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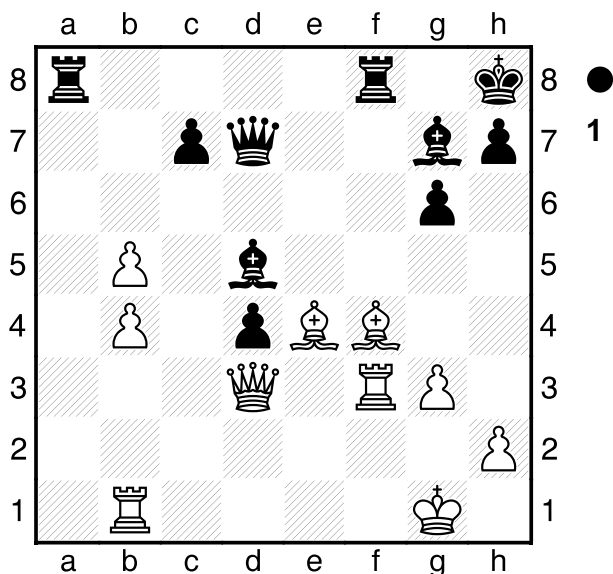
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Karlsbad (20)

08.1907

1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e3 b6  
 5.Bd3 Bb7 6.f3 g6 7.Nge2 Bg7  
 8.Qc2 Nc6 9.a3 e5 10.d5 Ne7  
 11.b4 a5 12.Rb1 axb4 13.axb4 0-0  
 14.0-0 d6 15.Bd2 Nd7 16.g3 Kh8  
 17.e4 fxe4 18.Nxe4 Nf6 19.f4 Nxe4  
 20.Bxe4 Qd7 21.fxe5 dxe5 22.Bg5  
 Nf5 23.Rf3 b5 24.cxb5 Bxd5  
 25.Qd3 Nd4 26.Nxd4 exd4=  
 27.Bf4?? Diagram



**Ra3** Fairly obvious: in practice, I would play it, seeing as far as the next diagram (after 29 Rbf1) which looks like white's best continuation: and at move 27, all I would be able to say is that black's position had improved by the exchanges: I wouldn't be able to assess that black had a winning advantage [but he has, as it turns out].

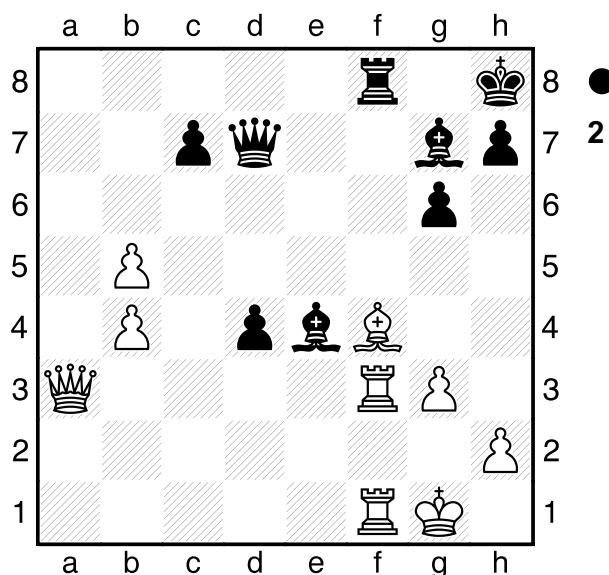
**28.Qxa3**

[ 28.Qd1 Bxe4 29.Rxa3 Rxf4  
 30.Qd2 ( 30.gxf4 d3+- ) 30...Rf8  
 31.Rd1 Qxb5 and black should win fairly easily (Houdini gives it as -6):

black should win one way or another on the white squares. ]

**28...Bxe4 29.Rbf1** Diagram

[ 29.Rff1 Bxb1 30.Rxb1 d3 31.Rd1 is a natural move, but Houdini immediately flashes #9. ( 31.Be3 Qd5 white Houdini says is -4 if white plays Qc1; and at least -13 otherwise: it is one of those positions where I can see black is better, but where I wouldn't assess it as totally winning (but having seen Houdini's analysis, can appreciate that it is). ) 31...Bd4+ 32.Kg2 Qd5+ 33.Kh3 Rxf4 34.gxf4 ( 34.Rxd3 Qh5+ 35.Kg2 Rf2+ 36.Kg1 Qxh2# ) 34...Qf3+ 35.Kh4 Bf6# ]



This is a 'stepping stone': a safe position reached in my head after 27... Ra3, which I would then evaluate at the board. **29...Bxf3??** I suspect I too would also have played this move, chickening out of the complexity. I would easily have seen that 29..Rf4? loses- black doesn't have enough to prosecute the attack; Houdini tells me that only d3 wins, the others are =+.

[ 31...d3!+-

**A)** 30.h4 Bxf3 31.Rxf3 d2-+ ;

**B)** 30.R3f2 Rxf4! ( 30...Bd4??

31.Be5+- ) 31.Rxf4 Bd4+

32.R1f2 ( 32.R4f2 Qh3 )

32...d2-+ ;

**C)** 30.Kg2 Rxf4! ( 30...g5

Cordingley, also wins 31.Bxg5

Rxf3 32.Rxf3 Qg4-+ ) 31.gxf4

Qg4+ 32.Kh1 Bxf3+ 33.Rxf3

Qxf3+ 34.Kg1 Bd4# ]

**30.Rxf3** h6 **31.Qd3** g5 **32.Bd2**

Rxf3 **33.Qxf3** Qxb5 **34.Qa8+** Kh7

**35.Qe4+** Kg8 **36.h4** Kf7 **37.hxg5**

hxg5 **38.Kg2** Bf6 **39.Kf2** c6 **40.Kg2**

Kg7 **41.Kf2** Qc4 **42.g4** Qb5 **43.Kg2**

Kh6?= **44.Qe6** Kg7 **45.Qe4** Kf7

**46.Kf2** Qc4 **47.Qh7+** Ke8 **48.Qg6+**

Qf7 **49.Qxf7+** Kxf7 **50.Kf3** Ke6

**51.Ke4** Kd6 **52.Kf5** Bd8 **53.Ke4** Bf6

**54.Kf5** Ke7 **55.Bc1** Kf7 **56.Bd2** Kg7

**57.Bc1** Kf7

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