

Jagged 311

Chapter 311: Declare war on Italy (seeking monthly ticket)

For a long time, Qin Tian didn't think much of the Italians' fighting power, so he didn't worry about Italy betraying the Allies and taking refuge in the Allies. What's more, in another time and space, the Italians did the same. Therefore, Qin Tian was not at all surprised by the Italian's choice.

It's just that, compared with another time and space, the time of Italian betrayal was a few months earlier.

Of course, although Qin Tian is not worried, it does not mean that other people are not worried. Italy, after all, is an industrial powerhouse with a population of 20 to 30 million. After mobilization, at least two million troops can be armed. In today's world, this is already a proper military power.

Although, the Italians did not perform very well in the Ethiopian battlefield and the North African battlefield. But whether they are really as vulnerable as Qin Tian said is very difficult to say.

"The Italians have betrayed us. It is foreseeable that they will definitely launch an attack on the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Therefore, the Austro-Hungarian Empire must first draw troops from the front line and return to the southern line to ensure that it can withstand the Italian attack. From the Italians Judging from the troops that can be dispatched, the Austro-Hungarian Empire may have to withdraw an army group from the front line to return to the defense." Von Falkenhain said.

"A group army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is enough to resist the attack of the Italians. Of course, if everyone thinks it is not safe, we can send three infantry divisions to reinforce the Austro-Hungarian Empire. With the help of the terrain of the Alps, we can resist the Italians' attack." Offensive is definitely not a problem. However, our current enemies are still Britain, France and Russia, and the Italians can ignore them for now. After we defeat Britain,

France and Russia, the Italians will naturally have nothing to worry about." Qin Tian said.

"Well, let's do this. Let the Austro-Hungarian Empire draw troops to defend Italy, and we will send three infantry divisions to reinforce them!" William II made a decision. This is the end of the matter, and it is useless to say anything else. All that can be done now is to resist the Italian attack and minimize losses.

"Your Majesty, we will contact the Austro-Hungarian Empire immediately. However, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is already somewhat powerless to resist the Russian attack on the Eastern Front. If the army is deployed again, this will make them extremely easy to be attacked by the Russians." Defeat. In order to avoid this situation, the 8th Army and the Austro-Hungarian Army must start the joint operation against the Russian Southwest Front Army as soon as possible." Von Falkenhain said.

For the pig teammate of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany obviously cannot give up easily. If the Austro-Hungarian Empire is abandoned, then Germany will really fight alone and fight against the whole world with its own strength.

"Oscar, is the rest of the Eighth Army complete?" William II asked. He is now full of confidence in the 8th Army, which has repeatedly performed miracles on the Eastern Front.

"Father, the rest of the 8th Army is almost complete. However, after the 8th Army goes south, which army will the defense of East Prussia and Poland be handed over to?" Qin Tian asked.

Although the Northwest Front of the Russian Army has been completely defeated, this does not mean that Russia has no threat to East Prussia and the Kingdom of Poland. Once the troops mobilized by the Russian army from

the rear arrive, they can still continue to attack. Therefore, after the 8th Army went south, the lair must also be defended by troops.

William II frowned, this is indeed a problem.

"Do you have any suggestions?" William II asked.

"Your Majesty, the General Staff hopes that the Ninth Army can be formed. The Ninth Army will be formed from the reserve army, plus the newly formed Ninth Armored Division. The Ninth Army can be formed while being responsible for the defense of East Prussia and the Kingdom of Poland. In this case Even if the troops mobilized by the Russians from the rear arrive, they can completely resist their attack." Von Falkenhain suggested.

This is the result of discussions between Qin Tian and von Falkenhain. The 8th Army is already under Qin Tian's control. Next, Qin Tian had to find a way to expand his influence to other legions. Of course, the difficulty of expanding influence like other legions is obviously more difficult than controlling the newly formed legion. For this reason, Qin Tian intends to use a two-pronged approach. On the one hand, he will actively expand his influence in other legions, and on the other hand, he will form a new legion. In this case, his influence within the army will continue to increase.

King William II thought about it for a while, and then nodded in agreement.

After failing to quickly win victory on the Western Front, William II also felt that the German Army was seriously short of troops. This is mainly because Germany mobilized only 50 percent of its troops when the war broke out. Germany's old rival, France, has already mobilized 80% of its troops. In contrast, Germany's mobilization appears incomplete.

"The Ninth Army can be formed. Do you have any suggestions for the commander and chief of staff?" William II then asked.

"Father, I suggest that General Hindenburg be the commander of the 9th Army. As for the chief of staff, General Hoffman, the deputy chief of staff of the 8th Army can be appointed." Qin Tian directly expressed his opinion. Both Hindenburg and Hoffman were his men. Having them as commanders and chiefs of staff of the newly formed Ninth Army would ensure his influence over the newly formed army.

"Your Majesty, the combat effectiveness of the 8th Army is obvious to all. Therefore, the 9th Army will be formed in accordance with the organization of the 8th Army. Generals Hindenburg and Hoffman will serve as the 9th Army. The commander and chief of staff of the legion are also based on this consideration." Von Falkenhain said.

"Okay, let's do what you want!" William II nodded. Although he was very clear that this was Qin Tian taking the opportunity to expand his influence in the army, William II, who had already regarded Qin Tian as his only heir, no longer cared so much about it. Small movements, often turn a blind eye.

"Yes, Your Majesty." Von Falkenhain nodded. With the approval of William II, everything will become very easy.

On October 1, 1914, the German Empire declared war on Italy, the traitor, on the grounds that the Kingdom of Italy betrayed the alliance treaty.

Just two hours later, Austria-Hungary also declared war on the Kingdom of Italy.

And that night, the Kingdom of Italy also declared war on the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Once allies, on this day, become enemies.

Chapter 312: Crown Prince Karl

Austro-Hungarian Empire, Vienna, Schönbrunn Palace.

The aged ruler of the empire, Franz Joseph I, leaned on his emperor's throne and closed his eyes slightly, as if he had fallen asleep. The important ministers of the Austro-Hungarian Empire are reporting the war situation and the current international situation to him.

Empire Crown Prince Karl stood aside respectfully, listening to the teachings of Franz Joseph I.

After the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, Karl immediately became the Crown Prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After all, as a first-class power in Europe, the Austro-Hungarian Empire cannot live without a crown prince. Karl is the grandson of Archduke Karl Ludwig, the younger brother of Franz Joseph I. Since Franz Joseph I had no heir to the throne, he had no choice but to choose Karl to inherit the crown prince and become Franz Joseph I. Emperor of the Empire after the death of Franz Joseph I. Although Franz Joseph I was not satisfied with this, there was no other way. Although his son is long gone?

The current international situation is very unfavorable to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Franz Joseph I did not expect that the battle would turn out like this, which was completely different from what he had expected at the beginning. You know, the current Austro-Hungarian Empire is definitely one of the top powers in the world.

The Austro-Hungarian Empire was a traditional European power (Russia, Britain, Austria, and France) and one of the eight major powers in the world at that time (Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Russia, Austria, Italy, and Japan). Austria-Hungary was the great empire of Eastern Europe. The vast land area ranked third in Europe at that time, second only to Russia and the Ottoman Empire; the total population was large, slightly inferior to Russia and Germany, ranking third in Europe; Strong, ranking fourth in the world, second only to Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States; its

extensive resource reserves and mobilized troops are also the fourth in Europe, only less than Russia, Germany and France; and the types of agricultural products The variety and richness of crude oil production surpass France, which has sophisticated agriculture, and Russia, which is oriented to grain export, and ranks first in Europe; the advanced technology of heavy artillery weapons produced by Skoda Arsenal is far ahead, ranking first in the world First.

With the strength of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, its performance in this war should be far from this. However, the performance of the Austrian army on the battlefield made Franz Joseph I, the great emperor, feel ashamed.

On the southern battlefield, they have dispatched two armies to deal with a small Serbia, but they still cannot defeat Serbia. Even though Belgrade has been captured, Serbia's resistance continues. As a result, the Austro-Hungarian Empire had to continue to deploy heavy troops in Serbia, and the casualties were still increasing.

Not to mention the Eastern Front. If the deployment of the German 8th Army defeated the Russian Northwest Front and caused heavy damage to the Russian Army, forcing the Russian Army to dispatch troops from the Southwest Front, the Austrian Army might have been defeated. The ferocious and savage Russians have rushed into the rich wasteland of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and have begun to plunder.

Now, Italy has betrayed the covenant and has become the enemy of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It can be expected that the Italian offensive will begin soon. At that time, the southern front of the Austro-Hungarian Empire will also face the attack of powerful enemies, which will make the situation facing the Austro-Hungarian Empire even more critical.

"Your Majesty, the imperial government has declared war on the Kingdom of Italy. The German Empire has declared war on the Kingdom of

Italy two hours before us." said Mario Weber, Prime Minister of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"Well! The Kingdom of Italy betrayed the covenant and became our enemy. The Empire should declare war on it. But, is our army ready to fight against the Italians?" Franz Joseph I asked .

"Your Majesty, the 1st Army has returned from the Eastern Front. They will be deployed to the Southern Front to prevent the Italians from attacking us. In addition, the German Empire will send three infantry divisions to help us defend against the Italians. We are confident that With the help of the terrain of the Alps, resist the attack of the Italians." said Duke Kasbah, Austrian Minister of War and Minister of War of the Central Government of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Franz Joseph I nodded: "If this is the case, the Italians are nothing to worry about. After we have dealt with the Russians, we will turn around and deal with them."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Duke Kasbah agreed deeply. For the Austrian army, the brutal Russians are obviously more difficult to deal with. As for the Italians, they have never been taken seriously by them. The two countries have been competing in the Balkans for many years, but the Austro-Hungarian Empire almost always suppressed the Kingdom of Italy.

"After the deployment of the 1st Army, what should we do on the Eastern Front?" Crown Prince Karl asked. The Russians on the Eastern Front are not easy to deal with. For a long time, the Austrian army has struggled to support on the Eastern Front and suffered heavy losses. If a main group army is transferred, won't this make the Austrian army's situation more difficult?

"Regarding the battlefield on the Eastern Front, Germany proposed to cooperate with us to deal with the Russian Southwest Front Army. The

German Eighth Army will go south to attack the Russian Southwest Front Army. With the combat effectiveness of the German Eighth Army Army, plus us, we will defeat the Russian Southwest Front Army. It's definitely not difficult." Duke Kasbah smiled. Before, he was still worried about the situation on the Eastern Front, but after learning that the German allies would lend a helping hand, he was greatly relieved.

"Well, Crown Prince Oscar's 8th Army has a strong fighting capacity. In less than two months, nearly one million Russian troops have been wiped out. With their support, we will definitely be able to defeat the Russian Southwest Front Army." A smile appeared on Franz Joseph I's face full of age spots. For him, this is undoubtedly one of the rare good news he has heard in the past few months.

"Yes, Your Majesty. The 8th Army of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Oscar is already the most powerful among the several legions of the German Army." Grand Duke Kasbah sighed.

"Crown Prince Oscar is really a genius. The German Empire has him as the Crown Prince, and it is God who favors the German Empire!" Franz Joseph I sighed. If the Austro-Hungarian Empire had such an heir, it might not be what it is now.

After hearing Joseph I's approval, Crown Prince Karl couldn't help curling his lips. He was full of disdain for the German Crown Prince who was one year younger than him. In his opinion, Qin Tian was just lucky. If he was the Crown Prince of the German Empire, he would definitely do better than Qin Tian.

Chapter 313: Crown Prince vs. Crown Prince (2200 votes plus updates)

"Your Majesty, I heard that Crown Prince Oscar has already rushed to the front line. I hope to go to the front line to get to know this talented crown

prince, and at the same time, to boost the morale of the troops on the front line!" Karl, the Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary, said to Franz? Joseph I said.

Franz Joseph I thought for a few seconds, then nodded in agreement. The well-aged Franz Joseph I was well aware of Crown Prince Karl's little thoughts. It was nothing more than jealousy of the brilliant achievements of the Crown Prince of the German Empire at such a young age. However, Franz Joseph I believed that there would be no harm in letting Crown Prince Karl go and see his own differences. After all, Karl is now the crown prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Franz Joseph I still counts on the future crown prince Karl to lead the Austro-Hungarian Empire to develop even stronger.

The headquarters of the Austrian Army on the Eastern Front is located in Uzhhorod. Because of the importance of the battlefield on the Eastern Front, Marshal Franz Konrad Herzendorf, Chief of Staff of the Austrian Army, personally sat here to direct the Austrian army to fight the Russian army. It's just that, in the battles in the past few days, the Austrian army has almost won less and lost more. If this continues, I am afraid that it will not be long before they will be defeated by the Russian army.

Before, the Austrian army assembled four armies on the Eastern Front, namely the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th armies, all of which were elite troops of the Austrian army. But because of the betrayal of the Kingdom of Italy, the 1st Army had to return to the country to help, leaving only three armies on the front line with more than 700,000 people. The Russian army on the opposite side has recovered to 4 army groups, and, according to the information they received, there is another Russian army army on the way.

The disastrous defeat of the Russian army in the Kingdom of Poland made Tsar Nicholas II very angry. Of course, this also let him know how powerful the German army is. In order to vent his anger, Nicholas II had no

choice but to target the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In the eyes of the Tsar and the senior generals of the Russian army, the Germans were too powerful to deal with. But Austria-Hungary was different. If it can beat the Austro-Hungarian Empire, or even completely defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Russia can also regain face on the battlefield. It can even create better opportunities for the subsequent defeat of Germany.

The Russians did this, which naturally put the Austro-Hungarian Empire under greater pressure on the Eastern Front.

The Austrian Eastern Front Command, Baron Herzendorf Marshal, and several army commanders are waiting for the arrival of Crown Prince Karl. It is undoubtedly a big event for these frontline generals that the crown prince wants to inspect the frontline. What's more, Archduke Friedrich, one of the commanders-in-chief of the Austro-Hungarian army, will also come to the front with Crown Prince Karl. This made the generals on the front line couldn't help but pay more attention to it.

"Your Excellency Chief of Staff, the current situation is becoming more and more unfavorable for the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the entire Allied Powers. The Italians are despicable and shameless. They actually betrayed us and defected to the Allied Powers. If we had known that they would drive out such a thing, we We should have attacked them at the beginning of the war and defeated them." An Austrian general, General Pom Elmoli, commander of the Austrian 2nd Army, looked angry.

"The betrayal of the Italians was indeed beyond our expectations. However, if we want to keep the Italians, we have to pay a lot of territory along the Adriatic Sea. This is also not good for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It may be acceptable." Baron Marshal Herzendorf said with a cold face. For the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Italy is undoubtedly their old enemy. On this issue,

Germany stood on the side of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which made the generals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire very grateful.

"Although the current situation is not good for us. However, the war has just begun. It is hard to say who will win and who will lose. Our German allies performed quite amazingly in this war! Not only the German Army once again Prove to the world that their title of No. 1 in the world is not for nothing. The German navy also fought very well, and even suppressed the British Royal Navy. Therefore, it is not that we have no chance of winning this battle." Austrian Army General Borojevic, commander of the 3rd Army, said.

All the generals of the Austrian Army nodded their heads in agreement with this point of view.

Although, the Austrian army's performance in this war was very bad, and it was completely inconsistent with their national strength, which made these generals of the Austrian army feel ashamed. However, fortunately, their ally, the German Empire, played very well. Therefore, they are not worried about losing in this battle. If the German Empire wins the war, they will also be able to hitch a ride, become the winner of the war, and share the dividends of the war.

Several luxury Daimler A-class cars arrived at the headquarters under the guard of a troop of cavalry. Marshal Herzendorf and others immediately went up to him.

As a close ally of the German Empire, many products of Germany can be popular in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a model of luxury cars, Daimler's A-class car has naturally become the object of pursuit by senior officials of the Austro-Hungarian Empire government and military generals. This time, Crown Prince Karl arrived at the front line in this kind of car.

"His Royal Highness, Your Excellency the Grand Duke, on behalf of the frontline soldiers, I welcome you to the frontline." Baron Herzendorf Marshal, his face full of smiles.

"Well, Your Excellency Marshal, you are too polite. Has the Crown Prince of Germany arrived?" After getting off the car, Crown Prince Karl looked around.

"His Royal Highness, His Royal Highness Oscar hasn't arrived yet. We contacted him before, and it is estimated that he will arrive tomorrow." Baron Marshal Herzendorf said.

"It won't be until tomorrow? Huh! You really know how to put on airs." Crown Prince Karl snorted coldly. In his opinion, Qin Tian is the crown prince of Germany, and he is also the crown prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Regardless of status and status, he is no worse than Qin Tian. Even, he is one year older than Qin Tian. No matter what, Qin Tian should have arrived first to greet him.

Baron Marshal Herzendorf was a little speechless. He now felt that it was not a good thing for Crown Prince Karl to go to the front line. If the Germans are angered and they are no longer reinforced, then this will be troublesome!

Baron Marshal Herzendorf hurriedly looked at Archduke Friedrich and asked him for help.

Archduke Friedrich knew what Baron Marshal Herzendorf meant: "His Royal Highness Oscar came from Berlin, it will take more time, let's wait!"

The next day, Qin Tian rushed all the way to Uzhhorod. The troops of the 8th Army had already rushed to the front line, and they were not with Qin Tian.

Chapter 314: unreliable ally

From Berlin to Uzhhorod, the distance is not far, hundreds of kilometers. At the same time, there is no direct railway connection. Qin Tian can only go all the way by car.

Major General Ludendorff, chief of staff of the 8th Army, did not act with him, but rushed to the front with the staff. The only one who rushed to the front line with Qin Tian was Brigadier General Manstein, the deputy chief of staff and chief of operations. Brigadier General Hoffman, the former deputy chief of staff and chief of operations, has been promoted to major general and served as the chief of staff of the 9th Army.

The crown prince of the German Empire arrived in Uzhhorod, and the generals of the Austrian army, as well as Crown Prince Karl and Archduke Friedrich who arrived here first, all went to greet him. Although Crown Prince Karl was somewhat unhappy, he could not show it under the persuasion of Grand Duke Friedrich. After all, the current occupation is not good for the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the Crown Prince of the German Empire came to help them.

"His Royal Highness Oscar, welcome to Uzhhorod. His Majesty the Emperor is very grateful to the German Empire for lending a helping hand to support us at this critical moment." Crown Prince Karl's face was full of smiles. However, if you look closely, you can tell that it's clearly a hypocritical smile.

Qin Tian was a little puzzled, not knowing why Crown Prince Karl had such an expression. However, he didn't take this to heart. In Qin Tian's eyes, Crown Prince Karl is just a lucky guy. If Franz Joseph I's son hadn't committed suicide and Archduke Ferdinand hadn't been assassinated, it would have been out of Karl's turn to become the crown prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In addition, in another time and space, Crown Prince Karl's performance after succeeding to the throne was also extremely bad. As the emperor of one of the two great empires of the Allied Powers, he was so focused on peace that he had no determination to continue the war and defeat the enemy, and this caused the Allied Powers to lose miserably in this war. Of course, the fate of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was even more miserable. After the defeat, the Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated directly, split into multiple countries, and became a small second- and third-rate country, completely removed from the powers. And Karl's own fate is also a tragedy.

In another time and space, Karl loves peace. After succeeding to the throne, he tried several times to make the Austro-Hungarian Empire withdraw from the First World War by secretly suggesting to the Allies. France negotiated peace, but because he refused to cede any of the Habsburg lands to Italy, the behind-the-scenes activities completely failed. And when his efforts to support France's claims to Alsace and Lorraine were exposed, his reputation was badly damaged both in Germany and at home, and Austria was placed in an embarrassing position. At the end of World War I, the Austro-Hungarian Empire fell into civil strife and chaos. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proposed a fourteen-point agreement, advocating the independence of the nations of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On October 14, Karl convened the Royal Parliament, accepted the 14-point agreement, and agreed to establish a federal state with autonomous governments of various ethnic groups. But the reforms quickly got out of hand, and national self-governments declared full independence one after another and withdrew from the First World War. The republicans in Austria finally rejected the monarchy.

On November 11, 1918, Karl announced: "I officially give up participating in any government affairs, but I will not give up the throne." The next day, the German Austrian Republic was established, and Karl was forced to leave Vienna. In March 1919, he went into exile in Switzerland. In April, the Austrian

Parliament announced the abolition of Karl's throne. In 1921, Karl tried twice to restore the place with the help of Hungarian conservatives, but failed because he did not get the support of the Hungarian head of state, Admiral Horthy Miklos. Exiled to Madeira Island, he lived a life of extreme poverty. In 1922, Karl died of pneumonia at the age of 34.

So, in Qin Tian's eyes, Crown Prince Karl is a completely tragic character. If he hadn't changed history and saved the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the danger of defeat, the life of Crown Prince Karl would have been a coffee table full of cups and utensils!

After some brief greetings, Qin Tian and Brigadier General Manstein attended the luncheon prepared by the Austrian Army Command. Although the situation on the front line is very critical, the lunch prepared by the Austrian army is very rich. From this, it seems that they don't have any worries about the current situation at all.

After lunch, Qin Tian was arranged to rest in the lounge. Although Qin Tian was a little displeased with this, he never showed it.

Besides, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is now the only ally of Germany, and it is also the most important ally. In any case, the German Empire can no longer lose this ally. At least, this ally cannot be lost until Germany has won a decisive victory. Therefore, even if Qin Tian was dissatisfied, he would not explode.

"Boom!" There was a knock on the door.

"Come in!" Qin Tian said.

"Your Highness!" Brigadier General Manstein walked in.

"Sit down, what's the matter?" Qin Tian asked his favorite general with a pleasant face.

In Qin Tian's plan, Manstein's talent in staff operations will be brought into play bit by bit. In the future, he even hopes that Manstein can serve as the chief of staff of the German army.

"Your Highness, the generals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire don't seem to be in a hurry! Don't they know that the Russian Southwest Front Army has regrouped 4 armies? In addition, there is another Russian Army that will arrive soon. At that time, they will have to face the attack of more than one million Russian troops." Manstein was a little puzzled.

After the Northwest Front Army of the Russian Army was completely wiped out, the Southwest Front Army of the Russian Army was given more attention. Each group army is a full-scale group army with more than 300,000 troops. Once the five armies of the Russian Southwest Front Army are all gathered, it will be a huge army with nearly 1.5 million people. On the Eastern Front, the Austro-Hungarian Empire only had three armies, with a maximum of one million soldiers. Moreover, they were continuously defeated by the Russians in the previous battles, with great losses, and the combat morale of the troops was also very low.

"It seems that the generals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire pinned their hopes on us. The burden on our shoulders is very heavy!" Qin Tian said a little speechlessly.

Manstein's face was also ugly. He also discovered that the ally of the Austro-Hungarian Empire seemed unreliable! Originally, they cooperated actively, but now, as long as they don't back down, they have to thank God for blessing.

Chapter 315: Command (seeking monthly ticket)

"Your Highness, the Russian Southwest Front Army has a strong force. And our allies seem to be unreliable. I'm afraid this battle is not easy to fight!" Manstein was a little worried about the next battle.

Qin Tian nodded, the next battle is indeed not very favorable. However, in order to realize the plan and win the final victory on the Eastern Front, this battle must be fought!

"It is indeed difficult. But even so, we must fight this battle and win it. I believe that the Austrian army does not want to lose this battle. Once the battle begins, they will He will definitely cooperate with us," Qin Tian said.

Manstein nodded: "Your Highness, shall we hand over the command of this battle to the Austrian army? If we let them command our troops, I am afraid that not only will we not be able to win, but we will suffer heavy losses."

"How is this possible? There has never been a precedent for the Austrian army to command us. I will talk to them this afternoon about the issue of command. It would be best if the Austrian army could hand over command. If they refuse If the command is handed over, then everyone can only cooperate with each other. As for whether the cooperation is tight, it depends on them. However, I think we should not have too much expectations for this." Qin Tian said.

"Yes, Your Highness." Manstein felt more and more that this battle was not easy to fight. But at the same time, he also knew that this battle had to be fought and had to be won. Only in this way can the German Empire win the victory on the Eastern Front and change the current unfavorable situation.

Qin Tian rested for an hour. At 2:30 in the afternoon, the joint combat meeting between Germany and Austria officially started.

In the conference room of the Austrian Army Command, the two parties sat down on both sides of the long table. However, there were several people sitting on the side of the Austrian army. On the German side, apart from Qin Tian, there was only one young Manstein.

"The Germans actually only sent two people to the joint operations conference. They are simply belittling us!" Crown Prince Karl was very upset when he saw that there were only Qin Tian and Manstein on the other side of the conference table. In his view, this is clearly the Germans' contempt for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In addition, Germany only deployed one 8th Army on the long Eastern Front, and the other troops were deployed on the Western Front. The Austro-Hungarian Empire had to deploy millions of troops on the Eastern Front. This is clearly the Germans using them to fight with the Russians in order to reap the benefits. It is precisely because of this view that Crown Prince Karl is very dissatisfied with Germany from the bottom of his heart. If the Austro-Hungarian Empire is now in his hands, it is estimated that he will directly lead the Austro-Hungarian Empire out of this war and let Germany fight alone!

"His Royal Highness Oscar, the Austro-Hungarian Empire is grateful to Germany for sending reinforcements to us at a critical moment. His Majesty believes that the army led by His Highness will definitely defeat the Russians. In addition, His Majesty hopes that His Highness can visit Vienna at an appropriate time. His Majesty looks forward to Meet you." Archduke Friedrich had a smile on his face.

"Your Excellency is too polite, please tell His Majesty the Austrian Emperor that after this war is over, I will definitely visit Vienna." Qin Tian replied with a smile. He knew very well that Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria would not live long. Once the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I passed away and Crown Prince Karl succeeded him as Karl I, the relationship between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the German Empire would probably retreat significantly. This made Qin Tian hope that this war would preferably end before the death of Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I. In this way, even if the attitude of the Austro-Hungarian Empire towards Germany changes, Germany will be able to handle all this with ease.

"His Royal Highness Oscar, does the German Empire have any plans for this battle against the Russian Southwest Front?" asked Marshal Herzendorf, Chief of Staff of the Austrian Army.

"Your Excellency Chief of Staff, the 8th Army of the German Army has been heading to the front line one after another. It is estimated that within three days, it will arrive at the predetermined position. Three days later, that is, on October 7, the 8th Army will move from the north to the southwest of the Russian Army. The front army launched an offensive. Our primary attack target is the 4th Army of the Russian Southwest Front. After defeating the 4th Army, we will turn to attack eastward and threaten the rear of the main force of the Russian Southwest Front. We hope that the Austro-Hungarian Empire will The army can launch an attack on the frontal battlefield, cooperate with us in fighting, and defeat the Russian Southwest Front Army in one fell swoop." Qin Tian said.

"God! If I heard correctly, His Highness Oscar wants the German 8th Army to defeat the Russian 4th Army first, and then cut off the retreat of the remaining three main Russian armies and eat them all at once?" Baron Herzendorf exclaimed.

The other Austrian generals were also shocked. In their view, the appetite of these Germans was too great.

Crown Prince Karl's face was full of contempt. In his opinion, Qin Tian is clearly bragging. Are the Russians that easy to deal with? If it could be defeated so easily, the Austro-Hungarian Empire would not be forced into what it is now.

"His Royal Highness Oscar, the Russian Southwest Front Army we are facing has four main armies with a total strength of more than one million soldiers. How could they be defeated so easily?" Crown Prince Karl asked.

"Of course, the Russian army is very strong, but we are not weak either. I think that no matter how strong the Russian Southwest Front Army is, it will not be much stronger than the Russian Army Northwest Front Army? We also wiped out the Russian Army in the previous battle. The Northwest Front Army is here." Qin Tian still kept a smile on his face, appearing very humble and polite.

But Crown Prince Karl believed that Qin Tian was clearly showing off the combat effectiveness of the German 8th Army, and even mocking the Austrian Army. A corps of the German Army faced the Northwest Front of the Russian Army and achieved a brilliant victory. But the Austrian army was beaten all over the place by the Russians.

Suddenly, Crown Prince Karl's expression turned a little ugly. But he has no way to refute, who made the performance of the German army on the Eastern Front so dazzling, and the Austrian army so incompetent? This made him, the crown prince, unable to straighten his back at all!

"His Royal Highness Oscar, how sure is your army of this battle?" Archduke Friedrich asked.

"At least 50% sure! If the Austrian army can fully cooperate with us in this battle, our chances of winning will be even greater. Therefore, I hope that in this battle, the Austrian army can obey my command!" Qin Tian said.

Chapter 316: Fully cooperate (seeking monthly ticket)

"What? Follow your command! Impossible, this is absolutely impossible." Crown Prince Karl jumped up, his face full of anger, as if he had heard something insulting him.

The other generals of the Austrian army also felt a little shocked. However, their reaction was not as intense as that of Crown Prince Karl.

After Qin Tian saw Crown Prince Karl's reaction, he couldn't help frowning. He faintly felt that Crown Prince Karl seemed to be very disgusted with him, and even had a hostile feeling. This made Qin Tian somewhat puzzled. He couldn't remember where he had offended Crown Prince Karl.

"His Royal Highness Karl, now our two countries are fighting together, and the Austrian army is fully cooperating with us. Is there nothing to be surprised about?" Manstein asked.

"Damn, arrogant German, can even a small brigadier question me?" Crown Prince Karl was even more angry. However, he obviously couldn't express his true thoughts. In that case, it would not only seriously affect the relationship between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the German Empire, but also make him questioned by the generals. Even Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria would have a bad impression of him. After all, it is still a period of close cooperation between Germany and Austria.

Taking a deep breath, Crown Prince Karl suppressed the anger in his heart, and began to justify himself: "First, I have some doubts about the battle plan you proposed. Would such a plan be too risky? The fighting power of the Russians, Not weak. Second, the German army only sent one legion, with less than 200,000 people participating in the battle. And we have three armies, with nearly a million people. Even if it is a joint operation, I am afraid that the German army should obey our command Bar."

"His Royal Highness, this battle plan is not risky. We dare to propose this battle plan, which means we are confident in it. The Russian army's combat effectiveness is indeed not weak, but our Eighth Army is even stronger. We can easily defeat any Russian army." Brigadier General Manstein looked confident and proud. This kind of self-confidence and pride is absolutely absent from the generals of the Austrian army. Of course, the main reason is that they simply don't have the confidence to defeat the Russians on the

battlefield. Before, they were beaten all over the ground by the Russians, and they had already lost a lot.

"As for the Austrian army, which has more troops than us, but obeys our command, it's no big deal! This is a time of war, and any strategy that will help us win this war can be tried. More What's more, in the next battle, we will undertake the most important combat missions, and the Austrian army should cooperate with us, right!" Brigadier General Manstein continued.

Crown Prince Karl was ashamed and angry, and was questioned by a small brigadier general of the German army, which made his face not know where to put it.

A group of generals of the Austrian army, although somewhat reluctant in their hearts. But they had to admit that what Brigadier General Manstein said made a lot of sense. Moreover, in the previous battles, it has been proved that the Austrian army is not the opponent of the Russian army at all. If you want to defeat the Russians, you can only rely on the German army. Since the Germans are so confident about the next battle, it seems that it is not unacceptable for the Austrian army to obey the command of the German army and fully cooperate with them.

They also couldn't figure out why Crown Prince Karl's reaction was so big. Therefore, this also makes them do not know how to answer.

Archduke Friedrich couldn't help sighing: "Is the gap between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the German Empire already that big? Not only are the abilities of the crown princes of the two sides very different, even a small German empire Brigadier generals have such abilities. It seems that it is not unreasonable for the German Empire to surpass us!"

I think back then, before the Prussian-Austrian War, Austria was the most powerful of the many states in Germany. However, the sudden rise of the

Kingdom of Prussia and the defeat of Austria in the Austro-Prussian War prevented Austria from remaining in the German Federation. The comprehensive national strength of the current German Empire far exceeds that of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, so that they can only hold a candle to it and are willing to be the younger brother of the German Empire.

"His Royal Highness Oscar, we have no doubts about the combat effectiveness of the German Eighth Army. We also believe that His Highness can lead the German Eighth Army to defeat the Russians. However, the next battle is really important. If we cannot win, this will cause the Austro-Hungarian Empire to suffer huge losses, and even lead to a major defeat on the Eastern Front, and the consequences will be very serious. Therefore, we hope that Your Highness will be more cautious and not rashly launch an attack." Archduke Friedrich said.

"Your Excellency, the launch of the next campaign was discussed and demonstrated by the German General Staff. We believe that now is the best chance to defeat the Russian army. The war broke out until now, and Russia's mobilization has not yet been completed. Although, there are already a lot of Russian reserve troops on the battlefield, but they are only a small number of troops. Once the Russian army is mobilized, the consequences may be even more serious. At that time, we will face more Russian troops. In that case, the situation will become even more unfavorable to us. Therefore, before this winter, it is our only chance to defeat the Russian army. If it continues, it will become more and more unfavorable to us!" Qin Tian said.

Archduke Friedrich nodded, and the other Austrian generals also seemed to agree. Only Crown Prince Karl felt a little anxious. Why are these Austrian generals biased toward the Germans? In that case, wouldn't the command be handed over to others?

"Your Highness, is the German army really sure of winning the next battle?" Baron Herzendorf also looked solemn.

"Of course! I believe that we will be able to defeat the Russians. On that day, the prerequisite is that we cooperate closely." Qin Tian said with a smile. He already felt that these Austrian generals were about to be persuaded by him. Although, letting millions of Austrian troops obey the command of less than 200,000 German troops made them feel a little uncomfortable. However, they are more eager for victory. If the Russians can be defeated, then even obeying the command of the German army is no big deal.

"Your Excellency, I think we should consider the overall situation." Baron Marshal Herzendorf said.

"Your Excellency, Chief of Staff..." Crown Prince Karl was a little anxious.

However, Archduke Friedrich nodded: "In this case, Your Highness Oscar, in the next battle, the Austrian army will fully cooperate with the German army. We hope that we can win this battle!"

Chapter 317: Facing the Great Enemy

Belarus, Stevka, Russian Army Command. Because the occupation was not going well, Grand Duke Nicholas, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Army, had already arrived here from St. Petersburg, and personally took command of the Russian army's battle on the front line.

However, the losses of the Russian army on the front line are still very astonishing. The Northwest Front Army lost four successive armies, more than 900,000 people, and they were all elite standing troops. Such a heavy loss has reached the point where the Russian army is shattered. If it weren't for the gradual mobilization of the Russian army, the Russian army might have failed long ago.

The Russian Southwest Front Army, although still has the advantage. But the loss is also not small. If the losses of the two front armies are added up,

the Russian army has lost more than one million people in this war. Even if the Russian army has more troops, it will not last long under such a loss!

"General Ivanov, according to the exact information we have received, the German 8th Army has already moved south and will soon arrive at the battlefield to launch an attack on the Southwest Front Army. The Southwest Front Army is ready to meet the Germans. Is it?" Grand Duke Nicholas looked solemn.

Although the 8th Army of the German Army was only a force of less than 200,000 people, the heavy casualties they caused to the Russian Army made the generals of the Russian Army tremble with fear. If it is said, what opponents these Russian generals are most afraid of fighting, then the German 8th Army is definitely the first to bear the brunt. The four Russian armies were successively defeated and annihilated by the German 8th Army. Such a record is enough to scare these generals.

"Your Excellency the Grand Duke, when will the 13th Army arrive on the battlefield?" Admiral Ivanov asked.

Originally, the Southwest Front Army had five armies under its jurisdiction, namely the Russian 3rd Army, 4th Army, 8th Army, 9th Army and 11th Army. However, because of the disastrous defeat of the Northwest Front Army, the Russian army had to transfer the 9th Army to the north to reinforce the Northwest Front Army. But I didn't expect that letting the 9th Army go north would be death. Now, there are only 4 army groups left in the Southwest Front Army. Relying on the strength of these four armies, Admiral Ivanov is confident of defeating the Austro-Hungarian Empire. If he receives further reinforcements and the logistical support can keep up, it will definitely not be difficult to defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire. However, when he met a German 8th Army that wiped out nearly a million Russian troops, he felt a little uncertain.

After the disastrous defeat of the Northwest Front Army, General Ivanov also organized staff to evaluate the combat effectiveness of the German 8th Army. In the end, it was concluded that if the Russian army wanted to resist the attack of the German 8th Army, at least two full-staffed main army groups would be needed, which would be 600,000 people! It is more than three times the size of the German 8th Army. Another double would be needed if the German 8th Army was to be defeated. You know, even the Russian Southwest Front Army, there are only so many troops in total now. Obviously, it is impossible to use all of them to deal with the German 8th Army. The Austro-Hungarian Empire still has several armies deployed on the front line, which is not for show. Although the combat effectiveness of the Austro-Hungarian Army is not strong, if the German army restrains the main force of the Russian army, the Austro-Hungarian Empire will definitely not let go of this good opportunity to defeat the Russian army. After all, the weapons and equipment of the Austro-Hungarian Army are still very sophisticated, even better than the Russian Army. The industrial strength of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was already much stronger than that of Russia.

"The 13th Army, I have ordered them to speed up. However, it will take half a month at the earliest to reach the battlefield. Moreover, because the 13th Front Army is a newly formed force, many weapons and equipment are not in place. The artillery only Half, and the machine gun is only two-thirds." Grand Duke Nicholas said helplessly.

Although Russia can mobilize millions of troops, it is undoubtedly very difficult for them to arm these millions of troops. If you have enough time, maybe you can slowly equip. But it is a pity that the military situation is urgent now, and there is not so much time for them! It is precisely because of this that Grand Duke Nicholas had to send many unarmed troops to the battlefield. Although he knew that this was to send those Russian soldiers to die, he had no other choice!

Admiral Ivanov nodded, but the expression on his face became more serious.

"General Ivanov, the situation in the country is very bad now. Because our army has suffered heavy losses on the front line, the people in the country are excited. Many people blame the imperial government for this. Therefore, we cannot continue to fail. This time, In the face of the joint operations of the Germans and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Southwestern Front Army must find a way to win. Otherwise, the consequences will be very serious. I will do my best to help you." Grand Duke Nicholas said.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Grand Duke. I will definitely do my best. I hope that in addition to the 13th Army being able to arrive at the battlefield as soon as possible, our logistical supplies must be guaranteed. The Germans are very powerful. They not only The firepower is strong, and the assault capability is abnormal. If we can't even guarantee logistical support, we will be even more unable to fight against them!" General Ivanov said.

Grand Duke Nicholas nodded. The poor logistics support system of the Russian army has always been criticized by people. In a fierce battle, if the army's logistics cannot be guaranteed, there is no way to fight this battle.

"General Ivanov, you must be very clear about our actual situation. Regarding logistical support, I am under a lot of pressure. However, in view of the current situation, I will do my best to provide logistical support to the Southwest Front Army." Nico Grand Duke La said.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Grand Duke." Admiral Ivanov nodded.

"By the way, Your Excellency the Grand Duke. The German 8th Army has gone south. Why don't we send troops to attack East Prussia? This is a good opportunity!" Ivanov said. It would be great if it could be used to force the German 8th Army back.

Grand Duke Nicholas shook his head: "Because of the heavy losses, we don't have any extra troops to rebuild the Northwest Front Army. It is estimated that the Northwest Front Army will not be rebuilt until next spring. In addition, the Germans have long been prepared. A large number of armies are gathering towards East Prussia and the Kingdom of Poland to fill the gap left by the 8th Army going south."

Chapter 318: Adventurous Tactics (ask for a monthly ticket)

General Ivanov, the commander of the Russian Southwest Front Army, left Stefka and rushed back to his front-line headquarters in Stry by night and night. However, on the way back, his expression was very ugly.

As a front-line commander, he probably would have such an expression when he encountered a formidable enemy like the German 8th Army. After all, the German 8th Army has proved their strength to the world with their dazzling record. Even General Ivanov was worried that his army would be quickly defeated under the attack of the German 8th Army.

After rushing back to Stry, Admiral Ivanov immediately summoned the officers of the Front Army Staff Headquarters and asked them to discuss a set of tactics against the German 8th Army. Then, non-stop summoned the commanders of the various armies under the Southwest Front Army. In any case, the German 8th Army is about to launch an attack on them. This is a big event, and they must resist the German attack. Even, you have to find a way to win this battle. Otherwise, all their previous efforts would have been in vain.

"Gentlemen, we are in big * trouble this time. The German 8th Army is heading south, and the target is us!" Admiral Ivanov looked at his generals and said bitterly.

"The 8th Army? Is that the German 8th Army that killed the entire Northwest Front?" A Russian general asked in horror. He was the commander of the Russian 4th Army, General Dimitriev. His 4th Army is located at the

northernmost point of the entire Southwest Front Army, which means that once the German 8th Army launches an attack, his 4th Army may be the first to bear the brunt of the German 8th Army's attack target.

The four armies of the Northwest Front Army were all eaten by the German 8th Army, which undoubtedly proved the powerful combat effectiveness of the German 8th Army. General Dimitriev absolutely does not think that his 4th Army can withstand the attack of the German 8th Army. Although the German 4th Army has a strength of more than 300,000 troops, the strength of the German 8th Army is only about 60% of the Russian 4th Army.

"God! Are the Germans going to intervene in the battle between us and the Austro-Hungarian Empire?" The other generals also showed embarrassment.

In the previous battles between the Southwest Front Army and the Austro-Hungarian Army, they had always had the upper hand, making the Austro-Hungarian Empire powerless to resist. This made the generals of the Russian army very happy. After all, the industrial strength of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the weapons and equipment of the army are stronger than them. Winning against such an opponent is undoubtedly something worth showing off.

But now, the Germans are coming. Then, everything changes. If they don't deal with it properly, maybe they will lose this battle. This is not good news for them.

"General, the German 8th Army has gone south, don't they need to defend East Prussia?" General Rusky, commander of the Russian 3rd Army, asked.

"The Germans assembled other armies in East Prussia and the Kingdom of Poland to prepare for our attack. The Northwest Front suffered too much losses this time, and our mobilization has not yet been completed. Therefore, we simply do not have extra strength to attack the East. Prussia and the Kingdom of Poland. Now, the most important issue before us is how to resist the attack of the German 8th Army. If we can't resist, I won't say the consequences, and everyone knows it very well." Ivano General Husband said.

"General, how can we resist it? The 1st Army, the 2nd Army, the 9th Army and the 2nd Guards Army were eliminated by the German 8th Army within a month or so. They are so powerful. If we want to resist their attack, we may have to send the entire Southwest Front Army. Otherwise, it will be impossible to resist the attack of the German Eighth Army." Commander of the Russian Eighth Army General Brushinov shook his head.

"Yes, General. The tank troops of the others have extremely strong assault capabilities. And we have no weapons to counter German tanks. According to the information obtained before, unless it is a direct hit by a large-caliber shell, otherwise, only the soldiers carried the explosives and launched a suicide attack on the German tanks." General Serivanov, commander of the Russian 11th Army, said helplessly.

After the defeat of the Northwest Front Army, all kinds of information about the German 8th Army were continuously gathered into the hands of the Russian generals. The strength of the German 8th Army shocked them greatly. Of course, what attracted their attention the most was undoubtedly the 8th Armored Division of the German Army, which made a big splash in this battle. However, even now, the Russian army has no way to deal with the German armored forces. And this puts them at a disadvantage in battle.

"As for the German tank units, the military factories in the rear are already working hard. We are also contacting Britain and France to seek weapons from them to deal with the German tank units. However, these are not available for the time being. Therefore, we can only find ways to deal with the German 8th Army. I believe that no matter how strong the German 8th Army is, no matter how strong its combat effectiveness is. However, our Southwest Front Army is not so easy to deal with. We will not be like the Northwest Front Army , easily defeated." General Ivanov said.

"Yes, general." All the Russian generals replied. However, from the expressions on their faces, Admiral Ivanov could still see their guilty conscience.

Soon, the staff of the Russian Southwest Front Army came up with two sets of battle plans. One set tends to be conservative, but the other set is very bold, and can even be described as adventurous.

The conservative tactic is to require the Russian Southwest Front Army to enter a comprehensive defensive combat posture and gather two armies to deal with the attack of the German 8th Army. The other two armies responded to the Austrian attack. Wait until the 13th Army arrives before planning a counterattack. It's just that it's hard to say whether the two armies can withstand the attack of the German 8th Army.

Another set of bold battle plans is to use one army group to withstand the attack of the German 8th Army, and the other three army groups will attack the Austrian Army with all their strength, and strive to defeat the Austrian Army before the German 8th Army wins the victory, thus gaining the battlefield victory. Once the Austrian army is completely defeated, the Southwest Front will be able to gather the main force to deal with the German 8th Army. At that time, there may not be no chance of winning.

Chapter 319: Ivanov's determination (2300 votes plus updates)

Admiral Ivanov frowned tightly. It was undoubtedly extremely difficult for him to choose between the two battle plans submitted by the Front Army Staff Headquarters.

"Everyone, the battle plan of the staff department has come out. Take a look, which one should we choose?" Admiral Ivanov asked.

"General, if you want to be safe, the first battle plan is naturally the most suitable. However, it is hard to say whether the two armies can withstand the attack of the German Eighth Army. In addition, this will also make the battlefield fall into a crisis. The stalemate situation. All the advantages we had originally were lost." Admiral Ruski said.

Admiral Ivanov nodded. They managed to inflict heavy damage on the Austrian army during the war. Seeing that they were able to inflict further heavy damage on them, and even defeat them, they won the war. However, the Germans came out at this time. If you give up, it will fall short. Admiral Ivanov himself was also very reluctant.

"If we choose the second battle plan, can we quickly defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire?" Admiral Ivanov asked.

The reason why the second battle plan is risky is that the Russian Army Group Army simply cannot withstand the attack of the German Eighth Army. In that case, they would be caught between the German and Austrian forces. At that time, I am afraid that not only will the advantage be completely lost, but it will even make them fall into an extremely disadvantageous situation.

"General, this is very difficult. The Austro-Hungarian Empire also deployed three armies on the front line, and their strength is not much smaller than ours. It is very difficult to defeat them in a short time. In addition, after the Germans arrived, Austria-Hungary The morale of the army will inevitably rise. This will increase the difficulty of defeating them," said General Dimitriev.

"General, although there are difficulties, I think that if we go well, we may not have no chance of defeating the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Before, we could suppress them. Now, the three armies of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on the front line are mostly dissatisfied. If we attack with all our strength, we have a chance of defeating them. As long as we defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire, we can gather the main force to besiege the Germans. The German 8th Army is powerful, but if our four armies besiege them. Then, we will have avenged our shame and won the entire battlefield!" General Brushinov, commander of the Russian Eighth Army, said excitedly. He is a person who likes to take risks and hopes to get the greatest benefit through taking risks.

The current battle situation is the same for the Russian army. If you can take a little risk in exchange for a chance to win the war completely, in the eyes of General Brushinov, this is undoubtedly a very good deal.

Of course, if the war is lost, the consequences will undoubtedly be very miserable. At that time, they will lose completely.

Admiral Ivanov, it was in consideration of this point that he was a little hesitant. He wanted to seize this opportunity to defeat the German and Austrian armies in one fell swoop and win the Russian Empire on the battlefield. However, if he failed, the consequences would not be something he could bear.

"General, I think we can choose the second battle plan. Although it is a bit risky, once we win, it will completely change the situation on the battlefield. We will have an advantage in this war. Even completely defeat us enemy." General Serivanov, commander of the Russian 11th Army, also expressed his opinion.

As a general, it is understandable and a very important quality to be cautious when commanding a war. However, it is absolutely impossible to lose the spirit of adventure. You must know that many major victories in the

history of war were obtained after taking risks. If you blindly pursue caution, you will miss your opportunity.

Everyone's eyes fell on General Ivanov, waiting for him to make the final decision.

General Ivanov also felt tremendous pressure. After all, his choice is not only related to the life and death of millions of troops of the Russian Southwest Front Army, but also related to whether Russia can win this war, which is undoubtedly very important.

"General Dmitriev, can your troops survive the German attack for half a month?" Admiral Ivanov asked. He seemed to have made up his mind and made a decision.

"General, this is very difficult. The Germans are too powerful. Once their tank troops launch an attack, our troops may not be able to resist at all. The defense line we built will be easily torn apart by the Germans." Di Admiral Mitriyev swallowed hard. At the thought of resisting the attack of the mighty German 8th Army, he couldn't help feeling tense.

"The German tank troops are powerful, but we can use other methods to stop them. For example, build strong fortifications. The headquarters believes that we can prevent the German tanks from advancing by digging wider trenches. This may be useful in our defensive operations." General Ivanov said.

"Yes, General. However, half a month may not be enough to defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire, right?" Admiral Dimitriev said.

"After you persist for half a day, the 13th Army will arrive. At that time, the 13th Army will cooperate with you to resist the German attack. The remaining three armies will strive to defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the shortest possible time." This is our only chance. If we can defeat the Austro-Hungarian

Empire, we will win this battle. Otherwise, we will lose a complete defeat." Admiral Ivanov said.

"Yes, General. We will do our best to stop the Germans." Admiral Dimitriev said. He knew that Admiral Ivanov had already made up his mind, and it was useless to say anything else, only to do his best to complete the combat mission.

"I will report the battle plan to Grand Duke Nicholas. If His Excellency approves our battle plan, then launch an attack immediately. The time left for us is running out, we must seize this opportunity Just do it!" General Ivanov said.

"Yes, General." All the Russian generals replied loudly. Everyone knows that since Admiral Ivanov has chosen this risky battle plan, everyone has to work hard. This is not only related to whether Russia can win the war, but also related to their vital interests, even their lives. If you win, promotion and fortune are indispensable. But if it fails, I'm afraid it will be dead.

Chapter 320: attack begins

After Grand Duke Nicholas got the Southwest Front Army's combat plan, he also thought about it for a long time. He was taken aback that Admiral Ivanov planned to carry out such a risky battle plan. However, he also had to admit that this was the only chance for Russia to reverse the situation and win.

If the Southwest Front Army's combat plan is successful, then the situation on the entire battlefield will be changed. Russia will have an absolute advantage on the Eastern Front, and even directly threaten the hinterland of the Germans, making this war more beneficial to the Allied Powers.

But if it fails, the Russian army will probably suffer a crushing defeat on the Eastern Front. After losing more than two million troops, even Russia, which has a strong military force, will be shattered. Of course, if Russia is

given a period of time to breathe, Russia can still pull up millions of troops. However, in this process, the fall of a large area of territory may be unavoidable. In that case, it would be difficult to explain to Tsar Nicholas II.

How to choose, Grand Duke Nicholas is also a little embarrassed. After much deliberation, he still approved Admiral Ivanov's battle plan. After all, he couldn't give up the temptation to gain a decisive advantage on the Eastern Front. After the disastrous defeat of the Northwest Front, the situation on the Eastern Front was no longer favorable to Russia. If there is no way to reverse the situation, Russia may lose in this war.

In addition, if the Southwest Front Army can win this time, Tsar Nicholas II will probably be very happy! The previous successive failures made Nicholas II very angry.

Admiral Ivanov took action immediately after the battle plan was approved. The 3rd Army, 4th Army, 8th Army, and 11th Army under the Southwest Front began frequent mobilization. The 4th Army built a defensive position on the front lines of Cheum and Zamość in the southeast of Lublin. The 3rd Army, the 8th Army, and the 11th Army further advanced to the Carpathian Mountains. As long as they crossed the mountains, they would be on the Hungarian Plain of the platform. The Russian army can directly threaten the hinterland of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and defeat the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The change of the Russian Southwest Front Army made the Austrian army stationed in the Carpathian Mountains very nervous. The Carpathian Mountains are already their last line of defense. If even the Carpathian Mountains cannot stop the Russians, the flames of war will burn to the heart of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This will be a heavy blow to the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"His Royal Highness, the Russian Southwest Front Army has begun to approach our defense line. It is expected that an attack will be launched soon." Baron Herzendorf Marshal looked serious.

Qin Tian nodded: "The Russians are not fools either. Our 8th Army's going south has aroused their vigilance. However, I didn't expect them to choose such a way to confront us. At first, I thought they would Concentrate forces to defend our 8th Army. But now it seems that the commander of the Russian army is still a very courageous person, and he actually wants to use this head-to-head method to fight us."

Crown Prince Karl and Archduke Friedrich have already returned to Vienna. Without that eye-catching guy, Qin Tian has also relaxed a lot. Of course, a large reason why Crown Prince Karl left the front line was because Marshal Herzendorf told him that once the battle started, Uzhhorod where they were located would be very dangerous and it was very likely that the Russians would attack. primary goal. If the battle on the front line is unfavorable, the Russian army is very likely to come here. Therefore, Baron Marshal Herzendorf asked Crown Prince Karl to return to Vienna, so that it would be safer.

When Crown Prince Karl heard that Uzhhorod might become the front line, his handsome face turned pale with fright. He left Uzhhorod the next day and returned to Vienna without saying a word.

Crown Prince Karl's faction naturally made the generals of the Austrian army very speechless. If there is no comparison, they may still think that Crown Prince Karl is not bad. However, compared with Qin Tianyi, there is one heaven and one earth.

"Your Highness, will this adversely affect our plan?" Baron Herzendorf was a little worried. This time, they gambled their future fate! If the situation is unfavorable, the Austro-Hungarian Empire will be miserable.

"Don't worry, Your Excellency the Marshal. I was worried that the Russians would stand by and wait for help. In this case, it would make it more difficult for us to defeat them. But now, since the Russians dare to take the initiative to attack, it is relatively easy to defeat them." It will be much simpler." Qin Tian looked very confident.

"Your Excellency Marshal, can the three armies of your army hold the defense line of the Carpathian Mountains? It will take at least half a month for the 8th Army to defeat the Russian 4th Army and outflank the Russian army's retreat." Qin Tian Said with a serious face.

If the Austrian army can't even hold on to this, then this battle may not be able to continue.

"His Royal Highness, if you just blindly defend yourself, there is no problem at all for half a month." Marshal Herzendorf replied. After all, after the 4th Army of the Russian Army was attacked by the 8th Army of the German Army, the troops used by the Russian Army to attack them were only three armies. Everyone has equal strength and the Austrian army still has the upper hand in weapons. If the Austrian army fails to withstand the Russian attack, then the generals of the Austrian army should be ashamed and commit suicide one by one.

Qin Tian nodded: "That's good. When the Austrian army is fully defending the Carpathian Mountains, the 8th Army will launch a fierce attack on the Russian army. At that time, we will cut off the retreat of the Russian army and cut off their The logistics supply line, this battle will become much easier to fight."

Marshal Baron Herzendorf nodded. Since Qin Tian is full of confidence in this, it seems that he has nothing to worry about.

"Tomorrow, the 8th Army will launch an attack on the 4th Army of the Russian Army. The defense of the Carpathians depends on the Austrian Army. I hope that we can achieve a perfect victory in this battle!" Qin Tian said .

"Don't worry, Your Highness the Crown Prince. The Austrian Army will definitely last until that day." Marshal Herzendorf said with a smile.

On October 7, 1914, the 8th Army of the German Imperial Army officially launched an attack on the 4th Army of the Russian Army. At the same time, the three armies of the Austrian Army entered the Carpathian Mountains defense line to strengthen the defense line and prevent the Russian army from attacking.