

Jagged 1271

Chapter 1271

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The heavy cruisers of the German Navy began to fire, although it was night and the line of sight was limited. However, with the assistance of the artillery sighting radar, the hit rate is much higher than that of the island navy.

The battleships of the German Navy are not only equipped with radars for capital ships, cruisers are also equipped with air search radars, sea search radars, and gun sight radars. Although this will increase the construction cost of the battleship, it will make the battleship more powerful in naval battles. In the next step, once the air defense radar is successfully developed, the German Navy will continue to upgrade these warships. Once the radar can guide the fire of anti-aircraft guns, the air defense capabilities of the German Navy will undoubtedly rise to a new level.

"Boom! Boom!"

The power of the 210mm shells, although not as powerful as the main guns of capital ships, should not be underestimated. At least, among battleships like cruisers, they are already quite ferocious.

"Fight back! Kill the German battleship!"

Commander Shunji Izaki, the captain of the heavy cruiser 'Mogami' ordered. Although, he also wanted to rush directly to the aircraft carrier of the German Navy. But if you don't fight back, you may be sunk before you rush to the German Navy's aircraft carrier.

The 'Superior Class' heavy cruiser, although huge, is still a bit smaller than the heavy cruisers of the German Navy. Although there is one more main gun, the rate of fire and power are not as good. Coupled with the gap in defense, if one-on-one, the "Superior" heavy cruiser is not an opponent of the German Navy's heavy cruiser at all. Not to mention that it is night now, the heavy cruisers of the German Navy have gun-sighting radar as an aid, and the heavy cruisers of the island navy can only fire based on experience and feeling, and whether they can hit the target can only rely on luck.

For a while, the heavy cruisers of both sides fought together. Although battles between cruisers are not as thrilling as battleships, they are not at all inferior to battles between battleships.

Fires were constantly shining. Once the battleship was hit and burned, the damage control personnel had to do their best to put out the fire as soon as possible. Otherwise, this is to point out the direction for the enemy to shoot.

"General, the Germans dispatched heavy cruisers to intercept our 'Superior Class' heavy cruiser." Rear Admiral Suzuki Yoshio reported on the battlecruiser "Amagi".

"Hmph! The Germans are delaying time. There are still more than three hours before dawn. Do they think they can escape? Let the 'Superior' heavy cruiser entangle us. The rest of the battlecruisers, go straight to the Germans Go to the aircraft carrier. This time, we must get rid of the German aircraft carrier!" Lieutenant General Shiro Takasu ordered.

If such an opportunity was encountered in normal times, Shiro Takasu would definitely order the fleet to deal with the heavy cruisers of the German Navy. After all, heavy cruisers are large surface warships second only to capital ships. Killing one is also a very impressive result. But now, the elimination of the German Navy's aircraft carrier is the most important thing. The rest can be put aside for now.

"Hi, General." Major General Suzuki Yoshio nodded.

"Boom!"

A 210mm artillery shell hit the heavy cruiser "Mikuma", and the 60mm thick deck armor was easily torn apart. The shell exploded inside the battleship, causing a raging fire.

"Good job! Take advantage of this opportunity, hit hard, and get rid of this heavy cruiser of the islanders!" The captain of the heavy cruiser "ZX24" of the German Navy ordered.

"Yes, General!"

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The battleship's three triple-mounted 50-caliber 210mm main guns are even more violent. With the aid of the autoloader, the rate of fire reached an astonishing two rounds per minute. In contrast, the "Superior Class" heavy cruiser of the Japanese navy can only fire once a minute. This caused a huge gap in the firepower projection capabilities of the battleships of the two sides.

"Baga! Extinguish the fire!" the captain of the heavy cruiser "Mikuma" shouted, Shino Kimura at the top of his voice.

The heavy cruisers of the German Navy fired wildly, and the shells fell like raindrops, which made the heart of Commander Kimura Shin almost rise to his throat. If it was during the day, they probably don't know how many times they have been hit.

Two minutes later, another shell hit the heavy cruiser 'Mikuma'. This time, the No. 1 main turret located at the bow was hit. Only 25mm thick main turret armor, what's the difference with none? It was easily torn apart by a 210mm armor-piercing bullet. After the shell exploded, the entire turret was blown up. What's more terrible is that the armor of the ammunition depot located under the turret was also very explosive. It was destroyed in the explosion, and the flames spread directly into the ammunition depot.

Thus, the tragedy happened. A large number of 203mm shells in the ammunition depot exploded.

Only hearing the sound of 'boom', the front half of the heavy cruiser "Mikuma" was shattered in the explosion, and a large amount of seawater poured into the battleship.

"It's over, this time it's over!" The mind of Chief Kimura Shin went blank. He knew that the heavy cruiser 'Mikuma' was finished this time.

Soon, the heavy cruiser "Mikuma" sank into the sea with the bow down. Almost none of the nearly 1,000 naval officers and soldiers on the battleship survived.

In the confrontation of heavy cruisers, the navy of the island country is completely at a disadvantage. Their "superior" heavy cruisers were not opponents of the German Navy's heavy cruisers at all, so that they were almost crushed during the battle.

The "Amagi-class" battlecruisers of the Japanese Navy went after the German Navy's aircraft carrier, and simply ignored the battle between the heavy cruisers, so that the four "Superior Class" heavy cruisers of the Japanese Navy were very unlucky. One after another was sunk or badly damaged by heavy cruisers of the German Navy.

After the heavy cruiser 'Mikuma' was sunk, the heavy cruiser 'Suzuya' was also severely damaged. Captain Gao Liuyi Ba Dazuo immediately ordered the battleship to retreat, which saved their lives. Otherwise, it is estimated that it will be sunk like the heavy cruiser "Mikuma".

The heavy cruiser 'Mogami' and the heavy cruiser 'Kumano' were not at all opponents of the heavy cruisers of the German Navy in battle. Despite their frantic fire, it was of little use, causing no damage to the heavy cruisers of the German Navy. However, the heavy cruisers of the German Navy beat them to death directly. In the end, the heavy cruiser "Mogami" was sunk, and the heavy cruiser "Kumano" escaped with serious injuries. In this battle between heavy cruisers, the island navy was completely defeated.

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"General, our heavy cruiser was completely suppressed by the Germans. The 'Mikuma' was sunk, and the situation of several other ships is also very bad." Major General Suzuki Yoshio reported.

Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro's face was gloomy, as if dripping water. For island navies, heavy cruisers are also very important warships. After all, the island country is not as rich and powerful as Germany, and can build those heavy cruisers in batches. The loss of a heavy cruiser is enough to make them feel distressed for a long time.

The cruisers of the German Navy are almost all cutting-edge warships, and the age of the ships is almost less than ten years. Moreover, the German Navy builds cruisers, almost all of which are built in large quantities, and a dozen or twenty ships will be started at one time. Compared with other navies, such a handwriting is indeed much larger. Of course, this was done only when the technical conditions of the German Navy were mature. In naval battles with the aircraft carrier as the core, other warships are more responsible for air defense and anti-submarine tasks, and the carrier-based aircraft on the aircraft carrier are the most important combat power. This makes other warships not need to have too outstanding performance.

"Let them hold on, we will soon catch up with the German aircraft carrier." Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro ordered. At this time, Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro still only had the German Navy's aircraft carrier in his eyes. He will not rest until he sinks an aircraft carrier of the German Navy.

"Hi, General!" Major General Suzuki Yoshio nodded.

The current island nation fleet has no other choice. They had to sink the German Navy's aircraft carrier before they could reverse the situation, regain their advantage in the ensuing naval battle, and defeat the German Navy. Other losses are within the tolerable range.

The four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers of the island navy, under the protection of light cruisers and destroyers, rushed towards the German Navy's aircraft carrier fleet at high speed. In particular, the speed of the battlecruisers 'Akagi' and 'Atago' soared to 33 knots. This speed is already six knots higher than the maximum speed of the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier of the German Navy.

In two hours, the battlecruiser 'Akagi' and the battlecruiser 'Atago' have narrowed the distance to about eighteen kilometers. Moreover, the distance is still being shortened further.

"Fire!"

The captain of the battlecruiser 'Akagi', Commander Muto Cunzhi ordered.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The five twin-mounted 410mm main guns of the battlecruiser "Akagi" began to fire, and heavy shells roared and smashed into the aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Great".

Although, because of the long distance, the hit rate is very low. However, the shells fell around the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier, splashing water jets into the sky, which made the German sailors on the aircraft carrier very worried.

"General, the Germans are catching up." Rear Admiral Lunducci, chief of staff of the Indian Ocean Fleet aircraft carrier formation, said.

Walter Walser just nodded helplessly. Although, he really wanted to lead the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier to escape. But he knew that this was impossible. The battlecruisers of the islanders had already caught up, and they could not escape this time.

"Order the pilots and ground crew on the aircraft carrier to start transferring!" Lieutenant General Walter Walser ordered.

Even if the aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Great" will be sunk, those personnel must be transferred as soon as possible. In this way, once a new aircraft carrier enters service, it will soon be able to form combat effectiveness. If even personnel are lost, that is a real heavy loss.

"General, should we dispatch destroyers to launch lightning strikes on the islanders' battlecruisers?" Major General Renducci suggested. If the torpedo launched by the destroyer can hit the battlecruiser of the island navy, the crisis may be alleviated.

Lieutenant General Walter Walzer thought for a while, but shook his head: "There is no need for this. Those battlecruisers of the islanders are protected by light cruisers and destroyers around them. Our destroyers want to approach and launch lightning strikes, almost There is no such possibility. In addition, the speed of their battlecruisers has increased to more than 30 knots. It may be difficult for torpedoes to hit such high-speed battlecruisers."

Indeed, torpedoes are hard to hit when warships are sailing at high speed. Forcibly launching a lightning strike will only cost the lives of one's own destroyers. Therefore, Lieutenant General Walter Walser gave up this idea and chose to preserve his strength.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The battlecruiser "Atago" of the island navy also joined in. Constantly fired at the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier with the main gun.

At this moment, the personnel on the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier has begun to transfer. A large number of pilots and ground crews are given priority to leave in traffic boats. There was a surge of anger in everyone's heart, but there was nothing they could do. If it was daytime, they would have sunk the islanders' warships with their carrier-based aircraft. Now, they can only suffer passively.

Many people vowed that they would never give the islanders such a chance again next time. They will fly carrier-based aircraft and sink all the warships of the islanders.

"Boom!"

A 410mm artillery shell hit the aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Kaiser". At this moment, the combat distance has been shortened to 12 kilometers, and the hit rate of the island navy has naturally increased a lot.

The flight deck of the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier was simply impossible to withstand a shell weighing more than one ton, and it was easily torn apart. The shell exploded in the hangar, destroying many of the carrier-based aircraft parked inside, and at the same time ignited a raging fire.

"Yo Xi, good job!" Seeing the fire coming out of the "Wilhelm the Kaiser" aircraft carrier, Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro finally showed a smile on his face.

Subsequently, the aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Great" was hit continuously. Heavy 410mm artillery shells caused severe damage to this aircraft carrier with a displacement of more than 25,000 tons.

At 3:42 a.m. on February 4, the oil depot of the aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Great" was ignited by a spreading fire, and a suicide explosion occurred. The explosion destroyed many cabins on the lower deck of the aircraft carrier, and the high-temperature flames even melted the steel plates. At the same time, sea water was poured into the battleship frantically. Under such circumstances, the aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Great" sank into the sea after only persisting for more than ten minutes. This made the "Wilhelm the Kaiser" aircraft carrier the first aircraft carrier to be sunk in this war.

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"General, the Wilhelm der Kaiser has been sunk." On a German light cruiser, the staff officer reported to Lieutenant General Walter Walzecha.

Walter Walsler just closed his eyes in pain. The aircraft carrier "Wilhelm the Great" is the flagship of the aircraft carrier formation of the Indian Ocean Fleet! In this battle, it was sunk before it played any role. This is undoubtedly an extremely heavy blow to the German Navy.

At the same time, this also shows that although the aircraft carrier is already the absolute main force in naval warfare. However, under certain circumstances, aircraft carriers are still very easy to be sunk. Although an aircraft carrier can easily sink a battleship with carrier-based aircraft, once it is close, the battleship's main guns can also easily sink an aircraft carrier.

"Try to rescue those crew members who fell into the water. In addition, order other aircraft carriers to escape as much as possible. As long as we can survive until dawn, it's time for us to counterattack." Lieutenant General Walter Walsler ordered.

"Yes, General."

Everyone knows that the period before dawn is undoubtedly the most difficult period for the aircraft carrier formation of the German Navy's Indian Ocean Fleet. With the battleship formation no longer in place, facing the battlecruisers of the island navy, they had no other way but to escape. However, the battlecruisers of the island navy are so fast that their aircraft carriers have no ability to counterattack at all.

"Haha! Yoshi! Well done. We finally sank one of the German aircraft carriers. Work harder and sink the other German aircraft carriers. We will win this naval battle!" Takasu Lieutenant General Shiro's face was full of smiles. The heavy cruisers of the Japanese Navy were easily slaughtered by the heavy cruisers of the German Navy and suffered heavy losses, which made him very annoyed before. But now, sinking the German Navy's aircraft carrier, it seems that everything is different.

"General, we have eliminated one, and the other German ships are not far away. Soon we will be able to kill them all. The German Indian Ocean Fleet only has four aircraft carriers. As long as we can After they are all eliminated, there are only four aircraft carriers of the German Pacific Fleet left on the Pacific battlefield. And we have a total of eight aircraft carriers, and we will definitely be able to defeat them!" Rear Admiral Suzuki Yoshio said.

Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro nodded in satisfaction, he also thought the same way. Although they lost in the capital ship duel, the loss was heavy. But if the German Navy's aircraft carrier can be eliminated, they can use the carrier-based aircraft to besiege the German Navy and win the naval battle.

"Well, hurry up, it's not long before dawn. Take advantage of this time to sink all the German aircraft carriers as much as possible!" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro ordered.

"Hi, General." Major General Suzuki Yoshio replied.

After sinking the "Wilhelm the Great" aircraft carrier, Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro did not forget to send a good news to General Yamamoto Fifty-six.

When the telegram was delivered to General Yamamoto Fifty-Six, the gloomy look on his face finally dissipated a lot.

"Takasu-kun did a good job this time. If he can really eliminate all four aircraft carriers of the German Indian Ocean Fleet, then we will have an advantage in this naval battle." Yamamoto Fifty-Six said the general.

Lieutenant General Nagumo Tadaichi nodded: "Your Excellency, Takasu-kun and the others have already destroyed one German aircraft carrier, and are now chasing and killing the other three aircraft carriers. However, there is not much time until dawn. I hope that Takasu-kun and the others can seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and eliminate all the German aircraft carriers in one fell swoop. In that case, our chances of winning this naval battle will be much higher."

If the navy of the island country can take advantage of the carrier-based aircraft, the next battle will become very beneficial to them. Although the German Navy still has many airfields on the islands in the Pacific Ocean. However, those airports are fixed after all, and many island navies seem to have removed those airports one by one. At that time, the victory of the island navy in this naval battle will no longer be empty talk.

Admiral Yamamoto Fifty-Six is also very satisfied with this turning point. The heavy loss of the capital ship team before made him look very ugly, thinking that winning this naval battle would be very difficult. But now, I didn't expect to turn around again. The four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers led by Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro are about to reverse the situation for them.

"Nayun-kun, are the carrier-based aircraft units ready? After dawn, the carrier-based aircraft units should be dispatched." General Yamamoto Fifty-Six asked.

"Your Excellency, the carrier-based aircraft unit has long been ready to attack. After dawn, we will attack with all our strength!" Lieutenant General Chuichi Nagumo replied.

After daybreak, the two aircraft carrier teams of the Japanese Navy will dispatch a large number of carrier-based aircraft. These carrier-based aircraft not only have to **** the retreating capital ship fleet, but also have to wait for an opportunity to attack the German navy's capital ship fleet or aircraft carrier fleet, further expanding the advantages of the island navy. It is foreseeable that they will face a bitter battle after dawn. In view of the fact that the aircraft performance and pilot quality of the German Navy are stronger than those of the island navy, the loss of the island navy in the team will be great. However, as long as you can win this battle, no matter how big the loss is, it is worth it. The lost planes and pilots will soon be replenished from home.

Time passed bit by bit, and the navy of the island country was still chasing and killing the aircraft carrier formation of the German Navy's Indian Ocean Fleet.

After the aircraft carrier "William the Great" was sunk, the aircraft carrier "Frederick III" was also unfortunately caught up. Under the fierce shelling of the "Amagi-class" battlecruiser of the Japanese Navy, the "Frederick III" aircraft carrier was sunk in less than half an hour.

At the same time, the aircraft carriers "William II" and "William III" of the German Navy were also pursued. Although the small and medium-sized warships of the German Navy's Indian Ocean Fleet fought back desperately, and even launched lightning strikes to delay the "Amagi-class" battlecruisers of the island navy to buy time for the evacuation of the aircraft carrier, they still failed in the end.

The aircraft carrier "William II" was hit twice and suffered heavy damage. The "William III" aircraft carrier was also hit by a shell, and a big hole was blown out of the flight deck. But at the same time, the sky is getting brighter.

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On the aircraft carrier "Aries", the commander of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet Konrad Abbrecht's face was so gloomy that it seemed that water could drip out. The Indian Ocean Fleet suffered heavy losses, which made him feel tremendous pressure. After all, the navy of the island country is too powerful. If the Indian Ocean Fleet loses too much, the Pacific Fleet will have to deal with the navy of the island country alone in the future.

"Your Excellency, the 'William the Great' and the 'Frederick III' have sunk. The 'William II' and the 'William III' are still under attack by the islanders. The Indian Ocean Fleet is already thinking about We tried our best to stop the four battlecruisers of the islanders. However, their capital ships went north like us, and there was no way to deal with the four 'Amagi-class' battlecruisers of the islanders." Oscar Kumetz The lieutenant general looked serious.

"We all underestimated the islanders. We didn't expect them to be so courageous. If not, the situation of this naval battle will really be overturned by them." Admiral Konrad Abbrecht said .

The other Pacific Fleet generals all nodded. When the main fleet of the German Navy severely damaged the navy of the island country, they originally thought that the German Navy would have an absolute advantage in this naval battle. But what I didn't expect was that in a short period of time, the navy of the island country caused them such a large loss.

"General William Canaris, it's up to you next! Not only do you have to dispatch carrier-based aircraft to kill the 'Amagi-class' battlecruisers of the Islanders. At the same time, you must also dispatch carrier-based aircraft to search for the aircraft carrier fleet of the Islanders. If you find them, you must kill them! Otherwise, we will be at a disadvantage in terms of aircraft carriers!" Admiral Konrad Abbrecht said.

"Yes, Commander. The first wave of fighters we take off will be used to deal with the four 'Amagi-class' battlecruisers of the Japanese. The second wave of fighters will be used to deal with the aircraft carriers of the Japanese. Our 'constellation' class' aircraft carriers, each of which can carry 103 carrier-based aircraft, far more than the islanders' aircraft carriers. In addition, our carrier-based aircraft are far stronger than theirs. Therefore, even if there is no Indian Ocean. With the assistance of the fleet's aircraft carrier formation, we can also defeat the islanders!" Lieutenant General William Canaris said proudly.

Indeed, the German Navy's "Constellation-class" aircraft carrier has a very strong overall strength. The defense may not be as good as those large aircraft carriers modified with capital ship hulls in the navy of the island country. However, the attack power is far above it.

Admiral Konrad Abbrecht nodded. Of course he is clear about the strength of his own aircraft carrier formation. However, it has been proved from previous naval battles that the navy of the island country is not so easy to deal with. So, he doesn't dare to be careless now.

"Notify the base on Pohnpei Island and ask them to prepare the No. 1 aircraft. After dawn, they will send combat aircraft to provide air defense for the battleship formation, so as not to be attacked by the islanders. At the same time, bombers and torpedo attack aircraft will be dispatched to attack the islanders. This time, we must do our best to sink more aircraft carriers of the islanders. Otherwise, the next battle will be even more difficult to fight!" Admiral Konrad Abbrecht ordered.

"Yes, General!" Lieutenant General Oscar Kumetz nodded.

"Fortunately, we still have a lot of planes on Ponapei Island. Otherwise, we will be quite difficult in this battle." Admiral Konrad Abbrecht said a little speechlessly.

The other German generals also nodded.

Everyone may not have thought that this battle would push them to this point. Originally, everyone thought it would be a very easy battle. With the strength of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet and Indian Ocean Fleet, combined with the German Navy's bases in the Pacific Ocean, it is enough to have a crushing advantage over the combined fleet of island navies. But the island nation's fleet is so powerful that it caused heavy losses to the German navy, and there are signs of a comeback.

Time passed little by little, and soon it was 5 o'clock in the morning. Although the sky is still not bright, it is no longer as dark as before.

"Your Excellency, the carrier-based aircraft can take off!" Lieutenant General William Canaris reported.

Admiral Konrad Albrecht nodded: "Let's go!"

The first carrier-based BF-109 fighter took off from the "Aries" aircraft carrier, and other carrier-based aircraft followed suit and took off one after another. Each of the four aircraft carriers took off 12 carrier-based BF-109 fighter jets. In order to increase the range, these fighters are hung with auxiliary fuel tanks. In addition, there are 12 dive bombers and 12 torpedo attack aircraft.

These carrier-based aircraft formed a huge fleet of 144 carrier-based aircraft. They rushed straight to the west sea area, trying to eliminate all the four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers of the island navy.

After the first wave of carrier-based aircraft took off, the second wave of carrier-based aircraft took off immediately. This time, each aircraft carrier will take off 12 carrier-based BF-109 fighter jets, and they will go to **** the battleship formation of the German Navy to ensure their safe return. In order to prevent the battleship formation from being besieged by the carrier-based aircraft of the navy of the island country, a group of fighter jets will also be launched from the base on Pohnpei Island to protect them. The last batch to take off were 12 carrier-based BF-109 fighter jets, 24 dive bombers and 12 torpedo attack aircraft. This larger fleet is preparing to bomb the aircraft carrier of the island navy.

Although, it is not clear where the aircraft carrier of the island navy is hiding. But what is certain is that they must be in the waters northwest or north of Ponapei Island. Many seaplanes have already set off before. After dawn, they will focus on searching that sea area to find out the aircraft carrier fleet of the island navy. Then, report to the flagship by radio, and then forward it to the take-off carrier aircraft fleet to ensure that they can arrive in the shortest possible time and launch an attack.

The three airports on Pohnpei Island are also brightly lit. One after another the planes have completed their pre-flight preparations. After receiving the order to take off, the planes here started to take off one after another. There are more than 400 combat aircraft on the entire Ponapei Island. Although, mostly fighter jets. However, the dive bombers of the two brigades and the torpedo attack aircraft of the two brigades are still quite terrifying strike forces against the sea. Enough to pose a deadly threat to the island fleet.

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In the Pacific Ocean, Lieutenant General Theodor Burchardy was reading a telegram on the battleship Crown Prince, the temporary flagship of the battleship formation of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet. In order to prevent the aircraft carrier formation of the Pacific Fleet from being exposed, the telegram was forwarded from Ponapei Island. Of course, it was Admiral Konrad Abbrecht who sent people to Pohnpei Island by seaplane, and then issued these orders.

The sky is about to dawn, and the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft is taking off, preparing to attack the island nation's fleet. It is conceivable that the aircraft carrier fleet of the navy of the island country will definitely take off carrier-based aircraft. If the capital ship formation continues to fight, it will inevitably be besieged by the carrier-based aircraft of the navy of the island country.

Although, these capital ships of the German Navy showed extremely powerful combat effectiveness in battle. However, no one knows whether they can withstand the siege of the enemy's carrier-based

aircraft. Although the performance of the carrier-based aircraft of the island navy is generally not as good as that of the German navy. But it is undoubtedly very difficult for a huge capital ship to withstand the siege of the enemy's carrier-based aircraft.

"It's a pity, I thought it would be possible to sink more battleships of the island nation." Theodor Burchardizhong said.

"General, our results are already very good. There are not many battleships left by the islanders. This battle will continue for a long time, and we still have a chance to kill them!" Major General Felix said.

Lieutenant General Theodor Burchardi nodded: "That's right, our own safety is the most important thing, there is no need to put us in it. Next time, look for an opportunity to take the capital ships of those islanders It's all settled."

"Command the fleet, turn around and return, and form an air defense formation!" Lieutenant General Theodor Burchardi issued an order.

"Yes, General."

The warships of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet began to turn around and head for Pohnpei Island. It is expected that they will join the planes taking off from the German Navy's aircraft carrier and Pohnpei Island on the way. In that case, they will not worry about being attacked by the carrier-based aircraft of the navy of the island country. What's more, the air defense capabilities of these warships of the German Navy are also very strong. All warships are equipped with anti-aircraft guns.

At the same time, the battleship formation of the Indian Ocean Fleet also received orders. They only dealt with the two "Fuso-class" battleships of the island navy. Lieutenant General Otto Schneewent was undoubtedly very dissatisfied with such a result. However, he has no choice. With the heavy losses of the aircraft carrier formation of the Indian Ocean Fleet, the battleship formation has become the main combat force of the Indian Ocean Fleet. If they have three long and two short, then the Indian Ocean Fleet will really suffer a devastating blow.

Therefore, Lieutenant General Otto Schneewendt dared not take any risks and could only order the fleet to return.

At the same time, on the sea about 500 kilometers away from Ponapei Island, the two aircraft carrier teams of the navy of the island country, separated by more than 100 kilometers in the sea area, began to release carrier-based aircraft one after another.

Admiral Yamamoto Fifty-Six stood on the island of the "Ibuki" aircraft carrier, watching the Zero fighter jets of the island navy take the lead. He has a smile on his face. Although their battleship team lost a lot, the second battleship team led by Lieutenant Admiral Takasu Shiro achieved very good results. This made General Yamamoto very satisfied.

"Your Excellency, Commander, Takasu-kun and the others sank two German aircraft carriers. Although the other two aircraft carriers were not able to be sunk, they were both shot and must have been severely damaged. In a short period of time, there is absolutely no other way Participated in the war. Now, we only need to pay attention to the four aircraft carriers of the German Pacific Fleet in the Pacific Ocean." Rear Admiral Imo Takahashi, chief of staff of the United Fleet, said with a smile on his face.

"Heavy damage does not mean sinking! With the industrial strength of the Germans, the two aircraft carriers can be repaired in Lion City without even returning to the mainland. This is also a huge threat to the Imperial Navy. If we can It would be great to sink them in one fell swoop." General Yamamoto Fifty-Six said.

"Your Excellency, Commander, if we can hit them hard, we will definitely be able to sink them. This war has just begun, and we have plenty of opportunities to sink all the German aircraft carriers!" Major General Takahashi Izo said.

General Yamamoto Fifty-Six did not say much, what he hoped was that the navy of the island country would achieve a brilliant victory in the early stages of the war. Only in this way can they gain an advantage in the Far East and Pacific battlefields. Otherwise, once Germany recovers, it will be even more impossible for them to win again. After all, Germany's overall national strength is much stronger than that of the island countries, and the longer the delay, the more unfavorable it will be for the island countries.

"Your Excellency, our carrier-based planes have already begun to take off. However, the Germans must have taken off their planes. Although we have sunk two of their aircraft carriers and severely damaged two of them. But if you add Pohnpei Island In terms of deployed aircraft, the Germans still have much more aircraft than us. Therefore, this sea area is not safe." Lieutenant General Chuichi Nagumo reminded.

General Yamamoto Fifty-Six nodded: "After taking off the carrier-based aircraft, let the fleet return! Anyway, we have achieved good results in this battle. Those carrier-based aircraft and pilots lost before , also needs to be replenished. The fleet can return to Naha to replenish supplies and personnel. Then find an opportunity to fight the Germans!"

"Hi, Your Excellency, Commander!" Lieutenant General Nagumo Chuichi replied.

"I don't know what happened to Takasu-kun? They have severely injured the Germans, and the Germans will definitely not let them go!" Major General Takahashi Iwang said.

General Yamamoto Fifty-Six could not help but feel a little worried. Of course, he hoped that the four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers led by Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro could escape successfully.

At this moment, Lieutenant Admiral Takasu Shiro's 2nd Battleship Squadron of the Japanese Navy is indeed speeding up its withdrawal from the battlefield. Although it failed to sink the aircraft carriers "Wilhelm II" and "William III" of the German Navy. But in order to ensure their own safety, they had to retreat. Otherwise, once it is overtaken by the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft, it will really be a dead end.

The four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers of the 2nd Battleship Squadron of the Japanese Navy, under the protection of light cruisers and destroyers, lined up in an air defense formation and withdrew from the battlefield at high speed. There was no smile on Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro's face, replaced by seriousness. If they cannot evacuate safely, then their next fate can be imagined.

Chapter 1276

"General, several German light cruisers and destroyers have been following us. Do you want to drive them away?" Rear Admiral Suzuki Yoshio asked for instructions. If these light cruisers and destroyers of

the German Navy are not driven away, their positions will inevitably be exposed. It is conceivable that the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy will come straight to them.

Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro shook his head: "There is no need for this, it is a waste of time. The German light cruisers and destroyers are too fast, and our warships may be difficult to catch up. Even if we catch up, then we can How about it? Once the German carrier-based aircraft arrives, we will be in danger. It is better to leave as soon as possible. As long as we evacuate out of the strike radius of the German carrier-based aircraft, we will be safe."

However, Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro had no idea whether they could retreat beyond the German Navy's construction strike radius.

According to Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro, they should be at least three or four hundred kilometers away from the aircraft carrier formation of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet at this time. Now the fleet is evacuating at a speed of up to 30 knots, so they only need a few hours to be safe. Moreover, their fleet also has a complete air defense network, and the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy may not be able to do anything to them.

What really regretted Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro was that he did not sink the remaining two aircraft carriers of the German Navy's Indian Ocean Fleet, but it was just a heavy damage. If all the aircraft carriers of the Indian Ocean Fleet can be sunk, even if the four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers are sunk, it will be worth it.

An hour later, the air search radar of the battlecruiser "Amagi" found that dense light spots were approaching them. The radar officer did not dare to neglect, and immediately reported the news to Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro.

"General, the target is found. There are at least hundreds of aircraft approaching us!" The officer reported.

"What? The Germans came so fast?" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro's face suddenly became very ugly. He originally thought that it would be at least two hours before the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft wanted to catch up with them. They would undoubtedly be much safer that way. But I didn't expect that the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy would kill them so soon.

"General, the aircraft carrier of the German Pacific Fleet must not be far away from us. Otherwise, they wouldn't have come after us so quickly." Admiral Suzuki Yoshio looked serious.

It takes time for a carrier-based aircraft to take off. After the take-off is completed, it has to be organized and then fly to the target. From this point of view, the aircraft carrier formation of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet is probably only more than two hundred kilometers away from them. This also means that they will be attacked by at least two rounds of carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy. At that time, it will be very difficult to say how many warships will be left in the second capital ship team.

"How long will it take for the German carrier-based aircraft to catch up with us?" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro asked.

"General, with the speed of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft, it will be able to catch up with us in less than half an hour." The officer reported.

The detection range of the air search radar of the navy of the island country is only 200 kilometers, so they only discovered the carrier-based aircraft returned by Germany at this time. If it were the German Navy's air search radar, the target would have been found long ago.

"Send a telegram to the flagship immediately, we need air defense cover!" Lieutenant General Takasushiro ordered.

"Hi, Your Excellency Commander!" Major General Suzuki Yoshio nodded.

Anyway, their location has been exposed, and there is no need to conduct radio silence. Even if it is too late for the fleet's aircraft carrier team to dispatch carrier-based aircraft, if they can survive the first round of strikes by the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft. When the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft launches a second round of strikes, it may be able to get the cover of its own carrier-based fighter jets.

Admiral Yamamoto Fifty-Six, who was far away on the "Ibuki" aircraft carrier, couldn't help but feel aroused after receiving the telegram from Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro.

"The second battleship team is our hero. We must send carrier-based aircraft to cover them and withdraw them safely." Admiral Yamamoto Fifty-Six said.

In addition, the battlecruisers of the second battleship battleship of the island nation's navy suffered heavy losses. The four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers have become their important combat power. If the second capital ship team is lost, it will undoubtedly be another heavy blow to the Japanese navy. Therefore, General Yamamoto Fifty-Six hopes that the second capital ship team will be safe.

"Nagumo-kun, how many fighter jets can we dispatch to provide air defense cover for the second battleship squadron?" General Yamamoto Fifty-Six asked.

"Your Excellency, Commander, you can deploy up to 24 fighter jets. If there are more, there will be problems with our air defense network." Lieutenant General Chuichi Nanyun said.

The two aircraft carrier teams of the navy of the island country originally only had more than 400 carrier-based aircraft left. Now they have to dispatch a large number of carrier-based aircraft to attack the German Navy's capital ship force, search for the location of the German Navy's aircraft carrier, and provide cover for their own capital ship, which is really not enough!

"24? It's a little small, but that's it!" General Yamamoto Fifty-Six said.

"Nayun-kun, didn't Takasu-kun say that the aircraft carrier of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet is probably less than 300 kilometers away from them? That is to say, the German aircraft carrier is likely to be in this position. Do we still have enough? Carrier-based aircraft, attacking them?" Rear Admiral Takahashi Izo said, pointing to the location on the chart.

Lieutenant General Nagumo Chuichi looked at the chart, and then said: "It is indeed very likely to be in this position. I will arrange carrier-based aircraft to launch an attack. But it is hard to say whether it will succeed under the tight German defense. gone."

"Amaterasu will bless us! We will be able to defeat the Germans this time!" General Yamamoto Fifty-Six said. He is still very confident in the attack of the island navy. After all, there is already a

precedent for the second capital ship fleet. Perhaps this time the island fleet will really be lucky and easily defeat the German navy.

Lieutenant General Nagumo Chuichi nodded and said nothing more.

In the southern waters, the carrier-based air fleet of the German Navy has already caught up with the second battleship team of the island navy. It is already a little past six in the morning, and the sky is already bright. Visibility on the sea no longer affects the launch of an attack.

"Squadrons, prepare to attack! Fighters suppress the anti-aircraft firepower of the islanders, and dive bombers and torpedo attack aircraft prepare to penetrate the defense! Kill them!" The commander gave the order to attack.

Chapter 1277

"Woo!"

The stern air defense alarm has sounded, and a large number of sailors from the island nation rushed to the air defense artillery positions. The anti-aircraft guns and anti-aircraft machine guns are all aimed at the sky.

Everyone's face was shrouded in tension. Facing the oncoming German navy's carrier-based aircraft, the sailors of these island countries were very nervous. However, the expression of perseverance can be clearly seen on their faces.

"Ready to fight!" The voice of the command kept ringing on the battleship.

At this moment, the 2nd Battleship Squadron of the Japanese Navy has formed an air defense formation. The four 'Amagi-class' battlecruisers have been separated. Light cruisers and destroyers guarded them in the center.

In addition to the four sunk heavy cruisers, the 2nd Battleship Squadron also had four light cruisers and 16 destroyers. In this way, each "Amagi-class" battlecruiser is protected by a light cruiser and four destroyers.

Coupled with the powerful anti-aircraft firepower of the "Amagi-class" battlecruiser itself, this undoubtedly constitutes a tight air defense network. It seems very difficult for the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy to break through the air defense network of the island fleet and sink these "Amagi-class" battlecruisers.

"Come on, **** Germans! We will definitely be able to resist their attack and get through this crisis without any danger!" Takasu Shiro said secretly to himself. Both of his hands have been clenched into fists, which shows how nervous he is.

Sinking two German aircraft carriers and severely damaging two other aircraft carriers has made Lieutenant Admiral Takasu Shiro and the 2nd Battleship Squadron the heroes of the island nation's navy. If he can withstand the attack of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft and withdraw safely, it will even boost his reputation. Compared with the other three battleship teams that suffered heavy losses, his combat exploits will be very dazzling. Getting promoted may even be within reach. Therefore, Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro was very eager to escape safely this time.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The four twin-mounted 127mm anti-aircraft guns on the "Amagi-class" battlecruiser fired first. This large-caliber anti-aircraft gun has a long range and great power. However, the rate of fire is slow. If you want to hit the target, it depends more on luck.

"Boom! Boom!"

The shell exploded in the air, leaving clouds of black smoke.

The carrier-based aircraft group of the German Navy has been dispersed. There are four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers in the Japanese Navy, and there are also four aircraft carriers in the German Navy. Therefore, this time it was almost a carrier-based aircraft that took off from an aircraft carrier to deal with an island navy's "Amagi-class" battlecruiser.

The carrier-based aircraft that took off from the aircraft carrier "Aries" attacked the battlecruiser "Amagi", and the carrier-based aircraft that took off from the aircraft carrier "Taurus" attacked the battlecruiser "Akagi". The carrier-based aircraft that took off from the aircraft carrier Gemini attacked the battlecruiser Atago. The carrier-based aircraft that took off from the aircraft carrier "Cancer" attacked the battlecruiser "Kaohsiung".

"Da da da!"

The fighter jets took the lead in launching the attack, using aviation machine guns to straf the anti-aircraft emplacements, opening the attack channel for the subsequent dive bombers and torpedo attack aircraft. Otherwise, direct dive bombers and torpedo attack aircraft to launch an attack will suffer heavy losses under the enemy's anti-aircraft firepower.

"Boom boom boom! Da da da!"

The warships of the island navy are also firing crazily. A series of anti-aircraft guns and a series of anti-aircraft machine guns are firing at the maximum rate of fire. Dense artillery shells exploded in the air, and tracer shells woven into air defense fire nets in the air, trying to stop the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft. However, those fighter jets were like light petrels, shuttling through the anti-aircraft fire nets, seemingly dangerous, but they were able to avoid them every time, which seemed very easy.

"Da da da!"

A series of anti-aircraft machine gun bullets hit an anti-aircraft gun emplacement, shooting sparks one by one. Air defense soldiers were constantly being hit and fell to the ground screaming.

The anti-aircraft firepower of the island nation's fleet is still very strong. Each "Amagi-class" battlecruiser is equipped with four double-mounted 127mm anti-aircraft guns, six double-mounted 40mm anti-aircraft guns, ten double-mounted 25mm anti-aircraft guns and a large number of anti-aircraft machine guns. Escorting these battlecruisers are the 'Kuma-class' light cruisers. These light cruisers have a double-mounted 127mm anti-aircraft gun, five triple-mounted 25mm anti-aircraft guns, four double-mounted 25mm anti-aircraft guns, and 16 25mm single-mounted anti-aircraft guns and 8 A 13mm anti-aircraft machine gun.

The escorting destroyers are mainly Asashio-class destroyers and Kagero-class destroyers, both of which are equipped with three double-mounted 127mm main guns, and four triple-mounted 25mm anti-aircraft guns. Two 25mm anti-aircraft guns and four 13mm anti-aircraft machine guns.

Such anti-aircraft firepower is undoubtedly very powerful. Moreover, most of them were urgently installed before the outbreak of the war. The navy of the island country knows how powerful the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy is, so it has specially installed powerful anti-aircraft firepower so that they can rely on the powerful air defense firepower when they are attacked by the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy. Cause greater damage to the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft and protect its own important ships.

"Fire! Shoot down the German plane!" An officer waved a command knife in his hand, looking very heroic.

"Bang bang bang!"

The 25mm anti-aircraft gun fired wildly, and the shell casings fell on the deck, making a crisp sound.

A carrier-based BF-109 fighter jet passed by, the machine guns on the nose fired, and several shells hit the anti-aircraft gun position. Not only destroyed the anti-aircraft gun, but also tore these air defense soldiers to pieces.

Although the anti-aircraft firepower of the island fleet is very strong, it was suppressed miserably under the attack of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft. The air defense soldiers of the island navy are still inexperienced, and they use anti-aircraft firepower to chase the fighter jets of the German Navy. However, it was impossible to hit these high-speed fighter jets at all, and instead their air defense fire nets were torn apart. And this also gave the German Navy's dive bombers and torpedo attack aircraft opportunities.

For how to attack enemy ships with strong anti-aircraft firepower and formed an air defense formation, the carrier-based aircraft force of the German Navy has long summed up a set of effective methods. They only need to implement step by step to achieve satisfactory results.

Chapter 1278

"Attack the destroyer in the southwest direction first, and after it is sunk, attack the battlecruiser inside!" A squadron leader of the German carrier-based aircraft unit ordered. The radio conveyed his orders to the ears of every pilot.

"Yes, boss!" The pilots replied one after another.

Four carrier-based BF-109 fighter jets took the lead in attacking the destroyer. Use aviation machine guns and anti-aircraft guns to suppress the anti-aircraft firepower above, and fight for opportunities for subsequent dive bombers and torpedo attack aircraft.

"Attack!"

Four dive bombers began to dive from an altitude of two thousand meters. There was a sharp whistling sound, as if it was about to burst people's eardrums.

"Yaga! The German dive bombers, quickly evade!" Lieutenant Sato Yokoi Minoru, the captain of the destroyer "Asashio", shouted loudly.

He knows that these aviation armor-piercing projectiles are undoubtedly lethal to a destroyer with a displacement of only 2,400 tons. Once hit, it is a dead end.

At a height of only 500 meters above the sea, four dive bombers of the German Navy dropped bombs. Four heavy aviation armor-piercing shells weighing 500 kilograms roared and smashed towards the destroyer Asashio.

At this moment, the destroyer Asashio turned wildly, trying to avoid these bombs.

However, of the four bombs, three fell into the sea, splashing high water columns. Another bomb hit the destroyer Asashio. The heavy bomb directly penetrated the rear deck of the destroyer Asashio and exploded inside. The huge power blew up the stern of the destroyer Asashio, and the speed of the battleship began to drop as a result.

At this time, two torpedo attack aircraft approached to a distance of only 800 meters from the destroyer 'Asashio' and dropped torpedoes. Two 533mm heavy-duty torpedoes fired at the Asashio crazily at a speed of 40 knots.

The destroyer Asashio wanted to evade, but it simply couldn't. The previous aerial bombs blew up their steering gear. This made the sailors of the island nation who occupied the island can only watch the torpedoes attacking them.

"Boom boom boom!"

Some sailors fired anti-aircraft guns into the sea in an attempt to destroy the torpedoes. However, this is simply futile.

A heavy torpedo hit the side of the destroyer Asashio.

A violent explosion sounded, and the side of the destroyer 'Asashio' was completely shrouded in flames. In the violent explosion, a big hole was torn open in the side of the destroyer Asashio. Sea water frantically poured into the battleship. The damage control personnel directly concluded that the destroyer Asashio could not be saved.

Lieutenant Assistant Yokoi Minoru had no choice but to order to abandon the ship.

In just two minutes, the destroyer Asashio sank into the sea.

The sinking of the destroyer 'Asashio' caused a loophole in the air defense network of the battlecruiser 'Amagi'. The carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy can take advantage of this loophole and go directly to attack the battlecruiser "Amagi". In fact, the carrier-based aircraft force of the German Navy did exactly that.

"Attack the battlecruiser 'Amagi' with all your strength, and it must be sunk!" The squadron leader ordered.

12 BF-109 fighter jets launched an attack on the battlecruiser 'Amagi', using aviation machine guns and machine guns to suppress the ship's anti-aircraft firepower. Although some BF-109 fighter jets were

shot down by powerful anti-aircraft fire during the battle, they also put a lot of pressure on the anti-aircraft fire of the battlecruiser "Amagi". Many anti-aircraft batteries were strafed and suffered heavy losses.

What's more terrible is that at this time, the dive bombers and torpedo attack aircraft of the German Navy launched an attack on the battlecruiser "Amagi". This is truly fatal to the battlecruiser 'Amagi'!

"Baga! Are those guys stupid pigs? Don't worry about those fighter jets, they can't pose a fatal threat to us. Those dive bombers and torpedo attack planes are what we have to deal with!" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro loudly scolded.

Seeing that their anti-aircraft firepower was completely attracted by the German Navy's carrier-based fighter jets, so that those dive bombers and torpedo attack planes could attack in an orderly manner, Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro almost went crazy.

"General, this is the first time our air defense troops have participated in actual combat. They have no actual combat experience, so they were led by the nose by the German carrier-based aircraft." Major General Suzuki Yoshio said.

"The German bombers dropped their bombs, evade!"

The huge battlecruiser 'Amagi' started an emergency turn. Although this is a huge warship with a displacement of more than 40,000 tons, the steering is very timely.

However, under the attack of the four dive bombers of the German Navy, they still did not completely avoid it. A heavy aviation armor-piercing projectile hit the stern of the battlecruiser "Amagi".

The armor on the top of a main turret was penetrated, and the shell exploded inside the turret, destroying the entire turret. Fortunately, there is no shell or propellant in the barrel at this moment, otherwise, it will cause more serious consequences.

At the same time, four torpedo attack planes also took the opportunity to attack. Four 533mm heavy torpedoes rushed towards the battlecruiser 'Amagi' at high speed.

The huge battlecruiser 'Amagi' rushed left and right like a bull.

However, in front of the four heavy torpedoes distributed in a fan shape, they still could not completely avoid them. A heavy torpedo hit the midship of the battlecruiser 'Amagi'.

Although the waterline armor of the battlecruiser "Amagi" is as thick as 254 mm, the defensive performance of VC steel is far stronger than that of ordinary armor steel. However, in front of the warhead of heavy torpedoes, there is still no way to do this.

The waterline armor of the battlecruiser 'Amagi' was torn apart, and a big hole was blown out. Sea water began to pour into the battleship frantically.

Damage control personnel immediately carried out emergency repairs, but because the opening was too large to be blocked, they could only choose to close the watertight door to prevent further influx of seawater. This affected the speed of the battlecruiser "Amagi".

The carrier-based aircraft unit of the German Navy seized this opportunity and frantically launched an attack on the battlecruiser 'Amagi'.

Especially those dive bombers, each capable of carrying two heavy aerial bombs. These aerial bombs caused great damage to the battlecruiser 'Amagi'.

After more than 20 minutes of fierce fighting, the battlecruiser 'Amagi' slowly sank into the sea. After suffering 3 heavy torpedoes and 13 heavy aviation armor-piercing shells, this huge warship with a displacement of more than 40,000 tons couldn't bear it anymore.

Chapter 1279

"Baga! Damn the Germans! Next time, I will definitely take revenge!" On the light cruiser 'Kuma', Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro and Rear Admiral Suzuki Yoshio watched helplessly. The machine sank the battlecruiser 'Amagi'.

Although the battlecruiser "Amagi" is a huge warship with a displacement of more than 40,000 tons, it still failed to hold on under the siege of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft. After suffering a lot of torpedoes and aerial bombs, it was sunk alive.

Under the air defense firepower of the island nation's fleet, the carrier-based aircraft units of the German Navy also suffered certain casualties in order to sink the battlecruiser "Amagi". Two BF-109 fighters, a dive bomber and a torpedo attack aircraft were shot down.

However, compared with the "Amagi-class" battlecruiser, such a loss is undoubtedly insignificant. The cost of an 'Amagi-class' battlecruiser can build an aircraft carrier plus all the carrier-based aircraft. Such a loss undoubtedly made Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro feel as if he was bleeding.

In addition to the "Amagi" battlecruiser being sunk, the other three "Amagi-class" battlecruisers also paid a heavy price during the siege of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft.

Although the battlecruiser 'Akagi' was not sunk, after being hit by two torpedoes, it was seriously flooded. If it weren't for the carrier-based aircraft of the "Taurus" aircraft carrier that had finished dropping bombs and torpedoes, as long as they continued to attack, the battlecruiser "Akagi" could easily be sunk.

The situation of the battlecruiser 'Atago' is not much better than that of the battlecruiser 'Akagi'. Also suffered several torpedoes and bombs. The speed of the warship also dropped from more than 30 knots to less than 25 knots.

The situation of the battlecruiser 'Kaohsiung' was relatively better, but it was also hit by a full eight heavy aviation armor-piercing shells. Almost the entire superstructure was destroyed. But none of the injuries were fatal.

It's just that the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft has temporarily left. But all fools know that soon the carrier-based planes of the German Navy will come to attack them again. It is undoubtedly very difficult to say whether the second battleship team of the island navy, which has suffered heavy losses, can withstand the attack of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft. The final result is very likely that they were all sunk.

"When will our carrier-based aircraft arrive?" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro asked. Now he is a little anxious, not sure whether they can survive the second round of attack launched by the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft force.

"General, the aircraft carrier team is still in radio silence. However, I believe that after receiving our telegram, they will take off carrier-based aircraft to reinforce us. Now, those carrier-based aircraft should be on their way. The Germans After the carrier-based aircraft returns, it will take at least two or three hours to come back, and we still have enough time. If we are lucky, we may be able to escape." Major General Suzuki Yoshio said.

Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro nodded, and now he can only comfort himself in this way. Although one battlecruiser 'Amagi' was lost, it would be a rare victory if the remaining three could be brought back. After all, with the shipbuilding strength of the island country, it is easy to repair these injured "Amagi-class" battlecruisers.

"I hope our carrier-based aircraft can arrive in time!" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro prayed secretly.

After the carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy returned, the ground crew began to refuel these carrier-based aircraft and add ammunition. The pilots took the time to rest and eat something to replenish their strength. Next, they had to carry out a second round of attacks.

Admiral Konrad Abbrecht and others are still very satisfied with the attack of the carrier-based aircraft force. One was sunk, two were severely damaged, and one was hit in the middle. If the second round of attack goes well, there is a great possibility that the remaining three "Amagi-class" battlecruisers will be sunk. In that case, the capital ship fleet of the Japanese navy will suffer a very large loss. In the ensuing battle, they simply could no longer confront the German Navy.

With the efforts of the ground crew, the second round of attack by the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft force began after just over half an hour of preparation. These carrier-based aircraft took off from the aircraft carrier again and headed straight for the second battleship team of the Japanese navy. The light cruisers and destroyers of the Indian Ocean Fleet have been hanging on the island fleet, making it impossible for the island fleet to get rid of it.

At 9 o'clock in the morning, the second round of attack by the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft force began. However, at this time, 24 Zero fighters that took off from the aircraft carrier of the Japanese Navy also arrived. This forced the German Navy to allocate 24 BF-109 fighters to deal with those Zero fighters.

The Zero fighter's air dogfighting capability is very powerful, but unfortunately, the German Navy simply didn't give them this opportunity. During the fierce battle, the Zero fighters were completely suppressed, and one after another was shot down. The losses were much greater than those of the fighters of the German Navy. Often the Zero fighter lost three, and the German Navy only lost one BF-109 fighter. It can be said that the two sides are not a heavyweight opponent at all.

In addition to the long range, the Zero fighter is almost useless in front of the BF-109 fighter.

While the fighter jets of both sides were fighting fiercely, the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft also began to attack the remaining three "Amagi-class" battlecruisers of the Island Fleet's 2nd Battleship

Squadron. The heavily damaged battlecruisers "Akagi" and "Atago" became the focus of siege by the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft. As for the battlecruiser "Kaohsiung", no one cares about it.

The strategy within the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft force is naturally to give priority to sinking the 'Akagi' and 'Atago'. If there are enough bombs and torpedoes at that time, we will launch an attack on the "Kaohsiung".

Under the siege of the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft force, the battlecruisers "Akagi" and "Atago" were greatly traumatized. The battlecruiser "Akagi" sank into the sea after suffering 6 torpedoes and 11 heavy aviation armor-piercing shells again.

Ten minutes later, the battlecruiser "Atago" followed in his footsteps, suffered four torpedoes and 17 aerial bombs, capsized on the sea, and sank into the sea.

Although the battlecruiser "Kaohsiung" was also attacked, because the German Navy's carrier-based aircraft did not have much ammunition left, it escaped a catastrophe.

Chapter 1280

"Damn it, how should I explain this to Your Excellency the Commander?" Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro wanted to cry but had no tears. Three of the four "Amagi-class" battlecruisers were sunk under two rounds of attacks by the German Navy. The only remaining battlecruiser "Kaohsiung" also suffered a lot of bombs and torpedoes. Although it was not sunk, it was undoubtedly severely damaged.

Combined with the losses of other light cruisers and destroyers, the second battleship squadron of the Japanese navy suffered heavy losses this time. In addition, the 24 Zero fighters that came to provide them with air defense cover were all sunk by the German Navy.

Although the 2nd battleship team sank two aircraft carriers of the German Navy in the previous team, and severely damaged the remaining two ships. However, compared to the losses of both sides, the second battleship team did not take any advantage! After all, four of their heavy cruisers were sunk by heavy cruisers of the German Navy's Indian Ocean Fleet before.

It can be said that the current second battleship fleet has almost reached the point where it exists in name only.

"General, no matter what, we sank two German aircraft carriers and severely damaged two of their aircraft carriers. Such a result is already very good. Otherwise, the carrier-based aircraft on the four German aircraft carriers would have If we launch an attack, we will lose even more," said Maj. Gen. Suzuki Yoshio.

Lieutenant General Takasu Shiro nodded, and could only comfort himself in his heart.

On a light cruiser of the Indian Ocean Fleet of the German Navy, Admiral Alfred Savacht, commander of the Indian Ocean Fleet, and others also learned that the Pacific Fleet dispatched carrier-based aircraft to sink three "Amagi-class" battleships cruiser, and also severely damaged one of the news. This made the senior officials of the Indian Ocean Fleet very happy.

"Good job, the damned islanders finally paid the price, and the Pacific Fleet has avenged us!" said Fleet Chief of Staff Lieutenant General William Marshall.

"Yes! Although they didn't sink all the 'Amagi-class' battlecruisers of the islanders, their losses are very heavy now." Lieutenant General Walter Walzer said.

When the aircraft carrier of the Indian Ocean Fleet was sunk, they were under a lot of pressure.

Admiral Alfred Savacht also breathed a sigh of relief: "Arrange the repair work of the 'William II' and 'William III' as soon as possible. We must restore combat effectiveness as soon as possible. This war has just begun, but we can't be a spectator. We also want to go to the battlefield and send those islanders to **** with our own hands!"

"Your Excellency, the arrangements have been made. The aircraft carrier 'William II' and the aircraft carrier 'William III' can go directly to Lion City for repairs. It is expected to be repaired in about half a year." Lieutenant General Walter Walzer said.

Alfred? Savacht Admiral nodded. It would be good if the two aircraft carriers could participate in the battle half a year later. This war will definitely not end anytime soon.

Similarly, Admiral Yamamoto Fifty-Six, who was far away on the "Ibuki" aircraft carrier, also received the news that the second battleship team suffered heavy losses. Three battlecruisers were sunk, one was severely damaged, four heavy cruisers were sunk, and many light cruisers and destroyers were also sunk. This made the second capital ship fleet almost exist in name only. Lost combat effectiveness.

"General, the 2nd Battleship Squadron suffered a lot. But we were able to sink two German aircraft carriers and severely damage two of them, which is not a small victory. Otherwise, once the four aircraft carriers dispatched carrier-based aircraft attacking us will pose a greater threat to us." Major General Takahashi Iwang said.

Admiral Yamamoto Fifty-Six nodded: "We have suffered heavy losses in terms of capital ships. But we still have a great advantage in aircraft carriers. I hope that the carrier-based aircraft can win us greater victories!" "

If the carrier-based aircraft force of the island navy can further achieve greater results, then the chances of the island navy combined fleet winning this naval battle are still very high.

However, can the carrier-based aircraft units of the island nation's combined fleet achieve greater results for them, as General Yamamoto Fifty-Six expected?

In the waters northwest of Ponapei Island, the battleships of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet and Indian Ocean Fleet are rapidly evacuating. The 13 capital ships lined up in an air defense formation and sailed quickly to Ponapei Island.

Heavy cruisers, light cruisers and destroyers, guarding these capital ships in the center. Anti-aircraft guns and anti-aircraft machine guns are also ready for battle. The air defense radar is constantly rotating, searching the surrounding airspace.

On the battleship 'Crown Prince', Lieutenant General Theodor Burchardi, commander of the battleship formation of the Pacific Fleet, and Lieutenant General Otto Schneewendt, commander of the battleship formation of the Indian Ocean Fleet, met.

"The carrier-based planes that took off from our aircraft carrier and the airport on Pohnpei Island should already be on their way. It is estimated that they will arrive in the sky above us in about an hour and

provide us with air cover. By then, we will We don't have to be afraid of the islanders' carrier-based planes attacking us." Lieutenant General Theodor Burchardy looked very calm.

Lieutenant General Otto Schneewendt nodded: "The islanders' carrier-based aircraft are no match for our fighter jets. Our fighter jets plus our own anti-aircraft firepower can completely withstand the islanders' attack. "

The two discussed issues such as joint operations. Lieutenant General Otto Schneewendt left the battleship Crown Prince and returned to his flagship battleship Nassau.

Subsequently, the two fleets moved separately. To ensure that in the next battle, it will not be taken over by the carrier-based aircraft of the island navy. After all, those battlecruisers are faster and can evacuate first. The "Blücher-class" battlecruisers of the Indian Ocean Fleet have a speed of up to 31 knots, and the "Derfflinger-class" battlecruisers of the Pacific Fleet also have a speed of 26 knots, much faster than battleships.

In such a situation, it is far safer to act separately than to act together. After all, the dense formation is also conducive to the attack by the carrier-based aircraft of the navy of the island country. If spread out, the anti-aircraft firepower can also be fully utilized.

Although the battleship formation of the German Navy is not like the aircraft carrier formation, it has dedicated air defense cruisers. However, heavy cruisers, light cruisers and destroyers all have not weak anti-aircraft firepower. It can completely provide powerful anti-aircraft firepower for the fleet.