

Jagged 1571

Chapter 1571

Marshal Rommel did not return to the headquarters until 9 am on June 18. When he rushed back to the headquarters of the Ninth Army, Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner, the chief of staff, had already led the army's two armored divisions and four mechanized infantry divisions to attack. Their target will be Joseph. Either capture Joseph or kill Joseph. In short, Joseph cannot be allowed to live any longer.

This task was handed over to Lieutenant General Erich Hoepner, and Marshal Rommel also believed that Lieutenant General Erich Hoepner would be able to complete this task. In this regard, he no longer worried.

After returning to the headquarters, Marshal Rommel summoned several other army commanders of Army Group C, including the army commander of the slave country. This time, the German army will no longer engage in low-intensity battles with the Russian army in Moscow, but is preparing to end the battle in Moscow in the shortest possible time. Therefore, Marshal Rommel is about to issue a new combat order.

"Everyone, we originally planned to consume the vital forces of the Russian army in Moscow. In the past month, our troops have also fought very well and completed the scheduled combat objectives. Unfortunately, the Russians have seen through our plan. They have stopped sending additional reinforcements to Moscow. So, we don't have to implement the previous combat plan!" Marshal Rommel said.

The commanders of the various armies are actually clear about this. They also understand that when the Russians no longer continue to invest in Moscow, the German army will naturally not allow the Russian army to continue to occupy Moscow. The German army will wipe out the Russian army here in the shortest possible time and end the war as soon as possible.

"His Majesty the Emperor has issued an order for us to intensify our attack and take Moscow in the shortest possible time. Therefore, our vacation is over. From now on, all armies must send more troops to Moscow. The battle is underway!" said Field Marshal Rommel.

All the generals laughed, the previous offensive was not violent. For the German army and the servants, it seemed like they were on vacation. If it weren't for the fierce fighting between the troops of both sides in the city of Moscow, they might really have thought they were on vacation.

"Starting tomorrow, the armies will double in size and send more troops into Moscow. I hope that we can completely take Moscow within a month!" Marshal Rommel said.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Marshal!" The generals of each group army replied.

During the previous attack on Moscow, the 13 German armies each sent an infantry division to attack. The armies of the 29 slave countries also dispatched an infantry division each, and a total of 42 infantry divisions fought in Moscow. Now, the strength of the troops will be doubled, which means that the troops sent by the German army and its allies to Moscow will increase to 84 infantry divisions, with a total strength of more than 1.5 million people.

Although, the troops invested by the German army and its allies may still be inferior to the Russian army in Moscow. However, the troops of the German army and its allies will withdraw from Moscow to rest after fighting in the city for a certain period of time, and rotate other troops to enter the city to fight. The troops of the Russian army have no chance of rotation. In addition, the weapons and equipment of the German army and its allies are already ahead of the Russian army, and they can also receive powerful artillery and air force fire support. This will give the German army and its allies an advantage in the battle inside Moscow. Even if the Russian army in the city continued to resist, it would not be so easy to resist the German attack.

"In addition, we will deploy troops to attack the eastern part of Moscow and completely close the siege of Moscow. The Russian army in Moscow will no longer be able to get supplies. This will wipe out all the Russian troops in Moscow in one fell swoop!" Long Mei Marshal Er continued to order.

"The 7th Army, the 16th Army, the 17th Army, and the 18th Army each deployed one mechanical infantry division and two infantry divisions to participate in the attack. In addition, the Ukrainian Sixth Army, the Hungarian Seventh Army, and the Bohemian Army Sub-5th Army, participate in the offensive, and completely block Moscow's eastern defense line. Prevent the Russian army from breaking out from there!" Marshal Rommel then ordered.

"Yes, Your Excellency Marshal." The commanders of several army groups replied.

"Very well, so be it. God bless us, we will win!" Marshal Rommel said.

"The Empire will win!" Everyone shouted.

In fact, not only the generals of the German army rejoiced after learning that the German navy had defeated the U.S. Navy in the Atlantic Ocean. Those servant countries and protectorates of Germany are even more determined. The hearts they had been hanging on for a long time finally returned to their stomachs. Everyone believes that Germany will definitely win this world war when it already has an absolute advantage. Under such circumstances, everyone will work harder to fight for Germany. After all, after Germany won the World War, it was of great benefit to them.

Not only Marshal Rommel issued an order to launch a general attack on Moscow, but Marshal Guderian and Marshal Bromberg also issued such an order. It's just that Army Group B is strengthening its attack on Moscow. And Army Group A also dispatched an army to attack the east of Moscow, and together with Army Group C, closed the siege of Moscow.

On the morning of June 19, the German attack began. A large number of German troops launched a fierce attack on the Russian positions east of Moscow. Although there are quite a few troops in the Russian army stationed in this area. However, under the onslaught of the elite troops of the German army, they couldn't resist at all, and could only watch helplessly as the German army captured their positions and closed the siege of Moscow.

The German army not only closed the siege of Moscow, but also closed the siege of Josephgrad. The German Army Group E dispatched a unit and successfully crossed the lower Volga River. Then, he went upstream and captured Volgasky in one fell swoop. As a result, the Russian army stationed in Josephgrad had no way to get support through the Volga River channel.

Before, the Russian army stationed in Josephgrad could get support from Volgasky. Both soldiers and supplies can be transported from the Volga River to Josephgrad. However, when Volgasky fell into the hands of the German army, the German army's encirclement of Volgograd was closed. The Russian army was completely surrounded in Josephgrad, and the only way to wait for them was to be annihilated by the German army.

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Moscow Eastern Battlefield, where the Russian Army's Moscow Garrison Command has deployed two group armies. Originally, more troops were deployed here, but as the battle situation in Moscow became increasingly tense, the Russian army had to deploy troops from here to reinforce the battlefield in the city. Now only the 24th Infantry Army and the 1st Guards Army are left.

However, these two Russian armies could not withstand the fierce German attack at all.

On June 19th, the German 61st Mechanized Infantry Division, 63rd Infantry Division and 64th Infantry Division stormed the 73rd Infantry Division under the 24th Russian Infantry Army.

In less than two hours of fighting, the 73rd Russian Infantry Division was defeated and the main force was surrounded. Lieutenant General Rakukin, commander of the Russian 24th Army, hastily ordered the 140th, 228th and 255th Divisions of the Russian Infantry to rush for reinforcements. However, on the way, these three infantry divisions were besieged by the German 151st Mechanized Infantry Division, 153rd Infantry Division, 154th Infantry Division, 161st Mechanized Infantry Division, 163rd Infantry Division and 164th Infantry Division.

After a day of fierce fighting, the 73rd Russian Infantry Division was wiped out. The 140th, 228th and 255th Russian Infantry Divisions were also wiped out. Although the participating troops were resisting stubbornly, they were not far from being annihilated.

The remaining two infantry divisions of the 24th Russian Infantry Army, the 335th and 341st Infantry Divisions, were attacked by the German 171st Mechanized Infantry Division, 173rd Infantry Division and 174th Infantry Division. These two infantry divisions were also unable to withstand the attack of the elite German troops.

Behind the elite German army, there are hundreds of thousands of troops from the Ukrainian 6th Army, the Hungarian 7th Army and the Bohemian 5th Army.

Facing such a powerful attack by the German army and its servants, the 24th Russian Infantry Army was no match at all. In the case of heavy losses, Lieutenant General Rakukin ordered the remnants to abandon their positions and retreat to the east.

This is also the cleverness of Lieutenant General Rakukin. He knew that if he returned to Moscow, even if he would not be punished by General Zhukov, he would die. The German army launched such a large-scale offensive, obviously it will not let the Russian army in Moscow go. There is only one final result, and that is to be wiped out. Instead, he fled eastward, and perhaps there was still a way out.

When the German Army Group C eliminated the 24th Russian Infantry Army, Army Group A also launched an attack on the 1st Russian Guards Army.

The 1st Guards Army of the Russian Army has under its jurisdiction the 4th and 6th Guards Infantry Army, the 18th Tank Army, and the 153rd Infantry Division. Its strength is stronger than that of the 24th Russian Infantry Army. The combat power is also stronger.

However, they were attacked by the 1st Armored Division, 1st Mechanized Infantry Division, 3rd Infantry Division, 11th Mechanized Infantry Division, 13th Infantry Division, 14th Infantry Division, and 21st Mechanized Infantry Division under the German Army Group A. The siege of the 23rd and 24th Infantry Divisions. Even though the 1st Russian Guards Army had strong combat effectiveness, it still couldn't resist the German attack under the onslaught of the superior German troops.

The 18th Russian Tank Army was attacked by the German 1st Armored Division. Although this tank army is equipped with as many as 168 tanks, the number of T-34 tanks is more than one hundred. However, under the fierce attack of the German "Tiger" tanks and "Black Panther" tanks, the 18th Russian tank army was completely wiped out.

The remaining troops of the Russian 1st Guards Army were also violently attacked by troops under the German Army Group A. Under the impact of the mechanized troops of the German army, the infantry of the Russian army could not resist at all. The final result was that their line of defense was torn apart and the troops were surrounded and annihilated. Even if Lieutenant General Lelyushenko, the commander of the Russian 1st Guards Army, tried his best, he could not recover the result of their defeat.

In addition to dispatching the elite German army to launch the attack, the German Army Group A also deployed the Finnish 1st Army to participate in the attack. This further accelerated the destruction of the Russian 1st Guards Army.

It only took two days from the German army's offensive to closing the encirclement east of Moscow. By the afternoon of June 20, Moscow had been surrounded by the German army like an iron barrel.

The 24th Russian Infantry Army and the 1st Guards Army defending here were almost wiped out. Only a small number of troops withdrew to the area east of Moscow.

These Russian officers and soldiers are undoubtedly very smart. They knew that if they evacuated to Moscow, they would still die. Only by fleeing to the east can there be a chance of survival.

The German army did not pursue these retreating Russian troops. For them, the most important thing is to wipe out the Russian army in Moscow first.

When the German army closed the encirclement, the German army also intensified its attack on the Russian army in Moscow. As a result, General Zhukov, the commander of the Moscow garrison, had no way to deploy troops to reinforce the battlefield east of Moscow. He could only watch the German army complete the encirclement of Moscow.

As for those troops retreating east of Moscow instead of retreating into Moscow, General Zhukov had nothing to do. He is very clear about those guys' thoughts. However, he could not force them to hold out in Moscow. The so-called everyone has his own ambitions. As the commander of the Moscow garrison, he is willing to fight for Russia to the last moment. However, not everyone is like him.

"Comrade Commander, the 24th Infantry Army and the 1st Guards Army have been almost wiped out, and the remaining small part of the troops have also been withdrawn to Vladimir. Lieutenant General Rakukin and Lieutenant General Lelyushenko report, The heavy German troops formed an encirclement circle, and with their strength, they could not break through the encirclement circle of the German army and enter Moscow." Chief of Staff Major General Liapin reported.

"Huh! These are all excuses. Those guys are simply greedy for life and fear of death, and deliberately don't return to Moscow!" Lieutenant General Krugrov, the political commissar, said bitterly.

All fools know that if they stay in Moscow, they will surely die. Therefore, Lieutenant General Rakukin and Lieutenant General Lelyushenko will evacuate eastward.

General Zhukov also knew this, but he didn't care.

"The Germans not only dispatched the air force to bomb the train that Comrade Joseph was on, but also dispatched hundreds of thousands of elite armored troops to attack Nizhny Novgodero, trying to hunt down and kill Comrade Joseph. Now, even more The army closed the siege of Moscow and completely surrounded Moscow. The Germans obviously wanted to exterminate Russia by doing this, wiped out all of us, and never gave us a chance to turn around!" General Zhukov said with emotion.

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When the German army closed the encirclement of Moscow and Josephgrad and stepped up its attacks on these two cities, the German army that captured Joseph also rushed on the vast Eastern European plain.

Two armored divisions and 4 mechanized infantry divisions formed a huge arrow, as if they were going directly across the Eastern European plain.

In order to prevent the German attack, the Russian army had to mobilize troops to stop the German army. However, their fate was easily torn apart by the German armored forces.

After three days in a row, the German army was only 150 kilometers away from Nizhny Novgodero. According to their advance speed, it only takes three days for the German army to advance to the city of Nizhny Novgodero.

In a simple headquarters, Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner, Chief of Staff of the German Ninth Army, is discussing the current situation with several division commanders.

"Your Excellency Chief of Staff, the Russians are right in front of us, and once again stopped two army groups, with a strength of about 200,000 troops. In addition, on our right flank, there is also an army group approaching. According to the information obtained by the Air Force investigation, the Russian army More troops are also gathering in Nizhny Novgodero," said Major General Olge Lindemann, commander of the 9th Armored Division.

Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner nodded, although the main force of the Russian army has been surrounded by the German army in Moscow and Josephgrad. However, the Russian army still has a very large force. After they invaded the hinterland of Russia, they would inevitably be besieged by the superior forces of the Russian army.

However, the combat effectiveness of these Russian troops is limited, and it is difficult to pose too much threat to the elite German army.

The German army's two armored divisions and four mechanized infantry divisions advanced all the way down, and they have defeated the Russian army's interception many times.

"We are not far from Nizhny Novgodero. According to the information we have obtained, Joseph is very likely to be near Nizhny Novgodero. In other words, after the train he was on was blown up, he had to use Other ways to go to Nizhny Novgorod. Our intelligence personnel in Russia have been paying attention to this information. However, there is no news yet. Therefore, we must rush to Nizhny Novgorod as soon as possible Dro, and captured there. Then centered on Nizhny Novgorodrow, searched for Joseph in all directions!" Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner said.

Several division commanders nodded repeatedly, and they all believed that they must reach Nizhny Novgodero as soon as possible. Otherwise, once Joseph escapes there and continues to escape eastward by train or car, it may be difficult for the German army to catch up.

After all, although the armored and mechanized troops of the German army advance very fast, they have to fight the Russian army from time to time, so the speed is naturally not as fast as Joseph, who is determined to escape. Moreover, due to the impact of logistical supply lines and the loss of weapons and equipment, it is impossible for these two armored divisions and four mechanized infantry divisions to fight eastward to Kazan, or even through the Ural Mountains. Their attack limit is near Nizhny Novgodero.

"Contact with the Air Force, let the Air Force send fighter planes to support us, and continue to bomb the Russian army. Then, the ministries will speed up the advance, and after three days, they will definitely advance to Nizhny Novgodero!" Erich Hoppner The lieutenant general ordered.

The Luftwaffe has been providing air support to the Germans since they launched their offensive. Not only did it bomb the Russian army blocking the German army in real time, but it also expanded the scale of the bombing to those Russian troops who started to gather.

Once the Luftwaffe found signs of Russian army build-up, it would bomb it, thereby delaying the time for Russian army build-up and buying more time for the German army. This made the resistance encountered by the German army much smaller. Otherwise, the advance speed of the German army will definitely be affected even more.

"The 83rd Mechanized Infantry Division and the 84th Mechanized Infantry Division are responsible for deliberate defense and crush the Russian army in the shortest possible time. The 9th Armored Division, the 99th Armored Division, the 81st Mechanized Infantry Division and the 82nd Mechanized Infantry Division, Continue to move forward and defeat the two Russian armies standing in front of us." Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner continued to order.

"Yes, Your Excellency Chief of Staff." Several division commanders replied one after another.

Although, the Russian army has an absolute advantage in strength. However, when the main force of the Russian army has been surrounded or eliminated, most of these second-line forces are newly formed forces. Not only are they low in combat effectiveness, but their equipment is

also very backward. In the face of the attack of the German armored forces, it is often vulnerable and collapsed at the touch of a touch.

Nizhny Novgodero, the leaders of the Russian government agencies who evacuated here first, are holding a meeting anxiously.

"Marshal Shaposhnikov, is there no news about Comrade Joseph?" Andreev asked.

"Comrade Andreyev, there is no news yet." Marshal Shaposhnikov shook his head.

"Could Comrade Joseph have been killed?" Zhdanov said.

"Impossible, if Comrade Joseph has been killed, Comrade Voroshilov will definitely contact us." Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

"Have all their radio stations been destroyed?" Kaganovich asked.

"This is unlikely. The 4th Guards Infantry Division not only has one radio station, but also has many spare radio stations. It is impossible for all radio stations to be destroyed." Marshal Shaposhnikov said.

"Then what's going on?" Kalinin asked.

Marshal Shaposhnikov hesitated for a moment, and then said: "Perhaps Comrade Joseph thought his whereabouts had been leaked, so he took the initiative to turn off the radio station, so as to avoid another leak of his whereabouts!"

The members of the Politburo in Russia suddenly looked a little unhappy. They all knew that Joseph suspected that there was a traitor in the top Russian ranks. Even the top Russian officials were suspected.

"Then what should we do now? The Germans are getting closer and closer to Nizhny Novgodero, and our army can't resist the German attack at all. If we wait any longer, the Germans will soon hit Nizhny Novgodero." Novgodero." Mikoyan said with some dissatisfaction.

"Yeah, we can't just watch the Germans fight all the way to Nizhny Novgodero, can we?" Molotov also said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov couldn't help but frowned.

Although, when Joseph monopolized power, these Russian Politburo members did not dare to question Joseph at all. However, Joseph is now missing, and these guys jump right out. Moreover, although Marshal Shaposhnikov is the chief of staff of the Russian army, his status in the party is not as good as these people.

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"Comrade Shaposhnikov, will our army be able to withstand the German attack in Nizhny Novgodero?" Molotov asked.

"This..." Marshal Shaposhnikov hesitated for a moment, but still shook his head.

"Although the Germans only dispatched a few divisions, these German troops are elite armored units and mechanized units. The number of tanks alone is more than 1,000. At the same time, the

Luftwaffe also dispatched a large number of fighter planes to support them. This makes it very difficult for our army to resist the German attack. Unless we can gather more troops to Nizhny Novgorod, otherwise, we will not be able to resist the German attack.

It's just that the Germans are not far from Nizhny Novgorod, and all the troops we assembled were attacked by the Germans, which made it impossible for us to have enough time to gather troops. "

Marshal Shaposhnikov explained the difficulties he was facing now one by one.

The members of the Russian Politburo looked even more ugly. From the words of Marshal Shaposhnikov, they can understand that now they simply do not have enough military power to resist the German attack. Once the German army hits Nizhny Novgorod, I am afraid they will all have to become prisoners.

Although, Russia is now heading for extinction step by step. However, these members of the Politburo in Russia did not want to become prisoners of the Germans, or even lose their lives. They still want to continue to persevere, and no matter how bad they are, they will flee to Siberia. Although the conditions there are a bit tough, for leaders like them, they will not suffer, and they can still enjoy better treatment.

"Comrade Shaposhnikov, since Nizhny Novgorod can no longer be defended, we must make plans as soon as possible." Andreyev said.

"I agree, we must move east as soon as possible. Otherwise, once the Germans come over, we will all be captured or even killed by them." Zhdanov also said.

Other members of the Russian Politburo also expressed their views. As the German army is getting closer and closer to Nizhny Novgorod, they don't want to stay here to die.

"What about Comrade Joseph?" Marshal Shaposhnikov asked.

"How about Comrade Shaposhnikov stay and command the army to fight, and at the same time take care of Comrade Joseph." Kaganovich said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov's face suddenly became very ugly, although he can be regarded as loyal to Joseph. However, it does not mean that he is willing to give up his life. If you stay, it is estimated to be a dead end.

"Everyone, if I stay, can you be sure that you can command the remaining army? Whether it is the army on the Eastern European Plain or Siberia, will they accept your command?" Marshal Shaposhnikov said coldly.

Although, Marshal Shaposhnikov's status in the party is not as good as these Politburo members. However, whoever holds the gun holds the real power. During Joseph's reign, control of the military was strengthened through the political system. Shaposhnikov, Joseph's confidant, also holds great power. Now that Joseph is missing, Shaposhnikov is fully capable of replacing Joseph and continuing to control these armies.

Suddenly, the faces of the members of the Politburo became ugly. They all knew what Marshal Shaposhnikov meant.

"Okay, everyone. The current situation is very unfavorable to us. It is the time when we should unite as one and not fight among ourselves. Otherwise, we will be destroyed by the Germans faster." Molotov stood out.

Other members of the Politburo also nodded. Although they are powerful, they do not control the army. Under such circumstances, it would obviously not do them any good to fall out with Marshal Shaposhnikov.

"Since Nizhny Novgodero can't be defended anymore, let's retreat to Kazan together. Then we will retreat to Ufa, cross the Ural Mountains, and head to Chelyabinsk." Andreyev said.

Marshal Shaposhnikov nodded, he now recognized the faces of these guys clearly. This also made him more determined that he must control the army. Otherwise, maybe he didn't even know when he was sold.

After reaching an agreement, the Russian government agencies and troops began to retreat quickly from Nizhny Novgodero. This was beyond the expectation of the German army, and even made the German army think that Joseph had arrived in Nizhny Novgodero. Otherwise, how could the Russian army make such a change?

Fortunately, according to the information received from the intelligence personnel, Joseph still has not shown up, which made the German army feel relieved and continued to attack.

Moreover, when the Russian army began to retreat sharply, the advancing speed of the German army was further increased.

When the German army quickly advanced to Nizhny Novgodero, Joseph was still dozens of kilometers away from Nizhny Novgodero.

Many units of the 4th Guards Infantry Division have been lost, and now only a few hundred people remain with Joseph. They stumbled on the muddy path.

Joseph is now covered in mud, looking very embarrassed, walking on the road with deep feet and shallow feet. After walking a few steps, I had to stop to breathe, looking very tired.

"Comrade Joseph, we are not far from Nizhny Novgodero, and we will be there in two days. At that time, we can change to a train and head to Kazan." Marshal Voroshilov said in Said beside Joseph.

"Yeah!" Joseph nodded. He swore that this period of time was definitely the most difficult time for him, even harder than fighting guerrillas in the Caucasus Mountains back then.

At this moment, several Russian soldiers stumbled towards them. The most elite scouts in these troops, Joseph sent them to rush to Nizhny Novgodero to convey his orders.

"Comrade Joseph, something is wrong. The German army is advancing to Novgodero, and it is not far from us." A Russian soldier said.

"What? How did this happen? How did the Germans come here?" Joseph panicked.

"Yes, Comrade Joseph. The Germans have mobilized a large number of elite troops to advance to Lower Novgodero. According to the information we have learned, our army cannot resist them at all." The scout said.

"It's over, this time it's completely over." Marshal Voroshilov looked desperate.

Chapter 1576

"Comrade Joseph, it seems that we have kept the radio silent these days and missed a lot of news." Colonel Karl Rove, commander of the 4th Guards Infantry Division, said.

Joseph's face was as dark as the bottom of a pot: "Comrade Karrov, are you accusing me?"

"Ah! Comrade Joseph, that's not what I meant." Colonel Karl Rove quickly denied.

Colonel Karl Rove was afraid that Joseph would be angered by this. If this led to his death, it would be a disaster.

"Hmph!" Joseph snorted coldly. If it were any other time, he would have killed such a little colonel long ago. However, at such a juncture, he dared not do that. If a mutiny is caused, the consequences will be even more serious.

"Comrade Joseph, what should we do now?" Marshal Voroshilov asked.

"We are not far from Nizhny Novgodero now. If we turn on the radio now and contact them, can they send a car to pick us up?" Joseph asked.

"Comrade Joseph, in this case, our whereabouts are likely to be leaked. The Germans will definitely monitor the radio signals around Nizhny Novgodero." Marshal Voroshilov said.

"Comrade Joseph, we have received news that the government agencies and troops evacuated to Nizhny Novgodero have already evacuated there." A Russian scout reported.

When Joseph heard the news, his face became very ugly.

"Damn it, what are those guys doing? Are they going to betray me?" Joseph was trembling with anger. In his view, those Russian leaders and troops actually withdrew before he arrived, clearly abandoning him and betraying him. This gave Joseph a feeling of betrayal, and made him wish to kill all those guys.

"Comrade Joseph, if the army retreats, the Germans will have no resistance. They will definitely arrive in Nizhny Novgodero soon." Marshal Voroshilov said.

There is no doubt that the current situation has become even more unfavorable to them. Once the Germans occupied Nizhny Novgodero, they could no longer escape. Even, they are very likely to fall into the hands of the Germans.

"Go on, take the path through Nizhny Novgodero and go all the way to Kazan." Joseph ordered.

With no other options, Joseph could only resort to risky tactics. He could only hope that the German blockade would not be too tight. In that case, they would be able to slip past the German blockade and escape all the way.

"Yes, Comrade Joseph." Marshal Voroshilov gritted his teeth, and could only adopt Joseph's suggestion.

Joseph and others continued to start on the road, and their speed increased a lot. Perhaps because of the imminent threat, even Joseph is gritting his teeth and persisting. He knew that if

he stayed any longer, if he was caught by the German army, he would die. In order to survive, all potential must be unleashed.

The two armored divisions and four mechanized infantry divisions of the German army are still rushing forward. And, without the blocking of the Russian army, they only need to march along the road.

Although Russia's transportation facilities are very bad, it hinders the advance of the German troops along the way. It even caused the damage of many tanks and armored vehicles. But even so, the advance speed of the German army is still very fast.

On the afternoon of June 23, troops of the German 9th Armored Division entered Nizhny Novgodero. At this moment, Nizhny Novgodero has become an empty city. Russian government agencies and troops have already evacuated here. Even the civilians in the city were all evacuated. This allowed the Germans to occupy the city without bloodshed.

"Center on Nizhny Novgodero and search the nearby area. According to the information obtained by the intelligence agency, Joseph has not contacted the Russian government agencies and the army. This means that they should still be around here. Even if it is digging Sanchi, we must also find Joseph!" Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner ordered.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Chief of Staff!" The commanders of several divisions replied.

The two armored divisions and four mechanized infantry divisions of the German army, except for a small number of troops staying at the headquarters, the rest of the troops were dispersed in companies and searched for traces of Joseph around Nizhny Novgodero.

At the same time, the Luftwaffe also dispatched a large number of aircraft to participate in the search.

This kind of carpet search method that cooperates with the sky and the ground is enough to find out any potential enemies.

The only trouble is probably that a large number of routs fled eastward, so that the routs captured by the German army many times had nothing to do with Joseph. They didn't even know that Joseph had escaped from Moscow.

But even so, the German army did not relax, and continued to search. Until they receive an order to stop the search, they will continue to search like this until they find Joseph.

On the morning of June 24, a FW-190 fighter jet was circling in the airspace a little south of Nizhny Novgodero. In order to see the ground clearly, the pilot even lowered the altitude to about 1,000 meters.

Just below this plane, in the bushes, hundreds of Russians are hiding here. This includes Marshal Joseph and Voroshilov.

As the German army's search became more and more stringent, in order to avoid the planes in the sky, they even had to adopt the method of lying down at night. However, this also made their retreat even slower. If it continues like this, it will soon be caught by the German army.

"Comrade Joseph, the German planes have been circling above our heads, and we have no chance to get out of this bush. Once we go out, we will be discovered by the Germans." Marshal Voroshilov looked anxious .

They have wasted a lot of time here, if they continue like this, they will soon be discovered by the German ground forces. At that time, even if you want to leave, you will not be able to leave.

Joseph frowned tightly, and he had no other choice.

"Comrade Karrov, send a team to break out to the west! Lead the German planes away." Joseph ordered.

At a time like this, he had no choice but to abandon the car to save his handsomeness.

Colonel Karl Rove looked a little unhappy, but he still nodded and chose to execute the order.

"Okay, Comrade Joseph, I will arrange it immediately." Colonel Karl Rove said.

Ten minutes later, more than a hundred Russian soldiers left the bushes and ran westward quickly.

Chapter 1577

"Headquarters, Headquarters. This is No. 3112. I have searched this airspace and found no targets." The pilot of a FW-190 fighter jet numbered 3112 communicated with the headquarters via radio.

"Okay, go to the next airspace!" The headquarters ordered.

"Got it!" replied the pilot.

However, when the pilot was about to drive the fighter plane to leave, he suddenly found that many Russians ran out of the bushes. They are fleeing west. This immediately caught the pilot's attention.

"Report, I found a group of Russians, they are fleeing, I will attack immediately!" The pilot reported.

Immediately, he drove the plane and dived towards the ground.

"Da da da!"

The aviation machine guns started to fire, and the dense bullets shot over. Several Russian soldiers were shot dead on the spot and fell to the ground.

The fighter plane flew over the heads of this group of Russian soldiers, and they were so scared that they all lay on the ground and dared not move forward.

"Those idiots, they have to keep running! Only in that way can the German plane be lured away." Joseph looked anxious.

After re-climbing, the German fighter planes launched an attack again. The rocket launching pods hanging on the wings started firing rockets.

"Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!"

Several rockets hit the ground and exploded, killing more Russian soldiers.

Under such circumstances, the Russian soldiers were terrified and turned around and fled back to the bushes.

"Bastard! Don't these guys know that they will recruit the Germans?" Joseph saw the Russian soldiers fleeing back to the bushes, and couldn't help but raged.

It's just that it's useless to say more now. The German pilots have discovered that there are Russian troops hidden in this bush.

"Report, there should be many Russians hidden in the bushes below my current location, and I request the ground troops to search!" The pilot reported.

"Received. You temporarily stay in that airspace to guard, and the ground troops will come to reinforce it immediately."

A German mechanized infantry not far from here rushed to this bush immediately after receiving the order.

Although, there is only one company. But the mechanized infantry company is equipped with more than a dozen armored vehicles. Among them are three infantry fighting vehicles equipped with 30mm cannons. This mechanized infantry company is only 20 kilometers away from here, and arrived in less than half an hour.

"The mortar fires!" The captain and commander of the machine infantry company ordered.

Several mortars start firing into the bushes.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The shells kept falling into the bushes, and some Russian soldiers were killed by the shells, screaming.

After ten minutes of artillery strikes, the captain and company commander gave the order to attack. The infantry fighting vehicle rushed to the front, followed by the tracked personnel carrier.

"Boom boom boom! Da da da!"

The machine guns and heavy machine guns on the infantry fighting vehicles began to fire. The heavy machine guns on the armored personnel carrier, as well as the soldiers inside, fired through the firing holes. Dense bullets passed through the bushes, and Russian soldiers were constantly shot and killed.

"Phew!"

A rocket flew out from behind a big tree and hit an infantry fighting vehicle.

The fragile armor of infantry fighting vehicles can only withstand large-caliber heavy machine guns. There is nothing that can be done about the anti-armor weapon of the mortar. The armor was pierced by rockets, and the soldiers inside were on fire, and quickly got out of it. But before he ran a few steps, he was shot and killed by Russian bullets.

"Damn, the Russians have rockets, evacuate the bushes!" The German captain ordered.

The German army that had entered the bush retreated quickly.

Meanwhile, they called for reinforcements. Through this round of attack, they also realized that there were many Russian troops in the bushes.

Twenty minutes later, the other two mech companies arrived.

At the same time, the Air Force also dispatched four Stuka dive bombers and four ground attack aircraft to reinforce them.

"Woo!"

The Stuka dive bomber began to dive and drop bombs. The sharp and piercing whistle made the Russian soldiers hiding in the bushes turn pale.

"Boom!"

There was a violent explosion, and the shrubs were blown up and down. A huge crater was left in the bushes. Many Russian soldiers were torn to pieces in the explosion.

Soon, other dive bombers and ground attack aircraft of the German army also began to drop bombs and fire on the bushes.

Intensive bombing and fire strikes caused heavy losses to the Russian troops hiding inside.

"Comrade Joseph, the Germans have spotted us. They dispatched a large number of fighter planes to attack us. Outside the bushes, there are still a large number of elite German troops. This time, we may not be able to escape." Voloshi Marshal Love's face was dead gray. Obviously, he knew that this time they would be unable to fly.

Joseph remained silent, in fact, his face was full of despair. Perhaps, he never thought that he would fall into such a field.

"Is there a way to break out?" Joseph asked.

Colonel Karlov shook his head: "Comrade Joseph, our troops are too small. The Germans have an absolute advantage in strength. At the same time, they are far stronger than us in terms of weapons and equipment. We have no way to break through their siege."

Moreover, once the German army launches an attack, it is impossible for the Russian army in the bushes to withstand the German attack. The final result was that they were all killed by the German army.

Joseph knew that this time he was doomed, and there was no other way.

Although, Joseph knew that if he surrendered to the Germans, he might be able to save his life. However, for him who is proud, it is undoubtedly a deep humiliation for him to surrender. He will never surrender to the Germans. As the supreme leader of Russia, even if he dies, he will die with dignity. He will never surrender to the Germans and be humiliated by the Germans.

"Comrades, the main responsibility for the failure of this war lies with me. Otherwise, we would not have been defeated by the Germans so quickly. For this, I should take responsibility. I hope that you can continue to fight!" Joseph said.

After finishing speaking, Joseph turned and walked deep into the bushes.

A few minutes later, there was a clear gunshot.

When Marshal Voroshilov and others ran into the depths of the bushes, they found that Joseph had fallen to the ground. There was a bullet hole in his head, and blood was dripping out. In Joseph's hand, he also held a delicate small pistol.

Obviously, Joseph himself ended his life just now. In order to avoid falling into the hands of the Germans, he chose to commit suicide to preserve his dignity.

Chapter 1578

"Boom boom boom! Da da da!"

Just when Joseph committed suicide, the German army outside the bushes launched an attack into the bushes.

Dozens of German armored combat vehicles rushed into the bushes, and many infantrymen came down from the armored personnel carriers to fight with these armored vehicles. The violent attack of the German army smashed the defense of the Russian army in an instant.

"Comrade Voroshilov, the Germans have entered. Our troops have suffered heavy losses and cannot withstand the German attack at all." Colonel Karlov reported.

Marshal Voroshilov immediately made a decision: "Surrender, surrender to the Germans immediately!"

Colonel Karlov was not surprised that Marshal Voroshilov would issue such an order. For him, he also didn't want to die. And Marshal Voroshilov is also such a person. Therefore, under such circumstances, Marshal Voroshilov would order surrender, which did not surprise him.

"Surrender, we surrender!" When Colonel Karlov's order was issued, the remaining Russian soldiers raised their hands and surrendered to the German army. The battle has reached this point, and they also know that if they continue to resist, they will undoubtedly die. Rather than that, surrender to the Germans. In this case, you can save your own life.

"I am a member of the Russian Politburo, People's Commissar of National Defense, Voroshilov. I formally represent the Russian army here and surrender to your army!" Marshal Voroshilov, in front of a German captain and company commander, tried hard to maintain their dignity. However, from the moment the order to surrender was given, they no longer had any dignity at all.

"Voroshilov? Russian Marshal?" The German captain and company commander were also stunned. He didn't seem to have thought that he would catch such a big fish here.

"Where's Joseph?" The German captain and company commander asked subconsciously. According to the information obtained by the German army, Joseph and Marshal Voroshilov were together. So, now that they have captured Marshal Voroshilov, can Joseph still escape?

"Comrade Joseph is here!" Marshal Voroshilov led the German officers and soldiers to Joseph's body.

Seeing that Joseph had turned into a corpse in one fell swoop, the German captain and company commander couldn't help frowning. The order from above was to capture Joseph as much as possible. The value of a dead body is far less than that of a living Joseph.

"Who killed him?" asked the German captain and company commander.

"Comrade Joseph committed suicide!" Marshal Voroshilov replied.

The captain and company commander of the German army nodded, and he could understand that it is undoubtedly very normal for a person like Joseph to choose suicide at such a juncture. How could national leaders like them surrender?

"Report to the superior immediately, we have captured Marshal Voroshilov. In addition, Joseph has committed suicide, and his body is here with us!" The German captain ordered.

Soon, the news was reported to Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner, Chief of Staff of the German Ninth Army.

"Joseph committed suicide? Captured Marshal Voroshilov?" Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner's face flashed with joy.

When the German army searched around Nizhny Novgorod but did not find Joseph, Erich Hoppner thought that Joseph had escaped. But I didn't expect that the good news would come so suddenly.

"Very well, transport Joseph's body to Nizhny Novgorod, let the Air Force send a transport plane, and transport it to Berlin. In addition, immediately report the news to the Army Group Command and the country." Erich Hope Lieutenant General Na ordered.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Chief of Staff!"

Soon, the German captured Marshal Voroshilov and the news that Joseph had committed suicide was sent back to Berlin.

When Marshal Manstein, Minister of War and Chief of the General Staff of the Empire, got the news, he couldn't help laughing.

Obviously, after Joseph is dead, it is impossible for Russia to continue to compete with Germany. What's more, the remaining mobs in Russia couldn't last much longer under the attack of the German army.

"Joseph is dead. Next, as long as Moscow and Josephgrad are conquered, and the main force of the Russian army entrenched here is eliminated, then Russia will be completely finished. We will win the Russian battlefield!" Manstein Marshal Yin said with great confidence.

"Come here, prepare the car, and go to the palace immediately!" Marshal Manstein ordered.

Soon, Marshal Manstein arrived at the palace by car. In the office of Emperor Qin Tian, Marshal Manstein met Qin Tian who was handling government affairs.

"Your Majesty, I have good news for you!" Marshal Manstein said.

"Oh? Good news? Is there a breakthrough in the battle between Moscow and Josephgrad. Or is there a clue to arrest Joseph?" Qin Tian asked.

"Sure enough, everything is within His Majesty's expectations!" Marshal Manstein sighed.

"Just received a report from Lieutenant General Erich Hoppner, chief of staff of the Ninth Army, that they captured Marshal Voroshilov in the outskirts of Nizhny Novgodero. However, Joseph had committed suicide at that time." Manstein The marshal reported.

After Qin Tian heard the news, he couldn't help but froze for a moment.

Qin Tian's goal is to kill the Big Three in another time and space in this war. Now, Joseph was the first to be killed. Then, there are only two left.

"Joseph can be regarded as a generation of heroes, but he died like this." Qin Tian couldn't help sighing.

"Your Majesty, as an enemy of the empire, Joseph had already expected such a result." Marshal Manstein said.

Qin Tian nodded: "With Joseph's death, Russia has lost an outstanding leader. Without Joseph's leadership, it would be impossible for the Russians to continue to fight against us. Next, our battle against Russia , should win soon."

"Yes, Your Majesty. If all goes well, the war against Russia is expected to end before the end of this year." Marshal Manstein said.

"Very well, after Russia is resolved, the mainland of the empire will basically not be threatened. In this way, we can concentrate our efforts on dealing with the United States and the island countries. Soon, we will be able to win this war ." Qin Tian's face was full of smiles.

"Yes, Your Majesty." Marshal Manstein nodded repeatedly.

Soon, Germany notified the whole army and the people of the whole country of the news of Joseph's suicide. At the same time, try to inform the Russian side of this news as much as possible.

Chapter 1579

The news of Joseph's death spread throughout the world in the shortest possible time. Some people cheered for it, while others were saddened by it.

The German people are undoubtedly happy to see Joseph die. After all, Russia is one of Germany's main enemies. When Russia declared war on Germany, it was the result of Joseph's insistence on going his own way. Now, Joseph committed suicide, no doubt the result of his own fault. The general public in Germany applauded this. Many German people even believe that this is one step closer to Germany's victory in the war.

After all, Russia borders Germany, and to some extent it poses the greatest threat to Germany. Now that Joseph is dead, can Russia continue to hold on? This is obviously impossible. The German people are already expecting that the German army will completely win the final victory on the Russian battlefield. Once Germany has completely won the Russian battlefield, then Germany will be truly safe.

Germany's many protectorates and servants were equally rejoicing. The German Navy first won the decisive battle with the German Navy in the Atlantic Ocean. Now a breakthrough has

been made on the Russian battlefield. It can be said that the entire war situation is developing in favor of Germany. If this continues, it may not take long for Germany to win the final victory. This also made these protectorate and vassal states more determined to fight with Germany, making them willing to contribute more strength in the next battle.

As for Russia's allies, their minds are completely different now. The United States on the other side of the ocean was terrified because of Joseph's death. There is even an anti-war trend among the people. After President Roosevelt learned of Joseph's suicide, he locked himself in the office and came out a day later. President Roosevelt knew very well that if they could not defeat Germany in the war, then Joseph's tragic ending would be his fate. He is also a very proud man. Once the battle situation reaches that stage, he will also not survive. At that time, ending one's own life with one's own hands may become the best choice.

The emperor of the island country on the other side of the world even summoned the prime minister of the island country and asked whether the island country could win the war. Although the prime minister of the island country assured the emperor that they would definitely win. But all fools know that this is just perfunctory to the emperor of the island country. After Russia fell, the war would become even more favorable to Germany. I am afraid that soon, German reinforcements will be sent to Nanyang from Europe. At that time, it will be even more difficult for the army of the island country to open up the situation in Nanyang.

It's just that the island country has no other way now, but can only go one way to the dark. The only thing they can do is to invest more troops to find a way to open up the situation before the German army massively increases its troops in Nanyang. At the same time, more materials collected from Nanyang were transported back to Germany to further expand their military strength and fight to the end. In this case, it may be able to persist for a longer time. However, there is still only one final result, and that is to be completely destroyed.

Russia is undoubtedly the country most shocked by Joseph's death. Both the government agencies that were withdrawn to the east and the troops on the front line were greatly shaken. In Russia, even though Joseph killed many people, he was still deified. In the eyes of many Russians, Joseph even existed like God. Now, Joseph is dead, which immediately collapses their faith. Many people don't know what to do for a while.

The remaining senior officials in Russia are even completely desperate. If Joseph is still there, they may still dare to continue to fight against the German invasion. But now, they no longer have such courage. Even, some people have proposed peace talks with Germany to end the war. After all, the current Russia can be regarded as having lost a complete defeat in this war.

The Russian soldiers on the front line were even more confused. For them, the slogan of defending Russia against the German invasion was a bit too noble. Many people fought desperately with the German army on the front line. The main reason was to follow the orders of the great leader Joseph. Now that even Joseph is dead, whose orders are they going to obey?

It is precisely because of this that the resistance will of the Russian army that sticks to Moscow and Josephgrad has been weakened a lot. Many Russian soldiers no longer want to fight from the bottom of their hearts. After all, in the eyes of these Russian soldiers, the Germans are too tough, and fighting the Germans means that there is a high possibility of death. Before, it was because of following Joseph's order that he had to fight the Germans desperately. But now, it

seems to be completely useless. In the absence of pressure, those Russians are not fools, how could they risk their lives to fight? Nobody wants to die if they can live.

This change in the Russian army made the German frontline generals keenly aware of it. The commanders of several army groups all reported to the Supreme Command, hoping to send someone to negotiate with the Russian army and get the Russian army to lay down their weapons and surrender.

Qin Tian expressed his approval of the generals' suggestions. Although the German army commanded by Qin Tian had already killed a lot of people in this war. However, he is not a murderer from the bottom of his heart. The heroic and invincible German army defeated powerful enemies one after another, just to accomplish their own strategic goals. In many cases, it is not necessary to kill the enemy to complete the strategic goal. If the enemy is willing to surrender, he can also win the final victory.

Russia is like this now. If the Russian army can lay down its arms and surrender to the German army, the German army will be able to occupy Moscow and Josephgrad without bloodshed. In this case, the casualties of the German army can also be controlled. If the Russian army fought to the end, the German army would pay a high price if they wanted to conquer Moscow and Josephgrad.

So, if the Russian army can surrender, it is undoubtedly the best result for Germany.

It is precisely because of this that Emperor Qin agreed with the front-line generals to send envoys to persuade the Russian troops entrenched in Moscow and Josephgrad to surrender. If the Russian army in these two places surrendered to the German army, then the other Russian armies would not be a cause for concern. At that time, they had no other choice but to surrender to the German army. If you continue to resist, there is only one way to be wiped out in the end.

Chapter 1580

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

In the city of Josephgrad, the sound of explosions was ringing out one after another. This is the German artillery deployed outside the city responding to the fire support of the infantry inside the city. After Joseph fled to Moscow, the German army stepped up its attack on the Russian army in Moscow and Josephgrad.

A large number of German troops and servants, with the help of artillery and air support, continuously conquered the positions of the Russian troops and wiped out those Russian troops.

Even if the strength of the German Army Group D and Army Group E that attacked Josephgrad is far inferior to that of the German Army Group A, Army Group B, and Army Group C that attacked Moscow. However, under the fierce attack of the German army and the servant army, Josephgrad was still occupied by the German army bit by bit. Especially after Volzhasky fell into the hands of the German army, Josephgrad became completely surrounded. Since then, they have never received any supplies.

After the news of Joseph's death came, the defenders of Joseph Grene became even more nervous. Many people don't know what to do. If you continue to resist, it seems that there is no point. Even some generals of the Russian army showed aversion to war. Especially those

political workers, Joseph was their backer before. It is precisely because of Joseph as a backer that even if they don't know how to lead troops to fight, they still show off their might in the army. But now, after learning of Joseph's death, those political workers have restrained themselves a lot. They also knew very well that without Joseph's support, they would have no way of confronting those military chiefs. No matter how arrogant and domineering he is, if he offends those military officials, he will definitely not have any good fruit for them, and he will even lose his life.

In addition to the Josephgrad Front Army, there are also the remnants of the Russian Southern Front Army stationed in Josephgrad, with a total strength of more than two million people. However, under the fierce attack of the German Army Group D and Army Group E, a lot has been lost. The remaining troops were also compressed in the city of Josephgrad. As their positions were gradually captured by the German army, it is not impossible for the entire Russian army in Josephgrad to be eaten by the German army.

General Popov, Commander of the Russian Army's Josephgrad Front, Lieutenant General Krementyev, Political Commissar, and Major General Gusev, Chief of Staff, are in the underground headquarters, frowning.

Especially Lieutenant General Krementyev, who looked like a dead old lady. In the past, he was very arrogant in the Josephgrad Front Army, and sometimes he didn't even give Admiral Popov face. But now, it's a lot more honest.

Admiral Popov is undoubtedly very happy about Lieutenant General Krementyev's transformation. Only in this way can he fully control the Russian army stationed in Josephgrad. It's just that the current situation is very unfavorable to them. Even if they control the army, it doesn't seem to be meaningful. After all, it won't be long before they are all wiped out by the German army.

"Comrade Commander, the German offensive has once again intensified. Our troops were affected by Comrade Joseph's death, and the will to resist is no longer as firm as before. This caused our troops to suffer great losses during the battle." Gu Xie Major General Husband said.

Admiral Popov nodded, this is also what he is having a headache.

"The Germans are now determined to speed up the process of the war. Under their fierce attack, we may not last long." Admiral Popov said.

"Comrade Commander, what should we do now?" Lieutenant General Krementyev asked.

Admiral Popov also had no idea. But there is one thing, he doesn't want to die. He believed that among the Russian defenders in Josephgrad, like him, many people did not want to die.

"Comrade Commander, the German envoy has arrived. How about we meet him?" Major General Gusev said.

Lieutenant General Krementyev immediately wanted to reprimand when he heard this. However, he opened his mouth, but in the end he didn't say anything. He suddenly realized that it was not as good as before. Joseph was no longer there, and the status of these political workers in the army had undergone earth-shaking changes. What's more, Admiral Popov obviously knew

about it. If you speak rashly, you may offend Admiral Popov. In addition, Lieutenant General Krementyev himself did not want to die.

Popov looked at Lieutenant General Krementyev, and then said: "Comrade Gusev, you can arrange it. See what the Germans want to do."

"Okay, Comrade Commander." Major General Gusev nodded, and a look of joy flashed in his eyes.

Of course in the evening, General Popov, Lieutenant General Krementyev and Major General Gusev secretly met with an envoy sent by Marshal Brauchitsch, commander of the German Army Group D.

"Three generals, we have won the current war. Joseph, the supreme leader of your country, has committed suicide. It can be seen that this war has been lost for Russia. If you continue to fight, it will only let Russia pay more casualties. Therefore, His Excellency Marshal Brauchitsch hopes that your army will surrender. We guarantee that the lives of all Russian officers and soldiers who surrender will be guaranteed. Moreover, the generals of the Russian army will receive due treatment. After the war is over, Germany will release all prisoners of war and let everyone be free. In addition, you will definitely have a place in the new Russian government in the future." The German envoy said.

Major General Gusev is undoubtedly very moved by Germany's promise. It's just that he is only the chief of staff of the Josephgrad Front Army and has no power to make decisions.

Popov nodded and looked at Lieutenant General Krementyev: "Comrade Comrade, what do you think?"

"Comrade Commander, it's up to you to make the decision." Lieutenant General Krementyev said. He knew that everything had already been settled, and if he struggled again, he would only risk his own life.

"Your Excellency, can we trust the assurance of your Marshal?" Admiral Popov asked.

"Of course, Your Excellency General. His Majesty the Emperor has also agreed to these conditions proposed to you." The German envoy said.

Hearing that even the Kaiser had expressed his opinion, Admiral Popov and others were relieved. Although the two sides are in a state of hostility, this does not prevent them from believing in Kaiser Qin Tian. After all, as the emperor of the most powerful empire in the world, Kaiser Qin Tian is still very reputable.

"Okay, Your Excellency the Messenger, please tell your Excellency Marshal Brauchitsch that I, on behalf of the soldiers of the Josephgrad Front Army, surrender to the German army!" Admiral Popov finally made a decision.