CHAPTER 13

Contents

Combinations involving files

In this chapter we shall investigate various combinations which exploit either an open or a semi-open file. Of course the major pieces will have an important role to play.

The rooks are especially interested in the opening of files, since it is only then that they can develop their full power.

The strategic goal of line opening consists of the penetration into the opposing camp via the 7th or 8th rank. It is from there that our major pieces can cause the most damage.

An open or a semi-open file leading towards a castled position can become a decisive factor which powerfully supports and speeds up our attack. In many combinations other pieces and pawns also play an important part. Only an assault harmoniously supported by as great a number of attacking units as possible can break though a well organized defence. It is often necessary to act very energetically and actively in order to exploit a favourable moment.

Let's now take a look at some combinations which make use of various open or semi-open files.

The g-file

Diagram 13-1

A.Beliavsky – E.Bareev

USSR Ch., Minsk 1987

White uses a lovely tactical trick to bring into the attack not only his bishop, but also his queen.

1.♗h5! ♕f8□ 2.♖xg8† ♘xg8 3.♕g3

The threat is the discovered attack ♘g6†.

3...♗b5

3...♗e8 4.♗xe8 ♕xe8 would be bad, due to 5.♘g6†+–.

Also 3...♘f6 is met by 4.♘g6† hxg6 5.♕xc7 ♘xh5 6.♕xc6+–.

Diagram 13-1 △

4.♕h4!

Black cannot stand up to the coordinated attack by his opponent. White prepares the deadly check on g6.

4...♘f6

Nor are other moves any better:

a) 4...♖g7 5.♖xg7 ♔xg7 6.♕g5† ♔h8 7.♘f7†+–

b) 4...♗e8 5.♗xe8 ♕xe8 6.♘g6† ♔g7 7.♘e7†+–

c) 4...♕h6 5.♘f7† ♖xf7 6.♗xf7 ♕xh4 7.♖xg8#

5.♗f7!

Black resigned. 5...♖xf7 is answered by 6.♘g6† with a decisive gain in material.

Diagram 13-2

Here too, White can use the open g-file for a rapid attack.

1.♗h5! ♖d8 2.♗h6!

2.♗g6? hxg6 3.fxg6 f5! is not clear.

2.♕g4 ♖d7 3.♕h4 (intending ♗g6) would also be good: 3...♘d3 4.♗g6 hxg6 5.fxg6 ♖ff7 6.♕h7† ♔f8 7.♕h8† ♔e7 8.gxf7 ♔xf7 and now White uses the g-file to land a tactical blow with 9.♖xg7†! ♘xg7 10.♖g1+– (P. Wolff).

2...♖d7 3.♗xe8 ♖xe8 4.♕h5+– ♕b8

Or 4...♖f8 5.♗xg7! ♖xg7 6.♖xg7† ♔xg7 7.♖g1† ♔h8 8.♕g4 and Black cannot defend both g7 and g8 at the same time.

5.♗xg7!

Black resigned. 5...♖xg7 is followed by 6.♖xg7† ♔xg7 7.♖g1† ♔h8 (7...♔f8 8.♕xh7+–) 8.♕f7+– (or 8.♕h6+–).

Diagram 13-2

The h-file

The h-file is often opened if the opponent tries to fianchetto his bishop. Situations where the players have castled on different sides are particularly dangerous, because in most cases the rook is still on h1 and can take advantage of the line opening (as in the game Alekhine – Hulscher in Chapter 7, 'The pawn wedge'). Here we shall take a look at another two such situations.
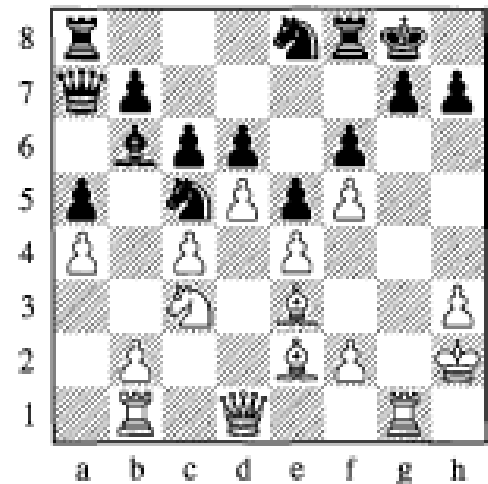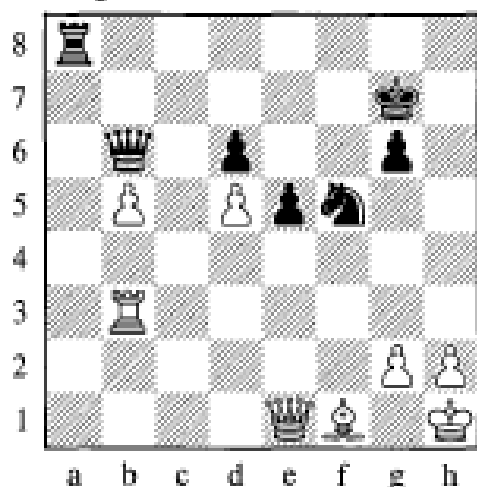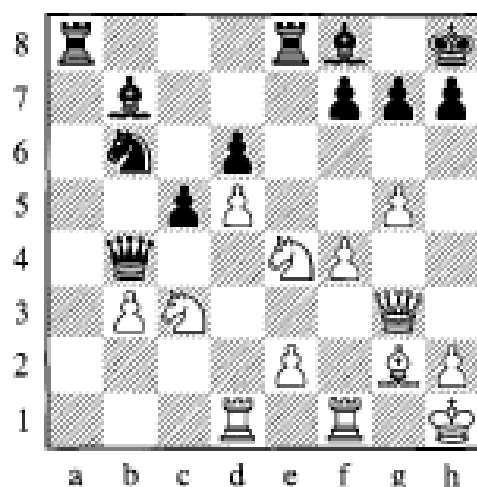
Diagram 13-3 ▼

Diagram 13-3

A.Karpov – M.Taimanov
Leningrad 1977

Taimanov prepares a surprise attack.

1...♕d4! 2.b6?

Better is 2.♖b1.

2...♖a1 3.♖b1

3.♕e2 ♕xd5 4.♖b5 is followed by 4...♘d4! 5.♖xd5 ♘xe2 6.g3 ♖xf1† 7.♔g2 ♖b1–+.

3...♘g3†!!

White resigned. After 4.hxg3 there comes 4...♖a8! and the threat of ...♖h8# cannot be parried.

Diagram 13-4 △

Diagram 13-4

V.Borisenko – Z.Nakhimovskaya
USSR 1969

White finds an interesting way to open the h-file.

1.♕xh7†!! ♔xh7 2.g6† ♔h8 3.♖g5!!

The threat is ♖h5#. But as soon as Black takes the rook, she is mated by hxg5.

1–0

The f-file

The f-file is more frequently opened in symmetrical positions and also offers many different tactical possibilities.

Diagram 13-5 △

Diagram 13-5

A.Karpov – V.Salov
Linares 1993

1.g6!

White wants to open files and even sacrifices a pawn to do so.

1...fxg6

1...hxg6 would be bad, on account of 2.♕h4† ♔g8 3.♘g5+–.

2.f5 gxf5 3.♖xf5 ♘d7 4.♖df1 ♘e5 5.♖5f4

Nothing is achieved by 5.♘g5 ♕g4 6.♖xe5?! due to 6...♕xg3 7.♖xe8 ♕xg2† 8.♔xg2 ♖xe8.

5...♕b6

If 5...♘g6, then 6.♖g4 ♗c8 7.♖xg6 hxg6 8.♕xg6 followed by ♘g5+–.

6.♘g5 ♘g6

6...♗e7 is met by 7.♘f7† ♔xf7 8.♖xf7 and the white rook has a very strong post on the 7th rank: 8...♗f8 9.♗e4 ♔g8 10.♗xh7† ♔xh7 11.♖g1+–.

7.♘f7† ♔g8

Diagram 13-6

8.♕xg6!

A pretty blow, which decides the game on the spot. 8...hxg6 is followed by 9.♖h4 and then mate on h8.

1–0

Diagram 13-7

S.Malyshev – G.Kaidanov

Bled 1997

1...♖xf2!!

A typical combination, which demonstrates how to crack open a castled position.

1...♖f6 2.♕f1 ♖h6 3.♕g2 gives White time to defend.

2.♔xf2 ♕h2† 3.♔f1 ♖e7 4.♕f5

Other moves lose even more quickly:

a) 4.♖e2 ♕h1† 5.♔f2 ♖f7† 6.♕f5 ♖xf5#

b) 4.♖ec1 ♖f7† 5.♔e1 ♖f2 6.♕f1 ♖xb2–+

4...♖f7–+ 5.♕f4 h5!

White resigned. The threat is simply ...h5-h4. For example, 6.♖ac1 h4 7.♕xf7† ♔xf7 8.gxh4 g3–+.

Combinations involving two files

Diagram 13-8

V.Anand – A.Khalifman

Moscow (rapid) 1995

A typical situation, in which White's own pawn on h7 is protecting the opposing king on h8. But White prepares some file opening.

1.♕g3

The threat is ♖g8†.

1...♕g6 2.♕h4

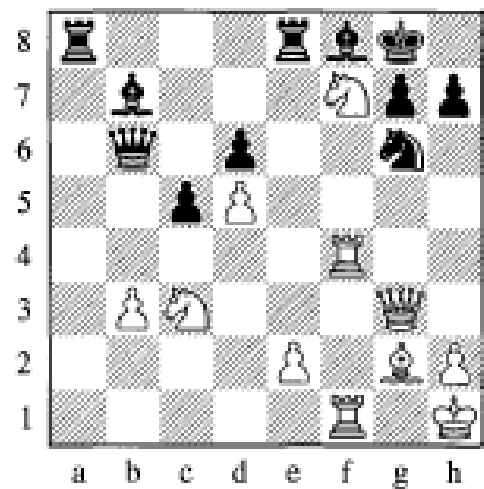Black resigned, because after 2...♕f5 there follows 3.♖g8† ♖xg8 4.hxg8=♕† ♔xg8 5.♕h8#.
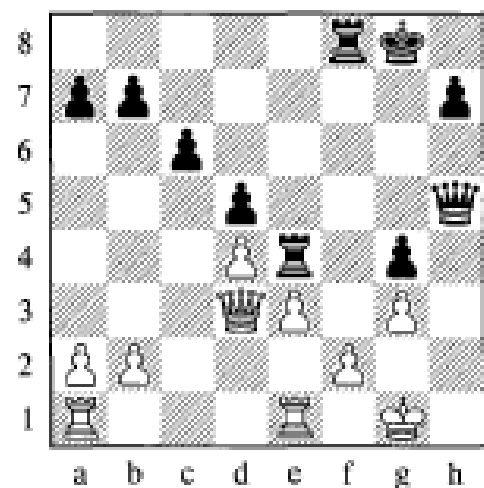
Diagram 13-6

Diagram 13-7

Diagram 13-8
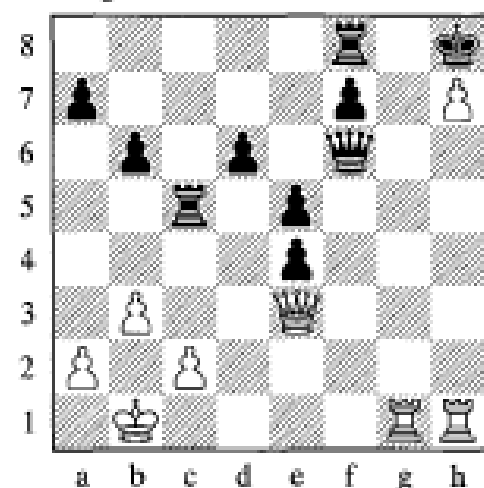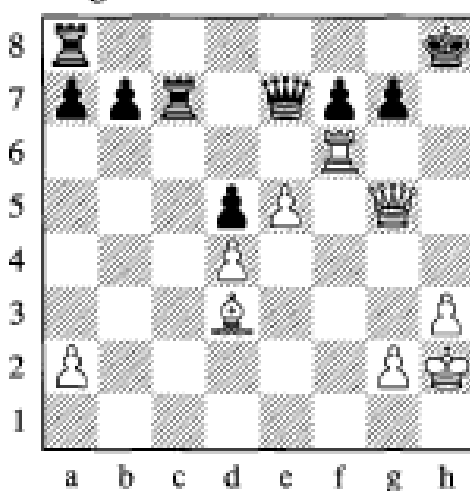
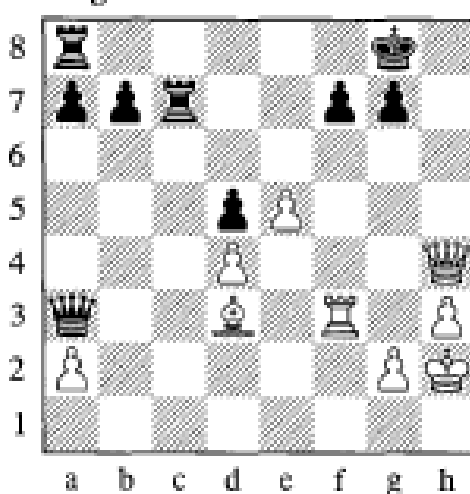**Diagram 13-9** △

Diagram 13-10 ▼

Diagram 13-11 ▼

Diagram 13-9

G.Kasparov – E.Pigusov

Riga 1977

Here is an example from an early game by the future World Champion.

1.罝f6! ♘g5

   1...♘f8 is met by 2.♕xh6†+–.

2.罝xg5! hxg5

   2...gxf6 is bad, in view of 3.罝h5 ♕f8 4.罝xh6† ♔g8 5.罝h7 and then ♕g3†.

3.♕xg5

Diagram 13-10

In return for the exchange White obtains a strong attack. The black rooks are very passively posted and cannot yet take part in the action.

3...♔g8

   3...gxf6 loses to 4.♕h6† ♔g8 5.♕h7† ♔f8 6.♕h8#.

   3...♕e8 is followed by 4.♕h5† ♔g8 5.e6! and now:

   a) 5...g6 6.♕h6 and the threat of exf7† is winning.

   b) 5...gxf6 6.e7! f5 7.♗xf5 ♔g7 8.♕g5† ♔h8 9.♕h6† ♔g8 10.♕h7#

   c) 5...♔f8 6.♕h8† ♔e7 7.♕xg7+–

4.♕h4 ♕a3

   Or 4...♕e8 5.e6! gxf6 6.e7! f5 7.♗xf5 ♔g7 8.♕g5† ♔h8 9.♕h6† ♔g8 10.♕h7#.

5.罝f3!

Diagram 13-11

There is no good defence against the two threats of ♗h7† (winning the queen) and ♕h7† followed by ♕h8† (winning a rook).

5...g6 6.♗xg6! ♕xf3 7.♕h7† ♔f8 8.gxf3

1–0

Diagram 13-12

V.Hort – G.Sosonko

Tilburg 1979

1.♗e8!

A double attack: the rook on a4 is attacked and there is also the threat of 2.♕xh7† ♔f8 3.♕h8#.

1...♘xe8

Now Black loses the queen.

2.♖g2 ♘f6 3.♖hg1!

3.e5! ♖xe5 4.f4+– would also be good.

Black resigned, on account of 3...♕xg2 4.♕xg2† ♔f7 5.♕g7† ♔e8 6.♕h8† ♔d7 7.♖g7. The invasion of the seventh rank decides the game quikcly. Black cannot protect e7.

Diagram 13-13

A.Planinc – S.Marangunic

Novi Travnik 1969

White utilizes the strength of the two rooks.

1.♕xg6!! hxg6 2.♖xg6 ♘h6

2...♔h7 would be bad, on account of 3.exf5 ♘h6 4.♖xh5 ♖xf5 5.♖hxh6#.

2...♘g5 is followed by 3.♖xg5 ♖f7 4.♖gxh5† and now:

a) 4...♔g7 5.♖g1† ♔f6 (5...♔f8 6.♖h8#) 6.♖xf5#

b) 4...♔g8 5.♖h8† ♔g7 6.♖1h7† transposes into the game continuation.

3.♖xh5 ♖f7 4.♖gxh6† ♔g7 5.♖h7†

Diagram 13-14

5...♔g8

5...♔f6 also clearly loses: 6.♖5h6† ♔g5 (6...♔e5 7.♖c6† ♔f4 8.♖h4† ♔g5 9.f4† ♔xh4 10.♖h6#) 7.f4† ♔xf4 8.♖xf7+–

6.♖h8† ♔g7 7.♖5h7† ♔g6 8.exf5† ♖xf5 9.♖xd8 ♖xd8 10.♗d3

With a winning ending.
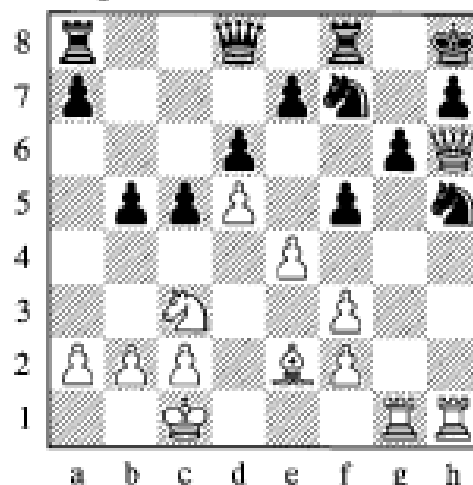
Diagram 13-15

Hartlaub – Testa

Diagram 13-12

Diagram 13-13

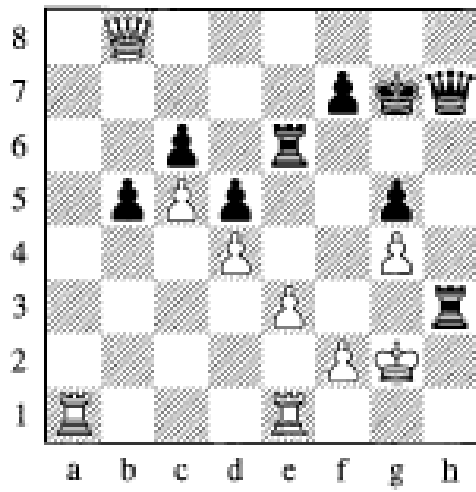### Diagram 13-14

Diagram 13-15 △

1.♖xg7†! ♔xg7 2.♖g1† ♔h8

If 2...♔f6, then 3.♕h4† ♔f5 4.♕g5† (or 4.♖g5† ♔f6 5.♖xe5† ♔g6 6.♖g5#) 4...♔e4 5.♖e1† ♔f3 6.♕g3#.

2...♔h6 allows instant mate by 3.♕h4#.

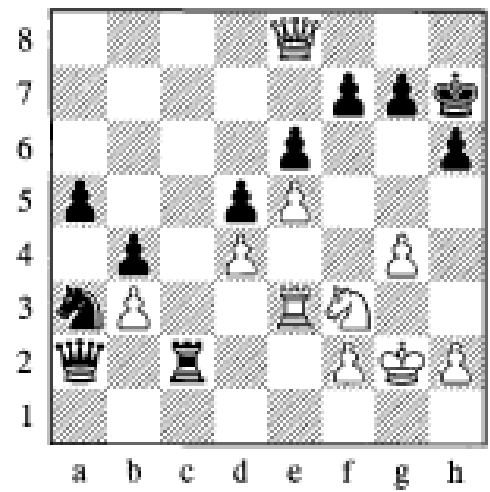**3.♕xe5†! dxe5 4.♗xe5† f6 5.♗xf6†! ♖xf6 6.♖g8#**

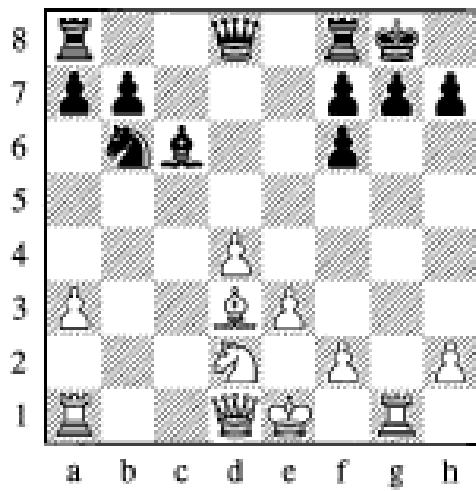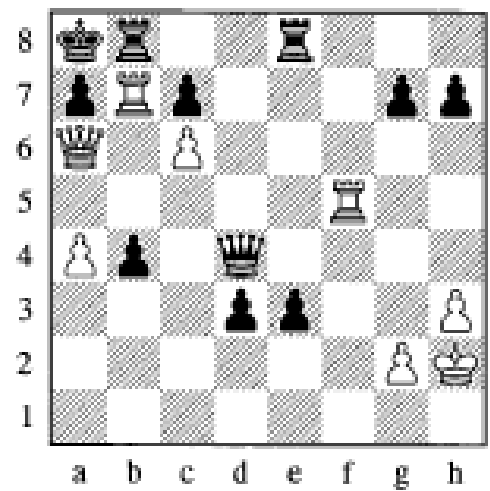# Exercises

➤ Ex. 13-1 ◄   ★   ▼

➤ Ex. 13-4 ◄   ★ ★   △
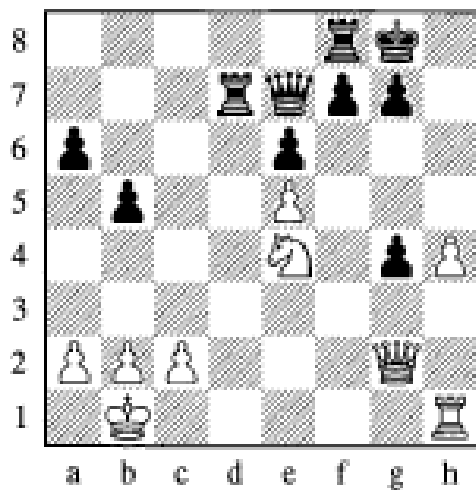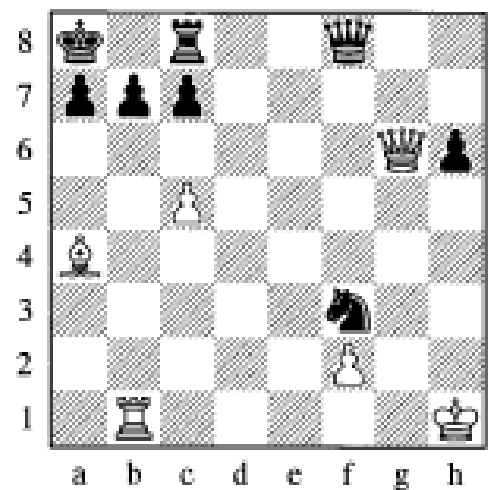

➤ Ex. 13-2 ◄   ★   △

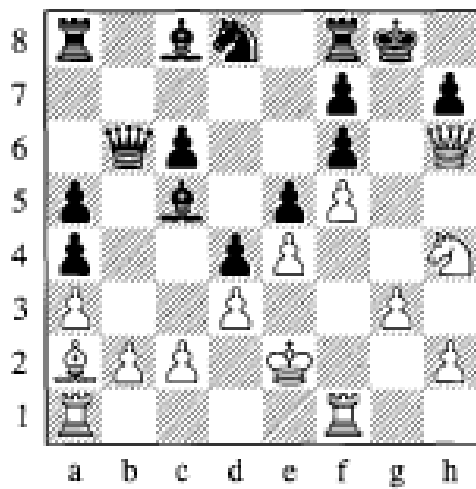➤ Ex. 13-5 ◄   ★ ★   △

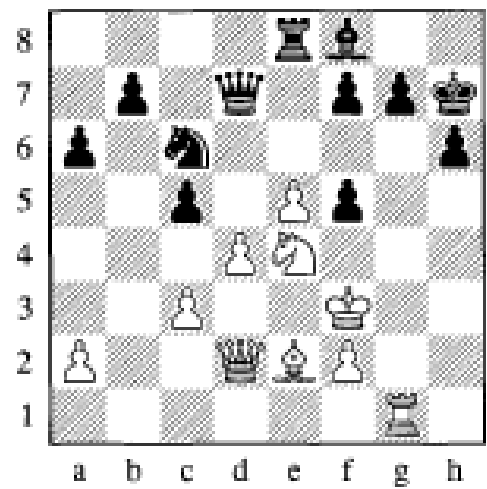➤ Ex. 13-3 ◄   ★   △

➤ Ex. 13-6 ◄   ★ ★   △

Exercises

> Ex. 13-7 ◄ ★ ★ ★ △

> Ex. 13-10 ◄ ★ ★ ★ △

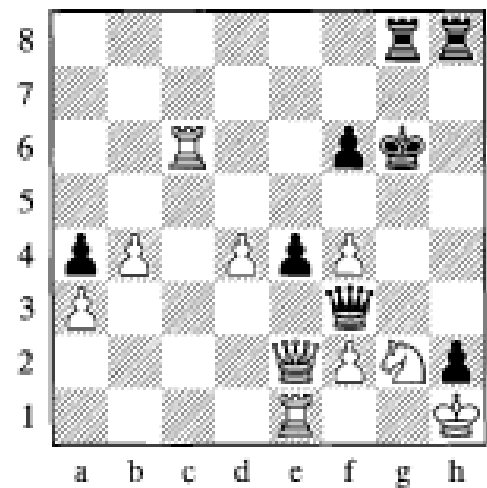> Ex. 13-8 ◄ ★ ★ △

> Ex. 13-11 ◄ ★ ★ ★ ▼

> Ex. 13-9 ◄ ★ ★ △

> Ex. 13-12 ◄ ★ △