

Jagged 191

Chapter 191: 1v2

"General, the No. 4 turret was completely destroyed. Fortunately, no greater damage was caused. However, we only have six main guns left!" The staff officer reported to Lieutenant General David Beatty.

"Damn it!" Lieutenant General David Betty cursed.

The current situation is very unfavorable to the battlecruiser 'Lion', which also shows that they have been suppressed in this battle. It is not that the quality of British naval officers and soldiers is not as good as that of the German navy, so this undoubtedly shows that the warships of the British navy are not as good as the Germans.

"How could the warships of the Germans be better than those of the Royal Navy? This is not scientific at all!" Lieutenant General David Betty roared in his heart.

For a long time, the British Navy has been leading the development trend of the world navy. This can be seen from the fact that the British Navy took the lead in building dreadnoughts. This also makes the generals of the British Navy think that their warships are the best and the most powerful. However, now that the battlecruiser "Lion" has been suppressed by warships of the same level of the German Navy, it is naturally difficult for them to believe it.

"Well done, boys! Keep up the good work, hit me hard, and sink the British warship!" Lieutenant General Spey's face was full of smiles. After destroying a main turret of the battlecruiser 'Lion', they had an even greater advantage in this battle.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The three triple-mounted 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser 'Moltke' continued to fire, constantly smashing shells at the battlecruiser 'Lion'. The shells fell around the battlecruiser 'Lion', splashing jets of water into the sky.

At the same time, although the battlecruiser 'Lion' has only three dual-mounted 343mm main guns left, they are still desperately launching a counterattack. Even if they are at a disadvantage now, the Royal Navy's indomitable combat style enables them to persevere even in adversity.

"We haven't lost yet, we're just temporarily at a disadvantage. As long as we're lucky enough to score hits in the next battle and hit the Germans hard, we'll be able to come back!" Lieutenant General David Betty secretly thought .

At the same time, Lieutenant General David Beatty also ordered the signal corps to continue sending telegrams to the Royal Princess and Queen Mary, telling them to come for reinforcements. He knew that with the battlecruiser "Lion" alone, it would be very difficult to defeat the battlecruiser "Moltke" of the German Navy, let alone sink it. Only by gathering more warships can it be possible to achieve this strategic goal.

"Boom!"

At 2:44 in the afternoon, the battlecruiser "Moltke" scored another hit in this round of salvo. A 343mm artillery shell hit the front deck of the battlecruiser 'Lion'. The weak front deck armor was directly pierced, and the shell exploded inside the battleship, igniting a raging fire.

The heroic British navy sailors, wearing gas masks, rushed to the fire, trying to put out the fire in the shortest possible time. Otherwise, if the fire is allowed to burn, it will only cause more damage to the battleship. It's just that the fire produced after the shell exploded is often highly poisonous, and even wearing a gas mask cannot ensure that no poisonous smoke is inhaled. Therefore, it is often difficult for the British sailors who participated in the fire

fighting to come out alive after rushing into the fire. But even so, these British sailors were fearless and tried their best to put out the fire.

"****! Why are the Germans so accurate? Even more accurate than ours? Could it be that the quality of German naval officers and soldiers has surpassed that of the British Empire? How is this possible?" Such a result made David ? Lieutenant General Betty is unacceptable.

"Fight back, keep fighting back! Give those **** Germans some color!"

Being hit one after another, the morale of the British naval officers and soldiers on the battlecruiser "Lion" was greatly affected. However, even so, they were persistent and did not give up because of this.

"What about the 'Princess Royal' and the 'Queen Mary'? When will they arrive?" Lieutenant General David Betty asked. Now he is even more eager for reinforcements to arrive in time.

"General, they are on their way." Colonel Kevin replied.

Because the combat effectiveness of the German Navy's battlecruisers was underestimated, the battlecruiser "Lion" is now in a very dangerous situation. If the reinforcements can't arrive in time, the battlecruiser 'Lion', not to mention defeating the battlecruiser 'Moltke', even retreating completely, may become a big problem.

"God! I hope the 'Princess Royal' and the 'Queen Mary' will arrive in time!" Lieutenant General David Betty prayed secretly to God. At this time, even he, the commander, felt a little hopeless in his heart.

On the other side, the German sailors on the battlecruiser "Moltke" became more and more brave as they fought. After successive hits, their morale was boosted even more, and they saw the hope of victory.

"Boys, work harder, the glory of sinking the first British battleship will soon belong to us! Now, we must not let this glory that is about to be ours slip away like this!" Lieutenant General Spee face smile.

If they can sink a capital ship of the British Navy in this battle, then this will become the first capital ship of the British Navy to be sunk in this war. It will be a great honor.

The shelling of the battlecruiser 'Moltke' has become more violent. Shells kept falling on the battlecruiser 'Lion', making the battlecruiser 'Lion' dangerous, as if it might be hit again at any time.

"General, the battlecruiser 'Goeben' is calling. They found two battlecruisers of the British Navy coming here. There are still 20 minutes at most before they can enter the battlefield." A staff officer told Lieutenant General Spee reported.

Lieutenant Admiral Spee couldn't help but frowned. The British Navy had two more battlecruisers, which was not good news for them. If it is not done well, the cooked Masako will fly.

"Order the 'Goben' to entangle one of the British battlecruisers and send another one over. Even with one enemy and two, we may not be afraid of the British. Let the artillery positions hurry up, before the British Before our reinforcements arrive, sink or severely damage the British battlecruiser in front of you!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

"Yes, General."

Ten minutes later, the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' of the British Navy arrived on the battlefield. As for the battlecruiser "Queen Mary", it was dragged by the battlecruiser "Goburn". But even so, the battlecruiser "Moltke" had to fight two against one.

Chapter 192: die or run

Before the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' arrived on the battlefield, the battlecruiser 'Lion' took another shot. However, with luck, it is not fatal.

Seeing the arrival of the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess', Lieutenant General David Betty's heart has finally returned to his stomach. If the Royal Princess doesn't arrive in time, they will be sunk sooner or later. After all, luck cannot be so good all the time. Once hit, it may be sunk directly.

"Let the 'Royal Princess' join us in besieging the Germans. This time, we must sink the Germans!" Lieutenant General David Beatty gritted his teeth and gave the order. The battlecruiser 'Lion' was forced into a panic in the previous battle and was almost sunk. For him, this is a great shame and humiliation.

"Yes, General." Colonel Kevin personally issued the order.

The arrival of the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' instantly changed the situation on the battlefield. With the strength of the battlecruiser 'Moltke', there is no problem at all to suppress the British battlecruiser 'Lion'. However, with the addition of the 'Royal Princess', the situation is different. No matter how you say it, it is hard to beat four hands with two fists.

"Order all artillery positions, regardless of the British reinforcements, concentrate firepower, and sink the battlecruiser 'Lion'." Lieutenant General Spee issued an order. Under such circumstances, they can regain the initiative only by sinking a battlecruiser of the British Navy first.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The three 50-caliber 343mm main guns of the battlecruiser "Moltke" continued to fire violently. The rate of fire is actually a little higher than before. This made the shells falling on the battlecruiser "Lion" more intensive.

Lieutenant General David Beatty also guessed Lieutenant General Spee's plan. However, he is not afraid. After all, it is not so easy to sink a huge battlecruiser. Now they have reversed the situation. When the 'Royal Princess' joins in, victory will be within easy reach.

"Open fire and attack the German warship!" The captain of the battlecruiser "Royal Princess" gave an order. Seeing the embarrassment of the battlecruiser 'Lion' being beaten, the British naval officers and soldiers of the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' also put away their contempt.

The battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' and the battlecruiser 'Lion' are ships of the same class, and all performance indicators are the same as those of the battlecruiser 'Lion'. If these two battlecruisers confronted the battlecruiser 'Moltke' one-on-one, they would definitely not be opponents. However, the combination of the two ships immediately put the battlecruiser 'Moltke' at a disadvantage.

"Boom! Boom!"

Shells continued to explode around the battlecruiser 'Moltke', splashing jets of water into the sky. Sea water fell from the sky, drenching the hull of the battlecruiser 'Moltke'.

"Boom!"

A violent explosion sounded, and the battlecruiser 'Moltke' was shaken all over. Many sailors on the battleship fell because they did not stand firm. Even Lieutenant General Spei, who was directing the battle in the command tower, couldn't help but fell a shit.

"Report the loss!" Getting up from the deck, Lieutenant General Spei asked immediately regardless of his embarrassment. He knew that the shock just now must have been caused by the battleship being hit. He was even more praying to God in his heart, praying not to be hit. Otherwise, it's all over.

"General, the No. 1 main turret was hit. However, the British shells did not penetrate our turret armor and exploded outside the turret. But the gunners inside the turret were all shocked to death."

Lieutenant General Spei couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief when he heard this. Although, a group of gunners were killed, which is certainly a relatively large loss. But it's better than the turret armor being penetrated and the entire turret being destroyed! Even, if a martyrdom explosion is caused, the entire battlecruiser will be destroyed.

"Let the backup gunners immediately enter the turret to fight, and restore the design as quickly as possible!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

"Long live! Long live the British Empire! Long live the Royal Navy!"

When the No. 1 main turret of the battlecruiser "Moltke" was hit, the British sailors on the battlecruiser "Lion" and the battlecruiser "Royal Princess" couldn't help cheering. They have been suppressed for too long, and now they finally see a turning point.

However, when the gunpowder smoke cleared and the No. 1 main turret of the intact battlecruiser "Moltke" was exposed, they were all dumbfounded.

"Son of a bitch, what's going on here? Is the German defense so tough?" Lieutenant General David Betty couldn't help cursing. Originally, he thought that the battlecruiser 'Moltke' could be severely damaged. However, now it seems that he is simply thinking too much.

At the same time, Lieutenant General David Beatty also felt a little uneasy. The defense of the German Navy's battlecruisers was so strong, at least much stronger than that of the British Navy. Doesn't that show that the defenses of the battleships of the German Navy are also stronger? In this case, in the decisive battle in the future, the British Navy may suffer a disadvantage. After all, you can't penetrate the enemy's defense, but the

enemy can easily penetrate your own defense. This is simply being beaten passively!

At 3:04, bad luck struck. The battlecruiser "Moltke" fired a crucial shot in this round of salvo.

A 343mm artillery shell hit the port side of the battlecruiser 'Lion'. The shell easily penetrated the waterline armor, which was only 229 mm thick, and blasted a large hole in it.

The seawater poured into the battleship frantically, causing the battleship to gradually tilt.

Even if the sailors of the battlecruiser "Lion" closed the watertight door immediately, they still couldn't prevent the battlecruiser "Lion" from further tilting and sinking.

After confirming that the battlecruiser 'Lion' was doomed to be sunk, Lieutenant General David Beatty immediately rushed to the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' in a transport boat and continued to command the battle.

However, when the battlecruiser 'Lion' was unable to return to the sky, and the battlecruiser 'Moltke' of the German Navy fiercely chased up, Lieutenant General David Beatty became timid and gave an order to retreat . He was afraid that if the battle continued, even the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' would follow in the footsteps of the battlecruiser 'Lion'.

The battlecruiser 'Queen Mary', which was entangled with the battlecruiser 'Goeben', also received an order to retreat and accelerated its withdrawal from the battlefield.

Chapter 193: shocked british

"General, the British have escaped, are we going to chase them?" A staff officer asked on the battlecruiser 'Moltke'.

Lieutenant General Spee shook his head: "Forget it, let them go! If you chase them, you may fall into the trap of the British. We have already won the battle and sank a British capital ship. This is already Great victory!"

Now we are fighting in British waters, so we have to be extremely cautious. They finally won the victory. If they put themselves in crisis because of taking risks, it would not be worthwhile.

"Report to the general, the 'Goeben' called, and the battlecruiser of the British Navy that they were entangled with also withdrew. They asked if they wanted to pursue it."

"Give power to the 'Goben' so that they can't pursue it and continue to perform the mission of breaking diplomatic relations."

"Yes, General!"

For the German Navy's break-off fleet, the most important task at this stage is still break-off operations. As for sinking the capital ship of the British Navy, that was just incidental. If you have the opportunity and the conditions are ripe, you can fight that kind of battle, but if you want to shift the focus to this aspect, the loss outweighs the gain. After all, if there is a decisive battle with the British Navy, now is not the time, and it is not the turn of these battlecruisers. Those rough-skinned and thick-skinned battleships left in the country are the main force in the decisive battle with the British Navy.

The battlecruiser "Moltke", which sank the battlecruiser "Lion", did not stay in this sea area too much, but left this sea area and continued to search for British merchant ships.

But the sinking of the battlecruiser "Lion" caused an uproar in the British Navy. In particular, the battlecruiser "Lion" was sunk in a two-on-one situation. Doesn't that mean that even two battlecruisers of the British Navy are not as good as one of the German Navy? If this is the case even for battleships,

even if the British navy has an advantage in the number of capital ships, it may not be able to take advantage of future naval battles. If it is not done well, it will be ugly to lose.

After learning that the battlecruiser "Lion" was sunk, Churchill, the Minister of the Navy, was furious and smashed all the antique vases in the office to pieces.

"Order the battlecruisers and battleships sent out to encircle and suppress the Germans, all withdraw!" Churchill immediately issued an order.

Although, this will force their encirclement and suppression plan to stop, and it will also make the German Navy's breaking fleet attack the British sea transportation line more recklessly, causing further losses to the United Kingdom. However, Churchill did not dare to take any more risks until he learned the real situation of the naval battle and made a judgment. If any more warships are sunk, it will further weaken the strength of the Royal Navy. This will be very detrimental to the British Navy in the following battles.

"Also, let Generals Jellicoe and Betty come to see me immediately!" Churchill said.

That night, Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty arrived in London, and they all arrived directly by seaplane. Although, aircraft such as aircraft are not yet mature at this stage, and the risk factor is very high. But in order to hurry, the two had no choice. Fortunately, their luck was relatively good, and they all arrived in London safely.

After entering Churchill's office, both Admiral Jellicoe and Lieutenant General Betty said nothing, especially Lieutenant General Betty, who was even more ashamed. Obviously, he personally commanded the battlecruiser 'Lion', but was still defeated in the end, which made him not know how to face Churchill.

You know, the battlecruiser 'Lion' is definitely the most powerful battlecruiser in the British Navy. Although the "Queen Mary" battleship can be regarded as an improved version of the "Lion-class" battleship, the changes are not major, and the increase in combat power is not too much, so it is still counted as a "Lion-class" battlecruiser. The "Tiger" battlecruiser is a major modification of the "Lion-class" battlecruiser, and its combat effectiveness has also been greatly improved. However, the battlecruiser "Tiger" was not able to serve.

Lieutenant General Betty believes that even if the battleship "Tiger" is in service, and it faces the battlecruisers of the German Navy, I am afraid that it will still only be defeated.

"Sit down, generals!" Churchill said, suppressing the anger in his heart.

The secretary left immediately after serving the coffee. He also knew that Churchill had a bad temper now. If you stay here, I'm afraid it will bring disaster to the fish in the pond.

"Generals? Why was the battlecruiser 'Lion' sunk? That is our most powerful battlecruiser! Especially since we sent almost twice as many battleships as the Germans to pursue it. If the outside world If you know, this is a great blow to the morale of the Royal Navy and the British Empire. The Germans are launching an offensive in Western Europe, and the Belgians are struggling to support them. The French are also doing their best to prepare for battle. Our army is planning to send The expeditionary force went to fight on the European continent. The Royal Navy has always been regarded as the pride of the British Empire, the most powerful navy in the world, and a major guarantee for us to defeat the Germans. But now, the Royal Navy encountered in the first battle A disastrous defeat, a powerful battlecruiser was sunk directly, how can I explain to the Prime Minister, how to explain to

the king, how to explain to all the people?" Churchill was furious, and the expression on his face even changed. It's getting a little hideous.

Although, the Royal Navy has a large number of battlecruisers, and there are more battleships, the loss of a battlecruiser is not a big deal, far from being seriously injured or injured.

It's just that the British Navy and even the British cabinet never thought that the powerful Royal Navy would fail when it first fought against the German Navy, or it would fail directly by being sunk. This will undoubtedly make the Royal Navy and even the British cabinet have a little doubt about future victories. That's why Churchill's reaction was so big.

"Your Excellency, I am sorry for the sinking of the battleship 'Lion'. I did not expect this to happen. However, I have to say that during the battle, those boys did their best. They They are all good." Lieutenant General David Betty distinguished.

"General Betty, what do you mean, the sinking of the battlecruiser 'Lion' was not due to man-made reasons, but because the enemy was too powerful?" Churchill frowned. Some are not satisfied with Lieutenant General David Beatty's explanation.

Chapter 194: Big trouble

"Your Excellency, in this afternoon's battle, the battlecruiser 'Lion' was suppressed almost from the beginning. The Germans straddled us before us, hit us first, and hit us hard first. That feeling , was completely suppressed by the Germans! Even after the arrival of the 'Royal Princess', our two powerful battlecruisers besieged the German battlecruisers, but the 'Lion' battlecruisers were still very fast. It was sunk. Of course, I do not deny that there is a certain element of luck in this. However, there is no doubt that the German warships were powerful in the past!" Lieutenant General David Beatty said.

Churchill and Admiral John Jellicoe both frowned, their faces as dark as the bottom of a pot. They knew what David Betty was like, and they knew he wouldn't say that deliberately in order to shirk his responsibility. Therefore, there is undoubtedly only one possibility. That is the battleship of the German Navy, which is really very powerful.

However, it is precisely because of this that they feel a little worried about the situation of the Royal Navy.

"Minister of the Navy, if the warships of the German Navy are really so powerful that they can defeat us with one enemy and two, then the Royal Navy may have a hard time defeating the Germans. After all, the German shipbuilding speed is very terrifying now. Although the Royal Navy has also accelerated the speed of shipbuilding, it has never been able to obtain twice the advantage of the Germans. Of course, I personally think that this possibility is unlikely to exist. After all, the development of the German navy is much later than ours. It is unlikely that they will really surpass us in such a short period of time, and lead us by so much." Admiral John Jellicoe said.

Anyone would probably think so. The British Empire has dominated the world's oceans for hundreds of years, not only because of the outstanding quality of the British Navy, but also because the British Navy has a great lead in shipbuilding. This can be seen from the fact that they took the lead in opening the era of dreadnought ships. Therefore, the generals of the Royal Navy have always believed that the Royal Navy's shipbuilding technology is the most powerful in the world. has always maintained an advantage over other countries.

Actually, that's exactly what happened. The British Navy's shipbuilding strength and technology are indeed far ahead of other countries. But what they didn't know was that Qin Tian, the biggest cheat-like existence, allowed the German Navy to surpass the Royal Navy in terms of battleship

performance in a very short period of time. After all, Germany's industrial technology is no worse than Britain's. The only thing that is bad may be their thinking about shipbuilding. But Qin Tian was different. As a traverser, he had great advantages in this respect. Under his 'guidance', the German Navy will naturally be able to overtake on curves soon.

"Minister of the Navy, during the battle, the battlecruiser 'Lion' hit the German battlecruiser's No. No loss!" David Betty continued.

"Hiss!"

Both Churchill and Admiral Jellicoe couldn't help but sucked in a breath of cold air.

"How can the German defense be so strong? Are you sure that is not a battleship?" Admiral Jellicoe asked.

Generally speaking, in order to pursue speed and firepower, warships have to compromise on defense. Battlecruisers are the ultimate in this respect. It has the firepower of a battleship and the speed of a cruiser, but its defense is not much stronger than that of an ordinary cruiser.

But the battlecruisers of the German Navy were able to withstand the shelling of the 343mm main gun, which is too amazing!

"Your Excellency, the German warship we are fighting against is very fast, and it is not much different from the 'Lion-class' battlecruiser. So, how can it be a battleship?" Lieutenant General John Beatty shook his head.

"Perhaps, it's just a coincidence. After all, when the shell hits the target, it is often bounced away because of the shooting angle." Churchill said.

"It is indeed possible. However, it is an indisputable fact that the German battlecruisers have strong defenses. If the defense is not strong, the shells will not be so easy to bounce off." Admiral Jellicoe said.

"The Germans' way of building ships is different from ours. We pursue speed and firepower, but the Germans pursue defense and survivability. Now it seems that the Germans have done a very good job in defense!" Churchill sighed tone.

"Your Excellency, it is too early to say the advantages and disadvantages of the two ideas. The war has just begun. The German Navy's warships may be very powerful. But if this can defeat the Royal Navy, That would be ridiculous. In the next battle, the Royal Navy will find a way to verify the true strength of the German Navy. Future victories must belong to the Royal Navy." Admiral Jellicoe said confidently.

Churchill also nodded, and he thought so too. Although judging from the current situation, the Royal Navy seems to be in big trouble. However, overall, the Royal Navy is still dominant.

"No, Your Excellency, Your Excellency, Commander. I am not as optimistic as you. The battle this afternoon shocked me a lot. The German Navy is far worse than we expected. Even their soldiers and us The difference is not too big. If their battleship can suppress us in terms of performance, then we may be in big trouble this time." Lieutenant General David Betty shook his head.

Churchill and Admiral John Jellicoe both frowned. In their impression, David Betty was a brave man. Did he become timid after being defeated by the Germans once? If so, that's not great. After all, Lieutenant General David Beatty's current duty is to command the battlecruiser formation of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet. If he becomes cautious, he will miss many opportunities, and it will also have a great impact on future wars.

After Lieutenant General David Betty saw the expressions of the two men, he also understood what they were worried about, and quickly explained: "Your Excellency, Your Excellency, Commander, I don't mean that I am afraid of the Germans. Yes, through this fight, I realized that the Germans are difficult to

deal with, and they are even more difficult to deal with than we expected. The Germans will surpass any previous opponents of the British Empire. If we want to defeat the Germans, I am afraid we will have to do everything Do your best!"

Chapter 195: Facing the enemy

"General Betty, I trust your professional judgment as a vice admiral. The Germans may really become the biggest enemy that the British Empire has encountered for hundreds of years. But, even so, the Royal Navy must do its best, Try to defeat them. The sea power of the British Empire must not be lost. Otherwise, you must be very clear about what this means to the empire. Therefore, we cannot lose this battle, and we cannot afford to lose!" Churchill said solemnly.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Minister!" Admiral John Jellicoe and Lieutenant General David Beatty nodded repeatedly.

Of course they know the importance of sea power to the British Empire. It can be said that the reason why the British Empire has been able to become the world's hegemon for hundreds of years is entirely because of the control of sea power. Otherwise, it would be impossible for the UK to dominate the world with its hundreds of thousands of square kilometers of territory and tens of millions of people.

"Your Excellency, since the German navy is stronger than we expected. So I suggest that we must be fully prepared before fighting the Germans. Our 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleship has not yet been completed. Although the shipyard has accelerated , but it is estimated that they will not be fully commissioned until the end of the year or even the beginning of next year. As for the "Revenge-class" battleship, according to the scheduled construction period, I am afraid that it will have to wait until the end of next year. Therefore, I hope that the cabinet can increase investment and speed up the construction

of the "Revenge-class" battleship. The speed of construction, and strive to be able to enter service early next year. In this case, we will have ten battleships equipped with 381mm main guns. When facing the German navy, we will have a greater chance of winning." John Jellicoe Admiral suggested.

Churchill nodded. With the German navy very powerful, it is undoubtedly the best way to further enhance its own strength.

"I will explain this to Your Excellency the Prime Minister. It should be possible to win the support of the cabinet. No matter what, the British Empire must be fully prepared to face such a powerful enemy this time." Churchill said.

At this time, the secretary knocked on the door and came in to report: "Your Excellency, Your Excellency the Prime Minister asked you to come over immediately."

"It should be the sinking of the battlecruiser 'Lion'. I will explain to His Excellency the Prime Minister. You should hurry back to Scapa Flow tomorrow morning. However, I hope you can find a way to deal with the Germans as soon as possible. Broke the fleet. The sea transportation lines of the British Empire must not be cut off. Otherwise, the consequences will be very serious." Churchill said with a serious face.

Britain is extremely dependent on sea transportation. Once the sea transportation line is cut off, a large amount of industrial raw materials cannot be shipped to the UK, and even food cannot be shipped in. In that case, it will not only seriously weaken Britain's war potential, but even cause national turmoil. At that time, let alone defeating Germany, even if the UK wants to continue the war, it may be very difficult. Once the support and help of Britain are lost, it is impossible to defeat the ferocious Germans only by relying on the French and Russians.

After Admiral John Jellicoe and Lieutenant General David Beatty left, Churchill immediately drove to the Prime Minister's Office in Downing Street to explain the sinking of the battlecruiser 'Lion' to Prime Minister Asquith.

When Churchill arrived, he found that the meeting room was full of people. The important ministers of the cabinet have all gathered here. Obviously, everyone is very concerned about the loss of the Navy this afternoon.

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, ministers, good evening!" After Churchill took the initiative to say hello, he went to sit down in his seat.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded: "Winston, has the navy failed to encircle and suppress the German break-through fleet?"

"Your Excellency, to be precise, it is a temporary failure." Churchill did not deny this.

"How can we do that? If the safety of our sea transportation lines cannot be guaranteed, a large amount of supplies will not be able to be transported back to the UK. At that time, there will be big problems." The Secretary of the Interior McKenna said dissatisfied.

"Yes, Winston. The sea transportation line must not be cut off. Our domestic food reserves can last up to three months. After three months, the people will be hungry. At that time, society will appear Unrest. Maybe we will all be thrown out by the angry people." Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George also said.

"Gentlemen, I do not deny that the current situation has indeed become very unfavorable to us. However, this is only temporary. The Royal Navy is trying to find a way to deal with the German challenge. Please believe in the Royal Navy, we will be defeated soon The German fleet will ensure the safety of the sea transportation line." Churchill assured.

"Winston, did the Navy lose a battlecruiser this afternoon? What's going on?" Prime Minister Asquith asked directly without going around in circles.

"Yes, Your Excellency. During the battle this afternoon, the battlecruiser 'Lion' unfortunately sank. This is indeed a sad thing. To be honest, the Royal Navy did not expect it. We are currently For the most powerful battlecruiser, it was so easy to be sunk by the Germans. And the Germans sank our battlecruiser, which is almost the same tonnage and combat power as ours. Moreover, this is still in the second In the event of a one-on-one battle, the battlecruiser 'Lion' was sunk. In order to avoid greater losses, the 'Royal Princess' was evacuated directly." Churchill narrated to everyone with a sad face.

"What? How could it be like this?"

"God! How can the German warships be so powerful. In the situation of two against one, isn't our ship of the same level completely invincible to the Germans?"

"This battle seems to be very bad for us! Can the Royal Navy really defeat the Germans?"

A group of senior cabinet members all exclaimed. Although they learned about the sinking of the battlecruiser 'Lion', they didn't know the exact process. Hearing what Churchill said now, I immediately felt extremely bad.

"Winston, can't the Royal Navy deal with the Germans?" Prime Minister Asquith frowned tightly. This is undoubtedly a great blow to him.

"Your Excellency, the Royal Navy is trying to find a way. However, we need more support. The Royal Navy hopes that both the 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships and the 'Revenge-class' battleships will be able to enter service early next year. In this way, we will have more Great chance of winning. The Germans will not give us too long." Churchill said.

In the face of a strong enemy, the British cabinet passed the navy's request without any doubts. Add a large budget so that the two powerful battleships can be put into service as soon as possible.

Chapter 196: bad russian

August 9th, Königsberg in East Prussia.

It has been several days since Qin Tian arrived here, and the entire 8th Army of the German Imperial Army has been mobilized. Ten infantry divisions plus one armored division are already full. The total force reached more than 180,000 people.

The current 8th Army can be described as strong and powerful. Not only has the firepower of the troops been strengthened, it is equivalent to being armed to the teeth. Also formed the world's first armored division. Qin Tian sometimes thinks, isn't this really bullying the Russians? After all, the Russians have no advantage at all except for their military strength. Especially in terms of weapons and equipment, the two sides are one in the sky and the other in the ground.

The Russian government did not expect the war to break out so soon, so they were not prepared at all. So much so that their mobilization efficiency is low, and even the weapons of the troops cannot be guaranteed. Many Russian soldiers had to share a rifle. Only after the comrades-in-arms are killed can they pick up the rifle and continue fighting.

This is undoubtedly very unfair to Russian soldiers. Because of the government's inaction, they can only meet powerful enemies unarmed. What is the difference between this style of play and letting them die?

Of course, from the standpoint of the German Empire, Qin Tian naturally wished that the Russian army would be as weak as possible. Only in this way can the German Empire be able to defeat Russia at the least cost and win a standing victory.

The news that the battlecruiser "Moltke" of the German Navy sank the battlecruiser "Lion" of the British Navy and scared away the battlecruiser "Royal Princess" has already been sent back to China. . Marshal Earl Tirpitz even sent a special telegram to Qin Tian, thanking him for his support of the Imperial Navy. Without Qin Tian, how could the Imperial Navy have grown so powerful in such a short period of time, let alone sinking the British battlecruiser 'Lion'.

After receiving the telegram, Qin Tian finally breathed a sigh of relief. The German navy was able to gain the upper hand at the beginning of the war, which undoubtedly shows that his efforts over the years have not been in vain! "Your Highness, the navy can be regarded as elated. Over the years, the navy has been suppressed by the Germans. They have always been suffocated. Now, the strength of the imperial navy is well known." The deputy of the 8th Army Commander Admiral Hindenburg said with a smile.

Although Qin Tian is the nominal commander of the 8th Army, in fact, General Hindenburg has always been in charge of the daily affairs of the 8th Army. And Hindenburg is also worthy of Qin Tian's trust in him, and he managed the 8th Army in an orderly manner. The reorganization and training of the troops is also in place. It can be said that the current Eighth Army is more than twice as powerful as when Qin Tian took over.

"The war has already begun, and it will soon be time for our 8th Army to become famous all over the world." Major General Ludendorff, chief of staff of the 8th Army, looked confident. He is very confident in the combat effectiveness of the current Eighth Army. If the 8th Army can stop the Russian attack on the Eastern Front with its own strength, or even defeat the Russians in one fell swoop, it will definitely give the 8th Army a high reputation. At that time, these generals will all benefit greatly from it. Ludendorff also wanted to get an exceptional promotion again, from major general to lieutenant general!

After all, generally speaking, the chiefs of staff of the German Army's corps are all lieutenant generals.

"Haha, I also believe that this battle will be our 8th Legion's battle of fame. The 8th Legion will let the whole world see our great strength!" Qin Tian laughed.

"Your Highness, the Russian people we invited are here." The head guard reported to Qin Tian.

"Well, let them come in." Qin Tian nodded.

"General Hindenburg, General Ludendorff, our Russian friends are here. I believe they will bring us good news." Qin Tian smiled.

"Your Highness, is it really necessary to support those Russians? You know, they are dangerous elements and enemies of the capitalist world." Admiral Hindenburg reminded.

"Don't worry, General, I have a measure." Qin Tian also knew how dangerous it would be if the Russian cloth party took control of Russia. However, he had no other choice. Russia is too vast, too vast for any enemy to defeat them. The former Napoleon the Great could not do this, and the later Hitler could not do it either. The current Qin Tian couldn't do the same. Therefore, Qin Tian can only use other methods to cause turmoil in Russia. In this case, they may be able to win the war at the least cost. As for whether the cloth party will in turn threaten Germany once it grows up, Qin Tian will not consider this for the time being. In addition, Qin Tian also has self-confidence. Even if the cloth party really does it in Russia, it will not be a worry at that time. Because, after winning this war, Germany will definitely be able to develop into a superpower. At that time, it will be very easy to destroy Bu'e.

General Hindenburg and Major General Ludendorff stopped persuading Qin Tian. They also knew that Qin Tian naturally dared to do that, so he must have been prepared.

Soon, a middle-aged Russian who was as tall as he was wearing notation entered Qin Tian's office led by the chief guard.

"His Royal Highness, Your Excellency General, hello." The Russian envoy said neither humble nor overbearing.

"Mr. Joseph, hello, long time no see." Qin Tian smiled.

"Thanks to His Highness the Crown Prince for supporting us all the time. Your Excellency the Leader asked me to convey his greetings to Your Highness." Joseph said.

Qin Tian has been secretly supporting the activities of the Russian cloth party since a few years ago. It is precisely because of Qin Tian's support that the cloth party can develop very rapidly.

Of course, the people who set up the party also know that cooperating with Qin Tian is basically seeking skin from a tiger. However, facing the suppression of them by the tsarist government, they had no other choice but to accept Qin Tian's support. For them, the most important thing is to overthrow the rule of the tsarist government first. For this, they can pay a lot, even if it is the interests of the country.

In other people's eyes, this is absolutely unimaginable. However, Qin Tian was not surprised at all.

"Mr. Joseph, please convey my greetings to Leader Ulyanov. I look forward to having a formal meeting with him one day." Qin Tian said with a smile.

Of course Joseph agreed, but perhaps only he knew what he was thinking. After all, in the minds of these party members, the imperial prince like Qin Tian is also someone they should defeat.

Chapter 197: The dead are here

"His Royal Highness, the war has broken out. According to the news from our inside sources, the Tsar's army has begun to gather towards East Prussia. They formed the Northwest Front Army, under the command of the 1st Army and the 2nd Army, under the command of General Jilinsky, the total strength exceeds 500,000 people. Is His Highness the Crown Prince's army ready? We can provide His Highness the Crown Prince with intelligence support in return for His Highness's support for us." Joseph said to Qin Tian.

In Joseph's view, more than 500,000 Russian troops came aggressively, while the East Prussian army did not even reach 200,000, so they should be panicked. However, to his regret, he didn't even see a trace of panic on Qin Tian's face.

"Thank you for your reminder, sir. Please rest assured that the East Prussian army is ready for battle. As long as the Russian army dares to come, we will definitely be able to defeat them." Qin Tian said confidently.

Although Joseph didn't quite believe Qin Tian's words, he still didn't say much. Now Qin Tian has become the biggest supporter of the Bu Party overseas. Of course, they don't want to offend Qin Tian, let alone have something happen to Qin Tian.

"Sir, I want to confirm that if the Russian army is defeated by us on the battlefield, can you take the opportunity to launch a revolution in Russia and overthrow the tsar's dictatorship?" Qin Tian asked. This is the reason why he supports the cloth party. With the help of the cloth party to launch a revolution in the country, it caused civil strife in Russia. In this case, the Russian army on the Eastern Front is nothing to worry about. And Germany can also win the

Eastern Front at the smallest cost. Once the Eastern Front is resolved, Germany will not have to worry about fighting on two fronts.

In another time and space, the reason why Germany was defeated was that apart from the fact that the sea trade line was cut off by the British, there was another reason, which was the consumption of the two-front battle. The goal set by Germany at the beginning of the war was to defeat France on the western front first, and then turn around and move eastward to defeat Russia. Its fundamental purpose is to make a time difference, so as to avoid being caught in a two-line battle. Unfortunately, the German strategy did not succeed. The huge consumption of the two-front battle made Germany soon unable to support it. Coupled with the outbreak of civil unrest in the country, Germany lost the war without the German army being defeated.

In this time and space, Qin Tian naturally wants to try his best to avoid all this. Only in this way can it be truly ensured that Germany will win this war instead of failing in the end.

"Of course, Your Royal Highness. We are ready. The tsar's brutal rule has already made the people in the country unbearable. This time, the tsar even ignored the strong resistance of the domestic people and joined the war between the imperialists. It made the people very angry. Once the army fails on the front line, it will inevitably cause consequences like an avalanche. At that time, we will definitely be able to call on more people to rise up against the tsarist government. Overthrowing the rule of the tsarist government is just around the corner ." A frenzy flashed in Joseph's eyes.

Qin Tian, Hindenburg, and Ludendorff were all speechless. It seems that the German Empire is also the imperialist country that Joseph said. However, now they are cooperating with the German Empire, which is somewhat contradictory.

"That would be great. Mr. Joseph, do you need any help? Just ask, I will fully support you." Qin Tian said. He wished that the Bu Party would launch a revolution. In that case, the pressure on the German Empire on the Eastern Front would be much less.

"Your Highness, we still need a batch of funds. In addition, we also need a batch of munitions." After Joseph finished speaking, he looked at Qin Tian, waiting for Qin Tian's answer. In fact, this was the main purpose of his coming to East Prussia this time to meet Qin Tian. These days, if you want to launch a revolution, you also need money. Without money, nothing can be done. Weapons and equipment are even more urgently needed. They can't let their people fight with the tsar's dog legs with bare hands.

"No problem. When you leave, I will give you a check for five million marks. As for the weapons, I will find a way to deliver them to you. I personally sympathize with and admire the situation of your party. Your beliefs. So, please tell Mr. Ulyanov, I will fully support you." Qin Tian said.

"Thanks to His Highness the Crown Prince for supporting us. The leader said that once we overthrow the Tsar's rule, we will definitely repay His Highness." Joseph said.

Qin Tian nodded, but didn't say much. Although he didn't ask those people in the cloth party, the cloth party should also know that there is no free lunch in the world. Qin Tian provided them with so much support, and when they achieved success, they would have to return it back in multiples. Of course, the party members soon realized that they still underestimated Qin Tian's appetite. When they overthrew the tsar's rule and wanted to withdraw from the war, they realized that Qin Tian had already raised his knife and fork, and wanted to have a good meal on the fallen Russia.

Joseph left with a satisfied smile, while Qin Tian also had a smile on his face.

"Your Highness, it's hard to imagine that these party members would actually sell out the interests of the country for their own interests."

Hindenburg shook his head with contempt on his face.

"Yes! Such a situation would never happen in the German Empire." Ludendorff also said.

"Actually, I can understand them. They have always been oppressed by the tsar. There is no way to get ahead. The only way is to overthrow the tsar's rule. Under such circumstances, any given Anyone they support will be accepted by them. Even foreign hostile forces are the same. Because they can't find other supporters besides this. Therefore, they know that if they cooperate with us, there will be endless troubles But they have no choice. Soon, you will know how much profit my investment in them will bring us." Qin Tian said with a smile.

Both Hindenburg and Ludendorff shook their heads speechlessly. They are pure soldiers and are not good at these aspects.

"Okay, general, let's not talk about this matter. I will handle the matter of cooperating with the cloth party. You just need to manage the army well. The Russian Northwest Front Army has arrived. To be precise, it is in a hurry Send them to death. Let our troops get ready and eat them in one bite!" Qin Tian said.

"Yes, Your Highness. Please rest assured, we will be able to eat them all!" Both Hindenburg and Ludendorff laughed.

Chapter 198: Combat preparation

On the outskirts of Königsberg, at the headquarters of the 8th Army of the German Imperial Army, a military meeting related to the upcoming decisive battle is being held.

Qin Tian sat in his seat, listening to the general's report and the arrangements for the upcoming war.

"Gentlemen, according to the exact information we have received, the Russians have formed the Northwest Front Army, including thirty infantry divisions and eight cavalry divisions, with a total strength of more than half a million troops. We only have ten infantry divisions and one The total strength of the armored division is only about 180,000. It can be said that the strength of the Russian army is nearly three times that of ours! Of course, although the strength of the Russians is quite large, I still think that they are just here to die. .I believe that we will be able to get rid of them." Qin Tian said with a smile.

A group of generals also laughed.

"His Royal Highness, according to the analysis of the staff department, we plan to implement plan No. 2. That is to lure the enemy into the plan. The Russian army has much more troops than us. If we attack rashly, this will make us fall into the Russian trap. Or surrounded. Conversely, if we are fighting within our borders, we can set up traps and wait for the Russians to attack. In this way, we can gather our superior forces and defeat them in one fell swoop." Major General Ludendorff said.

Qin Tian nodded, he did not interfere with the specific command of the troops, nor did he want to interfere. He believes that those professionals are obviously more professional than his wild way. If you give it to them, there will be no mistakes.

"Colonel Manstein, let me introduce the battle plan to everyone!" Major General Ludendorff said.

"Yes, General." Colonel Manstein took up the position.

Manstein is now the deputy chief of operations of the 8th Army, an extremely young colonel. At the age of only 27, he was able to become a

colonel of the Imperial Army, which was an extraordinary promotion. Of course, there are two young colonels like Manstein in the 8th Army, namely the 26-year-old Colonel Guderian and the 23-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Rommel. Guderian is now the acting division commander of the 8th Armored Division, while Rommel is the deputy division commander and head of the 1st regiment.

Although many people were dissatisfied with them for obtaining such a high military rank at such a young age, no one dared to show it. Because everyone knows that the three of them are Qin Tian's favorite generals. The current Qin Tian's status in the 8th Legion is also increasing day by day, and no one dares to question him anymore.

"His Royal Highness, all generals. From the information we have obtained, we can analyze that the Northwest Front Army of the Russian Army is divided into two armies. That is, the 1st Army led by Admiral Leiningkamp, including 20 infantry divisions and two cavalry. Division, stationed in Werner. The 2nd Army led by General Samsonov, including ten infantry divisions and six cavalry divisions, is stationed in Warsaw. Once the Russian army launches an offensive, the 1st Army will attack from the east, and the 2nd Army will attack from the south and attack East Prussia." Manstein began to introduce.

Hearing that the 500,000 Russian troops were divided into two sides in the southeast to attack East Prussia, most of the generals changed their faces. Although, they all know that the combat effectiveness of the 8th Army has long since changed from what it used to be. However, whether they can withstand the attack of an enemy three times their size, they still have no certainty in their hearts.

"Our specific tactic is that the 17th Army is deployed in the east to block the Russian 1st Army. Through layers of blocking, we constantly lure the enemy to go deep, and retreat to the Masurian Lake area. The river network and

swamps there are densely covered. , the traffic remains unchanged. Once the large Russian corps is caught in it, it will be difficult to get out."

"Yes!" Lieutenant General Zeckert, commander of the 17th Army, stood up and replied. Although, it is very difficult for the 17th Army with only 3 infantry divisions and more than 50,000 people to block a Russian 1st Army with 20 infantry divisions and two cavalry divisions and a total strength of more than 300,000 troops. . However, Lieutenant General Zeckert still has the confidence to complete this task. Anyway, it's not that the 17th Army is going to fight the Russian army recklessly, it's just that they are blocking it layer by layer.

"The 11th Army, go to Tannenburg in the south to deploy defenses. The 8th Armored Division will cooperate with the 11th Army to fight. Build a position there and wait for the Russian army."

"Yes!" Lieutenant General Francois, commander of the 11th Army, and Colonel Guderian, acting commander of the 8th Armored Division, both replied.

"The 20th Army, go south to stop the Russian 2nd Army, lure them to Tannenburg, cooperate with the 11th Army and the 8th Armored Division, and annihilate them in one fell swoop!"

"Yes!" Lieutenant General Mackensen, commander of the 20th Army, replied.

"Generals, our specific combat deployment is to defeat or even encircle the 2nd Russian Army in Tannenburg, and then transport it by rail, turn around and wipe out the Russian 1st Army in Masurian Lake, and wipe out the Russian Army in one fell swoop. The main force of the Northwest Front Army will be eaten!" Brigadier General Hoffman, deputy chief of staff and chief of operations of the 8th Army, also said.

Brigadier General Hoffman is also a very talented person, and in another time and space, he is also famous. Therefore, after Qin Tian took over the 8th Army, he also put a lot of emphasis on Hoffman.

"Do you have any questions about this battle?" Qin Tian asked.

"Your Highness, if we want to lure the enemy to go deep, it will definitely cause some damage to our country. The people must evacuate first. Otherwise, this will bring us unnecessary harm." Lieutenant General Francois reminded.

"Well, the evacuation of the people has already started before. Now, it is almost finished. War is the business of our soldiers, and it is also what we must do to avoid harming civilians as much as possible. As for destroying their Homeland, there is no way around it. Wars are inherently destructive. The only thing we can do is to help them rebuild their homes after the war is over," Qin Tian said.

Lieutenant General Francois nodded, and said nothing more. He also knew that this was impossible.

"Everyone, our battle is about to begin. From now on, all troops must be ready for battle. We must win this battle. Otherwise, our land will be ravaged by the Russians. We people will be slaughtered by them," Qin Tian said.

"We must win! The empire must win!" All the generals roared firmly.

After the combat conference, the various departments of the 8th Army began to transfer to the scheduled destination according to the scheduled combat deployment. A large amount of combat materials are also being transported to the front line by railway and road to ensure the consumption of the battle.

The 8th Army, Qin Tian's meticulously prepared army, has already shown its fangs.

Chapter 199: Capture the German Crown Prince alive

Warsaw, the capital of the Kingdom of Poland. However, the king of the Kingdom of Poland was not held by the Poles, but by the Russian Tsar.

The Poles, since the time of Napoleon, have once again been ruled by foreigners, being suppressed and enslaved.

Former Chief of Staff of the Russian Imperial Army, now Commander of the Northwest Front, Admiral Ivan Jilinski, placed his headquarters in Warsaw. Perhaps he likes to experience the feeling of a conqueror. In Warsaw, and indeed elsewhere in the Kingdom of Poland, the Russians were on top. They can take anything they want from the Poles, and the Poles dare not resist at all.

On August 12, the combat preparations of the Northwest Front Army of the Russian Army had been completed for the most part. The rest can be completed smoothly in the next few days. General Ivan Jilinsky convened a group of generals of the Northwest Front Army to hold a battle meeting. All the commanders and commanders of the 1st and 2nd Army attended the meeting. In the meeting room of the headquarters, it can be said that a star is shining.

"Generals, the war has begun. His Majesty the Tsar has decided to declare war on the Allies. As His Majesty's generals, what we have to do is to defeat our enemies in the next war." Admiral Ivan Jilinsky Said.

In many previous wars, the Russian Empire has never been able to win, which made these generals feel suffocated. Even though they are dealing with the most powerful army in the world this time, they are full of fighting spirit.

"I have some good news to tell you. First, East Prussia, which we are going to attack next, has only less than 200,000 German troops. Our strength is almost three times theirs." Ivan Gillings The general said with a smile.

"Do we have that much more troops than the Germans? Great, we must be able to win."

"Even if the Germans have better weapons and better fighting power than us. However, with enough numerical advantages, the Germans must not be our opponents. What's more, we still have elite Cossack cavalry!"

"The main force of the Germans is on the Western Front and was held back by the French. This is really great. Let the French fight the main force of the Germans, and we can easily defeat the Germans and win. "

The generals of the Russian army all talked about it. In their view, with such a big advantage, their chances of winning will be very high. Once they defeat the German army, they can not only get great glory, but also get promoted and make a fortune. In addition, East Prussia is also an extremely rich place in their eyes. With the **** nature of the Russian army, it is bound to grab a good deal. Even if most of the booty needs to be handed over to the Tsar, they can still get a lot of benefits. Therefore, every Russian general is very optimistic, and he is full of expectations for the future battle.

Admiral Ivan Jilinsky watched all this with a smile, and the generals' reactions did not exceed his expectations. Or rather, he said so on purpose. Only in this way can everyone's fighting spirit be stimulated.

"The second good news is that if we can reach Königsberg, maybe we can capture the German crown prince. Of course, this possibility is very small. Once we can't resist our attack, the German crown prince will definitely However, if we act quickly enough to capture the German crown prince in one fell swoop, then we will make a fortune." Admiral Ivan Jilinsky continued.

All the generals' eyes lit up, and some even became short of breath.

In the European high society, the German crown prince has become a legend. He started from scratch and created a wealth that can rival the

country. If the Russian army can capture the German crown prince, among other things, the ransom that can be extorted from him is enough to allow everyone to live a prosperous life. Even if none of these generals were poor, who wouldn't want to have more wealth?

"Great, as long as we can reach Königsberg and capture the German crown prince alive, we will make a fortune!"

"Your Excellency, Commander, please issue an attack order as soon as possible, and the German Crown Prince must not be allowed to escape!"

Generals one by one, take the initiative to ask for a fight. Everyone hopes to seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"The third piece of good news is that both France and the United Kingdom have agreed to provide us with weapons, equipment and war supplies. After we have conquered East Prussia, assistance from the British and the French should be able to arrive. At that time, we will become the most powerful army in the Russian Empire as the first unit to change clothes. Therefore, I hope that everyone can seize this opportunity and defeat the Germans!" said Admiral Ivan Jilinsky.

"Yes, general." All the Russian generals replied.

For them, this opportunity is indeed too rare. If you miss it, you may never have such an opportunity again in the future.

"The date of the attack on East Prussia is set for the 17th. On the 17th, the 1st Army and the 2nd Army crossed the border from the east and south respectively, entered East Prussia, and attacked Königsberg. I believe that The Germans will definitely not be able to resist our attack." Admiral Ivan Jilinsky said confidently.

Other Russian generals are also full of confidence in the next battle. Coupled with the excitement of robbing East Prussia and capturing the

German Crown Prince alive, they were even more excited. In this battle, if they don't try their best, I'm afraid they won't be able to.

"General Leiningkamp, General Samsonov, do you have any questions?" Admiral Ivan Jilinsky asked.

"General, if our 2nd Army captures the German Crown Prince, will the ransom go to our 2nd Army?" General Samsonov asked.

The other Russian generals also looked at Admiral Ivan Jilinsky, waiting for his answer, which was related to their vital interests.

Admiral Ivan Jilinsky shook his head: "It is not acceptable to take it all alone. However, I can assure you that whichever group army captures the German Crown Prince will get an extra part of the future distribution."

Admiral Samsonov nodded. He didn't really expect to be able to take it all alone, but he was very satisfied with being able to share more.

The other generals are also gearing up, ready to fight this battle. Under the mobilization of Ivan Jilinsky, the fighting spirit of these Russian generals was raised to the peak.

Chapter 200: Lure the enemy to go deep

Tannenberg, a small city located tens of kilometers south of Königsberg. It is only a few tens of kilometers away from the border between East Prussia and the Kingdom of Russian Poland. Although it is a small city, because it is the only way for the Russian army to go north to Königsberg. Therefore, the strategic location here has also become very important.

After the 11th Army of the 8th Army of the German Imperial Army arrived here, it has already begun to strengthen the defense here. If you want to severely damage or even encircle and annihilate the 2nd Army of the Northwest Front Army of the Russian Army at the lowest cost, the best way is to let the Russian army suffer heavy losses in the solid defense line against

the German army. After the Russian army lost a large amount of vital force, it launched an offensive and severely damaged the Russian army in one fell swoop.

Although the 8th Armored Division was deployed to the rear of Tannenberg, their mission was not to help the 11th Army defend its positions. They will become the main force in counterattacking the Russian army in the future.

As for the 20th Army, after they attracted the Russian 2nd Army to Tannenberg, they will also turn to rest and prepare for the subsequent counterattack.

Therefore, the task of guarding Tannenberg and consuming the vital forces of the Russian 2nd Army fell entirely on the 11th Army. Even though the 11th Army has four infantry divisions and a total strength of more than 65,000 troops, it still feels great pressure.

Lieutenant General François, commander of the 11th Army, personally sits in Fort Tannen to strengthen the defense here. The officers and soldiers of the German army meticulously built defensive positions according to the requirements. It can be said that the soil work of the German Army is definitely the best in the world. They can use all the materials they can get in their hands to build a strong defensive position. After only a week, Tannenberg was completely reduced to a small fortress.

On August 16th, Qin Tian, Hindenburg, Ludendorff and others personally rushed to Tannenberg to inspect the defense there. After a morning's understanding, Qin Tian is still very satisfied with Tannenberg's defense. Even if he is not a professional, he can still see that under the strong defense line of the German army, the Russians will pay a huge price if they want to take Tannenberg. I am afraid that all the Russian 2nd Army will be wiped out, and the strategic goal of taking Tannenberg may not be achieved.

"General François, it seems that Tannenburg has become a fortress. I am really sad for the Russians. They will die in the battle to attack Tannenburg!" Qin Tian said with a smile.

"Your Highness, it would be best if all the Russians could die here." Lieutenant General François also laughed.

"Hahaha!" The generals of the German army burst into laughter. Although, they all know this is just a joke. But it certainly showed their optimism for the next fight. Even if the Russians came aggressively and heavily suppressed the border. However, they can still be treated with ease.

"General François, since you are so confident in Tannenburg's defense, why don't I stay in Tannenburg and see how the general defeated the Russians!" Qin Tian said.

Qin Tian's words startled Lieutenant General François.

"His Royal Highness, this is not acceptable. Fort Tannen is about to become a war zone. It is too dangerous. You cannot stay here. You must go to a safer place." Lieutenant General François said.

"I believe that here is also very safe. With the protection of the most loyal soldiers, no matter where I am, I am safe." Qin Tian said with a smile.

"Your Highness, go back to Königsberg. If you stay here, General François will only affect his command because he is concerned about your safety. If that is the case, it will be bad." Admiral Hindenburg also persuaded.

Qin Tian didn't insist anymore, and he wasn't the kind of person who made trouble out of no reason. What he said just now was just a casual remark. You know, even though he is the crown prince of the empire, he has never experienced a real battlefield. He is also very curious about all this. Trying to hear that war is cruel, he wants to experience it for himself.

However, under the strong opposition of the generals, his wish could only come to nothing.

That afternoon, Qin Tian left Tannenberg and returned to Königsberg. Because of the development of communication technology, even if he stayed in Königsberg, he could know the situation on the front line at the first time. So, there's nothing to worry about.

The next day, that is, August 17, General Ivan Jilinsky, commander of the Russian Northwest Front Army, issued an order to attack. Hundreds of thousands of German 1st and 2nd armies, already ready to go, crossed the German-Russian border and entered East Prussia.

However, at this time the Russian army discovered that they did not encounter any resistance along the way, not even civilians.

"The Germans, who are as cowardly as a mouse, they ran ahead of time, they are really incompetent. However, this is also good, and we can rush to Königsberg as quickly as possible." General Samsonov I thought secretly.

Even, Admiral Samsonov has prepared several Cossack cavalry divisions under him for battle. Once it advances to a place only a few tens of kilometers away from Königsberg, it will detour westward. In any case, the road from Königsberg to the hinterland of Germany must be cut off. In that case, the German Crown Prince will be unable to fly.

Unfortunately, Admiral Samsonov's plan is beautiful, but it is destined not to be realized. Because, from beginning to end, this was just a trap set by the German 8th Army, in order to let the Russian 2nd Army led by General Samsonov crash into Tannenburg.

The 20th Army, which was responsible for the task of luring the enemy to go deep, also worked very hard. They did not blindly give up their positions and escape, and they would also block when appropriate. Some battles were

even fought fiercely. This made General Samsonov not suspicious at all. And it is under such circumstances that the Russian Second Army led by General Samsonov is stepping into the trap step by step.

At the same time, the Russian 1st Army, which was attacking from the east, did not encounter decent resistance. Although the German 17th Army set up several lines of defense in the east, they voluntarily abandoned their positions and retreated shortly after each Russian attack, giving the Russian army a feeling that they could not resist and had to retreat. This also made the Russian army march towards the preset position prepared by the German army step by step.

Even General Ivan Jilinski, who is in charge of Warsaw, thinks that the advance of the Russian army is too smooth, right? However, he didn't think much about it, he just thought that the German army could not resist when the Russian army had an absolute advantage, so he had to retreat.