

Jagged 181

Chapter 181: free hunt

The North Sea is a vast sea area between the United Kingdom and the European continent. It is also the main channel for Germany to enter and exit the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, in order to curb the entry and exit of the German navy into the Atlantic Ocean, the British deliberately established a large naval base in Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. Once the situation is tense, the main force of the Royal Navy will be stationed here. This makes it impossible for the German Navy to enter the Atlantic Ocean.

It can be said that the British navy stationed in Scapa Flow is like a chain that tightly strangles Germany's neck. Losing overseas trade is undoubtedly a fatal blow to resource-poor Germany. Even before the war broke out, under Qin Tian's leadership, Germany had stored a large amount of war supplies. However, as the war continues, the consumption will become greater and greater. If this continues, sooner or later, those stored resources will be consumed.

So, for Germany, once the war enters a war of attrition, their chances of winning will be very small. In the end, it is very likely that they will be dragged to death by the British. After all, Britain had vast colonies to exploit, while Germany did not.

Germany also knows this, so it spares no effort to develop its navy in an attempt to defeat the British Royal Navy, thereby changing this unfavorable situation. It's just that it is not that simple to defeat the Royal Navy that has dominated the world's oceans for hundreds of years.

The reason why Qin Tian built a powerful battlecruiser force and submarine force for the German Navy was to fight **** for tat with the British Navy. Don't the British want to blockade Germany? Similarly, the German Navy can also use battlecruisers and submarines to block Britain. For a

country where the vast majority of industrial raw materials and industrial products need to be transported by sea, even food cannot be self-sufficient and needs to be shipped back to the country from overseas, once the sea transportation line is cut off, how serious the consequences will be It is also conceivable. Even, the losses caused will be greater than those caused by Germany being blocked.

Qin Tian believes that the German Navy will be able to complete the blockade of Britain with its powerful battlecruiser formation and submarine force. Once the sea transportation line is cut off, Britain's war potential will be greatly reduced, and the threat to Germany will be further reduced, which will help Germany win this battle.

In August, the North Sea is very windy and rough. In other words, the temper of the Atlantic Ocean is already very irritable, not as calm as the Pacific Ocean.

A huge warship is sailing in the northwest of the North Sea. The hull of this battleship is as big as a hill, floating on the sea, giving people a great shock.

On the bridge, a middle-aged general in his fifties was looking into the distance with a telescope. This person is none other than Vice Admiral of the German Navy, Maximilian Spee. He was originally the commander of the Pacific Squadron of the German Navy. However, after Germany decided to abandon Blue Island, the Pacific Squadron was withdrawn to the German mainland and incorporated into the High Seas Fleet. All the Germans in Blue Island have also returned home. And Blue Island was also handed over to the Eastern Empire.

Of course, what the Germans did did cost Germany a colony. However, it made the only great power in the East very upset. They were still waiting anxiously for the outbreak of war, and then took the opportunity to declare war

on Germany and **** the Blue Island. But now, Germany has directly given up on Blue Island, which completely defeats their wishful thinking! The war is about to begin, are they going to continue to fight, or what? The Japanese government is now in chaos.

"General, General Hipper is calling. The 1st battlecruiser formation has entered the Atlantic Ocean. They will turn around and head south." A staff officer reported.

"Call back to General Hipper, the 2nd battlecruiser formation will operate in the waters off western Scotland as planned," Lieutenant General Spee said.

For Lieutenant General Spei, it is a pity to withdraw from the Pacific Ocean. However, being able to join the duel with the British Navy also made him extremely excited.

At this time, a communications officer came in with a telegram: "Report to the general, the Empire has declared war on Belgium. Your Excellency Commander, let us prepare for battle. It is expected that the British will soon declare war on us."

"Very good, keep in touch with the country. Once we start a war with the British, notify me immediately!" Lieutenant General Spee said.

"Yes, General."

These German officers knew that once the war started, it meant that they could launch an attack.

Although the target of the attack is the British merchant ships and transport ships, it is not as exciting as attacking their warships. But it didn't matter what they were asked to do as long as it helped Germany win the war.

In the early morning of August 4, under the cover of fog, the German Navy's 2nd battlecruiser formation led by Lieutenant General Spee also entered the Atlantic Ocean.

Perhaps because the two countries have not officially started war, the British Navy's blockade is not strict, which allowed the German Navy's warships to enter the Atlantic Ocean smoothly. Of course, it is estimated that the British Navy did not expect that the German Navy would be so courageous, dare to take the initiative to attack!

That afternoon, Lieutenant General Spee and Lieutenant General Hipper both received domestic telegrams that Britain and Germany had declared war on each other. This also means that their hunting operations can begin.

"Send a telegram to the 'Goben' and 'Sedlitz' to let them hunt freely! Once you encounter a British warship, contact us immediately. In addition, the light cruisers and destroyers are also dispersed. Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

The 2nd battlecruiser formation, in addition to the three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers, there are three light cruisers and three destroyers. These light cruisers and destroyers act as the eyes of the formation and provide intelligence for the formation. Of course, once a British merchant ship is spotted, these light cruisers and destroyers can also launch an attack.

The three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers were scattered, each separated by tens of kilometers, sailing southwest. On the periphery are light cruisers and destroyers.

In the absence of radar, everything can only be found by human eyes.

Like Lieutenant General Spee, Lieutenant General Hipper led a formation of three "Blücher-class" battlecruisers, and also began to search for traces of British Navy merchant ships and transport ships on the vast sea.

As for the submarine force, because of their slow speed, they are still on their way. Therefore, this free hunting operation against British merchant ships and transport ships will first start with the battlecruisers of the German Navy.

Chapter 182: Brutal War

On the Atlantic Ocean, the wind is sunny and sunny, except for the slightly high wind and waves, everything seems so calm.

'Black Pearl' is a merchant ship specialized in transporting iron ore, traveling between Canada and the British mainland. As the situation becomes more and more tense, in order to strengthen combat readiness, Britain's demand for iron ore is also increasing. This has allowed many merchant ships like the 'Black Pearl' to make a lot of money.

Old Jack, the owner and captain of the ship, appeared on the deck with a cigar in his mouth.

"Boys, don't be lazy and clean the deck. My boat is a new boat that has only been in the water for three years. Don't make it like those old boats that have been in service for more than ten or twenty years." Old Jack shouted loudly .

"Captain, we are a ship transporting iron ore, how can we clean it?" a sailor complained.

"As long as you don't be lazy, you can clean it!"

"Captain, come and listen to the radio. The radio said that the Empire and the Germans are at war!" A sailor rushed out.

"What? Is there a war? Is the British Empire also involved in the war?" The sailors started talking. As the hegemon of the world, Britain's people also have a high sense of national self-esteem and pride. They are proud of being British.

Old Jack's eyes were even brighter. War means that the consumption of steel will increase exponentially, and this also means that he will earn more money.

"I don't know if the Royal Navy will still recruit people. When you get to the shore, go ask about it." A sailor said.

"Forget it, just like you, will the Royal Navy want you?"

"How could the Germans be the opponents of the empire? Their army may be very strong, but their navy, the Royal Navy of the British Empire is the number one in the world!"

While the captain and sailors of the 'Black Pearl' were talking about it, they never expected that danger was already approaching them.

The battlecruiser 'Moltke' has spotted the 'Black Pearl' and began to accelerate towards it. A merchant ship full of iron ore can travel at most ten knots. The top speed of the "Moltke-class" battlecruiser has reached 27 knots. This also means that the merchant ship 'Black Pearl' has nowhere to go.

When the battlecruiser "Moltke" narrowed the distance to ten kilometers, the people on the merchant ship "Black Pearl" discovered the danger. However, it was too late by this time.

"My God! What is that? Is it a battleship of the Royal Navy?" a sailor exclaimed.

"Damn it, where is the battleship of the Royal Navy? It's the flag flying on it, not the flag of St. George. It's a German battleship!" The captain, Old Jack, was well-informed and found something wrong.

"German warships? The German warships have arrived here just after the empire started war with Germany? What about the Royal Navy? Those damned guys, didn't they find out?" Some sailors began to curse the Royal

Navy when they were terrified. . Although, they still admired the Royal Navy before, and even wanted to join the Royal Navy. But when their lives are threatened, everything changes.

"Calm down, calm down. We are merchant ships, not warships. The Germans shouldn't do anything to us!" Old Jack said.

"Captain, the Germans asked us to stop the ship. Otherwise they will fire!" said the lookout.

"Stop the boat? You can't stop the boat. Once you stop the boat, you won't be able to run away."

"Are you kidding? The Germans are warships, and we are merchant ships. How could we outrun the German warships. Stop the ship. If the ship doesn't stop, maybe the Germans will really fire!"

The sailors quarreled.

On the battlecruiser 'Moltke', Lieutenant General Spee issued a new order.

"Secondary battery fired, warning shot."

"Boom! Boom!" The two 150mm secondary guns of the battlecruiser "Moltke" started shelling.

Two shells fell into the side of the "Black Pearl" merchant ship, and exploded less than 200 meters away from the hull, splashing a high column of water. This immediately frightened the sailors on board.

"My God! Those **** Germans really can shoot. They're gonna kill us. I don't want to die here!"

"Stop the ship, stop the ship immediately!" The captain, Old Jack, also shouted loudly, and he was also terrified.

The battlecruiser 'Moltke' quickly approached and stopped at a distance of more than 100 meters from the 'Black Pearl'. All the auxiliary guns were pointed at the 'Black Pearl'. At this distance, it was like putting a cannon directly on the belly of the 'Black Pearl'.

Two small boats boarded the 'Black Pearl', and the wolf-like German marines boarded the 'Black Pearl'. The British sailors were silent one by one, raising both hands high.

"What's on your ship?" a German officer asked in English.

"Sir, what we transport is iron ore, and we are merchants!" Old Jack said quickly.

"Is it iron ore? Very good. Get on the lifeboat yourself!" said the German officer.

"Sir, what do you mean?" Old Jack was taken aback.

"Now, the empire and Britain are at war. And iron ore is an important strategic resource. So, you should understand what I mean!"

"Sir, are you going to take my boat? No, please do me a favor and let me go. This boat is all my wealth! Without this boat, how can my family survive?" Old Jack burst into tears and begged the German officer for forgiveness.

"No, I'm not trying to **** your ship. Rather, this ship is going to sink into the sea. If you don't agree, then you can sink into the sea with this ship!" The German officer said coldly.

Old Jack was immediately frightened by the murderous words, and fell silent.

Losing the ship would put him out of business. But it's better than being buried in the sea.

Under the supervision of the German army, Old Jack and others were driven to a lifeboat. The German soldiers directly opened the sea valve of the "Black Pearl".

Sea water poured out from the bottom of the ship, making the draft of the 'Black Pearl' deeper and deeper. Gradually, the side of the ship did not enter the sea. The entire merchant ship sank completely into the sea soon.

Old Jack on the lifeboat watched this scene with tears in his eyes.

At this moment, the battlecruiser 'Moltke' has left, looking for the next target. The route between the UK and North America is very busy. They could easily find more British merchant ships and finish them off. Although, these are innocent civilians. However, war is inherently so cruel. In order to win, both sides will stop at nothing!

Chapter 183: Wolves

Britain is a highly developed industrial country. Every day, a large number of ships transport industrial raw materials from all over the world to the UK, and then transport a large amount of industrial products from the UK to all parts of the world. This makes the shipping on the Atlantic very busy.

For these British merchant ships, the sudden outbreak of war caught them off guard. At the same time, they never expected that warships of the German Navy would appear in the Atlantic Ocean.

On the day of August 4 alone, Britain lost 27 merchant ships, large and small, with a total tonnage of 300,000 tons. These merchant ships, without exception, were sunk into the Atlantic Ocean. Although, the German Navy released the sailors on board when the ship sank. But on the sea hundreds of kilometers away from the British mainland, the sea conditions are not very good at the same time. Under such circumstances, the possibility that these sailors can return to the British mainland safely is very slim. Unless they were

lucky enough to be rescued by passing merchant ships or warships, otherwise, they would be close to death.

Although, this is a bit too cruel for these innocent sailors. But, this is war. Even civilians are very likely to be affected in the war. In war, life is the most fragile and the least valuable. Every moment, life is lost.

Germany, the Admiralty, and Marshal Count Tirpitz have been waiting for the news of the broken fleet. Those are the six battlecruisers of the German Navy! Counting the "Mackenson-class" battlecruisers under construction, they already accounted for half of the total number of battlecruisers in the German Navy. If there are any problems with these battlecruisers, the German Navy will suffer heavy losses.

Of course, Marshal Count Tirpitz also knew that the two battlecruiser formations would not be so prone to accidents. Even if you encounter the main force of the British navy, if you can't beat it, you can retreat calmly by virtue of your speed advantage. Even if the battlecruisers of the British Navy launched a pursuit, the British battlecruisers were not only much inferior to the German Navy's battlecruisers in terms of defense, but also inferior in terms of firepower. In that case, the pursuit of the British is tantamount to death.

"Marshal, the news of the broken fleet has arrived." A staff officer reported excitedly.

"How was the result?" Tirpitz asked.

"Your Excellency, Marshal, the results are brilliant! They killed 27 British merchant ships today." The officer reported.

"Twenty-seven ships? Well, yes, very good. Send them a telegram and let them make persistent efforts to sink as many British merchant ships as possible." Marshal Earl Tirpitz smiled all over his face.

Although, compared to the total number of merchant ships in the UK, 27 ships and 300,000 tons are nothing at all, and they are far from the point where they will hurt the UK. However, this is undoubtedly a very good start. As long as the German Navy's break-off fleet continues to be active, more and more British merchant ships will be sunk. At that time, it will be enough to cause irreparable damage to the United Kingdom.

After all, it takes several months or even longer to build a merchant ship. To sink a merchant ship, only one torpedo or a few shells are needed. It's even just opening the sea valve directly. The speed of destruction is much faster than the speed of construction. Even with the strong shipbuilding capabilities of the United Kingdom, it cannot make up for this loss.

This is like a noose around the necks of the British. It gets tighter and tighter, and finally strangles them to death.

"By the way, where are our wolves? When will they reach the Atlantic Ocean?" Marshal Earl Tirpitz asked.

In addition to the breaking fleet, the German Navy sent 30 submarines to the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean is too vast, and with the capability of two battlecruiser formations, it is impossible to completely block it. However, the remaining capital ships of the German Navy could not be dispatched until the Royal Navy was completely defeated. Therefore, only submarines can be dispatched.

Fortunately, Germany has built a large number of submarines, and has been conducting training in breaking combat. Now, it's time to put them to use.

"Marshal, the wolves are still on their way to the Atlantic Ocean. According to their speed, it is expected to enter the Atlantic Ocean this evening or tomorrow morning and start hunting." The officer replied.

Marshal Earl Tirpitz nodded: "I hope the wolves can bring us more good news!"

On the night of August 4th, in the North Sea, a submarine was sailing northwest under the cover of night. Submarines in this era, to be precise, refer to ships that can dive, unlike submarines of later generations, which can sail underwater for a long time. Submarines in this era sail on the water most of the time, and only when they encounter danger early and avoid the attack of enemy ships, they will dive urgently.

The hatch of the submarine was opened, and a young officer got out. He shook off the sea water from his hat, and took a deep breath.

Submarines in this era are definitely not in good condition. If you stay in it for a long time, you will feel very suffocated.

"How long before we can enter the Atlantic Ocean?" asked the officer.

"Boss, at this speed, we will be able to enter the Atlantic Ocean in about three hours. But the prerequisite is that we cannot encounter British ships. If they are caught, it will be terrible." Sailing long report.

This submarine has the hull number u-039, and the commander's name is Doenitz. Of course, his current military rank is only captain. This is because he performed exceptionally well in submarine tactical training and was promoted exceptionally.

"Keep heading and speed, may God bless us!" After finishing speaking, Doenitz turned around and got into the submarine.

The same submarine as u-039, there are 29 more. These thirty submarines are the elite of the German Navy's submarine force. They were divided into five teams, sneaked into the Atlantic Ocean from five different routes, and carried out destructive engagements.

Compared with the battlecruiser formation that set off at the same time, the speed of the submarine was much slower, so that they fell far behind. When the battlecruiser formation was already killing, they were still on their way.

After three hours of sailing, the u-039 submarine finally broke through the blockade of the British Navy and entered the vast Atlantic Ocean. Although, there are still British Navy warships patrolling the Atlantic Ocean. But compared to the narrow, bathtub-like North Sea, the Atlantic Ocean is vaster. It is undoubtedly more difficult for the warships of the British Navy to catch the submarines of the German Navy.

And once these wolves enter the Atlantic Ocean, it is foreseeable how much damage they will bring to the United Kingdom.

Chapter 184: soaring losses

On the afternoon of August 5, a British cargo ship was sailing southeast on the sea about 200 kilometers west of the Orkney Islands. This cargo ship sailed from Canada to the United Kingdom, and all the food on board was transported.

Britain's local industry is well developed, but agricultural products such as food need to be transported from overseas colonies. Such a small amount of domestic production is simply not enough to meet the consumption of tens of millions of British people.

After the outbreak of the war, Britain's food was far from enough. Therefore, the British government has issued an order to mobilize grain transportation from the colonies in North America and Australia to Britain to support the consumption of the war.

The submarine u-039 is sailing on the sea more than ten kilometers away from the British cargo ship. Not enough, they soon spotted the oncoming submarine.

"Captain, I found a British cargo ship! It's about ten kilometers northwest of us."

"Dive down immediately, don't let the British find us." Doenitz immediately issued an order.

The water tank of the submarine began to fill with water, and a large number of air bubbles gushed out. In just half a minute, the submarine was completely submerged in the sea. Although there were a lot of air bubbles left on the water surface, it soon became calm and there was no trace left.

"Turn around and go around to the left of the British. The torpedo at the bow of the boat is ready." Doenitz calmly issued an order.

This was the first victory they encountered after entering the Atlantic Ocean, and Doenitz certainly didn't want this victory to slip away.

The submarine was underwater, slowly approaching the British cargo ship. At this time, the British sailors on the cargo ship did not expect that the crisis had already arrived. Although, many merchant ships were sunk yesterday. However, the British government did not respond in time, nor did it have time to notify those merchant ships on the Atlantic Ocean to evade.

Time passed by one minute and one second, and the u-039 submarine had successfully circled to the left side of the British cargo ship, and extended its periscope less than two kilometers away from the cargo ship.

"Get ready, launch the torpedo!" Doenitz gave the order.

"Boom!" A 533mm heavy torpedo was launched from the torpedo tube and quickly rushed towards the British cargo ship two kilometers away. Since the speed of the cargo ship was only ten knots, Dönitz ordered only one torpedo to be fired. Under such conditions, even if it is just a torpedo, the hit rate is very high.

The distance of two kilometers only takes two minutes for a torpedo with a speed of more than 30 knots. After the U-039 submarine launched the torpedo, it did not dive immediately. Because the target of the attack is a cargo ship, there is no need to worry about being counterattacked by the target.

The British sailors on the cargo ship did not know that the crisis had come at this moment. Until, a sailor on the deck suddenly saw something rapidly approaching them on the sea surface on the left.

"What is that?" The young sailor asked loudly, pointing to the water marks left by the torpedo on the sea.

"God! Torpedo. It's a torpedo! We're being attacked!" An older sailor who had served in the Royal Navy yelled in horror.

Suddenly, the British sailors on the cargo ship were in a mess.

"Boom!"

When the torpedo kissed the left hull of the cargo ship, there was an earth-shattering explosion.

Although this cargo ship is a large cargo ship with a displacement of tens of thousands of tons, the hull of the cargo ship is obviously far from being comparable to that of a warship. During the violent explosion, a large hole was directly blown out of the underwater part of the cargo ship on the left side. Sea water poured into the cargo ship frantically.

The sailors on the cargo ship did not carry out loss control, nor did they block the hole, but scrambled to escape to the lifeboat, and even fought for the limited number of escape places.

When more and more seawater poured in, the cargo ship gradually tilted and finally capsized on the sea.

"Turn around and continue sailing south!" Doenitz ignored the sinking British cargo ship and the British sailors who fell on the sea and shouted for help, and directly ordered the submarine to leave.

The further south you go, the greater the chance of encountering British merchant ships. Doenitz also wanted to sink more British merchant ships and gain more results!

Although the speed of the submarine is very slow, it is far inferior to the surface ship. However, submarine attacks are more stealthy. The enemy didn't even notice it, and the crisis was over.

After the thirty submarines of the German Navy entered the Atlantic Ocean, they immediately began to attack British merchant ships and transport ships, causing the loss of British merchant ships to rise in a straight line.

The tactics of the German Navy's surface fleet and underwater submarines caused a lot of losses to the British transport fleet. On August 5 alone, the number of British merchant ships sunk soared to sixty-two, and the total tonnage lost exceeded 500,000 tons.

Although, during the operation, the submarine also encountered surface ships of the British Navy. But they were all avoided by these submarines with their excellent performance. With the existence of Qin Tian, who is similar to cheating, the submarines of the German Navy have greatly improved compared to another time and space, which also makes them more likely to be sunk during the battle. Reduced.

In the case of the loss of nearly a hundred merchant ships, large and small, the British government knew that something was wrong no matter how slow the response was. Many merchant ships that were supposed to arrive at the port did not arrive on time, which surprised those who were preparing to receive the goods.

When pieces of news were compiled, the British government knew what had happened.

British Admiralty, Minister of the Navy Churchill turned blue.

Before the war broke out, he was originally the Home Secretary. However, Prime Minister Asquith admired his naval capabilities very much, and specially asked him to switch positions with McKenna, with him as Secretary of the Navy and McKenna as Secretary of the Interior.

After taking over as Secretary of the Navy, Churchill was even more at ease. After all, as the war drew closer, the status of the Royal Navy, the most powerful force in the British Empire, was constantly rising, which made his status as the Minister of the Navy higher and higher.

Although, Churchill knew that it was not a good job to be the Secretary of the Navy now. The German Navy is aggressive and quickly catching up with the Royal Navy. The Royal Navy will face unprecedented challenges. But Churchill believed that the background of the Royal Navy was enough to meet the challenge of the German Navy. If he can lead the British Navy through this crisis, he will become a hero that goes down in history.

But what Churchill didn't expect was that the war had just begun, and he encountered such difficult troubles.

Chapter 185: vicious german

"Minister of the Navy, now we are almost certain that the Germans have sent a fleet to sneak into the Atlantic Ocean. This fleet is attacking our merchant ships and transport ships everywhere, attacking our maritime trade lines. Only two days , We lost nearly a hundred merchant ships. If this continues, our maritime trade lines may collapse." A British general reported to Churchill.

"Damn! How did the German fleet slip into the Atlantic Ocean? Isn't our main fleet blocking the North Sea?" Churchill was furious. He knows very well

what it means to Britain once the British sea transportation line is cut off. Their tactics of blocking Germany and then dragging Germany to death have no way of succeeding. Even Britain will collapse before Germany.

"Minister of the Navy, the Germans should have dispatched the fleet before the war. Otherwise, they would never be able to hide it from us." The admiral said.

Churchill suddenly didn't know what to say. It is understandable that the British navy only strengthened the blockade after the outbreak of the war. Who made the German Navy have the foresight to send the fleet into the Atlantic Ocean first?

"No matter what, we must find out the German fleet, destroy it, or drive it back to Germany. Otherwise, allowing them to attack our sea transportation line will cause us a fatal blow." Churchill said.

"Minister of the Navy, from the telegrams sent back by those sunk merchant ships before they sank, we have learned through analysis that the fleet sent by the Germans should be composed of battlecruisers. Therefore, if we want to destroy their fleet, this may be very difficult. After all, the speed of the battlecruisers is too fast, and our battleships simply cannot catch up."

"Where are our battlecruisers? The 'Invincible' battlecruiser, the 'Indefatigable' battlecruiser and the 'Lion-class' battlecruiser, aren't they all already in service? They are all dispatched. I don't believe it, nine ships The battlecruisers are no match for the six German battlecruisers!" Churchill ordered. If it wasn't for the battlecruiser 'Tiger' that hadn't been in service yet, it is estimated that Churchill would have dispatched the battlecruiser 'Tiger' as well.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Secretary of the Navy!" The British general nodded.

"However, Your Excellency the Minister of the Navy, I still recommend sending a main fleet to respond at the same time. After all, the Atlantic Ocean is too vast. It is very difficult to find German battlecruisers." The British general continued.

Churchill nodded: "Let's go to the 'George V-class' battleships. The four super dreadnoughts plus nine battlecruisers are twice the number of battlecruisers dispatched by the Germans. I believe that the Royal Navy It must be able to kill the German battlecruisers."

"Yes, Your Excellency the Minister of the Navy. However, we also found that in addition to sending battlecruisers, the Germans also sent submarines into the Atlantic Ocean. Many merchant ships were sunk by submarines. And those merchant ships were sunk by submarines. Before the attack, there was no encounter with a British warship. Therefore, we analyzed that it was a torpedo launched by a German submarine from underwater." The British general said.

"God! It's a battlecruiser and a submarine. The Germans have clearly planned this for a long time, specifically targeting the British Empire's sea transportation line. They have already figured out how to attack the British Empire. Damn Germany People, why are they so vicious!" Churchill's face was already dark as if it was the bottom of the pot.

Even though he is a very powerful person, after gaining insight into the German Navy's plan, he still feels chills all over his body. The tactics of the German navy are completely aimed at the British seven inches! If not handled carefully, this will constitute a fatal blow to the United Kingdom.

"Send our destroyers and light cruisers out to search for German submarines, and if you find one, sink one for me. I will never allow the Germans to attack our sea transportation lines so recklessly!" Churchill roared .

"Yes, Your Excellency the Secretary of the Navy." The British general nodded and immediately went to execute the order.

Churchill sat in his chair and began to think about how to solve the current problem. If, before this, he thought that Britain would win the war in the end, then now, he has begun to doubt his point of view. The German navy is more difficult and powerful than he imagined. Even though the British navy is powerful, it may still be very difficult to defeat the German navy.

Squeezing out the cigar in his hand, Churchill stood up from the chair.

"Damn Germans, come on, I want to see how you challenge the Royal Navy. I will defeat you with my own hands and cut off your delusions." Churchill said with a grim face.

"Come here, prepare the car, I want to go to the Prime Minister's Office immediately!" Churchill ordered.

Although, it is already night. Prime Minister Asquith may have rested. But Churchill had no choice but to disturb him at this time. Who made the current situation so urgent that it even directly threatened Britain's victory or defeat in this war?

Five minutes later, Churchill got into the car and rushed to the Prime Minister's Office in Downing Street. Ironically, Churchill was cursing the Germans just now. But the car he was riding in was a Daimler A-class car produced by Qin Tian's Daimler company. Although Churchill was unwilling to admit it, he still felt that German cars were much better than British cars in terms of comfort and appearance. Therefore, before the outbreak of the war, Daimler's A-class cars were exported to various European countries. The dignitaries of many countries have purchased Daimler A-class cars as their own cars. The British government is no exception. Almost most of the cabinet

members' cars are Daimler A-class cars. No one cares about the cars produced by Britain itself. Because it's just too ugly.

Because the secretary had contacted the Prime Minister's Office in advance. So when Churchill arrived, Prime Minister Asquith was already waiting for him in his office. However, from the sleepy eyes of Prime Minister Asquith and the strong coffee on the desk, it can be seen that Churchill has indeed disturbed Prime Minister Asquith's rest.

"Your Excellency, Prime Minister, I am sorry to disturb your rest. However, the situation is really urgent, and there is no way to wait until tomorrow." Churchill apologized.

Chapter 186: Noose

"Your Excellency Churchill, what happened?" Prime Minister Asquith asked. Although, being disturbed in his sleep made him a little unhappy. But he knew that this was his duty as Prime Minister of the Empire. While enjoying power, one must also assume corresponding responsibilities and obligations.

Perhaps, this is the so-called sweet trouble! Of course, anyone would be willing to take on such troubles. The British Empire is the hegemon of the world, and becoming the Prime Minister of the British Empire is equivalent to the most powerful person in the world.

"Your Excellency, the Germans sent a large number of warships and submarines into the Atlantic Ocean to attack our transport ships and merchant ships. Yesterday and today, we have lost hundreds of merchant ships." Churchill reported with a serious face.

"What? How could this be?" Prime Minister Asquith frowned involuntarily. The loss of hundreds of merchant ships is already a big blow to Britain. Although, Britain still has a large number of merchant ships. But if it continues at this speed, I am afraid that it will not be long before their merchant ships will

be completely lost. By that time, how will they get much-needed war supplies from overseas colonies? How can this battle continue!

"What about the Royal Navy? Why didn't they stop the Germans. Churchill, you should know the importance of sea transportation lines to the British Empire? If our sea transportation lines are cut off, the people of the British Empire will not even be able to satisfy their food. At that time, don't say that the war continues, I am afraid that the government will collapse!" Prime Minister Asquith looked serious. After hearing the news brought by Churchill, all his drowsiness has disappeared.

"Your Excellency, the Germans are really cunning. They dispatched several battlecruisers and submarines before the war. Although the main force of the Royal Navy was assembled in Scapa Flow. But before the official declaration of war, we The people's blockade is not tight, which gives them a chance. I have ordered the Royal Navy to send warships to encircle and suppress the German battlecruisers and submarines, and it will definitely prevent the Germans from continuing to attack our merchant ships." Churchill Said.

Prime Minister Asquith looked at Churchill, but did not answer immediately. He always felt that things were not that simple.

"Your Excellency Churchill, I am very doubtful now, is the Royal Navy really capable of defeating the Germans?" Prime Minister Asquith asked.

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, please rest assured that the Royal Navy will definitely be able to defeat the Germans. I assure you of this!" Churchill said solemnly.

"Churchill, you should be clear that I made you the Minister of the Navy because of your talents in this area. Now that the war has broken out, I hope you can use your talents in this area. Leading the Royal Navy, Defeat the Germans and defend the glory of the British Empire. The importance of the

navy to the British Empire is self-evident. If the navy fails, the British Empire will be completely over!" Prime Minister Asquith reminded.

"Yes, Your Excellency Prime Minister, I am very aware of this. And our old enemy, the Germans, also knows this. That's why they launched a tit-for-tat attack on our sea transportation lines. Our overall strategy is to After the outbreak of the war, Germany's coastline was blocked, Germany's overseas trade was cut off, and the Germans were dragged to death. But now the Germans are using the same tactics to deal with us. This is also a great threat to the British Empire .If we can't deal with the attack of the Germans on our sea transportation lines, our overseas trade will be greatly affected, or even cut off. At that time, the British Empire may also collapse." Churchill looked serious analysis.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded. For the British Empire, overseas trade lines are almost life. Once cut off, the British Empire would not last long.

"Although the tactics of the Germans are vicious, we have to admit that they are indeed very effective. They are like putting a noose around our necks, and they are getting tighter and tighter, and finally hang us. " Churchill continued.

"The current situation is indeed very critical. Come here, notify the other cabinet ministers and call an emergency meeting." Prime Minister Asquith ordered.

Although it was late at night, the situation was urgent, and Prime Minister Asquith couldn't care less.

In less than half an hour, the meeting room of the Prime Minister's Office was full. The senior officials of the British cabinet yawned one by one, drank strong coffee, and sat in their seats.

"Gentlemen, the reason why you are called here so late is entirely because of an accident in the current war situation." Prime Minister Asquith said.

Suddenly, the faces of the high-ranking officials below were not very good-looking. The reason why they pushed Britain to join the war was that they believed that Britain could win. But now it seems that something is not quite right!

Next, Churchill introduced the dilemma he encountered to everyone. These senior cabinet officials are even more anxious.

"The Royal Navy must be dispatched to encircle and suppress the German battlecruiser formation and submarine force. The sea transportation line is the lifeline of the British Empire, and there must be no loss!" Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was the first to express his position.

Other ministers also expressed their opinions one after another. They all know what the sea transport line means to Britain.

Churchill had to express his position. He had already issued an order to let the Royal Navy deal with the battleship formation and submarine formation of the German Navy. This made those senior officials stop verbal criticism of the navy.

"Your Excellency, it can be seen from this that the Germans have been planning this war for a long time. For this reason, they even formulated a strike plan against the British Empire. Therefore, we cannot take it lightly. Now, Germany People are already attacking Belgium. The Belgians probably won't be able to resist for long. We have to send an expeditionary force to the European continent as soon as possible." Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Gray proposed.

"His Excellency, Minister of War, is there any problem with sending an expeditionary force to the European continent within a week?" Prime Minister Asquith looked at the Minister of War, Richard Haldane.

"Your Excellency, the first expeditionary force will go to the European continent in a week. There should be no problem. The follow-up expeditionary force is also being prepared one after another." Minister of War Richard Haldane replied.

Chapter 187: Encirclement and suppression

On the morning of August 6, a military vehicle arrived outside the British Admiralty Building. Two tall British admirals got out of the car. It can be seen from their military ranks that one of them is an admiral and the other is a lieutenant general. In the Royal Navy, this is already an out-and-out senior general.

"General Jellicoe, General Betty, Your Excellency is already waiting for you in the office!" Secretary of the Secretary of the Navy Churchill had already been waiting at the door, and when Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty arrived, they immediately greeted them.

Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty, led by their secretary, went to the office of Secretary of the Navy Churchill.

Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty are currently in charge of the commander-in-chief of the Grand Fleet and the commander of the Battlecruiser Squadron of the Grand Fleet respectively. The so-called large fleet refers to the main fleet composed of main forces drawn from various fleets when the United Kingdom faces a strong enemy.

This time, in the face of the strong challenge of the German Navy, even as the overlord, the British Navy did not dare to take it lightly. They have mobilized the main force from various fleets and gathered in Scapa Flow, where they are preparing to face the German Navy.

Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant Admiral Betty are the commanders of this main fleet. They will take on the important responsibility of defeating the German navy and defending the supremacy of the British Empire.

"Master of the Navy, good morning!" Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant Admiral Betty immediately saluted Churchill after entering the office. Although Churchill graduated from the cavalry major of the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, he can be regarded as an Army background. However, during Churchill's tenure as Secretary of the Navy, he greatly promoted the development of the navy, which gave him a very high prestige in the Royal Navy.

"Sit down, two generals." Churchill nodded.

The secretary left after delivering the coffee, leaving only Churchill, Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty in the office.

"Generals, I brought you here today because the British Empire is in trouble. The day before yesterday and yesterday, the British Empire had lost nearly a hundred merchant ships. Today, I don't know how much this loss will be." Churchill was very distressed .

"What? How could this happen?" Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty both exclaimed. They knew very well what this meant to Britain, and it was no wonder Churchill summoned them in such a hurry.

"Your Excellency, did the Germans do it?" David? Betty Lieutenant General asked.

"Yes, before the Germans declared war on us, they sent a formation of six battlecruisers into the Atlantic Ocean to attack our merchant ships. In addition, a large number of submarines also entered the Atlantic Ocean. These battlecruisers Cruisers and submarines, like wild wolves, are attacking our sea

transportation lines, trying to strangle the British Empire to death in this way," Churchill said.

Admiral John Jellicoe and Lieutenant Admiral David Beatty both looked very ugly. The British sea transportation line suffered such a heavy blow, and the Royal Navy was belatedly aware of it. What a shame!

"Your Excellency, the sea transportation line is related to the lifeline of the British Empire and cannot be lost. The Royal Navy needs to attack immediately to wipe out the German battlecruiser formation and submarine force. Defend our sea transportation line." John Jellicoe said the admiral.

"Well, I thought so too. Since the Germans sent a battlecruiser force, I suggest dispatching our battlecruisers to find the Germans from the Atlantic Ocean and annihilate them. In addition to the battlecruiser 'Tiger' All other battlecruisers are already in service. Then, let's send all these battlecruisers out!" Churchill said.

"Yes, Your Excellency." Admiral John Jellicoe nodded.

"Your Excellency, please rest assured, I will definitely find those Germans from the Atlantic Ocean and annihilate them!" David Betty promised.

Churchill nodded, and he still recognized David Betty's ability.

"To be on the safe side, in addition to sending out the battlecruisers, let's send four more 'George V-class' battleships to meet them! Our sea transportation lines must not be lost. Therefore, even if the battleships that cannot wipe out the Germans Form a cruiser formation, and drive them back to the North Sea!" Churchill urged.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Minister." Admiral John Jellicoe and Lieutenant General David Beatty nodded repeatedly. In their view, after dispatching so many warships, it should not be a big problem to defeat the battlecruiser formation of the German Navy. The only thing to worry about

may be that the battlecruiser escaped the siege by virtue of its speed advantage and circled in the Atlantic Ocean. In that case, the loss will be relatively large.

"Do you have any suggestions for the German submarines?" Churchill asked. Although the battlecruiser is powerful, it is a battleship on the water after all. It can be seen and ships can be dispatched to deal with it. But the submarine is hiding underwater, elusive, and it is even more difficult to destroy.

"Your Excellency, there is really no good way to deal with submarines at present. However, we can send light cruisers and destroyers to patrol on fixed routes. Once we find German submarines, we will attack them immediately. After all, German submarines are not possibly staying underwater for a long time," Admiral John Jellicoe suggested.

Churchill nodded, and had no choice but to adopt this suggestion when there was no better way.

John? Jellicoe Admiral and David? Beatty Lieutenant General, quickly returned to Scapa Flow.

That afternoon, Lieutenant General David Beatty led three 'Invincible-class' battlecruisers, three 'Indefatigable-class' battlecruisers and three 'Lion-class' battlecruisers, as well as four 'George V-class' battlecruisers. A formation of battleships left Scapa Flow.

After the formation entered the Atlantic Ocean, four "George V-class" battleships began to head south. The nine battlecruisers, in groups of three, spread out and began to search southwest.

At the same time, a large number of light cruisers and destroyers were also dispatched. On the one hand, it is to search for the traces of the battlecruisers of the German Navy. On the other hand, it is to protect the

route, attack the submarines of the German Navy, and ensure the safety of the sea transportation line.

Under the threat of the German Navy's battlecruiser formation and submarine force, the British Royal Navy can be said to have exhausted its main force. Except for the main battleship, the rest of the battleships were dispatched a lot. It can be seen how much of a threat the German navy's breaking war has posed to Britain. In order to protect the sea transportation line, the British Navy had to encircle and suppress the battlecruiser formation and submarine force of the German Navy.

Chapter 188: Encounter

HMS 'Lion' battlecruiser is the first ship of the British Royal Navy's 'Lion-class' battlecruiser. Before the battlecruiser "Tiger" entered service, it was definitely the most powerful battlecruiser in the British Navy.

Actually, the 'Tiger' battlecruiser was originally the fourth ship of the 'Lion-class' battlecruiser. But because many improvements have been made, it is divided into a separate level.

On the bridge of the battlecruiser 'Lion', Lieutenant General David Beatty stood in front of the window, watching the afterglow of the setting sun sprinkled over the sea.

"It's really a beautiful scenery, but it's a pity that such a beautiful scenery was destroyed by the Germans!" Lieutenant General David Beatty shook his head.

"Yes, General. If there were no hateful Germans, everything would be great!" A colonel officer standing beside Lieutenant General David Beatty nodded. He was the ship of the battlecruiser 'Lion'. Colonel Kevin.

"The damned Germans are trying to challenge the British Empire's sea power. Then, we have to make them pay the price and let them know that any

attempt to challenge the British Empire will be crushed!" David Betty Zhong Will speak confidently.

David? Betty Lieutenant General's self-confidence is not without sources. All of this is based on the strength of the British Empire and the centuries-old control of the Royal Navy over sea power. Until now, Lieutenant General David Beatty still stubbornly believes that the Royal Navy is the most powerful.

'Lion-class' battlecruiser, with a displacement of 31,000 tons, equipped with four twin 343mm main guns, and a maximum speed of 28 knots. Judging from the data alone, this is undoubtedly an extremely powerful warship. At least the firepower and speed are very good. Of course, this is also in line with the British Navy's consistent warship construction thinking, which emphasizes firepower and speed and despises defense.

Even the "Lion-class" battlecruisers have improved to a certain extent in this respect compared to the previous two-class battlecruisers. However, it still cannot be compared with the German Navy. The armor thickness of the "Lion-class" battlecruiser's turret front, waterline and conning tower is only 229 mm. Not to mention the 305mm or larger caliber main gun, even the 280mm main gun can penetrate it. In front of the battlecruisers of the German Navy, such thin armor is completely indistinguishable from paper.

"Let the 'Royal Princess' and the 'Queen Mary' spread out, and we are separated by one to two hours of voyage. The Atlantic Ocean is too vast, and it is not so easy to catch the Germans." Dai Lieutenant General Wei Beatty ordered.

"Yes, General." Colonel Kevin nodded.

After receiving the order, the battlecruiser 'Princess Royal' and the battlecruiser 'Queen Mary' began to turn, adjusting the distance from the

battlecruiser 'Lion'. Under the **** of some light cruisers and destroyers, the search for the German Navy's battlecruiser formation began in the Atlantic.

On the day of August 6, perhaps because the British government had warned those merchant ships sailing in the Atlantic Ocean, the results of the German Navy's breaking fleet were not great, only sinking 23 merchant ships. But even so, the loss of so many merchant ships has already caused the British a lot of headaches.

On August 7, the hunting of the German Navy's breaking fleet continued. Six battlecruisers and thirty submarines continued to hunt and kill British merchant ships in the Atlantic Ocean. However, British merchant ships have become more cautious, making their results further decline.

On the sea two hundred kilometers northwest of the island of Ireland, the battlecruiser "Moltke" is sailing southeast.

"The general, the light cruiser and the destroyer sent a telegram, they have been searched, and there are no targets nearby." A staff officer reported to Lieutenant General Spee.

"Damn, where did the British merchant ships go? It's getting harder and harder to find now." Lieutenant General Spee couldn't help but cursed.

"General, we have sunk so many merchant ships of the British. They must have taken precautions. It is impossible for them to be easily caught by us without any precautions like before." An officer said.

Lieutenant General Spee nodded: "After half an hour, turn to the east and get closer to the British territorial waters. I think there will be discoveries. If the British are really scared by us and cut off overseas trade, that is also a victory!"

With fewer and fewer victories, Lieutenant General Spee made a risky decision.

"Yes, General. However, if it is close to the British territorial waters, it may be more dangerous. The British will not watch us attack their sea transportation lines and remain indifferent. They must have sent a fleet to chase us."

"It depends on the situation. If we find a British warship and we can eat it, we will eat it in one bite. If we can't eat it, we will run away!" Lieutenant General Spee said indifferently.

"Send a telegram to the Goeben and Seydlitz to shorten the distance between us. Once we encounter the British fleet, I'm afraid they will have to come to pick us up!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

"Yes, General."

Under the order of Lieutenant General Spee, the battlecruiser "Moltke" adjusted its course and sailed to the British coast.

I have to admit that Lieutenant General Spee's judgment was correct. Two hours later, they discovered a British merchant ship and sank it. However, before the sinking, the merchant ship had sent a telegram.

Lieutenant General David Betty, who got the news, was overjoyed.

"Go south at full speed, and the German battlecruisers will definitely be caught. Order the 'Royal Princess' and the 'Queen Mary' to follow us." Lieutenant General David Beatty issued an order.

For the sake of insurance, he planned to use three "Lion-class" battlecruisers to deal with one battlecruiser of the German Navy. In this case, the chances of winning will be greater.

The battlecruiser 'Moltke' knew nothing about it.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the battlecruiser "Moltke" once again captured a British merchant ship, sank the merchant ship, and prepared to

turn to sail south. However, at this time, in the sky to the north, thick dark clouds appeared.

"Report, a British warship is found in the north!"

"British warships? How many?" Lieutenant General Spee asked.

"One ship!"

"Continue to observe, whether it is a British battleship or a battlecruiser!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered. If it was a battleship that was being dealt with, then the battlecruiser 'Moltke' would have to retreat. Even if the defense of the British battleships is not very strong, it is always not cost-effective to use battlecruisers to fight battleships. What's more, the task of the battlecruisers of the German Navy is to destroy the British sea transportation lines. If it is a battlecruiser of the British Navy, it can fight a battle. After all, the defense of the British battlecruisers is as thin as paper. The battlecruisers of the German Navy will have a great advantage.

Chapter 189: Showdown

"General, it has been confirmed that it is a British battlecruiser, and it should be the latest "Lion-class" battlecruiser." The staff officer reported to Lieutenant General Spee.

"Lion-class battlecruiser? Order the battleship, turn around, and head towards the British battlecruiser. Let's see whose battlecruiser is stronger!" Lieutenant General Spee immediately issued an order.

Although, the full load displacement of the "Lion-class" battlecruiser is 2,000 tons larger than that of the "Moltke-class" battlecruiser. However, the "Lion-class" battlecruiser did not use this displacement to strengthen the defense, but to install more boilers to increase the speed of the battleship. This brings the maximum speed of the "Lion-class" battlecruiser to 28 knots, while the maximum speed of the "Moltke-class" battlecruiser is only 27 knots.

"Order all units, prepare for battle! At the same time, let the 'Goben' and 'Sedlitz' speed up and approach us. It would be great if we can kill a British battlecruiser Already!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

Although they sank many British merchant ships during this operation. But sinking a merchant ship does not give them the satisfaction of sinking a warship. Lieutenant General Spee is confident that as long as luck is not too bad, he will be able to defeat the British Navy's "Lion-class" battlecruiser.

On the other side, Lieutenant General David Beatty was yelling on the battlecruiser 'Lion'.

"Damn the Germans, I finally caught them inside. Order the warships to advance at full speed, and don't let the Germans escape!" Lieutenant General David Beatty ordered,

"Send a telegram to the 'Royal Princess' and the 'Queen Mary' to speed up and catch up. This time, we must sink the German battleship."

"Yes, General. However, the Germans did not flee. They adjusted their course and came towards us." A staff officer said.

"What? The Germans not only didn't run away, but also fought with us?" David Betty was taken aback, as if he didn't expect such a result. But isn't that what he wants?

"Very good, very good. Since the Germans want to die, let them be fulfilled!" Lieutenant General David Betty looked confident in his victory.

In his view, the combat power of the British Navy is definitely above that of the German Navy. Even if the performance of the warships of the two sides is not much different, the quality of the sailors of both sides is definitely superior to that of the British Navy. The Royal Navy has dominated the world for hundreds of years, and it is definitely not for nothing.

The two battlecruisers began to approach at high speed, and the distance was getting closer and closer.

When the distance between the two sides was still fifteen kilometers away, Lieutenant General Spee and Lieutenant General David Beatty both gave orders to turn around. The two sides gradually formed a parallel line, heading northwest.

"The German shipbuilding level is indeed very strong. It took hundreds of years for the Royal Navy of the British Empire to develop to the present, but it only took the Germans a few decades to catch up. If they are allowed to do so, it may really pose a deadly threat to the Royal Navy! It is wisest to wipe out the German Navy and smash their ambitions while the Royal Navy is still in the upper hand." David Lieutenant General Betty put down the binoculars in his hand and said.

Even though Vice Admiral David Beatty has the inherent arrogance of the British Royal Navy generals, he has to admit that the warships of the German Navy are very good. Although the hull looks a bit flat, not as slender and aesthetically pleasing as the warships of the Royal Navy, overall, it is still very good.

"Ready to fire and let the Germans know how powerful we are!" Lieutenant General David Beatty issued an order.

At this moment, the distance between the two sides is about 13,000 meters.

The four double-mounted 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser "Lion" with 45 times the caliber have already aimed at the battlecruiser "Moltke" in the distance. Similarly, the three triple-mounted 50-caliber 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser "Moltke" also took off their gun coats and are ready for battle.

For a long time, in order to conceal their own parameters, the capital ships of the German Navy have been wearing gun jackets during daily training. Only when they ensure that there are no spy ships from other countries nearby will they take off the gun jackets and start firing live ammunition. Therefore, the British Navy has always been unclear about the caliber of the naval guns of the capital ships of the German Navy. It can only be guessed based on some information obtained.

"Damn the Germans, the intelligence work is very good. The gang of **** in the intelligence department thought that the capital ships of the German Navy were equipped with 305mm main guns. This is simply bullshit! That is clearly 343mm main gun." Lieutenant General David Betty's expression turned a little ugly. For the first time, he felt a little shaken in his heart when he thought about defeating a warship of the same level as the German Navy.

It's just that, at this point, it's impossible to back down. Lieutenant General David Beatty had no choice but to bite the bullet and order the whole ship to fight with all its might.

"Attack! May God bless the British Empire!"

"God bless the British Empire!"

"Boom! Boom!"

The battlecruiser 'Lion' started test firing, and only four of the four twin-mounted 45-caliber 343mm main guns fired. Four artillery shells weighing hundreds of kilograms roared and slammed into the battlecruiser 'Moltke' more than ten kilometers away under the action of huge kinetic energy.

However, even if the sailors of the Royal Navy are well-trained, they still cannot achieve a hit at such a long distance when the sighting equipment is limited by technology. The closest point of impact was two hundred meters away.

Of course, such a result is already very good.

"Fight back!" Lieutenant General Spei immediately gave the order to fight back. The three triple-mounted 50-caliber 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser "Moltke" started firing.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Heavy shells roared towards the battlecruiser 'Lion'. The shells smashed into the sea, splashing water jets into the sky.

For a while, the sound of artillery rumbled on the sea, as if it was thunder.

The battlecruiser 'Moltke' and the battlecruiser 'Lion' collided on the sea like knights in heavy armor. The shells whistling and flying out of the muzzle were the spears in the hands of the knights.

The duel of battleships is undoubtedly exciting. Although this kind of duel of large ships and cannons cannot be compared with the duel of aircraft carriers of later generations. But it is this kind of tactics of hand-to-hand combat that is more able to show the true qualities of a man.

Chapter 190: suppress

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

At 2:25 in the afternoon, during this round of test firing of the battlecruiser "Moltke", a 343mm artillery shell exploded on the sea surface on the right side of the battlecruiser "Lion", forming a straddle first.

In an instant, everyone on the battlecruiser 'Lion' was dead silent. These proud Royal Navy officers and soldiers did not seem to expect that the German Navy would form a straddle shot before them. You know, once a straddle is formed, it means that the opponent's warship has been covered in one's own shooting. Next, you can focus on shooting. As for when to hit the opponent's battleship, it depends on luck.

"Bastard!" Lieutenant General David Betty could not help but curse secretly.

"Order the artillery positions and continue to fire. The Germans took the lead in forming a straddle, which doesn't mean anything at all. As long as we are not sunk, we still have a chance." Lieutenant General David Beatty ordered.

Obviously, their morale has been hit to a certain extent.

"Send a telegram to the 'Princess Royal' and the 'Queen Mary' to tell them to come as soon as possible." Lieutenant General David Beatty ordered. He also felt that something was wrong. The German navy seems to be more ferocious than he imagined! If this continues, they may be the ones who will be defeated. Once defeated, not only will the Royal Navy lose a warship, but at the same time, his own career will be greatly affected. Lieutenant General David Beatty, I don't want that to happen.

"Yes, General." The staff officer immediately went to send a telegram.

On the other side, the German sailors on the battlecruiser "Moltke" have already begun to cheer. The formation of a straddle shot means that they are one step closer to hitting the target. Of course, this also shows that they are one step closer to winning.

"Order all artillery positions, concentrate firepower, and shoot at full speed. Try to sink the British battlecruiser within half an hour, and end the battle!" Lieutenant General Spee excitedly issued an order. If a battlecruiser of the British Navy can be sunk at the beginning of the war, it will be a huge victory for the German Navy.

"Yes, General."

The three triple-mounted 50-caliber 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser "Moltke" immediately began to bombard fiercely. Each round of salvo was

extremely violent, nine heavy armor-piercing shells slammed into the battlecruiser 'Lion' fiercely. These armor-piercing projectiles are very powerful, and as long as one hits, it is enough for the battlecruiser 'Lion' to drink a pot.

The situation on the battlefield suddenly became very favorable for the battlecruiser 'Moltke', and the battlecruiser 'Lion' seemed to be suppressed.

However, even so, the shelling of the battlecruiser "Lion" continued. The quality of the officers and soldiers of the Royal Navy is indeed the best in the world.

Even the German Navy cannot compare with it. The main reason why the battlecruiser 'Moltke' was able to gain an advantage in battle was better hardware. In addition to superior defense and firepower to the battlecruiser "Lion", the battleship "Moltke" is also better than the battlecruiser "Lion" in other aspects such as sighting equipment and ranging equipment.

When Qin Tian designed the capital ship of the German Navy, he used a word specifically, that is, the fire control system. Although there is no electronic computer in this era, it is still possible to form a crude primary fire control system by improving and integrating existing ranging and targeting equipment. Although such a fire control system is far from being comparable to those of later generations, it is undoubtedly far ahead of this era. Otherwise, it would be too difficult to gain an advantage when the quality of officers and soldiers is not as good as that of the Royal Navy.

Judging from the performance on the battlefield, the German Navy's fire control system is still very effective.

At 2:30, the battlecruiser "Lion" of the British Navy finally formed a straddle shot. The quality of the Royal Navy is indeed not covered.

"Long live! The Royal Navy is the strongest!" Lieutenant General David Betty couldn't help cheering.

The other sailors also started cheering. For a moment, the previous negative emotions seemed to disappear all at once.

"Fire and shoot to sink the German battleship!" Lieutenant General David Beatty ordered.

The four double-mounted 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser 'Lion' started salvoing. 8 main guns, struggling to smash the shells one by one towards the battlecruiser 'Moltke'. This also made this battle even more tragic.

"Boom! Boom!"

Three minutes later, the British Navy seemed to have better luck. During this round of salvo, a 343mm artillery shell hit the starboard side of the battlecruiser "Moltke". A 150mm secondary gun was directly blown away, and several navy sailors were torn to pieces. At the same time, the explosion also caused a raging fire.

However, for a huge warship with a displacement of nearly 30,000 tons, such an injury is nothing at all.

The damage control personnel on the battlecruiser 'Moltke' immediately carried out damage control. The three main turrets are also fighting back.

"Good job! Keep up the good work and sink the German battleship." Lieutenant General David Beatty smiled. It seemed that he had already seen the goddess of victory lifted her skirt towards him.

However, Lieutenant General David Betty seemed to be happy a little too early. Two minutes later, he couldn't smile anymore, and the smile on his face disappeared completely, replaced by frost all over his face.

The battlecruiser "Moltke" also scored a hit in the subsequent round of salvo. A 343mm main gun hit the No. 4 main turret on the rear deck.

The thin 229 mm thick armor looks so fragile in front of the heavy 343 mm shells. It was as if a sharp knife had cut the tofu, and it was easily cut.

"Boom!"

The shell exploded, and the entire No. 4 turret was blown away. Fortunately, the fire door was closed at that moment, and there were no shells or bullets in the gun bore, which did not cause a martyrdom explosion. Otherwise, this shell alone would be enough to make the battlecruiser 'Lion' pay a heavy price.

Of course, even now, the situation of the battlecruiser 'Lion' is not very good. Originally, the battlecruiser 'Lion' lacked one main gun compared to the battlecruiser 'Moltke'. After losing a main turret, there are only six main guns left, which are only equivalent to two-thirds of the battlecruiser "Moltke". In the next battle, the situation will be even more unfavorable for the battlecruiser 'Lion'.