

Jagged 251

Chapter 251: Big win!

"We can lose this naval battle. However, the British Empire cannot lose this war!" After Lieutenant General David Beatty figured this out, he immediately issued an order to retreat.

Although, in this battle, they have lost many battleships. However, it is better to be able to escape a few ships than to lose them all. At least, if these few battlecruisers of theirs want to retreat wholeheartedly, the German Navy will not be so easy to catch them. However, the three 'Iron Duke-class' battleships on the other battlefield may not be able to escape. Lieutenant General David Beatty had no choice but to let them hold back the German navy in an attitude of waste utilization, creating opportunities for the evacuation of other warships.

After the order was issued, the remaining five battlecruisers of the British Navy immediately began to turn around, and then began to accelerate and sail south quickly.

The behavior of the British surprised the German navy. Why did the British run away after fighting?

"What's going on? What are they going to do?" Lieutenant General Hipper was a little dazed.

"Damn it, are they trying to escape?" Lieutenant General Spei cursed.

"Escape? They have already lost so many capital ships, is there any point in escaping now?" Hipper frowned.

Indeed, in this battle, the British Navy suffered a lot of losses. Of the four "King George V-class" battleships, three were sunk and one was severely damaged. Of the nine battlecruisers, three were sunk and one was severely damaged. In addition, one of the four "Iron Duke-class" battleships has been

sunk, and the remaining three seem to be unable to escape. With such a huge loss, why do they still think about retreating?

"Is there any fraud in this, or the British have another battleship coming. So, they want to lure us to go south and throw ourselves into the trap?" Lieutenant General Hipper asked.

"It is indeed possible, but I don't think it is very likely. This time, the British have dispatched nine battlecruisers and eight battleships. This is already all the warships that the British can deploy. If they deploy again For other warships, unless they don't want to continue to block the North Sea. It is estimated that the British were frightened by the huge losses and dare not fight any more." Lieutenant General Spee said.

Lieutenant General Hipper nodded, agreeing with Lieutenant General Shipper's point of view.

"Then shall we pursue it?" Seeing the five British battlecruisers slip away like this, Lieutenant General Hipper was a little unwilling.

"Forget it, the British are determined to escape, and we can't catch up." Lieutenant General Spee shook his head. Although the speed of the two sides is equal, it is almost impossible to intercept the escaped British.

"Let's go help General Scheer and get rid of the three remaining British 'Iron Duke-class' battleships earlier." Lieutenant General Spee said,

The German Navy's breaking fleet immediately rushed to join Admiral Reinhardt Scheer, preparing to eat the remaining three "Iron Duke" battleships of the British Navy. In this case, in this naval battle, they sank seven battleships and three battlecruisers of the British Navy. This kind of victory is already very fruitful.

On the battleship 'Iron Duke', Rear Admiral Robertson was scolding.

"Damn it, that coward Betty, he actually abandoned us and ran away alone. He should be sent to a court-martial for his behavior!" Major General Robertson asked Lieutenant General David Betty to stop him and drag the Germans back Order, very resistant. In his opinion, Lieutenant General David Betty clearly meant to escape by himself and let him die.

But what choice does he have but to carry out his orders? Even if you want to run, you can't run! How can a battleship with a maximum speed of only 21.25 knots and a scarred battleship outrun the German battlecruiser? So, even if he didn't want to stay, there was nothing he could do! Apart from scolding Lieutenant General David Betty, there was no other way.

Of course, he could also choose to surrender to the Germans. However, this is undoubtedly trampling on the honor of the Royal Navy for hundreds of years. If he dared to do that, his family would not be able to survive in England. Therefore, Major General Robertson has no other choice but to fight to the end. At most, they were captured by the Germans after the battleship sank.

Almost at the same time, Admiral Reinhard Scheer also received reports from Lieutenant General Hipper and Lieutenant General Spee, and learned that the British battlecruiser had escaped.

"It's a pity! It would be great if the British fought to the end! In that case, we can also eat up their remaining battlecruisers." Admiral Reinhard Scheer sighed Take a breath.

As the commander of the German Navy's High Seas Fleet, he certainly hopes that the German Navy can sink more British warships in this battle. In that case, in future naval battles, the German navy will have a greater advantage.

"The ships continue to shoot and get rid of the remaining three battleships of the British!" Admiral Reinhard Scheer ordered.

Since the British battlecruiser has run away, the remaining three "Iron Duke" battleships cannot be let go. If they are eaten, it will also be a huge blow to the British Navy.

Knowing that they must die, the remaining three "Iron Duke" battleships of the British Navy also performed very bravely. They were still firing desperately in the face of a strong enemy. The reason why the British Royal Navy has been able to dominate the world's oceans for hundreds of years is not only the possession of powerful warships, but also the desperate fighting of these naval officers and soldiers.

However, the efforts of these Royal Navy officers and soldiers are still meaningless. Because the disparity in strength between the two sides is really too great.

Especially after the five battlecruisers of the German Navy's breaking fleet also arrived and joined the siege of them.

The battleship 'Ben Bow' was the first to be sunk, and more than ten minutes later, the battleship 'Marlborough' followed in his footsteps. The battleship 'Iron Duke' was the last to be sunk.

Rear Admiral Robertson and other British navy generals did not choose to sink with the ship, but boarded the lifeboat before the battleship sank, and were subsequently captured by the German navy.

This naval battle ended with a complete victory for the German Navy. At the cost of one battlecruiser, the German Navy sank seven British battleships, three battlecruisers, and damaged one battleship and one battlecruiser.

Chapter 252: underwater crisis

While the British Navy and the German Navy were desperately fighting a war, the British merchant ship was sailing south. For these large, slow, and fragile merchant ships, if they are involved in a naval battle, they will die. Those huge battleships only need one shot to deal with these merchant ships.

So, after the war started, the bait mission of these merchant ships was completed. Next, they should think about how to escape back to the British mainland safely. The materials loaded on these merchant ships are also war materials that Britain urgently needs. If it can be preserved, that is naturally the best. After the war broke out, Britain's war machine was fully operational, and the daily consumption of supplies was an astronomical figure. The resources in the UK alone are simply not enough to support the high-speed operation of the war machine. Therefore, they can only collect various resources from the colony.

In order to ensure the safety of these merchant ships, the British Navy deliberately left six destroyers to provide them with protection. Of course, these protections are more of a mere formality. If the battlecruisers of the German Navy catch up, even if these destroyers are all tied together, they will not be able to resist it. Even if their torpedoes can pose a fatal threat to the battlecruisers of the German Navy, they must be able to hit the target!

These six destroyers of the British Navy belong to the "La Frey-class" destroyer, which is a new first-class destroyer built by the British Navy before the outbreak of the war. It has a displacement of 1,000 tons and a maximum speed of 29 knots. Cannon and two twin 533 mm torpedo tubes. In order to anti-submarine, these destroyers are also equipped with depth charges. Especially after the submarines of the German Navy began to ravage the Atlantic Ocean, depth charges have become standard equipment for these destroyers of the British Navy.

The destroyer 'La Frey' is the flagship of this small fleet, commanded by Major Edward.

"Sir, it has been confirmed that the Germans did not send warships to catch up." Captain Martin, the builder of the destroyer "La Frey", reported.

"That's good. The attention of the Germans is on the main fleet of the Royal Navy, and they will not pay attention to us for the time being. Unless they can defeat the Royal Navy, otherwise, they will not come to chase us." Major Edward breathed a sigh of relief.

He knew that with only the six destroyers in his hands, once he encountered the capital ship of the German Navy, he would be dead. These destroyers with a displacement of only 1,000 tons are not enough to fit those huge warships between their teeth.

"Sir, the Germans shouldn't defeat us, right?" Captain Martin said. As a young officer of the Royal Navy, he has great confidence in the Royal Navy and believes that the Royal Navy will definitely be able to defeat the enemy.

"Of course, we will not be defeated. This time, the Royal Navy set a trap for the Germans. But the stupid Germans were really fooled. Although their warships are very powerful, once they encounter the Royal Navy's The siege of the main fleet is also inevitable." Major Edward said with a smile.

Captain Martin seemed relieved.

It's just that they will soon know that they think everything is too optimistic. The Royal Navy, which has assembled the main force, will suffer heavy losses in this battle, and the foundation of the Royal Navy will be hurt.

Of course, for these small officers, these are simply not something they can mix.

"Okay, Captain Martin, don't worry about that. Now our task is to safely **** these merchant ships back to the UK. The weapons loaded on these merchant ships can be strengthened by rifles and cannons, and even battleships. Come and teach those damned Germans a lesson," Major Edward said.

"Yes, sir." Captain Martin nodded.

Less than 20 kilometers away from the British fleet, a periscope protruded from the sea. After finding that there was no situation around, a submarine emerged from the sea, like a big fish floating on the sea. Same.

The cover of the boat was opened, and Denitz, who was dressed in a black submarine uniform, got out of it, and several submarine soldiers followed behind him.

Several people started to get busy, starting the diesel engine to charge the submarine's battery. By the way, they also use this time to smoke a cigarette and relax. Because the interior space of the submarine is small and the air is turbid, smoking is absolutely not allowed inside.

"Sir, where are we now? Are we far from the battlefield?" A submariner asked.

"It shouldn't be far from the battlefield! However, whether we can catch up depends on God's will." Denitz said.

Originally, Doenitz and his U-039 submarine were hunting and killing British merchant ships in the waters of western England. But after receiving the order, he and more than a dozen other submarines sailed into the vast Atlantic Ocean. The task they received was to find the fleet of the British Navy, and if possible, launch an attack and sink those capital ships.

This is also a set of backup plans prepared by the German Navy Ministry. If your own battlecruiser formation fails to defeat the British Navy,

these submarines may be able to make up for it. Of course, these are worst-case-scenario tactics.

"Perhaps those battlecruisers have already dealt with the British, and there is no need for us to work hard to come here." An officer said.

"I hope! But if those battlecruisers can leave us a sip of soup, that would be good." Dunitz's eyes lit up. He commanded the U-039 submarine. Although he had sunk many British merchant ships, he had never sunk a capital ship, which he regarded as a pity. It would be great if this regret can be made up for.

Half an hour later, the diesel engine had fully charged the submarine's batteries. Dönitz also smoked his last cigarette. When he was about to get into the submarine, he suddenly found a lot of masts on the sea to the north.

"If there is a situation, dive immediately." Doenitz ordered.

Submarine U-039 immediately dived in an emergency, and in just two minutes, it dived to a depth of 50 meters.

Soon, they heard a lot of noise passing over the submarine.

"It's a merchant ship, not a large warship, and maybe some destroyers." A submariner said.

"Hmm! It seems that we didn't encounter the main fleet of the British, but we did encounter their merchant fleet." A smile appeared on Doenitz's face. Doenitz felt a little regretful that he had not been able to meet the main fleet of the British Navy. However, it would be quite good if the British merchant fleet could be eliminated.

Chapter 253: Feast of Submarines

The U-039 submarine gradually surfaced after the British fleet passed overhead.

"Quickly, immediately send a telegram to other submarines to report the news of the British fleet. This time, we will kill all of these British fleets." Doenitz ordered.

"Yes, sir." The communications soldier immediately went to send a telegram.

Immediately, the U-309 submarine began to chase the British fleet going south with all its strength. Because the speed of merchant ships is generally slower, far lower than the speed of submarines on the sea, the U-039 submarine can completely keep up with the British fleet. In addition, they continuously communicated the position of the British fleet to other submarines through telegrams, allowing them to adjust their course and intercept them.

A large net composed of the submarine force of the German Navy is enveloping the British fleet. The British, on the other hand, don't even know about it.

Submarine hunting often requires patience. For a suitable attack position, they sometimes even need to spend a whole day waiting. This time, organizing other submarines to form a pack of wolves to attack the British fleet requires close cooperation between the submarines. Otherwise, if something goes wrong, it is possible to make their plan fail.

It was not until the afternoon that the submarine force of the German Navy completed its deployment, and a total of nine submarines participated in this operation. Except for the U-039 submarine which followed the British fleet, the remaining eight submarines formed an encirclement from the front, left and right of the British fleet.

At 3:45 p.m., submarine U-048 aimed at a British merchant ship and fired a torpedo.

533 mm heavy torpedo, less than 500 meters away from the merchant ship, quickly rushed towards the merchant ship. The people on the merchant ship didn't notice it at all, as if they didn't realize that the crisis had come to them.

"Boom!"

A huge explosion sounded on the side of the merchant ship. The flames shot up into the sky, and the huge merchant ship shook violently. The entire side of the ship seemed to have been bitten off by a monster.

The defense of the merchant ship was already very bad. Under the explosion of the high explosives of the torpedo, the merchant ship was directly torn apart.

The seawater poured into the merchant ship frantically, and the sinking of the merchant ship was irreversible.

"What's going on?" When the merchant ship was attacked, both Major Edward and Captain Martin were startled, and they looked at the merchant ship in front of the formation with binoculars.

"Is it an enemy attack? Or was there an accident?" Captain Martin asked.

Major Edward's face has become ugly: "Get ready to fight, I think, we are in trouble. Damn the German submarine, we are being targeted by them."

At this time, several more merchant ships were hit. This is an attack from a submarine ambushing in the surrounding area.

For the submarine force of the German Navy, such a large British fleet is like a feast for them to enjoy. Everyone hopes to add some to their sinking numbers.

"God! It's not just a submarine. How many submarines did the **** Germans hit in this sea area?" Major Edward couldn't help but exclaimed.

If they only encounter a German submarine, they can also use destroyers to siege, sink it, and drive it away no matter how bad it is. But now there is not just one submarine, but several submarines. Therefore, this time the problem may be troublesome.

"Order the destroyer to launch an attack, find out those German submarines, and sink them! They must never be allowed to attack our merchant ships again." Major Edward ordered.

The destroyer that provided the **** for the fleet, like a ferocious hound, rushed to the place where the merchant ships were hit.

It's just that the German submarine has launched a torpedo and hid in the water again, waiting for the next opportunity to attack.

The entire fleet is already in chaos. After being attacked by German submarines, these British merchant ships fled in all directions like frightened sheep. In the panic, some merchant ships even collided with each other. After the hull was smashed, they sank directly into the sea. The whole scene became extremely chaotic.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The destroyers of the British Navy also continuously dropped depth charges into the sea in an attempt to blow up the German submarines hiding in the sea. However, they had little success. Submarines don't stay still underwater. Although the submerged speed of the current submarine is still very slow, it is not something that a destroyer without sonar can catch. Destroyers want to sink submarines, more can only rely on luck.

A periscope rose from the sea, vigilantly observed the surrounding area, and after no danger was found, it rose to the height of the torpedo launch.

"The merchant ship ahead is 600 meters away from us. The No. 1 launch tube is ready, launch!" Doenitz ordered.

"Boom!"

A 533mm torpedo shot out of the torpedo tube and quickly shot towards the British merchant ship ahead.

Soon, the torpedo lightly kissed the side of the merchant ship. Through the periscope, Dönitz clearly saw that the submarine was blown to pieces during the explosion.

"Quick, dive, the British destroyer is here." After seeing a destroyer rushing towards them aggressively, Dönitz gave an emergency dive order.

The water tank of the submarine began to fill with water, and it quickly dived into the sea. When they dived to more than 50 meters underwater and began to submerge at a speed of five knots, the depth charges of the British Navy also fell into the sea.

"Boom! Boom!"

A dull explosion sounded, and the shock wave slapped on the hull of the submarine, making a crackling sound. Even the submarine began to shake under the action of the water waves.

After the destroyer of the British Navy launched an attack, it turned around and left after not finding the target. Denitz and the others breathed a sigh of relief.

Submarine is a weapon with strong concealment. But at the same time, once encountered an attack, it is difficult to fight back, and can only escape the enemy's attack by dodging.

The melee ended after more than half an hour, and the submarines of the German Navy withdrew one after another. Although not all British

merchant ships on the sea were sunk, these German submarines had no torpedoes and had to evacuate. The British destroyers on the sea searched for them like mad dogs, making it impossible for them to surface and attack those merchant ships with artillery.

They are already very satisfied with being able to kill so many merchant ships. Better than keep going and get sunk by British destroyers.

Chapter 254: unacceptable result

United Kingdom, Admiralty.

After the outbreak of the war, it became extremely busy here. As the most powerful and important force of the British Empire, the Royal Navy has always been regarded as the number one force to protect the interests of the empire. Hundreds of years of world hegemony have also made people feel that both the British Empire and the Royal Navy are invincible.

However, what the outside world does not know is that the current Ministry of the Navy is anxiously waiting. A naval battle going on today is really important to the British Empire. If it fails, it will put Britain in a serious crisis.

In the office of the Secretary of the Navy Churchill, Churchill was pacing back and forth. Sitting in front of him was Admiral John Jellicoe, Commander of the Grand Fleet. He too had come back from Scapa Flow. Of course, Churchill called Admiral John Jellicoe back just in case. If Lieutenant General David Beatty did not succeed this time, they would have to think of other ways to deal with the Germans.

"Is there no news from General David Betty?" Churchill asked.

"Your Excellency, there is no news yet." The secretary replied.

Churchill nodded and said no more. No news, perhaps the best news. It was better than receiving news of defeat.

General John Jellicoe knew what Churchill was worried about. In fact, he was equally worried. This time, the Royal Navy can be said to have put most of the cutting-edge battleships into this plan. If there is still no way to succeed, then they really have nothing to do with the German Navy.

"Your Excellency, General David Beatty will definitely be able to win this time. After all, we dispatched nine battlecruisers and eight battleships. With this kind of combat power, unless the main force of the Germans comes out in full force. Otherwise, Definitely not our opponent." Admiral John Jellicoe said.

"Well, but, General Jellicoe, we often have to prepare for the worst. What I want to say is that if General Betty doesn't succeed this time. So, what should we do? asked Churchill.

Admiral John Jellicoe was silent for a while, and after two minutes, he said: "Your Excellency, if General Betty and the others fail this time, then we may have to think of other ways to deal with the German fleet. Regardless No matter what, we must persist until the first half of next year, and wait until our 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships and 'Revenge-class' battleships are all in service before fighting the Germans. In that case, our chances of winning will be better."

"Well, it makes sense." Churchill nodded.

"However, if we have no way to deal with the German fleet, how can we ensure the smooth flow of our sea transportation lines? The Germans will never give up this good opportunity to check and balance us." Churchill frowned. The sea transportation line is equivalent to the lifeline of the United Kingdom. Once the lifeline is cut off, can the UK still hold on? Even thinking about it is unlikely.

"Your Excellency, we have already thought about this issue. Our merchant ships can fly the flag of a neutral country, such as the flag of the United

States. In this case, the Germans should not dare to launch an attack, right? The United States is a big country, and the Germans absolutely have no courage. At this time, the United States will be provoked. In addition, we can order some military supplies from the United States and let the Americans send ships to us. In this way, we can also avoid being attacked by the Germans. Just hold on to our new cutting-edge battleships next year. Serve. At that time, we will be able to engage in a decisive battle with the Germans. Once we win, all crises will naturally be lifted. If we fail..." Admiral John Jellicoe did not continue. However, his meaning is already obvious.

Churchill also knew that if the Royal Navy failed in the decisive battle, then Britain would be completely finished. Without the Royal Navy to maintain Britain's sea power, it will quickly decline from a world hegemon to a second-rate country. This is absolutely unacceptable to the British government and the entire British people.

"May God bless General David? Beatty, I hope he can bring us a victory!" Churchill murmured.

As the Lord of the Navy of the British Empire, in charge of the most powerful navy in the world, he never thought that such a day would come. You must know that Britain has always relied on its strong naval power to bully other countries. But now, they have been forced into such a dangerous situation by Germany, which is really unacceptable.

"Report!" At this moment, a staff officer knocked on the door and walked in.

Churchill and General John Jellicoe both stood up from the sofa immediately. They all knew that there must be news from Lieutenant General David Betty.

"How's the situation?" Churchill asked.

"Did we win?" Admiral John Jellicoe asked.

"Report! General David Beatty's telegram claims that we have been defeated." The staff officer said.

"What? How could we lose?" Churchill exclaimed, as if his bones had been removed, he fell down on the sofa, as if he had lost all energy.

"Impossible, it's absolutely impossible. We assembled such a powerful fleet, how could General David Beatty lose? There must be something wrong." Admiral John Jellicoe responded to this result, is obviously unacceptable.

"General, we have repeatedly confirmed to General David Betty. They have indeed been defeated and are retreating." The staff officer said bravely.

General John Jellicoe was taken aback for a moment. Although he was very unwilling, he knew that this might be the truth.

"David? How was General Beatty defeated?" John? General Jellicoe asked.

"General, the detailed battle process is on the telegram, you should read it yourself." The officer said.

General John Jellicoe had to take the telegram, waved his hand, and let the officer leave. He also knew that it was obviously their gaffe just now that frightened the officer.

Admiral John Jellicoe began to read the telegrams, but his complexion became more and more unsightly, and finally turned black as if it was the bottom of a pot.

"General Jellicoe, David? Did General Beatty really fail?" Churchill asked.

"Yes, Your Excellency, General David Beatty did fail. The despicable Germans already knew that this was a trap set by us. Therefore, they also

made preparations, which led to General David Beatty's failure. Admiral John Jellicoe gritted his teeth and said.

Chapter 255: panicked british

Churchill was silent, although he had long thought that the plan this time might not go so smoothly, or might fail. However, when the news of the failure came, it still made him a little unacceptable. Of course, Churchill was not a person who could not accept reality. As the Minister of the Navy, he must be responsible for the British Empire. No matter how difficult it is, he must lead the Royal Navy to win the war.

"David? How did General Beatty fail? Was it a big loss?" Churchill asked.

"Your Excellency, the Germans have already made preparations. In addition to the six battlecruisers in their breakaway fleet, they also dispatched three more powerful battlecruisers." Admiral John Jellicoe said .

Churchill frowned: "We dispatched 17 warships. Even if the Germans added three more battlecruisers, they wouldn't be defeated by them!"

"Your Excellency, the three German battlecruisers are all powerful battlecruisers equipped with 380mm main guns. It is beyond our expectations! The Germans will be equipped with 380mm main guns before us Battleship. And this time, it gave us a hard blow." Admiral John Jellicoe gritted his teeth and said.

"Those guys in the intelligence department, I will settle accounts with them." Churchill cursed.

Subsequently, Admiral John Jellicoe introduced the history of the naval battle to Churchill. When he learned that the British Navy lost seven battleships and three battlecruisers, another battleship and one battlecruiser were severely damaged, and only five battlecruisers were still strong, Churchill no longer knew what to say. What's the point.

Lieutenant General David Betty, this time is not just a failure, it can be described as a fiasco. Lost so many capital ships, especially all new capital ships. Even if the Royal Navy has a big business, it can't afford such a loss! It can be said that this has already hurt the Royal Navy.

"Damn, how could there be such a big loss? This will seriously damage the strength of the Royal Navy! If the Germans launch a decisive battle with us at this time, we simply cannot resist it!" Churchill panicked. He even believes that if only the number and combat effectiveness of cutting-edge warships are counted, the German Navy may have surpassed the British Navy and become the veritable number one in the world. This result made him panic.

"Your Excellency, the combat power of the Germans has indeed exceeded our expectations. Lieutenant General David Beatty mentioned more than once in the telegram that the German Navy's warships have very strong defenses and have been hit by us several times. , but the armor was not penetrated. And our warships, because of their weak armor, are often seriously injured or even sunk once they are hit. Under such circumstances, we are very disadvantaged in naval battles. Admiral John Jellicoe explained.

Actually, this problem was already exposed when the battlecruiser "Lion" was sunk. It's just that it hasn't been taken seriously. However, in this naval battle, this problem was once again exposed, and it is difficult not to be taken seriously.

But the embarrassing thing is that these warships have already been built, so they can't go back to the shipyard for refitting to increase the thickness of the armor, right? In that case, it is completely unfeasible, and it will cause problems in the balance of all aspects of the battleship, which will affect the combat effectiveness, and even directly overturn it.

"I'm afraid it will be difficult to solve this problem. At most, we should pay attention to this problem in the subsequent construction of warships." Churchill said.

John? Admiral Jellicoe nodded.

"So, General Jellicoe, we have lost so many capital ships. So, can the Royal Navy still fight the Germans? Will we still be able to defeat the Germans in the decisive battle in the future?" Churchill asked.

"Your Excellency, the Germans are obviously hiding their strength. It seems that they should be serving with battleships equipped with 380mm main guns. This speed far exceeds ours. However, if the decisive battle is in our "Queen Elizabeth" If we proceed after the "Revenge-class" and "Revenge-class" battleships are in service, we may not have no chance of winning. Of course, in view of the heavy losses of our capital ships now, I hope that the Navy can immediately start building a newer class of battleships. And with the latest Start construction as quickly as possible, and strive to enter service within one and a half years." Admiral John Jellicoe said.

Churchill nodded. He also knew that the main force of the Royal Navy was severely damaged and needed to be supplemented urgently. Otherwise, the Royal Navy may not be able to win future decisive battles.

"I will report to Your Excellency the Prime Minister. However, the future warships of the Navy must avoid the problem of weak armor. These are the painful lessons that the Royal Navy paid for with blood and lives!" Churchill sighed.

If the Royal Navy can be given another chance, they will definitely not establish a shipbuilding idea that emphasizes firepower and speed and despises defense. Unfortunately, God will never give them such a chance.

"General Jellicoe, go and prepare the design materials for the cutting-edge warship. I'm going to see the Prime Minister." Churchill said. The Royal Navy has suffered such a disastrous defeat, and it is impossible to hide it. What's more, the navy needs to build more capital ships, and it needs the support of the cabinet. Otherwise, where can it get funding?

"Yes, Your Excellency." Admiral John Jellicoe replied, then saluted and prepared to leave.

At this time, a staff officer rushed in anxiously.

Churchill and General John Jellicoe couldn't help but frowned. At the same time, they also had a bad premonition in their hearts. Could it be that there is any bad news coming?

"Report. The fleet sent a telegram. They were attacked by the German submarine force. More than ten submarines participated in the attack on our fleet. The fleet suffered heavy losses. So far, fourteen merchant ships have been silent Already," the staff officer reported.

Churchill and John Jellicoe Admiral's faces were livid, what they did was a house leak, and it rained all night, that's it! The Royal Navy has lost so many capital ships, and it is time for them to build warships frantically to make up for the losses. The merchant ships have suffered serious losses again, which will make them even more scarce in war supplies, and even restrict their shipbuilding plans.

"Damn the Germans, they want to kill us! No matter what, I will not let the German conspiracy succeed." Churchill said through gritted teeth.

It's just that, although he looks fierce, in his heart, he is already very panicked.

Chapter 256: Do you want to lose?

Downing Street, the Prime Minister's Office, and the meeting room, the atmosphere is quite dignified.

Prime Minister Asquith sat in his seat with a livid face and said nothing. The faces of other cabinet officials are also very ugly. Only the Secretary of the Navy Churchill stood and introduced the failure of this naval battle.

"So far, we have lost the battlecruisers 'Indefatigable', 'Australia', 'Indomitable'. Battleships 'Audacity', 'Centurion', 'Ajax', 'Iron Duke', 'Marlborough', 'Ben Bow' and 'Emperor of India'. In addition, the battlecruiser 'Indomitable' and the battleship 'King George V' suffered heavy damage and are expected to pass. It takes three months of repairs to restore combat effectiveness." Churchill introduced to everyone expressionlessly. He didn't read the name of a battleship or battlecruiser, which made him feel like he was bleeding. These are the main battleships of the Royal Navy! After losing these warships, the Royal Navy may be in jeopardy.

"How did we lose so much?" Prime Minister Asquith asked. This is also a common question among other cabinet members. Everyone thought it impossible for the Royal Navy to lose so much. This is definitely the biggest loss the Royal Navy has suffered over the years.

"Your Excellency, this issue is more responsible. There are mainly two reasons. On the one hand, the Germans have also prepared for our plan this time. They ambushed three battlecruisers equipped with 380mm main guns. This was the culprit that directly led to the annihilation of our four "Iron Duke" battleships. On the other hand, there was a fundamental problem with our shipbuilding thinking. Before, when we were building battleships, we paid attention to firepower and Speed, despising defense. But in naval battles, this problem is fatal. Our main guns cannot penetrate the armor of German warships, so naturally we cannot severely damage or sink them. However, the

German main guns But it can easily penetrate the armor of our warships, causing our warships to be severely damaged or sunk. Therefore, in this naval battle, we will lose so badly." Churchill explained.

"How did this happen? Why didn't we notice these problems in advance? What do the intelligence agencies do? The Germans served warships equipped with 380mm main guns, but we were kept in the dark." Prime Minister Asquith furiously said .

The head of the intelligence department bowed his head in shame, because the intelligence department's mistakes made the Royal Navy pay such a heavy loss. Obviously, he's done it. Next, I am afraid that he will be directly dismissed by Prime Minister Asquith.

"The design problem of the battleship, why is it only now exposed? Are the previous arguments all for nothing?" Prime Minister Asquith was very angry. You know, the battleships of the British Navy, whether they are battleships or battlecruisers, are all built according to the idea of emphasizing firepower and speed and despising defense! Doesn't this show that once these warships enter the battlefield, they will not be opponents of the Germans? Then how can we fight this battle! Just admit defeat to the Germans.

Churchill didn't know how to answer for a while. The British Navy has established a shipbuilding idea that emphasizes firepower and speed and despises defense for a long time. It is almost impossible to pursue responsibility now.

"Your Excellency Churchill, this time we have lost so many battleships. Doesn't that mean that the Royal Navy is no longer able to defeat the Germans? Will we lose this decisive battle?" asked Sir Edward Gray, the Foreign Secretary.

Other cabinet ministers also looked at Churchill, and everyone was thinking about this issue. The British Empire is the hegemon of the world, and their cabinet ministers are also people who hold great power. But if the Royal Navy loses this decisive battle, then the British Empire may have to give up its position as the world's hegemon. At that time, these people, let alone continue to be in power. I'm afraid those angry people will directly drive them out of power and tear them into pieces!

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, Ministers. I have to tell everyone. This time, the Royal Navy may really be in big* trouble. In addition to the battlecruiser 'Lion' that was lost before, we have already lost eleven ships. The capital ship is gone, and the Royal Navy is even bruised. If the Germans want to fight us at this time, we may really lose." Churchill said.

As soon as Churchill finished speaking, the cabinet members began to discuss. Everyone's faces were very ugly, even full of frightened expressions. For such a result, everyone is obviously unacceptable. They don't want the Royal Navy to really lose. Once lost, it would be a fatal blow to the British Empire.

"Your Excellency Churchill, don't we still have the 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships and the 'Revenge-class' battleships that will be in service soon? Those are all powerful battleships equipped with 381mm main guns, and their combat effectiveness is definitely no longer that of the German battleships. Even then, would we all lose?" asked Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer.

"The 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships and the 'Revenge-class' battleships are indeed not weak, but they still have the disadvantage of being too weak in defense. What's more, even if we have these ten battleships equipped with 381mm main guns, the Germans will certainly There are not less than this number of battleships equipped with 380mm main guns. In terms of the

number of capital ships and combat effectiveness, we have been completely overtaken by the Germans!" Churchill replied sadly.

"My God! How is this possible?"

"Is the Royal Navy going to lose future wars? The Royal Navy is number one in the world and the pillar of the British Empire! The Royal Navy must not lose."

"If the Royal Navy loses the war, what should we do? Can sea power be guaranteed? Can our vast colonies be defended? Lost sea power and overseas colonies, is the British Empire still the British Empire? "

The ministers of the British cabinet all started talking, and they all thought of how serious the consequences would be if the Royal Navy lost the war. Such consequences are obviously not acceptable to them.

Prime Minister Asquith's face turned even darker, as if he was the bottom of the pot. He felt that he was too unlucky. Why did a world war break out during his tenure, and Britain might lose? In that case, wouldn't he become the prime minister who ruined the hegemony of the British Empire? I'm afraid he will become a sinner through the ages. If possible, he wanted to quit immediately.

Chapter 257: Crazy Shipbuilding Plan

"Your Excellency, since the Royal Navy may lose this war, I think it is better to contact the Germans immediately, sacrifice certain interests, and end this **** war." A cabinet minister suggested.

This proposal has won the support of many cabinet ministers. In their view, the Royal Navy is the backbone of the British Empire. Now, even the Royal Navy can't beat the Germans, so it's better to negotiate peace as soon as possible. In this case, even if you will lose some benefits, you still haven't lost everything.

"Huh! Gentlemen, you seem so naive. How can it be possible to end the war now? The Germans have already taken the upper hand. Whether it is on land or at sea, they have the initiative. If they also win the next step If so, they will be able to completely win this war. At that time, they will get everything they want. It is much more cost-effective than negotiating with us." Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Gray said.

Suddenly, those ministers stopped talking, and they also knew that it was indeed a bit whimsical to want to talk about peace now. If it were them, they would definitely not agree to peace talks at this time.

"The ambitions of the Germans are well known. They want to take advantage of this war to defeat us and become the world's hegemon. They will never give up until this goal is achieved." Minister of War Richard Haldane also said.

"Okay, everyone. I don't think there is any need to argue about war or peace. If the British Empire doesn't want to lose its status as the world's hegemon and its vast overseas colonies, it has no choice but to continue the war." Asquid The Prime Minister said.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister." All the cabinet ministers replied.

"Your Excellency, how do we win the war? If we lose the war, we will lose nothing." Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asked.

Since the war is going to continue, it must find a way to win. What's the point of fighting if you're destined to lose?

Prime Minister Asquith did not answer immediately, but looked at Minister of the Navy Churchill.

"Master of the Navy, what is the Royal Navy going to do next to win the war?" Prime Minister Asquith asked.

"Your Excellency, the Royal Navy has lost a lot this time. However, our main force is still there. The Royal Navy needs to recover its strength, or even have a stronger strength, to be able to defeat the Germans. Next, we will urgently add a batch of warships. The construction plan is to complete the construction of these warships in the fastest time. This requires the support of the cabinet." Churchill said.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded. The Royal Navy has lost so many capital ships, so it is natural that more capital ships need to be built to make up for the loss. Of course, to speed up the construction progress, this also means that more funds will be spent. However, now they have no other choice. If they want to strengthen the strength of the Royal Navy and win this war, they must invest more funds.

"The Ministry of the Admiralty should submit the construction plan as soon as possible. Even if it is a waste of money, the cabinet will fully support you. No matter what, we must win this war this time. This will be the biggest crisis in the history of the British Empire." said Prime Minister Asquith.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister." Churchill nodded, feeling very excited. Now that Prime Minister Asquith has made such a statement, it means that their huge shipbuilding plan will definitely be passed. In less than two years, the strength of the Royal Navy will be able to recover. If the war can be delayed until then, the Germans may not win.

"Everyone, now is the time when the British Empire is dying, and we can no longer have any illusions about the Germans. There is only one way for the British Empire to defend its own interests, and that is war. Only by defeating the Germans can we ensure the supremacy of the empire. Therefore, I hope that you can unite and do your best to ensure that the British Empire wins this war instead of dragging its feet." Prime Minister Asquith said.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister!" Everyone replied. However, I am afraid that only they themselves know what they think in their hearts. After all, when the country is facing life and death, many people will make other considerations for the little ones in their hearts.

After the meeting, Churchill did not stay in the Prime Minister's Office for a moment, and immediately returned to the Admiralty. Admiral Jellicoe, as well as the generals and experts of the navy, are planning a batch of battleships that need to be built urgently.

I was busy until the evening before the preliminary planning was completed. After briefly looking at the plan, Churchill immediately rushed to the Prime Minister's Office and reported to Prime Minister Asquith, hoping to get his support immediately. He did this because he didn't want to waste even a minute.

Prime Minister Asquith also postponed his break to listen to Churchill's report.

"Your Excellency, in order to deal with the Germans, we plan to start building the following battleships and battlecruisers within a month. First, we will rebuild the 'Iron Duke-class' battleships. Of course, the specific design will no longer be the same as before. Designed, but modified, the 'Revenge-class' battleship with enhanced defense and power. It can be regarded as an improved version of the 'Revenge-class'. The new 'Iron Duke-class' battleship will be equipped with triple-mounted 381 mm main The main armor will reach more than 330mm. We will build four 'Iron Duke' battleships. Next, there will be a new 'King George V' battleship, although the previous 'George V' There is still one battleship left, but it has been proved by actual combat that it is no match for the Germans at all. Therefore, we plan to rebuild the battleship 'George V'. The specific performance is comparable to that of the 'Iron Duke'. In the subtle parts, it will Improvements will be made. After that, there will be

the "Lion-class" battleship. The displacement of the "Lion-class" battleship will exceed 40,000 tons, equipped with three triple-mounted 406mm main guns, and the thickness of the main armor will be increased to more than 380mm. "Lion-class" The navy also plans to build four battleships. There are a total of 12 battleships of the above three levels, and construction will start in the next month. We will strive to complete them within one and a half to two years. By then, we will have It is not impossible to have enough strength to confront the Germans, or even defeat them." Churchill seemed very confident.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded. He knows that the new 'King George V-class' battleships and the new 'Iron Duke-class' battleships are based on the 'Revenge-class' battleships with increased displacement, increased power and Armor to improve its defense. The "Lion-class" battleship is a brand new battleship.

Chapter 258: king's concern

"Churchill, can these battleships really be built in two years?" Prime Minister Asquith asked.

"There shouldn't be a big problem. The new 'Iron Duke'-class battleships and the new 'King George V-class' battleships are all modified on the basis of the 'Revenge-class' battleships. We will divide these two classes into eight The battleships should not be too big of a problem if they are handed over to the major shipyards. As for the 'Lion-class' battleships, it is a little more difficult, not only to build a larger hull, but also to develop the 406mm main gun It has not been completed yet. However, even if there are problems, I believe that with our strength, we can overcome them," Churchill said.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded. On this issue, he chose to believe Churchill. In fact, he had no choice but to trust Churchill.

"In terms of battlecruisers, we plan to build three tiers of ten battlecruisers, namely the 'Prestige-class' battlecruiser, the 'Glory-class' battlecruiser and the

'Hood-class' battlecruiser. The 'Prestige-class' battlecruiser Both the line cruiser and the "Glory class" battlecruiser are equipped with three triple-mounted 381mm main guns, with a displacement of more than 35,000 tons, a maximum speed of 27 knots, and a main armor thickness of about 330mm.' Hu The German-class battlecruiser has a displacement of more than 40,000 tons, is equipped with three triple-mounted 406mm main guns, has a maximum speed of 27 knots, and has a main armor thickness of 350mm. Among them, the first two battlecruisers will each build three ships, and the rear one Class battlecruisers, four ships will be built. The overall construction plan will be completed within two years." Churchill said.

"Twelve battleships, plus ten battlecruisers, are the most powerful battleships and battlecruisers. If these twenty-two battleships are completed and put into service, the Royal Navy will definitely be able to regain its glory. At that time, we will It can completely defeat the Germans." Prime Minister Asquith said with satisfaction. He believes that these warships will allow the Royal Navy to regain the ability to aspire to the world's number one throne.

"Where are the Germans? Will they have a new construction plan?" Prime Minister Asquith asked. If the Germans also start building new warships, they will probably be caught in an endless naval arms race. At that time, it is hard to say whether it will be delayed until the end.

"Your Excellency, our intelligence personnel are doing their best to inquire about the new German battleships and battlecruisers, but at present, they don't know anything about it. The Germans seem to have no plans to build other than the capital ships under construction. A new capital ship. I think this is because the Germans are too confident, thinking that with the capital ships they are building now, they can completely defeat the British Empire. Even if they find out about the British Empire's naval construction plan, and re- It is too late to start building new battleships. There is absolutely no way for them

to complete the construction of these battleships in the shortest time like the British Empire." Churchill said proudly.

"Very good, very good. In this case, the Royal Navy might really be able to win." Prime Minister Asquith nodded in satisfaction.

"Your Excellency, the cost of this batch of warships will be very high. Especially because we need to hurry as much as possible, so we need to recruit more skilled workers and divide them into three shifts to build them. The cost will be at least half that of other warships." Churchill said with some concern.

"Well, there is no way. Who made the British Empire face such a big crisis now?" Prime Minister Asquith sighed. Although the British Empire is rich and powerful, if it is always wasted like this, it will not last long. However, if you don't fight hard, this may cause the British Empire to lose more benefits. The lesser of two evils can only be built more battleships.

"Your Excellency, if the Royal Navy possesses these warships, we will definitely be able to defeat the Germans and maintain the supremacy of the empire." Churchill assured.

"Well, the British Empire must win, otherwise, we will all become sinners of the empire!" Prime Minister Asquith said.

"Churchill, how much do these twenty-two warships cost?" Prime Minister Asquith asked.

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, we have initially estimated that it will cost about 70 million pounds. Of course, it cannot be ruled out that it will rise a little bit." Churchill said.

"Seventy million pounds?" Although he had already prepared for it, Prime Minister Asquith couldn't help but feel a little toothache when he heard this figure. The British Empire is indeed rich and powerful, but because of the ****

war and the arms race before the war, they have already accumulated a lot of debt. If another 70 million pounds were to be allocated to the navy to build new warships, it would undoubtedly put them in high debt.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister." After Churchill finished speaking, he looked at Prime Minister Asquith eagerly, for fear that he would retreat because of the high cost.

"Well, I will discuss this appropriation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Parliament, and there will be no major problems. For the Royal Navy, I will fully support it. But at the same time, I also make a request, that is, in the future In war, the Royal Navy must win. Otherwise, all our efforts will be in vain," Prime Minister Asquith said.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister. We will definitely win this war." Churchill said.

"Your Excellency, Your Majesty the King, please go to Buckingham Palace immediately." The secretary reported to Prime Minister Asquith.

"Okay, prepare the car, I'll go right away." Prime Minister Asquith ordered.

Afterwards, he said to Churchill: "His Majesty the King should also be concerned about the situation of the navy. I will explain to him. Don't have any burdens. Find a way to further strengthen the Royal Navy!"

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister." Churchill nodded and left.

Prime Minister Asquith went to Buckingham Palace to meet King George V.

As soon as George V saw Prime Minister Asquith, he left and asked: "Your Excellency, the Royal Navy lost a long time in today's naval battle, losing ten

battleships? In the next battle, what will the Royal Navy do?" Can you beat the Germans?"

"Your Majesty, the Royal Navy has indeed just suffered a big defeat. However, we will not be discouraged by this, let alone admit defeat to the Germans. The Navy has submitted a new shipbuilding plan. Within two years , we can rebuild a more powerful navy. At that time, we will have a decisive battle with the Germans. Victory must belong to us." Prime Minister Asquith expressed confidence.

Seeing that Prime Minister Asquith was full of confidence, King George V's worries dissipated.

Chapter 259: Pull the Americans into the water

Britain is a country with a constitutional monarchy. The monarch is only the nominal head of state, and power is restricted by the cabinet and parliament. However, the royal family has a high prestige among the people. Therefore, on many issues, the cabinet hopes to get the support of the monarch. This is especially true in war.

In order to make George V confident in the Royal Navy, Prime Minister Asquith revealed the naval shipbuilding plan submitted by Churchill. After hearing this, George V was really happy.

"Very good, very good. The capital ships that the navy wants to build are all powerful warships! With these capital ships, the Royal Navy will definitely be able to regain its glory. At that time, we can let the Germans pay their debts with blood, completely Defeat them! Let them know that if you want to challenge the hegemony of the British Empire, you are courting death." George V said excitedly.

"Yes, Your Majesty, we believe that future victories must belong to the empire." Prime Minister Asquith said.

George V nodded again and again: "Is there any difficulty in the navy? If anyone needs my help, just ask. After all, I am still the king of this country, and I must help my country and defeat the enemy!"

Prime Minister Asquith just wanted to refuse, but when he thought of the royal family's hundreds of years, they had accumulated quite a lot of financial resources. So, I immediately had an idea. If financial support can be obtained from the royal family, then the pressure on the government will be much less. "Your Majesty, it's mainly financial pressure. If these naval warships are to be built successfully, it will cost 70 million pounds. And now it's just during the war, and the pressure on the government is very high. Therefore, it is difficult to raise so much money. funding," Prime Minister Asquith said.

"In terms of funds, the royal family can provide some support. In this way, the royal family will contribute 20 million pounds. The rest will be taken care of by the government." King George V said generously.

You know, money in this era is very valuable. Twenty million pounds is already a big sum. According to the exchange rate, 20 million pounds is equivalent to 400 million marks.

"Yes, Your Majesty." Prime Minister Asquith was overjoyed. The royal family invested 20 million pounds, which at least relieved the urgent need. The preliminary work of the navy's shipbuilding plan can already start preparations. You can think of a way for the money you need next.

After leaving Buckingham Palace, the smile on Prime Minister Asquith's face disappeared. Now he still feels a lot of pressure. Although, with the support of the royal family, the navy's shipbuilding plan can be launched immediately. However, they also face a series of difficulties. For example, it will take at least two years to complete the construction of these warships of the Navy. And the Germans, will they give them two years? This is

undoubtedly very difficult. In addition, the German Navy's attack on the British sea transportation line is still continuing. After the Royal Navy suffered this loss, it was obvious that it could no longer attack the German Navy's breaking fleet. In this case, their sea transportation line will be cut off by the Germans sooner or later. At that time, I am afraid that they will be directly dragged to death before two years.

"No, it can't go on like this. Otherwise, the British Empire will undoubtedly be defeated." Prime Minister Asquith's face was ugly. But how can it help the British Empire? Prime Minister Asquith began to think hard.

When the car drove into the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Asquith finally sorted out his ideas.

"Come on, call the Secretary of the Navy and the Minister of Foreign Affairs immediately. I have something urgent to discuss with them." Prime Minister Asquith ordered.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister." The secretary immediately went to make arrangements.

In less than half an hour, Churchill and Sir Edward Gray arrived at the Prime Minister's Office.

Although it is late now, neither of them has rested yet. As important ministers of the empire, and at a time when the empire was in crisis, the two of them were also very busy.

"You two, I have called you here at such a late hour. I mainly want to see you. Is there any way to solve the crisis facing the empire's sea transportation lines? If we can't solve the problem of sea transportation lines, I'm afraid we won't last two years." years," Prime Minister Asquith said.

Churchill and Sir Edward Gray both nodded again and again.

They naturally know that once the sea transportation line is cut off, it will be a problem for them to survive only with the resources of the British mainland, let alone fight the Germans.

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, the Germans used despicable warfare, and we are temporarily unable to decipher their tactics. However, to solve this problem, it is not without problems. Admiral John Jellicoe once made a suggestion, I think it's very effective," Churchill said.

"Oh? What advice?" Prime Minister Asquith asked.

"Admiral John Jellicoe, suggest that our merchant ships fly the American flag. Or simply hire American merchant ships to transport supplies for us. In this case, the Germans will not even launch an attack on American merchant ships? If they really It is a good thing for the empire to have that courage. Don't forget, the United States is also one of the major powers in the world. Their naval strength ranks behind the empire and Germany. If they join the empire to fight, they must can beat Germany very quickly," said Prime Minister Churchill.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded repeatedly: "This is a very good way. If it is implemented in this way, the Germans will have no way to cut off our sea transportation line. Although we will spend more costs because of this, it is understandable of."

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, in my opinion, we should still find a way to drag the Americans into the water. The Germans' performance in this war was too strong, which was completely beyond our expectations. If the Americans can join us Undoubtedly, we can defeat the Germans at the least cost." Sir Edward Gray also said.

"The Americans have been waiting for a price. It may be very difficult to get them to express their views and join us!" Prime Minister Asquith frowned.

"We can think of other ways, for example, increase the order of war supplies to the Americans and continue to lend to the Americans. In that case, it is as if they do not join our side to fight. Once we lose the war, what will they do?" I can't get them." Sir Edward Gray smiled sinisterly.

Prime Minister Asquith thought about it and expressed his support for this proposal.

"Let our ambassador to the United States contact the Americans first! If possible, let the Americans join our camp. For this, we can give up some of our interests."

Chapter 260: A big country is a bandit

As the largest industrial country in the world, the United States has surpassed the United Kingdom in industrial output value as early as the end of the last century, becoming the number one in the world. In addition, the United States also has a navy that is the third largest in the world. Therefore, this makes the United States the target of the Allies and Allies.

It's just that the war has just begun, the situation is not yet clear, and the United States is unwilling to make a choice now. They want to wait for the price, or wait until the situation is clear before joining the war, so that they can get the maximum benefit at the minimum cost.

The unique geographical environment of the United States makes it the country of choice. The barrier between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean makes it difficult for other countries to launch attacks on their homeland. As long as a strong navy is maintained, the security of the country can be ensured. As for the army, the surrounding countries are all war scum, so there is nothing to worry about.

Originally, the British looked down on Americans extremely, thinking that they were just nouveau riche. I am even more unwilling to let the influence of the United States expand to Europe, so I am unwilling to let the United States

intervene in this war. However, they never thought that Germany would be so powerful, and they almost knocked them down at the beginning of the war. Under such circumstances, the British naturally forgot their previous worries and tried their best to draw the Americans into their camp. This has become an important way for Britain to quickly defeat Germany and win the war.

Of course, Americans are not fools, and naturally they will not easily let Britain do what they want. Therefore, British talents need to adopt various means to make the United States join their camp.

"Your Excellency, the Admiralty has proposed a way to enhance our strength, which requires your approval." Churchill said at the end of the conversation.

In order to increase the strength of the British navy as soon as possible, Churchill's hair was almost grey.

"Oh? What way?" Prime Minister Asquith asked. He has approved the Navy's large-scale shipbuilding plan. But those warships will take at least a year and a half to complete the construction, so they still have to wait for a long time.

"Your Excellency Prime Minister, we still have three battleships built for other countries, which have not yet been delivered to other countries. However, they have been completed. If these three battleships can be included in the Royal Navy, this can instantly improve the Royal Navy. strength," Churchill said.

"Are you talking about the battleships built for the Turks and Chile?" Prime Minister Asquith frowned.

The strength of the British Royal Navy has always been the best in the world. And Britain's shipbuilding capacity is also the strongest in the world. This makes other countries that do not have the ability to build battleships,

when they want to have battleships, they often purchase them from the United Kingdom. And Britain is also happy to help them build. After all, the arms business is very profitable. Battleships, in particular, are even more lucrative.

"But they have already paid for it. If we requisition these battleships now, it may have a very adverse effect on the credibility of the British Empire." Sir Edward Gray, the Foreign Secretary, frowned.

"Sir Gray, I can't control so much now. The Royal Navy has suffered heavy losses and urgently needs battleships to replenish its strength. Requisitioning those three battleships is the best way." Churchill said.

Although the three battleships are foreign trade battleships, their performance is not very strong. But now the Royal Navy is no longer qualified to pick and choose.

Prime Minister Asquith frowned, as if he was thinking about the pros and cons of this. After a few minutes, he made a decision.

"Well, note to the Ottoman Turkish Empire and Chile that the battleships built for them were temporarily requisitioned by the Royal Navy. After the war is over, we will compensate them." Prime Minister Asquith made a decision.

Although doing so will damage the credibility of the British Empire, for the current British Empire, finding a way to win the war is the most important thing. As for the others, they can be put aside for the time being.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Prime Minister." Sir Edward Gray nodded.

"Your Excellency, the Germans have been wooing the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Now that we are doing this, will the Ottoman Turkish Empire be pushed into the German camp?" Sir Edward Gray asked.

"The Ottoman Turkish Empire should not join the Allies. After all, their geographical location is very important. They should know that once they join

the Allies, they will inevitably encounter our attack. At that time, they will not be able to resist it. live," said Prime Minister Asquith.

The current Ottoman Turkish Empire is not the powerful empire that swept across Europe at the beginning. It has long since declined and become the sick man of West Asia. If it weren't for the mutual restraint among the major European powers, I am afraid that troops would have been dispatched to destroy the Ottoman Turkish Empire long ago. Therefore, Prime Minister Asquith and others did not put the Ottoman Turkish Empire in their eyes at all, thinking that they would not dare to confront the British Empire at all. Even if the British Empire robbed their battleships, they could only swallow their anger.

Churchill left the Prime Minister's Office excitedly. He wanted to rush back to the Admiralty and send people to the shipyard to receive the three battleships immediately.

The three battleships are the "Sultan Osman I" and the "Resadyh" built by the United Kingdom for the Ottoman Turkish Empire, and the "Admiral Lator" built for Chile.

Among them, the two battleships of the Ottoman Turkish Empire were originally built for Brazil. However, the Brazilians had no money to pay, so it was transferred to the Ottoman Turks. But I didn't expect that the Ottoman Turkish Empire had paid the money, but hadn't got the warship, so it was requisitioned by the British. This also became an important reason for the Ottoman Turkish Empire to join the Allies in the future.

The British Navy named the three battleships 'Agincourt', 'Ireland' and 'Canada' respectively.

'Agincourt' has a displacement of 30,000 tons, a maximum speed of 22 knots, and is equipped with seven twin 305mm main guns. It can be called the battleship with the most main guns in the world.

The 'Ireland' has a displacement of 25,000 tons, a maximum speed of 21 knots, and is equipped with five twin 305mm main guns.

'Canada' has a displacement of 32,000 tons, a maximum speed of 22.75 knots, and is equipped with five twin 356mm main guns.

These three battleships have powerful firepower, but they all have a strong style of British battleships, that is, they attach importance to firepower and speed, and despise defense. In the previous battles, it has been proved that it will not work at all.