

Jagged 321

Chapter 321: Offense

Cheum, one of the two strategically important places where the Russian 4th Army is stationed. The 4th Army has deployed a full 100,000 people here, which is already equivalent to one-third of all the troops of the entire 4th Army. In addition, in Zamość, they also deployed a hundred thousand people. The last 100,000 people will be used as a reserve team.

General Dmitriev, commander of the Russian 4th Army, even placed his headquarters in Chelm. The reason is to hope to be able to resist the German attack at this critical strategic node.

"General, the Germans have begun to prepare for the attack. It is expected that their attack will begin soon." The adjutant reported to Admiral Dimitriev.

Hearing the news, Admiral Dimitriev couldn't help feeling tense. Even though, he had expected it a long time ago, this day was inevitable. But what he didn't expect was that it would come so soon.

Admiral Dimitriev can be regarded as a half-length military veteran. His years of military career have made him used to seeing life and death. Even in the face of great danger, he can still maintain his composure. But unfortunately, facing the German attack now, he couldn't hide the tension on his face, even panic.

"Order all troops and prepare for battle. The 22nd Army and the 34th Army are ready for reinforcements at any time!" Admiral Dimitriev ordered.

"Yes, General." The adjutant nodded, also looking as if he was facing a big enemy.

"How is our defense line prepared? Especially the anti-tank trenches against German tanks, have you dug them?" Admiral Dimitriev asked.

Digging wide anti-tank trenches has become the only way the Russian army can think of when facing German tanks. In the absence of weapons to deal with German tanks, the only way to stop them is to use this kind of trench with a width of three meters.

Although the Russian army's soil work has never been very good, there is no difficulty in such a simple matter as digging trenches. All you need is for the officers to drive the soldiers to dig with fatigue.

"General, the anti-tank trenches have been dug. They are all three-meter-wide trenches according to your requirements. If the German tanks come again this time, they will definitely not be able to pass!" the adjutant said excitedly.

"Well, very good! I hope God bless us, this time we must resist the German attack." Admiral Dimitriev also showed a smile on his face.

Admiral Dimitriev is most worried about the German tank unit. In his view, although the German army is powerful, if the tank troops are excluded, the attack power is not too strong. As long as the German tank unit is resisted, then it should be able to resist the German attack. Although it may not be possible to defeat the German army, it should not be a big problem to persist under the German attack.

On the position of the 17th Army of the German Army, Lieutenant General Zeckert, the commander of the army, is observing the position of the Russian Army with a telescope. The infantry divisions of the German 17th Army have already begun to prepare for the attack. The soldiers were queuing up to receive breakfast, and the quartermaster also distributed the bullets to every soldier.

A group of generals stood behind Lieutenant General Zeckert.

"The Russians are clearly prepared! Even the anti-tank trenches have been dug. Colonel Rommel, it seems that you are in big trouble this time." Lieutenant General Zeckert put down the binoculars in his hand and said with a smile.

"General, it's not a big trouble, it's just a few minor problems. At least, until the Russians have weapons that can destroy our tanks, our biggest trouble is still a mechanical failure. During the battle, because of a mechanical failure There are far more tanks destroyed than those destroyed by the enemy." Colonel Rommel said disdainfully.

Rommel is now the deputy commander of the 8th Armored Division and the head of the 1st regiment, and his rank has also been promoted to colonel. However, it is said that he will not last long in the 8th Armored Division. After this battle is over, he will serve as the commander of the 9th Armored Division that is being formed. At that time, I am afraid that the military rank will be promoted again and become brigadier general. Although he is only 23 years old now, his outstanding talents and the high regard for him by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince make him very likely to become the youngest general in the history of the German Army.

This time, the 8th Armored Division was split into two halves, and Colonel Rommel led a part to assist the 17th Army in attacking Cheum. Brigadier General Guderian led another part to assist the 20th Army in attacking Zamosic.

"Since this is the case, there should be no problem. Are the infantry divisions ready?" Lieutenant General Zeckert asked.

Colonel Rommel nodded. Through investigation, they had already discovered that the Russian army had dug long anti-tank trenches a hundred meters in front of the defense line. The anti-tank trenches with a width of three meters made it impossible for German tanks to cross. If you launch an attack,

you will definitely be blocked there. But it is a pity that the Russian army does not have anti-tank guns to deal with tanks, otherwise, this would be enough to make the German armored forces suffer. Therefore, it is not very difficult for the German armored forces to pass through the Russian anti-tank trenches. At that time, it is only necessary to use a few trucks to transport some stones and soil to fill up the Russian anti-tank trenches.

The commanders of the other three infantry divisions also nodded, expressing that they were ready.

"Ten minutes later, launch shelling and fire preparations. After half an hour of fire preparations, the armored forces and the 50th Infantry Division launched an attack, tearing apart the German defense line in one fell swoop." Lieutenant General Zeckert ordered.

"Yes, General." Everyone replied. Everyone knows that this time the war is about to kick off. Whether the German 8th Army can achieve fruitful results again in this battle depends on them.

In this battle, the 17th Army of the German Army was the first to launch an attack, and the 20th Army on the other way would not be able to launch an attack until tomorrow. As for the 11th Army, it is used as a reserve force.

On the artillery positions of the German army, the artillery of the three infantry divisions is ready. 54 150mm heavy howitzers, 108 105mm light howitzers and 162 75mm field guns have raised their barrels.

"Fire!"

Following the order of the artillery commander, the artillery positions immediately started shelling.

"Boom! Boom!"

The heavy artillery of each door began to shoot. Under the action of huge kinetic energy, the shell slammed fiercely towards the target.

Chapter 322: Artillery Battle

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Shells fell from the sky one after another, hitting the Russian army's position fiercely, and a violent explosion occurred.

For a while, smoke and dust rose everywhere, and gunpowder smoke filled the air. On the Russian army's position, it can be said to be a piece of flying sand and rocks.

A shell hit a section of the trench, which immediately collapsed the trench by more than ten meters. A machine gun fire point was hit by a 75mm shell, and amidst the violent explosion, the machine gun fire point was blown away immediately.

Before attacking, the German army often makes sufficient firepower preparations. Although this will cause them to consume a large amount of shells, it can most likely destroy the enemy's fortifications and clear the way for subsequent infantry attacks.

The defensive positions painstakingly built by the troops of the Russian 4th Army were gradually reduced to ruins under the heavy shelling of the German army. The Russian army's soil work is not very strong, and there is a lack of materials. Therefore, the fortifications of the Russian army could not compete with the artillery fire of the German army at all. Especially those heavy artillery can easily destroy the German fortifications.

In order to preserve its own strength to the greatest extent, the Russian 4th Army dug a lot of anti-gun holes on the line of defense. After the German bombardment was over, they drilled out of the anti-battery hole to attack the attacking German army. It's just that the defense of the Russian army's anti-

blasting holes seems to be unqualified. This made their defense seem a little powerless when resisting the German shelling.

"Boom!" A 105mm artillery shell exploded above a Russian artillery hole.

The violent explosion caused the blast hole to shake violently. At the same time, the soil kept falling from the top of the blast hole, making that frightening sound of killing.

"God! The German bombardment is more terrifying than the legends! Can our artillery holes withstand the German bombardment?" A Russian soldier said with a pale face.

Although, before the battle began, they had already heard of the horrors of the German artillery bombardment. However, it was not until now that they were encountering the shelling of the German army that they knew that the shelling of the German army was stronger than they expected!

"Boom!" Another heavy artillery shell hit the Russian army's artillery hole. And, this time it was the shells fired by the 150mm heavy howitzer. Under the tremendous power of the shell explosion, huge cracks suddenly appeared on the top of the blast hole. The faces of the Russian soldiers hiding inside changed drastically.

"God! The bomb defense hole is about to collapse, run away!"

The soldiers scrambled to drill towards the opening of the anti-blasting hole, but the opening was narrow, which greatly restricted their speed. At this moment, the earth and rocks on the top have already begun to fall in large chunks. Some Russian soldiers were even beaten to death. But everyone can't care so much anymore. Finding a way to escape from the blast hole is the most important thing. Only in that way can he survive. Otherwise, once the anti-blasting hole collapses, everyone will be finished.

"Boom!" A huge piece of earth and rock fell, blocking the opening of the blast hole. The livelihood of the Russian soldiers inside was cut off at once. Although, they desperately shouted and asked for help inside, while digging with their hands. But it didn't work at all. Because the earth and rocks on it were still falling, and the blast hole was soon buried. Of the hundreds of Russian soldiers hiding inside, except for a very small number who escaped, the rest were all buried alive inside.

This is not an exception, but a common practice. The fortifications of the Russian army are not up to standard, which has caused them to suffer a lot. But even so, the Russian army cannot change this.

During the heavy shelling by the German army, the Russian artillery holes were destroyed one after another, and countless Russian soldiers were buried alive in them. The heavy loss caused the Russian generals watching the battle in the rear to frown.

"General, we can't go on like this. Our artillery can no longer remain silent. Otherwise, the troops on the front line will suffer heavy losses. At that time, what can we do to stop the German attack?" A lieutenant general officer said.

"Can our artillery fight against the Germans?" Admiral Dimitriev asked. Even if the 4th Russian Army assembled 100,000 people in Chelm, which is a total of six infantry divisions, the total number of artillery pieces of these six infantry divisions is only 288, and all of them are 76.2mm field artillery. Such strength is obviously unable to confront the German army. Especially among the artillery of the German army, there are quite a few large-caliber heavy artillery.

The Russian army, even though it was strengthened before the war, only had more than twenty 105mm howitzers. The difference in artillery strength between the two sides is too great.

"General, our artillery is not as good as the Germans. However, if the Germans want to completely suppress us, it is impossible. Our attack on the German artillery positions can at least prevent them from continuing to bombard ours. It's the forward position," said the artillery commander.

Admiral Dmitriev nodded, this is undoubtedly the answer he wanted.

"Order the artillery to fire! We need to stay here for a long time. Therefore, the German artillery must not be allowed to attack our defense line unscrupulously." Admiral Dimitriev ordered.

"Yes, General." After receiving the order, the artillery commander immediately went to prepare.

Ten minutes later, the Russian artillery began shelling.

A 76.2mm field gun and more than twenty 105mm howitzers began a fierce shelling.

"Boom! Boom!"

Orange flames shone at the muzzle, and the shells slammed into the German artillery positions fiercely.

However, except for those 75mm field artillery positions, the rest of the 105mm light howitzer positions and 150mm heavy howitzer positions are arranged relatively backward, completely out of the range of the Russian 76.2mm field guns. Therefore, the only things they can threaten are those field artillery positions.

But even so, the shelling of the Russian army also caused some losses to the German artillery positions. However, the loss was not that great.

"The field artillery continued to bombard the Russian artillery positions, light howitzers and heavy howitzers, suppressing the Russian artillery. In addition,

send a telegram to the air force, and they can launch an attack." Lieutenant General Zeckert gave the order with a blank expression .

"Yes, General." The communications officer immediately went to give the order.

Chapter 323: Air raid

The German 8th Air Force performed outstandingly in the Polish campaign. In the process of preventing the Russian Ninth Army from escaping, their air strikes not only caused a large number of casualties to the Russian Ninth Army, but more importantly, delayed the retreat of the Russian Ninth Army. During the frantic pursuit of the German army, it was impossible to evacuate in time. It eventually led to the end of the Russian Ninth Army, except for a very small number of generals who escaped, and the rest were annihilated.

This time against the Russian Southwest Front, the German 8th Air Force is also an important force of the German 8th Army. For this reason, the 8th Army specially forced tens of thousands of Russian prisoners of war. In the southern part of the Kingdom of Poland, several large airports were built for these planes of the 8th Air Force to take off and land. In this case, in terms of the range of the fighters and bombers of the German 8th Air Force, they can almost participate in the entire battle, which further increases the chances of the German army's victory.

The shelling of the German 17th Army had just begun, and the fighter planes of the 8th Air Force had already taken off one after another. It's just that they didn't enter the battlefield immediately, but were waiting for the opportunity. What they waited for was undoubtedly the appearance of a more valuable target for the Russian army. The Russian artillery is undoubtedly a very valuable target.

Before the fighter planes of the German 8th Air Force arrived on the battlefield, the German artillery had already begun to suppress the Russian artillery. A pair of 105mm light howitzers and 150mm heavy howitzers attacked the Russian artillery positions under the guidance of observation balloons.

"Boom! Boom!"

The artillery shells hit the artillery positions of the Russian army like raindrops, causing very large losses to the Russian army.

A Russian 76.2mm field artillery position was attacked by a German 150mm heavy artillery. A series of more than a dozen 150mm artillery shells accurately hit the artillery position.

A violent explosion sounded on the battlefield. Black gunpowder smoke enveloped the position.

When the gunpowder smoke dissipated, it could be clearly seen that one after another bomb craters appeared on the artillery positions of the Russian army. And those 76.2mm field guns were blown up and down, and even many cannons have been destroyed.

As for the loss of the Russian artillery, it goes without saying that under such a fierce shelling, very few of them survived, unless they were really lucky people, otherwise there was only a dead end. The entire position was covered with the remains of these Russian artillerymen.

The heavy artillery of the German army continued to roll call the artillery positions of the Russian army one after another, causing great losses to the Russian army. But even so, the Russian army still did not issue an order to stop the shelling, and they still gritted their teeth and insisted.

Because, the shelling of the Russian army is not useless. At least, their shelling also destroyed some of the German artillery. Although the quantity is

not much, it has made them very satisfied. In addition, under the interference of the Russian army's shelling, the German army's artillery strikes on the Russian army's forward positions were also affected to a certain extent.

Although the loss of artillery made Admiral Dimitriev and others very painful, it would undoubtedly be very cost-effective if they could hold out for a longer period of time until the arrival of Russian reinforcements.

However, the goals of Admiral Dimitriev and others will soon be shattered. Because a large number of German aircraft are about to enter the battlefield. Under the bombing of these aircraft, it is probably very difficult to say how many Russian artillery positions can survive.

In the northern sky, small black dots appeared one after another. These small black dots seem to be very slow, but they are actually moving towards the battlefield very quickly. It's just that the Russian army's thoughts are all on the battlefield at the moment, and they didn't find out immediately. These small black dots are all aircraft of the German 8th Air Force, bombers and fighter jets loaded with bombs.

"General, the plane of the 8th Air Force has arrived." The adjutant reported to Lieutenant General Zeckert.

"Immediately guide them to attack the Russian artillery positions. This time, the Russian artillery must be eliminated. After the Russian artillery is eliminated, the armored forces and infantry can launch an attack." Lieutenant General Zeckert ordered.

The artillery of the Russian army has always been the key target of the German army. After solving them, the German armored forces and infantry will be much less threatened when they attack.

"What is that?" A Russian military officer discovered the approaching German aircraft.

When they used binoculars and saw the planes and the Iron Cross symbol on the wings, all of them couldn't help but change their faces.

"My God! The German planes are coming."

"Hurry up, the German plane has appeared, take cover immediately!"

The arrival of the German plane immediately caused the generals of the Russian 4th Army to change into a mess.

According to the information they received, they already knew the power of the German aircraft. After all, the demise of the Russian Ninth Army has an inseparable relationship with these German planes.

Admiral Dimitriev and others immediately began to evacuate. They are the commanders of the Russian army. If they suffer heavy losses from the German planes, there will be no way to fight this battle.

It's just that when General Dimitriev and others retreated to a safe place, they discovered that the German planes were not aimed at them at all, but at the Russian artillery positions.

"Ready to attack! Destroy the Russian artillery positions." The commander of the 8th Air Force issued an order.

One bomber after another, the first to lower the altitude. When the altitude dropped to 800 meters, these bombers opened their magazines and started dropping bombs.

Bombs one after another, like raindrops, fell on the artillery positions of the Russian army. The artillery positions of the Russian army were instantly enveloped by explosions and flames.

When the smoke cleared, what appeared in front of everyone was a piece of land like the surface of the moon. As for the artillery of the Russian army,

they have already been blown into a pile of scrap iron. Those Russian soldiers were bombed to the point where there was not even a scum left.

The bomber unit of the German 8th Air Force began to destroy the Russian artillery positions one by one. The Russian army without anti-aircraft weapons was powerless in the face of German air strikes.

"Evacuate! Evacuate immediately!" Seeing this scene, Admiral Dimitriev almost gritted his teeth. He immediately ordered the Russian artillery to evacuate, otherwise, these artillery would probably be killed by German planes.

However, it is obviously too late at this time.

Chapter 324: Heavy damage

"Retreat! Quickly, retreat to the woods to hide." The officers of the Russian army shouted loudly with their throats piercing.

During the German air strikes, the Russian artillery suffered extremely heavy losses. If this continues, I am afraid that their artillery will be lost. Once all the artillery is lost, it may be even more difficult for them to hold on to the line of defense.

It's just that they didn't find out when the German air force appeared, and it's undoubtedly too late to evacuate now.

The planes of the German Air Force rushed towards the Russian artillery positions like hungry wolves.

Those bombers bombed the artillery positions of the Russian army with the bombs they carried, causing huge damage to the Russian army. And those fighter jets are also unwilling to lag behind. Although, under the wings of these fighter jets, they can only carry small bombs. But apart from these small bombs, the aviation machine guns of these fighter jets certainly do not pose

much threat to those artillery pieces. However, for those artillerymen, this was a fatal blow.

"Da da da!" A fighter jet flew over the retreating Russian artillery, and dense aviation machine gun bullets shot over. A dozen Russian artillery fell into a pool of blood, and the bullets hit the Russian artillery. On the ground, sparks burst out one by one.

"Ah! Ah!"

The screams kept ringing, and countless Russian artillerymen were killed under the strafing of German fighter jets.

It can be said that the entire battlefield has now completely become a massacre by the German air force against the Russian artillery. A large number of Russian artillery was blown up, and countless artillery were shot and killed. The artillery of the Russian 4th Army deployed in Chelm, after this battle, can be said to be out of ten. In the ensuing battle, I am afraid that they will not be able to play any role at all.

The fighter planes of the 8th Air Force of the German Army dropped all the bombs and fired all the bullets, and left swaggeringly. Left behind the devastated Russian artillery positions, and those Russian commanders who wanted to cry but had no tears.

"General, our artillery losses are very large. The suppression of German artillery fire, coupled with their air strikes, caused the loss of more than 80% of our artillery." The artillery commander of the Russian army reported bitterly. .

Admiral Dmitriev's face was as dark as the bottom of a pot. The sudden dispatch of the air force by the German army undoubtedly dealt them a heavy blow. The German artillery is very powerful, they are very clear about this. Without the support of their own artillery, this means that their forward positions may encounter crazy attacks from German artillery. This will further

cause heavy damage to the Russian army. What's more, it will make them unable to last much time in Chelm.

"The German planes are really powerful. No wonder the 9th Army was unable to move an inch under the attack of their planes, and was finally chased by the Germans." A Russian general said.

"Now, the Germans not only have a powerful tank force, but also powerful artillery and aircraft. Can we really hold on here?" Another Russian general said with some frustration.

Admiral Dmitriev is also somewhat negative. Although, there were only tens of thousands of German troops in Chelm, only about half of their strength. However, the German army undoubtedly has an absolute advantage in terms of technical weapons. This makes it very difficult for them to complete Admiral Ivanov's order to stick to it for half a month even if they have an advantage in strength.

However, as the commander of the 4th Army, General Dimitriev obviously cannot show a negative attitude. In that case, I am afraid it will be quite unfavorable for the follow-up operations. If you don't even have confidence, there is no need to fight this battle.

"Everyone, the Germans are indeed very powerful. However, we are definitely not without a chance. The strength of the Germans has always been their biggest disadvantage. We can use a solid line of defense to resist the Germans. As long as we eliminate them If they have enough vitality, they will be unable to continue their attack. I have already decided to call up the 22nd Army immediately to reinforce us. At that time, we will have a further advantage in terms of strength. Although it is very difficult to defeat the German army. But , if we want to keep Chelm, the problem will definitely not be too big." Admiral Dimitriev said.

"Yes, General." Encouraged by Admiral Dimitriev, the generals of the Russian army finally regained some confidence.

It's just that what they don't know is that their confidence will soon be torn to pieces by the German army.

In the position of the German army, Lieutenant General Zeckert and others have been watching the performance of the air team. When they saw the air force destroying the Russian artillery positions one after another, they couldn't help laughing.

"General, the Russian artillery is finished. Should we extend our firepower preparation for a while?" A major general asked.

Lieutenant General Zeckert nodded: "It will be extended for another half an hour. After half an hour, the armored troops and infantry will be dispatched to tear through the Russian defense line in one fell swoop!"

"Yes, General." Everyone replied.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The artillery fire of the German army is still firing violently, using artillery shells to severely hit the Russian army's position, causing great losses to the Russian army on the position, and destroying the fortifications built by the Russian army, laying a solid foundation for the subsequent armored forces and infantry attacks, creating chances.

When the German army's firepower preparations ended, the Russian army's position had become a mess. There are bomb craters everywhere, scattered corpses and broken limbs, and they are flying everywhere. The defense line of the Russian army has been almost destroyed, as if it had been plowed by someone.

"Attack!" At this time, Lieutenant General Zeckert, the commander of the German army, gave the order to attack.

Hundreds of tanks from the 8th Armored Division drove out of their positions and rushed towards the Russian positions. Behind them were tens of thousands of infantry.

More than a hundred tanks formed a black torrent of steel and rushed towards the Russian army's position. It is undoubtedly difficult to say whether the Russian defense line can withstand the attack of the German armored forces. You must know that even the intact Russian defense line may not be able to withstand it, let alone these dilapidated defensive positions. The final result is undoubtedly obvious.

"Come on! Tear through the Russian defenses, crush them, and kill them!" Colonel Rommel, sitting in the command vehicle, gave the order to attack.

Hundreds of tanks, accompanied by the sound of roaring engines, led tens of thousands of infantry to the Russian position.

Chapter 325: Tear open

"Quick! Quick! Enter the position. The German attack has begun." The frontline commander of the Russian army roared loudly.

One by one, the surviving artillery holes were opened, and the Russian soldiers, like mice, got out of the hole. Driven by those low-level officers, they entered the position like cattle, preparing to resist the German attack.

Although, these Russian soldiers are very clear that the Germans are very powerful. As a result of fighting the Germans, it is very likely that they were killed. However, they simply had no other choice but to bite the bullet and join the battle. The only thing that can be done, perhaps, is to pray to God and pray that they can survive on the battlefield.

During the heavy shelling by the German army, the Russian army suffered a lot of losses, and the position became incomplete under the shelling of the German army. This makes their defense line less effective in battle.

"My God! What's that? Is that a German tank?"

"I heard that the Northwest Front Army was wiped out under the attack of the German tank troops. Can we withstand the attack of the German tank troops?"

The soldiers of the Russian 4th Front Army undoubtedly saw the German tank unit for the first time. Many people even turned pale. In their eyes, those tanks that made rumbling noises and slowly approached them undoubtedly looked like man-eating monsters.

Some Russian soldiers, under the threat of the German tank troops, were even more scared to pee their pants.

"Don't panic, everyone, there are anti-tank trenches in front of our defense line. German tanks cannot pass through the anti-tank trenches, so they cannot rush into our position!" Russian officers comforted each other. This relieved some of the tension among the Russian soldiers. But even so, everyone's heart is very uncertain. For fear of being eaten by those dark tanks.

"Fire!" When the German tanks were still 500 meters away from the Russian defense line, the Russian frontline commander, as if unable to bear the pressure, gave the order to fire.

The remaining machine guns and mortars on the Russian army's position started firing one after another.

"Da da da!"

The dense machine gun bullets shot towards the German tanks like a storm. The bullets hit the armor of the tank, making a crisp and tinkling sound. However, apart from seeing sparks splashing in all directions, there are almost no other effects. Those tanks were still moving forward without any hindrance.

It was the German infantry who followed the tanks. Many of them were hit and fell to the ground screaming.

"Destroy the Russian machine gun firepower and get rid of them!" Colonel Rommel gave the order.

The tanks began to slowly turn the turrets, aimed at the firepower of the Russian army, and launched an attack.

"Boom!" A tank opened fire, and the shell of the 37mm tank gun, as if it had eyes, hit a firing Russian machine gun at once.

The shell exploded, and the firepower of the Russian machine gun was blown up into the sky in an instant.

Other tanks also opened fire one after another, and the machine gun fire points of the Russian army that survived the previous shelling with great difficulty were destroyed one after another under the attack of the German tanks.

"Boom!" A Russian mortar hit a German tank. The shell hit the frontal armor of the tank.

"Long live! We hit the German tank." The gunners of the Russian army cheered.

However, they were dumbfounded the next moment. Because the German tank that was hit did not seem to be destroyed, but continued to

drive. At the same time, the turret of the tank was constantly turning, as if searching for the enemy's position.

Soon, the tank locked on to the target.

"Prepare high-explosive bombs!" the commander ordered.

The loader inserted a high-explosive round into the barrel and closed the breech block.

The driver stopped immediately, and the gunner seized the moment and opened fire.

"Boom!"

With the vibration of the car body, the shells have already flown out of the barrel. In the next second, I saw that the mortar of the Russian army had been hit. Not only the mortars were destroyed, but the Russian gunners were also killed.

"God! The German tanks cannot be destroyed at all. How can we resist their attack!"

Seeing this scene, many Russian soldiers were beating drums in their hearts. The performance of the German tanks was so powerful that they couldn't resist at all!

Even the firm confidence of some Russian officers could not help but be shaken.

The tanks of the German army opened fire while marching, pulling out the firepower points of the Russian army one by one, further reducing the threat posed by the Russian army to the German army.

Soon, the German armored forces drove up to the Russian anti-tank trenches. The wide anti-tank trenches made it impossible for tanks to cross and had to stop.

The Russian army saw that their anti-tank trenches blocked the German tank troops, and they couldn't help showing a little joy on their faces.

"Let the trucks loaded with soil and rocks of the engineers behind come up immediately and fill in a road. Other tanks, continue to attack and prevent the Russians from interfering with our engineering operations!" Colonel Rommel ordered.

Ten minutes later, more than a dozen trucks loaded with earth and rocks, and two bulldozers converted from tank sites arrived on the battlefield.

The truck dumped the earth and rocks on the edge of the Russian anti-tank trenches, and then the bulldozers pushed the earth and rocks into the Russian anti-tank trenches to fill in a passage.

The officers and soldiers of the Russian army were dumbfounded after seeing the actions of the German army. If the anti-tank trenches are filled, how can they be used as German tanks? At that time, their defense line will be easily torn apart by German tanks.

"Stop the Germans! Stop them quickly. You must not let them fill up the anti-tank trenches. Otherwise, we will be finished." A Russian officer yelled in horror.

The Russian army used mortars and heavy machine guns to open fire on the working German engineers. It's just that they were attacked by German tanks as soon as they opened fire. Apart from destroying a few German trucks and killing some engineers, there was no other effect.

In less than 20 minutes, the German engineers filled in two passages on the Russian anti-tank trenches. One after another tanks, through these two passages, rushed towards the Russian defense line a hundred meters away, preparing to tear the Russian defense line apart and completely defeat them.

"God! How can we resist the Germans!" The Russian officers and soldiers who saw this scene exclaimed.

Chapter 326: crushed

"God! Those damned Germans have rushed through our anti-tank trenches. Fire up and stop them!" The faces of the Russian commanders changed drastically. Before the battle began, they were full of confidence in their anti-tank trenches, thinking that they would be able to stop the advance of the German armored forces.

But I didn't expect that the German army would easily crack their tactic. Those dark tanks are approaching their line of defense and are about to launch an attack.

In the absence of anti-tank weapons, it is almost impossible to resist the attack of the German armored forces only by relying on anti-tank trenches. At most, it will cause some troubles for the German army.

"Attack! Break through the Russian defenses and crush them all." Colonel Rommel's face remained indifferent.

After the outbreak of the Great War, the 8th Armored Division no longer knew how many Russian defense lines it had crushed. This time, too. The weak defense of the Russians made it impossible to stop the tanks of the 8th Armored Division. The tracks of the tank will crush everything to pieces.

"Da da da!" On the Russian army's position, machine guns fired wildly. Dense bullets were fired at the German tanks, but apart from knocking off the paint of the tanks, these bullets could not penetrate the thick armor of the tanks at all.

"Boom!" The tank launched a counterattack. A tank artillery shell accurately hit the firepower of the Russian army's machine gun, blowing it into a pile of scrap iron.

"Da da da!" The heading machine gun and coaxial machine gun at the front of the tank began to straf. With dense firepower, those Russian troops on the suppressed position couldn't even raise their heads, let alone counterattack.

Under the attack of the German armored forces, the Russian defense line began to become precarious. It seems that it is only a matter of time before it is broken through.

The infantry who had been following the German armored forces, also under the cover of these tanks, rushed to a place very close to the Russian defense line. Next, under the cover of tanks, they will break through the Russian defense line and provide protection for the tanks. After all, once one's own tanks break into the Russian army's position, they are very likely to be suicidally attacked by the Russian army. That is currently the only attack method that can pose a threat to German tanks.

In the city of Chelm, the headquarters of the Russian army, the atmosphere became a little dignified. This is only the first day of the battle, but it is extremely disadvantageous to the Russian army. This also made the generals of the Russian 4th Army worried.

"General, the current situation is not good for us. The Germans are attacking very quickly. Their tanks have broken through our anti-tank trenches and are about to attack our forward positions." A lieutenant general officer reported.

"How could it be so fast? Didn't our anti-tank trenches work at all?" Such a result obviously made General Dimitriev a little unbelievable. Because, he knew that if the German tanks could not be stopped, their defense line would be like paper.

"General, the Germans directly used more than a dozen trucks to load earth and rocks, and filled in two passages on our anti-tank trenches. And we have no way to stop this at all." The lieutenant general said with a bitter face.

"Bastard! Damn Germans, how could they even think of such a tactic?" Admiral Dimitriev was very speechless. He felt like he had carefully prepared a punch, but it hit the cotton.

"General, our outer line of defense may not last long against the Germans. They will soon enter the city of Chelm. This place is no longer safe. General, please evacuate here before the Germans enter Chelm. " Another lieutenant general said.

Once the German army breaks into the city of Chelm and starts street fighting with the Russian army. The generals of the Russian army have no confidence in whether they can win the street battle. Therefore, they hope that Admiral Dimitriev can evacuate here and retreat to a safe place.

Admiral Dmitriev wanted to object, but when he thought that his own safety would be threatened if Chelm was caught in street fighting, he swallowed his objection directly.

"Okay, General Feodor, General Golovin, I leave the battle here to you. Although the German tank troops are very powerful, once they enter the street battle, they will definitely be constrained. The narrow streets will restrict the performance of their weapons. Therefore, although the current situation is not good for us, we can certainly resist the Germans' attack and drag them here for the victory of General Ivanov , buy enough time." Admiral Dimitriev urged.

Although the battle had just begun, he, the commander of the group army, fled, which would definitely have a certain impact on the morale of the troops. But for the sake of his own life, he couldn't care less.

"Yes, General." Lieutenant General Fyodor and Lieutenant General Golovin nodded again and again.

"The 22nd Army, over there, I will let them speed up. They will reach Chelm the day after tomorrow at the most. Three armies, 150,000 people, can withstand the German attack no matter what." Admiral Mitriyev continued.

Lieutenant General Fyodor and Lieutenant General Golovin also think so. The German army's offensive power is very strong, but if street fighting starts, the German army will definitely not have such a big advantage anymore. They don't talk about defeating the German army, and if they persist for half a month, there should be no major problems. Maybe, they could also defeat the German army by virtue of their strength in street battles. In that case, they have made great achievements.

After Admiral Dmitriev explained this, he quickly withdrew from Chelm and retreated to a safe rear.

And it was when Admiral Dimitriev withdrew from Cheum that the German armored forces broke through the forward positions of the Russian army.

"Crunch! Crunch!"

The tracks of the tank crushed the ground and broke through the Russian defense line.

"Run! The German tanks are rushing up." The Russian army on the ground had already been terrified. After discovering that the German tanks were crushed up, they even ran away.

"Da da da!"

The machine guns on the German tanks started firing, and rows of bullets shot out, knocking down all the Russian soldiers who were trying to escape.

More and more tanks broke through the positions of the Russian army. The tracks of the tanks were crushing wantonly on the positions of the Russian army. The fortifications of the Russian army were directly crushed, and some Russian soldiers who did not have time to escape were even crushed into meat paste.

Chapter 327: Massacre

"Da da da!" A tank that entered the Russian army's position was crazily shooting forward with machine guns. Those Russian soldiers who were running away were easily shot and killed by machine gun bullets, and fell to the ground. Blood flowed from them. Flowed out from his body, staining the soil red.

"Damn it! Who will blow up the German tank for me." A captain and company commander of the Russian army cursed.

However, the remaining dozen or so Russian soldiers under his command were already terrified, and none of them dared to go. In their eyes, the German tanks have undoubtedly become the embodiment of death.

"Cowards! You are all cowards!" The company commander cursed.

Immediately, holding an explosive package, he rushed out of his hiding place and rushed towards the German tank that kept firing. His company originally consisted of more than a hundred people. However, under the attack of this German tank, the losses were exhausted. As a brave soldier, he certainly wanted to avenge his men.

However, bravery is a commendable quality. However, when the disparity in strength is too great, blindly being brave is reckless.

The Russian company commander was alone with a pack of explosives, and his behavior of trying to blow up the German tank was simply to die. You

must know that in addition to their powerful self-defense firepower, German tanks are often accompanied by infantry in combat.

Therefore, the actions of the company commander of the Russian army are doomed to fail. In fact, he had just rushed towards the German tanks before he was spotted. The infantry of the German army was specially trained to cooperate with tanks. Among them, there is a special training subject, which is training to protect tanks.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

Gunshots sounded, and several German infantrymen accompanying the tanks began to shoot. The bullet hit the ground, splashing patches of dust.

The Russian company commander was also very agile, and rolled on the spot to avoid these bullets.

However, when he rushed to within a few meters of the tank, a crisp gunshot sounded.

"boom!"

A bullet accurately hit the head of the Russian company commander. His head, like a watermelon, shattered in an instant. When his head was smashed, his body rushed forward a few steps. But in the end, he fell powerlessly to the ground. The explosive pack in his hand also fell to the ground.

"The company commander is dead, killed by the Germans, run!" The remaining Russian soldiers ran away in a panic. But the bullets of the German army chased them, and most of them were shot dead, and there were very few people who escaped successfully.

The Russian defense line was easily torn open under the attack of the German armored forces. A large number of tanks rushed to the Russian

position and began to wantonly massacre the Russian soldiers on the position. They bombarded with tanks, strafed with machine guns, and even crushed with tracks. There is only one purpose, and that is to kill all these Russian soldiers who dare to resist.

A large number of German infantry, following behind the tank, rushed to the Russian position. They used the sophisticated weapons in their hands to attack the Russian army. If you encounter a slight resistance, immediately call for tank support. Rough-skinned and thick-skinned tanks can block Russian attacks. The sharp tank gun can destroy the Russian army.

Under the attack of the German infantry and tanks in coordination with this tactic, the resistance of the Russian army seemed so fragile.

"Flee! The Germans are too powerful, we can't resist their attack at all." Countless Russian soldiers, regardless of the chief's scolding, insulting or even beating, fled one after another and fled to the city of Chelm.

The German army chased after them, constantly using powerful firepower to harvest the lives of these Russian officers and soldiers.

This battle can no longer be described as a battle. It may be more accurate to describe it as massacre.

Indeed, in front of the German army armed to the teeth, the Russian army is like a group of lambs waiting to be slaughtered, only to be slaughtered by the German army.

On the position of the German army, General Zeckert and others are paying attention to the development of the battle situation. When they saw the armored troops of the German army break into the Russian army's position and lead the infantry to clear the Russian army from the position, smiles appeared on their faces.

"General, this battle is too simple. The Russians are the same as before, except that they have dug a useless anti-tank trench. Other than that, there is no heart at all. In our In front of the armored forces, it is still vulnerable." The commander of the German 49th Infantry Division said.

"Well! The Russians are really too weak. Whether it is weaponry or training, there is a big gap compared with the Imperial Army. In terms of tactics, even flattering horses is not as good as the Empire. Fighting them, there is always a The feeling of bullying." Lieutenant General Zeckert had a smile on his face.

"Haha, the general is right, we are bullying the Russians. But who told them to make enemies of the empire?" The commander of the 51st Infantry Division also said with a smile.

As the generals of the German Army, they are very excited now. As the army achieved victories one after another in the battle, this also meant that they gained more and more military exploits. When the time is right, they will definitely get promoted.

Do not want to be a general's soldier, not a good soldier. But in the same way, even if they become generals, they also hope to be able to climb further.

"Order the remaining two infantry divisions to launch an attack and defeat the Russians in one fell swoop! His Royal Highness the Crown Prince has explained that we should defeat the Russians in the shortest possible time." General Zeckert ordered.

Qin Tian knew that once the German army launched an attack, if the Russian army wanted to adopt risky tactics, it would definitely attack the Austro-Hungarian Army with all its strength. This will put the Austro-Hungarian Army under tremendous pressure. Qin Tian also didn't know whether the Austro-Hungarian Army could withstand the fierce attack of the Russian army.

Therefore, he hopes that the German 8th Army can win in the shortest possible time without wasting any time.

"Yes, General."

The remaining two infantry divisions of the German 17th Army also participated in the attack. Their joining accelerated the defeat of the Russian army.

Under the fierce attack of the German army, the defense line deployed by the Russian army on the outskirts of Chelm only lasted for half a day before being defeated across the board. In this battle, the Russian army lost more than 30,000 people. Among them, half of the Russian army voluntarily surrendered to the German army after the defense line was breached. The rest were all killed.

The Russian army suffered heavy losses, so they had to retreat back to the city of Chelm, using the city to resist the German attack. Although the urban area of Chelm is not large, the Russian army has built many fortifications in the city, trying to use street fighting to attack the German army and delay time.

Chapter 328: Destroy the city

"General, the Russians have retreated into the city of Chelm, trying to defend the city to the death." Colonel Rommel reported.

"Well, Colonel Rommel, you did a good job in the morning's battle. How many tanks did we lose?" Lieutenant General Zeckert asked.

"General, we lost more than 20 tanks during the battle in the morning. Most of them were damaged due to mechanical failures, and only a few were destroyed by the Russians. After the arsenal was improved, the tanks The reliability of the tank has been greatly improved, and it will not be like before, when a battle is fought, all the tanks will be lost." Colonel Rommel said.

Indeed, as the war continues, German arms companies are also constantly improving the tanks they produce. Although, the looks and performance haven't changed much. However, reliability has been greatly improved, as fewer and fewer tanks are destroyed due to mechanical failures.

Lieutenant General Zeckert nodded, the armored force has become their ace force. It is precisely because of the existence of armored forces that they can easily break through the enemy's defenses. The price paid is also much less than attacking with infantry.

"Colonel Rommel, the Russians must have built a lot of fortifications in the city of Chelm. Can the armored forces cooperate with the infantry in the next battle? With the cooperation of the armored forces, the losses of the infantry will definitely be reduced a lot Yes." Lieutenant General Zeckert said.

Although Rommel and his troops are now assigned to the 17th Army to fight, Lieutenant General Zeckert has command authority. However, when it comes to many issues, Lieutenant General Zeckert will still consult General Rommel first. Will not give orders directly and brutally.

"General, our armored forces have specially trained in street fighting during training. However, in street fighting, our losses will definitely be greater than in field fighting. If His Royal Highness agrees, we are willing to participate in the battle against Chelm During the attack in the city." Lieutenant General Rommel said.

"Okay, I will contact His Royal Highness the Crown Prince immediately." Lieutenant General Zeckert said with a smile.

Lieutenant General Zeckert knew very well that the armored force was Qin Tian's heart and soul, and he had to seek Qin Tian's consent if he wanted the armored force to be involved in fierce street battles. Of course, Lieutenant

General Zeckert also believed that Qin Tian would definitely agree. Because of this, the casualties of the troops will be greatly reduced.

Uzhhorod, the headquarters of the Austrian army. Perhaps it was because of the impending war that the atmosphere here was very dignified. Staff officers came in and out, very busy.

"His Royal Highness, did your army launch an attack on the Russian army today? How is the situation?" Marshal Herzendorf, Chief of Staff of the Austrian Army, asked with a smile.

Although, it has been decided to cooperate with the German army's actions. However, Marshal Herzendorf, Baron Herzendorf, still had some doubts about whether he could win this battle, so he wanted to ask Qin Tian to get more accurate information.

"Your Excellency Marshal, the offensive has already started this morning, and everything is going very smoothly. Our 17th Army is attacking the Russian army's outer defense line in Cheum. Tomorrow, the 20th Army will also attack Zamosic. Thoroughly Defeat the 4th Russian Army." Qin Tian is very confident in his troops. Although, the Russian army has an absolute advantage in terms of military strength. But Qin Tian still believed that the victory would be theirs.

Marshal Baron Herzendorf nodded, and Qin Tian's confidence seemed to have infected him as well.

"That's good! Victory will definitely belong to us." Baron Herzendorf said with a smile.

"Your Excellency Marshal, after we launch an attack on the Russians, their attack will probably start soon. Next, it's up to you. If we can't stop the Russian attack, then our plan will fail." Qin Tian said solemnly.

"His Royal Highness, please rest assured, we will definitely resist the attack of the Russian army!" Marshal Herzendorf replied with a serious face.

Of course he knew how much pressure the Austrian army would be under next. But he still believes that the Austrian army can withstand these pressures. Only when the Austrian army resisted the attack of the Russian army could they win the final victory. Otherwise, everything will fall short.

"Your Highness, General Zeckert's telegram." The adjutant reported to Qin Tian.

Qin Tian quickly read the telegram, a smile flashed across his face.

"Call General Zeckert back and tell him that the armored forces are fully cooperating with all their actions. In addition, let the logistics department be ready to replenish the armored forces at any time." Qin Tian said.

"Yes, Your Highness."

"By the way, tell General Zeckert not to rush to attack the city of Chelm, but to strike with sufficient firepower first. If necessary, you can also let the aviation team join in." Qin Tian specifically urged.

"Yes, Your Highness." The adjutant immediately sent a telegram.

"Your Highness, it seems that your army has made a breakthrough." Baron Herzendorf said with a smile.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Marshal. The 17th Army has defeated the Russian army outside the city of Chelm. The Russian army has retreated into the city of Chelm after suffering heavy losses. The next step is to launch a further attack. Annihilate all those Russian troops."

"Great, Your Highness. It seems that our start is very good." Marshal Herzendorf smiled.

General Zeckert, who was on the front line in Chelm, couldn't help laughing after receiving Qin Tian's call back.

"Order the artillery, move forward, and prepare to launch an artillery attack on Chelm. This whole afternoon is their firepower preparation time. Also, send a message to the 8th Air Force that we need their air support. Your Highness requests us, Before launching an attack, it is best to destroy Chelm with shells and bombs." Lieutenant General Zeckert ordered with a smile.

"Hiss!"

All the generals couldn't help but take a breath, if the German army attacked Chelm with fierce artillery fire and air strikes and destroyed the city. Then, the Russian army stationed in the city will inevitably suffer heavy losses. The fortifications they built will also be reduced to ruins in the German attack. In this case, it will undoubtedly make the Russian army's goal of blocking the German army's attack through street fighting and causing heavy damage to the German army's vital forces completely defeated.

Of course, this will be very beneficial to the German army. It's just that it will consume a lot of ammunition.

"His Royal Highness's order is very correct. Destroy Chelm with artillery fire and bombing, causing heavy casualties to the Russians. At that time, let's see how they will stop our attack." The generals applauded.

Chapter 329: carpet bombing

In the city of Chelm, Lieutenant General Feodor and Lieutenant General Golovin of the Russian 4th Army are discussing how to strengthen the defense of Chelm. The German attack outside Chelm in the morning caused heavy losses to the Russian 4th Army. At the same time, it also allowed them to see the strength of the German army, and knew that it was almost impossible to fight the German army in a field battle. Therefore, urban street fighting is their only way outside the city.

"General Golovin, the remaining 70,000 of us have all entered the city of Chelm. Chelm is only a small city, so we can deploy sufficient troops on every

line of defense. The Germans want to It is absolutely impossible to defeat us as easily as in the battle outside the city." Lieutenant General Fyodor smiled confidently.

"Well! After all, the Germans have too few troops. In urban street battles, the Germans' advantage in weapons will be weakened. The gap between us and the Germans will not be so big. If this battle is fought well If we do, we may not have the opportunity to hit the Germans hard." Lieutenant General Golovin also seemed very confident.

"The most important thing is to find a way to deal with the German tanks. As long as the German tanks are destroyed, the German advantage will disappear. When our reinforcements arrive, we can launch a counterattack. At that time, I would like to see how the Germans will face our counterattack without tanks," Lieutenant General Fyodor said.

In their view, the German army easily broke through the Russian army's defense line relying on its strong firepower and the powerful assault capabilities of its tanks. If these two advantages are deducted, the German army is not much stronger than the Russian army. It is not impossible to defeat the German army when the Russian army has an absolute superiority in strength.

"If the Germans dare to send those tanks into the city of Chelm to fight, we can destroy them. I have ordered all units to prepare for death squads. Once the German tanks enter the narrow streets, They would carry the explosives to blow up the German tanks," Lieutenant General Golovin said.

Although, such tactics are very dangerous and cruel. For those daredevils, it is even a narrow escape. However, if there is no other way, this method can only be used.

Lieutenant General Fyodor nodded. In a field battle, it is difficult to use death squads to attack German tanks. However, in urban street fighting, the chances of success are undoubtedly much greater.

"I hope that the proud and arrogant Germans will send their tanks to urban street fighting!" Lieutenant General Fyodor sighed. If the German tanks do not enter the urban street fighting, they have nothing to do.

Of course, in that case, they might be able to easily hold back the German army. The combat tasks assigned by Admiral Ivanov can be easily completed.

On the afternoon of October 7, 1914, the 17th Army under the 8th Army of the German Army swept the outer defense line of the Russian army in Chelm, and directly launched an attack on the Russian army stationed in the city of Chelm.

However, the German attack this afternoon was not to use infantry to enter the city of Chelm and start a fierce street battle with the Russian army, but to use artillery to shell the city of Chelm.

The 17th Army's 54 150mm heavy howitzers, 108 105mm light howitzers, and the remaining 150 75mm field guns fully included the small city of Chelm within their range. Immediately, violent shelling began.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

More than 300 cannons of the German army began to shell Chelm.

Accompanied by a thunderous sound, shells roared and smashed into the city of Chelm. The shells exploded, blowing the houses and streets in Chelm into ruins.

Chelm is just a small city. Before the war broke out, the permanent population was only 50,000 to 60,000 people. This makes Chelm's urban area

actually not that big. After more than 70,000 Russian troops poured into the city, it immediately made the city a little crowded. Although this made the Russian troops on each line of defense more sufficient, but also, the increased density also made them suffer relatively greater casualties once they encountered fierce German firepower.

"Boom!"

A 150mm artillery shell hit a three-story building. In the violent explosion, the small building was directly blown down. A platoon of Russian soldiers stationed inside was buried directly in the rubble.

A 105mm artillery shell hit a house next to a street. In an instant, bricks and rubble flew everywhere, and the Russian troops stationed under the street were smashed to death, and some people were even directly smashed to death.

Under the heavy shelling of the German army, the buildings in the city of Chelm gradually began to be damaged. This originally beautiful small town began to turn into ruins bit by bit.

The Russian troops stationed in the city were also under heavy shelling by the Germans, and their losses began to rise sharply.

However, this is just the beginning. The German attack was not just shelling.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the German 8th Air Force arrived on the battlefield. More than a hundred bombers formed a dense formation and flew over Chelm from the north.

Hundreds of planes gathered densely together, like a dark cloud, blocking even the sun.

The Russian officers and soldiers on the ground watched this scene with a stupefied look.

"God! How many planes the Germans have! With so many planes, do they want to erase Chelm from the map?" A Russian officer said with a look of horror.

Soon, the plane began to drop bombs. Although, each of these bombers can only carry 500 kilograms of bombs. A 25kg bomb can only carry twenty pieces. However, hundreds of bombers dropped two thousand bombs in one attack. This kind of bomb hit an area in the northern urban area of Chelm densely.

Intensive explosions sounded, and the smoke shot straight into the sky. The buildings in the bombing area collapsed during the explosion.

When the smoke cleared, the Russian soldiers stationed in the city of Cheum were horrified to find that the city had been completely blown into ruins. All the buildings have collapsed. Houses, streets, etc., no longer exist. It was as if it had been erased directly by someone.

Of course, the Russian soldiers stationed in this area were also erased at the same time. Such a scene directly frightened the Russian officers and soldiers in the city of Chelm into a war. Some people even urinate out of fear.

Chapter 330: The situation is not good

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Violent explosions continued to sound in the city of Chelm, and the German artillery was firing violently. In the sky, German planes are also constantly dropping bombs.

The whole of Chelm, under the fierce firepower of the German army, is rapidly turning into ruins. One after another buildings were bombed. The

streets were bombed into rubble. The whole city seemed to be at the end of the world.

The Russian troops stationed in the city of Cheum also suffered heavy losses under the fierce firepower of the German army. Many Russian soldiers lost their lives or were seriously injured in the shelling and bombing of the German army.

"God! How long will the German shelling and bombing last? Is it possible that they want to blow up all our troops in the city of Chelm?" Lieutenant General Fyodor closed his eyes in pain. Eye.

Lieutenant General Golovin's face was also very ugly. Now they are not as confident as before. The fierce German firepower hit them like a slap in the face, swollen their faces.

At the beginning, they had a good idea, and wanted to use urban street fighting to make the German army pay heavy losses. However, before the street fighting started, the German army used powerful firepower to teach them a good lesson. However, the price the Russian army paid was too great.

When the sun went down, the German shelling and bombing stopped. The 8th Air Force stopped bombing because the current bombers do not have the ability to take off and land at night and bomb. All actions can only be carried out during the day. The German bombardment can be carried out at night. But it is a pity that the heavy shelling in the afternoon not only exhausted the artillerymen, but also consumed almost all the shells stored by the German army. Although there are still some shells left, they are running out and we need to prepare for the follow-up battle.

"Very good! The whole of Chelm has been turned into ruins under our firepower. It is estimated that the Russian troops stationed inside must have

suffered heavy casualties. Tomorrow morning, launch an attack on Chelm. In two days Chelm must be captured!" Lieutenant General Zeckert ordered.

"Yes, General." Several division commanders replied. They are also full of confidence in tomorrow's attack. Even if it is a tragic urban street battle, it is undoubtedly much easier for the enemy to attack when the enemy has already suffered heavy losses under the fierce firepower of their own side. What's more, they can also get the support of armored forces. There are tanks with rough skin and thick flesh in front, and at the same time, tank guns can destroy all enemy resistance. This will minimize the difficulty of this street fight.

"Contact the logistics department and replenish us with ammunition as soon as possible. It is best to conduct another round of shelling tomorrow morning to destroy all the fortifications built by the Russians overnight." Lieutenant General Zeckert ordered.

"Yes, General."

That night, the logistics force used cars to transport as much as possible artillery shells and other important war materials to the 17th Army to ensure that their attack the next day could proceed normally.

Lieutenant General Zeckert's prediction was not wrong. The Russian troops stationed in the city of Chelm, after the German firepower stopped, reported the situation they were facing to the rear. On the other hand, organize the soldiers and seize the time to build a position to deal with the attack that the German army will launch tomorrow.

Lieutenant General Fyodor and Lieutenant General Golovin also wanted to cry but had no tears. Because the German army's fierce firepower attack in the afternoon not only cost the Russian army more than 20,000 casualties, but also almost destroyed all the fortifications they built in the city of Chelm. This

makes them have no advantage in the next battle. Therefore, it is naturally the best to be able to build some fortifications at night.

General Dimitriev, who had already fled to Lviv, only felt a bit of fear after receiving the telegrams from Lieutenant General Fyodor and Lieutenant General Golovin. There was a kind of rejoicing in his heart, fortunately he escaped quickly. Otherwise, he might be trapped in Chelm City. Maybe, he would be killed under the crazy firepower of the German army.

But then, Admiral Dimitriev became a little worried. Originally, he thought that the Russian army could drag the German army to Chelm with the help of its superior force and urban street fighting, and even had a chance to turn defeat into victory. But I didn't expect that the German army would adopt such a tactic, directly blasting Chelm into ruins, and at the same time causing heavy losses to the Russian troops stationed there. In this case, it may be even more difficult for the Russian army to defend Chelm. Even if an army of reinforcements were sent to Chelm, they might still not be able to hold on.

"Order the 34th Army to strengthen the defense of Lviv. In addition, send a telegram to Zamosic's troops to prepare them for battle. The combat effectiveness of the Germans is stronger than we expected!" Dimitrie The admiral sighed.

Of course, Admiral Dimitriev did not forget to report the battle situation in Chelm to Admiral Ivanov. It can be regarded as a vaccination for Admiral Ivanov. In case the 4th Army fails to last for half a month, don't blame him too much. After all, it's not that they didn't try their best, but that the German attack was too powerful!

Strate, the headquarters of the Russian Southwest Front Army. Admiral Ivanov is actively preparing for the attack of the main force of the Russian army on the Austrian defense line.

"The German attack has already begun, and we can't wait any longer. Tomorrow, the attack on the Austro-Hungarian Empire must begin. Now, we are competing with the Germans for time!" Admiral Ivanov looked at the map , said secretly.

Indeed, after Admiral Ivanov adopted the current tactics, they were competing with the German army for time. If the Russians can defeat Austria-Hungary before the German 8th Army destroys the 4th Army, they will win. Conversely, if the German 8th Army destroys the Russian 4th Army first, cutting off their retreat. Then, waiting for the Russian army, I am afraid it will be a failure.

"General, a telegram from General Dimitriev." The adjutant reported to Admiral Ivanov.

Admiral Ivanov took the telegram and read it quickly. When he finished reading the telegram, his brows were tightly knit together. The German attack had just begun, but the 4th Army was almost unable to support it. This seems to mean that the combat effectiveness of the German army is stronger than they had expected.

"Send a telegram to the 3rd Army, the 8th Army, and the 11th Army. Tomorrow, we will do our best to attack!" Admiral Ivanov's eyes flashed a flash of determination.