

Jagged 341

Chapter 341: Scold

Lublin, the temporary headquarters of the German 8th Army, Lieutenant General Ludendorff is talking with Lieutenant General François.

"General François, His Highness has issued an order. Early tomorrow morning, the 11th Army will set off from Lublin and make a long-distance attack on Lviv. For this reason, the Legion has specially dispatched 2,000 trucks for you from the rear. At the latest In the morning of the day after tomorrow, the 11th Army must reach Lviv and launch an attack," Lieutenant General Ludendorff said.

"Yes, Chief of Staff." Lieutenant General Francois replied.

Although, it is a very difficult task for any army to attack hundreds of kilometers in one day. However, Lieutenant General François is still confident of completing it. Anyway, along the way, all the wheels of the car are on the road. It is undoubtedly much easier for soldiers to march by car than to march with their legs. Although the traffic facilities here are terrible, most of the roads are dirt roads. However, if the truck drives more than 100 kilometers a day, there should be no problem.

"Colonel Rommel will lead a part of the 8th Armored Division to assist you. The Logistics Department will supplement Colonel Rommel's troops. At that time, it will recover to more than a hundred vehicles. With the assistance of armored troops, attack Lviv, For you, it should not be difficult." Lieutenant General Ludendorff said.

Lieutenant General François nodded. The Russian army in Lviv originally had only two infantry corps. And there was also an infantry corps, which was attacked by the 51st Infantry Division of the 17th Army on the way to Chelm, and was defeated and suffered heavy losses. This makes the number of Russian troops in Lviv not much larger than that of the 11th Army. You know,

the 11th Army is an infantry army composed of four infantry divisions, with a total strength of more than 65,000 soldiers. Among the three infantry armies under the Eighth Army, their strength has always been the strongest.

"Chief of Staff, if possible, I hope to get the support of the air force!" Lieutenant General Francois said.

"It's no problem, the air team, I will contact you." Lieutenant General Ludendorff said.

"In that case, there is no problem at all." Lieutenant General Francois nodded.

The performance of the 8th Air Force in this war can be described as amazing. Before the war, no one thought that the planes they treated as toys would have such great power. Whether it was the previous bombing of the 9th Russian Army by the 8th Air Force, or the attack by the 8th Air Force on the 4th Russian Army this time, the German generals were amazed. This also makes the generals of the German army all hope that they can get the help of the aircraft of the 8th Air Force during the battle. In this case, their casualties will be greatly reduced.

In the early morning of October 10th, the German 11th Army set off from Lublin. The whole army consisted of more than 60,000 people, all of whom took trucks and rushed to Lviv, more than 100 kilometers away.

At the same time, part of the 8th Armored Division led by Colonel Rommel also set off from Chelm to Lviv.

The main force of the German 17th Army went to Zamosic to assist the 20th Army and besiege here. After Zamosic's Russian army is eliminated, the main force of the Russian 4th Army can be regarded as eliminated.

Lvov, the headquarters of the Russian 4th Army, General Dimitriev is restless, as if something big is about to happen.

The current battle situation is really unfavorable for the Russian 4th Army. Unfortunately, Admiral Ivanov hopes that they can persist for more than half a month. However, only three days after the battle started, the 4th Army had already lost half of its troops. This made Admiral Dimitriev terrified, and his fear of the German army rose to the extreme.

"Damn the Germans, how could they be so powerful? Compared with them, our army is completely two levels behind!" Admiral Dimitriev sighed. Only after really fighting the German army will you know how terrifying the German army is.

"The two guys, Fyodor and Golovin, actually surrendered to the Germans! Where are their backbones? Are they still generals of the Russian Empire?" Thinking of Lieutenant Generals Fyodor and Golovin, Surrendered to the Germans yesterday. This made Admiral Dimitriev very angry. Although, he knew that it was a choice made by the two of them when they were desperate, and there was no way to do it. However, the surrender of the two made General Ivanov very angry. It's just that, in view of the critical juncture of the battle, it has not been dealt with. Once the battle is over, he must be dealt with.

If the Russian army wins, it's okay to say that it can make up for it. However, if defeated, the consequences may be very serious.

"General, General Boris is here." The adjutant reported to Admiral Dimitriev.

"Yes!" Admiral Dimitriev nodded. General Dimitriev was equally angry at the defeat of Lieutenant General Boris and his 22nd Infantry Corps by the Germans. If they had arrived in time, Chelm might have been able to hold it, and Lieutenant General Fyodor and Lieutenant General Golovin would not have surrendered to the Germans. Everything will never be like it is now.

To some extent, the culprit of all this is Lieutenant General Boris. If possible, Admiral Dimitriev would like to kill Lieutenant General Boris immediately. But unfortunately, now he does not have the power to directly shoot a lieutenant general.

"General!" Lieutenant General Boris lowered his head after seeing General Dimitriev. He also knew that this time he had made a big mistake.

"General Boris, I sent you to lead the 22nd Army to reinforce Chelm, but what did you do?" Admiral Dimitriev roared angrily.

"General, I don't want this to happen either! The Germans are too powerful. We were flanked by their planes, tanks and heavy artillery. Their attack power far exceeded our expectations. Therefore, my The troops were defeated," Lieutenant General Boris explained.

Admiral Dmitriev knew that Lieutenant General Boris was telling the truth. Any Russian army would probably collapse in the face of such a situation. However, he couldn't swallow the breath in his heart.

Admiral Dmitriev directly scolded Lieutenant General Boris, vented his anger, and then let Lieutenant General Boris go. Moreover, Admiral Dimitriev gave Lieutenant General Boris a chance to make up for his mistakes.

Lieutenant General Boris naturally didn't dare to complain.

Chapter 342: There is no retreat

Strate, the headquarters of the Russian Southwest Front Army. As the battle situation continues to develop, the situation seems to be becoming more and more unfavorable to the Russian army. This also made the atmosphere of the entire front army headquarters more and more tense. Even General Ivanov, the commander of the front army, kept his face tense.

"How is the situation on the front line? Have our troops broken through the defense line of the Austro-Hungarian Army?" Admiral Ivanov asked.

"General, the battle is still going on. All our armies are launching fierce attacks. However, the resistance of the Austrian army is also very tenacious. So far, they have not been able to break through the Austrian defense line." The adjutant reported.

"Damn! Those cowards of the Austro-Hungarian Empire seem to have completely changed their troops. Compared with before, there is a world of difference!" Admiral Ivanov sighed.

In the early days of the war, the Russian army always had the upper hand in the battle with the Austrian army. However, in this decisive battle, the Austrian army seemed to have been reborn, and became alive and well. During the battle, they fought desperately against the Russian army, which made the Russian army unable to break through their defense line for a long time. And, the losses are getting bigger and bigger. This made Admiral Ivanov couldn't help expressing concern about the next battle situation.

If, the Russian army has been unable to break through the Austrian defense line. The 4th Army could not withstand the attack of the German 8th Army. Then, this battle ended in the defeat of the Russian army. At that time, the Southwest Front Army will suffer a heavy blow. The Russian army will also be at a complete disadvantage on the Eastern Front. Such consequences will not be acceptable to these generals.

"How is the situation on General Dimitriev's side?" Admiral Ivanov asked.

"General, the situation of the 4th Army is also very bad. General Dimitriev just sent a telegram asking for help, hoping that we will send reinforcements to the 4th Army. Otherwise, they may not be able to last long." The adjutant said.

Admiral Ivanov frowned tightly. This battle was really aggrieved. Not only the tenacity of the Austrian army exceeded General Ivanov's expectations.

The strength of the German army exceeded his expectations. These two unexpected factors put the Russian army at a disadvantage in this battle.

"Damn! 300,000 people, can't hold out for half a month?" Admiral Ivanov couldn't help cursing.

"General, the German attack was very powerful. The 4th Army suffered heavy losses. Yesterday, the German army captured Chelm. Most of the 100,000 people stationed there were killed. The remaining troops also sent to Germany People surrendered. Including Lieutenant General Fyodor and Lieutenant General Golovin. The day before yesterday, the 22nd Infantry Corps went to rescue Dicheum, but it was defeated by the Germans before reaching Chelm. The Germans At the same time, it was still storming Zamość, and the troops stationed there by the 4th Army also had difficulty resisting the German attack. Therefore, the situation is very critical." The adjutant explained.

General Ivanov remained silent. From the situation reported by the adjutant just now, he also knew that the situation of the 4th Army is indeed very difficult. The main force of the 4th Army was almost completely lost under the onslaught of the German 8th Army. If this continues, the 4th Army may soon be wiped out.

"Do we have any extra troops?" Admiral Ivanov asked. In any case, if the 4th Army really couldn't resist it, it was impossible for him to ignore it, and reinforcements had to be carried out. Whether the 4th Army can withstand the German attack is directly related to whether they have enough time to continue the battle.

"General, we have no spare troops. All the troops of the 3rd Army, the 8th Army and the 11th Army have been dispatched to attack the Austrian Army. The 13th Army is still on the way. At least It will take more than ten days before we can reach the battlefield." The adjutant said.

General Ivanov thought for a while, and then said: "Send a telegram to General Dimitriev, asking him to persist for at least ten more days. After the 13th Army, we will directly cooperate with them in combat!"

General Ivanov has no other choice but to give General Dimitriev and the 4th Army a hope so that they can muster up the courage to continue fighting. As for whether the 4th Army can persist until the 13th Army arrives, it depends on God's will.

"Yes, General." The adjutant nodded and went to send a telegram.

After the adjutant left, Admiral Ivanov's face darkened. The current situation is really unfavorable to them. He could already faintly feel that they might lose the war this time. The most sensible choice is undoubtedly to shrink the line of defense immediately and stick to it from now on. Or retreat to the heart of Russia, trading time through space.

However, it is obviously impossible for Admiral Ivanov to do this. If you do that, it means that all the losses that the Russian army has paid before will be in vain. At the same time, it also means that they will be at a disadvantage on the battlefield and lose a large area of territory.

Although, this is the only way to reduce losses. But Tsar Nicholas II would never believe it. He would only think that it was the incompetence of the generals that led to the defeat of the Russian army, the loss of a large number of troops, and the loss of a large area of territory. What awaits these generals may be a trial by a military court, and they may even be sent to the gallows by the angry Nicholas II.

So, since the battle has already begun, Admiral Ivanov has no way out. Now he has only one choice, and that is to continue the battle. Until they achieve the final victory, or they lose outright.

Of course, there is another reason why Admiral Ivanov chose to continue the battle, that is, there is still a little luck in his heart. In his view, the current situation is not good for the Russian army. But they are not without a chance of winning. If the Russian army can break through the Austrian defense line and defeat the Austrian army. Then, the situation can be reversed. Otherwise, they will lose this time.

"May God bless us!" Admiral Ivanov secretly prayed to God.

Immediately, he once again issued orders to the Russian 3rd Army, 8th Army and 11th Army, asking them to further strengthen their offensive. Within three days, the Austrian defense line must be torn apart. Otherwise, they would have no hope in this battle. It can be said that Admiral Ivanov has completely pinned his hopes on the next three days of fighting.

Chapter 343: Unprepared

At six o'clock in the morning on November 11, the German 11th Army and part of the 8th Armored Division led by Colonel Rommel had arrived less than five kilometers away from Lviv.

Actually, they arrived last night. However, in order to avoid being noticed by the Russian army in Lviv, they have been staying in a small town 20 kilometers away from Lviv to rest. Before 5 o'clock this morning, the whole army set off again.

"Colonel Rommel, it seems that we have not been noticed by the Russians. The suddenness of our attack can still be guaranteed." Lieutenant General Francois, commander of the German 11th Army, said with a smile. It could be seen that he was in a very good mood.

Although Rommel is just a colonel, Lieutenant General Francois has many major generals and brigadier generals under his command. However, his attitude towards Rommel is much better than that of those generals. On the one hand, of course it was because Rommel was someone Qin Tian

valued. On the other hand, it is also because of Rommel's personal talent that Lieutenant General Francois is very optimistic.

The performance of the 8th Armored Division in this war is really amazing. So much so that while these generals were stunned, they all hoped that among their troops, they would have an armored force in the future. In other words, it can be assisted by armored forces in this war. In this case, they will be able to win at a smaller cost.

"Yes, General. The Russians are unprepared, which is undoubtedly very beneficial to us. It can make them unprepared when we attack." Colonel Rommel nodded.

Although Colonel Rommel's military rank is relatively low, as the deputy commander of the 8th Armored Division, he is aware of many important strategic deployments. The importance of attacking Lviv to the German army in this battle is self-evident. Of course he also hoped that they could take down Lviv in one battle.

"Order the artillery, deploy it within half an hour, and then launch a fire attack. Don't be stingy with the shells. In the shortest possible time, throw as many shells as possible at Lviv and kill all the Russians!" Admiral Rancois ordered.

"Yes, General." The artillery commander replied.

The 11th Army has 4 infantry divisions, so they have more artillery. The artillerymen began to get busy, unfolding the cannons one by one, ready for shelling. The vehicles transporting ammunition are also busy, transporting the truckloads of shells to the artillery positions.

Part of the 8th Armored Division led by Colonel Rommel is also preparing for the attack. Originally, after supplementation, the number of their tanks reached more than one hundred. But driving all the way from Chelm to Lviv, there are only about 80 tanks left that can still be driven. But even so, Colonel

Rommel thought it was enough. With these tanks, it was enough to break through the Russian defense line in Lviv and defeat them.

According to the information received before the war, the Russian defenders in Lviv only had 70,000 to 80,000 troops. With the strength of the German 11th Infantry Army and the cooperation of some armored units, it is enough to crush them.

"Fire!"

At 6:30 in the morning, the German artillery commander gave the order to fire. Immediately, 72 150mm heavy howitzers, 144 105mm light howitzers, and 216 75mm field guns all started fierce shelling.

The artillerymen struggled to stuff the shells into the barrel, and then fired them out, smashing these heavy shells at the Russian army. Because Lieutenant General Francois only gave the artillery half an hour to prepare for fire. Therefore, they need to fire as many shells as possible within half an hour. Only in that way can greater results be achieved.

When the German attack began, the Russian army in Lviv was still asleep. Although, after the fall of Chelm, the officers and soldiers of the Russian 4th Army knew that Lvov would soon become the target of the German attack. But they all thought that the German army would attack Lviv after capturing Zamosc. But what they never expected was that the German army would directly attack Lviv. In this case, they will undoubtedly be caught off guard. The Russian army in Lviv was not prepared at all.

"Boom! Boom!"

When the shells fell from the sky and exploded in the city of Lviv, countless Russian soldiers were awakened from their sleep. There are even some unlucky ones who lost their lives directly in their sleep.

More Russian soldiers ran out of the barracks without even having time to put on their clothes and weapons, and scattered to avoid them.

It's just that the German bombardment was so violent that the entire Lviv became the target of the German attack. The shells fell like raindrops, and many Russian soldiers were torn to pieces in panic.

When the shell exploded, Admiral Dimitriev jumped from the bed.

"What's going on? Where did the explosion come from? Are the Germans calling?" Admiral Dimitriev asked, perhaps not even aware of it himself, and his words were full of panic.

"General, shelling! This is shelling from outside the city. It should be the Germans." The adjutant reported in panic.

"What? How is this possible? How could the Germans have come here so quickly?" Admiral Dimitriev seemed a little unable to accept this reality.

However, the constant explosions in Lviv made him believe that this was the truth. The Germans are shelling Lviv heavily with artillery. It is foreseeable that the German attack will soon begin. The completely unprepared Russian army will inevitably suffer heavy losses under the fierce German shelling. Whether he can withstand the German attack, General Dimitriev has no confidence at all.

"Order the troops, enter the position immediately, and prepare to resist the German attack. Tell the soldiers, we must resist the German attack, otherwise, everyone will have a dead end!" Admiral Dimitriev ordered viciously.

"Yes, General."

"In addition, immediately send a telegram to the Front Army Command that we were suddenly attacked by the Germans. The German offensive is very fierce, and we need reinforcements." Admiral Dimitriev said.

Although, the German offensive has not yet begun. But Admiral Dimitriev subconsciously thought that the German attack would be strong, so he impatiently began to request reinforcements. But whether he can get reinforcements, he doesn't know. The only thing he knew was that Admiral Ivanov might not have many troops left.

Chapter 344: Be sure to hold on

"Quick! Quick! Enter the position!" The Russian officers who received the order began to organize troops to enter the position, preparing to defend against the German attack. Unfortunately, however, the German attack was too sudden. Under the violent shelling of the German army, the Russian army not only suffered a lot of casualties, but the entire army was already in chaos.

A large number of Russian soldiers ran around like headless flies, looking for hiding places. Those officers couldn't find their own soldiers at all, let alone organize troops for defense.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The shelling of the German army also continued, and the sound of explosions came and went in the city of Lviv. Although Lviv is a relatively large city, its resident population is only over 100,000. When this place became the most important material distribution center for the Russian Southwest Front Army, the residents living here were forcibly moved out of here. The people stationed in the city are all Russian troops.

"Boom!" Several shells fell on a street one after another, and a row of Russian troops passing through the street caused a catastrophe. Countless Russian soldiers were torn to pieces by shells. The entire street was full of

broken limbs and broken arms. The scene was very terrifying, as if it was a Shura hell.

A 150mm shell hit a six-story building. A huge hole appeared on the building. Although, this shell failed to blow up the building directly. However, it made the whole building feel crumbling, as if it would collapse at any moment. The shattered masonry hit the street below, causing many Russian soldiers who passed by to be smashed to the ground.

A large number of buildings were reduced to ruins under the heavy shelling of the German army. The whole city seemed to be turning into ruins.

The defense line of the Russian army outside the city is also the focus of the German attack. Those 75mm field guns, because of their relatively insufficient power and relatively short range, focused on attacking the Russian defense line outside Lviv.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The artillery shells hit the Russian army's positions like raindrops, destroying the fortifications they built bit by bit.

The fortifications of the Russian army are still so fragile. Even a 75mm field gun can easily destroy it. Whether it was trenches or firepower points, they were all destroyed under the shelling of the German army. This also made the Russian army's defense line quickly become dilapidated. Of course, the reason for this is that apart from the fact that the Russian army was stealing and playing tricks when building positions, the more important reason is that the Russian army lacks materials for building positions, such as steel bars and cement, and can only use local materials. , built with soil and wood, at most adding a little stone to build it. Naturally, such a fortification cannot be expected to have such a strong defense.

Driven by the officers, the Russian soldiers who entered the line of defense naturally could not escape the baptism of the fierce German artillery fire. The dense shells falling down often take the lives of a large number of Russian soldiers.

Except, no one cares about their lives. The Germans didn't care, they wanted to kill all the Russian troops stationed in Lviv. The Russian army itself doesn't care either. In the eyes of those Russian generals and officers, these soldiers are just tools for consumption. They are simply cannon fodder, no one will care about them.

While the bombardment by the German army continued, the fighter planes of the 8th Air Force also arrived as promised. Hundreds of bombers bombed the Russian defense line. Although these bombers carry only 25 kg small bombs, even such bombs still have a devastating ability to strike the Russian defense line. For those fragile human bodies, it goes without saying.

Each bomber can carry bombs weighing up to 500 kilograms. In this case, each aircraft can carry 20 bombs. These bombs fell, and the Russian defense line was completely shrouded in smoke and flames. Countless Russian soldiers were killed in the bombing of these bombers. The defense line of the Russian army was also destroyed during the bombing.

"Oh, God!"

Some Russian generals who were hiding in a safe place to observe were all stunned by the German attack methods. After fighting for so many years, it was undoubtedly the first time they had seen such a scene.

"Damn it! The firepower of the Germans is too strong, right? How can our defense line be able to withstand it like this!" The generals of the Russian army couldn't help but sigh in their hearts.

"If you can't defend it, you have to defend it! Lviv is too important to us. The combat materials stored here are related to the life and death of the entire Southwest Front Army, and they must not be captured by the Germans. The general has issued a death order. Let us have to resist the German attack." A lieutenant general said. He is Lieutenant General Sheremetev, commander of the 34th Infantry Corps of the Russian Army.

"Order the troops and prepare to enter the position. Once the German attack begins, prepare to resist them!" Lieutenant General Sheremetev ordered.

"Yes, General." The other Russian generals replied one after another. However, it can be clearly seen from their faces how unconfident they are.

Especially those generals of the 22nd Infantry Army of the Russian Army who had fled back, they were even more timid. Outside the city of Chelm, they had experienced the attack of the German army. The kind of overwhelming attack led by armored forces is simply too terrifying.

Even if it sounds now, I still have lingering fears. Not to mention that they will soon face the German attack again, which makes them feel even more frightened. If Admiral Dimitriev hadn't given the order to die, they probably couldn't help turning around and running away again.

Story, the headquarters of the Russian Southwest Front Army. Admiral Ivanov was awakened from his sleep. Last night, he fell asleep very late. So, I want to get out of bed this morning. As a result, the hasty knock on the door woke him up, which immediately made Admiral Ivanov feel very bad.

"What happened?" Admiral Ivanov opened the door and asked impatiently.

"General, something is wrong. Lviv is under heavy attack from the Germans. General Dimitriev, request reinforcements," the adjutant reported.

"What? Lviv is under attack, how is that possible?" Admiral Ivanov's face suddenly changed. On the one hand, he couldn't believe such a fact. On the other hand, he was unwilling to believe this fact.

The importance of Lviv is self-evident. If Lvov is captured by the German army, it will be a fatal blow to the Russian Southwest Front.

"Send a telegram to Dimitriev, Lvov must be defended, and it must not fall into the hands of the Germans!" Admiral Ivanov roared.

Chapter 346: Occupied

"Da da da!" On the Russian army's position, two Maxim heavy machine guns fired wildly at a German tank. The dense bullets hit the armor of the tank like a torrential rain, making tinkling sounds and sparks flying.

However, the tank seemed not to be affected at all, and continued to advance against the firepower of the Russian army.

"God! How can our enemies be so powerful? Are they all devils?" A Russian soldier was terrified.

In their eyes, the one who can't even deal with a heavy machine gun is probably the devil.

"Haha! These Russians, are they all fools? We have fought them several times, why do they use machine guns to deal with our tanks every time? Could it be that they thought that with the bullets of the machine guns, they could Can't the armor of the tank be penetrated?" The tank commander sneered.

"Who knows? Anyway, our order is to kill these Russians. It doesn't matter whether we kill them with shells, bullets, or treads. As long as these Russians are dead, we The task is completed." The driver said indifferently.

Indeed, for these armored soldiers who have experienced many battles, their tanks have been replaced several times, which also makes them

completely numb to this war. Their weapons have completely become a killing weapon. No enemy can resist the attack of their tanks. At the same time, tanks will also give them the best protection, so that after they go to the battlefield, they can just kill people.

"That's right, our mission is to kill these Russians!" The gunner also said.

"Then work! Guys! Aim at the heavy machine guns of the Russians. Although we are not afraid, the infantry behind is. Get rid of them and provide protection for the infantry!" the commander ordered.

"Yes, sir!"

The turret of the tank began to rotate, and soon aimed at the heavy machine gun of the Russian army. When the Russian machine gunner found that the enemy's tank turret was aimed at him, he was scared out of his wits. Just about to run away, but before he could take two steps, the explosion sounded.

"Boom!"

The heavy machine gun of the Russian army was blown into a pile of parts. The Russian machine gunner was also killed in the explosion.

Immediately afterwards, the tank destroyed another heavy machine gun. A safe passage was cleared for the follow-up infantry.

Then, the tank continued to move forward, its tracks ran over the barbed wire fence and deer village of the Russian army, crossed their trenches, and entered the Russian army's position.

"Da da da!" The tanks that broke into the Russian army's positions were like tigers breaking into a flock of sheep, slaughtering these Russian soldiers wantonly. Countless Russian soldiers were killed.

A large number of Russian soldiers began to turn around and flee regardless of the chief's obstruction. However, a large part of them were slaughtered by the German machine gun fire.

The infantry following the tanks seized this opportunity and broke through the Russian positions. Started to provide protection for the tanks, and at the same time, with the assistance of the tanks, cleared the remaining Russian enemies on the position.

The German army broke through the Russian defense line outside Lviv with only one round of attack. The Russian army suffered heavy losses, and many people were killed by the German army. There are still many Russian troops who directly raised their hands and surrendered to the German army.

The rest of the Russian army fled back to the city of Lviv.

"Good job! Order the ministries to launch an attack on the city of Lviv. Take Lviv in one fell swoop." Lieutenant General Francois ordered.

The advance speed of the German army exceeded his expectations. Of course, this is good news, which means that they can annihilate the Russian army here in the shortest possible time and win this battle.

Tens of thousands of German troops, led by dozens of tanks, divided into four groups and launched an attack on Lviv.

It is impossible for the Russian army, which suffered heavy losses, to resist the German attack. Many Russian soldiers, when they saw the dark tank rushing towards them, threw away their weapons and ran away without even thinking about resisting. They have all been frightened by the German tanks.

Russian 4th Army Command, General Dimitriev is like an ant on a hot pot. The German army is launching a heavy attack on the city defended by his

troops. Although, he thought he had done everything he could. However, he was not sure at all whether he could withstand the German attack.

"General, Your Excellency the Commander asked us to hold Lvov. He has ordered the 3rd Caucasus Army to reinforce us." The adjutant reported to Admiral Dimitriev.

"If you stick to it, you have to be able to defend it! The Germans are attacking so violently that our troops can't resist their attack at all. How can we defend?" Admiral Dimitriev said very angry. From the very beginning, when General Ivanov ordered him to hold off the attack of the German Eighth Army, he knew it was a hard job. However, only now did he realize that he still seriously underestimated the difficulty of this task!

"General, the outer defense line has fallen! The Germans have entered the city of Lviv." A staff officer reported to General Dimitriev in panic.

"How is it possible? It's only been two hours since the Germans launched their offensive. Has the outer defense line fallen?" Admiral Dimitriev looked shocked.

"General, the Germans use tanks as the vanguard, and we simply cannot resist the attack of their tanks!" The staff officer explained.

"Bastard! Order the troops in the city to stick to their respective positions. Without my order, you must not retreat!" Admiral Dimitriev ordered.

"Yes, General." The staff officer went to convey the order.

It's just that General Dimitriev's order is useless at all. The German army that invaded the city of Lviv continued to attack fiercely. And the resistance of the Russian army, like paper, was easily broken through by them.

In the case of continuous failures, the Russian army's will to resist is very weak. In many cases, the Russian army ran away as soon as they saw the

German tanks coming. Even, many people raised their hands directly to the German tanks.

For the German army, this battle was too easy. The resistance of the Russian army was weak, and it was simply powerless to stop the German army.

At 5:00 p.m., General Dmitriev, the commander of the 4th Front Army of the Russian Army, saw that the situation was over, so he had to lead the remnants to break through and fled in the direction of Stry. And Lvov, the most important supply base of the Russian Southwest Front Army, fell completely and fell into the hands of the German army. At the same time, there were also mountains of supplies that fell into the hands of the German army.

Chapter 347: The odds are on

The jeep of Lieutenant General Francois, commander of the German 11th Army, drove into the city of Lviv. Although there are occasional sporadic gunshots in the city, overall, the German army has controlled the city.

Rows of dejected Russian soldiers passed in front of Lieutenant General Francois' car in a neat line.

"Colonel Rommel, I bet these Russians have formed the most orderly line since they joined the army!" Lieutenant General Francois said with a smile.

"Yes, General. I fully agree with your statement." Colonel Rommel smiled.

In just one day, they took Lviv and wiped out tens of thousands of Russian troops. At the same time, on the Zamosic battlefield, the German attack also came to an end. This made the German attack on the Russian 4th Army almost over. The more than 300,000 people of the Russian 4th Army, except for a very small number, have been wiped out by the German army.

More importantly, they also captured Lvov, the most important supply base of the Russian Southwest Front Army. Without this supply base, the entire Southwest Front Army of the Russian Army may not be able to last much longer. Unless their soldiers are hungry, holding rifles without bullets and fighting fiercely with the German and Austrian allied forces. Otherwise, they can only retreat.

However, will the German army let the Russian Southwest Front Army withdraw so easily? How is that possible. This is the best opportunity to beat the dog in the water! If it is possible to eat up all the Russian Southwest Front Army, it can be regarded as eating up the main force of the Russian Army. This will bring Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire a considerable period of security on the Eastern Front. Even if Russia has completed its mobilization, it has reorganized a large number of troops. However, after losing the elite troops, it is obviously impossible for those newly formed mobs to pose much threat to Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Even, they can easily defeat the Russian army again and win more and greater victories.

"General, we found a large number of Russian material warehouses. The food, ammunition and other combat materials inside are piled up like mountains." A major general reported to Lieutenant General Francois.

"When the Russians left, they didn't destroy these supplies?" Lieutenant General Francois was shocked. If it were the German army, it would never make such a mistake. After all, even if you can no longer use these materials, you must destroy them so as not to leave them to the enemy. In that case, it is an enemy.

"Perhaps it was because the Russian army retreated in a hurry, so they didn't have time to destroy these supplies." The major general said.

"Haha, that's great. That's just cheaper for us!" Lieutenant General Francois was very excited.

Although, the caliber of the Russian cannons is different from that of the German cannons. The Germans could not use these shells. However, in addition to shells, those food and rifle bullets and machine gun bullets are always common, right? The German army can completely use these materials! In this way, the logistical pressure on the German 8th Army can be greatly reduced, which is more conducive to their continued fighting in this war.

"Notify the headquarters and His Royal Highness the news of our victory. Then, let me see what good things the Russians have left for us." Lieutenant General Francois ordered.

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

Uzhhorod, Austrian Army Command. Marshal Herzendorf looked very tired. He was already very old, and he was well maintained before, but he didn't think so much. However, the battle continued for several days. Marshal Herzendorf looked much older. Age spots that were not obvious before are now fully visible.

It is conceivable how much pressure Marshal Herzendorf is under now.

On the front line, the Russian attack continues. Although, the strength of the attack is not as great as before. However, the battle was still very fierce. This also caused the casualties of the Austrian army to increase. The 4th Austrian Army, which serves as a reserve force, has all been transferred to the front line. However, the current front is still stalemate. Although, the casualties of the Russian army were much greater than those of the Austrian army. But under their continuous attacks, the Austrian army began to gradually show its decline.

"Your Excellency Marshal, although the battle is tense, you should rest well! Otherwise, your body will not be able to take it anymore." Qin Tian said with concern. He's young and it's no big deal to stay up for a few days. But Marshal Herzendorf, Baron, is already in his sixties.

"His Royal Highness, I'm fine. As long as we can win this battle, even if I collapse, what's the big deal?" Baron Marshal Herzendorf looked indifferent.

"Your Highness, is there any new information from the front line?" Marshal Herzendorf asked.

"The 11th Army of the 8th Army and part of the 8th Armored Division have already started to attack Lvov. It is said that the Russian army in the city is not prepared at all. This battle should be very smooth!" Qin Tian said with a smile.

"That's good! After taking Lviv, we won't be far from winning this battle." Baron Herzendorf smiled all over his face.

"Your Highness, General François has sent a telegram!" Brigadier General Manstein reported to Qin Tian with a smile on his face.

"Is it good news?" Qin Tian asked.

"Yes, Your Highness, that's good news. General François and the others have captured Lviv. The main force of the Russian Fourth Army has been wiped out. Only a handful of troops have fled Lviv. The large amount of combat materials stored by the Russian army in Lviv has all fallen into our hands." Brigadier General Manstein said.

"Haha, that's great. I originally thought that the 11th Army would be able to take Lviv tomorrow, but I didn't expect that they would have succeeded today!" Qin Tian also had a look of ecstasy.

"Your Highness, congratulations, you have the most powerful army in Europe and even in the world." Baron Herzendorf had a smile on his face, and at the same time, there was envy in his eyes that could not be concealed.

"Your Excellency the Marshal, you should congratulate us. The 8th Army has already captured Lviv. Next, it is time for the Russians to be summoned. I think we are not far from winning this time. Only , the only thing that is uncertain now is how large a victory we can achieve." Qin Tian said.

"Yes, Your Royal Highness. We have already won this battle. Without Lviv and the combat supplies there, the Russians can't last much longer." Marshal Herzendorf was beaming.

Chapter 348: Strategic retreat

Story, the headquarters of the Russian Southwest Front Army. The commander, Admiral Ivanov, is in a rage at the moment. This made all the officers and officers of the entire headquarters silent, for fear of angering Admiral Ivanov, which would lead to unwarranted disasters.

The 4th Russian Army was defeated in Lvov. The commander, Admiral Dimitriev, fled Lvov. Less than 10,000 troops were withdrawn. You know, the 4th Army is a huge army with 300,000 troops! But what I never expected was that it was defeated by the Germans in just a few days, and they paid such a heavy loss.

"General, the 4th Army's battle in Zamosc has also failed. The Germans have occupied Zamosc." A staff officer bit the bullet and reported to General Ivanov.

In view of the fact that Admiral Ivanov is in a very bad mood now, these officers do not want to see him unless it is a last resort.

"I see, you go out!" Admiral Ivanov said blankly.

Zamosic's defenders were wiped out by the Germans, which is nothing to General Ivanov. In his heart, he had fully accepted the fact that the 4th Army was wiped out.

"Yes, General." The staff officer hastily retreated, as if he was afraid that General Ivanov would repent.

"Damn, what should I do next? The Germans are too strong, and the 4th Army is too weak, which led to Lviv being quickly occupied by the German army. Without Lviv, the logistics and combat supplies on the front line cannot be guaranteed. How can we continue this battle!" Admiral Ivanov was very angry and flustered at the same time.

"No, we can't continue the fight. We must retreat. Otherwise, once there is a problem with the supply of materials on the front line, it will cause a devastating blow to the morale of the troops. At that time, if you want to retreat again, it will be too late ." Admiral Ivanov thought secretly. Now, he no longer dared to think about winning. Even, he didn't even want to hold on for a moment. Because he knew that every time the time passed, their situation was dangerous. The German army that captured Lviv was like a dagger stuck in their backs, which could be inserted at any time and kill them.

However, for Admiral Ivanov, retreating is not so easy. Before the battle began, he almost desperately chose a risky tactic. Now, the final result is that his adventure has completely failed. At the same time, it also caused heavy losses to the Russian Southwest Front Army. With such a result, he has no way to explain to Grand Duke Nicholas and Tsar Nicholas II!

"God! How could this battle be fought like this?" Admiral Ivanov closed his eyes in pain. Originally, the tactic he adopted was a bit risky. However, it is definitely not without a chance of winning. On the contrary, Admiral Ivanov also believes that the odds of winning are relatively high. After all, the Austrian army's vulnerability has been verified by them.

However, after the battle began, the tenacity of the Austrian army was completely beyond their expectations. No matter how fierce the Russian army launched a fierce attack, the Austrian army's defense line was still very stable. On the other side, the German offensive was very strong, which made the Russian army gradually fall into a disadvantage in this battle.

Now, among the four armies of the Southwest Front Army, the 4th Army has been wiped out. The 3rd Army, the 8th Army and the 11th Army have lost more than 100,000 troops. This also means that in just a few days of fighting, they lost nearly half of their troops. It is already impossible for the remaining 600,000 to 700,000 people to fight against the German-Austrian coalition forces.

"We must retreat! Otherwise, all the troops will be damaged here."
Admiral Ivanov made up his mind.

Immediately, Admiral Ivanov personally drafted a telegram and sent it to the Russian Army Front Command, requesting the Russian Army Commander-in-Chief Grand Duke Nicholas to retreat.

Grand Duke Nicholas is also paying attention to the development of the battle situation. After all, when the Northwest Front Army was wiped out and had not had time to rebuild, the decisive battle between the Southwest Front Army and the German-Austrian Allied Forces was directly related to the victory or defeat of the entire Eastern Front. When Admiral Ivanov chose aggressive tactics, Grand Duke Nicholas did not stop him. Because, he also hopes that the Russian army can win this battle.

But it is a pity that the **** of luck did not favor them in the end. The Southwest Front Army with millions of Russian troops is already in a desperate situation in this battle.

"How could this battle be fought like this? Could it be that the military strength of the Russian Empire is really so far behind the mainstream of the world?" Grand Duke Nicholas had a bitter face.

Although, the combat effectiveness of the Russian army has always been at the bottom among the great powers. However, relying on their huge military superiority, they can still maintain their status as one of the great powers. The title of steam roller made European countries even more frightened. But now, when the superiority of troops can no longer determine the outcome of the battlefield, the Russian army has lost its greatest advantage.

Grand Duke Nicholas knew that after this battle, the Russian army would be at a serious disadvantage on the Eastern Front. I am afraid that until the end of this war, they will not be able to recover their disadvantages. As for whether Russia can win the final victory in this war, Grand Duke Nicholas has no hope anyway. It's not that they are too weak, but because the enemy is too strong!

"General, Admiral Ivanov requests a retreat." A telegram from a general to Admiral Ivanov was handed over to Grand Duke Nicholas.

Grand Duke Nicholas nodded after reading it: "We have already lost this battle, and it is meaningless to continue fighting. It will only make us pay a higher price. Tell General Ivanov , I allow them to retreat. Temporary failure is nothing. We have not lost to the point of complete defeat, we still have a chance! Bring as many troops back as possible, that will be the seeds of our resurgence."

"Yes, General." The general nodded.

When the telegram from Grand Duke Nicholas was delivered to Admiral Ivanov, he immediately issued an order to retreat. Admiral Ivanov ordered the Russian 3rd Army, 8th Army, and 11th Army to immediately break away from

contact with the Austrian Army and retreat quickly. Retreat all the way to the hinterland of Ukraine and Belarus, and give up a large area of territory in exchange for them getting rid of the pursuit of the German-Austrian coalition forces.

Chapter 349: Attack across the board

"General, your Excellency Commander's order to retreat has been issued, and we are required to retreat overnight tonight." The commander and staff officer of the Russian 3rd Front reported to General Rusky.

"Okay, order the troops and start preparations. After two hours, the whole army will retreat." Admiral Ruski nodded with a dark face.

The 3rd Army also suffered heavy losses in this battle. In the battle against the Austrian defenses, they lost more than 100,000 people. When Lvov was attacked by the Germans, Admiral Ivanov ordered the 3rd Caucasus Army under the 3rd Army to be transferred to reinforce Lviv, so that the troops under the 3rd Army now numbered just over 100,000. .

"How did the cowards of the Austro-Hungarian Empire become so powerful? It's incredible!" Admiral Ruski couldn't figure it out. Why overnight, the combat effectiveness of the Austrian army has undergone a radical change. Otherwise, how could the Austrian army, who were easily defeated by them before, be able to fight to the death in the face of their powerful attacks?

However, even if you don't want to believe it, the fact is the fact, which cannot be changed. The Russian army has failed in this attack. After Lviv was captured by the German army, they were even more mortally threatened. Therefore, we can only retreat. Otherwise, the last hundreds of thousands of troops may also be lost here.

Two hours later, the remaining hundreds of thousands of troops of the Russian Third Army withdrew from the battlefield and fled to the east.

At the same time, the Russian Eighth Army and the Eleventh Army are doing the same thing. Having suffered heavy losses, after receiving the order from Admiral Ivanov, they directly organized their troops to retreat without stopping.

Hundreds of thousands of Russian troops retreated overnight. In this regard, the Austrian army confronting the Russian army did not know.

It was Qin Tian who mentioned this when he was talking with Marshal Herzendorf.

"Your Excellency Marshal, the 8th Army has completed the scheduled combat mission. However, in order to prevent the Russian army from fleeing. Tomorrow morning, the main force of the 8th Army will continue to attack south, seize more important node cities, and block the Russian army. The way to escape. However, the 8th Army has limited strength, so it is very difficult to say how many Russian troops can be blocked." Qin Tian said.

"His Royal Highness, the 8th Army was able to wipe out a group army of the Russian Army in such a short period of time. It also captured an important logistics base of the Russian Army. This is already extremely difficult. If it were the Austrian Army, any group army, It is impossible. In this battle, we have wiped out half of the Russian Southwest Front Army. This is already a rare victory. Next, no matter how many Russian troops are eliminated, we have already won. If It would be great to be able to eliminate more Russian troops." Marshal Herzendorf said with a smile.

Indeed, for the Austrian army, this battle is already an extremely rare victory. Even if this battle ends like this, Marshal Herzendorf is already very satisfied. However, what Qin Tian wanted was not just such a victory.

In this battle, Qin Tian is preparing to wipe out the main force of the Russian army in one fell swoop, and completely gain the absolute advantage

on the Eastern Front. Therefore, he hopes to eliminate the troops of the Russian Southwest Front Army as much as possible. Compared with the troops being formed in Russia, the troops of the Russian Southwest Front Army, which has experienced the baptism of war, are undoubtedly more powerful in combat effectiveness. After solving them, the strength of the Russian army will drop to a higher level. This will be very beneficial to both Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"Your Excellency, Marshal, we still need to eliminate as many Russian troops as possible. Therefore, once the Russian troops retreat, I hope that the Austrian troops will pursue them with all their strength. Only in this way will we be able to maintain our long-term advantage on the Eastern Front. Don't forget, the mobilization of the Russians is almost complete. At that time, they can easily send another two million or more troops to the front. Therefore, we must seize this opportunity to mobilize the Russians in one fell swoop. Get down!" Qin Tian said solemnly.

A trace of hesitation flashed in the eyes of Marshal Herzendorf. The loss of the Austrian army in this battle was close to 200,000. This is undoubtedly a heavy loss for the Austro-Hungarian Empire. If they continue to pursue the Russian army, it will inevitably cause them to pay greater losses. However, he had to admit that what Qin Tian said was very reasonable. This is an excellent opportunity for them to severely damage the Russian army and consolidate their advantages on the Eastern Front. If you give up this opportunity, you don't know when you will have such an opportunity in the future.

Although the troops are now suffering heavy losses, the mobilization of the Austro-Hungarian Empire will soon be completed. Lost troops can be quickly replenished. It is even possible to form new troops to bring their military strength to a higher level. In this case, this opportunity to severely damage the Russian army cannot be let go.

"Okay, Your Royal Highness. Tomorrow morning, I will send a force to launch a tentative attack. If the Russians do not resist, the Austrian army will attack across the board, striving to achieve the greatest results in this battle." Baron Herzendorf said.

"Yes!" Qin Tian nodded, it would be the best if the Austrian army could attack across the board and pursue the Russian army. This can further expand their results and cause greater losses to the Russian army. Useful for the next battle.

Of course, it would be great if the domestic situation in Russia could be changed accordingly. This is really great news for Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

On the morning of October 12, Marshal Herzendorf ordered the Austrian 2nd Army and 3rd Army to send an infantry division each to attack the Russian positions.

When the officers and soldiers of the two infantry divisions of the Austrian Army launched an attack tremblingly, thinking that the vicious Russians were about to rush out and wipe them out. What they couldn't believe happened happened. On the Russian position, it was quiet and there was no movement at all.

When these Austrian soldiers plucked up their courage and rushed to the Russian army's position, they realized that there was no one in the entire position. There are scattered weapons and ammunition everywhere. Obviously, the Russian army was in a hurry when they withdrew.

After hearing the news, Marshal Herzendorf was even more surprised. He immediately issued an order, asking the Austrian 2nd Army, 3rd Army and 4th Army to attack across the board and chase the fleeing Russians. !

Chapter 350: Big Rout

"Order all the troops to attack me quickly. Those despicable and shameless Russians must not be allowed to escape. They are so shameless that they escaped overnight. It is simply a cowardly act!" Bo, the commander of the 2nd Austrian Army General Mu Elmoli gave the order to pursue in a high-spirited manner.

The more than 200,000 troops under the Second Army began to chase the Russian army as if they had been injected with chicken blood.

In the past, they were kicked out by the Russians, but they didn't expect that the feng shui would turn, and they would have such a chance. These generals of the Austrian army also want to make contributions. Therefore, they are not willing to miss this golden opportunity.

The Austrian 3rd Army and 4th Army also started to pursue the Russian army. For a time, the morale of the more than 700,000 Austrian troops was greatly boosted, and the Russian army launched a pursuit in the direction where they fled.

At the same time, the 8th Army of the German Army also dispatched some troops to go south from Lvov to seize important towns along the route and prepare to stop the Russian army. Although, the number of retreating Russian troops amounted to more than 600,000, which was several times that of the German 8th Army. It is almost impossible to keep all these retreating Russian troops. Their combat mission is also to annihilate as many Russian troops as possible.

On the road from the east of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Russia, groups of Russian troops are marching. These Russian soldiers were dejected one by one, like a defeated rooster.

Although, Russia's military power is not the strongest among the great powers. Apart from numerical superiority, the Russian Army has almost

nothing to show for it. Especially the Cossack cavalry, which was famous in Europe in the past, has also been greatly challenged with the large number of automatic firepower equipped troops. But even so, the Russian army managed to regain its confidence in the battle against the Austrian army. Facing the Austrian army, which was much better equipped than them, they were still able to beat the **** out of the opponent. This made the officers and soldiers of the Russian army, when enjoying the fruits of victory, not forget to ridicule the Austro-Hungarian Army, as if they were cowards. But now, everything has changed. They fled like stray dogs, and the Austro-Hungarian Army turned into vicious pursuers.

"General, the Austro-Hungarian Army has already begun to pursue. Although, we are still far away. However, if our speed slows down, they will soon catch up. Especially since we are running out of supplies. Next, once the soldiers do not have enough food, the consequences will be very serious." A general reported to General Ivanov.

Admiral Ivanov's face was gloomy, he knew that what the other party said was true. But, now he has no other way!

In this battle, they have already lost, and they lost badly. Now their biggest goal is to bring back as many troops as possible. But unfortunately, the German-Austrian coalition forces will not let them withdraw easily. Even Admiral Ivanov didn't know how many Russian soldiers would successfully escape after the battle. But he knew that this number would definitely not be too large.

"Order the troops to speed up as much as possible! If there is not enough food, then find a way to collect it on the spot." Admiral Ivanov ordered.

"General, when we were in the territory of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, we might not have any problems collecting food on the spot, but if we enter our territory, will we also do the same?" The general was a little unsure.

Admiral Ivanov hesitated for a moment, then nodded: "Of course, those Ukrainians, there is no need to be polite to them. If they donate food obediently, that's all. If they dare to hide, then don't Be polite to them."

The Russian Empire is also a multi-ethnic country. However, the Russian ethnic group has absolute leadership and their population is the largest. This makes other nations inevitably oppressed by them. Especially Ukrainians, they have fertile land, but because of the exploitation of the Russian government, they can't even eat enough. Famines and the like are even more common.

"Yes, General, I see."

The retreat of the Russian army was not smooth. First of all, after losing Lviv, their logistical supplies encountered great difficulties. Not only is it difficult to replenish weapons and ammunition, but even food is not enough. Secondly, the pursuit and interception of them by the German-Austrian coalition forced the Russian army to speed up as much as possible. Otherwise, there is no escape. In the end, the German 8th Air Force bombed the retreating Russian Army just as it had dealt with the Russian 9th Army in the Kingdom of Poland.

"Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!"

A dozen bombers flew over a group of retreating Russian troops. Hundreds of bombs fell along the road.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Intensive explosions sounded, and suddenly, this highway has become a road of death. There were stumps and broken arms everywhere, and blood even stained the road red. Countless Russian troops were killed. The rest of the Russian army fled the road in a panic, watching the German planes appearing in the sky in horror.

"Da da da!"

Several German fighter jets began to straf the Russian troops on the ground, and the bullets from the aviation machine guns easily tore these Russian soldiers into pieces.

"God! Shoot down the German plane!" A Russian officer shouted loudly.

However, in the next second, he was hit by a bullet from the fighter jet's aviation machine gun. The whole person, under the intensive machine gun bullets, turned into a pile of minced meat.

The air strike of the German 8th Air Force not only caused huge casualties to the Russian army. At the same time, it also seriously delayed the marching speed of the Russian army, creating opportunities for the pursuit and interception of the German and Austrian allied forces.

Under this attack method of the German-Austrian coalition forces, many Russian troops directly collapsed. Countless Russian soldiers were desperately fleeing to the east, they no longer cared about the queues and establishments. Everyone has only one goal, and that is to escape as quickly as possible, the farther the better. Otherwise, you will lose your life.

When more and more Russian troops collapsed, it eventually led to a chain reaction. A large number of Russian troops collapsed under the attack of the German-Austrian coalition forces. After more and more Russian troops were affected, it directly led to a major defeat of the Russian army. Hundreds of thousands of Russian troops crowded the road leading to Russia, desperately fleeing. However, as their supplies ran out, these Russian troops had to slow down in order to gather supplies. The Austrian army chasing them took advantage of this opportunity to catch up.