission.” So speaks our instructor to preview today’s lecture.

“First, let’s set up the scene [Diagram 23 on page 83].”

**Our Adversary Has Another Accomplice**

“The scenario in this case differs from that in the preceding case [Diagram 21 on page 76] with Black now having an accomplice, at b7.

“How do we know this? Our attempt to push our pawn at b6 forward to b7 has been ruled ‘No,’ so that we know that a Black chessman is occupying that square. We suspect that it is a pawn.

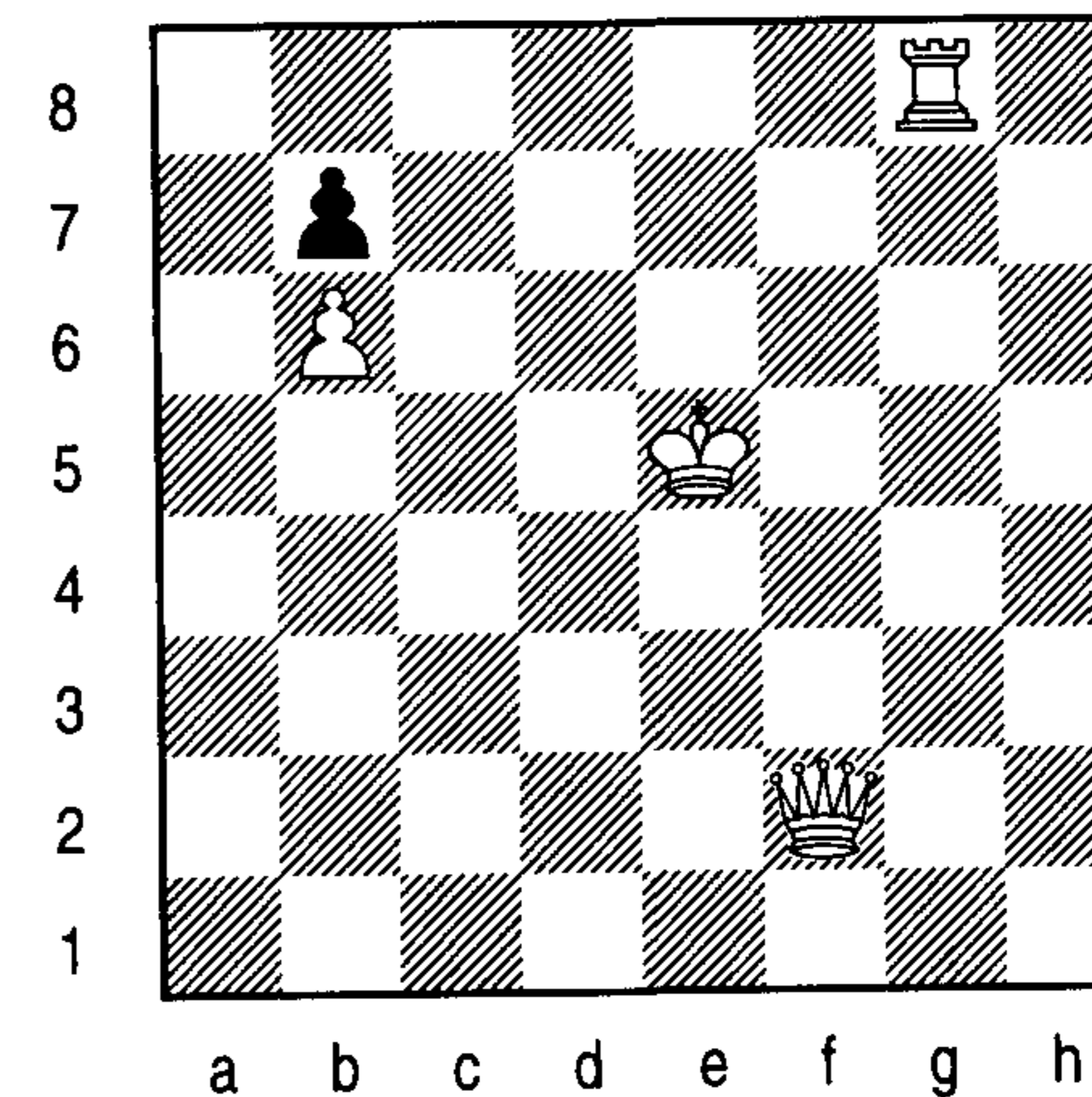
“Following that unsuccessful attempt, we charge our Rook down, from g2 to g8, capturing a chessman unexpectedly and giving the King a fortuitous horizontal check. Our case begins as Black moves to parry the check.

**Narrowing Down the Location of Our Adversary**

“Even before Black makes his first attempt at parrying the check, we can eliminate a8 or b8 as the square at which the Black

King sits, since it would be checkmated then and there. We can also eliminate f8 and g8, which is either under the Queen’s surveillance or where the Rook sits.

“With these preliminaries out of the way, we may direct our attention to the referee’s ‘No’ rulings.



**Diagram 23**

Case 9

Scenario: White, after testing Pb6-b7 and receiving a “No” ruling, played Rg2-g8, capturing a Black chessman and producing a horizontal check

(Showing all White chessmen as well as the probable location of Black chessmen [King in the eighth rank and the lone chessman, assumed to be a Pawn, at b7])

Task: White to move and mate in four or less

“The first ‘No’ we hear eliminates h8, as before. Then, after two more ‘No’ rulings — three in total — Black makes a move.

“Following the same technique we used yesterday, we can infer that the Black King is now at either d7 or e7. We cannot pin

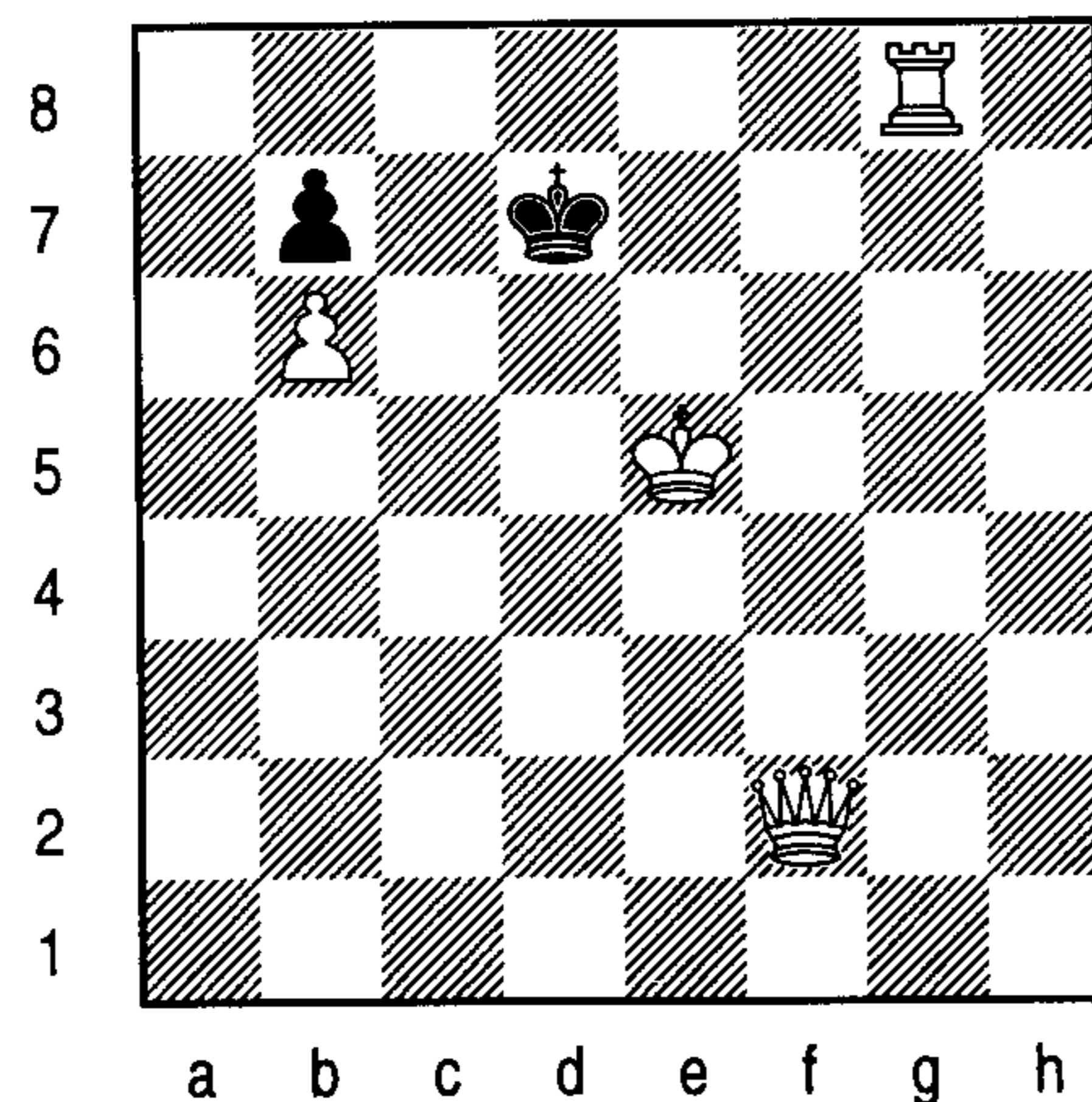
down the exact location as we did yesterday; reducing it to two squares is the best we can do, and, as we shall see, it complicates matters significantly.

“Our task, however, remains the same: to nab our man in four moves or less.

### Avoid Stalemate

“As before, we need to reduce the Black King’s mobility. But, we must be very careful and not risk a stalemate — the situation is treacherous.

“Before we continue, let me show the position after White has moved the Rook to g8, assuming that Black moves the King to d7 [Diagram 24].



**Diagram 24**

Case 9

Position after White played Rg2-g8,  
assuming Black moved the King to d7  
to parry a horizontal check

(Showing all White chessmen and  
assumed locations of Black chessmen)

Task: White to move and mate in four or less

“In our case yesterday, we played Qc5 to seal off the Black King’s exits. If we do it here [Diagram 24], we would give a diagonal check if the King is at e7, or produce a stalemate if the King is at d7. Thus, this move has a 50% chance of being fatally wrong — clearly not the move to make. Similarly, we must not play Qf6, for the same reason — a diagonal check if the King is at e7, but a stalemate if it is at d7 — another 50-50 proposition.

### Locate Our Adversary Before Sealing Off

“So, we must think of some other ways to do our job. Here, our guiding principle is that we must not rush to seal off until our adversary’s whereabouts can be established with certainty. Before then, we must allow our adversary some breathing space.

“One way of doing this is to play 1 Qd4, aiming at the d7 square — producing a check if the King is at d7, but allowing the King to move to f7 if it is at e7.

“After we play 1 Qd4, one of two things will happen. One, the Black King is indeed at d7 [Diagram 24], so this move produces a vertical check. Two, the Black King is at e7, so 1 Qd4 does not produce a check. Of the two, the second scenario is easier. So, let’s dispose of that first.

“In the second scenario, we play 1 Qd4 and nothing happens — the referee merely announces ‘Black to move.’ With this seemingly bland announcement, we now know exactly where the Black King is, at e7. We also know exactly where it can move to, 1 ... Kf7, being the only breathing room we have allowed him. Still, we have to be careful, as it is then poised to escape via 2 ... Kg8, grabbing our Rook in the process.

### Put Our Adversary Away With Exact Information

“Now, with this exact information of the King’s location before us, we can proceed to corner him and put him away. We play 2 Qd5 to give the King a diagonal check and, at the same time, to

prevent the King from escaping through capturing our Rook at g8.

“With 2 Qd5, the King can retreat to but one square, 2 ... Ke7. We simply follow through with 3 Qe6 mate.

### If Our Adversary Is at d7

“Now, let’s revert to the first scenario where the King is at d7 [Diagram 24 on page 84]. Our play of 1 Qd4 produces a vertical check.

“To parry our check, the King can move to either one of two squares: c6 or e7. Which one?

“You may remember that our task is to accomplish this mission in four moves or less. We have already used one move, so we must do our job in no more than three additional moves. With the exact location of the King still in doubt, we really have our work cut out for us.

### The King as a Super Detective

“This is where we need our commander-in-chief to help us out. We need to ask our King to play super detective for us.

“How?

“By asking the King to move to d5, 2 Kd5, to find out whether the Black King has moved to c6.

“Again, one of two things will happen. One, we receive a ‘No’ ruling from the referee, meaning that the Black King has indeed moved to c6.

“An attempted move producing a ‘No’ ruling is not counted as a move, so we still have three moves to complete our mission. Now, with this valuable piece of information — the exact location of the Black King, thanks to the service of our own King — we can quickly put our adversary away.

“We play 2 Rc8, giving the King a vertical check.

“The King can move to b5, 2 ... Kb5, the only square available to him. We follow through with 3 Qb2, giving the King another vertical check.

“This time, the King can retreat to one of three squares on the

a-file: a4, a5, or a6. Regardless, we nab him, on our fourth move, with 4 Ra8 mate.

### When Our Adversary Is at e7

“Now, let’s turn our attention to the other possible outcome [Diagram 24 on page 84, with the Queen moved from f2 to d4 for a vertical check] when we ask our King to find out whether the Black King has escaped to c6 or e7. Our play of 2 Kd5 is allowed to stand, as the referee announces: ‘White has moved. Black to move.’ This means that the Black King is not at c6, but is at e7.

“Now, it is Black’s turn to move. The King may move to one of two squares on the seventh rank: 2 ... Kd7 or 2 ... Kf7. Regardless, we simply play 3 Qg7 mate.

### Lessons from This Case

“What can we learn from this case? The most important lesson is that we must plan our moves carefully. Planning means, above all, not falling into the stalemate trap. If, with superior resources, we are unable to nab our adversary but have to stop the case on a technicality, we would look pretty foolish.

“Planning also means taking care of our men. Protect them from being captured as our adversary schemes to slip through our net.

“Planning also means being inventive. Every possibility must be taken into account, and every bit of resource must be put into use — including our commander-in-chief’s valuable presence. Inventiveness looms larger as you become a consulting chess detective, as we shall see later.

“I think we have covered key points. Unless there are questions, class is dismissed,” our instructor concludes.

I surely can use the time to think this case through. Chess detective work is truly a tough calling.

### 13 EXPERT TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE: SEQUENCING OF “NO” RULINGS AS CLUES

“A chess detective is confronted with a lot of challenges. He is challenged to be exhaustive in gathering information. He is challenged to be imaginative in using information thus gathered. He is challenged to be bold in using his limited resources.

“Today, we discuss a case where a chess detective is challenged as to his technical knowledge.

“Let me show a slide and prepare ourselves for this difficult case [Diagram 25 on page 89].

“As the case begins, we have just played Ke6 and, in the process, captured a Black chessman. After this fortuitous move, Black is left with two chessmen in addition to the King. All indications suggest that the King is on the eighth rank.

“After our move, the referee announced: ‘White captures on e6. Black to move.’

“So, it is Black’s turn to move. As always, we pay close attention to the referee’s rulings.

#### Referee’s “No” Rulings

“We first hear a ‘No’ ruling. Then, a pause. Then another ‘No’ ruling, and another pause.

“We then hear six ‘No’ rulings, almost in succession, then another pause, somewhat longer than the previous two.

“Then we hear another series of six ‘No’ rulings with similar rapidity. And then another pause, even longer than the previous one.

“We then hear still another series of ‘No’ rulings. This time five in number, also in rapid succession. Then another long, long pause.

“Finally, we hear this announcement from the referee: ‘Black has moved. White to move.’

“Now, it’s our turn. Our mission is to nab our adversary, sitting on the 8th rank, during this move. As White, what do we do?” The instructor stops to survey the class.

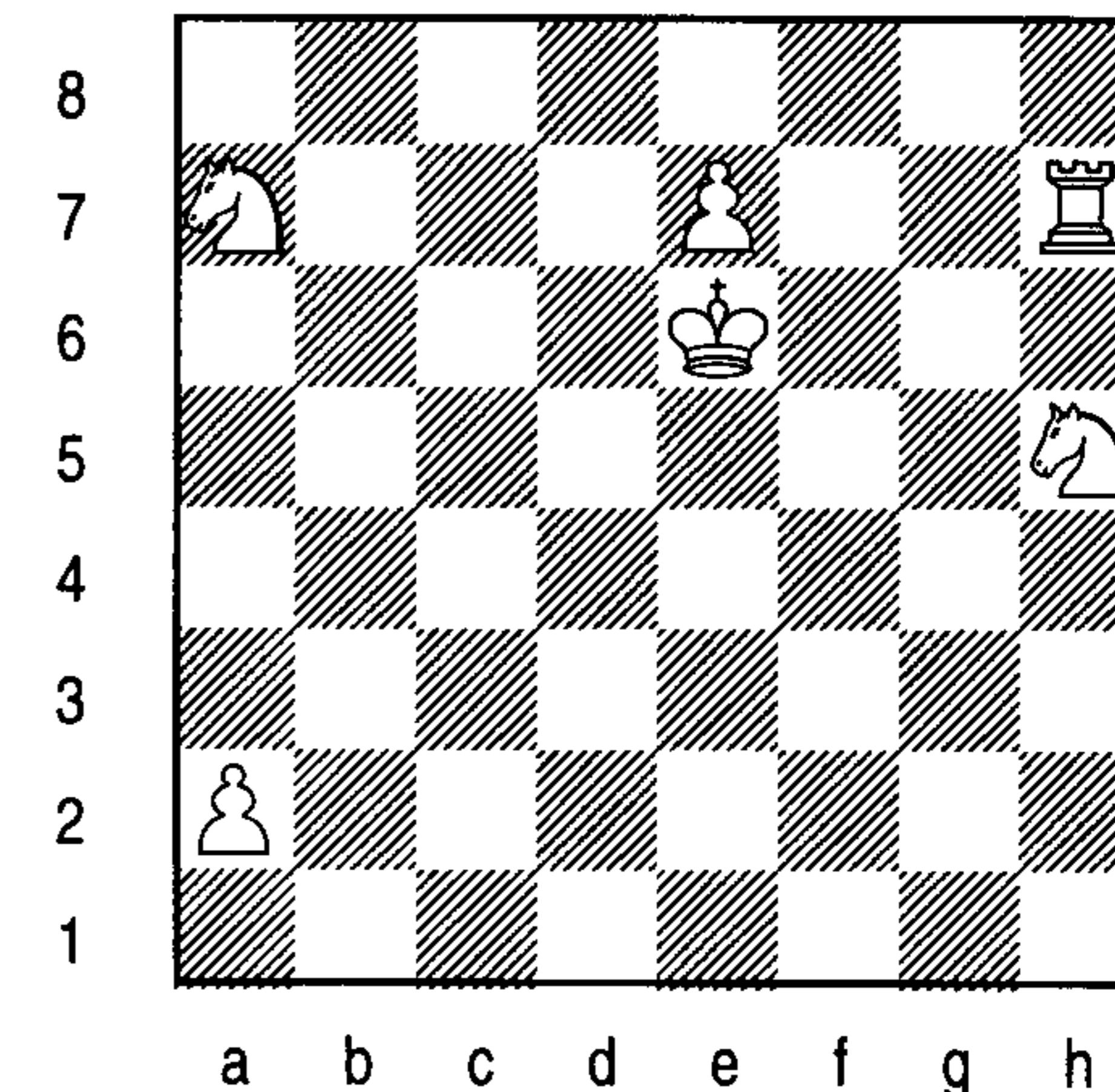


Diagram 25

Case 10

Position after White has captured a Black chessman at e6, with Black to move; Black’s King is on the eighth rank and has two other chessmen (Only White chessmen are shown)

Task: After Black’s move, White is to mate on the move

#### Abstract Scenario

“Sir, this is very abstract.” one class member voices.

“Perhaps. But you are up to it. You need, of course, to use your imagination. You need to marshall all the resources at your command. You need to call upon all the technical knowledge and training to bear. ...”

“This is very difficult,” another class member mumbles.

I have the same feeling. I just keep my mouth shut, not wanting to attract the instructor’s attention.

“Leigh, you seem to be alert and poised to conquer the world. Suppose you lead off with an observation.”

Sure enough, I’m always called upon when I’m least ready. Oh, well, c’est la vie. Let’s give it a college try.

### Implication of Thinking in spurts

“Yes, sir. Our adversary is undoubtedly a deep thinker. But, he seems to be thinking in spurts. ...”

“What might that suggest to you?” the instructor hints.

“Perhaps he is using the same chessman to make a series of attempts?” I’m trying hard to wiggle my way out.

“I’ve an idea,” the good ol’ Jonathan calls out.

“Tell us about it,” the instructor remarks, not pleased with the interruption.

### Inference from Six “No” Rulings in Succession

“My idea is triggered by Leigh’s speculation. Using it as a working hypothesis, I ask myself: ‘What is the scenario under which a single chessman can receive six ‘No’ rulings in succession?’

“Through a series of trials, I come to the realization that receiving six ‘No’ rulings in succession is possible with a Bishop, Rook, or Queen — if two conditions are met. One, that chessman, if moving diagonally, must be in a corner — a1, a8, h1, or h8 — or, if moving orthogonally, sitting on the edge — a-file, h-file, 1st rank, and 8th rank. Two, there must be an enemy chessman immediately in front of it. ...”

Seeing that the class is puzzled, the instructor cuts in. “Jonathan, why don’t you elaborate on these two conditions?”

“Certainly, sir. Let’s assume it is a Rook sitting at a8. He first attempts to reach a1 and receives a ‘No’ ruling, since the path is not clear. He then attempts a2 and receives a second ‘No’ ruling.

Attempting a3 results in a third ‘No,’ a4 for a fourth ‘No,’ a5 for a fifth ‘No,’ and a6 for a sixth ‘No’ — all for the same reason: the path is not clear; specifically, our Knight is immediately in front of it — the second condition — at a7. ...”

### Maximum of Six “No” Rulings With the Same chessman Without Capture

“Why doesn’t he attempt Ra7?” Now, I’m truly puzzled and need clarification.

“Yes, indeed, why not? By the end of the sixth ‘No,’ Black knows that a White chessman at a7 is blocking the way. There may be other White chessmen on the a-file, but at least the a7 square is occupied.

“The pause at that point, I suspect, is Black thinking whether to play Ra7. If played, a capture is certain, and a recapture by White resulting in a one-for-one exchange is likely. Since Black has but two chessmen to White’s five, he rejects the idea — Black does not want to reduce his force to but one chessman beside the King.

“I think the second series of six ‘No’ rulings relates to the other Rook or Queen, at e8 or h8, since White has a chessman at e7 and h7, respectively. ...”

“Well done, Jonathan. Now, suppose we ask Chris to carry on.”

### Inference From Five “No” Rulings

“The next series of ‘No’ rulings is five in number. That would fit if the Black King is located at e8 and is attempting to move to the five adjacent squares: d8, f8, d7, e7, and f7. All are guarded and therefore not playable. As a result, each attempt produces a ‘No.’

“Thus, my suspicion is that the Black King is sitting at its square, e8. By extension, it is most likely that the two chessmen sitting at a8 and h8, being Rook squares, are indeed Rooks, rather than a Rook and the Queen. ...”

“Well done, Chris. Let’s stop here for a moment and add the three Black chessmen. Let’s use the outstanding analyses done by Jonathan and Chris, and assume that they are indeed the King and two Rooks sitting on their own squares [Diagram 26].

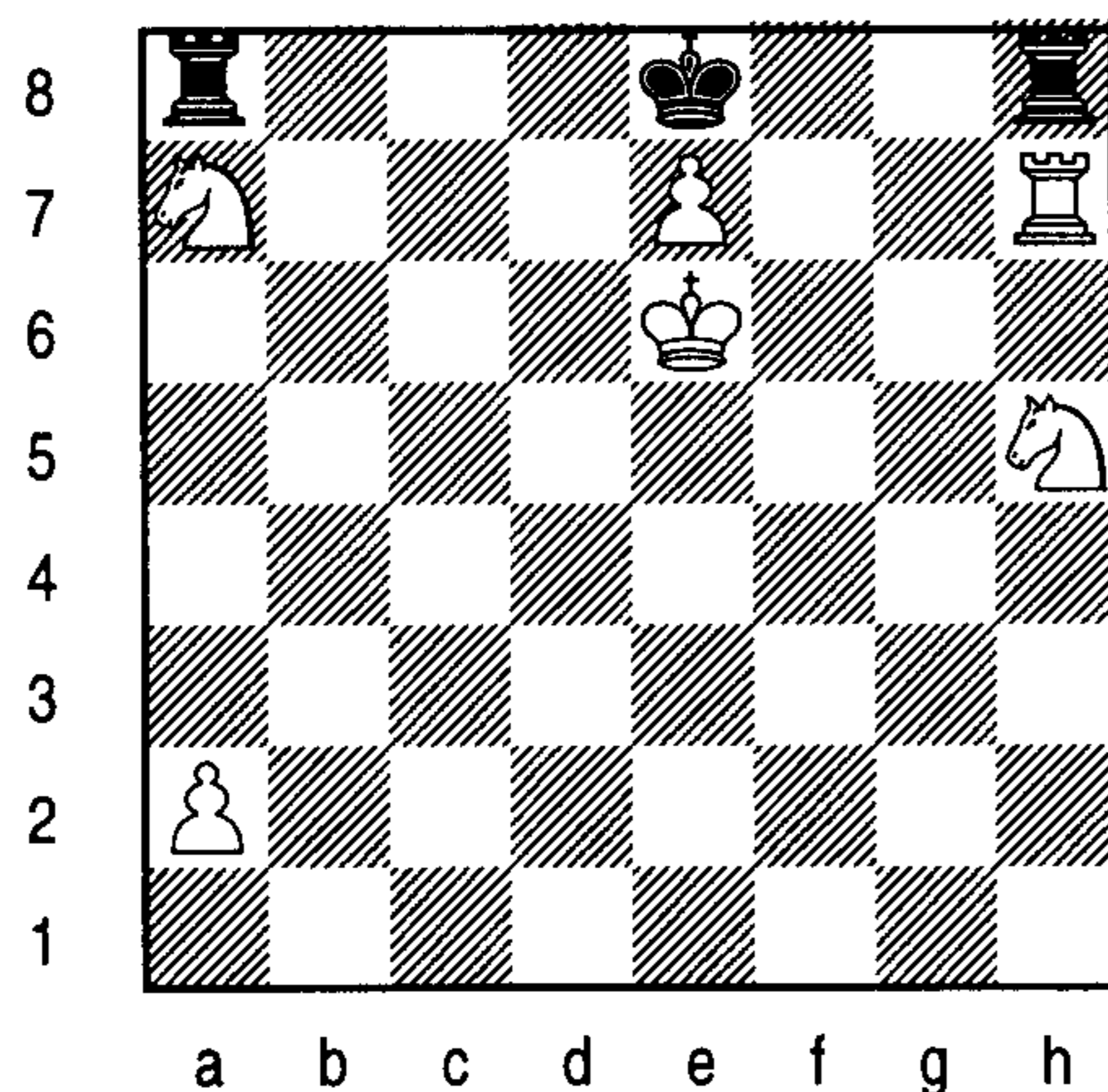


Diagram 26

#### Case 10

Position after White has captured a Black chessman at e6, with Black to move; (Position of White chessmen are actual; of Black chessmen, assumed)

Task: After Black’s move, White is to mate on the move

“Now, our work is much simpler. We have only the first two ‘No’ rulings to contend with,” the instructor speaks, encouragingly. “Does the new diagram give any one any inspiration?”

#### Inference From a Single “No” Ruling

“Sir, is it conceivable that the first ‘No’ ruling is Black’s attempt to castle? It is ruled ‘No’ because one of the squares needed

to be crossed by the King is under the pawn’s surveillance.” I open my big mouth again.

“Leigh, you have a point. Carry on.”

“If so, perhaps the second ‘No’ ruling is also for castling — the first one, say, on the King side and the second one on the Queen side.”

#### Inference from Sequencing of “No” Rulings

“But, by moving his King and receiving ‘No’ rulings, Black already knows that squares adjacent to the King are under surveillance by White chessmen. With this knowledge, Black should not, it seems to me, attempt castling,” Edward observes.

An excellent point that certainly shoots my speculation down, I say to myself. Before I can confess, the instructor comes to my rescue.

“Excellent observation, Edward. You would be absolutely right if Black moves his King to adjacent squares *before* attempting castling. Here, however, Black moves his King to adjacent squares *after* the first two single-move ‘No’ rulings. ...”

#### Technical Aspects of Castling

“If the sequence of attempted moves is that important, then Black probably should not use the King to test adjacent squares after being denied castling.” Jennifer comes to Edward’s defense.

“Why so?”

“Because Black should have known, by the denials, that one or more squares over which the King must cross in castling are under surveillance,” Jennifer adds.

“Not necessarily.”

“Why not?”

“Because the denials may be due to White chessmen occupying some of the intermediate squares the Black King and Rook need to pass through when castling.”

“But that’s not so.”

“Well, you have to see from Black’s eyes. Black doesn’t know that.”

“So, it is okay for Black, having been denied rights to castle, to move the King to test adjacent squares?”

“Absolutely. But the reverse is not so.”

### Finding the Mating Move

The instructor looks at his watch and continues. “Let’s attend to the task at hand. Now that Black has moved, it’s White’s move. White is to mate on the move. What should White do?”

“It would come from the Knight, either Nf6 or Ng7,” one class member ventures.

“It may also come from the Rook, Rh8,” another class member adds.

“Good. How can we find out?” the instructor asks.

### Pawn-Capture Opportunity as Clue

“Sir, it occurs to me that, if a Rook moves to d8 or f8, it is subject to our pawn’s capture. But, if the Rook moves to all other squares, this pawn-capture opportunity does not exist. Perhaps we can make some use of this observation?” It is Jonathan again.

“You are on to something. Carry on,” the instructor encourages.

“I am afraid I cannot, sir,” Jonathan answers, apologetically.

“I don’t blame you, Jonathan, since we have yet to discuss this topic in class. Let me do it now. But, before I start, be warned that it is somewhat controversial,” the instructor begins.

“The solution is indeed built on making use of pawn-capture opportunities. If the referee’s answer to our query of ‘Any?’ is ‘No,’ we know that the f8 square is vacant. So we play Nf6 mate.

### Making a Phantom Pawn Capture

“If, on the other hand, the answer to our query of ‘Any?’ is ‘Try,’ we must, of course, make a pawn-capture attempt before we

can do anything else. Here, we have a problem.

“If we use the pawn at e7 to make a pawn-capture attempt, either to d8 or to f8, we have a 50-50 chance of capturing a Rook. If so, that move counts, and our task of mating in one is not accomplished.

“Luckily, we have another pawn sitting at a2. We can make use of that pawn to make a phantom pawn-capture gesture, Pa2-b3, knowing fully well that it will produce a ‘No’ ruling.

“Having satisfied that requirement without squandering our move, we calmly play Ng7 mate. Q. E. D.”

### Final Examination to Come

The instructor pauses for a moment, and then continues.

“Now, ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the field-work segment of our training. For the next two days, we’ll have final examinations. Those who meet our standards will be duly commissioned. A few who do exceedingly well will be invited to our advanced program on becoming supervisory chess detectives.

“Good luck in your final examinations. Class dismissed.”

I’d better get busy and review all the notes for tomorrow’s big event.



**14 FINAL EXAMINATION 1:  
A SINGLE "NO" RULING  
AS CLUE**

Our instructor shows up on time. After handling out a couple of pages to each of us, he begins.

"As you can see from the sheets I just handed out, each of you is directed to a specific location, where you can do the needed thinking all by yourself. Whenever you are ready to answer the question, press a buzzer, and a member of the instructional staff will appear. You may then tell your instructor how you will handle the case.

"Kindly leave this room quietly, refrain from talking to anyone, report to the location as expeditiously as you can, and turn to page 2 only when you are physically at that location.

"I believe I have covered everything. Good luck." So saying, the instructor departs.

**Report to Location B5**

I look at the direction on the cover page of my set. "Report to Location B5," it says. So I quickly go there. I then turn to page 2 of the handout and begin to read it.

*First, turn to the diagram on page 3 of your set [Diagram 27]. Refer to it as you read the accompanying narrative.*

*The latest intelligence report about your adversary is that he is still at large — no information on his whereabouts is available. A new piece of information is that he has but one accomplice, although neither its identity nor its whereabouts is known.*

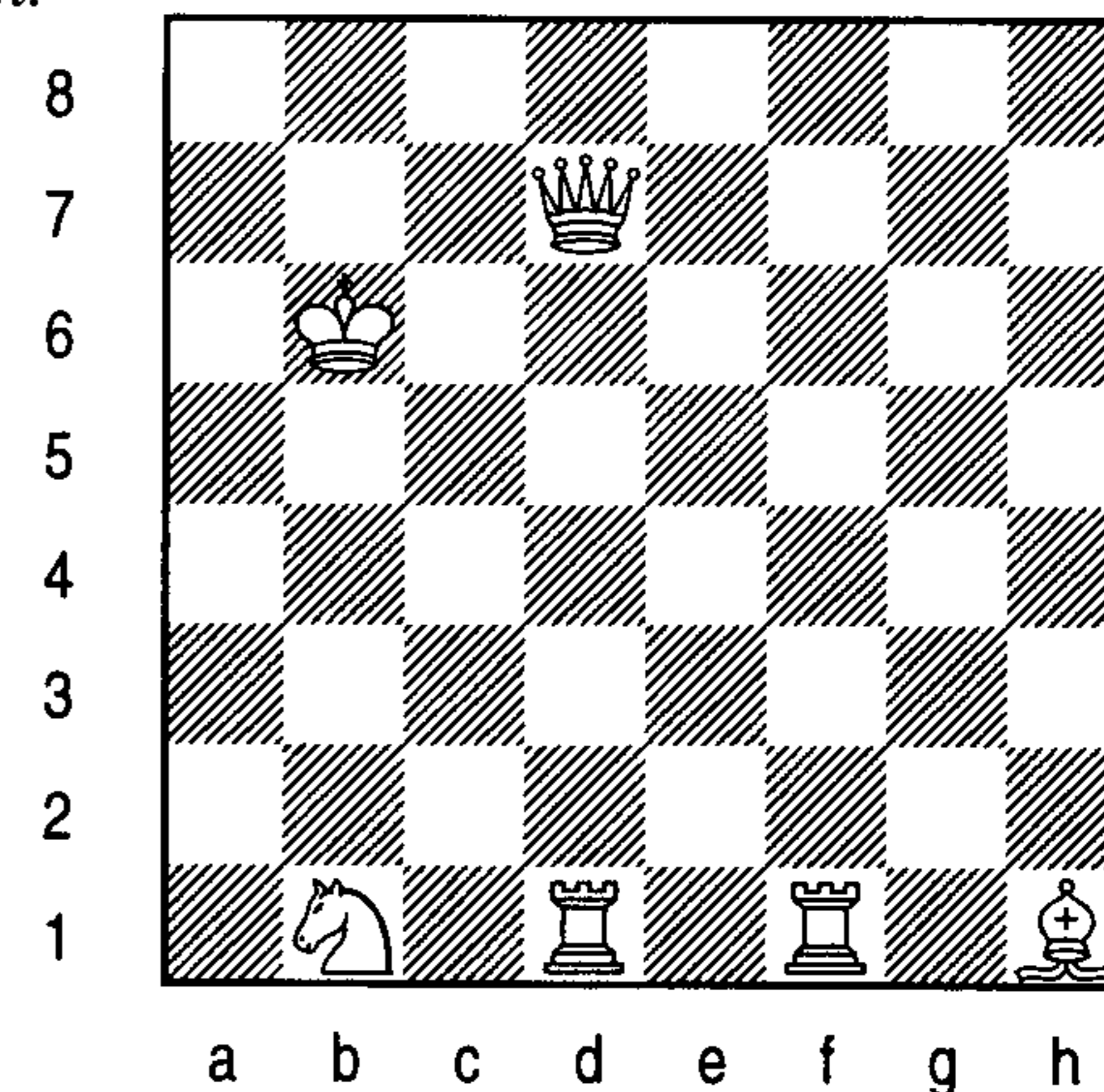
*The case has been assigned to a colleague of yours, who has been on it since its inception. Today, he is ill, and the*

*chief calls you in and directs you to take it over until your colleague returns.*

*You are on a couple of important cases of your own, and really cannot divert your attention to this case, important as it is. Still, you have your orders. An understanding is reached for you to spend one day, today, on the case.*

*You review the manpower deployment report and appreciate the importance of this case. Still, you feel that these resources are not deployed to their best advantage, as one of the men assigned to guard a location is unsupported.*

*Your first action, thus, is to move that man to a more secure location. You direct the Rook on f6 to be deployed at f1 instead, Rff1, thus reaching the position shown on the diagram.*



**Diagram 27**

Case 11

Scenario: White just played Rf6-f1;  
Black, after receiving 'Try' to his 'Any?',  
made one attempt, which was ruled 'No,'  
and then made his move

Task: White to move and mate in one  
(Only White chessmen are shown;  
neither the location of the Black King nor  
the identity of its sole accomplice is known)

*You then hear the following brief exchange between your adversary and the referee:*

*'Any?' inquires your adversary.*

*'Try,' responds the referee.*

*Black makes one attempt, receives a 'No' ruling from the referee, and makes another attempt.*

*You then hear the referee's direction: 'Black has moved. White to move.'*

*Now, your task is to nab your adversary on the next move and close the case.*

*Tell us your plan. When you are ready, press the buzzer.*

### Identifying the Accomplice

I stare at the diagram and wait for inspiration to hit me. Where shall I start? I ask myself. With the chessman? Or with the King?

Let's start with the chessman, I direct myself.

What is that chessman? We don't have any intelligence on it before. Now, our adversary asks 'Any?' Does that mean anything? How may I make use of this piece of information?

A player is not entitled to ask 'Any?' unless he has a pawn. So, Black has a pawn. Since Black has but one accomplice, that accomplice must be a pawn.

Well done, Leigh. At least you have a start. Now, what next?

### Locating the Accomplice

Can we pin down the location of that pawn?

No. No? No. It can be anywhere.

Really? Let's put our thinking cap on for a moment. After our adversary's query, the referee responds with a 'Try.' Since all our men are on the first rank, this can only mean that the Black pawn is on the second rank.

Can it be on any other rank? No. Our Queen is on the seventh rank, true. But it is beyond the pawn's reach — a Black pawn can

capture only if a White chessman is on the sixth to the first rank. No exceptions. So, the pawn is on the second rank for sure.

### Pinpointing the Accomplice

Okay, let's grant you that the pawn is on the second rank. Can we pinpoint the exact square the pawn is on? No.

No? Why not? Because, regardless of whether the pawn is — on a2, c2, e2, or g2 — it has a 'try' coming.

Indeed that's so. But, if we follow this line of reasoning, the pawn-capture attempt is bound to be successful. Isn't that not so?

Yes. Yes? Yes.

### Inference from a "No" Ruling

But, the referee's first ruling to our adversary's pawn-capture move is a 'No.' How do we account for that 'No' ruling?

Hmmm. That's interesting.

Now, think. Don't dilly dally. Time is ticking away.

The only thing I can think of is that the pawn is shielding the King, thereby depriving it the opportunity to capture.

You may have a point. Let's build a scenario around that. Let's begin with the pawn at a2.

### Eliminating Scenarios Unable to Produce "No" Rulings

If the pawn is at a2, it would be used to shield a Knight check. But, since a Knight check cannot be shielded, this scenario makes no sense — there is nothing to prevent the pawn from playing Pa2-b1 to capture our Knight. So, the pawn cannot be at a2.

Can the pawn be at c2? If so, it would be used to shield the c-file against a vertical check. But, since neither our Queen nor Rook is at c1, there is nothing to prevent the pawn from vacating the c-file to capture our Rook at d1. So, the pawn cannot be at c2.

By the same token, we can also rule out the pawn being at e2, since neither our Queen nor Rook is at e1 to require the pawn

shielding the e-file.

That leaves the pawn at g2 as our last chance. Now, since neither our Queen nor Rook is at g1, there is nothing for the pawn to shield the g-file.

But, how about the diagonal? We do have a Bishop at h1. How about the Bishop?

### Identifying the Source of the “No” Ruling

What about the Bishop? Can it be the Bishop?

Let’s see. If the pawn moves from g2 to f1, it would vacate the a8-h1 diagonal. Which means that, if the pawn on g2 is shielding the King on that diagonal, that pawn cannot move g2-f1 to capture. Which means that, if our adversary does do that, he would receive a ‘No’ ruling. That’s it. That must be the source of the ‘No’ ruling.

### Inferring the Move Made

Our adversary could play Pg2-h1, capturing our Bishop — the only possible move with the pawn. Since there is no announcement of a capture, his actual move must be with the King.

So far, so good. Now, can we pin down where the King is?

Where can he be? He can only be on the a8-h1 diagonal, that means the a8, b7, c6, d5, e4, and f3 squares. Now, both b7 and c6 are adjacent to our King and, therefore, neither one is available for Black King’s occupancy. d5 and f3 are under our Rooks’ surveillance, so they are out as well. That leaves only a8 and e5 as the squares the Black King can be at.

Can we pin this further down? No.

Too bad. But, let’s set this aside for the moment and see the squares to which the King may go.

From a8, the King may go to b8. From e4, it may go to either e5 or e3. That’s it. The King may be at any one of three squares: b8, e5, or e3.

### Finding the Mating Move

Now, we are to make but one move to put our adversary away. Is there a move that can give a check both on the eighth rank and on the e-file?

This is difficult. But, the luck is with us. We can move the Queen from d7 to e8, Qe8, to administer both a horizontal and a vertical check by the Queen.

So, that’s that. Play Qe8 and mate.

Eureka, I find the move. I push the buzzer to await the arrival of a member of the instructional staff. To make sure that my analysis makes sense, I hastily add the two Black chessmen onto the diagram given us [Diagram 28].

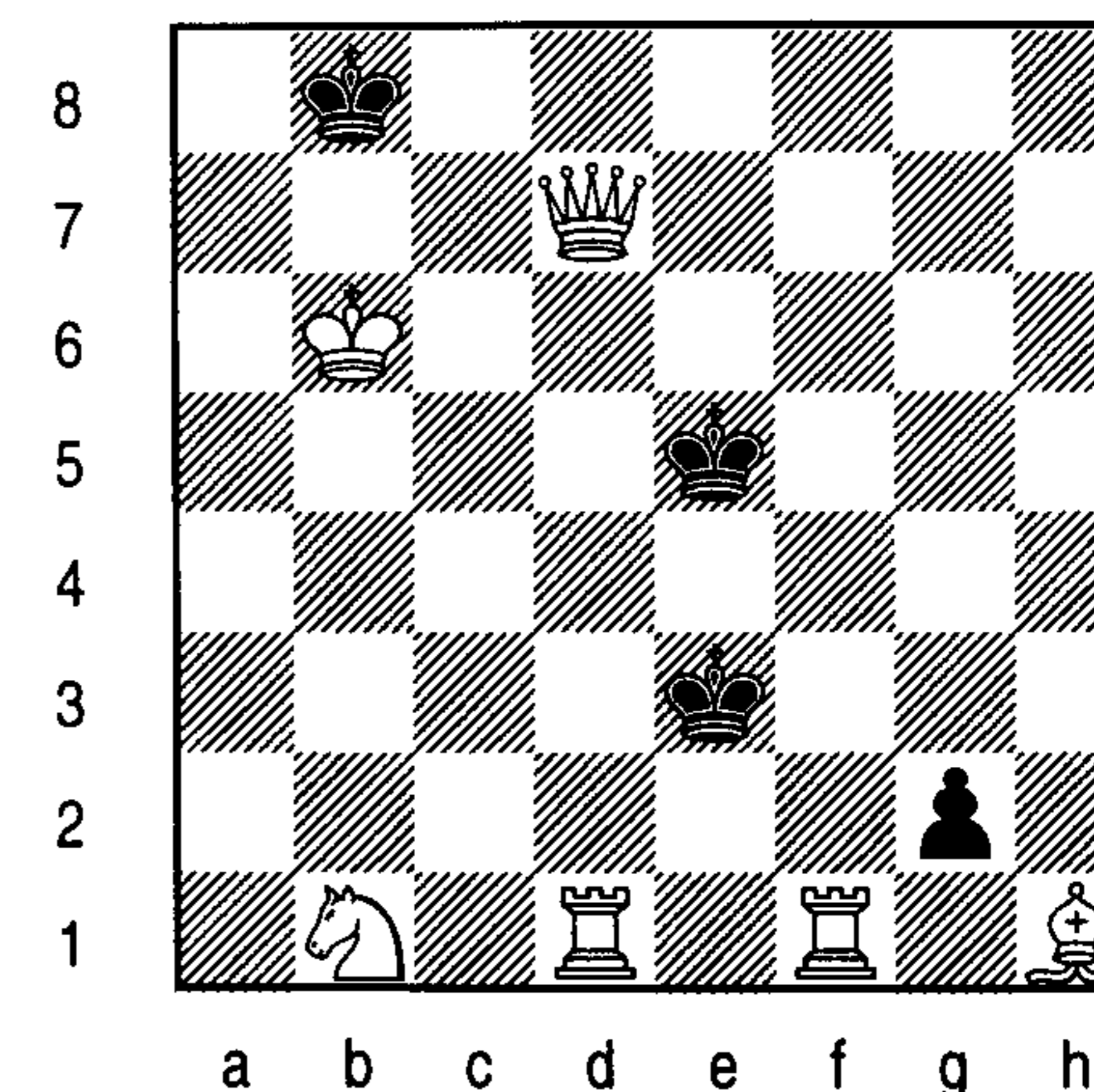


Diagram 28

#### Case 11

Scenario: White just played Rf6-f1; after asking ‘Any’ and receiving a ‘No’ ruling, Black made his move

Task: White to move and mate in one

(White chessmen shown are actual; the location of the Black pawn is deduced, while all likely positions of the Black King are shown)

**Dean Perry Gives the Test**

Before I can review my thought process, in comes Chief Inspector Perry, the Dean of Faculty of our academy.

“Good day, sir.” I stand up, surprised. “I have not expected to see you here, sir,” I verbalize what is in my mind.

“Nor have I,” he says, curtly.

Am I in trouble? Is this serious? I say to myself.

“Leigh, don’t let my presence alarm you. Just calm down and tell me how you would handle the case.”

“I would play Qe8, sir.”

“That sounds good. Perhaps you give me your train of thought leading to that move.”

I go over the long line of reasoning, taking care not to alter the sequence and making sure that I speak clearly.

**Second Part of the Examination to Come**

After I finish, Dean Perry starts anew. “That sounds good. Now, report to this location tomorrow morning at 9 sharp and take the second part of your final examination.”

“Yes, sir. I thank you for your patience with me.”

“You are welcome, Leigh. Now, if you wish to avoid me tomorrow, think faster.”

“How’s that, sir?”

“Well, the one who pushes the buzzer last gets me. Do you get it?”

“I believe I do, sir. It has been my honor to be tested by the Dean of the Faculty of this prestigious institution, sir.”

“Have a good night’s sleep and report here at 9 sharp tomorrow morning.”

“Yes, sir. Good day, sir.”

Whoa, another narrow escape. I wonder what tomorrow would bring.

**FINAL  
EXAMINATION: 2  
KING AS  
SENIOR PARTNER**

I report to the location next morning and am a few minutes early. I turn the door knob and find it locked. Promptly at 9, I hear a ‘click’ sound, try the door knob again, and am able to turn it to get in.

Not unexpectedly, I find no one inside. Only a piece of paper awaits my arrival. I pick it up and begin to read it.

**A New Case**

*As in yesterday’s case, you need to read the directions carefully and refer to the diagram as needed.*

*After months of hard work, you have tracked down your adversary, who is in hiding — all by his lone self. You are able to corner him, narrowing his hiding places down to only three locations as stated in the narrative to the diagram [Diagram 29 on page 104].*

*Your task is to nab him in five moves or less.*

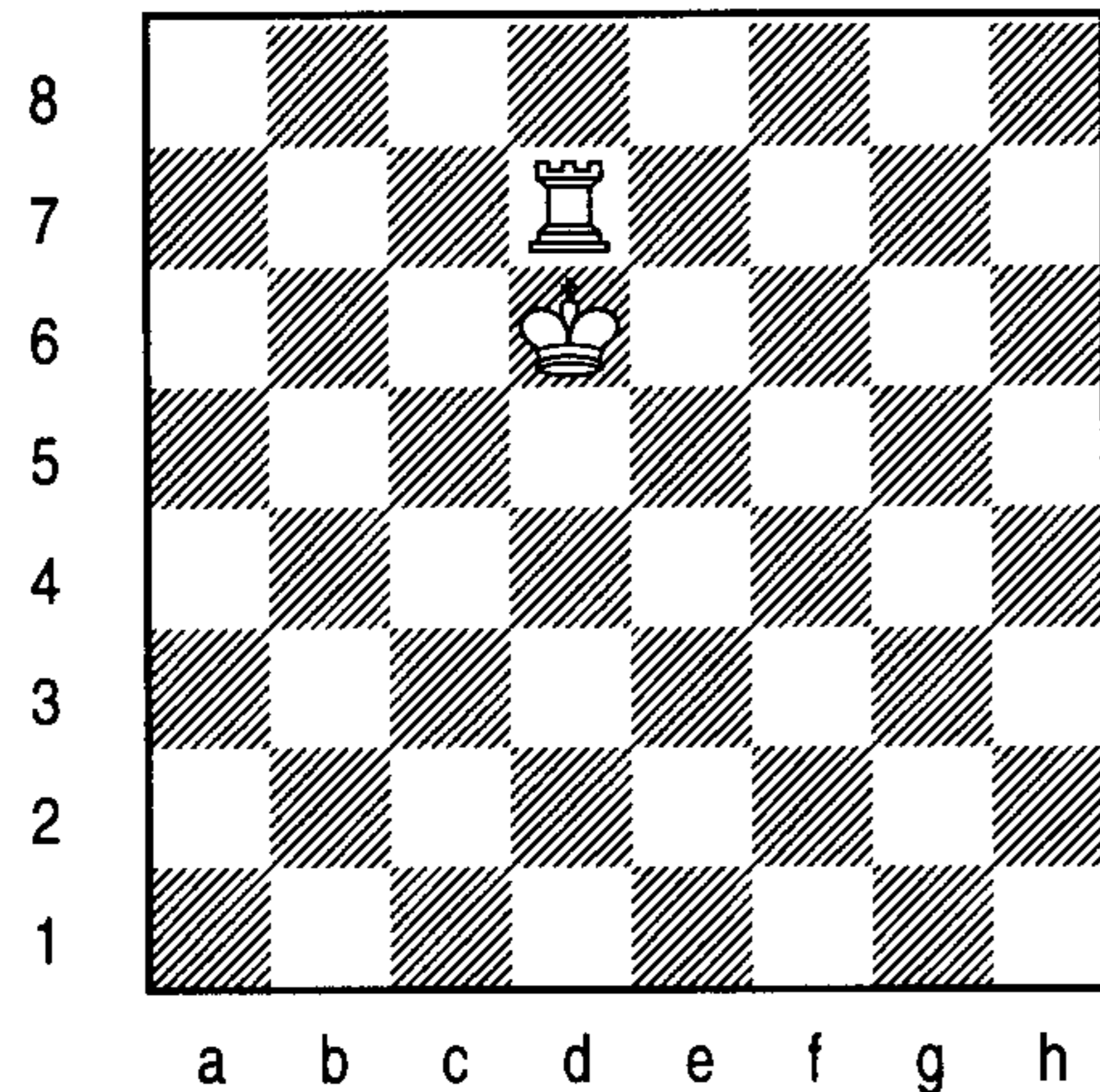
*Give us your plan on how you would approach the case. All contingencies, along with the handling of each, are to be covered.*

*Give us your answer in writing. Write clearly. After you finish, leave your paper on the desk, push the buzzer, get up and leave the location. The door will lock automatically behind you.*

*Good luck.*

### A Simpler Case?

I look at the diagram [Diagram 29]. It is so much simpler than yesterday's. There are but two White chessmen.



**Diagram 29**

Case 12

Scenario: White has managed to corner Black's lone King whose whereabouts are known to be at any one of only three locations: a8, b8, or c8

Task: White to move and mate in five or less

(Only White chessmen are shown)

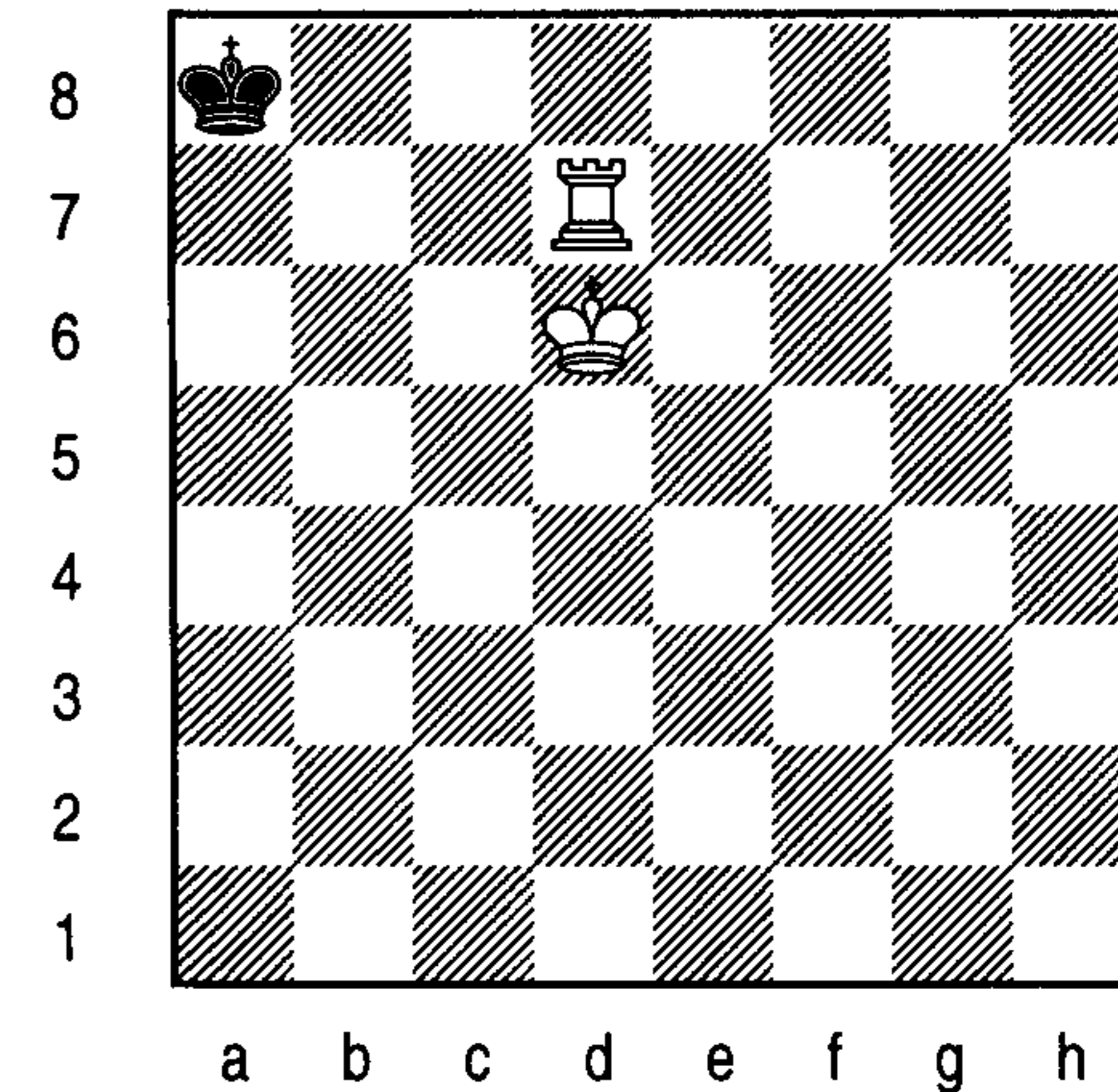
In reading the directions over, I am impressed by the sentence "All contingencies, along with the handling of each, are to be covered." This means, of course, that I have to design a course of action for each of the three possible locations for the Black King. My, my, my. The work is certainly cut out for me.

### With the King at a8

Where and how do I start? I ask myself. I need to concentrate

on one square at a time and write an action plan for that square before moving on, I tell myself.

Which square? Why not begin with a8? It is as good as any. To help me visualize the position, I decide to add the Black King at a8 [Diagram 30].



**Diagram 30**

Case 12 - Scenario A

Scenario: White has managed to corner Black's lone King, whose whereabouts are known to be at any one of three locations: a8, b8, or c8

Task: White to move and mate in five or less

(White chessmen shown are actual; in Scenario A, Black King is assumed at a8)

### Putting the King to Work

Is there a way to find out if the Black King is at a8?, I ask myself. "Put the King to work!" "Put the King to work!" Somehow, I hear an inner voice saying "Put the King to work!" over and over again.

I vaguely recall that “Put the King to work!” means moving the King about to gather information.

So, suppose I move our King about, say to Kc7. If the Black King is at either b8 or c8, the referee would give me a “No” ruling. On the other hand, if I attempt that move and do not hear a “No” ruling, it would mean that the Black King is indeed at a8. 1 Kc7 would be the way to go!

Capital idea, I compliment myself. Now, with our King at c7, the only square to which the Black King may move, from a8, is a7; there is no alternative. So, 1 ... Ka7.

Then what?

### Seal the Exit

“Seal the exit!” “Seal the exit!” Somehow, the instructor’s earlier words gush out uncontrollably. I hear the words “Seal the exit!” vividly, as if there is a tape recorder in my mind.

Right, I need to seal the exit. Where is the exit? The sixth rank, no doubt. Once the Black King reaches the sixth rank, it can escape to the wide open space, and our task of having cornered him will be completely wasted. So, I must not allow the Black King to reach the sixth rank. Let’s play 2 Rd6 to put a surveillance on the sixth rank.

Wait a minute. I heard another voice inside me crying for attention.

### Avoid a Stalemate

“No stalemate!” “No stalemate!” It is that voice again. Will playing 2 Rd6 create a stalemate? If so, it will be the ultimate insult, a black spot on my record, perhaps the end of my budding new career.

No. The Black King can move between a7 and a8. No problem of a stalemate. Good. So, let’s play 2 Rd6.

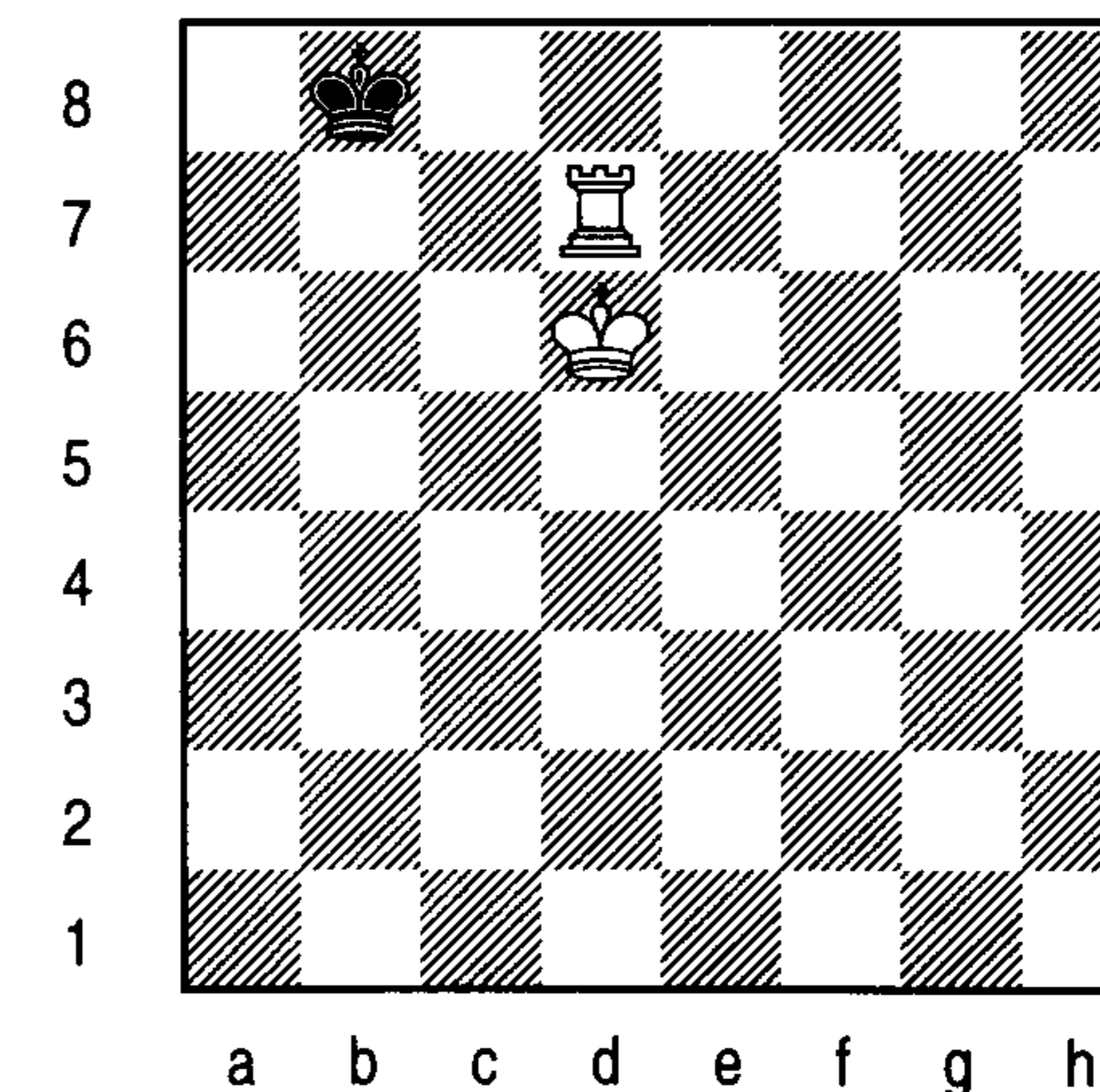
Now, the Black King may only play 2 ... Ka8. With that move, we may simply play 3 Ra6 mate. That’s it. Q. E. D.

### With the King at b8

What’s next? What is our action plan if the Black King is at b8?

Doing the thinking in my head leads me to nowhere. I hear the voice in me saying “You are lazy, you are lazy” over and over again.

What do you mean I’m lazy? I feel offended. Why am I lazy? I ask myself. Is it because I fail to draw another diagram? Okay, let’s make life easier; let’s draw another diagram with the Black King at b8 [Diagram 31].



**Diagram 31**

Case 12 - Scenario B

Scenario: White has managed to corner Black’s lone King, whose whereabouts are known to be at any one of only three locations: a8, b8, or c8

Task: White to move and mate in five or less

(White chessmen shown are actual; in Scenario B, Black King is assumed at b8)

### An Ambiguous “No” Ruling Does Not Help

Now, with the Black King at b8, our earlier move of 1 Kc7 will receive a “No” ruling. But, playing Kc7 will also receive a “No” ruling if the Black King is at c8. How can I distinguish between the two, b8 and c8?

A thought occurs to me. After a “No” ruling to my Kc7 move, if I play Rc7 and hear a “Black is in check on the vertical” announcement, the Black King is at c8. If the announcement is simply “Black to move,” the King is at b8.

Any chance of a stalemate? No. Okay, let’s try 1 Rc7.

When we do *not* hear an “in check” announcement, we may deduce that the Black King is at b8. It may then go to one square, 1 ... Ka8.

### Tightening the Screw to Nab Our Adversary

With that, we may play 2 Kc6 and tighten our screw a bit. Then, the Black King can only move to b8, 2 ... Kb8.

Tightening our screw still further, we play 3 Kb6, knowing fully well that the Black King may only retreat to a8, 3 ... Ka8.

We then play 4 Rc8 mate, to put our adversary into custody. Q. E. D.

### With the King at c8

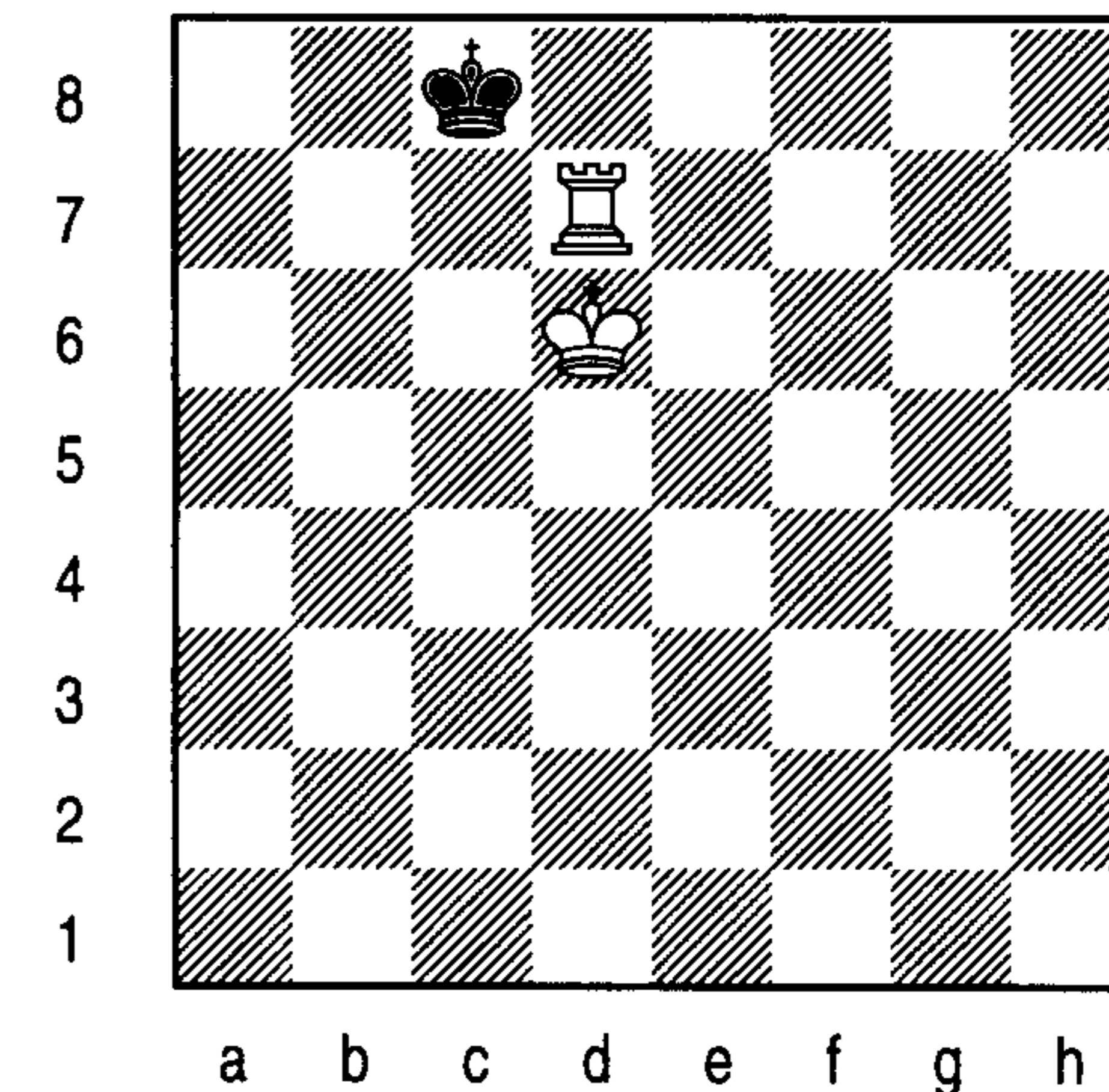
Hey, we are doing well. Two down, one to go. Let’s draw another diagram, put the Black King at c8, and see what happens [Diagram 32 on page 109].

### First Move Puts the King in Check

Now, in this scenario, we first test Kc7 and receive a “No” ruling. We then play 1 Rc7 and receive a “Black is in check on the vertical” announcement.

Where can the Black King go?

It can go to b8, and it can go to d8 equally well. Out of the two, the Black King’s going to d8 and readying to slip out would cause untold embarrassment to our months-long effort to corner him. The stakes are high.



**Diagram 32**

Case 12 - Scenario C

Scenario: White has managed to corner Black’s lone King, whose whereabouts are known to be at any one of only three locations: a8, b8, or c8

Task: White to move and mate in five or less

(White chessmen shown are actual; in Scenario C, Black King is assumed at c8)

### Enlist Our King’s Aid

So, with the high stakes, let’s again request our King to come to our aid. We have to ask our King to gather information for us by 2 Kd7.

If this move is allowed to stand, the Black King must be at b8. That is, Black's previous move is 1 ... Kb8. After 2 Kd7, Black's only move is 2 ... Ka8.

Now we can tighten our screw as before, moving the King to c6, 3 Kc6, and then to b6, 4 Kb6, while expecting Black to counter with 3 ... Kb8 and 4 ... Ka8. With the Black King thus cornered, we are ready to play 5 Rc8 mate.

Are we okay with the number of moves? Yes; we are allowed to accomplish our mission in five moves or less.

### The King Moves to d8

Have we covered all bases? No. We still have to consider the alternative where the Black King moves to d8 — ready to slip out with the next move. We have established this scenario when our move of the King from d6 to d7, 2 Kd7, receives a “No” ruling.

So, our first order of business is to prevent the Black King from slipping out. We could play Re7 to seal the exit, forcing the Black King to return to c8 (2 Re7 Kc8), and later to b8 (3 Rd7 Kb8), and eventually to a8 (4 Rc7 Ka8). That would take three moves. We must then transport our King from d6 to c6 (5 Kc6 Kb8) to b6 (6 Kb6 Ka8) before we are ready to charge our Rook down to c8 (7 Rc8 mate). That would take another three moves. The checkmate would not come about until the seventh move. That's too long, since our instructions allow us but five moves.

Boy, that is a tough final examination alright.

Where is our thinking cap? Let's put it on.

### Sealing Off Vertically

I almost doze off. It is a long day. As I rub my eyes, I accidentally turn my diagram sideways — giving me a new perspective. An inspiration suddenly comes to me. Can I seal off vertically rather than horizontally?

I experiment with moving the Rook vertically from c7 backward. This allows the Black King to move to e8 (2 Rc1 Ke8). I

seal the King's exit to the f-file by playing Rf1, forcing the Black King to retreat to d8 (3 Rf1 Kd8). I may then march the Rook down to f8 and force a mate (4 Rf8 mate). I count the number of moves. Only four. Q. E. D.

Eureka! Maybe I need to take more naps during the day to refresh myself and get inspirations. What a capital idea!

### Action Plan

Before I call it a day, I read the instructions again. The work has to be in writing. Clearly.

I need to impress the academy so that I might be invited to the advanced program for senior chess detectives. I think the matter over and come up with the following beauty.

### Chart 3

#### Action Plan for Case 12

<i>Scenario A</i>	This scenario puts the Black King at a8
1 Kc7	If playable, Black King is at a8; if not playable, see Scenario B
1 ... Ka7	The only square available
2 Rd6 Ka8	
3 Ra6 mate	
<i>Scenario B</i>	This scenario puts the Black King at b8
1 (Kc7)	Unplayable move (shown in parentheses), together with 1 Rc7, place the Black King at b8
1 Rc7	If 1 Rc7+, see Scenario C or D
1 ... Ka8	The only square available
2 Kc6 Kb8	
3 Kb6 Ka8	
4 Rc8 mate	



**Scenario C** This scenario puts the Black King at c8 and, upon receiving a check in Move 1, moves to b8

1 (Kc7)

1 Rc7+

1 ... Kb8

Black King may move to b8 or d8, moving to b8 is assumed in this scenario and confirmed at Move 2; see Scenario D for Black King moving to d8

2 Kd7

2 ... Ka8

3 Kc6 Kb8

4 Kb6 Ka8

5 Rc8 mate

When Kd7 is playable, 1 ... Kb8 is confirmed  
Only square available

**PART III**

**Scenario D** This scenario puts the Black King at c8 and, upon receiving a check in Move 1, moves to d8

1 (Kc7)

1 Rc7+

1 ... Kd8

Black King may move to b8 or d8, moving to d8 is assumed in this scenario and confirmed when 2 Kd7 is not playable; see Scenario C for Black King moving to b8

2 (Kd7)

2 Rc1 Ke8

3 Rf1 Kd8

4 Rf8 mate

When Kd7 is not playable, 1 ... Kd8 is confirmed

**LIFE AS A**

**SUPERVISORY CHESS DETECTIVE**

## 16    **REVIEWING AND PLANNING ALERT SYSTEMS**

“Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,” Dean Perry begins. “Welcome to this Advanced Chess Detective Program. As you can see, we have only a select few. Only the cream of this year’s crop has been invited to be here. You hold great promise, and I am pleased to be your instructor for this program. As you leave here, you will be respected members of the chess detective profession, and be eligible to sit for the Chartered Chess Detective professional examination. Should you then pass that examination, you may hang out your own shingle — with C.C.D. after your name — to practice this dynamic profession.

“I think every one in this room knows every one else. So, we’ll forgo the formality of introducing ourselves. We’ll simply begin our course,” the Dean pauses for a moment to compare the class roll to those present.

I look around, and see the usual familiar faces. Jonathan and Edward are here, so are Chris and Jennifer. I am glad that I made the cut, barely, I’m sure.

### **Emphasis on Planning and Review**

“As a supervisory chess detective, your emphasis will be on planning, on reviewing the work of others — to see if plans to nab our adversary have been properly thought out. Specifically, you will be asked to review if alert systems are in place — ready to warn the police the very instant our adversary has designs to escape.”

Perhaps to give us a visual image of our mission, the Dean turns on the overhead projector and flashes a slide:

**REVIEW ALERT SYSTEMS FOR ADEQUACY**

He then continues.

“In general, adversaries we — later, after leaving the academy, you — will be dealing with are the cream of the crop, indeed, among the very best in the world. They are much more intelligent and much more resourceful than we have ever been in contact with — they are every bit our match. Indeed, some of our adversaries are so sure of themselves that they voluntarily give us intelligence reports on their whereabouts as well as their accomplices’ — and dare us to challenge them. To be frank, on some occasions, we are indeed at a disadvantage by comparison. ...”

“Sir, are you telling us that the Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard is second-rate?” That’s Jonathan alright. We can always count on him to break the ice.

“Second-rate? You want to grade yourself as second-rate? Perish the thought or leave this room this very instant.” The intrusion catches Dean Perry by surprise. He looks at Jonathan piercingly and continues. “Short-handed, perhaps. At times, it is unavoidable, particularly when we are dealing with deeply entrenched gangs with large followings.

**Compensating Disadvantages By Good Planning**

“In any event, our resolve to nab our adversary is undeterred regardless. In every case, but especially when our adversary has many accomplices, we compensate any disadvantage by good planning. Planning by plugging all loopholes. Planning by covering all contingencies. Planning by being patient and waiting for the right moment. And this is where you come in. Your work is to ensure that all loopholes are plugged, that all contingencies are addressed, and that the right time to strike is called.”

As if to underscore the importance of this discussion, the Dean flashes on another slide:

**LEAVE NO LOOPHOLES**

**COVER ALL CONTINGENCIES**

**SET RIGHT TIME TO STRIKE**

Hey, our Dean is considerate; no wonder he is the dean. I like the way he highlights key points and allows us time to take notes.

**Categorizing Our Adversary’s Accomplices**

“Now, let’s discuss how we approach an assignment — bear in mind that, in practically every case, our adversary has many accomplices, else we’ll not be bothered by the assignment,” the Dean starts anew. “At the same time, we may assume that our colleagues — later on, your clients — have done good work. Specifically, we may assume that they have prepared a dossier on each and every one of our adversary’s accomplices and have done other preliminary work.

“So, our first order of business is to read the dossier our colleagues have prepared and classify each of our adversary’s accomplices into two groups: troublesome and harmless. Accomplices classified as harmless can be set aside. Accomplices classified as troublesome are further evaluated — and categorized into two sub-groups: neutralizable and dangerous. Neutralizable accomplices are to be rendered harmless through judicious action, while dangerous accomplices are given our surveillance.

“Let me stop here and clarify what I mean.” The Dean puts on another slide [Diagram 33 on page 118] and continues.

“Thanks to our colleagues’ excellent intelligence work, we have a complete and accurate report on the whereabouts of our adversary and the deployment of his accomplices.

“So, let’s begin — first, by classifying his accomplices as either troublesome or harmless. A harmless accomplice is either immobile or dormant. Here [Diagram 33] the Knight at e4 is immobile — it has to shield the King. The pawns at d6 and at e3 are dormant — they cannot move forward unless we are foolish enough to give them a chance to move diagonally. So, we can set these three accomplices aside and concentrate on the remaining two.

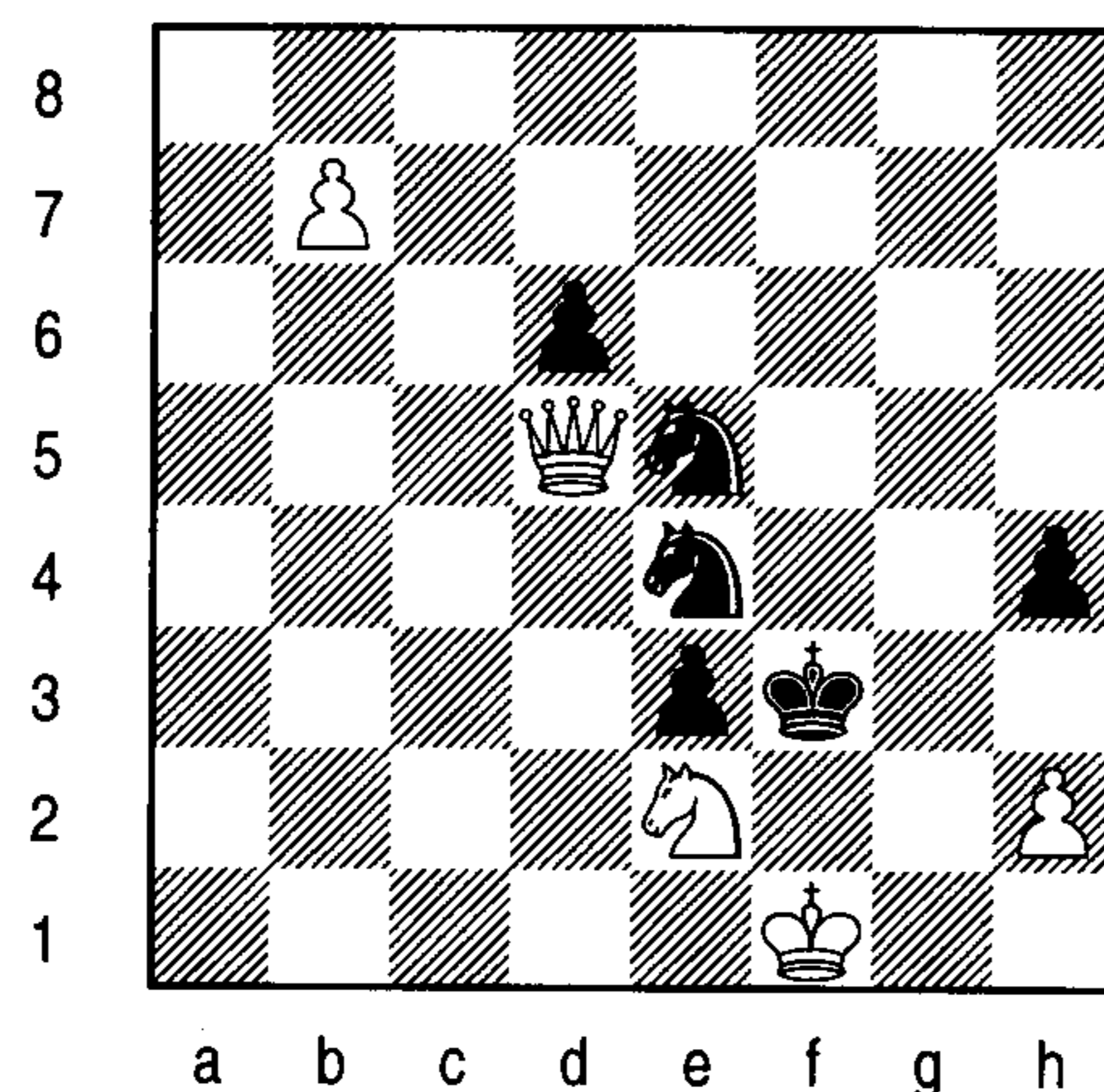


Diagram 33

Case 13

Task: White mates in two

(Showing actual position of  
both White and Black chessmen)

### Identifying Neutralizable and Dangerous Accomplices

“Of the remaining two, the pawn at h4 can be neutralized and rendered harmless if we can cause either one of two things to happen — either we push our h-pawn forward to block or we force Black to move his h-pawn forward to block. What is the proper course of action is taken up later in our planning. At the moment, we simply categorize the pawn at h-4 as neutralizable.

“The Knight at e5 is the remaining accomplice. Though free to roam, it will not. At the present, it is guarding the f7 square, preventing our Queen from moving there to administer the *coup de grâce*; further, it is blocking our Queen from moving to either f5 or h5 to apprehend our adversary. So, this is a key accomplice — indeed, in this case, *the* key accomplice — who is thwarting our mission singlehandedly. As such, it must be categorized as dangerous.

### Setting Up Alert Systems

“Having classified all our adversary’s accomplices, we have completed our first step.” Dean Perry stops momentarily to await questions. There being none, he continues.

“Our next order of business is to set up needed alert systems to cover all contingencies, and then to assess whether our resources are equal to the task at hand. If the answer is affirmative, if there are no additional loopholes to plug or other constraints to overcome, we are ready. Otherwise, we’ll have to wait — the right time to strike is not at hand.

“Let’s return to the case. Here, we are given but two moves to do our job — this is a constraint. Can we set up our alert systems for the needed surveillance and then nab our adversary — all in two giant moves? Can we do it? Do we deserve to be regarded as world-class supervisory chess detectives?”

The Dean stops and looks around. The room is quiet. Sensing the uneasiness, he continues.

### Making Our First Move

“Now, this being our first lecture in the Advanced Chess Detective Program, we have made your life easy for you. The answer to my previous question — I’m referring to ‘Can we do it?’ not ‘Are you world-class?’ — is a resounding yes. Granted, we have to be imaginative — we have to assign our meager resources to do double duty. Would anyone care to hazard a guess?” he stops again.

“Sir, suppose we push our h-pawn to h3 as our first move?” Jennifer braves an answer.

“What gives you that idea?” the Dean sounds more pleased than surprised.

“Your comment on double-duty, sir,” Jennifer responds. What a great way to impress the Dean, I say to myself.

“Carry on,” the Dean’s composure is fully recovered. His tone is most encouraging.

### Making Our Move Do Double Duty

“Sir, playing 1 h3 actually accomplishes two things. One, it blocks the Black h-pawn from advancing and thereby renders it immobile and thus harmless. Two, it forces Black to move with the Knight and thus vacate the vital e5 square, which action we dearly look forward to,” Jennifer continues, confidently. Her earlier tentativeness is completely gone.

“Well done, Jennifer,” the Dean says approvingly. Turning to the class, he continues. “With this move, we indeed force our adversary to move his Knight.

### Knight’s Role After Vacating e5

“Now, we must ask ourselves this question: Would the Knight’s King-protecting role end with its vacating the e5 square? If the answer is affirmative, we would have no further worry. But, if the answer is negative, we have a two-prong task on our hands. One, we need to identify the squares from which the Knight can continue to frustrate our mission. Two, we must set up alert systems against these squares.” The Dean stops momentarily, and then resumes.

“Clearly, the answer to our question is negative. Otherwise, the case is too simple to warrant our attention. So, our real question is this: From which squares is the Knight likely to cause us trouble?” The Dean stops again, as if to await someone to volunteer an answer.

“Sir, it seems to me that only two squares matter: f4 and g4 — the Black Knight can shield its King vertically from f4 and diagonally from g4. ...” Edward takes up the challenge.

“But the Knight cannot reach f4.” It’s about time for me to break my silence.

“Quite true, not on the first move. But it can reach f4 on the second move after 1 ... Nd3 or 1 ... Ng6.”

“Very much so,” the Dean cuts in. “Edward, you have just made a very significant point. Do you see it?”

Faced with the puzzled look from the class, the Dean quickly

continues. “Well, let me ask a different question. Edward, do we have any alert system to track the Knight’s landing on either of these two key squares?”

“Yes, sir. Our pawn at h3 can detect whether the Knight has landed on g4.” Edward delivers with flying colors.

“Well done, Edward,” the Dean praises. “This is precisely the point — the key word is ‘whether’.”

### Positive and Negative Signals from an Alert System

“An alert system — or rather, the results of an alert system — can be used two ways, both positively and negatively,” the Dean resumes. “If a system is triggered, it produces a positive signal; this is clear. But, its reverse side must not be ignored — if an alert system is not triggered, it means that something that could have happened did not happen; there is no signal, but it is equally important — and most valuable if properly handled. In other words, at any given moment, an alert system — any alert system — sends its signal in one of two ways, either positively or negatively.

“In terms of our case, when the Knight is forced to move, our alert system at h3 is either triggered or not triggered. We can find out its precise state by simply asking ‘Any?’ If we receive ‘Try’ as our answer — a positive response — we know the Knight has moved to g4. If we receive a ‘No’ as our answer — a negative response — we know the Knight has moved to some other squares, including the two key squares Edward has identified for us: d3 and g6.

“So, in one move, Ph2-h3, we not only immobilize the pawn, but also set up an alert system to track the Knight. This is great.

### A Contingency to Address

“Are we, then, ready for the mating move? Not quite. Not until we have successfully addressed a contingency — what we plan to do in case we receive a ‘Try’ response to our ‘Any?’ query — before we can move on.” The Dean stops. “But, before we do

that, do you recall what we are supposed to do if we are faced with this contingency?

“We must move one of our pawns diagonally to attempt a capture,” Jonathan responds.

“The pawn on the h-file?” the Dean asks.

“No, sir. This is the tricky part. Although our h-pawn triggers the alert that produces the ‘Try’ ruling, we cannot — must not — use it to make a pawn-capture attempt, since it is bound to succeed. And when it does, it counts as our second move, thereby preventing us from accomplishing our mission as stipulated. ...” Jonathan continues.

### A Fall-back Position Is Needed

“So, this is the contingency for which we must be prepared,” the Dean cuts in. “We must be ready to give a credible answer to this question: Do we have a fall-back position should we be required to make a pawn-capture attempt?”

“Yes, sir,” Jonathan answers cheerfully. “Our pawn on b7 may be used to attempt a capture. Although no capture by our b-pawn is possible, our obligation to make at least one attempt is nevertheless fulfilled, and, even more importantly, our precious second move has not been squandered. We thus play 2 Qf5 as our second move, resulting in a checkmate.” Jonathan is back to his usual brilliant form.

“Now, if we receive a ‘No’ to our ‘Any?’” the Dean asks.

“Play 2 Qh5 for a mate,” Jonathan answers unhesitatingly.

### Preparing an Implementation Plan

“Well done,” the Dean stops him. “Now, let’s move to the third phase of our work, that of preparing an implementation plan. Again, this being our first lecture, I have prepared a handout for you to keep — and a slide [Chart 4 on page 123].”

#### Chart 4

#### Implementation Plan for Case 13

**1 h3**

**2 Ask ‘Any?’**

If the referee replies with ‘Try’ (meaning the Black Knight is at g4 and now shields the King from a diagonal check):

(a) attempt 2 Pb7-c8 (to meet the mandatory pawn-capture-move requirement),

(b) expect a ‘No’ ruling, and

(c) play **2 Qf5 mate**.

If the referee replies with ‘No’ (meaning the Black Knight is not at g4, and may be at either d3 or f6 (and, as such, may interpose at f4 when the King is in check on the vertical): play **2 Qh5 mate**.

### Making Our Implementation Plan Easy to Follow

“Two things in our implementation plan [Chart 4] are worthy of comment. One, actions to be taken must be properly sequenced, else the force will be confused. Two, technically, explanations are not needed, but they are helpful. Our force wants to know the reason for doing certain things; they appreciate being treated as humans rather than as robots carrying orders. Besides, in the off chance that our implementation plan is not exhaustive, they might, using our explanations, devise means to cover our deficiencies for us.

### Steps in Chess Detective Supervision

“Now, let me summarize the key points of this session.” So saying, sure enough, our Dean flashes on another slide:

**IDENTIFY AND SET UP ALERT SYSTEMS FOR  
DANGEROUS ACCOMPLICES  
ASSURE COVERAGE OF ALL CONTINGENCIES  
LIST ACTIONS IN PROPER SEQUENCE**

“This being our first lecture, we’ll stop here, although we have barely scratched the surface. A lot is yet to come. We’ll do so in our next session.

**Pawn Promotion a Losing Move**

“However, before we recess for the day, let me say that it is gratifying that none of you opts for reinforcements, by suggesting 1 Pb7-b8=R. This is excellent.

“As it turns out, that pawn-promotion move is a losing move in more ways than one. In any event, our mission to put our adversary into custody in two moves can no longer be accomplished. With ... 1 Ph4-h3, 2 Rf8+ allows Black the option to play either 2 ... Nf7 or better yet, 2 ... Kg4.

“With this cheery note, class is dismissed. See you tomorrow,” the Dean concludes.

So, another great session comes to an end. I cannot wait for the next one to begin.

**17 GOAL OF REVIEWING:  
ELIMINATING  
AMBIGUITY**

“Have we lost anyone?” the Dean begins, facetiously. “None? Good. Today, we’ll discuss a few additional techniques of devising alert systems to nab our adversary — always bear in mind that we must make do with limited resources. Given that, we must, at all times, be imaginative; frequently, be daring; and, occasionally, even risk being controversial. But, let’s deal with pragmatic issues first, leaving philosophical discussions to a later session.

“Let’s first look at the dossier of this new case, which our capable colleagues have prepared for us.” [Diagram 34 on page 126]

**More Resources at Our Disposal**

“Compared to our case yesterday, we have more resources at our disposal while our adversary has fewer accomplices. Offhand, our task seems easier. But, as we shall see, the reverse is the case. As before, our first order of business is to classify our adversary’s accomplices.” The Dean stops and look at me. “Leigh, suppose you kick it off for us.”

“Yes, sir,” I steel myself and take another quick look at the slide.

“First, the two pawns on the f-file are immobile — the one on f7 is being blocked by its own Rook, while that on f5 has to shield the King. We may classify both as harmless and set them aside. That leaves the Rook and the Bishop.” I stop for a moment to steal a glance at the Dean.

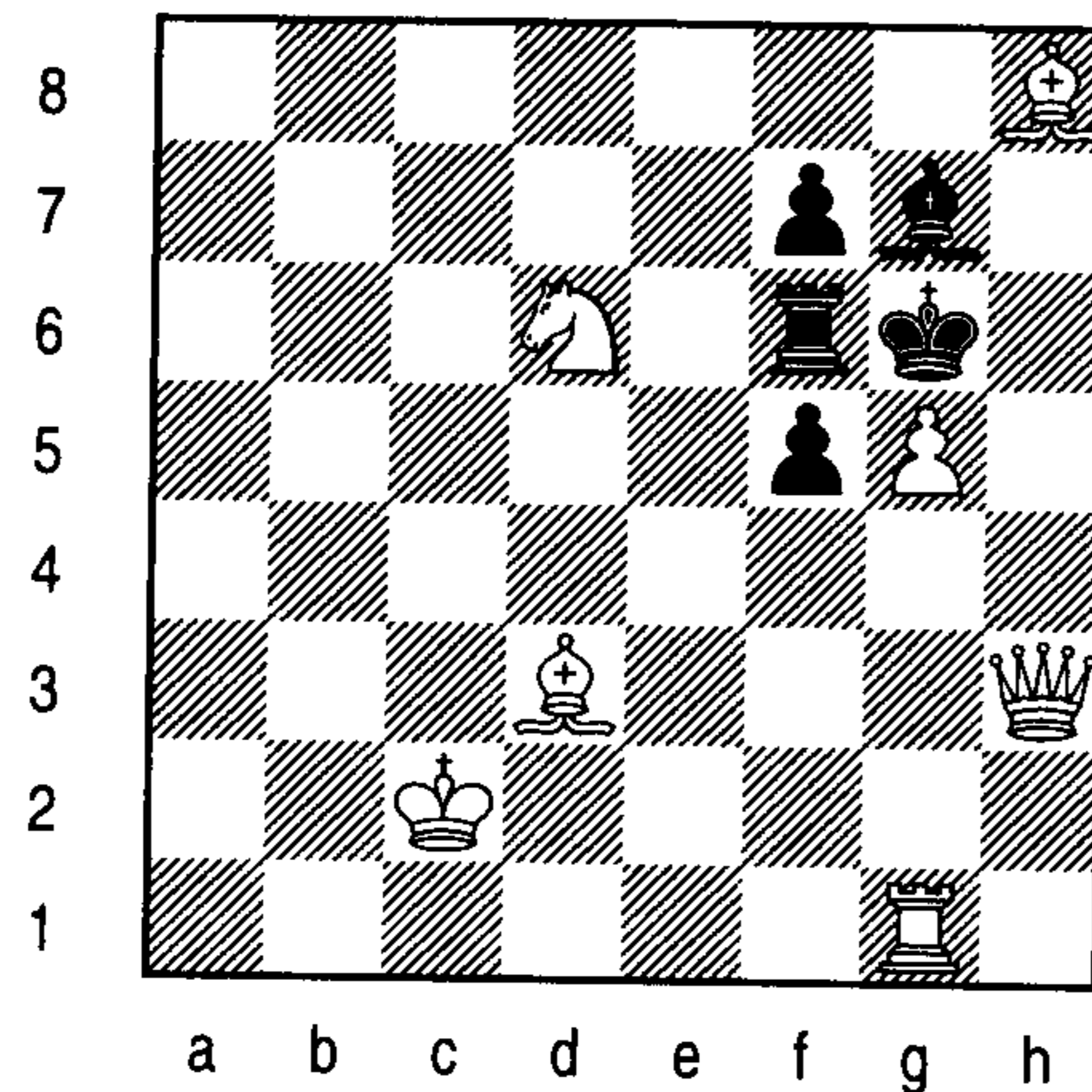


Diagram 34

Case 14

Task: White mates in two

(Actual position shown  
for both White and Black chessmen)

“What about the Rook?” the Dean does not seem impressed.

### Rook and Bishop Are Dangerous

“The Rook is free to roam about. It can move to d6 to capture our Knight, move to e6 to escape being captured by our pawn at g5, or stay put guarding the pawn at f5 at the risk of being captured. With three options, I would classify the Rook as dangerous. ...” I respond, tentatively.

“What about the Bishop?” the Dean is unrelenting.

“The Bishop guards the h6 square against our Queen’s moving there. Still, it can roam about just to be mischievous: moving to h6 to build a shield for the King to move to h7, moving to h8 to capture our Bishop, or moving to f8 to keep its guard of the h6 square.

The Bishop is clearly dangerous — perhaps the more dangerous of the two free-to-move accomplices. ...” I am ready to conclude, but the Dean cuts in.

### Alert System to Monitor the Rook

“Any argument? All agree? We are now ready to take up the second order of our business, to set up alert systems to monitor the two dangerous accomplices,” The Dean nods at me and turns to Chris. “Chris, suppose you evaluate for us our alert systems to track the Rook?”

“Yes, sir. The Rook, as Leigh says, has three options: moving to d6 or e6, or staying put at f6. At the present, d6 is controlled by our Knight — a treacherous mission. If the Rook does move there, we’ll definitely be so informed, since our Knight will be announced as having been sacrificed in the line of duty. If the Rook is not moved, our asking ‘Any?’ will produce a ‘Try’ response. Conversely, if the Rook moves to e5, our ‘Any?’ will produce a ‘No’ response.” Chris stops momentarily as if to review what she has said. “So, I think the alert system on the Rook covers every contingency.”

### Alert System to Monitor the Bishop

“Any questions? If not, let’s hear from Edward on our alert system to track the Bishop.” The Dean is in complete charge.

“Yes, sir. The Bishop, as Leigh says and I concur, is the more dangerous of the two accomplices, with four options at its disposal. Of the four, moving to h8 is straight forward; we’ll be so informed when our Bishop is sacrificed in the line of duty. The option of moving to h6 is monitored by our pawn; we’ll know when we receive a ‘Try’ response to our query of ‘Any?’ As to the remaining two options, staying put at g7 or moving to f8, we do not seem to have alert systems to detect either one. ...”

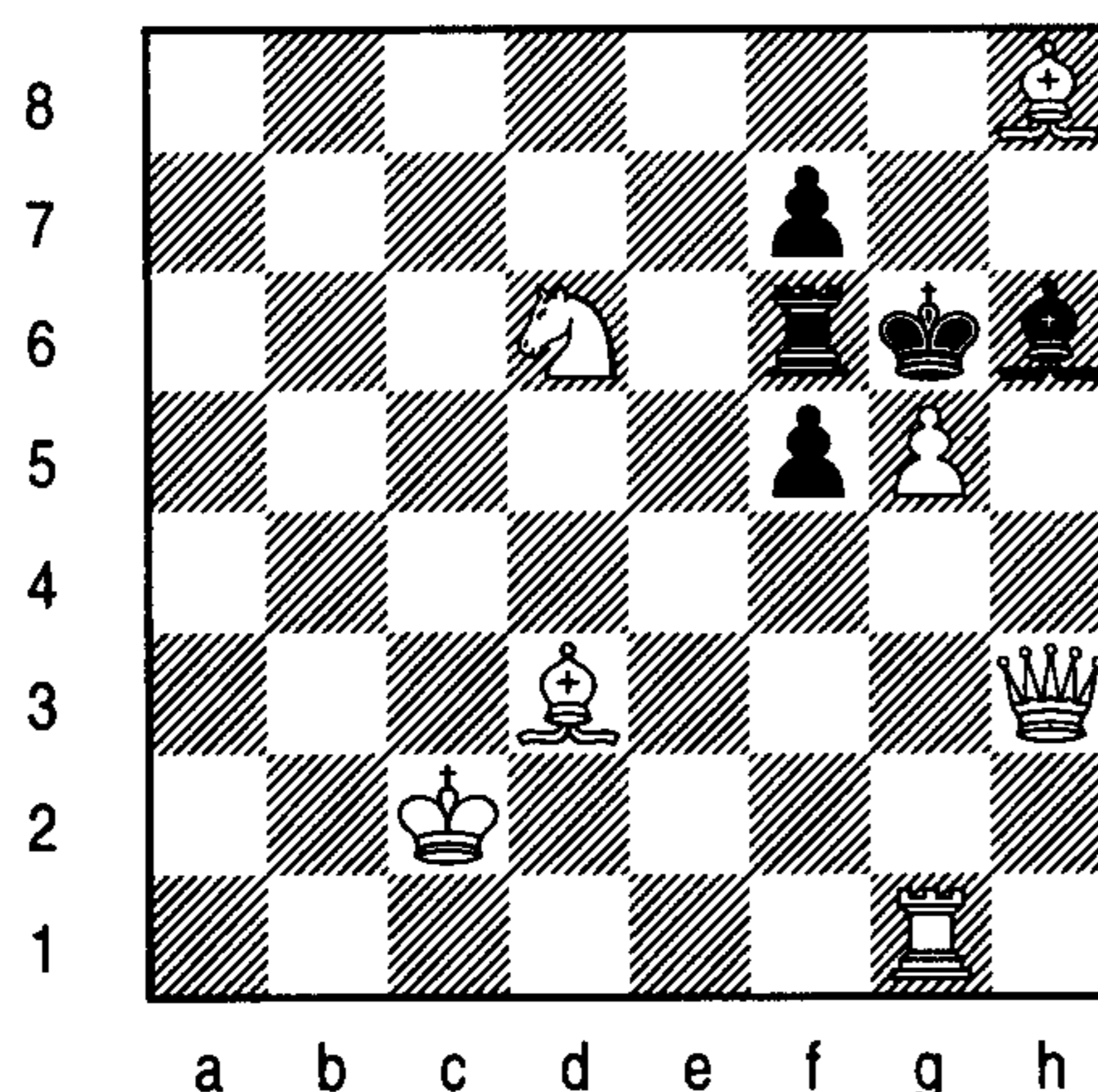


### Alert System by Inference

“Yes, on surface, it appears difficult — we have no alert systems to track either option,” the Dean again cuts in. “But, if we consider the movements of the Rook and the Bishop together, we do — the reason being that one of the two accomplices must move. Since our coverage on the Rook is complete, we can deduce the Bishop’s movement by inference. If the Rook moves, the Bishop is not. Conversely, if the Rook has not moved, the Bishop must have — either to f8 or to h6.

“Any questions?” The Dean stops for a moment. “If not, let us go back to our alert system monitoring the Bishop’s moving to h6. Edward says that this move is covered by our pawn at g5. Does anyone see any flaws?” he stops to ask.

“This, again, is difficult. Let’s do it this way. Suppose the Bishop has indeed moved to h6. And suppose our query of ‘Any?’ does produce a ‘Try’ response, what inference may we draw?” the Dean stops to put on another slide [Diagram 35].



**Diagram 35**

Case 14

Task: White mates in two

Plan to make White’s 1st move designed

to detect if Black plays 1 ... Bh6

(White’s first move is yet to be made;

Black’s assumed move of 1 ... Bh6 is shown)

### Ambiguity in Alert System

“Earlier, we agreed that, if our ‘Any?’ draws a ‘Try’ response, it means that the Rook has not moved. So, regardless of whether the Bishop has moved to h6, our ‘Any?’ will draw a ‘Try’ response. How does that help us in deciding whether the Bishop has moved to h6?” The Dean stops and looks around.

“May we attempt Pg5-h6 with the hope that we draw a ‘No,’ so that we know the Bishop has moved to f8,” I stick my neck out.

“Wishful thinking. Bush-league thinking.” The Dean roars in disapproval. “At best, you have only a 50-50 chance to succeed. We have a loophole here, it must be plugged before we may declare ourselves ready.”

“Sir, we are one alert system short — and we have exhausted our resources. Perhaps we are not ready,” Jonathan comes to my rescue.

“Is that so? Do you give up so easily?” The Dean admonishes.

### The King as an Alert System

“This is both difficult and controversial. So, let me take over,” the Dean continues. If we look at the slide [Diagram 35] closely, we realize that there is one resource, a priceless resource, that is available and not tapped. I am referring, of course, to our majesty the King. We must plead the King to render his royal presence to our cause by agreeing to risk being exposed.

“We must play 1 Kc1,” the Dean stops to make sure we have a good look at the consequences when that is played.

“After playing 1 Kc1, and before making our second move, we ask ‘Any?’. If the answer is ‘Try,’ we’ll attempt 2 Pg5-f6 to capture the Rook. If the Bishop is not at h6, meaning that it has moved to f8, this will be a mating move. On the other hand, if the Bishop has indeed moved to h6, playing 2 Pg5-f6 will expose our King to the Bishop’s attack — the attempt will produce a ‘No’ ruling. We thus track down the whereabouts of the Bishop without wasting a move — we play 2 Qh6, capturing the Bishop and producing a mating move.”

Everyone nods at the ingenuity of the scheme. Before this sinks in, the Dean begins anew.

### Caution in Deploying the King as an Alert System

“One final caution. Playing 1 Kc1 is not the same as playing 1 Kd2, even though both squares are on the same c1-h6 diagonal over which the Black Bishop exerts influence. After playing 1 Kd2, if Black responds with 1 ... Rd6 to capture our Knight, our Bishop at d3 is pinned and cannot play to f5 for a mating move.”

Everyone nods again. “So, as you can see, you must be very, very careful — you must review that every contingency is covered even after every loophole is plugged,” the Dean certainly squeezes the very last ounce of teaching material from the case.

### The Implementation Plan

The Dean then flashes on another slide for the implementation plan and summarizes.

Chart 5

#### Implementation Plan for Case 14

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | <b>Kc1</b>  |
| 2a | If the referee announces ‘Capture on h8’ (meaning 1 ... Bh8), <b>2 Qh6 mate</b>   |
| 2b | If the referee announces ‘Capture on d6’ (meaning 1 ... Rd6), <b>2 Bf5 mate</b>   |
| 2c | If there is no announcement on captures, ask ‘Any?’<br>If ‘Try,’ attempt <b>2 gf mate</b> (if playable, meaning 1... Bf8)<br>If ‘Try’ and 2 Pg5-f6 yields a ‘No’ (meaning 1 ... Bh6), <b>2 Qh6 mate</b><br>If ‘No’ (meaning 1 ... Re6), <b>2 Bf5 mate</b> |

### Key Lessons Learned

“What have we learned today?” the Dean asks rhetorically. “The most important is that we must consider all contingencies. Note, for example, our playing the King to c1 versus playing it to d2. The latter allows our adversary to get away and inflicts a big black mark on ourselves.

“The second is that the King is an integral part of our resources. Since it is extremely valuable, we must use it with care, making sure that it is not subject to undue risks.

“Still another point is the care we must exercise when using pawn-capturing opportunities as alert systems. To be effective, a pawn-capture opportunity can only track one diagonal square. If both diagonal squares are to be monitored, to eliminate ambiguity, an additional alert system must be installed.”

So ends another great session. Chess detective work is indeed exacting. I wonder what tomorrow will bring.

## 18 GOAL OF PLANNING: TRACKING DANGEROUS ACCOMPLICES

“In our discussion yesterday, we summarized by saying that the King is an integral part of our resources and that pawn-capturing opportunities must be unambiguous. Both points are important and need reemphasizing. The case today does that nicely, albeit we are asking our King to play an even more dangerous role for us,” the Dean starts with a preview.

“First, let us look at the dossier [Diagram 36 on page 133].

### Identifying Dangerous Accomplices

“Now, let me begin with our usual question: Among Black’s accomplices, which ones are dangerous? Jonathan, suppose you field it for us.”

“Yes, sir. Although our adversary has four pawns, only two seem to have roles to play. The pawn at c4 is shielding the King from our Queen playing to c3, while the pawn at f7 is guarding the e6 square from our Knight. Only these two pawns are dangerous ones. Among the pieces, we would dearly love to see the Knight vacating the b7 square, so that we may play Pb6-b7 for a mate. So, the c-pawn, the f-pawn, and the Knight require our looking into.” Jonathan answers succinctly.

“Good enough. Edward, suppose you tell us whether we have an alert system to monitor the movement of the f-pawn.”

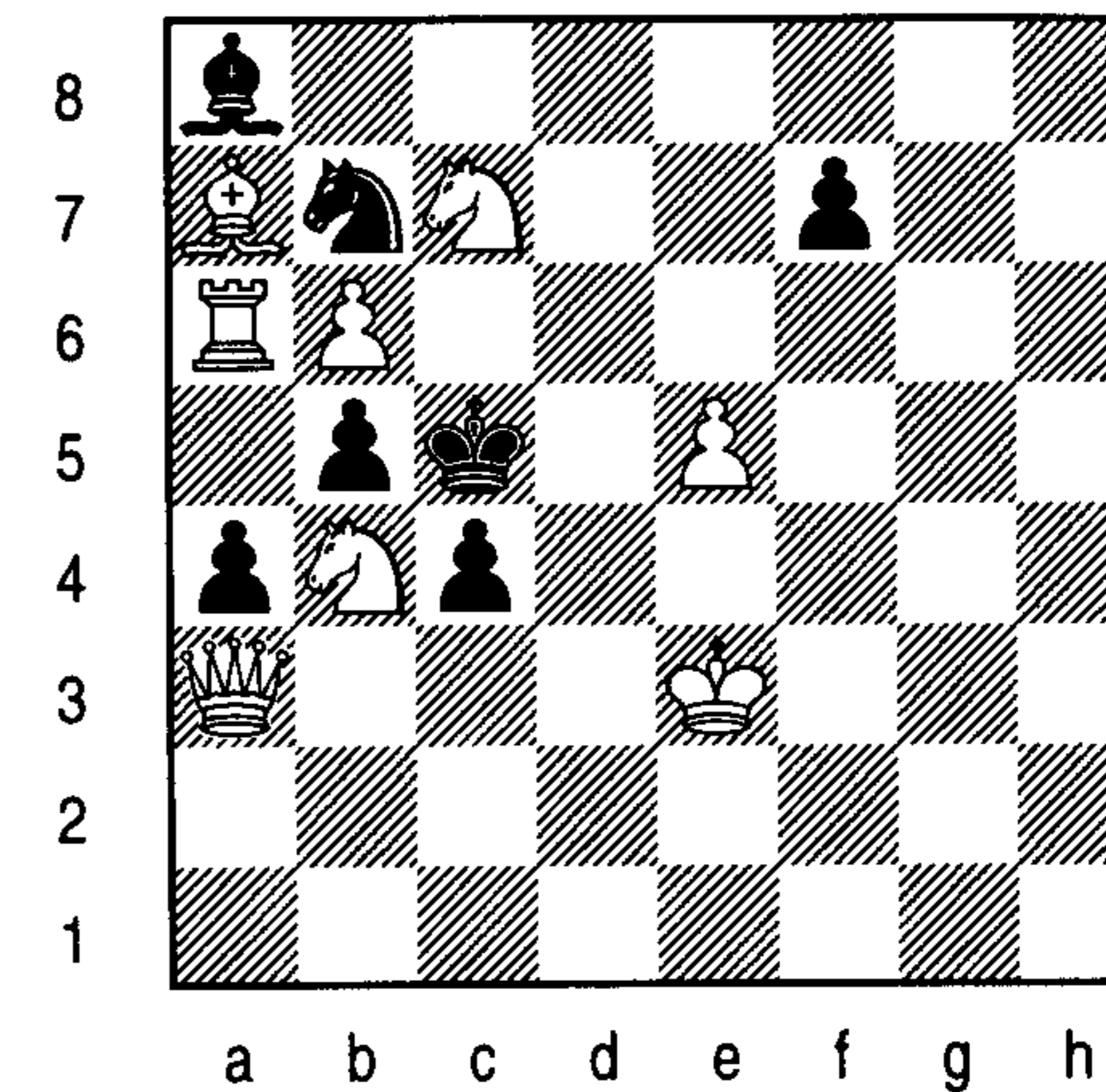


Diagram 36

Case 15

Task: White to mate in two

(Actual position shown for both White and Black chessmen)

### Alert Systems on Pawns

“Yes, sir. Our pawn at e5 serves this purpose for us. ...”

“Good enough. Leigh, suppose you cover the c-pawn for us.”

“Yes, sir. At the moment, we do not seem to have an alert system to monitor the movement of the c-pawn. We could play our Queen to c3 to test, but we would be wasting a move if the c-pawn remains at c4. If we play our Queen to d3 to test for interference at c3, the result would be even more chilling, as we would be putting our Queen in prise from the c-pawn ...” I falter. Somehow, the Dean always picks on me to handle difficult questions.

“So, testing the c-pawn movement with our Queen playing to either c3 or d3 is not a worthwhile risk?” The Dean seems to notice my inability to continue and mercifully comes to my rescue.

“Probably not,” I seem to be whispering.

“I tend to agree. We must think of something else. Let us, however, set this aside for the time being and ask Chris to cover the Knight situation for us.”

### Alert System on the Knight

“Yes, sir. As Jonathan says so well, we would dearly love to see the Knight vacating the b7 square. To find out whether the Knight has moved, we simply push our b-pawn to the b7 square whenever it is our turn to move.

“If this move, Pb6-b7, is allowed to stand, it would be a mating move, so we are unconcerned as to the square to which the Knight moves. Still, our pawn at e5 can further alert us should the Knight move to d6. So, our surveillance of the Knight is more than adequate. ...”

### Technical Requirement on Pawn-Capture

“Well done, Chris. Let’s stop here and ask ourselves a question,” the Dean cuts in. “If we receive a ‘Try’ response from the referee, meaning that our e-pawn can move diagonally to capture, do we know which direction to turn? Do we know whether it is the Knight moving to d6 or the pawn moving to f6?”

“We probably can attempt to move our b-pawn up to test. If this move is allowed to stand, we know the Knight is at d6. If not, we know it is the f-pawn.” Jennifer observes.

“This is all well and good. But, haven’t we forgotten something? Our rule states that, as soon as we receive a ‘Try’ response, we must play one of the pawns diagonally for a pawn-capture attempt. ‘As soon as’ means that we do it before — *before* — we do anything else. So, to abide by this rule, attempting to move our pawn from b6 to b7 before we make an attempt with our e-pawn is out of order. So, that is not a solution.” The Dean stops to allow us time to digest this. He then continues.

### Two Unresolved Issues

“Let me stop here and remind ourselves that we now have two unresolved issues on our hands. One is the ambiguity relating to pawn-capture we just discussed. The other is the lack of an alert system to track whether the c-pawn has moved to c3. I think it is now time to go back to our first unresolved issue and see whether we can help Leigh out with a few pointers.” The Dean stops, looks at me momentarily, and continues.

“Let me say, first, that Leigh is on the right track. But he is frustrated. Leigh, what would you like to do if you have your way?”

“Sir, I would like to play the Queen beyond c3 and d3 — perhaps to e3 for a diagonal check,” I sense my time to shine has finally come.

“And?”

“But our King now occupies e3.” I make an obvious observation.

### Moving the King Out of the Way

“Why not ask the King to move?” the Dean hints.

“I thought about moving the King to f4. It seems to be a safe square. ...” Hey, am I brilliant? But, the Dean cuts me off.

“Safe, yes. But, you have not taken full advantage of the opportunity this affords. Do you see a move that would not only solve your problem but also the second unresolved issue as well?” the Dean admonishes.

### Moving the King to Take Care of Both Unresolved Issues

Before I can say “I don’t see it,” Jonathan comes to my rescue. “Sir, perhaps we move the King to f3?”

“But that’s dangerous — we are subjecting our King to a discovered check as the Knight vacates the b7 square.” I protest.

“Well, that’s precisely what we would like the Knight to do — vacate the b7 square — so that we can play Pb6-b7, which not only parries our adversary’s check but uncorks a discovered check of our own.” Jonathan retorts.

“Well done, Jonathan,” the Dean cuts in. “Now, the King tracks the Knight’s movements for us. In effect, the King serves as an alert system. With that, the ambiguity relating to pawn-capture is eliminated. Indeed, we are ready to prepare an implementation plan.”

#### Chart 6

##### Implementation Plan for Case 15

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | <b>Kf3</b>   |
| 2a | If the referee announces ‘Check on the diagonal,’ meaning the Knight has vacated the b7 square, 1 ... Na5 or 1 ... Nd8 or 1 ... Nd6, play <b>2 b7 mate</b>   |
| 2b | If there is no announcement on checks, ask ‘Any?’<br>If ‘Try,’ meaning 1 ... f6 or 1 ... f5, comply with (2 Pe5-d6) for a ‘No,’ and play <b>2 Ne6 mate</b><br>If ‘No,’ meaning 1 ... Kd4 or 1 ... c3, play <b>2 Qe3</b> (mate if 1 ... Kd4 played)<br>If ‘No’ and if 2 Qe3 results in a ‘No,’ meaning 1 ... c3, play <b>2 Qc3 mate</b> |

#### Second-Rate Planning Ruins the Case

“Before we call it a day, let me again say that it is gratifying to know that none of you suggests playing 1 Ke4. This is excellent.” The Dean begins anew.

“Although 1 Ke4 also places our King on the path of the Bishop, as 1 Kf3 does, the effect is entirely different.

“First, after 1 Kf3, 1 ... Nd6 results in a double check, by both the Bishop and the Knight. We can no longer play 2 b7 for a mating move, but, instead, have to move our King away from the e4 square to parry the double check. Regardless of what we do next, our mission to apprehend our adversary in two moves is frustrated.

“Even if our adversary does not play the Knight but plays his f-pawn instead, we’ll still get a jolt. 1 ... f5 gives our King at e4 a check, which must be attended to, either by our e-pawn making an *en passant* capture or by playing our King for a capture. In either case, we are prevented from playing 2 Ne6 mate. Our mission to nab our adversary in two moves is again frustrated.

“If any of these two situations comes about, it is clear that this chess detective has not considered all contingencies. On the other hand, this case clearly demonstrates the high stakes a chess detective is involved in — a careless slip, and you are done.” The Dean pauses for a moment and continues.

#### Techniques of Chess Detective Work

“It is time for me to summarize. As a chess detective, we can employ a variety of techniques to alert us of our adversary’s movements. The commonest is using our pawn as an alert system. When so used, the signal it generates must be unambiguous. If not, the alert system must be supported by other means.

“Testing for blocking is also quite common, but it must be well planned before using. The risk here is that the tested move is allowed to stand, being playable, and we lose a vital move that delays our efforts or frustrates our mission.

“Deploying our forces subject to our adversary’s capturing is tolerated — and, undoubtedly, controversial. However, an adversary worthy of our attention is unlikely to fall for such maneuvers. But, since the caliber of our adversary is frequently unknown, it doesn’t hurt us to know that this technique may be used, on occasion, to bait our adversary.

“The next technique is to align our King behind our own men

as a means of alerting us of our adversary's positions. The issue here is the King's safety. We seek the King's presence only when we have no other recourse to other resources — almost a move of the last resort.

“Finally, we must include aligning our King behind our adversary's forces as a means of detecting enemy movements. Here, the risks are higher, simply because we have little control over them. We need to plan very carefully to avoid the embarrassment of having to parry a check against our King and thus frustrating us from accomplishing our mission. Clearly, this is our last resort.

“Let me summarize with a slide,” the Dean concludes.

#### Chart 7

##### Techniques of Chess Detective Work

1. Inquiring ‘Any?’ (for pawn)
2. Testing for blocking (using Queen, Rook, or Bishop)
3. Subjecting our chessmen to capture
4. Aligning our King behind our men
5. Aligning our King behind our adversary's men

#### Sitting for the Chartered Chess Detective Examination

“With this slide, we have covered practically all the techniques used in chess detective work. Our course is over.

“Undoubtedly, in the field, particularly when you are serving as a chess detective consultant, you will encounter situations requiring techniques not covered in the course. But, having taken this rigorous course, we are confident that you'll be creative enough to devise means to suit the occasion and meet the challenge.

“Along this line, let me suggest that you sit for the professional examination for Chartered Chess Detectives. After you successfully pass this examination, you will be a member of this dy-

namic profession and be ready to accept engagements as a Chartered Chess Detective.

“This examination will be held next month and will last two days. You still have time to send in your application form and sit for it. These forms are in our administrative office.” The Dean shows us a sample.

#### Special Seminar for International Chess Detective Consultancy

“Oh, one final thing. For those of you who plan to engage in international chess detective consultancy, we'll schedule a special seminar shortly after the Chartered Chess Detective examination. All who pass the examination will be invited.

“Now, a few last words. It has been fun having all of you all these days. Good luck in your examination. Good luck to your new professional career.”

So ends my three-part training course. Only the Chartered Chess Detective examination is ahead of me. I need time to study for it.

## 19 CHARTERED CHESS DETECTIVE EXAMINATION - I: CLUE BY PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Here I am, sitting in a huge room all by myself. All is so quiet. In front of me is Part I of the Chartered Chess Detective Examination. It consists of two pages. Page 1 gives all the instructions, while Page 2 is a diagram [Diagram 37 on page 141].

The instructions read as follows.

*After a long standstill that has attracted worldwide attention, the Department feels that it is ready to march in and put a stubborn adversary away, in two rounds. However, before it does so, in deference to the adversary's reputation as being both clever and resourceful, your services have been engaged to review the Department's preparations.*

*Your terms of reference are as follows: (1) to point out inadequacies in preparation, if any, (2) to suggest improvements to remedy these inadequacies, if needed, and (3) to draft an implementation plan covering all contingencies for use in the field.*

*Upon completion, you may leave your draft on the desk and depart.*

I read the instructions twice before turning to the diagram. My immediate reaction is that it is no more difficult than the cases we discussed in the academy. I feel confident that I can handle the case with ease.

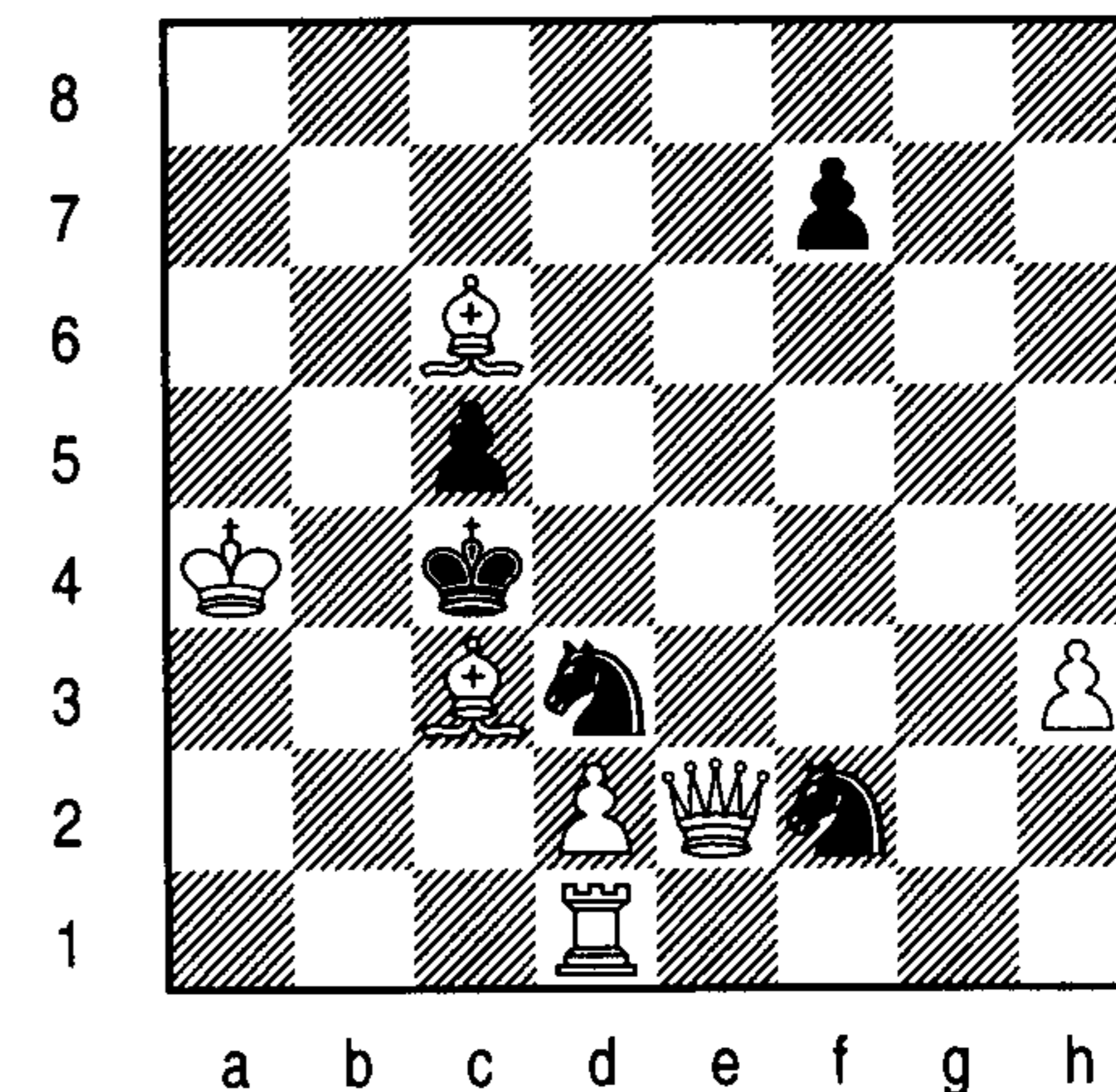


Diagram 37

Case 16

Task: White to mate in two  
(Actual position shown for  
both White and Black chessmen)

### Setting Aside Immobile Accomplices

Searching my memory, I realize that my first order of business is to identify the role each accomplice plays in guarding our adversary. Both the pawn at c5 and the Knight at d3 are immobile — the former is blocked by the King while the latter is pinned by our Queen.

Let's not worry about them; let's look at the other two accomplices, I direct myself.

### The Pawn and Our Alert System

Let's take the f-pawn first. What is its role? It is guarding the e6 square to prevent our Queen from moving there for a diagonal check and checkmate.

How do we tell whether the f-pawn has moved forward? We don't have an alert system to track its movements. Can we set one up? None comes to mind. Can we deduce whether it has moved

through the process of elimination? Too early to tell. So, let us set this aside for the time being and look at his other accomplices.

### The Knight and Our Alert System

The Knight at f2 is the only other dangerous accomplice. Right now, it is guarding the e4 square to prevent our Queen to move there for a horizontal check and checkmate. It also guards against our Queen going to the g4 square.

How can we detect that the Knight at f2 has moved? Do we have alert systems to track each of the five squares to which the Knight may go — d1, e4, g4, h3, and h1?

### Tracking the Knight's Five Movements

The Knight's going to d1 poses no problem; we will be alerted — at the cost of sacrificing our Rook stationed there. Similarly, the Knight's going to h3 will be alerted by our pawn's sacrifice there. Two down, three to go — e4, g4, and h1.

We are well prepared for g4 — our pawn at h3 serves as an alert system whenever the g4 square is occupied. Three down, two to go — e4 and h1.

### Reducing the Uncovered Knight-Move Square to But One

For either e4 and h1, we have no alert system in place. We need to put at least one square under surveillance, allowing us to track the remaining uncovered square by inference.

Which one? How?

Of the two, we need to use e4 for a possible mating move; let's keep it open for that purpose. That leaves h1.

Deploying the Rook to cover h1 is out of the question; it has to remain put to guard d1. But the Bishop at c6 has no specific assignment. We can deploy it to h1 — albeit at the cost of sacrificing it when the Knight goes there.

So, that is the way to go. With Bh1, we have set up alert systems needed to take care of all five Knight movements.

### Implementation Plan

With this deployment, would everything be in order? Are we ready? Let's draft an implementation plan and see whether it covers all contingencies.

#### Chart 8

#### Implementation Plan for Case 16

- 1 **Bh1** (redeployment of forces to remedy an inadequacy)
  - 2a If the referee announces 'Capture on d1' or 'Capture on h3' or 'Capture on h1,' meaning 1 ... Nd1 or 1 ... Nh3 or 1 ... Nh1, play **2 Qe4 mate**
  - 2b If there is no announcement, ask 'Any?'
    - If the referee's response is 'Try,' meaning 1 ... Ng4, meet the pawn-capture requirement by playing (Pd2-e3), and, following a 'No' ruling, play **2 Qe4 mate**
    - If the referee's response to our 'Any?' is 'No,' meaning either 1 ... Ne4 or 1 ... f5 or 1 ... f6,
      - play **2 Qe6** (mate if 1 ... f5 or 1 ... f6 is played)
      - If the referee rules 'No' to the 2 Qe6 move, meaning 1 ... Ne4, play **2 Qe4 mate**

I review the draft. I think all contingencies have been covered and everything seems to be in order — although I'm a bit uneasy about having to deploy our Bishop at h1 for a possible sacrifice and having to meet the pawn-capturing requirement with the d-pawn. But, that's life. I have to be pragmatic.

With that, I leave the draft on the desk and call it a day.



20 **CHARTERED  
CHESS DETECTIVE  
EXAMINATION - II:  
INTERFERENCE AS  
ALERT SYSTEM**

Having solved the case to my satisfaction yesterday, I am much more confident. I am ready to tackle a really difficult case today. Indeed, I'm ready to conquer the world.

As I enter the huge room, a paper awaits me, the same as yesterday. Again, there are but two pages: page 1, instructions, and page 2, a diagram [Diagram 38 on page 145].

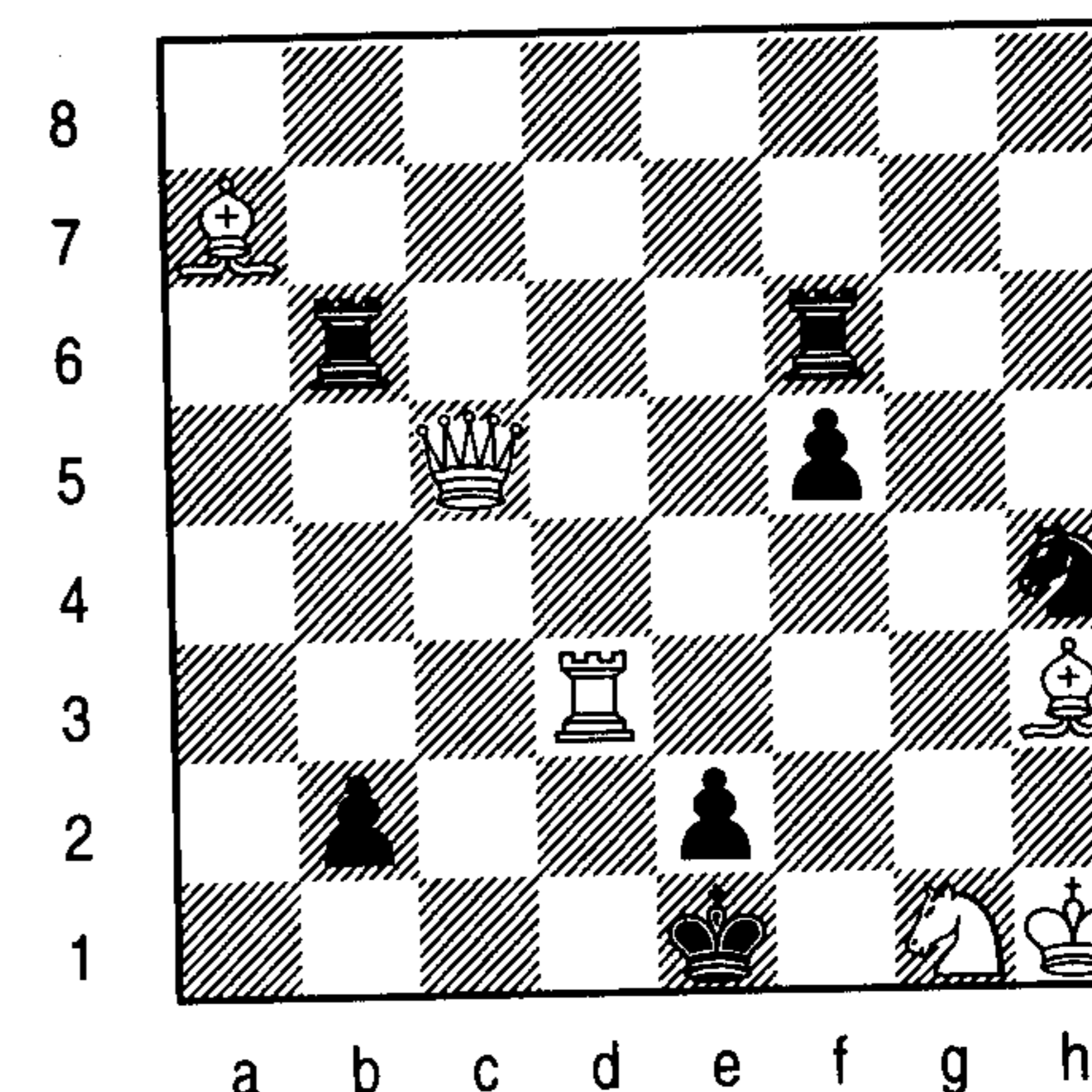
*After a long standstill that has attracted worldwide attention, the Department feels that it can no longer afford to wait, as the adversary, based on intelligence reports, seems to gain strength with the passage of time. The Department plans to initiate a preemptive strike, and put this stubborn adversary into custody, in two rounds.*

*However, in the light of the adversary's advantage in resources as well as in resourcefulness, before it so acts, the Department asks that you review its preparedness and advise whether it is ready to act.*

*Your terms of reference are as follows: (1) to advise if the Department is ready to act, and (2) if so, to draft an implementation plan covering all contingencies for use in the field.*

*Upon completion, you may leave your draft on the desk and depart.*

Upon reading the instructions twice, I realize that time is of essence. Can I can handle the case as speedily? Let's hope so.



**Diagram 38**

Case 17

Task: White to mate in two

(Actual position shown for both White and Black chessmen)

### Our Adversary Has Advantage

Looking at the diagram, I realize that the case is a lot tougher. Indeed, our adversary has an advantage over us — slight at the moment, but substantial by the next round, as he gains reinforcement through a pawn promotion. I don't blame the Department's getting edgy and wanting to act.

However, I cannot recall having encountered a case in the academy in which we are at a disadvantage. This is first time this has ever happened. Unfortunately, it is happening at the wrong time, when I'm sitting for the last part of my professional examination!

Well, let's calm down and look at the issues.

### Identifying the Mating Move

Does the Department have a mating move to support a preemptive strike? A quick look suggests that, indeed, we have — not only one, but three, options. Playing our Queen to capture the pawn at e2 is one, playing it to capture the Knight at h4 is another, and playing it to g3 is a third. And, if we can somehow induce the Rook at b6 to vacate the b-file, playing our Queen to b4 is a fourth option.

There may be others, but this is enough for our purpose at hand — to see if we have a preemptive strike. And the answer?

The answer is: Yes. However, each of these mating moves comes on our second round, thereby allowing our adversary time to make one move to defend before we administer the *coup de grâce*.

### Setting Up Alert Systems Against Defensive Rook Moves

In what ways can our adversary defend himself? Which accomplices will he call upon to guard against our mating moves?

Clearly, he relies heavily on the Rooks to counter our Queen. Whenever we play our Queen to the e-file, readying to play 2 Qe2, our adversary can move either Rook to the e-file to frustrate our mating move with 2 ... Re2, capturing our Queen to parry the check.

Do we have an alert system to track the Rooks? No. Can we set one up? Let's see.

### Presence of Alert System Determines Viability of Mating Move

The closest square on the e-file for our Queen to land before playing 2 Qe2 is e3, 1 Qe3. If our adversary defends with 1 ... Re6, readying to capture our Queen with 2 ... Re2, can we set up an alert system to track that?

No. Well, then, this is not a viable option.

Of course, we may outwit our adversary by playing 2 Qg3 instead of 2 Qe2. But, then, our resourceful adversary might defend with 1 ... Rg6 instead of 1 ... Re6 — and, we do not have an alert system to track that either.

Is there another square on the e-file on which our Queen may land?

We may play 1 Qe5. Our adversary can defend in the same way, 1 ... Re6 and 2 ... Re2. And, again, we cannot set up an alert system to track that. So, that is not a viable option either.

Is there still another square on the e-file on which our Queen may land?

We may play 1 Qe7, and our adversary can still defend with 1 ... Re6. And then we play 2 Qe2.

Can we play that? Now, the Rook is standing between our Queen and the e-pawn, so that our attempt of 2 Qe2 will produce a 'No' ruling.

With that 'No' ruling, we know that our adversary has indeed moved one of his Rooks to the e-file. We cannot charge down. Our Queen is spared. But, do we know which Rook is doing the blocking so we may decide what to do next?

### Mating Moves When the e-File Is Blocked

If we know our adversary has used the Rook at b6 to make his first move, 1 ... Rb6-e6, we can play 2 Qb4 mate. Of course, it would be suicidal if the Rook at b6 has not moved, as 2 Qb4 will be followed by 2 ... Rb4.

On the other hand, if we know that our adversary has used the Rook at f6 as his first move, 1 ... Rf6-e6, we can play 2 Qh4 mate.

So, we must set up alert systems to find out exactly which Rook has been used by our adversary as his first move. Can we do that?

### Non-Clearance as an Alert System

None that I can think of. But, if our adversary has not moved the Rook at f6, the path between e7 and h4 is not clear, so our

attempt to play 2 Qh4 will produce a 'No' ruling.

When we hear this ruling, we would know that our adversary has not used the Rook at f6. This means that the Rook at b6 has been used, unguarding the b-file. Thus, we can safely play our Queen to b4, 2 Qb4, for a mating move.

So, that's it. Have we covered all contingencies?

We have? Let's draft an implementation plan.

### Chart 9

#### Implementation Plan for Case 17

- 1 **Qe7**
- 2 **Qe2 mate** (if playable, meaning neither Rook has moved to e6)
  - 2a If 2 Qe2 is not playable, attempt 2 **Qh4 mate** (if playable, meaning 1 ... Rfe6)
  - 2b If 2 Qe2 is not playable, and if 2 Qh4 is also not playable (in that sequence), meaning 1 ... Rbe6, play 2 **Qb4 mate**

Boy, this examination is surely tough. I'm glad it is over. Let's see how I fare.

**PART IV**

**LIFE AS A**

**CONSULTING CHESS DETECTIVE**

**SEMINAR ON  
INTERNATIONAL CHESS  
DETECTIVE CONSULTANCY:  
TRANS-ATLANTIC  
KRIEGSPIEL RULE  
DIFFERENCES**

A few weeks after the Chartered Chess Detective Examination, I receive a letter from the academy, inviting me to attend a special seminar on International Chess Detective Consultancy.

I'm indeed happy to receive the letter, as it implies that I have passed the Chartered Chess Detective Examination. I cannot wait to show up for the seminar.

When the blessed day arrives, I show up early. I am the first one in the lecture room.

**Only One in the Seminar**

At nine o'clock sharp, in walks our friendly Dean. He immediately begins to lecture.

I look around. I'm still the only one in the room. "Sir, shall we wait for a few minutes?"

"Why?"

"They are not here."

"Why 'they'? You are the only one for this seminar."

"Sir, do you mean others are not interested in international chess detective consultancy?"

"Did I say that?"

"No, sir. But, why only I?"

"Well, Leigh, because you are the only one who passed the Chartered Chess Detective Examination."

Whoa! That's certainly a shocker. What happened to Jonathan? What happened to Chris? What happened to Jennifer? What happened to Edward? My mind begins to wander.

"Leigh, are you ready?" He senses that I'm not concentrating.

"Yes, sir. Thank you for holding this seminar just for me."

"You are entirely welcome. The academy expects good work from you. Now, let's begin our seminar." He stops for a moment and hands me a booklet.

### **Booklet on Rule Differences**

"First of all, let me give you this booklet. It summarizes, to our knowledge, differences in rules on information gathering between the Scotland Yard and, shall we say, the Washington Circle. Of course, the booklet is by no means complete; we expect you to add to it as you develop your international chess detective consultancy practice.

"For this seminar, we'll highlight some of the major differences.

### **The Scotland Yard Approach to Asking "Any?"**

"As we discussed earlier, one of the most important differences is in asking 'Any?' In the Scotland Yard approach, each player must ask 'Any?' before he can play a pawn diagonally for a capture. When the referee responds with a 'Try,' the player must then initiate one pawn-capture attempt. If that attempt is successful, a capture is made and the move stands. If that attempt is unsuccessful, the player may either continue his quest for a capture with one of his pawns or abandon his search and play something else.

"Asking 'Any?,' however, has become a routine. Many do it unthinkingly, asking 'Any?' whenever it is their turn to move. As such, on many occasions, they ask 'Any?' when they have no business asking — an inadvertent misuse of this privilege. A few even ask 'Any?' with an intent to mislead — a deliberate abuse. ..."

"Sir, would you cite a few examples?" I want to know the subtle differences.

### **Abuses of Asking "Any?"**

"I think we might have discussed a few situations earlier. For example, if your first move is to play a pawn to the third rank, there is no move by Black that can produce a pawn-capture opportunity as you make your second move. So, why ask? Sheer habit.

"On occasion, a player has no pawns left. Still, he asks 'Any?' Is this sheer habit or is this a deliberate design to mislead his adversary into thinking that he still has a pawn? Only that player can give you an answer.

"In any event, asking 'Any?' before each move and responding with either a 'Try' or 'No' is a sheer waste of time. And, after receiving a 'Try' response, making a half-hearted attempt simply because the rules demand it also causes many to feel uncomfortable.

### **Asking "Any?" Is Unnecessary in the Washington Circle Approach**

"So, as I think I mentioned earlier, our American friends have changed the rule by making asking 'Any?' unnecessary. Pawn-capture opportunities become a part of the referee's announcement. If, say, White has such opportunities, the referee announces: 'White has a try.' If such opportunities do not exist, he simply says: 'White to move.'

"This simple change eliminates all the problems we discussed: no chance for inadvertent misuse, and certainly no chance to mislead the adversary. Also, the play is faster paced, the ubiquitous interruptions of 'Any?' 'Try' or 'No' are completely cut out.

"I think our American friends got it right this time." He stops for a moment to look at me. I have nothing to do with it. I'm not that smart.

### **Identification of Chessmen Captured**

"Now, let's move to another important difference: Identification of chessman captured.

“When a capture takes place, say by Black at a3, the Scotland Yard practice is to announce it as ‘Capture on a3.’ The identity of the chessman captured is not revealed. Our American friends reveal more; they mention whether the chessman captured is a pawn or a piece — a piece being any chessman other than a pawn.

“So, if the White chessman sitting at a3 is a pawn, the Washington Circle approach is to announce it as ‘Black captures a pawn on a3.’ If it is, say, a Knight, ‘Black captures a piece on a3.’

“The net effect of this is mixed. On the positive side, it will no longer allow a player to pretend he has pawns when he doesn’t. On the negative side, the American practice makes playing easier.

### Query on Chessmen Count

“A related difference involves chessmen count. In the Scotland Yard practice, players are not allowed to query the referee for his adversary’s holdings. In the Washington Circle approach, players are allowed this privilege.

“For example, in the United States, a player, say Black, may query with ‘Chessmen count, please.’ To this, a referee might respond with: ‘White has two pieces and three pawns.’ King, although a piece, is not included in the count.

“Again, the American practice makes playing easier. At the same time, with this information readily available, the end game tends to be more exacting and more exciting.

### Announcement of Diagonal Checks

“Let’s move on to still another difference: Announcement of checks.

“In the Scotland Yard practice, when the King is in check diagonally, whether it is on the long diagonal or the short diagonal is also announced, thus, ‘White is in check on long,’ or ‘Black is in check on short.’ Our American friends merely announce a diagonal check as such, without mentioning long or short, thus ‘White is in check on the diagonal’ covers both.

“The American approach favors the player whose King is under check, since he can readily figure out whether the check comes from the long or the short diagonal. The player doing the checking, on the other hand, may not have this advantage.

“The American approach, thus, offers the player under check a handicap. This is not necessarily bad, and tends to make the game more interesting.

### Announcement of Double Checks

“A more controversial difference is the double check. In the Scotland Yard practice, a double check, say by White with a Bishop and a Knight, is announced as ‘Black is in check on long and by a Knight.’ In the Washington Circle approach, a double check is announced only in terms of that given by the more valuable piece — in descending order, Queen, Rook, Bishop, and Knight. Thus, ‘Black is in check on the diagonal’ covers a Queen or Bishop check singly — as well as a Queen-Rook double check, a Queen-Knight double check, or a Bishop-Knight double check.

“The effect of this, again, favors the player being checked; he can deduce a double check quite readily. The player giving the double check might not get it immediately, but, through the number of ‘No’ rulings the other player receives, may sense that his opponent is trying to get out of a double check. Since the player giving check already has an upper hand, this concession to the beleaguered poor chap is quite understandable and probably desirable.

“We are moving along rapidly. Do you have any questions?”

“No, sir.”

So the Dean continues.

### Announcement on Pawn Promotion

“Now we come to the last of major differences: Pawn promotion.

“In the Scotland Yard practice, whenever a pawn reaches the last rank, it may be promoted to any piece the player wishes —

there are no restrictions. Further, the fact that a pawn promotion has taken place is not announced.

“Our American friends do this differently, on two fronts. First, they impose a condition — the promotion can only be to a piece that has come off the board. Second, the fact that a pawn promotion has taken place is announced.

“For example, assume that, at the time of pushing his seventh-rank pawn forward for promotion, White still has his Queen, a Rook and a Knight on board. In the Scotland Yard practice, White can promote it to whatever piece, and the announcement is simply: ‘White has moved; Black to move.’

“Our American friends will limit this pawn promotion to a Rook, a Bishop, or a Knight, but not to the Queen. It will be announced as: ‘White promotes: Black to move.’”

“Sir, what if none of the pieces has come off the board?” My big mouth is acting up again.

“A good question. Rather theoretical. In any event, this has never come up before. Certainly it would not have mattered in Britain — it would be promoted to a Queen. If and when it comes up in the United States, we’ll let you handle it.

“Any other questions?”

“No, sir.”

“Very well, I think I have covered all key differences that we in the academy have come across.

“Good luck, and welcome to the rank of Chartered Chess Detectives.” The Dean stops, walks toward me, and shakes my hand.

### **End of Student Days**

“Thank you, sir. It has been a most invigorating period of my life. I look forward to the challenge of being a Chartered Chess Detective in international consultancy.”

So ends my student days. Now, indeed, the real challenges are ahead.

## **THE MORIARTY CHALLENGE: “NO” RULINGS AS ADVERSARY LOCATOR**

While readying to leave my quarters for the Heathrow Airport on my return flight to the United States, our good-natured butler rushes in. I have already said goodbye to him, and have thanked him profusely for the excellent care I received from him. Still, he seems to have an urgent matter to bring to my attention.

Before I can speak up to inquire, he holds up a tray; in it is an envelope.

### **A Congratulatory Message**

“Sir, this just came in. The messenger said that it is a congratulatory message from an admirer to this year’s graduating class.” He moves the tray even closer.

“Thank you, Jones. Let me quickly read it and leave it with you, so you may show it to others as well.”

“No, sir. It is for you. It has your name on the envelope.”

Before I can say anything else, I suddenly realize that Jones is right. I’m it. I’m the entire graduating class. I look at the envelope again. Yes, indeed, it has my name written on it, in first-class calligraphy.

“Well, in that case, let me read it on the way to the airport. I’m a bit late as it is.”

Seeing the taxicab Jones has arranged for me is at the door, I shake Jones’s hand and bid him farewell. I’m sure he has taken care of my luggage.

I open the envelope. Out comes a sheet with a diagram and a carefully handwritten note.

### A Perennial Challenge

*My congratulations to you, sir, for being the lone graduate of this prestigious academy for this year.*

*To the graduating class of each the last several years, I have sent this congratulatory letter — and a challenge. I want to find out how good these graduates are. I want to know if these graduates are in the same league as I.*

*Unfortunately, I have been disappointed. The graduates are not my match. I rationalize their ineptitude on their large number — a consensus view is invariably watered down and ineffective.*

*This year, for the first time, the graduating class consists of only one person. There is no consensus to worry about, there is no compromise to deal with. So, it is a one-on-one challenge.*

*Here is the challenge. Please do me the honour of looking at the diagram for a moment.*

### A Trace of Arrogance

Although I am puzzled by what my correspondent says, I nevertheless enjoy the letter. I detect a trace of arrogance, but I can take it. Until the very last sentence, that is. Spelling the word *honor* as *honour*, knowing that I'm returning to the stateside, is a bit much. Is he — er, this person — deliberate? Is he — this person — trying to provoke me?

Let's see what's up. And, then, let's see if I can put him — that person — in place.

### A Diagram With Commentary

I turn to the diagram [Diagram 39 on page 161]. At the bottom are lines of commentary:

*Let me first compliment the Yard. My being here is a clear evidence of their having done a jolly good job. But, let me assure you, this is temporary. Indeed, I'm here purely on my own volition. I can come and go as I please.*

### Relieving the Yard from Financial Burden

*For a time, I did want to go — simply an honourable way to relieve the Yard from the financial burden of taking care of me, you understand. Toward that end, I devised as many as ten different ways, but the Yard is certainly more hospitable than I can imagine, and declined to allow me to take leave. A pity. So, I'm still here.*

*On the other hand, on at least two occasions, the Yard was displeased with me, and wanted to deprive me of the little freedom I treasured. Of course, when the Yard tried to do such dishonourable things, I had to teach it a lesson. In each of these occasions, I disgraced the Yard.*

*Of course, once I was out, I longed for the world-class care the Yard gave me. So, on each of the two occasions, I returned on my own volition. That's why I'm still here.*

### Wanting to Be Led Away

*But, this longing to be in and longing to be out has, unfortunately, been tormenting me to an unbearable level. I want this tormenting to end. I want to be led away, in a graceful way, so that the Yard's financial burden on me and the emotional burden on myself can both come to an end — once and for all.*

*After many years, I'm still waiting. With the Yard's reputation, isn't there anyone who is up to this challenge?*



### Letter Is From Professor Moriarty

So ends the commentary. Before I look at the diagram, I decide to finish reading the letter. It has, in fact, only two more lines:

*How about it, sir? How about it, the cream of this year's crop of world-class detectives?*

So ends the letter as well. And then comes the signature. Compared to the highly legible text, the signature is difficult to figure out.

After some careful analysis, it finally comes to me: the letter is signed by Professor Moriarty.

### Am I in Moriarty's League?

Professor Moriarty! I say to myself. Am I in his league?

Although I do not consider myself in his league, apparently he considers me in his league. That's an honor — an honour, perhaps?

Well, I figure I cannot let the academy down. I cannot let this year's graduating class down.

Let's see what Professor Moriarty is up to.

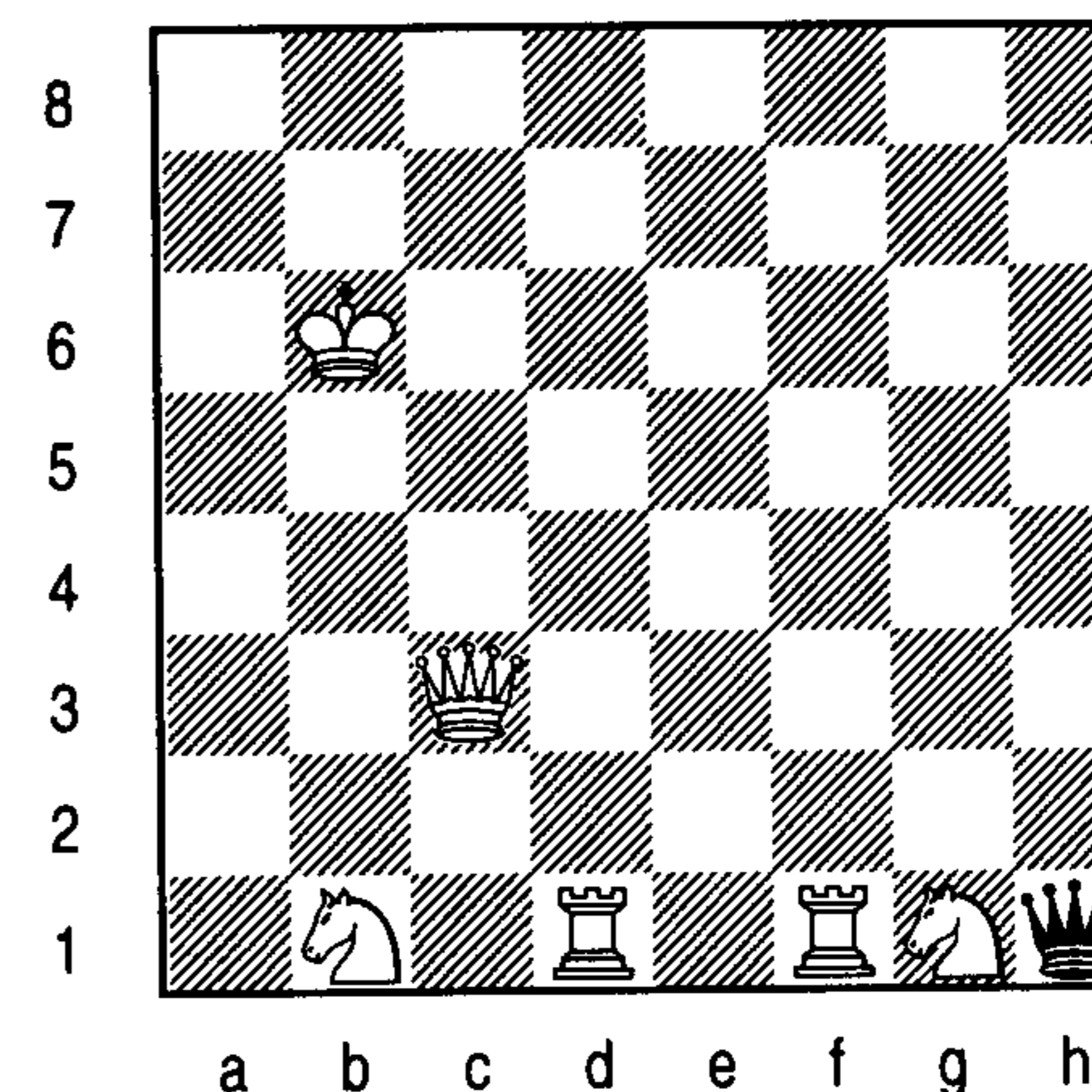
I look at the diagram [Diagram 39 on page 161].

"Interesting," I say to myself.

### Professor Moriarty Is Well Guarded

Looking at the diagram, my first impression is that the Yard certainly deploys a lot of resources in guarding Professor Moriarty, clearly a backhand compliment to his cleverness.

My second thought is that, perhaps, the Yard is too cautious and is overdoing this. Important and clever though Moriarty certainly is, I doubt that he deserves *that* much attention. Indeed, there is overdeployment. And this overdeployment, instead of being a help, has turned out to be a handicap.



**Diagram 39**

### Case 18

After ten attempts, I have gained a valuable colleague. Still, I want to end my misery.

Where am I?

Get me in one graceful move.

### Moriarty's Powerful Ally

In his note, Moriarty talks about his powerful ally. Apparently he is referring to the Queen sitting at h1. He also boasts that, a moment ago, he had but a low-level accomplice. Perhaps he intimates that this Queen is gained through promotion. He also states that this ally is gained by embarrassing the Yard the worst possible way. Does this suggest that this pawn promotion is done through capturing one of the Yard's forces? Apparently.

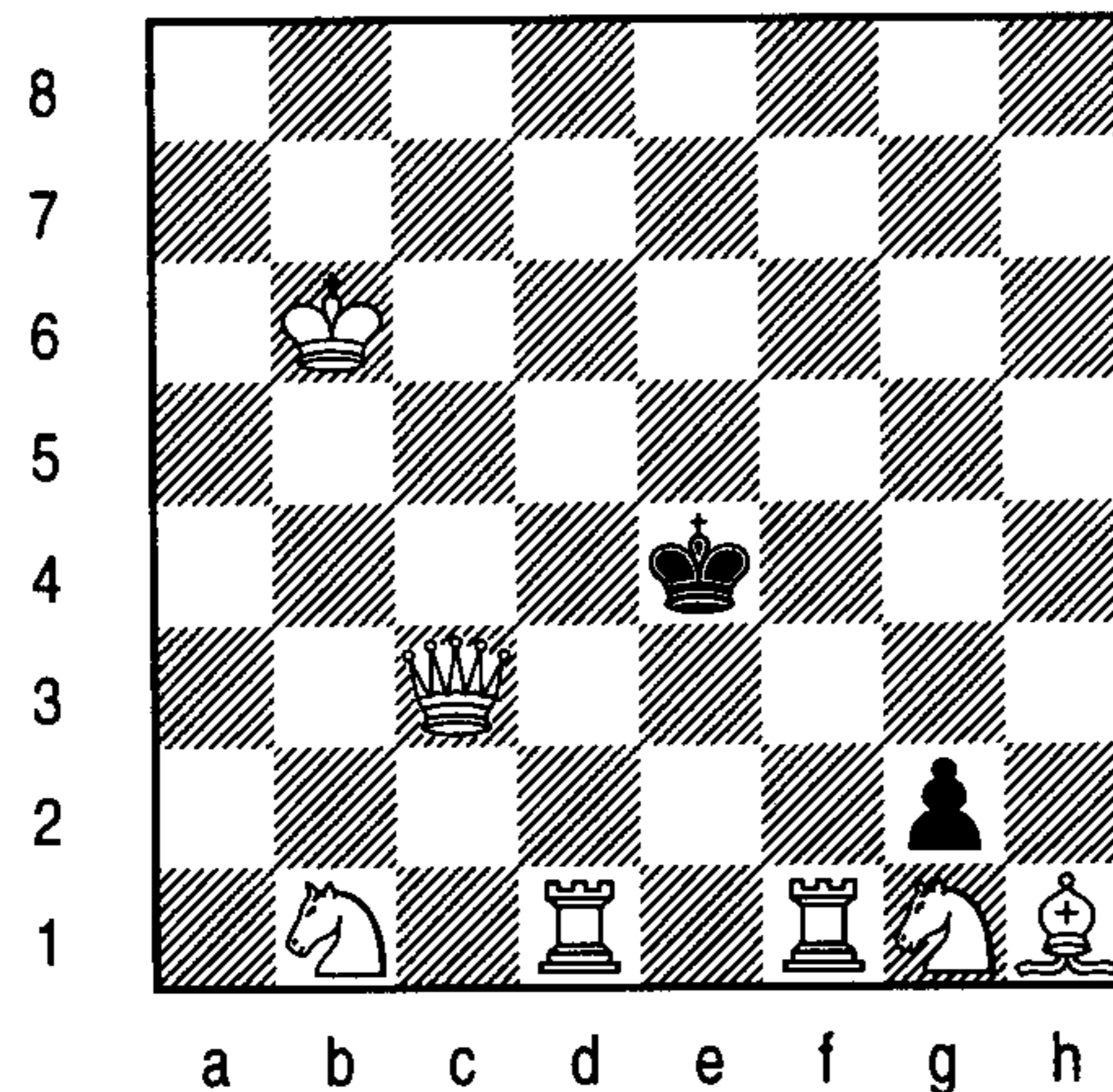
What does that lead to? Prior to the promotion, the pawn must be sitting at g2. What did it capture? Since our Queen, both Rooks, and both Knights are still actively deployed, it must have been one of our Bishops.

### Reconstruction of Yard's Deployment

So far, so good. Now, are we ready to tackle the question Moriarty posed: Where is he?

Before we do that, let's review what we have done. Let's reconstruct the position just before Moriarty promoted his pawn to the Queen.

The taxicab ride is smooth; our driver is doing a good job. I manage to do the reconstruction in the cab without much trouble [Diagram 40].



**Diagram 40**

Case 18

Reconstruction of position before  
Black's last pawn-promotion move

### Where Is Moriarty?

Now, let's see. Moriarty confesses that he has tried ten ways to "take leave," and has been denied each time. Can we make any sense out of that confession?

There is no doubt that Moriarty is under tight surveillance.

Still, he is allowing himself a lot of mobility — his ability to muster ten different escape routes reflects that — an exceptionally rare display of resourcefulness.

Having ten different escape routes at his disposal also suggests that Moriarty is not confined to the edges — but right in the center of the board. Looking at the diagram I just prepared, with both the d- and f-files under the Rooks' surveillance, I come to the tentative conclusion that Moriarty, the self-styled King, is confined to the e-file.

### Account for the Ten Denials

To confirm this tentative conclusion, I need to account for the ten denials. Can I do that?

Six denials can be easily accounted for: taking his leave through three squares adjacent to the King on the d-file and three squares adjacent to the King on the f-file.

What are the remaining four denials?

He may have tried to escape along the e-file. If he is at e8 or e7, he may do so without a denial; if at e6, only one denial (Ke6-e5 is not playable). He cannot be at e5, e3, or e1 (since they are all under the Queen's surveillance); nor at e2 (since it is guarded by the Knight). He would receive two denials only if he is at e4 (neither Ke4-e5 nor Ke4-e3 is playable).

### Moriarty Is Completely Surrounded

So, Moriarty at e4 gives us two more denials. Eight down, two to go.

Now, if Moriarty is indeed at e4, he would be completely surrounded — no move of the King is available. He must move his accomplice, the pawn.

### Two More Denials Must Be Accounted for

Can we account two denials for the pawn?

One denial must be through his attempt to push the pawn down

from g2 to g1, Pg2-g1 — he cannot do it since our Knight is at g1. Nine down, only one more to go.

The final denial must be through playing the pawn to capture the Rook at f1 — Pg2-f1. He would get a ‘No’ only if the pawn is shielding the King from our Bishop at h1 — making the King on the a8-h1 diagonal.

### Zeroing In on His Location

More specifically, Moriarty, the self-styled King, must be at e4, being the intersection of the a8-h1 diagonal and the e-file. On that basis, the only move available to him is to play Pg2-h1 to capture the Bishop.

‘ So far, so good. Is there any loophole in our thinking?

Moriarty makes no mention of having asked any questions, suggesting that he never bothered to ask ‘Any?’ before moving his pawn diagonally. Is this okay?

Ordinarily, even allowing for Moriarty's arrogance, the answer would be: No. Here, with no other move at his disposal — there would be a stalemate otherwise — we have to tolerate it. It's okay.

### Re-creating Two Previous Escapes

Before we devise a way to arrest him, let's understand how Moriarty could have escaped on two previous occasions to nab him.

On one occasion, the Yard probably used the Knight at b1, Nb1-d2, to nab him. With that, Moriarty could have slipped through via d5. So, let's not repeat this mistake. What's the other?

On the other occasion, perhaps the Yard used the Rook on d1, Rd1-d4, to nab him. If so, Moriarty could have escaped via e5. So, let's not repeat that mistake either.

### Not Nabbing by Rote

Is there another way of nabbing him in one move? We may play Qe1. But, this is nabbing by rote — we'll get him regardless

where he is on the e-file.

Is there still another way to nab him through “a graceful face-to-face encounter,” the way he wants?

Obviously, he was referring to the Queen, playing to d4. That's it. Q.E.D.

### Protecting Moriarty's World-Class Image

Reviewing my work, I cannot help feeling Moriarty's arrogance at work. Even in defeat, he wants to project his world-class image. Obviously, he would look better were his capture made by the top law-enforcement officer in the nation, and not by a mere underling.

Still, whether world-class or not, let's put Moriarty away. This time, for sure.

### Implementation Plan to the Senior Inspector

I look at my watch. I still have ten minutes to spare before boarding the plane.

I know Jonathan has joined the Yard as a senior inspector. I hastily draft a message and send it to him by facsimile transmission via a secure telephone line.

*Re: Moriarty*

*He is at e4. Request your chief inspector to do the honour. Suggest that she goes to d4 and meet him face-to-face. I anticipate no resistance.*

*Sorry I cannot join you for this occasion. Plane leaves in eight minutes. Good bye and good luck, old chap.*

### Chess Detective Consultancy Begins With a Bang

By that time, my flight is announced. As I walk toward the plane, I congratulate myself. I cannot help thinking that my chess detective consultancy practice has begun with a bang.

By that, I mean result-wise. I don't mean income-wise. But, good publicity never hurts. Helping to put Moriarty away is certain to produce good copy from the press. I can visualize the following headline from London newspapers:

**YARD-YANK COMBINE NABS MORIARTY**

On second thought, perhaps the following is more likely:

**ROOKIE INSPECTOR OUTWITS MORIARTY  
WINS PROMOTION AS REWARD**

Either way is fine with me. I'm out of it. Why speculate? Let Jonathan have a go at it.

For me, the more important thing is to decide on hanging out our shingle, tighten our belt, and wait for the first fee-paying client to show up.

**A MILLION-DOLLAR  
RULE  
ARBITRATION**

As it turns out, my chess detective consultancy practice is much busier than I anticipate. Assignments are coming in one after the other. There is no time to relax, let alone to take a vacation.

I think my former classmates often. How is Jonathan doing? How is Chris doing? How is Jennifer doing? How is Edward doing?

**A Message from London**

One day, several years into my consultancy practice, my fax machine begins to chime, alerting me to an incoming message. It reads:

WE WISH TO ENGAGE YOUR SERVICES TO ARBITRATE A CASE FOR OUR CLUB. WE WILL COVER YOUR USUAL HONORARIUM, ALONG WITH A BUSINESS-CLASS RETURN TICKET, LODGING AT THE CLUB, AND ALL EXPENSES. KINDLY ADVISE.

THE AMERICAN GAMBIT CLUB  
OF LONDON

Boy, what a fantastic offer. What a prestigious engagement. Revisiting London, getting reacquainted with my former instructors and classmates — and, on top of both, being paid a handsome sum. Who won't?

### The American Gambit Club of London

Upon arrival in London, with barely time to put my coat down in one of the club's fabulous guest rooms, I am escorted to the club's game room. From a distance, I see two distinguished gentlemen sitting at opposite ends of a long rectangular table, each with a chessboard in front of him, suitably partitioned, along with another chessboard in the middle.

They are ready to play Kriegspiel, I say to myself. I wonder what is the dispute they wish me to settle.

Glancing around the room, I see many elegantly attired gentlemen sitting in comfortable club chairs. The room, enormous, tastefully appointed, practically full, is nevertheless exceptionally quiet. I can also sense the tenseness in the air. As I walk in, many get up from their chairs almost simultaneously, as if on cue, and walk toward the rectangular table.

### World's Authority on Kriegspiel Rules

The club's president, Mr. Blake Carlton, comes up to meet me, shakes my hand, and introduces me to the group. "This is the world's authority on rules of playing Kriegspiel — not only British rules, but also American rules. I'm sure that, with his expertise, he can resolve the issue confronting us for us. And, before we start, let me remind all that, as we have agreed beforehand, we'll abide by his decision."

He then introduces the two gentlemen sitting at the two ends. Sitting as White is the Honorable Daniel Eddington, a City resident and a distinguished member of the London society. Sitting as Black is Mr. Walter Vincent, the London representative of a privately owned conglomerate headquartered in New York City. Both are members of the American Gambit Club of London.

The president invites Sir Daniel to speak.

### A Friendly Kriegspiel Game

"One day last month, coming to this very table, I invited my

dear friend and a chartered member of this club, Mr. Walter Vincent, to a game of Kriegspiel. Mr. Vincent duly agreed. To make the game more interesting, he suggested a small wager, to which I consented." Sir Daniel stops for a moment to look at me.

The idea of placing wagers on Kriegspiel games somehow surprises me. Perhaps it shows on my face. I must try to control myself, I say to myself. I smile faintly as if to encourage Sir Daniel to continue.

"As is frequently the case, a friendly game invariably attracts the interest of practically every one in the room at the time. That game was no exception. Before we could actually begin playing, syndicates had been formed and side wagers had been made. With so many participating, the small wager suddenly mushroomed. But, of course, being a friendly game, we kept the total amount relatively modest, perhaps a low six-digit figure in pound sterling terms."

### A Half-Million-Dollar Game

I make a quick mental calculation. A low six-digit figure in pound sterling, in today's exchange rate, is worth about half a million dollars. Half a million dollars on the outcome of a Kriegspiel game? You must be kidding.

But, of course, this is real. Come to think of it, it has to be real. Otherwise, how would they be willing to pay my not-immodest honorarium, my swanky accommodations, and my business-class trans-Atlantic tickets?

### A Sporting Group

I try to be nonchalant, to give the impression that this is old hat to me. To be a consulting chess detective in an international setting, I'd better act sophisticated. Particularly in London. After all, Britons are worldly and like to place wagers on anything and everything — just to make it interesting. Come to think of it, Britons have placed wagers on whether men would be children-bearing by the year 2014.

If they are so sporty, why not Kriegspiel? At least Kriegspiel is a challenging game whose success is dependent upon one's own intellectual faculties.

Clever chaps, those Brits, I say to myself.

### Play Begun

"So, we started to play. I played White, so I made my first move." With that, Sir Daniel pushes his Queen Pawn forward two squares, 1 d4.

"And I made my move," Mr. Vincent cuts in, pushing his King Pawn forward two squares, 1 ... e5.

"It was then my turn," Sir Daniel continues. "Before I could ask 'Any?,' the referee said, 'White has a try.' So I made a pawn-capture move and succeeded," Sir Daniel makes the move on his board, 2 de.

"After the referee announced 'White captures a pawn on e5; Black to move,' I made my next move." So saying, Mr. Vincent pushes his King Bishop Pawn forward one square, 2 ... f6.

"It was then my turn again," Sir Daniel says. "Before I could ask 'Any?,' the referee again said, 'White has a try.' So I attempted with 3 Pb2-a3, received a 'No,' and succeeded with my Queen Pawn, now on the fifth rank." So saying, Sir Daniel reproduces the third move he played, 3 ef.

"Of course, the referee announced 'White captures a pawn on f6; Black to move.' So, I made my next move." So saying, Mr. Vincent plays his Bishop, 3 ... Bc5.

### Three Pawn Captures in Four Moves

"Now, it was my fourth move," Sir Daniel comes in. "Again, before I could ask 'Any?,' the referee said, 'White has a try.' So I attempted with 4 Pb2-a3 again, received a 'No,' and succeeded with the same Queen Pawn, now on the sixth rank." So saying, Sir Daniel reproduces the fourth move he played, 4 fg.

"After another announcement that 'White captures a pawn on g7; Black to move,' I made my fourth move." With that, Mr. Vincent

plays 4 ... Qh4.

The game, of course, becomes quite intricate. Since chessmen on the center chessboard, the ones intended for the referee's use, have not been moved, it gives me an excuse to speak up.

### The President Was the Referee

"Pardon me for a moment, please. May I ask who served as the referee for that game? And, if he is here, may I ask him to set up the referee's board up to this point?"

"I was," Mr. Carlton answers. He immediately moves to the middle section of the rectangular table and sets up the chessmen up to Black's fourth move [Diagram 41].

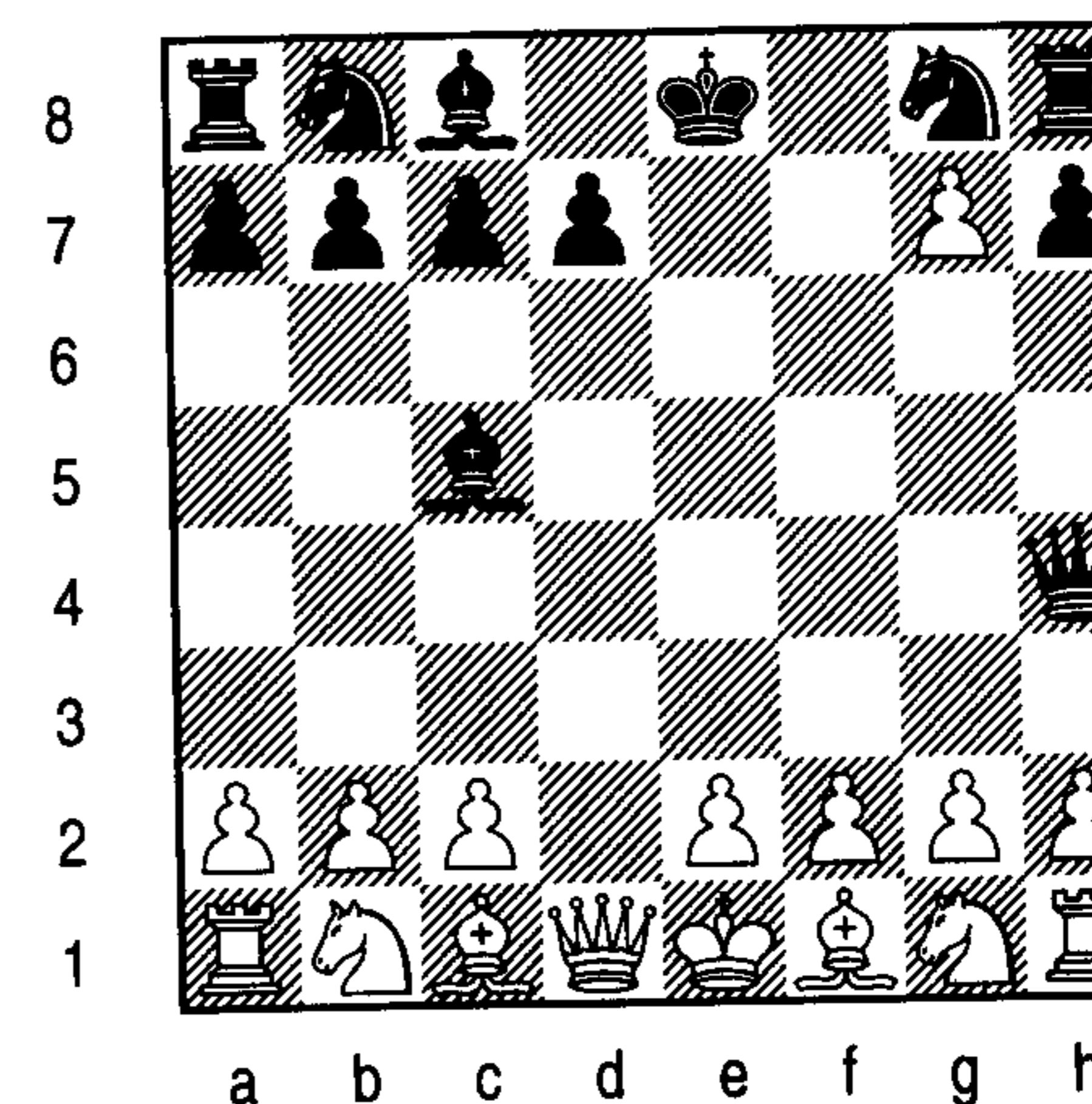


Diagram 41

Case 19

Referee's board after 4 ... Qh4

### A Pawn Promotion

"Then, without my asking, came another 'White has a try' from the referee. I tried with each of my pawns on the second rank without success. I then used my Queen Pawn, now on the seventh rank, for a capture and a promotion to a Queen." With this, Sir Daniel makes his fifth move, 5 gh=Q.

“Then I heard the referee’s announcement: ‘White captures a piece on h8; Black to move.’ Before I could inquire whether he had another announcement to make — I am referring to the pawn promotion announcement — I heard a new announcement from the referee: ‘Black captures a pawn on f2; White is in check on short.’”

As if on cue, without a word, Mr. Vincent plays his Bishop to f2, and removes the White pawn there, 5 ... Bf2. Mr. Carlton does the same on his referee’s board.

“After trying to capture by moving my King to f2 to no avail, I moved the King to d2 to safety.” So saying, Sir Daniel makes the move on his board, 6 Kd2.

### A Vertical Check

“As soon as the referee directed Mr. Vincent to move, I heard this announcement from the referee: ‘White is in check on the vertical.’” Sir Daniel continues, while both Mr. Vincent and Mr. Carlton move their boards to show 6 ... Qd4.

“Before I could play my promoted Queen from h8 to d4 to block, the referee announced: ‘White is checkmated,’” Sir Daniel pauses for a moment. [Diagram 42]

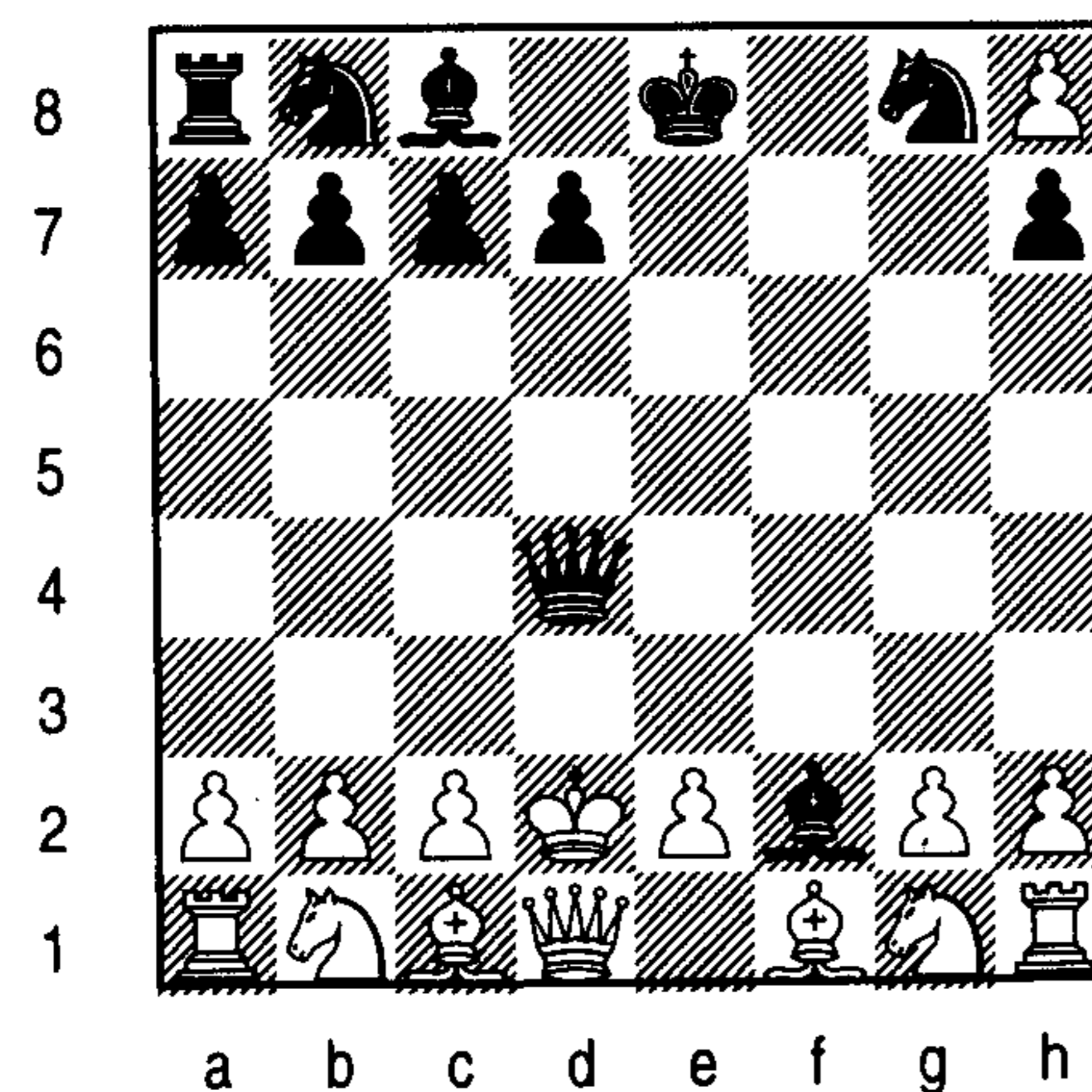


Diagram 42

Case 19

Referee’s board after 6 ... Qd4+

### Queen to Block

“I contended that that was not so, that I could play 7 Qd4, not only to block but, as it turned out, to capture the Black Queen as well,” Sir Daniel resumes. “This meant that, instead of being checkmated, in due course, with my superior manpower, I would win the game.

“So the issue before you is to adjudicate for us whether I should be allowed to play 7 Qd4.” So saying, Sir Daniel turns from the board to look at me.

“Thank you very much, Sir Daniel, for your concise recapitulation. I understand the controversy fully. But, before I form an opinion, I do have a few minor questions that I need to clarify.” I begin, carefully.

### A Million-Dollar Verdict

I look around. Everyone is paying close attention. The room is quiet. It suddenly occurs to me that what I have to say affects many people to the tune of a million dollars — a syndicate would win half a million dollars if I rule in its favor, and lose the same amount if I rule against it.

Whoa, a million-dollar verdict is riding on what I have to say. The gravity of the occasion adds great pressure on me and, it seems, on every one else in the room as well.

### Agreement on Rules Governing Play

“First, before you gentlemen made your first move, did you agree on rules governing your game?” I first look at Sir Daniel, and then at Mr. Vincent.

“I don’t believe any agreement was reached,” Sir Daniel responds.

“That was indeed so. In fact, neither one uttered the word ‘rules’ before playing,” Mr. Vincent adds.

“Thank you very much for your answers — they are very helpful.” I know this lack of agreement adds pressure on my ruling.

But I want to downplay my role. “Let me proceed with my second question. Does the club have house rules governing Kriegspiel?”

This time, Mr. Carlton answers. “No, I don’t believe so. Members can decide on rules under which they wish to play. And they invariably do.”

I look around. Most nod to concur.

“Thank you, Mr. Carlton. This *laissez faire* approach is most enlightening,” I want to gather my thoughts and need time to think things over.

### Kriegspiel Rule Options

“May I ask what options are available to members?”

“I suspect that, when two Brits sit down to play, they would elect British rules. On the other hand, when two Yanks sit down to play, they would elect American rules.” Again, Mr. Carlton answers.

“Am I right on this?” he inquires, to no one in particular.

“I’m afraid that’s so,” one says. Others nod to concur.

“And if one of the players is a Briton and the other an American, what then?” I continue with my next question.

“They usually play one way or the other, without any appreciable controversy — until now,” Mr. Carlton responds.

### Which Set of Rules Was Applied?

“Very well said, Mr. Carlton. The root of this controversy is indeed to determine the set of rules under which the game in question was played. Since none of three tests sheds any light — there was no specific agreement before play, there are no house rules governing play, and there was one Briton playing one American — we need to review each move, each announcement, and each action closely for clues.” I stop for a moment and glance at the group.

“Is this agreeable with you, Sir Daniel?” I look at him and ask. He nods.

“Is this agreeable with you, Mr. Vincent?” He also nods.

“Is this agreeable with you, Mr. Carlton, in your capacity as the referee of the game in question?” Mr. Carlton also nods.

### Ruling for Move 2

“Thank you, gentlemen, for agreeing to this approach. Let’s start from the beginning, specifically from Move 2 by Sir Daniel playing White.

“As Sir Daniel said earlier, before he made his second move, he wanted to ask ‘Any?’ — a key element of British rules. But, before he could do so, the referee, Mr. Carlton, announced: ‘White has a try.’ — a distinguishing feature of American rules.

“Since what Sir Daniel wanted to do — to ask ‘Any?’ — was not verbalized, let me ask Sir Daniel now whether he made any gesture or otherwise signaled that he would like to ask ‘Any?’”

“No. I thought it was redundant for me to ask ‘Any?’ when the referee’s announcement already implied a ‘Try’ answer to my would-be query of ‘Any?’” Sir Daniel says.

“Sir Daniel, you are quite right. You would not know that it was your turn to move until you were so directed by the referee. But, by the time you heard him, he already gave you an answer without asking.” I stop again to look at the three principals.

“Let’s not attach any significance to the action or inaction at this point. Let’s merely say that it is inconclusive. Let’s continue with the next event.

### Announcement of Chessman Captured

“After Sir Daniel made a pawn capture with his second move, Mr. Carlton announced it as: ‘White captures a pawn on e5; Black to move’ — a peculiar American rule by revealing whether a pawn or a piece was captured.

“At this point, let me again ask Sir Daniel if he expressed surprise or displeasure at the announcement. Following British rules, the announcement would have been simply ‘White captures on e5,’ without disclosing whether a pawn or a piece was captured.” I stop again to let Sir Daniel answer.



“No, I did not. At that point, I knew the Black chessman sitting at e5 could only be a pawn. The added words in the referee’s announcement had no informational content.”

“You are quite right, Sir Daniel. At that point, there was no difference in informational content whether the referee identified the capture simply as a chessman or more specifically as a pawn. So, let’s again rule this event as inconclusive and let’s look at the next event.

“Then came the referee’s announcement of ‘White has a try’ again. Since it either preempted Sir Daniel from asking ‘Any?’ or rendered asking ‘Any?’ redundant, we’ll again rule this event as inconclusive.

#### **Another Announcement of Chessman Captured**

“Then, on the next move, his third, Sir Daniel made another capture, for which the referee announced as: ‘White captures a pawn on f6; Black to move.’ Sir Daniel, did you raise any objection to, or show any displeasure at, the announcement made at this point?”

“No. This added information, that it was a pawn and not a Knight or the Queen, was, of course, valuable. I would be ungrateful if I objected.”

#### **American Rules Followed**

“You are quite right, Sir Daniel. But, I wonder if you would agree with the view that, by acquiescing to this additional disclosure — a pawn and not simply a chessman, a vitally important piece of information at that juncture — you were implicitly allowing the American rules to prevail?”

“I did not think it that way at the time. Now, with your clarification, I think you have a point.”

“Thank you, Sir Daniel.”

#### **Referee’s Announcements Inconsistent**

“But, the referee’s announcements were not consistent,” Sir

Daniel continues.

“Sir Daniel, you anticipated my next comment. Would you be kind enough to elaborate?”

“Later on, I believe it was after Black’s fifth move, the referee announced: ‘White is in check on short’ — which was a part of British rules. If American rules were followed, the referee would have said, simply: ‘White is in check on the diagonal.’”

“Thank you, Sir Daniel, for this most perceptive observation. Permit me to ask you another question at this point. Did you express any displeasure at the referee’s announcement concerning this diagonal check?”

#### **Additional Information Had No Effect**

“No. Since my King Bishop Pawn was captured in the process, I knew fully well that the chessman giving the check was at f2. Whether that check was on long or short had no effect on me. All I was concerned was to parry that check.”

“Thank you, Sir Daniel. Would it be fair to say that this inconsistency created no detriment in your defense of the check?”

“Since you put it so nicely, I would have to concur with your assessment,” Sir Daniel nods.

#### **American Rules Affirmed**

“Thank you, Sir Daniel. So, would you agree that, aside from this minor deviation — which made your play marginally easier but neither significantly more difficult nor materially different — you were playing under American rules and not British rules.”

“Again, I have to agree with you,” comes Sir Daniel’s gracious acknowledgment.

#### **Pawn Promotion Denied**

“On that basis, Sir Daniel, your pawn, upon reaching h8, remains a pawn, at least for the time being. It cannot be promoted to anything else, certainly not to a Queen.”

“Why not?”

“Because, at that time, you still had your Queen — for that matter, at that time, you had all your pieces. Under American rules, a pawn can be promoted only to a piece that has been taken off the board. A pawn can be promoted to the Queen only if the Queen has been taken off the board, to a Knight if, among the pieces, only Knights have been taken off the board, and so on.

“The game in question is rare in the sense that, at the time of promotion, none of your pieces had been taken off the board. As a result, the pawn remained a pawn and could be promoted only after a piece had been captured.

### Game Was Well Refereed

“So, using American rules, except for the minor inconsistency concerning the diagonal check, the game was well refereed, including the final verdict. Sir Daniel, I regret to say that, in that game, White was checkmated. Black won.”

So saying, Mr. Carlton thanks me. He assures me that a check for my honorarium would be ready before the day is over.

I thank him, shake his hand, as well as those of Sir Daniel’s and Mr. Vincent’s, and go back to my room. I may now turn my attention to paying a visit to my alma mater.

### A Message at the Door

As I open the door to my room, I find an envelope on the floor. Inside is a message from the club’s telephone operator:

*The Dean of the Chess Detective Academy at Scotland Yard called at 3:22 p.m. If you are available before 10 p.m., he wants you to visit him at the Yard to discuss an important matter. A coach for your use is waiting at the Club’s garage until that time.*

I look at my watch. It is only 4:07. I grab my coat and dash for the door.

## MORIARTY STRIKES AGAIN: “NO” RULINGS IN A LIFE-AND-DEATH DUEL

As my limousine approaches the front of the administrative building, I see both Jonathan and Edward standing at the entrance. I also notice the well manicured lawn surrounding the building. My, what a beautiful sight. I certainly miss this lovely campus. I certainly miss the camaraderie with my classmates during my school days here.

As I get out of the limousine, I cannot help saying: “Jonathan, Edward, fancy meeting you here. What’s up?”

Both come up and shake my hand. “It has been a long time, Leigh. I’m glad you can make it.” It is Jonathan, alright. We can always count on him to break the ice, even after so many years. Things haven’t changed a bit. Haven’t we?

“Let’s get in and then have a nice chat,” Jonathan continues.

### Meeting the New Dean

We walk toward the Dean’s office. Jonathan opens the door, signalling us to go in. He then closes the door.

No one else is in the room. “Where is the Dean?” I ask.

“The Dean? You are looking at him,” Edward answers, pointing a finger at Jonathan.

“Jonathan, old chap, you are keeping a good secret from me,” I am indeed surprised. “My hearty congratulations.” I shake Jonathan’s hand again.

“From now on, you’d better behave yourself,” he beams.

“Yes, sir.” Somehow, this answer comes to me naturally. Turning to Edward, I ask, somewhat in jest. “And, you, sir?”

“Now, cut out that slyness and be more respectful,” Jonathan cuts in. “You are looking at the deputy inspector general of the Scotland Yard.”

“Wow, wow. Edward, my hearty congratulations to you, too.”

### It's Moriarty Again

“What's up?” With these preliminaries out of the way, I finally come to my senses and ask.

“Well, it is that Moriarty again. Do you remember him?” Jonathan answers.

“I suspect you know him?” Edward asks.

“Oh, we had a minor encounter a few years back,” I shrug, nonchalantly. “I thought he is locked up for life.”

“Well, he behaved like a perfect gentleman while in jail. As a result, he was released on parole recently on account of his good behavior,” Edward adds.

“So, what is he up to now?” I ask.

### A New Message from Moriarty

“Well, he sent over a message to the Yard in the early afternoon. It is addressed to you. I have no idea where you are, so I came to the academy to seek the Dean's advice.” Edward produces a letter while he speaks.

“I did not know that you are in town, Leigh,” Jonathan adds. “Why didn't you let us know?”

“I was planning, after my assignment is over, to call the office to set up an appointment to visit the Dean. I did not realize that I was able to complete my assignment so soon.” I plead.

Taking over the envelope from Edward, I see my name neatly written thereon, plus a notation that it is “in care of Deputy Inspector General Edward Hardwick”. I open it to read:

*Welcome to London. It has been quite a few years since we last met. I miss the intellectual challenge that meeting accorded, and have been looking forward to another one ever since. Now, knowing that you are in London for a short stay, I cannot contain myself in proposing another visit.*

### A New Contest on Level Playing Field

*I hope you'd agree with me that the last encounter was not a fair contest — you with all the Yard's resources at your command and I with but one lone associate. For this encounter, I propose a match played on a level playing field — you and I will have the exactly same resources.*

### A Two-by-Two Contest

*As you know, despite my excellent conduct and impeccable record, the Yard still has two of its best officers trained on me. Of course, I am honoured by that, particularly since the Yard is in a budget squeeze and has to be extremely careful in its resource allocation.*

*Since two associates are all I can muster at this point, may I propose a contest with each side having two associates?*

### The Challenged Has the First Move

*Being the challenger, I allow you to make the first move. After that, if I am still alive, I promise to blow up the entire establishment before you leave — I know where you are staying, even though this letter is being sent through the courtesy of my best friend, deputy inspector general Hardwick. I remain,*

*Your obedient servant,  
Professor Moriarty*

### Deadline Is Imminent

I show the letter to both Edward and Jonathan. Upon finishing reading, Jonathan asks: “When are you leaving?”

“I hope to catch tomorrow’s early flight for the States.”

“That doesn’t leave too much time,” Edward observes.

I look at my watch. It is 5:02. “We have a good fourteen or fifteen hours before I have to check in. Plenty of time,” I try to remain calm. “Edward, or shall I say Deputy Inspector General Hardwick, do we have a dossier on Moriarty?”

### Deployment Map

“Leigh, to you, I’m always Edward. As to your question, the answer is affirmative.” So saying, Edward gives me a map. [Diagram 43]

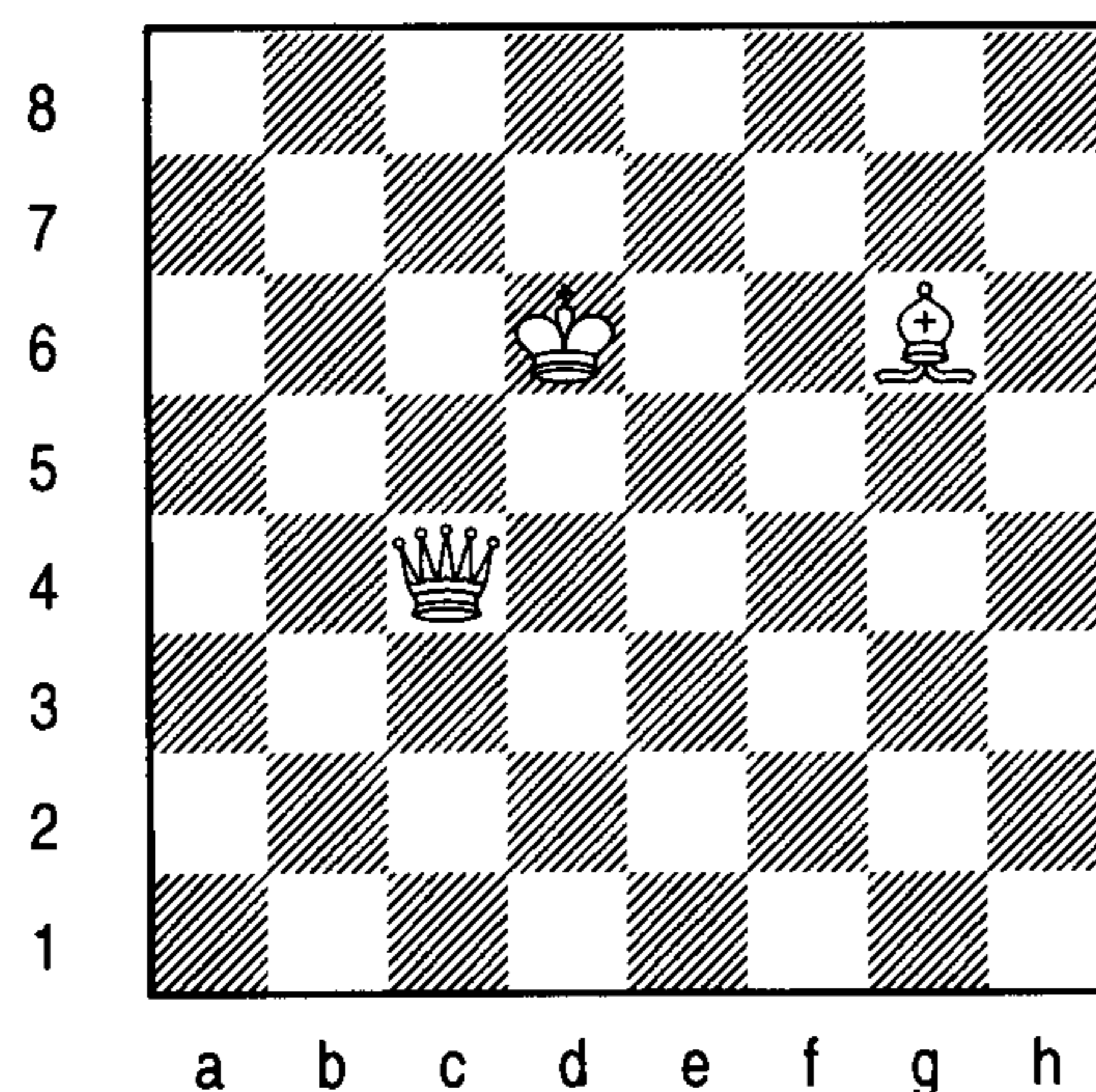


Diagram 43

Case 20

Scenario: White, moving the Queen, received four ‘No’ rulings on the fourth rank and three ‘No’ rulings on the a2-g8 diagonal; and, moving the King, received eight ‘No’ rulings

- Tasks: (1) Place all Black chessmen  
(2) Play White and mate in one

(Showing only White chessmen; Black chessmen, also three in number, not shown)

### Two Officers Uncoordinated

Edward explains the map. “As Moriarty states in his letter, the Yard indeed has a very tight budget, so much so that, despite Moriarty’s notoriety, we can afford but two officers on him. They are, of course, the best in our force.”

“No doubt about that. However, at the moment, the two seem going separate ways,” Jonathan comments, referring, no doubt, to the uncoordinated position of the two officers.

“Yes, this has been noticed. The Yard is thinking of bringing them together, playing, for example, Bd3,” Edward responds. “However, no decision has been reached. The Yard is still evaluating the intelligence report just compiled.”

### Intelligence Report

“In making routine inspection trips, our Queen has not been able to gain access to four squares on the fourth rank, namely, e4, f4, g4, and h4. In addition, the Queen’s effort to reach three squares on the a2-g8 diagonal has also not been successful; these squares are e6, f7, and g8.

“Similarly, the King is unable to move about completely — it cannot go to any of the eight adjacent squares. Clearly, all these squares are under Moriarty’s surveillance.” Edward concludes. Turning to me, he asks, “Leigh, what do you think?”

“Interesting,” I temporize. “How many accomplices does Moriarty have?”

“Two plus Moriarty himself,” Edward answers.

“So, your intelligence report confirms what Moriarty has written in his letter to me. Do you have their identity?”

“No. But, if his letter can be relied upon — he says: ‘You and I will have the exactly same resources’ — he would have the Queen and a Bishop as well.”

“They seem to cover a lot of territory,” Jonathan and I speak in unison.

### Locating the Two Accomplices

“It seems to me that the reason our Queen cannot move to e4, f4, g4, or h4 is that one of Moriarty’s accomplices is stationed at d4,” Jonathan begins.

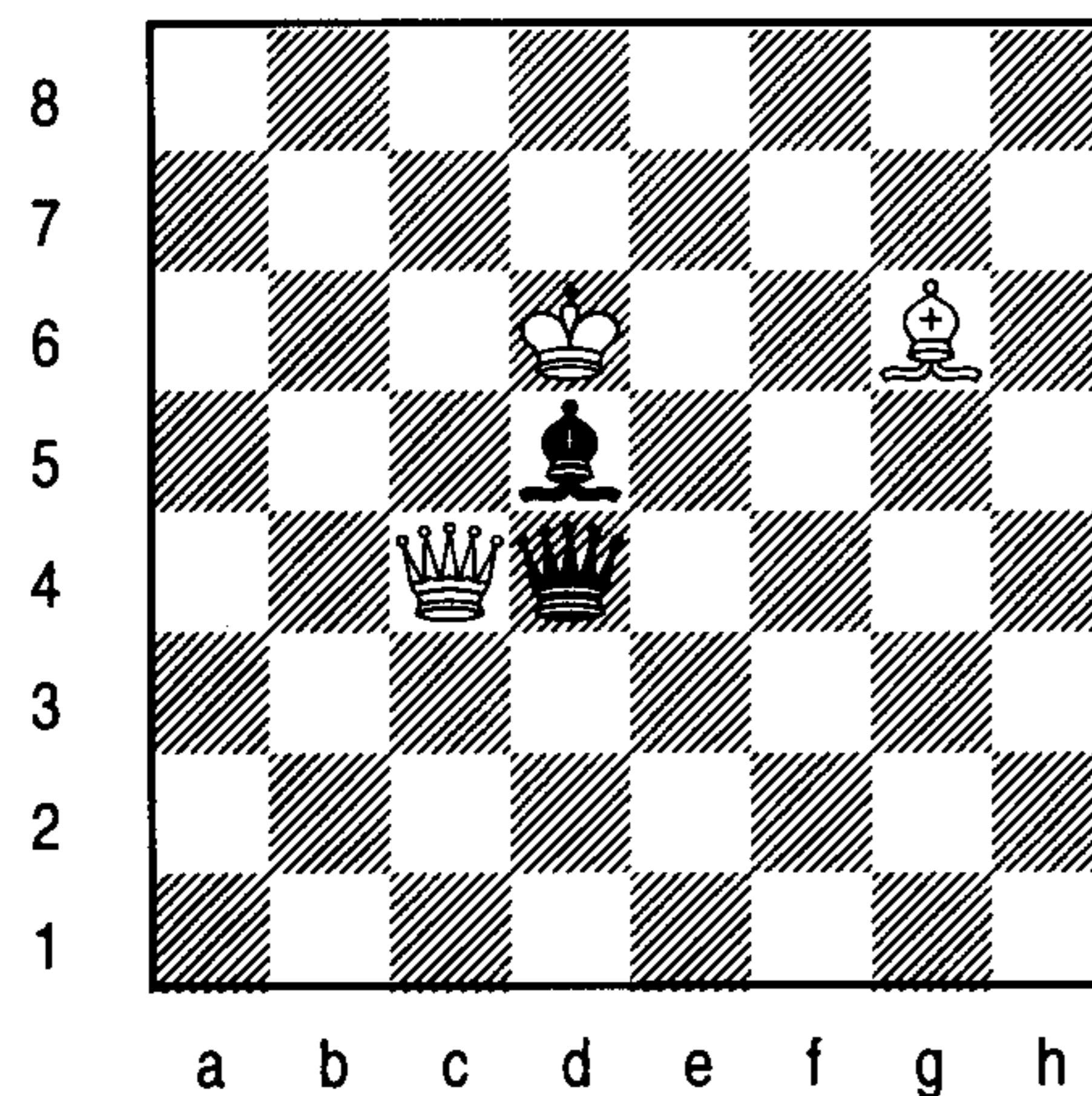
“By the same token, the other Moriarty accomplice is at d5 blocking our Queen’s access to e6, f7, and g8,” Edward observes.

“Agreed,” I add. “Since our Queen is standing nearby, Moriarty himself, the self-styled kingpin, cannot be at either d4 or d5.”

“By the same token, since our King is at d6, the accomplice at d5 cannot be the Queen,” Edward notes. “So, Moriarty’s two accomplices are a Bishop at d5 and the Queen at d4.”

“No problem there. But, where is Moriarty himself hiding?” I ask. “May we add these two accomplices to our map? I’m slow; I need to see them in black and white.”

“Not a bad idea. Let’s do that,” Jonathan concurs and quickly adds them onto the map. [Diagram 44]



**Diagram 44**

Case 20

- Tasks: (1) Place all Black chessmen  
(2) Play White and mate in one

(Showing all three White chessmen and two Black chessmen;  
the Black King is not shown)

### Locating the King

“The Bishop at d5 would account for our King’s inability to move to either c6 or e6. Similarly, the Queen at d4 would prevent our King from moving to either c5, d5, or f5.” With the two accomplices added onto the map, I can see much better.

“That still leaves three squares — c7, d7, and e7 — for which we need to give reasons why our King cannot go,” Edward takes over. “This can only mean that the Black King is at d8.”

### The Yard at Moriarty’s Mercy?

“Gentlemen, do you see what I see?” I exclaim, excitedly.

“What?” Jonathan and Edward ask, with a trace of disdain.

“I’m looking at what might happen if the Yard indeed takes up the suggestion to move our Bishop closer to the Queen, by playing 1 Bd3.”

“What about?”

“The Yard will be at Moriarty’s mercy, that’s what!”

“Now, you Yanks have a tendency to exaggerate. Leigh, calm down and tell us about it, slowly.” Their calm, on the other hand, is almost unbearable to me.

### Moriarty’s Secret Weapon

“Well, if we are not careful, if we treat him with less than world-class respect, Moriarty will be mercilessly cruel. His secret weapon is to play 1 ... Bc4, grabbing our Queen and giving our King a discovered check.

“With that secret weapon unleashed, our King will be at his mercy. He will be on the run until his demand is met,” I add.

“Leigh, let’s not be overly dramatic. Give it to us, slowly, one step at a time.” Jonathan comes in, his tone reminds so much of Dean Perry’s. This must be an occupational trait of deans. I say to myself.

### King in Steady Retreat

“Well, after 1 ... Bc4 dis. ch., our King is forced to move to c6, 2 Kc6, and Moriarty will follow with 2 ... Qd5+, forcing our King to b6, 3 Kb6.

“Moriarty undoubtedly will come back with 3 ... Qb5+, forcing our King to a7, 4 Ka7. Unless he eases up, which is unlikely, Moriarty will continue with 4 ... Qa6+, forcing our King to b8, 5 Kb8.

“Now, our King is in great trouble. Playing 5 ... Qb6+ forces our King to the corner, 6 Ka8, whereupon the Queen-grabbing Bishop comes in to administer the *coup de grace*, 6 ... Bd5 mate.

### Moriarty Wants to Blow Leigh Up

“Gentlemen, do you agree?” I say, with relief. “Of course, Moriarty’s enemy is not your royalty, not His or Her Majesty, but your humble servant who is speaking. He equates the White King to Leigh. He wants to blow me up, as he so eloquently and arrogantly says in his letter.”

“Why so?,” Edward asks. Apparently he has not been in on the little run-in I had with Moriarty the last time I was in London.

Before I can fill him in, Jonathan cuts in: “You do have a point.” It seems that Jonathan does not want this episode disclosed.

### Putting Moriarty Away

“And, I have a way to nab him as well,” Jonathan adds.

“I do, too,” Edward echoes. “However, since Leigh conceives himself to be the intended victim, if it is alright with you, Jonathan, we’ll let Leigh do the honor of deciding what he wants to do with Moriarty.”

“Fine with me,” Jonathan concurs.

“Gentlemen — and I do mean it sincerely — gentlemen, I appreciate the honor you two distinguished civil servants are bestowing on your humble servant. In the spirit of camaraderie we shared and treasure so much, I’ll do what I can. May I respectfully pro-

pose to put Moriarty away once and for all?”

“That’s what I’ll do,” Jonathan again concurs.

“Well, if it is within the law, I’ll certainly concur,” Edward, being the one with law-enforcement responsibility, speaks with care.

“Let’s hear it.”

### A Preemptive Strike

“May I propose a preemptive strike, nabbing him before he has time to launch his marvelously mischievous little trick? Let’s nab him by again asking the chief inspector — I mean the Queen — to move to c7 and do the honor.”

“That’s what I have in mind,” Edward responds. “I’ll see to it that this is done. But, tell me, Leigh, why ‘again’?”

Seeing Jonathan’s stare, I merely shrug. “I’m sorry I misspoke — in the presence of two distinguished civil servants, I’m a bit scared.”

### A Reunion Dinner

With Jonathan smiling, I continue. “Gentlemen, unless there are compelling reasons to object, let me remedy this slight by proposing a little dinner in honor of our new Dean and our deputy inspector general.”

“Yes, we do have a lot to celebrate,” Jonathan is now beaming. “It must have been a good five or six years since we were together like this.”

By that time, Edward has finished making a telephone call on his secure line. “Yes, we do have a lot to celebrate. I have made the necessary arrangements — and am free to join you.”

### Jennifer and Chris Accounted For

“I wonder where are Jennifer and Chris now,” I suddenly become nostalgic. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if they could be with us — then, we would have a full-fledged reunion dinner.”

“Jennifer probably will be unavailable — she wants to take

care of Moriarty herself,” Edward answers. “I just talked to her, and she sends her best regards.”

Before I can put two and two together, Jonathan cuts in. “Jennifer is now the Inspector General.”

“Wow, wow, wow.” That’s all I can say. I feel stupid that I cannot figure out Jennifer’s position all by myself. But, realistically, in front of these two gentlemen, I am always slow and awkward by comparison.

“And Chris is out of town,” Jonathan continues. “She is now the Associate Dean for Case Development for the Academy. Right now, she is researching a big case up north.”

This time, I merely nod. I get into thinking. Only five years out of the academy, all the alumni have already distinguish themselves. What a great institution! What a great honor that I have been a part of it! This thought alone would deserve a celebration.

### Moriarty Nabbed

Boarding the plane next morning, I am attracted by the headline on newspapers stashed in the cabin:

#### MORIARTY NABBED

And the subheading reads:

#### QUIET SURRENDER AVERTS BLOWOUT OF AMERICAN AGENT CODE-NAMED “KGP”

Walking toward my seat, I am amused by the subheading. I am a distinguished Chartered Chess Detective — not a mere agent, I say to myself.

Is KGP my codename? Is this what my distinguished classmates call me? The thought suddenly occurs to me that, luckily, the word *Kriegspiel* is spelled without the letter *B* — otherwise, I would be in real trouble. I might not even be allowed to board this plane. So, things could be a lot worse.

On this cheery note, I set my journal aside and doze off.

## ANNEX

## LIST OF CASES

### Chapter

- 4 Case 1: A game between J. A. Lewis and E. Spencer, London, 1920, reported by Mr. Lewis in the *British Chess Magazine*, 1944; conversion to algebraic notation, commentary, and diagrams are by this author.
- 7 Case 2: A four-move mate from an anonymous game, London, 1913, reported by W. Stephens in *The Yearbook of Chess 1913*; conversion to algebraic notation, commentary, and diagram are by this author.
- 7 Case 3: A variation of Case 2, by this author, 1994, to introduce counterplay by Black.
- 8 Case 4: A composition by this author, 1994, inspired by G. F. Anderson’s commentary in *Are there any?* (1958, at page 24), that White may mate in one without knowing the Black King’s exact location. (Mr. Anderson’s own composition is included in this book as Case 11 (see below).)
- 9 Case 5: A composition by this author, 1994, being a variation of Case 4 with the same theme: mating in one without knowing the Black King’s exact location.
- 10 Case 6: Another composition by this author, 1994, being a variation of Case 4 with the same theme: mating in one without knowing the Black King’s exact location

*Chapter*

10 Case 7: Still another composition by this author, 1994, being a variation of Case 4 with the same theme: mating in one without knowing the Black King's exact location.

11 Case 8: A composition by this author, 1994, inspired by G. F. Anderson's commentary in *Are there any?* (at page 142), that the number of "No" rulings may be used as a clue in locating the King's whereabouts. (One of Mr. Anderson's own compositions using this theme is included in this book as Case 10 (see below).)

12 Case 9: A composition by this author, 1994, being a variation of Case 8: using the number of "No" rulings as a clue in locating the King.

13 Case 10: Adapted from a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 42 in *Are there any?*, at page 144); resequencing of attempted moves to produce spurts of "No" rulings, conversion to algebraic notation, and discussion of underlying reasoning are by this author.

14 Case 11: From a composition by G. F. Anderson, 1940 (No. 2 in *Are there any?*, at page 26); modification of scenario to begin with White's move, conversion to algebraic notation, and discussion of underlying reasoning are by this author.

15 Case 12: From a composition by H. A. Adamson, 1923, and reported in the *British Chess Magazine*, 1944; conversion to algebraic notation, commentary, diagrams, and extensions are by this author.

16 Case 13: Adapted from a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 25 in *Are there any?*, at page 90); simplification from a six-mover to a two-mover, placing a White pawn on the b-file instead of on the a-file, conversion to algebraic notation, and analysis of underlying reasoning are by this author.

*Chapter*

17 Case 14: From a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 5 in *Are there any?*, at page 34); conversion to algebraic notation and analysis of underlying reasoning are by this author.

18 Case 15: From a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 22 in *Are there any?*, at page 84); conversion to algebraic notation, analysis of underlying reasoning, and extended discussion are by this author.

19 Case 16: From a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 4 in *Are there any?*, at page 32); conversion to algebraic notation, analysis of underlying reasoning, and extended discussion are by this author.

20 Case 17: From a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 3 in *Are there any?*, at page 30); conversion to algebraic notation and analysis of underlying reasoning are by this author.

22 Case 18: Another composition by this author, 1994, inspired by G. F. Anderson's theme (at page 142 of his *Are there any?*) of using the number of 'No' rulings as a clue in locating the King's whereabouts.

23 Case 19: An anonymous game, London, 1913, reported by W. Stephens in *The Yearbook of Chess 1913*; conversion to algebraic notation, diagrams, and extended discussion are by this author.

24 Case 20: Adapted from a composition by G. F. Anderson (No. 43 in *Are there any?*, at page 146); elimination of three White chessmen, conversion to algebraic notation, diagrams, and extended discussion are by this author.