



COLUMNISTS

Over the Horizons

Stefan Bucker



Ahead of his Time: Ladislaus Baron Döry

The Döry Defense **1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 Ne4** is a rare, but underestimated opening. The latest article on the system – in [SOS vol. 6](#) [9] – attributes Black's second knight move with a “?!,” although there isn't a variation – neither in [9] nor elsewhere – that proves an advantage for White. Author Mikhalchishin portrays the inventor of the line, Ladislaus Baron Döry von Jobaháza, as a strong amateur from Vienna who sponsored several chess events.

More on the Döry family is available in the January 1915 issue of *Wiener Schachzeitung*. It gives a nice win by Nicolaus Baron Döry over Georg Marco. Marco reports that his opponent “founded a private miniature chess club” – Nicolaus' three sons and three daughters all played the game – and also commends the two oldest sons of the Baron, Andor and Ladislaus (“a very talented and enthusiastic chess friend”), for their chess abilities. In 1912, Andor had been successful in a tournament of the “Akademisches Gymnasium,” scoring 10 points out of 11. Only in the tie-break did he lose to Kolisch.



Nicolaus Baron Döry von Jobaháza
Source: *Wiener Schachzeitung* 1915

A [webpage](#) of the Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes [10] has photographs of Ladislaus Döry and affirms that he was executed during the Second World War: “In 1940, pianist and composer Ladislaus Döry von Jobbahaza [sic] (* 1897) stated in a circle of acquaintances that the economical and cultural life of Austria were in decline and Hitler only a despot greedy for power. Denounced by the married-couple Graf Seilern, he was sentenced to death for sedition and executed” (author's translation).

However, the entry on “Döry Defence” in *The Oxford Companion to Chess* (page 112 of the 1992 edition) states: “... pioneered by Ladislaus Döry, an Austrian Baron, in 1923 ... In 1943 [on October 7, *SB*] Döry was sentenced to death by the Nazis for sedition, but was released from prison by Allied troops in 1945.”

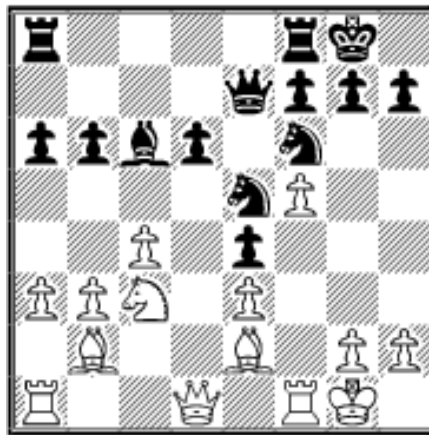
The contradiction – did he survive WWII or not? – was solved thanks to the help of Edward Winter and Peter Anderberg: The magazine *Schachspiegel*, 1947, page 124, had published a moving small story “Der Schachspieler in der Todeszelle.” Here we see Döry alone in the death cell, his hands bound. Nevertheless, he has found a way to play chess against himself, lying on the floor, with the help of some soap-constructed pieces. A fellow sufferer is brought in, also a chessplayer. After a hard-fought game, which ends in a draw, Döry’s opponent (whose name is given as “Petzold”) is executed the next morning. Ladislaus Döry had his hands bound for 125 days. Without abrogation of his sentence of death, Döry was brought to other prisons (Brandenburg, Straubing). On May 1, 1945 he was released from prison by American troops.

More evidence that Baron Döry survived the war:

Riedmiller – Baron Döry

Bavarian Championship, 1949

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 b6 5 Nge2 Bb7 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 Nxc3 0–0 8 d5 d6 9 Be2 e5 10 0–0 Nbd7 11 f4 Qe7 12 f5 e4 13 Nb5 Ne5 14 b3 a6 15 Nc3 c6 16 dxc6 Bxc6 17 Bb2



17...d5! 18 Nxd5 Bxd5 19 cxd5 Rfd8 20 Qd4 Rxd5 21 Qxb6 Rd2 22 Bxe5 Qxe5 23 Qc6 Re8 24 Qxa6 Qc5 25 Bc4 Qxe3+ 26 Kh1 Ng4 27 b4 Nf2+ 28 Rxf2 Qxf2 29 Bf1 h5 30 h3 Red8 31 Qa4 e3 32 b5 e2 33 Bxe2 Qxe2 34 Rg1 Rd1 35 Rxd1 Rxd1+ 36 Kh2 Qe5+ 37 g3 Qe2 mate
(Source: *Schach-Echo* 1953, p. 358 – found by Peter Anderberg)

The Döry Defence in Practice

Paul Keres – Albert Becker

Thematic Tournament, Vienna 1937

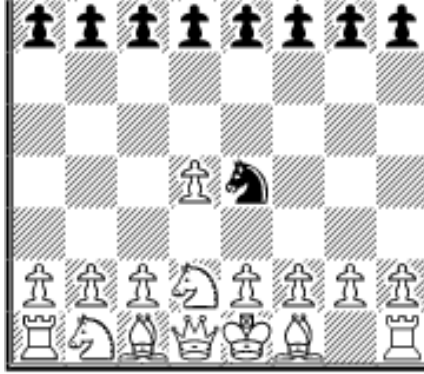
1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 Ne4

In *Neue Wiener Schachzeitung* 1937, p. 360, Döry mentions a game H. Müller – Döry, Klosterneuburg 1924. Apparently this was the first game with the new move 2...Ne4. According to Döry [4], the disadvantage of moving the knight twice is fully compensated by the greater flexibility regarding pawn moves: Black may choose various structures to support his knight, involving either f5 or d5, the development Bb4 or Bb7. It may be added that under certain circumstances e7-e5, g7-g5 (against a Bf4), c5 or even the retreat Ne4-f6 belong to Black’s arsenal.

3 Nfd2



The fight for the e4-square begins. In the thematic tournament sponsored by Döry and held in Vienna 1937, the text move was White’s most popular continuation.



Tournament winner Paul Keres played it twice and won both games. As a result, Reuben Fine and Henry Grob recommended 3 Nfd2 in their works. Later Bruno Parma in *ECO* (1979) preferred other moves (3 Bf4, 3 Nbd2, 3 c4). Objectively, 3 Nfd2 is neither better nor worse than the alternatives.

3...d5

(a) In *WSZ* 1937, p. 293, Immo Fuß recommended 3...Nxd2 ("White cannot achieve any advantage," Fuß), an interesting idea that remained untested.

(b) My personal "refutation" of 3 Nfd2 is the surprising retreat 3...Nf6! 4 e4 d6 5 Nf3 e5 with a Philidor Defence, or 5 f4(!) e5 (or perhaps g6) 6 Nf3 with an original, but fully playable Pirc Variation. Black's concept seems strange at first: but try to find an improvement for White! White's knight d2 has no better square than to return to f3.

4 Nxe4 dxe4 5 Nc3 Bf5 6 g4

6 g3 (Dr. Weil) is a quiet alternative.

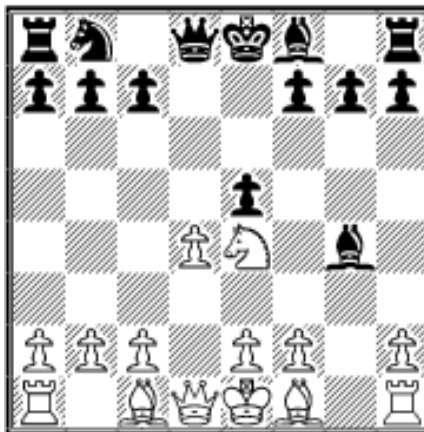
6...Bxg4 7 Nxe4

More promising than 7 Bg2, for example:

(a) 7...e6 8 Nxe4 Nc6 9 c3 Bh5 (9...Qd7 [Grob] 10 Ng3 +=; perhaps 9...Bf5 [Keres] 10 Qa4 Qd7 is Black's best try for equality) 10 Qb3 Rb8 11 Bg5! Qc8 (11...Be7 12 Bxe7, when Black has to take back with his king) 12 Rd1 Bg6 13 c4 (Weil recommended 13 d5! +/-) 13...Bxe4? (13...Bb4+ 14 Kf1 f6) 14 Bxe4 Be7 15 Rg1 Bxg5 16 Rxg5 g6 (16...0-0 17 Bxh7+! [9]) Keres – Weil, Vienna 1937; 17 d5! +/- [9].

(b) 7...f5! 8 Bf4 (Becker – Podhorzer, Vienna 1937) 8...g5!? 9 Be5 (9 Bxg5 Rg8) 9...Rg8, with active play for Black. Perhaps 8 h3 Bh5 9 Bf4 = is more precise.

7...e5!



The exchange of his g-pawn for a center pawn has brought White a majority in the center. However, Black obtains a dangerous attack with the text move.

8 dxe5 Qxd1+ 9 Kxd1 Nc6 10 f4 0-0-0+

Given as += by Parma (*ECO* 1979), but White is not without resources.

11 Bd2 Nd4 (11...Rd7) 12 Nf2?

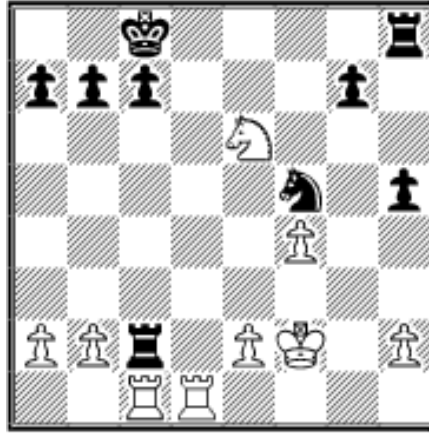
More critical is 12 Rg1 Bf5 13 Bg2 g5!? (13...Bg4 14 Re1) 14 fxg5 h6 15 Rf1

hxg5 16 c3; for example, 16...Bxe4 (16...Rhx2 17 cxd4 Rxg2 18 Rxf5 Rg1+ 19 Kc2 Rxa1 20 Rxf7 +/-) 17 Bxe4 Nxe2 18. Rxf7 Rxh2 19 Bf5+ Kb8 20 Bd7, when Black is in difficulties.

12...h5 13 Bh3 Bxh3 14 Nxh3 Bc5 15 Ng5 Nf5 16 Ke1 Rd7 17 e6?! (17 Rd1) fxe6 18 Nxe6 Bf2+?

The attempt to regain the pawn is a serious mistake that leads to a bad ending. Black should have continued the attack by means of 18...Bb6! 19 e4 Nd4 =+ [8] 20 Nxd4 Rxd4 21 Ke2 Rhd8 22 Rad1 Rxe4+ 23 Kf3 Red4 24 Ke2 c6, etc.

19 Kxf2 Rxd2 20 Rhd1 Rxc2 21 Rac1!



Becker must have underestimated this possibility.

21...Rxb2

21...Rxc1 22 Rxc1 Kd7 23 Nc5+ Kc8 24 e4 Nd6 25 Kf3, etc. (analysis by Becker).

22 Rxc7+ Kb8 23 Rcd7 a6 24 Nxb7 Nxb7 25 Rxb7 Re8 26 Re1 Rxa2 27 Kf3 Rb2?!

Black might already be lost. White's e- and f-pawns, assisted by the king, are

stronger than the opponent's.

28 e4 a5 29 f5 Rf8 30 Re2 Rb1 31 Rg5 a4 32 e5 Rf1+ 33 Ke4 a3 34 f6 b5 35 Rf5 Rc1 36 e6 Kc7 37 e7 Re8 38 Kd3 Rd1+ 39 Rd2 Rxd2+ 40 Kxd2 a2 41 Rf1 1-0

Alekhine – Marshall

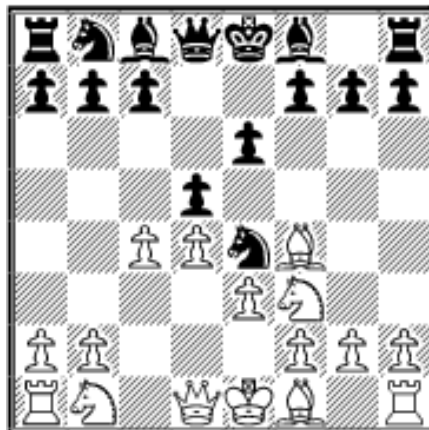
New York 1927

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 Ne4 3 c4 e6

The real course of the game was 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 Ne4, a variation that Janos Balogh had introduced in 1922, two years before Baron Döry started to experiment with 2...Ne4. Instead of transposing to Balogh's line by means of 3...e6, the German player Berthold Bartsch has used the enterprising 3...d5!? in several games:

(a) 4 Nc3 Nxc3 5 bxc3 e6 (Mikhalchishin [9] suggests 5...c5) 6 g3 c5 7 cxd5 (Aseev – Bartsch, Neu Isenburg 1992) 7...exd5 [9], and Black has no problems (Mikhalchishin).

(b) 4 Bf4 e6 (4...e5?! 5 Nxe5 Nc6 6 Nxc6 bxc6 7 Qa4 Bd7 8 Nc3 Qf6 is risky) 5 e3



5...g5! (5...c6? 6 Bd3 Qa5+ 7 Nfd2 Nxd2 8 Nxd2 dxc4 9 Bxc4 Bb4 10 e4 was advantageous for White in Klinger – Bartsch, Zurich 1990) 6 Be5 (6 Bg3? h5 7 Qc2 Nc6 8 Nc3 Bb4 9 Ne5 h4 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 Be5 f6 12 0-0-0 Bxc3 13 f3 Bb4 14 fxe4 fxe5 15 exd5 Rh6 16 dxe5 Bc5 = +) 6...f6 7 Bg3 h5 8 h3 Nxb3 9 fxg3 Qd6 10 Kf2 h4 =+.

(c) 4 cxd5 Qxd5 5 e3 Bg4 6 Be2 e6 7 0-0 Nd7 8 Qc2 Bd6 (but not 8...c6? 9 Bc4 Qf5 10 Nh4! Qh5 11 Qxe4 Qxh4 12 f3 +- Armbruster – Bartsch, Bundesliga II,

2003) 9 Nc3 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Bf5 11 Qb2 Be4 12 c4 Qf5 13 Nd2 Bc6 14 e4 Qg6 15 Bf3 0-0 +=.

4 Nfd2

4 g3 d5 (4...Bb4+ 5 Nbd2 f5 6 Bg2 0-0 7 0-0 Qf6?! 8 Nxe4 fxe4 9 Ng5 d5 10 c5 1-0, 48, Weil – Podhorzer, Vienna 1937) 5 Bg2 Bb4+ 6 Nbd2 c5 7 0-0 Bxd2 8 Nxd2 cxd4 9 cxd5 exd5 10 Nb3 0-0 11 Nxd4 Nc6 12 Nxc6 bxc6 13 Qa4 Qe8 14 Bxe4 Qxe4 15 Qxe4 dxe4 16 Be3 ½-½, Weil – Keres, Vienna 1937.

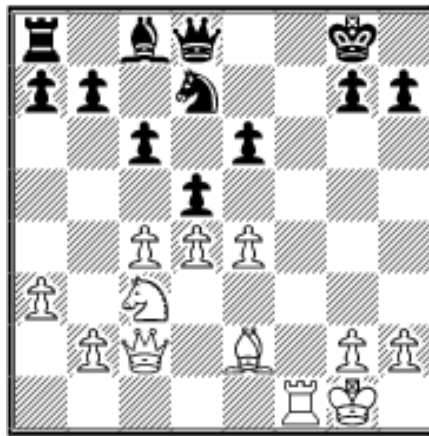
4...Bb4 5 Qc2 (5 a3?? Qf6 –+) **d5 6 Nc3 f5 7 Ndxe4 fxe4**

Here Mikhalechishin [9] prefers 7...dxe4.

8 Bf4 0-0 9 e3 c6 10 Be2 Nd7 11 a3 Be7

This kind of Nimzo-Indian leads to a passive defense.

12 0-0 Bg5 13 f3 Bxf4 14 exf4 Rxf4 15 fxe4 Rxf1+ 16 Rxf1



16...e5?

16...dxc4 17 Bxc4 Nb6 18 Qf2 Qe7 offered Black better chances to survive.

17 Qd2!

Striving for a brilliancy, instead of the simple 17 cxd5 exd4 18 dxc6 with a sound extra pawn; for example, 18...bxc6 19 Na4 Ne5 20 Qc5! +/-.

17...c5 18 dxe5 d4 19 Qf4! dxc3 20 Qf7+ Kh8 21 bxc3 Qg8 22 Qe7 h6 23 Bh5 a5

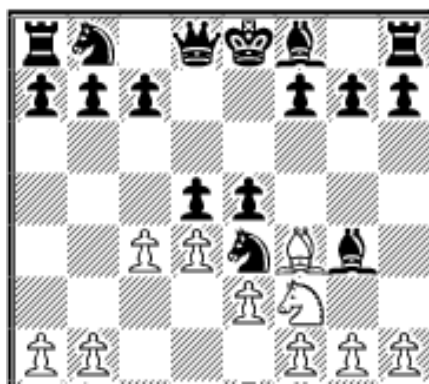
24 e6 g6 25 exd7 Bxd7 26 Rf7 1-0

Move Three Alternatives for White

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 Ne4, and now:

(a) **3 g3 d5 4 Bg2 c5?** (4...e6 =) 5 c4 Qa5+ 6 Nfd2 cxd4 7 cxd5 Nd6 8 0-0 Nf5 9 a3 g6 10 b4 Qb6 11 Nc4 Qa6 12 Qd3 Bg7 13 Bb2 += 0-0? 14 a4 Nd7 15 d6 Nxd6 16 b5 (1-0, 33) Granados Gomez – Bucker, Martinenc 2001.

(b) **3 Bf4 d5** (or 3...c5 4 d5 Qb6 5 Qc1 e6 6 c4 Be7 7 Nbd2 Nxd2 8 Qxd2 d6 9 e4 e5 10 Be3 f5 = Podhorzer – Weil, Vienna 1937) 4 e3 Bg4 5 c4? (5 h3! Becker [5], but 5...Bh5 6 c4 e5! still produces attractive complications. Parma in *ECO* gives 5 Be2 e6 =) 5...e5!



6 Bxe5 (6 dxe5 g5 7 cxd5 c6!) 6...Bb4+ 7 Nc3 Nxc3 8 Qb3 Nxa2+ 9 Kd1 dxc4 += (but 1-0, 51) Becker – Keres, WSZ 1937 [5].

(c) **3 Nbd2** (“more logical than 3 Nfd2,” Mikhalechishin [9]) 3...d5 4 Nxe4 (4 e3 e6 5 Bd3 f5 6 Ne5 Qh4! Palme – Fuß, WSZ 1937, p. 82 [5]; after 4 g3 c5 5 dxc5 Nxc5



Podhorzer – Keres, Vienna 1937, 6 b4!? Ncd7 7 c4 comes into question) 4...dxe4 5 Ng5 f5 (5...Bf5 6 g4 Bxg4? 7 Bg2! is a favorable version of Keres – Becker, above, since with the knight on g5 instead

of c3, Black now can hardly afford to play f7-f5. But the retreat 6...Bg6! 7 Bg2 Qd5 8 c3 h6 9. Nh3 e5 gives Black a solid position) 6 e3 e6 7 h4



7...Be7? 8 Bc4! with an advantage for White (and 1-0, 35) in Keres – Podhorzer, Vienna 1937. Therefore, Black should play 7...Bd6 [9] or the immediate 7...Qf6 8 Bd2 h6 9 Bc3 Bd6 10 Bb5+ Bd7 11 d5 e5, which is almost equal.

According to modern authors, being one tempo behind as Black is partly compensated by the fact that Black, when on move, has more “information” available about his opponent’s plans. With his view, expressed in 1936 [4], that a loss in time (2...Nf6-e4) can be compensated

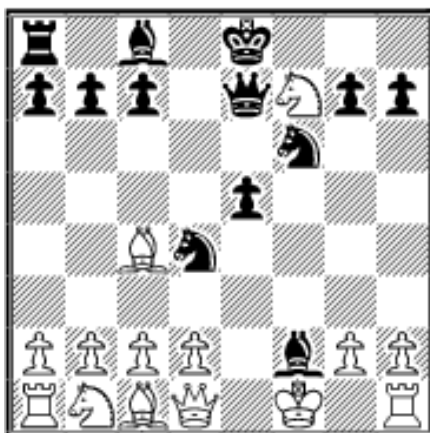
by a gain in flexibility, Baron Döry was far ahead of his time.

Sources:

- [1] G. Marco: “Erinnerungen,” in: *Wiener Schachzeitung* 1915, pp. 2-12
- [2] S. Tartakower: *Das neuromantische Schach*, Berlin 1927
- [3] I. Fuß: “Die Döry-Verteidigung,” in: *Neue Wiener Schachzeitung* 1936, pp. 293-295
- [4] L. Baron Döry: “Zur Verteidigung 1. d4 Sf6 2. Sf3 Se4!,” in: *Neue Wiener Schachzeitung* 1936, pp. 359-360
- [5] (Commented games), in: *Neue Wiener Schachzeitung* 1937, p. 82ff., 173f., 215ff.; 1938, p. 21f.
- [6] “Der Schachmeister in der Todeszelle,” in: *Schachspiegel* 1947, p. 124.
- [7] H. Müller: *Schachgenie Aljechin*, Berlin 1974
- [8] S. Bücker: “Die Döry-Verteidigung,” in: *Groteske Schacheröffnungen*, Stuttgart 1990
- [9] A. Michaltschischin: “Die Döry-Verteidigung,” in: *Schach ohne Scheuklappen* vol. 6, Alkmaar 2007 (*Secrets of Opening Surprises*, vol. 6, German ed.).
- [10] (Website for documentation of the Austrian Resistance: “[DOW - Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes](http://DOW-Dokumentationsarchiv-des-österreichischen-Widerstandes)”)

Corrections

One of the main lines covered in last month’s [column](#) on the Traxler Gambit went as follows: **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 Bc5 5 Nx7 Bxf2+ 6 Kf1 Qe7 7 Nxb8 d5 8 exd5 Nd4 9 d6 Qxd6 10 Nf7**, and here I just added the hint that Heisman’s main line **10...Qc5 11 d3 Bh4** was “extremely complicated.” But **John L. Jerz** from the USA had already found a strong alternative; namely: **10...Qe7!**



11 c3 (11 Kxf2 Ng4+ =, Jerz) 11...Bg4 12 Qa4+ Nd7 13 cxd4 (13 Kxf2 Qh4+) 13... Bxd4 (13...Qf6 = Jerz) 14 Ke1 Qf6 15 Rf1 Qh4+ 16 g3 Qxh2 17 Qa3 Qg2 18 Ng5 0-0-0 19 Nf3 and Black is clearly better – Jerz. For example: 19...Qxg3+ 20 Kd1 e4 21 Be6 Bxf3+ 22 Kc2 Qg2 23 Re1 Qf2 24 Re3 Qf1 25 Rxf3 exf3, etc. More details of his impressive analysis can be seen [here](#).

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