

**Oops!  
I Resigned  
One More Time!**

**Ian Rogers**



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Oops! I Resigned One More Time!

by Ian Rogers

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# Introduction

When the first book in this series, *Oops! I Resigned Again!*, was released, I expected most readers to look on all the silly resignations with scorn, thinking, “Well, I would never do anything like *that!*”

Surprisingly, to me at least, instead of lashings of *schadenfreude* came empathy. Putting themselves in the victims’ shoes, many reacted as if “There but for the grace of God go I” and were simply relieved that similar accidents had not befallen them in their chess career. (“I could easily imagine resigning a few of these games myself,” commented

English Grandmaster Matthew Sadler.)

I was also thrilled with the general reception received by *Oops! I Resigned Again!* and I hope that a second volume of silly resignation puzzles will provoke a similar response. My intention has always been to provide a little entertainment and mental exercise for chess fans, while helping them to understand the circumstances under which such an awful mistake could be made.

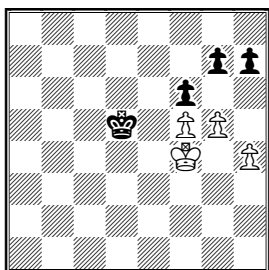
The puzzles in *Oops! I Resigned One More Time!* range from 1841 to the present

day, from Norway to Kenya, from straightforward to almost unfathomably difficult. My original intention was not to include any rapid or blitz games, since mistakes in such games are ubiquitous. (An exception was made for a game by former World Champion Jose Capablanca because he was, well, exceptional.)

There were many puzzles I would have liked to include, but which missed the cut for various reasons.

For example, some endgame books show how the great Mikhail Chigorin resigned unnecessarily against another great, Siegbert Tarrasch in the following position.

**Mikhail Chigorin – Siegbert Tarrasch**  
Ostende 1905

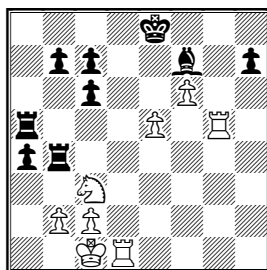


It is certainly true that Chigorin, White to move, could have saved the day with 50.♖g4 ♖e5 51.g6! h6 52.♖h5!, since 52...♖×f5 would be stalemate.

However the sad fact is that Chigorin did not resign when claimed. He played 50.g×f6 g×f6 51.♖g4 ♖e4 52.♖h3 ♖f4 and only now resigned, quite legitimately.

I was even more disappointed when the following spectacular example, published by both the normally reliable sources *Chess Informant* and Mark Dvoretzky, could not be included.

**Vladimir Peresypkin – Oleg Romanishin**  
Odessa UKR Ch. 1972



## Oops! I Resigned One More Time!

In the diagrammed position, underdog Vladimir Peresykin defeated rising star Oleg Romanishin with the brilliant

**23.e6!! ♖×g5 24.♖d8+!! ♜×d8 25.e×f7**

and Romanishin (allegedly) resigned because he cannot stop the f-pawn from queening.

Both legendary trainer Dvoretzky and *Chess Informant* showed that Black could have rescued the game by continuing **25...♖g1+ 26.♜d2.**

If 26.♗d1, then 26...♖e4! 27.f8(♖)+ ♖e8 followed by 28...♖ee1 saves the day.

**26...♖g2+ 27.♜e3 ♖g3+ 28.♜e2 ♖g2+**

Now White must accept that Black has a perpetual check, because if **29.♜f3? ♖f2+! 30.♜×f2 ♖f4+**, Black turns the tables and wins. What a great trick!

The problem is, the diagrammed position never happened! In the game there was a White pawn on h2, which

prevents 27...♖g3+, so there is no trick.

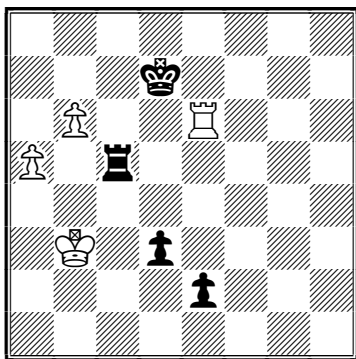
How could such a mistake occur? Back in the 1970s, very easily! Before the days of computer-generated diagrams, each piece had to be painstakingly added to a blank diagram, with mistakes and omissions easy to make. However I was less forgiving when I discovered that the resignation was false too; Romanishin did not resign in the diagrammed position (plus an h pawn) as alleged but kept the game going until move 30.

Abbreviating a game to present a missed opportunity as a silly resignation is all too common but, as far as I could check, the 100 puzzles in this book are all ridgy-didge.

A few more comments need to be made. When the puzzles are presented, exclamation marks and question marks are not objective assessments of the merits of a move but rather reflect the ‘vibe’ of the moves when they were played. (“Gee, that looks strong!”) The



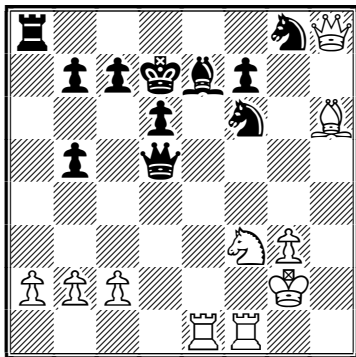
(3) **Zigurds Lanka – Eelke de Boer**  
Hamburg Engelbert Memorial 2019



Zigurds Lanka is a former Latvian Champion and multiple Olympian in the 1990s, but by the time this game was played he was almost 60 and better known as a trainer rather than a player. At the 2019 Engelbert Memorial in Hamburg, which featured a Grandmaster round-robin tournament, Lanka, whose world ranking had dropped dramatically from its peak, found himself playing in the subsidiary International Master tournament, the only Grandmaster in the field. Going into the penultimate round, Lanka found himself trailing Danish IM Jens Ove Fries Nielsen by a half-point and needed to beat a young Dutchman, Eelke de Boer, to keep pace with the leader. Unfortunately, after a long struggle Lanka found himself in a pawn race where, as the old adage insists, Black's pawns were faster. After Lanka tried **63.b7**, de Boer continued **63...♖b5+** **64.♗c4 ♗×e6!** **65.♗×b5 e1♔** when Lanka realised that, since **66.b8(♔)** allows **66...♗b1+**, he had no choice but to resign. "I widened my eyes after a kibitzer immediately demonstrated a study-like rescue," said Lanka, who at least managed to regain some self-respect by beating Fries Nielsen in the final round to reach a five-way tie for first place. Lanka's resignation provokes two questions: (a) What should Lanka have played instead of resigning? And (b) How could de Boer have played better on move 65?

*Oops! I Resigned One More Time!*

**(4) Max Lange – Adolf Anderssen**  
Berlin 1852

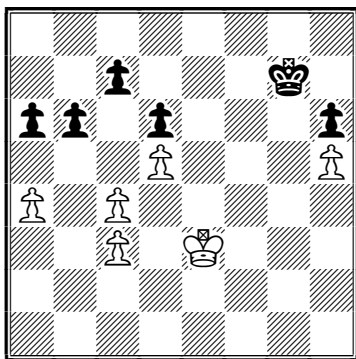


For chessplayers, 1852 is best remembered as the year in which Adolf Anderssen won the Evergreen Game against Jean Dufresne. By 1852, 34-year-old Anderssen was the de facto World Champion, having won the first major international tournament, held in London a year earlier as part of the World's Fair (later World Expo).

The Evergreen Game, though not played in an official tournament, is still delighting chess fans, Anderssen defeating 20-year-old Dufresne with a series of sacrifices ending in mate. However, 1852 also saw Anderssen suffer one of chess' greatest lows, resigning unnecessarily against another 20-year-old, the rising star Max Lange.

Lange, who was to win his own 'Immortal Game' against Anderssen seven years later (as well as having an opening named after him), attacked Anderssen hard from the outset and after **23. ♖×e7+! ♜×e7 24. ♙g5!**, Anderssen could see no escape from multiple threats such as 25. ♖e1+ and 25. ♙f6+, and resigned. How could Anderssen have defused the Max Lange attack?

(5) Chris Fox – Jonathan Bryant  
Penarth South Wales International 2012



As a member of the 150-year-old Streatham and Brixton Chess Club in London, Jonathan Bryant became well known for his contributions to the club's blog. The blog, which ended in 2016, was one of the most wide-ranging and also controversial chess blogs. Bryant covered chess in film and also was a keen and incisive critic of chess journalism and books.

Bryant, a capable club player, finished on a 50% score in the tournament from which this game is taken, the ninth edition of the South Wales International – the strongest annual event held in Wales which continues to this day. However, Bryant did enjoy one piece of good fortune, in his first round game against Chris Fox, lower rated and a decade older than the 44-year-old Bryant.

Bryant had chosen to exchange into a pawn endgame where his pawn structure was superior, and ended his opponent's resistance with **42...♖f6 43.♗f4 a5!**. Fox realised that any king move he made would allow a fatal invasion by the Black king and resigned.

Why was Fox's decision crazy?

## Solutions

(1) After **41...♖f7!**, **42.♖d7+** is illegal and **42.♞d7+ ♗e6!** offers White no more checks. So, White has nothing better than **42.♖xc5 ♞xc5 43.♞d1**, after which Black can guarantee victory with **43...♞d5! 44.♞c1 ♞d3** followed by advancing his king. Note that the tempting alternative **41...♞xd8 42.♖xc5 c2** fails to **43.♖xc4+** and **44.♖xc2**.

(2) After **62...♞f6! 63.♞g1+ ♗h7 64.♖xf6** Black can force a draw with **64...♗a2+!! 65.♖xa2 b3+** when White cannot avoid stalemating Black. Not surprisingly, Miroshnichenko lost the rapid playoffs and had to head home, while Korneev lasted only three days longer before he was eliminated by Sergei Tiviakov.

(3) Lanka could have continued the game with **66.b8♖!** because after **66...♗b1+ 67.♖a6! ♖xb8** is stalemate, and otherwise White will secure a perpetual check. However had de Boer found the under promotion **65...e1(♞)!!**, there is no stalemate and Black would win easily.

(4) After **24...♖f5!**, White has no threats and Black remains a pawn up, e.g. **25.♞e1+ ♖d7 26.♙xf6 ♖xf6!**. White can retain some compensation for the lost pawn after a calm move such as **25.c3** but after **25...c5** Black has nothing to fear.

(5) White had failed to consider **44.c5!!** when White can hang on by a thread. Black's best response is **44...bxc5** although **44...bxc5 45.c4 ♖e7 46.♖f5 ♖f7** offers no winning chances for either side. **44...dxc5 45.c4 ♖e7 46.♖e5 ♖d7** is also a draw as White cannot play for a win here with **47.♖f6?** as **47...b5!** breaks out and wins. It should be noted that Bryant managed to appease the chess Gods by resigning in a position in which he was only slightly inferior in the next round!