



"This is a fantastic game"

Remembering **WILLIAM ALEXANDER SCOTT III**

How the liberation of Buchenwald led a man to chess, and how that man transformed chess in the American South.

BY **MARK N. TAYLOR**

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WHEN WILLIAM A. SCOTT III arrived in Durham, North Carolina, to play in the 1950 Southern Chess Association (SCA)

Championship, the man who had invited him — US Chess Federation Vice President Marshall Southern, of Knoxville, Tennessee — met him with some bad news: Some SCA members from Florida and Scott's home state of Georgia were protesting his appearance after learning Scott was African American.

Southern had extended the invitation after Scott had played in a pair of Tennessee tournaments earlier in the year without incident. But Southern had clearly underestimated a deep vein of racism lodged within the SCA — the strongest chess organization in the segregated South. A segregationist faction, led by SCA Secretary Major John Broadus Holt, threatened to withdraw, and prevailed upon the host hotel to bar Scott from the premises, even though a majority of players, including all the younger

ones, voted to let Scott play. Neither Southern nor the host club took a stand for Scott.

Like every African American in the South, Scott knew that his appearance would be controversial, divisive, even potentially violent. Because of Jim Crow, he knew what could happen to Black persons who tried to cross the color line. So Scott withdrew, but his quest to integrate tournaments did not end there.

It is difficult to imagine today how much courage it took Scott to accept the invitation. No one would have blamed him if he had stuck to safer tournament venues, or kept to his all-Black Metropolitan Chess Club, in Atlanta. What led Scott to cross the color line again and again until chess organizations in the South desegregated? We can trace his motivation to an indelible experience in his past, one which has never been related in full.

William Alexander Scott III (1923–1992) was born in Johnson City, Tennessee, and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. His father founded the *Atlan-*

ta Daily World, the nation's oldest daily Black newspaper. The son got an early start, working as a newspaper delivery boy, cleaner, sports statistician, and photographer. In January 1943, while a student at Morehouse College, Scott was drafted into the U. S. Army, at first posted to Tuskegee, Alabama. In December, he joined 183rd Engineer Combat Battalion, and he was sent to the European Theatre in the summer of 1944. Just before he shipped out, he married his childhood sweetheart.

Scott was deployed to Luxemburg during the Battle of the Bulge as part of General Patton's 3rd Army. He worked in his battalion's Intelligence Section as a reconnaissance sergeant, photographer, camoufleur, and part-time historian. They pushed across Germany early in 1945 as the Axis forces retreated.

In an extensive interview with Kathy Solomon at Emory University in 1981, Scott recalled, "I remember the day — clear and sunny — riding in a convoy into Eisenach, Germany,

PHOTO: US CHESS ARCHIVES

on April 11, 1945, as World War II was ending, and a 3rd Army courier delivering a message to us to continue on to a concentration camp.” That was Buchenwald, and what the 22-year-old Scott saw that day changed him.

Although the battalion had been warned about conditions, Scott said, “We drove in, and I said, ‘Gosh, it’s not as bad as they say. It looks just like a regular prison.’” As they drove around, he soon realized he was wrong. “As a matter of fact, I ended up saying it was worse [than it had been described.] ... And I said, ‘There’s no way you could describe it.’” He began taking photographs as he confronted horror after horror that the silent survivors kept pointing out to him. Eventually, “I put my camera up after a while and I just stopped taking pictures.”

In one of the barracks, he said, “Some of the survivors, with their clothing torn and their body exposed, were kneeling on the ground playing chess out of some makeshift sets, and they were just oblivious, almost, to what was going on around them even. And I said, ‘Well, this is a fantastic game. ... This can keep your mind from going off the deep end, so to speak.’”

Later in the day, Scott and the 183rd moved out. In July, he was shipped to the Pacific Theatre, a deployment that started with 65 days at sea.

Scott’s mind kept going back to the Jewish prisoners he saw, so absorbed in their game they were hardly aware of the horror of the concentration camp. Scott had just learned to play a few months earlier in Luxemburg, and while at sea, “that’s when I really got involved” in the game, to counter tedium and troubled thoughts. Eventually, “I had begun to develop some feeling for it.”

After a few months in Okinawa, Scott took a ship back to the States. He recounted a conversation he had on board with a fellow Georgian, a white man who told him: “Look, Scott ... when we get back to Georgia, do you think you’re going to have your rights? You’re not going to have any rights unless you stand up and act like a man.” Scott remembered thinking, “Maybe he would kick me around if I let him. And this is what he was trying to tell me — that this has been part of the problem, that people have allowed themselves to be kicked around.”

When Scott took the risk of playing in the 1950 SCA Championship, he chose not to be kicked around. When he saw the controversy his presence created, he voluntarily withdrew. This was a gracious action, but also strategic. The majority of the players were already on his side, and in fact said they would not have the next tournament in any

city that would not accept Black participants. He realized that he had a winning position; there was no need to force it. He chose the path of patient nonviolence that would become the hallmark of Martin Luther King Jr.’s Civil Rights activity.

And his stance worked. News of Scott’s treatment traveled nationwide and chess clubs as far away as Los Angeles sent petitions in protest to US Chess. By the summer of 1951, the Southern Chess Association had split into two factions over the integration question. An integrated SCA championship tournament was held in Asheville, North Carolina; Scott finished 11th out of 22, scoring $4\frac{1}{2}/6$, and tied for first in the rapid transit division with $6/8$. While a minority of members held a segregated tournament in Tampa, Florida, members at the Asheville tournament passed a resolution approving Scott’s participation and decrying racism in chess. Because the integrationists were the larger group, younger, and included the best players, the segregationist faction soon died out.

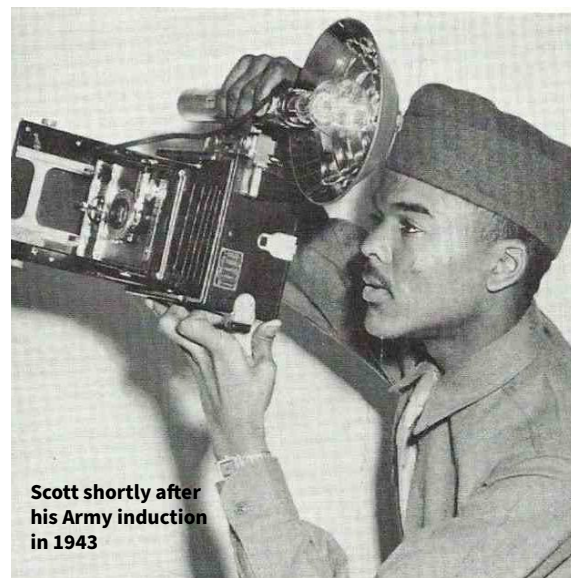
Scott continued to play in the South, scoring a string of positive results that stands as testament to his strength of spirit. He improved his play over the decade through correspondence chess as well as various regional tournaments, including the 1958 Florida Open, which he won. And all through it, he wrote chess articles and press releases for the *Atlanta Daily World*, making it possible to get some sense of how much chess activity was going on in Black Atlanta during the era of segregation — history that has been neglected by other periodicals.

At the same time, Scott, still a class player, also played in national tournaments. He attended the first of his many U.S. Opens, in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1951. The only Black person among 98 players, he finished with $6\frac{1}{2}/12$. He also played in the National Amateur Open in 1961, finishing 25 out of 140, and again in 1962, finishing sixth on tiebreaks out of 143.

In his own state, however, organizers of the Georgia Open declared it would continue to be “limited to white Georgia citizens only,” even though integrated tournaments were beginning to be held in other southern cities.

It wasn’t until March 1961 that Scott played in his first tournament in Georgia — the Atlanta Open, sponsored by the Atlanta Chess Club. The *Atlanta Daily World* reported that the club “in a meeting just before the start of the tournament last Friday voted better than 2 to 1 [to] open the competition to everyone regardless of race.” Scott scored $4\frac{1}{2}/6$.

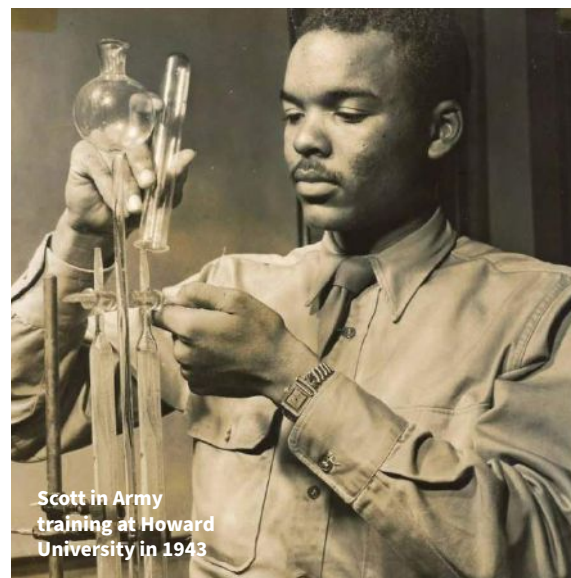
In 1963, the fully integrated Atlanta Chess Association elected Scott vice president. He



Scott shortly after his Army induction in 1943



Scott and Marian Willis Scott on their wedding day



Scott in Army training at Howard University in 1943

went on to serve two terms as president, 1965–1967.

Scott was indisputably one of the strongest players in the state, but racism in Georgia chess still dogged him. Scott and other Black chess players were barred from participating in the 1962 Georgia Closed Championship. “The failure of the Georgia Chess Association to accept us as participants is not understandable,” Scott wrote in the *Atlanta Daily World*,

in many roles: businessman, film critic, radio show host, photographer, coach, and historian for the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. In 1987, Mayor Andrew Young asked Scott to serve on the planning committee for the city’s 150th anniversary. Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed Scott a charter member of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust in 1981, and President George H. W. Bush appointed him to the United States

championship twice. He went on to win it five more times and become Spain’s first grandmaster. The headline in the *Daily World* reads “W.A. Scott Plays Spanish Chest Champion To Draw.”

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 d6 5. d4 Bb6 6. 0-0 Qe7 7. Re1 Bg4 8. d5

Missing a chance for a big advantage with 8. Bb5 exd4 9. cxd4 Bxf3 10. Qxf3 Bxd4 11. e5.



Scott (L) and Leon Bass at Camp McCain in 1944

“in light of the opening of tournaments to all for such sports as tennis, roller skating, baseball and bowling in the Greater Atlanta area.” Scott contrasted this treatment with a Tennessee Chess Association invitational in Nashville, which he turned down so that he might play in the Georgia championship.

The following year, Georgia members voted to make the championship rated, which required them to follow the US Chess Federation’s non-discrimination policy. Perhaps as a commentary on his treatment, however, there is no record of Scott playing in a Georgia Closed Championship.

In 1963, Scott was the top Georgia finisher in the Georgia Open, in Columbus. The April 1963 Georgia Chess Association newsletter, however, failed to mention his name in their tournament report, only mentioning the overall tournament winner, Milan Momic, of Alabama.

In 1967, Scott was both the Atlanta Chess Club Champion and Speed Champion. In that year he also chaired the host committee for the 68th Annual U. S. Open Chess Championship tournament in Atlanta (where he placed 26th out of 168).

Scott passed away in 1992 after flourishing

Holocaust Memorial Council in 1991.

Chess and Civil Rights are only two facets of who W. A. Scott III was. And yet, chess is at the heart of what formed him and who he became.

In addition to Kathy Solomon’s interview with William A. Scott III (26 Nov 1981. Emory University, Atlanta, GA), information for this article was primarily drawn from periodicals: Atlanta Daily World, Chicago Defender, and Georgia Chess Letter.

SELECTED GAMES

BY RICK MASSIMO

GIUOCO PIANO (C53)

IM Arturo Pomar
William A. Scott III
Simultaneous exhibition, Atlanta,
04.17.1954

At the time of this game, Pomar was an international master and had won the Spanish

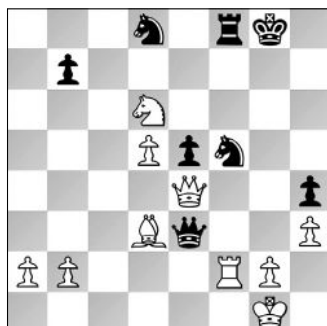
8. ... Nd8 9. h3 Bd7 10. Na3 a6 11. Nc2 h5 12. Be3 g6 13. Bxb6 cxb6 14. Qd2 b5 15. Bf1 h4



16. Ne3 Rc8 17. c4 f5 18. exf5 gxf5 19. cxb5 axb5 20. Nd4 Qf6 21. Nxb5 Nh6 22. Qb4 Nh7 23. Rac1 0-0 24. Rxc8 Bxc8 25. Rc1 f4 26. Rxc8 fxe3 27. fxe3 Nh6 28. Qe1 Nf5 29. Rc2 Nxe3 30. Rf2

White should just take: 30. Qxe3 and Black can’t try to win material with 30. ... Qxf1+ 31. Kh2 Qxb5 due to 32. Qg5+ Kh7 (32. ... Kf7 33. Rc7+) 33. Qxh4+ Kg6 34. Qg4+ Kh6 35. Rc3.

30. ... Nf5 31. Bd3 Qg5 32. Qe4 Qe3 33. Nxd6



White should have just traded off everything and gone into the endgame a pawn up. Now Scott gets his chance.

33. ... Qxf2+ 34. Kxf2 Nxd6+ 35. Qf3 Rxf3+ 36. Kxf3

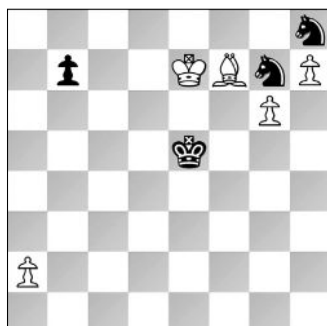
"At this point Scott made a hasty move and lost a pawn and offered the champion a draw which he declined."

36. ... e4+ 37. Bxe4

The engine actually gives White a slight edge here.

37. ... Kg7 38. Kf4 Kf6 39. Bc2 N8f7 40. Kg4 Nc4 41. Kxh4 Nxb2 42. g4 Nc4 43. Kg3 Ne3 44. Bb3 Nf1+
Unnecessarily sidelining his knight.

45. Kf4 Nd2 46. h4 Nb1 47. g5+ Kg7 48. h5 Nc3 49. h6+ Kf8 50. Kf5 Nb5 51. Kf6 Nbd6 52. h7 Ne8+ 53. Kg6 Nh8+ 54. Kf5 Ke7 55. g6 Ng7+ 56. Kg5 Kd6 57. Bd1 Kxd5 58. Kf6 Ne8+ 59. Ke7 Ng7 60. Bb3+ Ke5 61. Bf7



White wins with *zugzwang* after 61. Kf8 Kf6 62. Bc2.

61. ... Nh5

There's a neat draw with 61. ... Nf5+ 62. Kd7 b5 63. Kc6 b4 64. Kc5 Kf6 65. Be8 Kg7 66. Kxb4 Ne7 67. a4 Nhxg6 68. Bxg6 Nxg6 69. a5 Ne7 70. Kb5 Nc8 71. Kc6 Kxh7 72. a6 Na7+ 73. Kb6 Nc8+ 74. Kb7 Nd6+ 75. Kb8 Nb5 76. Kb7 Kg6 77. Kb6 Nd6 and White can't make progress.

62. Kf8

White can still win with 62. a4 b6 63. Kd7 Kf6 64. Kc7

62. ... Kf6 63. Kg8 Ke7 64. Kxh8 Kf8 65.

Be6 b6 66. a3 Ng7 67. Bd7 Nh5, draw.

Source: *Atlanta Daily World*, April 20, 1954.

SICILIAN DEFENSE, SOZIN ATTACK (B86)

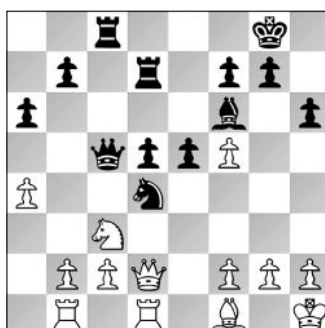
William A. Scott III

Ken Smith

U.S. Open, Omaha, 1959

Scott's opponent is the master Ken Smith, who ran *Chess Digest* magazine, was a prolific writer and publisher, and popularized the Morra Gambit to the extent that it became known as the Smith-Morra Gambit.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. a4 Be7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Be3 Qc7 10. Bd3 e5 11. Nf5 Bxf5 12. exf5 d5 13. Bg5 Rd8 14. Bxf6 Bxf6 15. Be2 Qc5 16. Qd2 Nc6 17. Rfd1 Nd4 18. Bf1 h6 19. Rab1 Rac8 20. Kh1 Rd7



21. Nxd5 Bg5 22. Ne3 Re7 23. Qd3

White can strike right away with 23. f6 Bxf6 24. c3 Nc6 25. b4 Qa7 26. b5 axb5 27. axb5 Nb8 (27. ... Nd8 28. Ra1 Qc5 29. Ra4 with the threat of 30. Rc4) 28. Nd5 Re6.

23. ... Bxe3 24. fxe3 Nc6 25. Qe4 Qb4 26. Bc4 Rec7 27. f6 Qf8 28. Rf1 Na5 29. Bd3 g6 30. h4

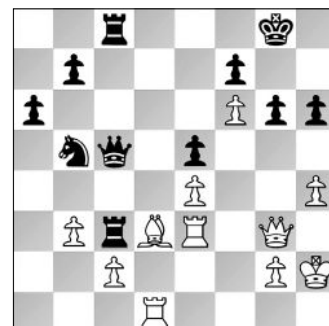
The prophylactic 30. b3, with Bd3-c4 coming up next, keeps a bigger advantage for White.

30. ... Nc4 31. Rf2 Qc5 32. Re2 Nd6 33. Qf3 Qb4 34. e4 Qxa4 35. b3 Qb4 36. Qg3 Qd4 37. Rd1 Rc3 38. Kh2 Qc5 39. Re3 Nb5?

(see diagram top of next column)

40. Bc4 Kf8 41. Rxc3 Nxc3 42. Qxc3 b5 43. Qd2, Black resigned.

Source: *Atlanta Daily World*, April 28, 1963.



POSITION AFTER 39. ... Nb5

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE (E56)

W. Burnett

William A. Scott III

Heart O'Dixie Open, Huntsville, Alabama, 05.30.1963

Scott wrote that a friend who lived in Huntsville told him the *Chess Life* announcement of the tournament, "which stated 'Open to All,' meant what it said. I received the same cordial reception as others during the tournament, including staying at the Motor Hotel, site of the Battle Royal. I later learned that several other motor facilities have been open to all for some time without restrictions in Huntsville." Huntsville was a major NASA testing site and home to the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (which, Scott says, the players toured). NASA established lots of facilities in the South and actively recruited Black people to work in them. It would be a stretch to call the agency actively integrationist, but these moves were not a coincidence either.

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 d5 5. Bd3 0-0 6. Nf3 c5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. a3 Ba5 9. dxc5 Bxc3 10. bxc3 Qa5 11. Qc2 dxc4 12. Bxc4 Qxc5 13. Ba2 Qh5 14. Bb2



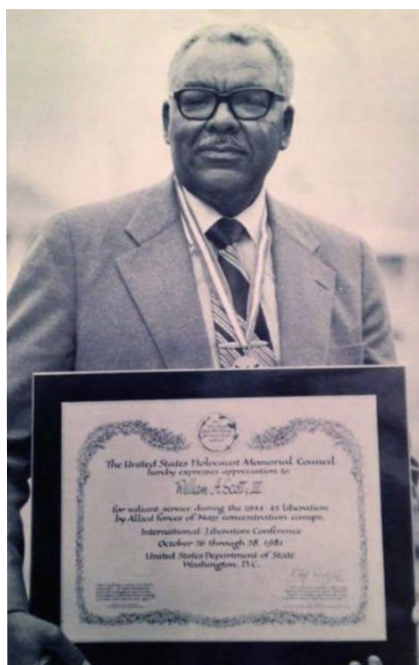
14. ... e5 15. e4 Bg4 16. Ne1 Be2 17. Nf3 Bxf3 18. gxf3 Qxf3 19. Rfe1 Rac8 20. Rad1 Nd4 21. Qd2 Qg4+ 22. Kh1 Nf3 23. Qe3 Qh3, White resigned.

Source: *Atlanta Daily World*, June 9, 1963.

Reporting on the Peach State Open in the February 1967 issue of *Chess Life*, GM William Lombardy passed along this anecdote, which made Scott's defeat of IM Sherwin all the more impressive. Lombardy placed first in the tournament with 5½/6. Scott finished in a three-way tie for second place with five points.

The big upset of the tournament came in the fifth round when Jim Sherwin unexpectedly collapsed under time pressure against Bill Scott. No one could have suspected that the president of the Atlanta Chess Association, an enthusiastic organizer, and able chess promoter, a chess patron, could also demonstrate similar versatility in over-the-board play. Something else makes Scott's win even more incredible.

During the course of the game, Sherwin observed that his opponent had disappeared! The clock had already been running some 40 minutes and Scott was nowhere to be found. Was he on special assignment for the newspaper of which he is editor? Not exactly. Scott later revealed that he had promised to drive his daughter to the airport. ("She's only a college freshman at Barnard," he said with fatherly concern.) He felt that this game would be a breeze for Sherwin and so he could safely make the trip to the airport, losing such valuable time. Needless to say, the round trip to the airport was sufficiently refreshing to spur him on to a splendid victory in what was a see-saw battle.



SICILIAN DEFENSE, ACCELERATED DRAGON (B37)

William A. Scott III

IM James Sherwin

Peach State Open, Atlanta, 1966

Annotations by GM William Lombardy and (in red) Rick Massimo

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c4 g6

There are two other ways of equalizing against White's third move, either of which we prefer: (a) 3. ... e5 4. Nc3 d6 5. d3 f5, which position we judge at least equal for Black; (b) 3. ... e6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. Nc3 d6 7. Be2 Be7 8. Be3 0-0 9. f3 Qc7 10. Nc2 d5 11. cxd5 exd5 12. Nxd5 Nxd5 13. Qxd5 Rd8, with excellent play for the pawn.

4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Bg7 6. Nb3 d6 7. Be2 Nf6

With this Black accepts the inferior position. Frequently part of the psychology of the better player is to accept the worse position to keep matters complicated; however, in this case, such a procedure is not warranted, besides being too dangerous. Black's game is quite adequate after 7. ... Nh6 8. 0-0 0-0 9. Nc3 f5.

8. Nc3 0-0 9. Be3 Be6 10. f3 Nd7 11. Rc1 Na5 12. Nd2 Rc8 13. b3 Nc6 14. Ndb1

White has demonstrated remarkable refined judgment; witness his last few moves. He is well aware that Black's game is cramped, so he does not exchange knights at a5. He also has not rushed castling since other pieces had to be developed. He had perceived that an attack requires careful preparation, hence the restrained f2-f3. He also clearly understands that Black has accomplished nothing by his last series of moves, not even to the extent of better placing his pieces; he has in fact made moves which have permitted White further to solidify his position. Finally, White's last move prevents ... Nc6-d4.

14. ... Nc5 15. 0-0 Bd7

Incomprehensible under the circumstances. Black must find a way to gain some initiative, for if White is left to himself, his position can only improve. The obvious thrust for Black is 15. ... f5.

16. Rc2 Re8

Far too passive; 16. ... f5 is still open. A possible plan: eventually playing ... e7-e5 and posting the knight (on c5) on e6, where it will be poised to occupy d4.

17. Rd2



17. ... b6

The engine finds this slow. Today Black would generally play more forcefully with 17. ... Qa5 and ... Nc6-b4, eventually aiming for ... b7-b5 or ... f7-f5. On the next move, White could get started right away with 18. f4.

18. Kh1 a5

Apart from the devastating time pressure, Black should be able to hold his own despite White's slight edge; he should therefore not cede b5 for the use of White's knights.

19. a4 Qc7 20. Nb5 Qb8 21. N1c3 Nb4 22. Qb1 Bc6 23. Rfd1

If the reader is puzzled, he has good reason. This is an intricate positional struggle with White enjoying some pressure owing to his advantage in space; White's last move was actually a developing move!

23. ... Qa8 24. Nd4 Bd7

Black's still more or less OK after 24. ... Bb7 or 24. ... Ne6.

25. Ndb5

Could be a draw by reputation. Figuring the percentages, White at least might seem to be testing out his opponent's willingness to settle for the half point; Black will have none of that.

25. ... Qb7 26. Nd5 Nc6

Exchanging on d5 only gives White more scope since he undoubtedly intends to recapture with the c-pawn. The white light-squared bishop would then play an enormous role.

27. f4

Perhaps 27.g4 followed by f3-f4 accomplishes the same objective with less effort, occupying more space and immediately commencing a kingside attack.

27. ... f5 28. e5!

White sacs a pawn to make those doubled

Left: Scott with a certificate awarded by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in 1981.

rooks count. This writer knows Black was short of time at this point; how short, he is not aware since he was battling the clock himself.

The engine says this is too fast. White can keep building with 28. Bf3, with ideas of taking on e7 and then d6, or switching over to the e-file.

28. ... dxe5 29. Nxb6 Qxb6 30. Rxd7 exf4 31. Bg1 Nb4

Black's last was careless; we believe the chances even now are about equal. In fact, Black's play can become quite dangerous: 31. ... Ne5 32. Ra7 Qc6 (threatening ... f4-f3) 33. Nd4 Qf6, threatening ... Qf6-h4 and/or ... Nc5-e4.

This is true as far as it goes, but the engine still likes White after 32. R7d5 Nf7 33. Bf3 e5 34. b4 axb4 35. Qxb4.

32. Bf3 Qb8 33. Bxc5

Most upsetting. Not only does the black e-pawn come under fire; in the bargain, Black must give up the Exchange to avoid the posting of both white rooks on the seventh rank via the capture of that fated pawn.

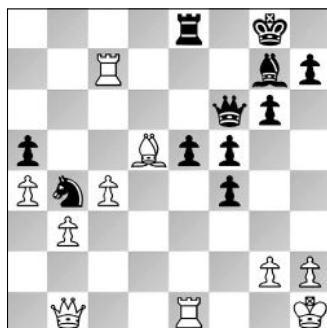
33. ... Rxc5 34. Rb7 Qe5

If 34. ... Qc8, then 35. Rdd7 makes Black frantic.

35. Re1 Qf6 36. Nc7 Rxc7

Or 36. ... Rc8 which can be convincingly countered by 37. Nd5.

37. Rxc7 e5 38. Bd5+



38. ... Nxd5?

This presents White with open lines which ordinarily he would not be able to attain without such cooperation. Black also loses time to churn the white kingside with his mobile pawn majority. Black gets shorter and shorter of time ...

The engine says Black is in fact slightly better after 38. ... Kh8, thanks to the central pawn mass. Giving White open lines and a passed pawn is indeed asking for trouble.

39. cxd5 e4 40. Qc2

Clearly, had Black not captured the bishop on d5, White would not so conveniently have been able to coordinate his major pieces. Black's pawn majority no longer poses a serious obstacle since the white d-pawn quickly generates threats of its own, for instance: 40. ... Qh4 41. Rd1 Be5 (White's still winning, but it's a bit more complicated, after 41. ... f3 42. d6 fxc2+ 43. Qxg2 Bf6 44. Qe2 Qh3 45. b4 e3 46. Re1 Kf8 47. d7 Re4) 42. Qc6 Kf8 43. d6 f3 44. Qxe8+ Kxe8 45. d7+ and the issue is decided.

40. ... Qe5 41. Qc4 Qd6

The queen is not a good blockader!

42. Rc6 Qb4 43. Qxb4, Black lost on time.

Black's flag fell at a time limit of 45 moves in two hours and a quarter. A disappointing game for Sherwin, who displayed a form far removed from his usual sparkling style; but at the same time quite a feather in Scott's cap!

Someone once remarked, "What a pity to lose such a game on time!" Black is quite lost, of course, at least for the reason noted in the comment to move 40.

Something's going to promote after 43. ... axb4 44. d6 Kf8 45. a5 Bd4 46. Rd1 Be3 47. a6.

Source: *Chess Life*, February 1967, page 28, originally in descriptive notation.

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK (A07)

Carl Blackwell

Walter Scott

Telephone blindfold game, 01.05.1956

Scott said his opponent, Carl Blackwell, was "a young California player" on an extended visit to family in Atlanta. This game was played over the telephone. Blackwell had a board and set in front of him; Scott did not.

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 d4 3. Bg2 c5 4. d3 Nc6 5. Bf4 f6 6. e4 e5 7. Bd2 Be6 8. 0-0 c4 9. a4 cxd3 10. cxd3 Bc5 11. Na3 Nge7 12. Ne1 0-0 13. f4 f5

(see diagram top of next column)

14. fxe5

It's a hard one to spot, but White is on top after the undoing move 14. Nf3! The least bad thing Black can do is give up the e5-pawn after 14. ... Kh8, because after 14. ... exf4 15. Ng5 comes (a) 15. ... Bd7 16. b4 and a big tactic is coming up on the light diagonal, or (b) 15. ... Bf7 16. Bxf4 a6 17. Nxf7 Rxf7 18. Nc4.

14. ... Nxe5 15. b4 Bd6 16. Nac2 Qd7 17. exf5 Nxf5



POSITION AFTER 13. ... f5

Now Black has the advantage.

18. Be4 Nc6 19. b5 Ne5 20. Qh5 g6 21. Qe2 Rae8 22. Nf3 Ng4 23. Ng5 Nxh2



The engine says it's not sound, but that's quite a move to play without sight of the board!

24. Qxh2 Nxg3 25. Rxf8+ Rxf8 26. Qg2 Bg4 27. Bxb7

The tables turn after 27. Bd5+ Kh8 28. Re1.

27. ... Ne2+ 28. Kh1 h6

No perpetual for Scott!

29. Bd5+

His courage is rewarded; this move won two moves ago, but that was because White could force exchanges on e6. That's not the case now.

29. ... Kg7 30. Be6 Bxe6

This is good enough, especially blindfolded, but 30. ... hxg5 was even better: if 31. Bxd7 Rh8+.

31. Nxe6+ Qxe6 32. Re1 Ng3+ 33. Qxg3 Rf1+ Black could also just sidestep with 33. ... Qd5+, but this is more accurate.

34. Kg2 Qd5+ 35. Kxf1 Bxg3 36. Re7+ Kf6 37. Rxa7 Qf3+, White resigned.

Source: *Atlanta Daily World*, March 17, 1963. ♡