

# Jagged 1501

## Chapter 1501

"General, the radar has detected a large number of ships approaching. According to preliminary speculation, those are all German warships. There are also capital ships, as many as 15!" A staff officer told the commander of the US Navy's 2nd capital ship formation. Lieutenant General Ingersoll reported.

"15 capital ships? The Germans really think highly of us, and actually assembled the capital ship formations of two fleets to deal with us!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll's face became very ugly.

During the sneak attack by the German Navy's torpedo boats and submarines just now, although the six "Iowa-class" battleships of the 2nd battleship formation were not sunk. However, three were slightly damaged, two were moderately damaged, and one was severely damaged. Although the "Iowa class" battleship is also a huge battleship with a full load displacement of 58,000 tons. But compared to the 'Montana-class' battleships, there is still some gap in defense. So much so that they paid a considerable price under the sneak attack of the high-speed torpedo boats and submarines of the German Navy.

Now, the German Navy has dispatched a large number of battleships to deal with them. Obviously, this is to get rid of them in one fell swoop.

"Order the fleet, turn to the northwest, and leave the coastal waters first. In addition, let the ships prepare for battle. Prepare to fight the Germans to the death!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll quickly made a decision.

"General, the Germans are strong, why don't we evacuate." An officer suggested.

After all, the German Navy dispatched 15 capital ships to deal with them. The U.S. Navy's second capital ship formation has only six capital ships. And each one is wounded. This will undoubtedly put them in a very disadvantageous position in the next battle.

"Evacuate? Can we still withdraw? If our six 'Iowa-class' battleships are all intact. With the advantage of speed, we may still be able to withdraw. But now, the USS 'Iowa', The maximum speed of 'New Jersey' and 'Missouri' can still be maintained at 30 knots. But the maximum speed of 'Wisconsin' and 'Kentucky' is only 24 or 5 knots. As for the 'Illinois', the speed is even lower. It has dropped below 22 knots. Facing the capital ships of the German Navy, we have no advantage in speed at all. Therefore, we cannot escape at all. Find a way to join the 1st capital ship formation, so that we can have peace The strength of the Germans against!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll said.

As for whether it will be besieged by shore-based and carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy after dawn, it is not something that can be considered now. They have to find a way to overcome the difficulties they are facing now. Otherwise, it's hard to say whether we can persist until dawn.

On the battleship "Montana", the flagship of the US Navy's 1st battleship formation, Admiral Haspen Kimmel was watching their bombardment of the German naval base with a

gloomy expression. Although, under their fierce shelling, this naval base is turning into ruins little by little. However, General Husband Kimmel did not feel the joy of victory at all.

Now the US fleet has paid a lot of losses. Moreover, this duel with the German Navy has just begun. No need to think about it, the German navy will definitely have endless means to deal with them in the future. Therefore, Admiral Hasben Kimmel only hopes to destroy the base of the German Navy as soon as possible, and then evacuate.

He seems to be able to feel that the Germans have spread a big net and are enveloping him. Want to get rid of, but found it very difficult. If it is not done well, the entire capital ship formation will encounter a great crisis.

"General, something is wrong. The German battleship formation appeared. The third battleship formation encountered eight German battleships. The second battleship formation encountered 15 German battleships. A capital ship!" Rear Admiral Keviel reported in panic.

General Husband Kimmel also changed his face suddenly.

"Damn it, the Germans are so ruthless." Admiral Hasben Kimmel cursed.

Obviously, he did not expect that the German Navy would specifically select two capital ship formations to attack when it dispatched torpedo boats and submarines to launch a surprise attack. This is obviously to completely eliminate their two capital ship formations! Once these two capital ship formations are resolved, even if there are still five 'Montana-class' battleships in the first capital ship formation, the situation may not be restored. No matter how powerful the "Montana-class" battleship is, if it is besieged by a large number of capital ships of the German Navy, the final result can be imagined.

"General, what should we do now? Both the 2nd and 3rd battleship formations need rescue!" Rear Admiral Kevill asked.

Obviously, judging from the current situation, neither the 2nd capital ship formation nor the 3rd capital ship formation has any way to compete with the German Navy's capital ship formation. The five 'Montana-class' battleships of the first battleship formation must rush to rescue. However, the 2nd Capital Ship Group was east of Flores Island, while the 3rd Capital Ship Group was west of Flores Island. The first capital ship formation located north of Flores Island can only rescue one target if it wants to rescue. Another goal, I am afraid I have to give up.

Admiral Hasben Kimmel looked very ugly, and he was also aware of this problem. The Germans clearly chose to attack the 2nd battleship formation and the 3rd battleship formation on purpose, just to give the 1st battleship formation a dilemma.

Based on the current situation, no matter which capital ship formation Admiral Hasben Kimmel chooses to rescue, the other capital ship formation will suffer disaster. The entire U.S. Navy capital ship formation will also suffer heavy losses as a result.

Admiral Hasben Kimmel was silent for a few seconds, and then immediately made a choice: "Order the fleet to turn southeast!"

"Yes, General." Major General Keweier immediately went to give the order.

Time is urgent now, and there is no room for wasting any more time. As for the German base that has not been destroyed, it is completely ignored. Compared with destroying the German base, it is obvious that rescuing one's own capital ship formation is the most important thing.

Admiral Hasben Kimmel chose to turn the fleet to the southeast, which means that he put the rescue of the second capital ship formation in the first place. As for the third capital ship formation, they can only be left to fend for themselves. If they can persist until the crisis of the second capital ship formation is resolved, they may be able to rescue them.

Admiral Hasben Kimmel made such a choice not because of anything else, but because the second capital ship formation is stronger. The six 'Iowa-class' battleships are obviously more important than the four 'South Dakota-class' battleships.

Chapter 1502

"General, the flagship is calling. General Kimmel has already led the first battleship formation to us. According to the current speed, it is expected to meet us in about an hour." On the battleship 'Iowa', A staff officer reported to Lieutenant General Ingersoll.

Lieutenant General Ingersoll was relieved when he heard the news.

Although they are still facing the threat of 15 capital ships of the German Navy. However, with the strength of six 'Iowa-class' battleships, it is not a problem to persist for an hour.

If the capital ships of the two capital ship formations were not damaged, and at the same time they had to guard against the torpedo boats and submarines of the German Navy, they might only need half an hour to meet.

"General Kimmel chose to rescue us, so General Ingram can only say sorry. May God bless them!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll said.

Indeed, Rear Admiral Ingram, commander of the 3rd Battleship Formation of the US Fleet, turned dark and frightening when he learned that the 1st Battleship Formation was rushing to rescue the 2nd Battleship Formation. Obviously, the 3rd capital ship formation has been abandoned.

"Order the fleet to continue sailing northeast. No matter what choice General Kimmel makes, if we want to survive, we must join the main force! Otherwise, we will die!" Ying Major General Graham ordered.

Although, Major General Ingram was also very aggrieved. But he knew that Admiral Husband Kimmel had made the right choice. Compared with the third capital ship formation, the second capital ship formation is more important. The 'Iowa-class' battleships are inherently stronger than the 'South Dakota-class' battleships, especially when the second battleship formation has six battleships, while the third battleship formation has only four. If the second capital ship formation can be rescued, even if all the third capital ship formation is lost, then the loss of the US fleet will be relatively small.

"Yes, General!" The staff officer immediately issued an order.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The capital ship formation of the German Navy's Atlantic Fleet has now narrowed the distance to within 15 kilometers. Even in the night environment, the US fleet is still not visible at this distance. However, through the artillery sighting radar, they have been able to launch an attack.

Five "Bavaria-class" battleships and three "Mackenson-class" battlecruisers began to attack the four "South Dakota-class" battleships of the third battleship formation of the US fleet. The German fleet is now fighting in a two-on-one manner, trying to get rid of the four "South Dakota-class" battleships of the American fleet as much as possible.

The 'South Dakota-class' battleships are very powerful, but the German Navy's 210mm main gun with 50 times the caliber can still pose a fatal threat to it. If hit, it can also penetrate its defensive armor.

"Counterattack!" Major General Ingram gave the order to counterattack.

Although, the performance of the U.S. Navy's gun-sighting radar is slightly inferior to that of the German Navy's gun-sighting radar. But it is also possible to provide them with approximate data. If you are lucky, hitting the capital ship of the German fleet will be no problem. Although the 410mm main gun of the "South Dakota-class" battleship is 45 times the caliber, it is also not weak. Once a hit is achieved, it will pose a great threat to the German Navy's "Bavaria-class" battleships and "Mackenson-class" battlecruisers.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The three triple-mounted 410mm main guns with 45 times the caliber of the battleship "South Dakota" began a fierce shelling. The remaining three 'South Dakota-class' battleships also followed suit and started attacking.

All of a sudden, the sound of gunfire rumbled on the sea, and a total of 12 capital ships from both sides fought fiercely.

In the eastern waters of Flores Island, the German Navy's home fleet and the Mediterranean Fleet also began to attack the six "Iowa-class" battleships of the US Navy's 2nd capital ship formation.

The four "Caesar-class" battleships and four "Brandenburg-class" battlecruisers in the local fleet are all equipped with 410mm main guns with 50 times the caliber, which is powerful. These eight capital ships dealt with the four "Iowa-class" battleships of the US Navy in a two-on-one situation. The four "Helgoland-class" battleships and three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers of the Mediterranean Fleet dealt with the remaining two "Iowa-class" battleships respectively. Among them, four "Helgoland-class" battleships dealt with the "Illinois" battleship, which ranked second to last in the battle line. The three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers dealt with the battleship "Kentucky" at the end of the battle line.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Under the guidance of the gun-sighting radar, the 15 capital ships of the German Navy took the lead in launching the attack.

According to the information obtained, they have learned that the US Navy's 1st battleship formation is on its way. Therefore, they must hurry up and damage or even sink these capital

ships of the second capital ship formation of the US fleet as much as possible. Otherwise, when the five 'Montana-class' battleships of the first battleship formation of the U.S. fleet arrive, even if they have a numerical advantage, it may not be easy to defeat the U.S. fleet. After all, both the 'Iowa-class' battleships and the 'Montana-class' battleships are very powerful. Especially the "Montana-class" battleship, with its thick armor and powerful firepower, it surpassed all the capital ships of the German Navy.

In a one-on-one duel, the German Navy does not have a first-class capital ship that can confront the US Navy's "Montana-class" battleships. The only way to defeat them may be to assemble multiple battleships to launch a siege.

Although it has a certain numerical advantage, but the numerical advantage is not too great, the German fleet can only adopt various methods of destruction to weaken the strength of the US fleet's capital ship formation as much as possible, so that it can fight against the 'Mongolia' in the end. In the duel with the class' battleship, it has a greater advantage.

One by one shells roared past and hit the sea surface, splashing high water columns.

Despite the guidance of the artillery radar, the hit rate is still frighteningly low. For this reason, the German fleet can only continue to shorten the distance, hoping to increase the hit rate.

The U.S. Navy's 2nd capital ship formation, because it was dragged down by the heavily damaged capital ship, could not increase its speed, and could only watch the German fleet approaching.

"Fight back! Let the Germans know that even if we are besieged, we are not afraid of them!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll ordered.

"Yes, General!"

The six "Iowa-class" battleships of the US Navy's 2nd capital ship formation immediately launched a fierce counterattack.

Chapter 1503

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The giant cannons were roaring, and they slammed the heavy shells on the battleship in the distance. The shell fell into the sea, splashing a column of water that soared into the sky. The entire surface of the sea seemed to be boiling.

On the battleship 'Iowa', the flagship of the US Fleet's 2nd battleship formation, Lieutenant Admiral Ingersoll looked serious. In another hour, the first capital ship formation will arrive. However, for them, this hour is very difficult. If their losses are too great within this hour, I am afraid that after the first capital ship formation arrives, they will be powerless.

"No, it's night now. Even if the Germans' radar performance is very powerful, it is impossible to sink our huge battleship! If we are lucky, we might inflict an unbearable price on the Germans!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll said to himself secretly in his heart, as if to strengthen his confidence.

"Boom! Boom!"

Orange red flames shone at the muzzle, and when the shells were thrown out, it also revealed the outline of the battleship's hull. Although there is guidance from the artillery sighting radar, it is not very accurate. Therefore, when the battleship appears, the opponent's sailors will also be used as a reference for the distance.

The sailors on both sides are working hard and want to cause as much damage as possible to the other side. So much so that this naval battle has reached its climax from the very beginning.

"Stop the shelling, adjust the orientation, and raise the muzzle twice."

On the battleship 'Caesar', the gunner is modifying the direction of the bombardment based on the data obtained by the gun sight radar.

If it is daytime, it is not difficult for the battleship "Caesar" to hit a target 15 kilometers away. However, at night, even with the guidance of the artillery radar, if you want to hit the target, you need more luck. If you are unlucky, even if you waste a lot of shells, you may not be able to hit the target.

It can be said that the naval officers and soldiers of the two warring parties are trying to see who has better luck. Maybe, the side with better luck would be relatively easier to win this naval battle.

"General, the first battleship formation of the United States is approaching us. It is estimated that it will arrive at the battlefield in less than an hour. I am afraid that there is not much time left for us." Lu Lu, chief of staff of the battleship formation of the German Navy's home fleet Major General Dove was a little worried.

Lieutenant General Gerke, the commander of the formation, nodded: "If the five 'Montana-class' battleships of the Americans arrive, it will indeed be a very big trouble for us. We don't have a warship, Can fight it!"

"Command the fleet to continue to close the distance. If possible, close the engagement distance to 10,000 meters." Lieutenant General Gerke made a decision instantly.

For a battleship equipped with a 410mm main gun or a 380mm main gun, if the combat distance is shortened to 10,000 meters, it is almost equivalent to a bayonet fight. Because, at this distance, whether it is a 410mm artillery shell or a 380mm artillery shell, it is very likely to tear the armor of the enemy's battleship. At the same time, the armor of one's own battleship is also very likely to be penetrated by shells fired by the enemy. Therefore, further shortening the distance means that the battle will become more intense.

If there is enough time, Lieutenant General Gerke may not make such a risky decision. However, when the first U.S. battleship formation was approaching, he had to find a way to give the German fleet as much advantage as possible before the arrival of American reinforcements. Otherwise, once the American reinforcements arrive, the situation will become even more unfavorable to the German fleet.

"Yes, General!" Major General Rudolph nodded, and he also knew that this was the only choice they could make now. After all, the number of capital ships in the German fleet has an absolute advantage. In the case of a bayonet fight, they are much more likely to win.

"General, the Germans are continuing to turn, and they are closing the distance between us!" An officer reported.

Lieutenant General Ingersoll's expression became more serious.

"Order all ships to hold on no matter what. The Germans are preparing to fight us desperately. As long as you hold on, reinforcements will come. When the time comes, we will win!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll ordered .

Although he has already seen what the German fleet is trying to do. However, he has no choice. Unless they abandon the seriously injured battleship 'Illinois', the moderately traumatized USS 'Wisconsin' and 'Kentucky'. Otherwise, they would not be able to prevent the German fleet from closing the battle distance.

If those three battleships were really abandoned, the US Navy's 2nd Battleship Squadron would be considered a heavy blow.

"Boom!"

Ten minutes after the battle started, the German Navy scored its first hit since the start of the war. A 380mm artillery shell fired from the battleship "Thuringia" of the German Navy hit the battleship "Illinois".

The shell hit the front deck of the battleship "Illinois", and after penetrating the front deck, an explosion occurred. At the same time, a fire broke out.

The raging fire illuminated the battleship 'Illinois'. Although the damage control personnel on the battleship immediately started to put out the fire, the German Navy seized this opportunity.

The shelling of the four "Helgoland-class" battleships became more and more accurate.

"Boom! Boom!"

Shells kept falling around the battleship 'Illinois', as if they might hit the battleship at any time.

Even though the battleship 'Illinois' is a huge battleship with a displacement of 58,000 tons, it still looks very helpless at this moment.

A minute later, a 380mm shell hit the battleship 'Illinois' again. The shell hit the side of the battleship, and a 127mm secondary gun was blown away, leaving a hole in the side of the battleship, as if a piece had been gnawed off by a monster.

Fortunately, the place where the shell hit was above the waterline. If it moved down a certain distance, it might be enough to cause more damage to the battleship 'Illinois'.

"General, the situation of the battleship 'Illinois' is very bad, they have been hit consecutively!" An officer reported.

After Lieutenant General Ingersoll heard this, he couldn't help feeling tense. He knew that the battleship "Illinois", which had already suffered heavy damage, was probably doomed after being besieged by four German battleships.

## Chapter 1504

Besieged by four battleships of the German Navy and at the same time ignited a fire, the fate of the battleship "Illinois" seems to have been decided. Although this battleship has a displacement of up to 58,000 tons, is equipped with three triple-mounted 50-caliber 410mm main guns, and is also wearing thick armor, but under the intensive firepower of the four battleships of the German Navy, I am afraid that I can't stand it anymore.

"Boom! Boom!"

With the help of the automatic loading machine, the rate of fire of the four "Helgoland-class" battleships of the German Navy has reached one round per minute. This also caused 36 heavy armor-piercing shells to hit the battleship 'Illinois' fiercely every minute. Guided by the artillery sighting radar and the fire on the battleship 'Illinois', shells hit the battleship 'Illinois' almost every minute.

Although, the side armor belt of the "Illinois" battleship is as thick as 307 mm, the frontal armor of the turret is as thick as 495 mm, and the armor of the conning tower is also as thick as 445 mm. It can be said that even if the 380mm main gun of the "Helgoland-class" battleship of the German Navy hit the front of the turret and the conning tower of the "Illinois" battleship, it would be difficult to penetrate the thick armor. However, the defense of other parts of the battleship is not so strong. Once hit, it will still cause great casualties to the battleship.

Among the second capital ship formation of the U.S. Navy, not only the battleship "Illinois" is in danger. The battleship "Kentucky" at the rear of the battle line is also in a bad situation. The three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers of the German Navy are besieging it.

"Boom!"

A 380mm artillery shell fired from the battlecruiser 'Goeben' scored a hit, hitting the main turret Z on the rear deck of the battleship 'Kentucky'. However, unfortunately, the shells were not able to penetrate the 495 mm thick turret armor.

But less than two minutes later, another shell fired from the battlecruiser 'Sedlitz' hit the battleship 'Kentucky' again. The shell hit the superstructure of the battleship Kentucky. The violent explosion blew a big hole out of the superstructure of the battleship 'Kentucky'. At the same time, a fire was also ignited.

The American sailors on the battleship 'Kentucky' hurriedly began to control losses. They attempted to extinguish the fire on the battleship 'Kentucky' in the shortest possible time.

The tragedy on the battleship 'Illinois' has proved that once the battleship burns, it will give the enemy clear guidance. The enemy's hit rate will also increase a lot.

However, all this is over. The three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers of the German Navy quickly seized this opportunity and fiercely opened fire on the "Kentucky" battleship. Moreover, the hit rate is getting higher and higher.

"Boom!"

Another shell hit the battleship 'Kentucky'. The shell hit the waterline armor of the USS Kentucky. The waterline armor with a thickness of 307 mm cannot withstand the 380 mm armor-

piercing shells of the German army. The shell tore through the waterline armor, blasting a large hole there. What's more terrible is that several loopholes that were hit by torpedoes of the German Navy before had already been blocked. But in the violent explosion, it was once again leaked. This makes the situation of the battleship 'Kentucky' even more dangerous.

The U.S. Navy sailors on the battleship 'Kentucky' couldn't help feeling aggrieved. The triple-mounted 50-caliber 410mm main gun they are equipped with is full of power. If it hits, it will be enough for the battlecruiser "Moltke" of the German Navy to go away. But the problem is that the battle has been going on for so long, they didn't get a single hit, instead they were hit again and again. In this case, even if the main gun is powerful, what is the use?

Now the sailors of the U.S. Navy probably have truly realized the aggrieved feeling of the officers and soldiers of the island nation's navy. The same is true when the capital ship formations of the combined fleets of the island nations fight against the capital ship formations of the German Navy's Pacific Fleet and Indian Ocean Fleet. The 410mm main gun of the Japanese navy is full of power. However, they had no way to hit it, and could only watch their battleship be fired by the German Navy's 380mm main gun, and then sink into the sea.

Moreover, the defense of the battleships of the Japanese navy is generally not high. Even 380mm artillery shells can pose a fatal threat to it. This is why the navy of the island country lost so quickly and so badly.

The seven capital ships of the Mediterranean Fleet of the German Navy seemed to perform very well in this naval battle. The two "Iowa-class" battleships besieged by them are now in danger. It wasn't even far from being sunk.

"General, the situation of the 'Illinois' and 'Kentucky' is very bad. The Germans used four and three capital ships to besiege them respectively. If this continues, they will probably be sunk soon." A military officer reported with a worried look on his face.

If the battleships "Illinois" and "Kentucky" are both sunk, then they will have to use four battleships against the Germans' 15 capital ships. That would make their situation even worse.

"How long will it take for the first capital ship formation to arrive?" Admiral Ingersoll asked.

Now, he can be said to have put all his hopes on the reinforcements.

"General, the first capital ship formation is already speeding up. However, it will take at least half an hour."

"Half an hour! This is not long, we must persist. Otherwise, the consequences will be disastrous!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll ordered.

However, in the face of the fierce attack of the main fleet of the German Navy, it is not so easy for them to resist.

However, luck is not always in favor of the Germans.

Two minutes later, the U.S. Navy's "New Jersey" battleship scored the first hit in this naval battle, which was also the first hit of the U.S. Navy's 2nd capital ship formation in this naval battle.

A 410mm artillery shell hit the side of the German Navy's "Katherine" battleship, not only blowing up a 120mm dual-purpose gun, but also detonating a bunch of artillery shells. Suddenly, the side of the battleship 'Catherine' ignited a raging fire.

"Very well, gather all the firepower and open fire on the third German battleship! It is extremely important to sink him!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll was shocked and gave the order excitedly.

Chapter 1505

"Quick, put out the fire!" The captain of the battleship "Catherine" ordered anxiously.

Once it is ignited in such a battle, it will become a shell magnet and be hit by continuous artillery fire from the enemy. No matter how strong the hull is, it may not be able to withstand it. The battleships "Illinois" and "Kentucky" of the US Navy are the best examples. The best result is probably being sunk.

"General, the "Catherine" was shot and caught fire!" On the flagship battleship "Caesar", Rear Admiral Rudolf, chief of staff of the capital ship formation of the local fleet, looked anxious.

"Order the other warships to step up shooting and kill the American warships as soon as possible! Only in this way can we share the pressure on the 'Catherine'. As for whether they can persist, it depends on whether God will bless them!" Native Lieutenant General Gerke, commander of the fleet capital ship formation, said. Regarding the battleship 'Catherine', there is nothing he can do now, and he can only look at the battleship 'Catherine's' own luck.

Major General Rudolph nodded. The current situation is indeed very unfavorable for the battleship 'Catherine'.

"Order all ships, we must seize this opportunity to kill a German battleship!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll ordered. He knew that this was undoubtedly a very rare opportunity for the US fleet. If you can seize this opportunity, you may be able to cause a lot of losses to the Germans, and at the same time relieve your own pressure.

After receiving the order, except for the battleships 'Illinois' and 'Kentucky' that were under siege, the other four battleships of the U.S. Navy's second battleship formation began to fire on the battleship 'Catherine', gathering most of the battleships. firepower, wanting to destroy this battleship in the shortest possible time.

At the same time, other warships of the German Navy, in order to share the pressure of the battleship "Catherine", were also desperately firing. If they could hit the warships of the US fleet, then the US warships would no longer be able to fire unscrupulously at the battleship 'Catherine'.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The battle suddenly became more intense, and the battleships on both sides opened fire crazily at a distance of 10,000 meters. One after another, the heavy shells slammed into the opponent's warship, trying to sink the opponent's warship.

"Boom!"

A shell hit the battleship 'Catherine' again, making the fire that had not been extinguished even bigger. The morale of the U.S. Navy was boosted by this, and they seemed to have seen the hope of sinking the capital ship of the German Navy.

However, in this naval battle, the battleships "Illinois" and "Kentucky" are still in the most dangerous situation. These two battleships have already suffered a lot of battles, and they are almost scarred. In particular, the battleship "Illinois" was hit by a lot of torpedoes and suffered heavy damage. After being besieged by four "Helgoland-class" battleships of the German Navy, the waterline armor was penetrated many times, and the battleship was severely flooded. Coupled with the battered and battered hull, it can be said that this battleship can be regarded as at the last moment of its life.

"Your Excellency, the battleship is seriously flooded, and we need to close more watertight compartments." An officer in charge of damage control ordered the captain of the battleship 'Illinois'.

"Can't it be blocked?" The captain's face was ugly.

If the leak can be plugged, it will not choose to close the watertight compartment. In that case, a large amount of water will be flooded into the battleship. If the leak can be blocked, and then the seawater entering the hull can be pumped out with a water pump, then the battleship can be saved.

"Your Excellency, there is nothing we can do." The officer in charge of damage control shook his head. They had already done their best.

"Okay, seal the watertight compartment!" said the captain.

Although the battleship "Illinois" has sealed the watertight compartment, the hull of the battleship has tilted due to too much water. In order to balance the hull, the captain had to order water to be poured into the other side of the battleship.

If the battleship "Illinois" made such a choice after the battle, it is understandable. However, it is now in the middle of a fierce battle. When the hull of the "Illinois" battleship was filled with a large amount of sea water, the speed of the battleship further decreased. At the same time, the reserve buoyancy is getting less and less. Once it is hit again, the possibility of the battleship 'Illinois' being sunk will increase a lot.

It can be said that the choice of the captain of the battleship 'Illinois' further accelerated the sinking of this powerful battleship.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Explosions continued to sound on the battleship 'Illinois', and the four 'Helgoland-class' battleships of the German Navy kept dropping shells on the battleship 'Illinois', causing the battleship's injuries to become more and more serious .

Ten minutes later, the battleship 'Illinois' could no longer hold on. As more and more water entered, the battleship kept sinking. Now, even the deck is flooded with sea water.

The battleship 'Illinois' became the first battleship to be sunk in this naval battle. However, this is far from the end, it is just the beginning.

"Good job! Four 'Helgoland-class' battleships, shift their targets and attack the fourth American battleship!" Lieutenant General Albright, commander of the battleship formation of the Mediterranean Fleet, ordered with a smile on his face.

"Yes, General!" The chief of staff, Major General Gottel, replied.

Immediately, the four "Helgoland-class" battleships began to cooperate with the battlecruisers "Weissenberg" and "Wools" to attack the battleship "Wisconsin" of the US fleet. For a while, the hapless battleship was besieged by six battleships of the German Navy. Including 18 410mm main guns and 36 380mm main guns. No matter how strong the defense of the "Wisconsin" battleship is, under such a siege, it will be sunk sooner or later.

"General, the battleship 'Illinois' has been sunk." An officer reported to Lieutenant General Ingersoll.

Lieutenant Admiral Ingersoll's face was very ugly, the battleship 'Illinois' was sunk, the battleship 'Kentucky' was in danger, and the battleship 'Wisconsin' was besieged again, which gave the German Navy's capital ship formation an advantage in numbers bigger. It can be said that the current situation has become very unfavorable to them.

Chapter 1506

When the capital ship formations of the German Navy's home fleet and the Mediterranean Fleet were besieging the US Navy's 2nd capital ship formation. In the waters west of Flores Island, eight capital ships of the German Navy's Atlantic Fleet are also besieging the US Navy's 3rd capital ship formation.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The five "Bavaria-class" battleships and three "Mackenson-class" battleships of the German Navy are frantically firing at the four "South Dakota-class" battleships of the US Navy. One after another, the shells slammed into the battleships of the US Navy. The two-on-one situation puts the U.S. Navy's third capital ship formation at a complete disadvantage.

The "Bavaria-class" battleships and "Makensen-class" battleships of the German Navy are old battleships from the last World War. However, after modern modification, it still exploded with extremely powerful combat effectiveness. The 380mm main gun with 50 times the caliber is still a deadly threat to the "South Dakota-class" battleships.

Although, the U.S. Navy's 3rd capital ship formation is also fighting back tenaciously. But they are now in a state of suppression.

"Boom!"

A 380mm artillery shell hit the battleship USS South Dakota, the flagship of the US Navy's 3rd battleship formation. The shell hit the Z main turret on the rear deck.

It's just that the 380mm shells were not able to penetrate the 457mm thick frontal armor of the turret.

Although the full-load displacement of the 'South Dakota-class' battleship is only 46,000 tons, it is much smaller than the follow-up 'Iowa-class' and 'Montana-class' battleships. However, the "South Dakota-class" battleships have strengthened their defenses. The defense of some

unimportant parts was reduced as much as possible to strengthen the defense of key parts, which made the frontal armor of the turret of the "South Dakota-class" battleship as thick as 457 mm. The armor thickness of the conning tower has also reached 406mm. The thickness of the side armor is 305 mm, and the thickness of the deck armor is also 179 mm.

"General, the Z turret was hit. However, it was not penetrated. But the sailors inside were stunned." An officer reported to Major General Ingram.

After hearing this, Major General Ingram could not help but breathe a sigh of relief. Fortunately, the turret armor of the "South Dakota-class" battleship is the thickest. Otherwise, once the turret is penetrated and an explosion occurs, the consequences will be disastrous. If the ammunition depot is detonated, the consequences will be even more serious.

However, thick armor does not mean that it will not be sunk. Especially in addition to the frontal armor of the turret and the armor of the conning tower, the armor of other parts of the battleship also cannot withstand the German 380mm main gun. Once hit, it is enough to be severely damaged, or even sunk.

"Boom! Boom!"

The battleships on both sides opened fire frantically, trying to sink the opponent's battleship. However, at a distance of 15,000 meters, it was still at night, and it was indeed not easy to get a hit. Even with the guidance of the artillery radar, it is very difficult to hit the opponent's warship. Most of the time, it depends on luck.

The battleship formation of the Atlantic Fleet of the German Navy has eight capital ships, and the performance of their gunpoint radar is a little more advanced than that of the US fleet. Therefore, the probability of getting a hit is naturally higher.

"General, the battle in the east is more intense. Our 15 capital ships are besieging six American capital ships. In order to sink the American capital ships as soon as possible, General Gerke even ordered the engagement distance to be shortened." We have reached 10,000 meters." Rear Admiral Laize, chief of staff of the battleship formation of the Atlantic Fleet, said.

"General Gerke is going to fight the Americans with bayonets. However, they have no choice. The Americans' 1st battleship formation is rushing to the battlefield quickly. Therefore, they must be in the American 1st battleship formation. Before arriving, severely damage the second capital ship formation of the US fleet, and sink as many American capital ships as possible. Only in this way can they gain the upper hand." Lieutenant General Wilkes, commander of the Atlantic Fleet capital ship formation, said.

"Yes, General. However, we don't use that tactic. No one will disturb our confrontation with the Americans' 3rd battleship formation for a while. Therefore, we have enough time to send these American battleships to the ground. Sink." Major General Lazer said.

Lieutenant General Weicks nodded: "This is our advantage, we need to get rid of these four American battleships at the lowest cost!"

The capital ship formation of the German Navy not only wants to severely damage the capital ship formation of the US Navy, but also wants to preserve its own battleships as much as

possible. Although, this battle may be the last time battleships participated in the war. However, capital ships have other uses as well.

For example, once the German Navy has gained command of the Atlantic Ocean and is preparing to launch a landing operation on the mainland of the United States, these capital ships will serve as fire support ships to provide fire support for the landing troops and destroy the shore defense capabilities of the Americans.

"Boom!"

A violent explosion erupted from the battleship "Alabama" of the US Navy. And, the flames soared into the sky, igniting the fire.

This is a 380mm artillery shell that hit the rear deck of the battleship 'Alabama'. After the shell penetrated the deck armor, it exploded inside the battleship, causing a fire at the same time.

"Very good, seize this opportunity and kill the American battleship!" Lieutenant General Weikes was shocked.

This is undoubtedly an excellent opportunity for the German fleet. If a capital ship of the US fleet can be sunk, this will give the German fleet a greater advantage.

The battlecruisers "Prince Friedrich" and "Friedrich Karl" of the German Navy began to increase their firepower output. The main guns of the two battlecruisers were firing crazily.

With the help of the fire on the battleship "Alabama", the hit rate of the two battlecruisers of the German Navy has increased a lot.

"Damn it!" On the battleship 'South Dakota', Rear Admiral Ingram couldn't help but become even uglier when he learned that the battleship 'Alabama' was shot and caught fire. He knew that the battleship 'Alabama' was in an even more dangerous situation. Once the battleship "Alabama" was sunk, the situation became even more unfavorable for them.

"General, the sailors of the 'Alabama' are trying their best to put out the fire." An officer said.

However, after it has been ignited, it is very difficult to extinguish it. The hit rate of the enemy's battleship will become higher and higher. The fire has not been extinguished, and it may be hit by shells again.

Chapter 1507

The naval battle in the east of Flores Island has reached its climax. As the U.S. Navy's first capital ship formation got closer to the battlefield, the German Navy's home fleet capital ship formation and the Mediterranean Fleet capital ship formation became more and more desperate.

After the battleship 'Illinois' was sunk, the battleship 'Wisconsin' was immediately besieged by six German battleships. Shells rained down around her, and the battleship was hit in just two minutes.

A shell hit the starboard side of the battleship "Wisconsin", and a 127mm secondary gun was blown away. At the same time, a fire was also ignited.

The fire reflected the figure of the battleship 'Wisconsin'. This allowed the six capital ships of the German Navy to further improve the bombardment accuracy.

In almost every round of salvo, there will be shells hitting. Moreover, sometimes more than one shell hits. This made the battleship 'Wisconsin' more and more injured.

As for the battleship 'Kentucky', which is at the end of the battle line, the situation has become even worse. The three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers of the German Navy are firing at them frantically, making the battleship scarred.

Despite the counterattack of the battleship "Kentucky", it also hit the battlecruiser "Moltke". However, the injury was not serious.

It can be said that it was only a matter of time before the battleship "Kentucky" was sunk. Soon, this battleship will follow in the footsteps of the "Illinois" battleship and be sent to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

Similarly, the battleship "Catherine", which is under siege by the US fleet, is also in a very dangerous situation. The American fleet assembled four battleships and laid siege to it. In the case of continuous mid-range, the battleship "Catherine" is like a torch.

"Damn it! Go harder and sink the German battleship!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll said viciously.

The battleship "Illinois" sank, and the battleships "Kentucky" and "Wisconsin" were in danger, which caused the US Navy's second battleship fleet to almost suffer heavy losses. If these two battleships are also sunk, the situation will be even more unfavorable to them. Even if the first capital ship formation arrives, I am afraid it will not be able to reverse the situation.

On the battleship "Kaiser", the flagship of the capital ship formation of the German Navy's home fleet, Lieutenant General Gerke frowned tightly. The situation of the battleship "Catherine" is very bad now, if it persists, it is very likely to be sunk.

"General, the battleship 'Catherine' requests to withdraw from the battlefield!" Major General Rudolf reported.

Lieutenant General Gerke hesitated for a moment, but nodded, agreeing to the request of the battleship 'Catherine' to withdraw from the battle. Although, if the battleship "Catherine" continues to stay on the battlefield, it can further attract the firepower of the US fleet and create favorable conditions for other warships to sink the capital ship of the US fleet. When several battleships of the US fleet aimed their artillery fire at the battleship 'Catherine', the other German battleships could fire almost without interference. This is very helpful for improving the hit rate of battleships. However, the fate of the battleship "Catherine" will not be much better, and it is very likely that it will be sunk.

"Let them withdraw from the battle! Directly withdraw to the mainland for repairs!" Lieutenant General Gerke said.

Although there is also a shipyard for repairing capital ships in Port of Heroes. But this place will soon become a battlefield. It is safer to return to the mainland for repairs.

"Yes, General." Major General Rudolph immediately went to send a telegram.

After receiving the order to withdraw from the battle, the battleship "Catherine" began to turn, preparing to leave the battle line, and then returned to the German mainland under the protection of the destroyer.

"Damn it, the Germans are going to flee!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll saw this scene, and his teeth were about to be crushed.

Compared with the American fleet, the German fleet has the advantage of local operations. Once the battleship suffers heavy damage, it can withdraw from the battle and return to the mainland for repairs. But the American fleet can't do it. Even if it withdraws from the battle, it will definitely be caught up by the German shore-based and carrier-based aircraft and sunk after dawn. This makes the battleships of the US fleet, even if they are severely damaged, they can only choose to stick to the end.

However, the battleship "Catherine" still failed to escape in the end.

Before the turn was completed, an earth-shattering explosion sounded on the battleship 'Catherine', and the dazzling flames almost completely enveloped the battleship 'Catherine' inside.

Everyone was stunned by this scene. There is a thought in everyone's mind, that is, the battleship "Catherine" is probably doomed.

"Haha! Great, God bless!" Lieutenant General Ingersoll laughed.

Originally, they all thought that they could only watch the battleship 'Catherine' escape, but they didn't expect that at the last moment, they could sink the opponent in one fell swoop. This is really good luck.

A 410mm artillery shell hit the No. 3 main turret on the rear deck of the "Catherine" battleship. The shell not only tore apart the turret armor, but also penetrated the ammunition depot. The shells in the ammunition depot exploded. The huge power directly blasted the rear half of the battleship 'Catherine' to pieces. A large amount of seawater poured into the hull, causing the battleship to sink into the sea very quickly.

It's just that Lieutenant General Ingersoll didn't have time to be happy for a long time, and they tasted the bitter fruit again.

The battleship 'Kentucky' finally couldn't hold on after being hit continuously. Because the battleship had too much water, the hull of the battleship capsized.

After the sinking of the battleship 'Kentucky', the situation became even more unfavorable to the US fleet.

The battleship "Wisconsin" under siege was also turned into a burning torch. Continuously, 410mm shells and 380mm shells hit the battleship. Even though this is a huge battleship with a displacement of 58,000 tons and a strong defense, this battleship can't bear it after being hit by at least thirty 410mm or 380mm shells. Soon, the battleship also sank into the sea.

It can be said that after losing three capital ships in succession, the situation of the battle is already extremely unfavorable for the US fleet.

Fortunately, at such an urgent juncture, the first battleship formation of the US fleet finally arrived on the battlefield.

Chapter 1508

On the battleship 'Montana', Admiral Hasburn Kimmel, commander of the battleship formation of the US Navy, had a serious face. The fleet is heading south rapidly. Destroyers and light cruisers around are cruising.

Although these warships are equipped with sonar equipment. However, the speed of the battleship is too fast, and its own noise has already covered up everything. No matter how sensitive the sonar soldiers are with pierced ears, it is impossible to find the underwater target. Therefore, the entire fleet appeared cautious.

"Your Excellency, Commander, we are about to arrive at the battlefield. However, the situation of the second capital ship formation seems to be very bad!" Rear Admiral Kevill said with a telegram.

General Husband Kimmel nodded. He had read all these telegrams. It is precisely because of this that his expression is very ugly. In order to rescue the 2nd battleship formation, he even abandoned the 3rd battleship formation. However, they seem to be one step too late.

So far, the second capital ship formation has lost three capital ships. And they only sank one battleship of the German Navy. Such a price is really too great.

"It seems that our plan this time is very difficult to succeed. Our loss is too great!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel sighed. The three capital ships lost by the 2nd battleship formation, plus the 4 battleships destined to be lost by the 3rd capital ship formation. This has caused the US Navy's capital ship formation to lose nearly half of its combat effectiveness. The next battle will be even more unfavorable to them.

"General, when we arrive, we will definitely make the Germans pay a higher price! Our 'Montana-class' battleships are the most powerful battleships. The Germans are absolutely impossible to resist us." Major General Cowell said.

There is no doubt about the power of the 'Montana-class' battleships. However, Admiral Hasben Kimmel has no confidence in whether the situation can be reversed under the siege of many battleships of the German Navy.

"The old battleships of the Germans are also quite powerful, and they cannot be underestimated!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel said.

These "Montana-class" battleships of the U.S. Navy also suffered a lot of torpedoes in previous battles. It's just that, except for a slight drop in speed, it didn't have much impact on the battleship's combat effectiveness. But this time, they may have to face almost twice as many enemies as themselves. Whether the 'Montana-class' battleships can compete, even Admiral Haspen Kimmel has no confidence in winning.

On the battlefield, Lieutenant General Ingersoll, commander of the US Navy's 2nd Battleship Formation, couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief when he saw the 1st Battleship Formation approaching at high speed. The second capital ship formation with only three

battleships left is already in jeopardy. If the first capital ship formation came a little later, I'm afraid they would have to collect their bodies.

"General, American reinforcements are coming." Major General Rudolph reminded.

"Order the ships to increase the distance between them and the Americans!" Lieutenant General Gerke ordered.

The engagement distance was shortened to 10,000 meters before, in order to quickly eliminate the second battleship formation of the US Navy. Now, the five "Montana-class" battleships of the Americans have all rushed to the battlefield. If you continue to fight at this distance, it may not be very beneficial to the German fleet. The thick armor of the 'Montana-class' battleship, even at a distance of 10,000 meters, may be able to withstand the main guns of the German fleet. However, the capital ships of the German fleet do not have this capability. Therefore, it is better to continue to increase the combat distance, so that the hit rate of both sides will drop. At least, with a more advanced artillery sighting radar, the hit rate of the German fleet will be relatively higher.

"Yes, General." Major General Rudolph immediately issued the order.

The long battle line of the German fleet immediately began to turn.

"General, the Germans want to escape." Major General Cowell said.

"Order the fleet to turn around. The Germans killed our three battleships. It would be too whimsical to escape like this." Admiral Hasben Kimmel ordered.

With such a heavy fleet loss, he certainly would not let the German fleet leave. If possible, he hopes to make the German fleet pay a greater price for this with the powerful combat effectiveness of the 'Montana-class' battleships.

The three "Iowa-class" battleships of the US Navy's 2nd capital ship formation quickly followed.

On the current battlefield, eight battleships of the US Navy have become 15 battleships against the German Navy. The German navy still has an absolute advantage in terms of numbers. However, the 'Montana-class' battleship is too powerful. It is very difficult to say whether the capital ships of the German Navy can fight against them in naval battles. At least, in terms of displacement, the capital ships of the German Navy are much smaller than the 'Montana class'. In terms of armor thickness, it is also at a disadvantage.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The four triple-mounted 50-caliber 410mm main guns of the "Montana" battleship began to rage, and 12 huge shells weighing more than one ton roared and smashed at the flagship "Kaiser" of the battleship formation of the German Navy's home fleet. battleship.

The remaining four 'Montana-class' battleships also started shooting one after another.

All of a sudden, the five 'Montana-class' battleships that had just arrived on the battlefield showed extremely powerful attack power.

Although the "Montana-class" battleships of the US military are very powerful, the German fleet did not show any weakness and launched a counterattack.

After reassigning the strike targets, except for the battleship "Sedlitz" at the end of the battle line, which is alone against the battleship "Missouri" of the US Navy, the other battleships are two against one. Lieutenant General Gerke, the German commander, hopes that by virtue of his numerical advantage, he can gain an advantage in this battle of battleships.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The fierce battle started again in this sea area. Both sides of the war started shooting frantically, trying to smash the shells on the opponent's warship and sink it.

If this is during the day, the battle is estimated to be more intense. However, when fighting in a night environment, the line of sight is limited. In addition to judging the position of the enemy ship based on the muzzle flame, it is more necessary to remove the guidance of the gun sight radar. It's just that in this regard, the German Navy is obviously more dominant.

"Boom!"

A 410mm artillery shell fired from the battleship 'Caesar' accurately hit the No. A main turret on the front deck of the battleship 'Montana'. However, in the face of armor as thick as 571 mm, 410 mm shells are simply powerless.

Chapter 1509

"It hit, we hit the American battleship!" Seeing that one's own shell hit the target and exploded. The German sailors on the battleship Kaiser couldn't help cheering.

But then they discovered that the "Montana-class" battleship of the US fleet was not injured at all, and continued to fire, which made everyone look stunned.

"General, the armor of the American 'Montana-class' battleships is too thick. It may be very difficult to penetrate their main armor." Major General Rudolph said.

Lieutenant General Gerke nodded: "The 'Montana-class' battleship is the most powerful battleship of the Americans. The armor of several important parts is very strong, and it is very difficult to penetrate the opponent's armor!"

In fact, the current capital ships adopt the design idea of focusing on defense. That is to say, focus on strengthening the defense of key parts, while other places can be ignored. In naval battles, as long as the key parts are not destroyed, even if the battleship is riddled with holes, it will not be sunk. Even, even the combat power will not suffer too much loss. The "Montana-class" battleship focuses on strengthening the turret, conning tower and side armor, making it have a very strong defense.

"General, what shall we do?" Major General Rudolph was a little frustrated. If there is no way to sink the opponent's battleship, then even if the German fleet has a numerical advantage, it may be difficult to take advantage of this naval battle.

"Persist a little longer and see if there will be a turnaround!" Lieutenant General Gerke said.

If it really doesn't work, Lieutenant General Gerke will not continue to persevere. After all, if the fight continues, it will be fearless casualties. Since one's own capital ship has nothing to do with the opponent, it can simply be handed over to shore-based aircraft and carrier-based aircraft. The aircraft's heavy aviation armor-piercing bombs and heavy aviation torpedoes will also pose a greater threat to the "Montana-class" battleships. As long as there are enough bombs and torpedoes, they will be sunk.

In another time and space, the "Yamato-class" battleships of the island navy were all killed by American carrier-based aircraft. In this time and space, the German Navy can also use shore-based aircraft and carrier-based aircraft to kill the American "Montana-class" battleships.

Major General Rudolph nodded, they all hoped that a miracle would happen.

"Boom! Boom!"

The fierce battle continued, and the capital ships of the German Navy, relying on the advantage of the gun aiming radar, successively scored hits. But unfortunately, the defense of the 'Montana-class' battleship is very strong. Even if it is hit, the key parts have never been penetrated. This allows the US Navy's "Montana-class" battleships to still maintain a strong combat effectiveness.

Instead, the three "Iowa-class" battleships following the five "Montana-class" battleships were at a disadvantage in the battle. After all, although the 'Iowa-class' battleships are powerful, their defense is not as abnormal as the 'Montana-class' battleships. Especially the side armor is relatively weak, and the 380mm artillery shells of the German fleet can penetrate it as long as it hits.

"Boom!"

A 410mm artillery shell fired from the U.S. Navy's "Maine" battleship hit the German Navy's "Grand Kurfürst" battlecruiser. The shell hit the superstructure of the battlecruiser 'Grand Kurfürst', not only breaking a mast, but also igniting a raging fire. Most importantly, even the radar on the mast was damaged.

"Very well, seize the opportunity and gather firepower to attack the German warship on fire. Kill him!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel ordered. He wanted to seize this opportunity and sink the battlecruiser 'Grand Kurfürst' in one fell swoop, so as to achieve greater results.

All of a sudden, the five "Montana-class" battleships of the U.S. Navy began to concentrate their firepower on the "Grand Kurfürst" battlecruiser. Shells fell like raindrops around the battlecruiser 'Grand Kurfürst', making this huge battlecruiser look dangerous.

"General, the battlecruiser 'Grand Kurfürst' is on fire and has been besieged by the Americans!" Major General Rudolph reported.

Lieutenant General Gerke couldn't help but feel tight: "Order the battlecruiser 'Grand Kurfürst' to withdraw from the battle immediately!"

In the previous naval battle, they had already lost a battleship. Lieutenant General Gerke did not want to lose another battlecruiser.

"Yes, General." Major General Rudolph nodded.

After receiving the order, the battlecruiser 'Grand Kurfürst' broke away from the battle line and began to withdraw from the battle. As a battlecruiser built on the hull of the British Navy's "Hood-class" battlecruiser, the "Brandenburg-class" battlecruiser can reach a speed of 33 knots. This speed is already comparable to the 'Iowa-class' battleship before it was injured. Therefore, even if the U.S. fleet wanted to pursue it, it couldn't do it.

"General, the German warship that caught fire has escaped." Rear Admiral Kevill looked regretful.

If the German Navy's "Grand Kurfürst" battlecruiser does not escape, it may not be long before the US fleet will reap another victory.

"Hmph! I'd like to see how many warships they can make escape!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel's face was livid.

After the damaged capital ships of the German fleet withdraw from the battle, their pressure will gradually decrease.

"Order all ships, keep firing! Let the Germans see that our battleships are the most powerful!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel ordered.

"Yes, General." Major General Cowell replied.

Five minutes later, the battlecruiser "Wols" of the German Navy was also shot and caught fire. Although the injuries were not too serious, the fire almost illuminated the entire battleship. The US fleet once again concentrated its firepower and opened fire on the battleship 'Wools'.

With no other way, Lieutenant General Gerke had to order the battlecruiser "Wools" to withdraw from the battle.

A company of two capital ships withdrew from the battle, which left only 13 capital ships on the German Navy's battle line to continue fighting. Although there is still a quantitative advantage, it is not that big anymore.

What's more, the "Montana-class" battleships of the US Navy have shown extremely powerful combat effectiveness. If the battle continues, more and more capital ships of the German fleet may be hit.

"It can't go on anymore. Order the fleet to turn around and break away from contact with the Americans. We are not the opponents of the American 'Montana-class' battleships. The next battle will be left to shore-based aircraft and carrier-based aircraft. Go!" Lieutenant General Gerke gave the order.

Chapter 1510

The "Montana-class" battleships of the U.S. Navy are indeed very powerful, worthy of being called the most powerful battleships in the world. Even compared with the "Yamato-class" battleships of the island navy, I am afraid that they may not necessarily be stronger than the "Montana-class" battleships. Extremely thick armor, plus four triple-mounted 50-caliber 410mm main guns, almost none of the active-duty capital ships of various countries can fight against it.

Even the capital ships of the German Navy, although there are a large number, are old warships that have been in service for more than 20 years. Even after modern modification, it is

still inferior to the "Montana-class" battleship in many aspects. Especially in terms of defense, it is much worse than the 'Montana-class' battleships. Even the 410mm main gun with 50 times the caliber can hardly penetrate the main armor of the "Montana-class" battleship, let alone the 380mm main gun with 50 times the caliber.

So, once it was discovered that the "Montana-class" battleship could not deal with the Americans, Lieutenant General Gerke did not hesitate to issue an order for the fleet to retreat. He knew that if the entanglement continued, more and more warships in the German fleet would be hit, and then they would have to withdraw from the battle.

This naval battle has just begun, and the German Navy's capital ship formation still has many tasks to perform. If there are too many losses in the confrontation with the US Navy's battleship formation, it will not be worthwhile.

What's more, they have now destroyed three "Iowa-class" battleships of the US Navy. Although one of them was sunk and two were damaged, overall, they still took advantage.

In addition, in the waters west of Flores Island, the capital ship formation of the German Navy's Atlantic Fleet is still ravaging the US Navy's 3rd capital ship formation. Although the performance of the 'South Dakota-class' battleship is also very advanced, it does not have the perverted defense of the 'Montana-class' battleship. Under the siege of the German fleet, one after another, the "South Dakota-class" battleships were hit and burned.

When the battle in the east of Flores Island came to an end, the naval battle in the west of Flores Island also came to an end. The German Navy's Atlantic Fleet capital ship formation sank four "South Dakota-class" battleships of the US Navy's 3rd capital ship formation at the cost of one capital ship being severely damaged. Although, the rest of the light cruisers and destroyers escaped early. However, after the U.S. Navy's 3rd battleship formation lost four "South Dakota-class" battleships, it can be regarded as dead in name only.

The capital ship formation of the German Navy, in this naval battle, sank 7 capital ships of the US Navy at the cost of one capital ship being sunk, one capital ship being severely damaged, and two capital ships being injured. Moreover, basically every one of the remaining eight capital ships of the US Navy was injured. However, the injuries of some battleships were not serious and did not affect the subsequent battles.

After Lieutenant Admiral Gerke, commander of the capital ship formation of the German Navy's home fleet, gave the order to retreat, the capital ships of the capital ship formation of the German Navy's home fleet and the Mediterranean Fleet stopped firing one after another and began to turn.

Almost all of these capital ships have implemented blackout. Therefore, once the main gun stops firing, it is almost completely invisible to the naked eye at a distance of more than ten kilometers. Although the radar can still detect it, the distance is getting farther and farther, and it is almost impossible to hit and deal with it.

"General, the Germans have escaped!" On the battleship "Montana", Rear Admiral Cowell reported.

Admiral Hasben Kimmel had a look of anger on his face, and now he almost broke his teeth. The German Navy took advantage of this battle. But the U.S. Navy suffered heavy losses!

"Damn Germans!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel couldn't help cursing.

"General, are we going to pursue it?" Major General Cowell asked.

Admiral Husband Kimmel hesitated for a moment, then shook his head flatly and refused.

"The Germans are retreating to the central waters of the Azores. If we pursue them, we may not be able to catch up. Even if we catch up, what can we do with the Germans when they want to escape? It will be dawn in a few hours. The airfields of the Germans are probably full of planes loaded with bombs and torpedoes. As soon as it is dawn, they will take off planes to attack us. If you continue to advance eastward, it will be a dead end." Admiral Hasben Kimmel said.

He doesn't want his fleet to be besieged by shore-based and carrier-based aircraft of the German Navy. No matter how powerful the defense of the 'Montana-class' battleship is, it will still be sunk if it is attacked by enemy planes overwhelmingly. Those heavy aviation armor-piercing shells will blow up the 'Montana-class' battleships. And those heavy aviation torpedoes will blow up big holes one by one near their waterline. When there is too much seawater pouring into the hull, even the 'Montana-class' battleships will inevitably sink into the sea.

So, the only option for the US fleet now is to evacuate this sea area. Strive to escape the strike radius of the German Navy's aircraft before dawn. However, from the current point of view, it is undoubtedly very difficult. Because almost all of the remaining capital ships of the US fleet were injured, and some of them were seriously injured, and their speed was also affected.

"General, shall we continue to attack the German base? I am afraid that the previous shelling did not completely destroy the German base." Major General Keweier continued.

Admiral Hasben Kimmel shook his head: "We have no time to waste. Now, we must hurry up and leave this sea immediately!"

"Report, the 3rd capital ship formation is calling, and the four South Dakota-class battleships were sunk by the Germans during the naval battle!" A communications officer reported.

Suddenly, Admiral Husband Kimmel's face became very ugly. The four capital ships of the 3rd capital ship formation were all sunk. This is undoubtedly a heavy blow to the US Navy's capital ship formation. Now, they only have eight battleships left. Compared with the German Navy, they are even more at a disadvantage.

Of course, the performance of the "Montana-class" battleship is very against the sky. However, it is very difficult to say whether it can turn the tide in the naval battle.

"Send a telegram to the aircraft carrier 'Essex' and report our situation to General Nimitz. Ask them to send a carrier-based aircraft to \*\*\*\* us after dawn!" Admiral Hasben Kimmel ordered .