

# Jagged 421

## Chapter 421: Persecution

On the afternoon of March 20, 1915, a huge fleet was cruising at a low speed in the waters 200 kilometers southeast of the Orkney Islands. The center of the fleet is the heavily guarded battleships. On the periphery, there are cruisers and destroyers. Even, in this sea area, there are still many submarines.

After the German navy was determined to launch a decisive battle against the British navy, the German navy began to shrink its strength as much as possible. Not only the surface battleships have completed the assembly, but also the underwater submarines are densely scattered in the North Sea. These submarines can not only carry out sneak attacks on the surface warships of the British Navy. More importantly, they can form an intelligence network. As soon as the main force of the British Navy leaves the military port, they will soon be discovered by these submarines, and then report to the flagship to prepare the fleet to deal with the British Navy.

Of course, the seaplanes carried by large warships will also become the main force for detecting the enemy's situation in this naval battle.

On the battleship 'Bavaria', the flagship of the German Navy's High Seas Fleet, Admiral Reinhard Scheer, Lieutenant General Franz von Hipper and Lieutenant General Maximilian von Spee are discussing the current situation have a discussion.

"There is no doubt that our fleet left Wilhelmshaven last night. The British will not be unaware of this. However, judging from the information obtained so far, the main force of the Royal Navy is still staying in Scapa Flow. Very Obviously, they don't plan to have a decisive battle with us." Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

The purpose of the German Navy's battle is to completely defeat the British Royal Navy. If the main force of the Royal Navy has been huddled in Scapa Flow, this will make it impossible to achieve the strategic goals of the German Navy.

"Your Excellency, Commander, can you confirm that the main force of the Royal Navy is staying in Scapa Flow?" Lieutenant General Hipper asked.

After all, it is impossible for the British not to know that the German navy left the port with such great fanfare. It would be too disappointing if they were indifferent to this. After all, they were the former sea overlords! So far, do you even have the courage to fight the German navy? No matter how you look at it, the possibility of this will be very small.

"It has been determined that the main force of the British is still staying in Scapa Flow. We have deployed more than one submarine in the important waterways around Scapa Flow. In addition, we have also sent seaplanes to fly over Scapa Flow. It is concluded that the main force of the British is still staying in the port." Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

"It seems that the British are frightened by us, and they dare not go to sea to fight with us anymore. The former maritime overlord is nothing more than that now!" Lieutenant General Spee said disdainfully.

Admirals Reinhardt Scheer and Admiral Hipper nodded again and again. They also believed that the Royal Navy was really scared by them this time. Facing the powerful German navy, the British Royal Navy thought it had no chance of winning. Under such circumstances, he had no choice but to avoid fighting.

"However, the British have been hiding in Scapa Flow like this, is there no way? Maybe our headquarters will directly attack Scapa Flow? In that case, it will be just as the British want." Lieutenant General Hipper said.

Scapa Flow, as the home port of the British Navy's large fleet, is also an important base for blocking Germany. Over the years, the United Kingdom has piled up resources there. The entire Scapa Flow is almost surrounded by coastal defense guns, and the defense is extremely strong. Even if the High Seas Fleet has dozens of battleships, if they launch an attack, they may not be able to take advantage of it. What's more, there are twenty or thirty battleships of the British Navy in Scapa Flow. Once a war starts, those capital ships can also berth in the port and attack directly with naval guns. At that time, the German navy may not only be unable to defeat the British navy, but will also suffer a big defeat.

As for sending a submarine to carry out a sneak attack again, that won't work either. The last time the British suffered such a big loss, they will definitely strengthen Scapa Flow's underwater defenses. It is no longer possible for the submarines of the German Navy to easily enter Scapa Flow.

"Gentlemen, since the British avoid fighting, it is impossible for us to spend time with them like this. The huge fleet is performing missions at sea, and the fuel burned every day is an astronomical figure. What's more, for this In one operation, we also transferred the main force of the breaking fleet. This caused a big loophole in our blockade against the British. The British will definitely seize this opportunity and frantically transport all kinds of weapons to their homeland. Materials. Therefore, it cannot be delayed any longer." Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

Lieutenant General Hipper and Lieutenant General Spee nodded again and again. The German Navy's previous blockade of the British mainland was undoubtedly very successful. Not only did Britain's industry suffer a devastating blow, but it also greatly weakened Britain's war potential. It even caused many social problems. If the blockade becomes useless because the main force of the fleet is transferred, it will make all previous efforts in vain.

"Your Excellency, Commander, it seems that there is no other way. The British will not go to sea to fight, so we have to find a way to force them out. Let's act according to the predetermined plan!" Lieutenant General Spee said.

"General Spee, according to the predetermined plan, the 2nd battlecruiser detachment you lead is going to attack the British coastal cities in order to force the British to go to sea to fight. In this case, it will damage your personal reputation. It will have a big impact." Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

Lieutenant General Spee smiled slightly: "Your Excellency, as long as the empire can win this war, there will be no problem with my personal reputation at all."

Admiral Reinhard Scheer nodded. Indeed, not only Lieutenant General Spee, but other generals would never shrink back when encountering such a thing. Personal reputation is indeed very important. However, in comparison, winning the war for the empire is the most important thing. As a soldier of the German Empire, for the benefit of the empire, he would even give his life, not to mention his personal reputation?

"Well, let's act according to the scheduled plan! General Spee, you lead the 2nd battlecruiser detachment to set off. This evening, launch an attack on Edinburgh and destroy it. Especially the port and shipyard must be completely destroyed. Let the British know that if they avoid fighting again, we will destroy all their coastal cities." Admiral Reinhard Scheer ordered.

"Yes, General!" Lieutenant General Spee nodded.

Subsequently, Lieutenant General Spee led the 2nd battlecruiser detachment to set off.

#### **Chapter 422: Shelling**

The 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy not only has six battlecruisers, but also four light cruisers and six destroyers. This kind of

strength is already very good. With the strength of the battlecruisers of the German Navy, as long as they do not encounter the main force of the British Navy, there is almost no danger.

What's more, the second battlecruiser detachment also includes three "Derfflinger class" battlecruisers. The performance of this class of battlecruisers has long been tested in actual combat. Its 380mm main gun with 50 times the caliber has extremely powerful armor-piercing capabilities. No capital ship in active service in the British Navy can resist it.

On the battleship "Derfflinger", the flagship of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron, Lieutenant General Spee looked serious. Although, this task is not a difficult task at all for the 2nd battlecruiser squadron he leads. However, attacking the ports and shipyards of a big city would inevitably cause many innocent casualties, which made him feel a sense of guilt. As an aristocrat of the German Empire, doing so made him somewhat uncomfortable.

"I did this for the German Empire and for the Empire to win the war. In addition, the British are also to blame! They are already in this war and have no chance of winning. But they still insist on refusing to surrender, want to continue the war. That's why we had to adopt such a method. All of this was caused by the British themselves. If they want to blame, blame their government!" Lieutenant General Spee secretly said in his heart think. After thinking about this, he felt a little better.

People are often like this, as long as they find a reason, they will no longer be afraid of the condemnation of conscience.

The 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy headed straight for Edinburgh. At the moment, the British know nothing about it. The main force of the Royal Navy's large fleet is all huddled in Scapa Flow. Except for a small number of light warships conducting reconnaissance, the rest of the warships

are hiding in the port and dare not go out to fight at all. They also seem to realize that if they go to sea to fight the German navy, they must lose.

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is the largest city in northern England. Here, it is not only the political and economic center of northern England, but also an industrial center. The chemical industry and shipyards are very well developed. The large shipyards here even have the ability to build battleships. However, for the sake of safety, the British Navy generally places the construction of battleships in the southern shipyards. The defense of the south is undoubtedly better than that of the north.

On the evening of the 20th, the workers in the Edinburgh port area all got off work. The major shipyards are continuing to work overtime. Of course, what they built was not a warship, but a merchant ship. Under the attack of German submarines and the breakaway fleet, British merchant ships suffered great losses. In order to restore Britain's maritime capacity, they had to build a large number of merchant ships. This situation changed only after the German Navy's blockade was completely completed, and in order to save resources to build warships. The major shipyards can no longer get new orders for merchant ships. They only need to finish the existing orders. Of course, this also means that many shipyard workers will lose their jobs as a result.

It's just that, because of the blockade of the German navy in the whole of Britain, their industrial products cannot be shipped out at all. Therefore, many factories have stopped production. Except for factories related to the military industry, many other workers have lost their jobs. These people live entirely on government relief. Of course, the British Army also took the opportunity to absorb a large number of young and middle-aged men into the army. Greatly solved the problem of insufficient soldiers. In the case of not having enough to eat, many people are naturally willing to join the army they despised before.

"Damn it, this battle has been going on for more than half a year, when will it end! I never want to live through such a hard life." A worker in a shipyard received his bread after get off work, cursing go home.

Now in the UK, prices are soaring, and the pound is not worth much. The wages of the workers are distributed directly in bread. Of course, workers are also happy to accept this kind of wages. The food on the market has begun to be in short supply, even if you have money, you may not be able to buy it.

"Okay, Jack, don't complain. At least we still have jobs, and our family can still live because of it. Compared with those beggars who starved to death on the streets, it is already much better." An older worker said.

Indeed, the British economy is very bad now. After many workers lose their jobs, they have no way to find a job again, which makes many people become beggars. Since everyone has no extra food, naturally there will be no kind-hearted people to give them alms. This has caused many British cities to starve to death every day. In a big city like Edinburgh, more than a hundred people starve to death every day.

Jack couldn't help but nodded when he heard such words. Indeed, although their lives were a little bit harder, they still wouldn't starve to death. Compared with the corpses that were transported out by the corpse truck every morning, they were considered luckier.

"May God bless the British Empire and win this \*\*\*\* war as soon as possible!" Jack couldn't help praying.

"Boom!"

Suddenly, an earth-shattering explosion sounded. Jack and the others couldn't help being stunned.

Afterwards, dense explosions sounded continuously.

"It's from the direction of the port." Jack's expression changed involuntarily.

"Quick, let's go see what's going on."

They came to a high ground with a view of the port, and witnessed a disaster in progress.

On the sea, several huge battleships like hills were firing at Edinburgh. Huge shells exploded in the port, the flames collided, and the smoke and dust shot straight into the sky.

Buildings in the port were destroyed one after another. Countless people are running for their lives in all directions.

"My God! Our shipyards are hit."

"Damn Germans, our shipyard is just a shipyard that produces civilian merchant ships, won't they let it go?" Jack cursed.

If the shipyard is destroyed, it means that they will lose their jobs immediately. Their lives will immediately become unreliable, and they may even follow in the footsteps of beggars who were starved to death.

The faces of those who worked in the shipyard like Jack turned pale.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Explosions continued to come, the German warships were firing violently, and the port of Edinburgh was turning into ruins at a speed visible to the naked eye.

#### **Chapter 423: Condemn Germany**

The battlecruiser 'Derfflinger', with three triple-mounted 50-caliber 380mm main guns, is firing. Each salvo can smash eight high-explosive bombs weighing one ton to the port of Edinburgh Inside. After each shell exploded, it caused huge damage to the sea and inside the port. One after another



buildings were destroyed in the explosion. Huge bomb craters one after another are densely covered in the port.

"God! Run away!" Countless British people fled in all directions.

"Boom!" A shell fell from the sky and exploded among the crowd. After the shell exploded, it left a huge crater in the ground. As for the British, they have all disappeared. It is estimated that it has been blown into powder!

The six battlecruisers of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy are firing fiercely. With their powerful firepower, the port of Edinburgh was turned into ruins. In the face of the fierce German shelling, the defenders of Edinburgh did not fight back at all.

Although, the United Kingdom built coastal defense shells and deployed coastal defense troops in Edinburgh. However, the old coastal defense guns have limited range. In the face of those advanced battleships with a range of more than 20 kilometers, they are often powerless and can only watch the German warships destroy their ports.

On the bridge of the battlecruiser Derfflinger, Lieutenant General Maximilian von Spee watched this scene with a blank expression. Watching the fleet of the German Navy destroying the port of Edinburgh with artillery fire. Although he knew that these fierce artillery fires would definitely cause great casualties to the British, and even civilians would die in the artillery fire. However, this is war, and everything is so cruel.

"Be careful, the British may have submarines in this sea area. All warships are activated, and the British submarines cannot be given any chance." Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

The British Navy is also equipped with a lot of submarines. Although, the performance of their submarines is far from being comparable to that of the

German Navy. However, once it is out of reach and attacked by a submarine of the British Navy, the German Navy will also pay a considerable price for it.

"Yes, General." The communications officer immediately issued Lieutenant General Spee's order to the ships.

The six battlecruisers, even during the bombardment, still kept their speed above ten knots to ensure that they would not be easily locked by enemy submarines. The light cruisers and destroyers on the periphery are constantly cruising around, looking for suspicious targets. When sonar had not been invented, anti-submarine was undoubtedly very difficult.

The 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy ravaged the port of Edinburgh with artillery fire for nearly an hour before evacuating swaggeringly. At this time, the port of Edinburgh has been completely destroyed. The entire port has been turned into ruins. The wharves were bombed to pieces, a large number of factories were destroyed, and a raging fire was burning.

"General, the port of Edinburgh has been destroyed by us." A staff officer reported to Lieutenant General Spee.

"Order the fleet, retreat. Tonight, we will launch shelling on the next target. Until the main force of the British is forced out of Scapa Flow!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

"Yes, General."

The second target chosen by the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron was Dundee at the mouth of the River Tay. It is also one of the important cities in Scotland. Together with Glasgow in the west of Scotland, it can be called the largest cities in Scotland.

"I hope the British will be more sensible this time, and send their navy out to fight us! Otherwise, our bombardment can only continue forever." Lieutenant General Spee said.

The task of attacking British cities with powerful warships was not what he wanted. He even hopes to be able to fight the British Navy in an upright manner. That would make him feel like a soldier, not a butcher.

Edinburgh was heavily bombarded by the German navy and was immediately reported to the British Cabinet. Prime Minister Asquith was having dinner when Home Secretary McKenna reported the situation to Prime Minister Asquith. However, after he heard the news, he immediately lost his appetite.

"God! Damn Germans, are they going to slaughter our civilians? How can they be so despicable and shameless." Prime Minister Asquith cursed.

Although, in war, civilian casualties will inevitably be caused. After all, human life is especially fragile at this moment. However, this was the first time that the German navy had openly bombarded a British port.

"Call other cabinet members immediately to discuss this issue." Prime Minister Asquith ordered.

The secretary of the Prime Minister's Office went to make a call immediately. Soon, a group of cabinet ministers gathered in the prime minister's office. However, everyone's faces were very ugly. On the way here, they all knew about the attack on Edinburgh.

"Tell me, what should we do now? The Germans have launched shelling on our port. Today is Edinburgh, will it be London's turn tomorrow?" Prime Minister Asquith was very angry.

"Your Excellency, the Prime Minister, we should condemn the massacre of civilians by the 3 Germans. Let the whole world see the true face of the Germans and win the sympathy and support of the international community." Sir Edward Gray, Foreign Secretary said.

Prime Minister Asquith couldn't help but twitched the corners of his mouth. When does the British Empire need to win the sympathy of the international community? But who made them weak now?

"Let's leave this matter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. No matter what, we must expose the despicable and shameless behavior of the Germans." Prime Minister Asquith said.

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

"Your Excellency, the Germans did this purely to force the main force of the Royal Navy to go to sea to fight a decisive battle with them." Churchill said.

Prime Minister Asquith nodded: "That is to say, if we don't send the navy to fight them decisively, will their attacks continue?"

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

"Is the Royal Navy ready for battle?" Prime Minister Asquith asked.

"Yes, Your Excellency, the Prime Minister. The Royal Navy is ready to fight and can go to sea to fight at any time." Churchill said.

"If this is the case, then order the Royal Navy to go to sea to fight! This battle cannot be avoided, and there is no need to hide any longer." Prime Minister Asquith made a decision.

#### **Chapter 424: courage of the royal navy**

After the cabinet meeting, Churchill answered the Admiralty. Prime Minister Asquith has made a decision to order the Royal Navy to go to sea to fight the German Navy. Therefore, Churchill had no other choice but to follow this order.

However, Churchill did not think that now is the best reality. It's just that the German Navy chose to shell German coastal cities to force the Royal

Navy to go to sea to fight, which made it impossible for the Royal Navy to shrink back. Otherwise, the Germans might really destroy all the coastal cities of Britain. In that case, there would be no need to continue this battle. After the coastal cities were destroyed, Britain could not hold on at all.

More importantly, British shipyards are all located in coastal areas. Once these shipyards are destroyed, Britain will have no strength to continue the war. Even, there is no possibility of a comeback.

"Send a telegram to the Grand Fleet and tell them the news that Edinburgh has been shelled. In addition, tell them that the Prime Minister has issued an order to ask them to go to sea and fight the Germans. I hope they can act according to the plan and serve the Germans. The British Empire is fighting for a chance." Churchill said to the secretary.

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

"The despicable Germans, have they tried their best to defeat the British Empire? God bless the British Empire and must win this naval battle!" Churchill secretly prayed to God.

In the situation where the disparity in strength is too great and the odds of winning are too small, praying to God and praying for victory has become their only way. Of course, this is just a kind of spiritual sustenance.

Scapa Flow, Royal Navy Grand Fleet Headquarters. Even though it was late at night, the headquarters was still brightly lit. The German Navy has already left port, which puts great pressure on the Grand Fleet. Because they know that the target of the German Navy is them. If they don't do it well, they will lose completely in the next naval battle. At the same time, it will also cause the British Empire to suffer defeat for this.

"Is there any news about the Germans?" Admiral John Jellicoe asked.

"Your Excellency, not yet. However, what is certain is that the German fleet may not be too far away from Scapa Flow. This afternoon, their reconnaissance plane just passed over Scapa Flow." Dai Lieutenant General Wei Beatty said.

"It seems that the \*\*\*\* Germans are trying to block us here. If we go out to sea, we will definitely bump into them." Admiral John Jellicoe couldn't help cursing. The German Navy's tactics of overwhelming them left them with no room for extra play!

"General, an urgent telegram from London." A communications officer hurried in.

General John Jellicoe hastily accepted the telegram. After reading the telegram, his face had turned ashen.

"Damn the Germans, they are too despicable!" John? Jellicoe Admiral cursed.

"What's wrong? Your Excellency Commander!" David? Betty Lieutenant General asked.

"Tonight, the Germans attacked Edinburgh. The entire port of Edinburgh was reduced to ruins. Not only were the shipyards destroyed, but at least thousands of civilians were killed by the German bombardment." John? Admiral Jellicoe said.

"What? Damn Germans, how dare they do that? Aren't they afraid of being condemned by the whole world?" Lieutenant General David Betty was taken aback for a moment, and then became furious.

"Huh! The Germans have used everything to defeat us. How could they be afraid of condemnation? That will have no impact on them at all." Admiral John Jellicoe said.

"Damn it, if we can defeat the Germans, I will definitely lead the fleet to destroy all the coastal cities of the Germans!" Lieutenant General David Beatty said through gritted teeth.

It's just that both he and John Jellicoe knew that it would be very slim.

"Your Excellency, does London have any other requirements?" Lieutenant General David Betty asked.

"Your Excellency, the Prime Minister, has issued an order, asking us to go to sea to fight the Germans and prevent the Germans from further attacking our coastal cities. Your Excellency Churchill asked us to carry out operations according to the original plan and destroy as many German warships as possible. Follow-up actions create opportunity," Admiral John Jellicoe said.

"It seems that this battle between us and the Germans is inevitable. They can't let us continue to hide in the military port. And after they start shelling our coastal cities, it's impossible for us to hide anymore "Lieutenant General David Beatty said.

General John Jellicoe nodded. The current situation is indeed like this.

"Give orders to the ships. After two hours, all the warships will go to sea and fight the Germans." Admiral John Jellicoe ordered.

"Yes, Your Excellency, Commander. However, I think that this order, Your Excellency, should be issued to all officers and soldiers through a tweeter, and by the way, tell them that the Germans shelled Edinburgh to arouse everyone's anger. In the case of excitement, perhaps, the fleet His strength can be displayed beyond normal. Then, maybe there will be a miracle." Lieutenant General David Betty said.

John? Admiral Jellicoe know that David? Beatty is not willing to give up any chance of winning. Of course, doing so is also very beneficial to the Royal

Navy. If they can defeat the German navy with their strength, that would be the best.

Half an hour later, Admiral John Jellicoe, like all officers and soldiers of the Royal Navy Grand Fleet, delivered a speech through the radio.

"Seamen of the British Empire, I now have to tell you sad news. This evening, the Germans sent a fleet to bombard Edinburgh, destroying the entire port and causing a large number of civilian casualties. The Germans did exactly that. In order to force us to go to sea and fight them. If we don't go to sea, they will definitely continue to bombard our coastal cities. By then, more cities will be destroyed by the Germans, and more people will die under the Germans during the shelling.

Although, our strength may not be as good as the Germans. But we can no longer sit still. We must stand up and fight the Germans. This is our duty. Even if he was killed by the Germans because of this, he would not hesitate. I believe that all the officers and men of the Royal Navy are warriors, not cowards! "The words of Admiral John Jellicoe reached the ears of every soldier in the Grand Fleet through the radio.

Suddenly, the entire fleet erupted with great courage and will to fight.

#### **Chapter 425: The decisive battle begins**

Late at night on March 20, Scapa Flow was brightly lit. Large searchlights illuminate the entire Scapa Flow. The officers and soldiers of the Royal Navy, inspired by Admiral John Jellicoe's speech, drove one after another warships out of the waterway of Scapa Flow and into the North Sea in order.

Although, the number of capital ships of the Royal Navy is no longer as good as that of the German Navy, and the performance of a single ship cannot be compared with that of the German Navy. However, they still believe that they can win this naval battle.



These ships of the Royal Navy Grand Fleet were reorganized. Among them, the battleships formed a number of battleship squadrons, including the 1st battleship squadron consisting of five 'Revenge class' battleships, the 2nd battleship squadron consisting of three 'Queen Elizabeth class' battleships, 'King George V' 3rd Battleship Squadron consisting of battleships and three 'Orion-class' battleships. The battleship "Hercules", the second ship of the "Giant class" battleship, together with the battleships "Agincourt", "Ireland" and "Canada", formed the 4th battleship division. The 5th Battleship Squadron composed of three "St. Vincent-class" battleships and three "Belle Luofeng-class" battleships moored at Wick. The remaining six battlecruisers formed the battlecruiser squadron.

In addition to these capital ships, the Royal Navy also dispatched a large number of cruisers and destroyers, bringing the total size of their fleet to more than 150 ships, about 30 more than the German Navy's High Seas Fleet.

Of course, no matter how many of these small and medium warships there are, it is difficult to have a fundamental impact on the battle situation. What really determines the outcome of a sea battle depends on the duel between battleships, which is the most important thing.

"General Betty, you lead the battlecruiser detachment and set off first to prevent the German battlecruiser formation from attacking our coastal cities again. If possible, it is best to defeat them." Admiral John Jellicoe ordered.

"Yes, General. However, this may be very difficult. Even if the Germans' 12 battlecruisers did not act together, if there were only half of them, we would not be able to defeat them. Of course, I will try my best to hold them back." David? Lieutenant General Betty said.

"General Betty, I plan to assign the second battleship detachment to your command. With the strength of three 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships and six battlecruisers, if you encounter a German battlecruiser detachment, you

should have a strength of one." Fight? As long as the Germans don't gather all the battlecruisers, there should be a chance of winning." Admiral John Jellicoe said.

David? Betty Lieutenant General's eyes flashed a gleam of joy. If he is asked to use six battlecruisers to deal with the 12 battlecruisers of the German Navy, then naturally there is no chance of winning. Not to mention that the number has doubled, even the performance of a single ship, the battlecruisers of the British Navy are far from being comparable to the battlecruisers of the German Navy. Under such circumstances, Lieutenant General David Betty's ending is naturally conceivable.

However, if there are three more "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships, the situation may be different. The 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleship is the most powerful first-class battleship in the Royal Navy. Of course, it cannot be compared with the battleships of the same level of the German Navy, but it should still be able to deal with battlecruisers. As Admiral John Jellicoe said, as long as it does not encounter all 12 battlecruisers of the German Navy, the six battlecruisers of the British Navy plus the three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships are undoubtedly very important. odds of winning.

"Your Excellency, Commander, why did you change your plan?" Lieutenant General David Beatty asked.

Previously, Admiral John Jellicoe's plan was to let Lieutenant General David Beatty entangle the battlecruisers of the German Navy, and then the battleship formation led by him would have a decisive battle with the battleship formation of the German Navy to fight for as many ships as possible. Sinking some of the German battleships.

"The German's sneak attack caused us to lose two 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships, one 'Orion-class' battleship, one 'Giant-class' battleship and the 'Neptune' battleship. Our battleship formation suffered heavy losses. If we use

the battleship formation to confront the German battleship formation, we definitely have no chance of winning. At that time, it will be ugly to lose. Therefore, I decided to let you fight the German battlecruiser formation first. With the help of three 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships, it may be possible to defeat the German battlecruiser formation. In this case, we will not be completely at a disadvantage. Anyway, whether it is the German battleships or battlecruisers, we are It needs to be sunk. Just do your best to sink these battleships." Admiral John Jellicoe said.

"Yes, General, I will do my best to fight this battle!" Lieutenant General David Beatty said. He knew that Admiral John Jellicoe had put all his hopes of victory on him. It was precisely because of this that he felt how heavy the responsibility on his shoulders was.

Admiral John Jellicoe nodded: "For the sake of the British Empire, we have no way out this time. We must fight to the death. Even if we die in battle, the Germans must pay a sufficient price."

David? Lieutenant General Betty also nodded heavily.

Although, they all think that Churchill's plan is too ruthless. However, they all know that this is the only chance. If the large fleet can cause enough casualties to the German Navy. Then, Britain still has a chance to turn defeat into victory in this battle. Otherwise, Britain would have no chance at all.

Although, the British navy left Scapa Flow in the middle of the night. However, it also did not escape the pursuit of the German Navy. After the British Navy's large fleet had just left Scapa Flow and started heading south. A submarine surfaced.

Information about the British Navy's large fleet leaving Scapa Flow immediately played a role in the Admiralty. The Ministry of the Navy immediately sent this information to the High Seas Fleet.

"The British are finally dispatched. Then, the decisive battle between us and the British is about to begin. The German Imperial Navy is destined to step on the corpse of the British Royal Navy and ascend to the throne of sea supremacy." Reinha Admiral Te Scheer is full of confidence in this naval battle. He believed that with such a large advantage, the victory must belong to them.

#### Chapter 426: respective plans

"General Hipper, lead the 1st battlecruiser detachment to set off. Now that the main force of the British has left Scapa Flow, they are no longer shrinking turtles. Then, let's have this final decisive battle with them!" Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

"Yes, Your Excellency Commander." Lieutenant General Hipper had been looking forward to this battle for a long time. Although, the strength of the British navy has been weakened a lot by them. However, the number of its dozens of capital ships is still amazing. If the British Navy can be severely damaged or even wiped out in this battle, very fruitful results can still be achieved.

"General Hipper, it is still the old rule. If you encounter the main British fleet, then retreat and lead them to the main fleet. If you encounter the British squadron, if you can eat them, eat them These capital ships of the British will be sunk before we can completely win this naval battle." Admiral Reinhardt Scheer said.

"Yes, General." Lieutenant General Hipper nodded. Although the No. 1 battlecruiser unit he led had three powerful battleships like the 'Mackenson-class' battlecruisers, there were only six in total after all. If they encounter the main force of the British navy, they will not be able to eat it.

"The British now only have six battlecruisers left. If they eat them all, the next battle will be much easier." Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

There are not many remaining capital ships of the British Navy, although most of those battlecruisers are thin-skinned battleships. However, it has to be admitted that those warships are very fast. If these battlecruisers are lost, the British Navy will lose its fast battleships.

"I have given an order to General Spee. His 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron will abandon the attack on the British coastal cities and cooperate with your actions. Anyway, if we can completely defeat the British Navy, whether to attack the British coastal cities?" Cities are meaningless." Admiral Reinhard Scheer said.

"Yes, General. After the Royal Navy is dealt with by us, we can land on the British mainland when the army defeats the British and French allied forces. At that time, these coastal cities will be occupied by us. We can even use the British shipbuilding capabilities to improve our own shipbuilding system," Hipper said.

Indeed, in terms of shipbuilding strength, Britain is indeed above Germany. If Germany hadn't taken a shortcut in terms of warships because of Qin Tian, it would have been impossible for them to catch up with the Royal Navy. After defeating the United Kingdom, it is just possible to use the shipbuilding capabilities of the United Kingdom to enhance Germany's shipbuilding capabilities, making Germany the veritable number one power in shipbuilding.

Half an hour later, Lieutenant General Hipper led the six battlecruisers of the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron to set off. Three "Makensen-class" battlecruisers, three "Blücher-class" battlecruisers, plus several light cruisers and destroyers, left the huge fleet and headed north. According to the information received, the British fleet set off from Scapa Flow and headed south. In this case, at dawn tomorrow morning, they will probably be able to encounter the British Navy.

On the other side, the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy also ended its bombardment of Dundee. After Lieutenant General Maximilian von Spee received the telegram from Admiral Reinhard Scheer, a smile appeared on his face.

"The British finally came out. This time, I don't have to continue to attack their coastal cities and bear the infamy of a butcher!" Lieutenant General Spee said with a smile. Being able to fight against the British navy is naturally more exciting for him than attacking British coastal cities.

"Command the fleet to go north at full speed!" Lieutenant General Spee ordered.

"Yes, General."

The three "Derfflinger-class" battlecruisers and three "Moltke-class" battlecruisers of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron immediately went north, preparing to face the Royal Navy.

Both the British Navy and the German Navy knew that this battle was inevitable, and they never thought about avoiding it. Therefore, when both sides have the desire to fight, the outbreak of this decisive naval battle is inevitable.

On the morning of March 21, a seaplane of the German Navy spotted the British fleet heading south in the sea 100 kilometers east of Fraserburg. Six battlecruisers headed south quickly under the protection of a group of light cruisers and destroyers. The seaplane immediately reported the situation to the flagship, and at the same time prepared to patrol around to see if there were any warships of the British Navy.

However, they were intercepted by the British seaplane. Under the siege of several seaplanes of the British Navy, the German seaplanes had to withdraw from this sea area.

On the battlecruiser 'Tiger' of the British Navy, Lieutenant Admiral David Beatty looked serious. In this battle, their disadvantage is really too great. So much so that he had to be careful with every step he took.

"General, the German seaplane flew away." A staff officer reported to Lieutenant General David Beatty.

"Well, tell the 2nd battleship squadron to speed up and keep a distance of about 20 kilometers from us. The Germans have spotted us, so their fleet should arrive soon. Hopefully, they will only send a few ships. Battlecruisers are coming to deal with us." Lieutenant General David Beatty said.

If the German Navy only sent a few battlecruisers, then their strategy would be successful. At that time, the three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships of the 2nd Battleship Squadron will become a surprise force, after raiding the side of the German fleet, they will win the battle in one fell swoop.

Of course, if all 12 battlecruisers of the German Navy arrive, then Lieutenant General David Beatty will have to retreat. Facing all the battlecruisers of the German Navy, even with the addition of three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships, they are definitely not opponents. After fighting against the German Navy's battlecruisers twice, Lieutenant General David Beatty knew how powerful these battlecruisers were.

"Yes, General."

On the other side, the 1st Battlecruiser Formation of the German Navy also obtained this information. After learning the location of the battlecruiser formation of the British Navy, Lieutenant General Hipper immediately ordered the 1st battlecruiser squadron to speed up.

"Order the fleet to prepare for battle. The British are less than two hours away from us. In an hour, we will most likely start a firefight. Also, send a telegram to General Spee to speed up, and we will encircle and wipe out together."

Drop the British battlecruiser." Lieutenant General Hipper excitedly gave the order.

#### Chapter 427: Battlecruiser duel

The Battlecruiser Squadron of the British Royal Navy and the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy are only tens of kilometers apart, which is almost a two-hour voyage. However, when the two sides meet each other, it only takes one hour for the two sides to encounter each other.

Both sides have six battlecruisers, but the performance of the ships of the German Navy's 1st Battlecruiser Squadron is obviously stronger than that of the British Navy's battlecruisers. This point has been proved in previous naval battles. The source of confidence for Vice Admiral David Beatty is undoubtedly the three 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships. If it hadn't been attacked by the German Navy, so that the two "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships were severely damaged, then the British Navy's second battleship detachment should be composed of five "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships. The navy has a better chance of winning.

As time passed by, the distance between the two sides was also getting closer.

At 9 o'clock in the morning, a German destroyer reported that it had discovered the battlecruiser detachment of the British Navy.

"All ships are ready for battle!" Lieutenant General Hipper immediately issued an order for combat readiness.

Three 'Mackenson-class' battlecruisers and three 'Blücher-class' battlecruisers raised their guns one after another, preparing to use powerful artillery fire to send all the battlecruisers of the British Navy to the bottom of the North Sea go.



At the same time, the British Navy's battlecruiser detachment also discovered the German fleet.

"Report to the general, found six German battlecruisers. After ten minutes, they will enter our range." A staff officer reported to Lieutenant General David Beatty.

"Very good! Sure enough, only six German battlecruisers were encountered. God bless the British Empire!" A trace of ecstasy flashed across Lieutenant General David Betty's face. Only six battlecruisers of the German Navy were encountered, which is undoubtedly the best result. He believed that with the six battlecruisers in his hands plus three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships, he could definitely defeat the six battlecruisers of the German Navy.

"Hmph! The Germans are too conceited, do they think they can eat us with only six battlecruisers? Soon, we will let them know that the Royal Navy is not so easy to defeat." David Betty Will snort coldly. Although the current overall situation is still very unfavorable to them, it will be very helpful to improve their chances of winning if they can win the first game and eliminate a few battlecruisers of the German Navy. At the same time, he can finally get rid of his shame.

"Order all ships and prepare for battle. Today will be our day of shame. In addition, let the 2nd battlecruiser detachment outflank the rear of the Germans. This time, we will send the six German battlecruisers , stay here!" Lieutenant General David Beatty ordered.

'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships are very fast, with a maximum speed of 24 knots. Although they are not as fast as battlecruisers, they are not much different. It is undoubtedly the most suitable task to perform the task of outflanking the rear. Coupled with the powerful 381mm main gun on the

"Queen Elizabeth-class" battleship, this gave Lieutenant General David Betty even more confidence.

However, Lieutenant General David Betty didn't know that they were not the only ones who had reinforcements. The six battlecruisers of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy are also on their way quickly.

The German Navy's 1st Battlecruiser Squadron and the British Navy's Battlecruiser Squadron are getting closer and closer, and the battleships of both sides are lined up in a battle line. At a distance of more than ten kilometers, they began to turn at the same time and headed northeast. Lieutenant General David Beatty did this in order to further narrow the distance with his own main fleet.

Lieutenant General Hipper didn't care about this. He ordered the communications corps to report the situation to the flagship. Since the British are trying to lead them to their main force, let the main force of the German Navy follow up, and everyone will directly have a main force duel.

Anyway, the German navy clearly has an advantage in this duel. Even if it is a main force duel, they will not suffer a loss, but will take advantage of it.

"Ready to fight!"

When the distance between the two sides was shortened to fifteen kilometers, the battle officially began.

On the battle line of the German Navy, there are 'Makensen', 'Prince Frederick', 'Friedrich Karl', 'Blücher', and 'Von der Tann' and the 'Leopold'.

The battle line of the British Navy is followed by the 'Tiger', 'Queen Mary', 'Royal Princess', 'New Zealand', 'Invincible' and 'Indomitable'.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The flagship "Mackenson" battlecruiser took the lead in the test firing. Five of the three triple-mounted 380mm main guns started firing.

Armor-piercing projectiles weighing more than one ton roared and smashed towards the British warship more than ten kilometers away.

The other five battlecruisers also followed suit and started shooting. It's just that the 305mm main gun of the "Blücher-class" battlecruiser has a very low hit rate at such a long distance.

"Start shelling!"

Lieutenant General David Betty also issued an order. This time, he did not open fire after closing the distance as before. Because, he already knew that the bombardment level of the German Navy was no worse than that of the Royal Navy, or even stronger. Although the officers and soldiers of the Royal Navy are well-trained and passed down for hundreds of years, they have a strong will to fight. Under such circumstances, it is undoubtedly very difficult for the German Navy to surpass the British Navy in terms of soldier quality.

Fortunately, with the advancement of technology, the role of manpower in warfare has become smaller and smaller. The quality of soldiers in the German Navy is certainly not as good as that of the British Navy. However, relying on advanced technologies, such as advanced sighting equipment and fire control systems, they are not inferior to the British Navy in terms of gunnery, and even have an advantage.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The battlecruisers on both sides began to fire violently. One after another, the shells roared and smashed towards the opponent's battleship.

The shell exploded on the sea, splashing jets of water into the sky. The entire ocean seemed to be boiling.

"God bless the British Empire, we must defeat the Germans in this battle!" Lieutenant General David Beatty prayed to God secretly. This battle is really important to them. Even if failure is still unavoidable in the end, he also hopes to cause enough damage to the German Navy.

#### Chapter 428: Still abused

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

On the surface of the North Sea, the sound of cannons rumbled. The battlecruisers of the German Navy and the British Navy are firing crazily, intending to use powerful shells to hit the opposing battleship and sink it.

"Boom!"

A cannonball landed on the sea, splashing a jet of water into the sky. This is a 380mm shell. Although it is an armor-piercing projectile, the power after the explosion is still very amazing.

"Damn the Germans, they actually equipped so many warships with 380mm main guns. Why didn't we expect such a situation before?" Lieutenant General David Beatty sighed in his heart.

The Royal Navy has always been at the forefront of the world, and they lead the development of the world navy. But this time, they fell behind the German Navy. And the consequences of this will be disastrous. Once the Royal Navy loses in this naval battle, the British Empire will pay an extremely heavy price for it. Even, the empire will be destroyed because of this, and it will become a small third-rate country from then on.

The 380mm artillery shells fired by the German Navy are amazingly powerful. Don't say that the battlecruisers of the British Navy are thin-skinned battleships, even their battleships are absolutely irresistible.

The only thing the British Navy can do is to pray to God, and pray that those shells will not hit them. Otherwise, the consequences will be very serious.

It's just that God doesn't hear the prayers of his believers in many cases. Only five minutes after the war started, the battlecruiser "Prince Frederick" of the German Navy took the lead in forming a straddle. A shell exploded on the sea surface to the left of the battlecruiser 'Queen Mary'. Although, this shell is more than two hundred meters away from the Queen Mary. But still let the British navy sailors on the battleship look ashen.

"Good job!" Lieutenant General Hipper couldn't help cheering.

After forming a straddle, the battlecruiser "Prince Frederick" immediately changed from test firing to salvo. Three triple-mounted 380mm main guns began to fire with full force. Each salvo can almost smash ten-ton shells on the battleship 'Queen Mary'. The power of the 380mm armor-piercing projectile is astonishing. Once it hits, it can easily tear the weak armor of the "Queen Mary" battleship.

"Damn it! The luck of the Germans is still so good!" Lieutenant General David Betty couldn't help cursing. There was also a faint bad feeling in his heart. If the luck of the German Navy is still so good, I am afraid that even with the help of three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships, they may not be able to win! In the opinion of Lieutenant General David Beatty, the combat effectiveness of the 'Queen Elizabeth-class' battleships is probably equivalent to that of the German Navy's 'Makensen-class' battlecruisers.

"General, the distance is too far, our gunners, it is difficult to hit the target." A staff officer said.

Lieutenant General David Betty hesitated for a moment, and then ordered: "Closer the distance between the two sides! Let the gunners perform

as well as possible. Whether we can kill the German warships depends on them."

"Yes, General."

In order to increase the hit rate, the British fleet began to turn, trying to get a hit by shortening the distance.

It's just that, in this case, the hit rate of the German fleet will be further improved at the same time.

Lieutenant General Hipper stood on the bridge of the battleship 'Mackenson' and put down the binoculars in his hand. A smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

"It seems that the British have not changed at all from before! Don't they know that the closer the distance is, it is also very beneficial to us? The armor of our battlecruisers can withstand their main guns ...and the armor of their battlecruisers, in front of our main guns, is like paper." Lieutenant General Hipper said with a smile.

"General, the British must think they can get more hits!" An officer laughed.

The other officers immediately burst out laughing.

The distance between the two sides kept getting closer, and soon, the distance was only 13,000 meters. As the distance gets closer, the hit rate of both sides is also constantly improving. However, no matter how you look at it, it seems to be more beneficial to the German Navy.

Less than 20 minutes after the battle started, the six battlecruisers of the German Navy completed straddle shots one after another. Similarly, all but two of the six battlecruisers of the British Navy completed the straddle. The

battlecruisers on both sides began to focus their fire, which made the naval battle more intense.

"Boom!"

There was a loud noise, and a huge fireball erupted from the bow of the battlecruiser Friedrich Karl of the German Navy. The battlecruiser "Royal Princess" of the British Navy scored its first hit, and it was also the first hit of this naval battle.

The 343mm artillery shell directly blasted a large hole on the bow deck of the battleship "Friedrich Karl" and ignited a raging fire.

"Haha! Well done! God bless the British Empire!" Lieutenant General David Beatty couldn't help but smile when he saw that his warship scored the first hit. The uneasiness in my heart seemed to have disappeared.

"It seems that our luck is very good. Maybe we can still win this naval battle." Lieutenant General David Betty couldn't help but look forward to it.

However, Lieutenant General David Betty was obviously happy too early. The 'Royal Princess' did not cause much damage to the 'Friedrich Karl'. Even the combat effectiveness of the 'Frederick Karl' was not affected in any way.

Although the British Navy scored the first hit, the German Navy then retaliated.

"Boom!"

Two minutes later, the 'Prince Friedrich' scored its first hit in this naval battle. A 380mm artillery shell hit the side of the battlecruiser 'Queen Mary', directly gnawing off a large piece of it. hull. If it hadn't been for the place where it was hit above the waterline, the 'Queen Mary' would have been in disaster.

Five minutes later, the battlecruiser "Blücher" of the German Navy hit the battlecruiser "New Zealand" of the British Navy.

Only one minute apart, the battlecruiser 'Frederick Karl' successfully retaliated against the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess'. A 380mm artillery shell shot the stern main turret of the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' It was turned over. Although no further damage was caused, it did cause the Royal Princess to lose a quarter of its firepower.

Seeing this scene, Lieutenant General David Betty couldn't laugh anymore.

#### **Chapter 429: The situation is unfavorable**

On the British battlecruiser 'Tiger', Lieutenant General David Beatty's face was already gloomy, as if water could drip out. His own warships were hit one after another, making the smile on his face disappear completely because the battlecruiser 'Royal Princess' hit the battlecruiser 'Frederick Karl'.

It seems that God did not bless them. In front of the German Navy, they are still at a disadvantage.

"Bastard! How could this be? How could the Germans suddenly act so tough?" Lieutenant General David Betty was about to grit his teeth. Although, no battleships have been lost yet. However, if it continues like this, I am afraid that it will not be long before they will suffer losses.

Although, as the distance continued to narrow, the hit rate of the British Navy gradually began to increase. But at the same time, the hit rate of the German Navy has been significantly improved. The rate of improvement far exceeds that of the British Navy.

On the battlecruiser 'Mackenson', Lieutenant General Hipper had a smile on his mouth. He was very satisfied with the performance of the fleet.

"Very good, keep firing!" Lieutenant General Hipper said. He has become more and more confident in this naval battle.



"General, the distance has been shortened to 12,000 meters, do we need to further shorten the distance?" A general asked.

Lieutenant General Hipper shook his head: "No need, 12,000 meters is already our best shooting distance. If it were a little closer, the lethality of the British shells would be great. We To sink the British warships, but at the same time, we also need to preserve our own warships as much as possible."

The British Navy's shells have fuzes that are too sensitive and will explode immediately after hitting the target. The German Navy already knows it. Of course, this was revealed by Qin Tian.

Because the armor of capital ships is generally very thick, to cause enough damage to such a warship, it is necessary to use armor-piercing projectiles. The explosion occurred after the shell penetrated the armor of the enemy battleship. This will cause more damage. The artillery shells used by the German Navy are capped armor-piercing shells designed by Qin Tian, which can undoubtedly ensure that the armor-piercing shells can penetrate the armor of an enemy warship after hitting it. However, due to design flaws, the shells of the British Navy exploded immediately when the shells hit the target, and it was difficult to penetrate the armor. Naturally, it was impossible to cause too much damage to the warships of the German Navy. In this regard, the German Navy undoubtedly took advantage of it.

After the distance between the two sides was shortened to 12,000 meters, the British Navy wanted to further shorten the distance. However, it failed. The German Navy clearly wanted to maintain this engagement distance. Under such circumstances, the British Navy has nothing to do. After all, the speed of the two sides is almost the same, and it is impossible to rely on speed to shorten the distance.

And this made the British Navy battlecruiser formation led by Vice Admiral David Beatty gradually fall into a disadvantage as time went by.

"Boom!"

There was a loud noise, and Lieutenant General David Betty only felt a sudden shaking under his feet, and he fell to the deck at once.

"Damn it, we were hit!" Lieutenant General David Betty's face changed drastically.

A shell fired from the battlecruiser 'Mackenson', the flagship of the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy, successfully hit the battlecruiser 'Tiger'. Although the "Tiger" battlecruiser is the most powerful battlecruiser currently in service in the British Navy, it is undoubtedly far behind the "Mackenson-class" battlecruiser.

The 380mm shells fired by the battlecruiser 'Mackenson' were simply not something the armor of the battlecruiser 'Tiger' could resist. You know, the armor of the battlecruiser 'Tiger' is only 254mm at its thickest point.

"Where was hit? What happened to the loss?" Lieutenant General David Betty asked anxiously.

"General, the side was hit, and a 152mm secondary gun was lost. Several other sailors were killed." Soon, a staff officer reported.

David? Betty Lieutenant General then breathed a sigh of relief. Such damage is nothing to a warship with a displacement of nearly 30,000 tons. However, Lieutenant Admiral David Beatty was also a little worried. The warships of the German Navy had already scored hits, so they would definitely hit them one after another in the future.

"Send a telegram to General Benjamin, we are now suppressed by the Germans, we need them to rush to the battlefield as soon as possible, and cooperate with us to pinch the Germans!" Lieutenant General David Beatty ordered.

Now that the situation is becoming more and more unfavorable to them, Lieutenant General David Beatty had no choice but to pin his hopes of defeating the German Navy on the three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships of the 2nd Battleship Squadron.

"Yes, General." The communications officer immediately went to send a telegram.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The fierce battle is still going on, and the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy has completely gained the upper hand in the battle with the Battlecruiser Squadron of the British Navy.

"Boom!"

The battlecruiser "Invincible" of the British Navy was blown up with an earth-shattering bang.

"What's going on?" Lieutenant General David Betty saw this scene and couldn't help being dumbfounded. Although the battlecruiser 'Invincible' is their weakest battlecruiser, it is definitely an indispensable and important force in this naval battle. The lack of such a battlecruiser will put them in an even more disadvantageous position in this naval battle.

"General, the No. 1 main turret of the 'Invincible' was hit. It seems that the ammunition depot also exploded." A staff officer said.

Lieutenant General David Betty's face suddenly showed a dejected look. As the first-class battlecruiser of the British Navy, the "Invincible-class" battlecruiser has serious design flaws. The one-sided pursuit of speed and firepower made the defense of the "Invincible" battlecruiser very bad. Except for the armor of the conning tower, which is 254 mm thick, the turret and waterline armor are only 152 mm thick. With such a defensive power, even armored cruisers can't resist it, let alone the main guns of battleships.

The battlecruiser 'Invincible' became the first battleship to be sunk in this naval battle. This also left the British Navy's battlecruiser unit with only 5 battlecruisers left. Moreover, after the battlecruiser 'Invincible' was sunk, the battlecruiser 'Indomitable', which also belonged to the 'Invincible' battlecruiser, was attacked by the battlecruiser 'Von der Tann' of the German Navy. and the siege of the battlecruiser 'Leopold'.

#### **Chapter 430: Encounter**

Rear Admiral Benjamin, commander of the 2nd Battleship Squadron of the British Navy, is responsible for commanding three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships. What made him depressed was that his second battleship detachment originally had five powerful battleships. But now, there are only three left.

"Damn the Germans, if they hadn't resorted to despicable and shameless sneak attacks, our battleships 'War Spite' and 'Warrior' would not have been severely damaged." Major General Benjamin gritted his teeth when he thought of this. This reduced his commanding power by forty percent! Otherwise, in this naval battle, their chances of winning will be much higher.

"General, His Excellency the Chief of Staff ordered us to rush to the battlefield as soon as possible. They were suppressed by the Germans." A communications officer reported.

Rear Admiral Benjamin couldn't help frowning: "The battle has just begun, and the battlecruiser squad can't hold on anymore? The German combat effectiveness seems to be stronger than we imagined!"

"Order all ships to speed up." Rear Admiral Benjamin ordered.

Since the battlecruisers are in trouble, this makes them have to speed up to the battlefield. If the battlecruiser formation is defeated, or if the losses are too great, they will not be able to complete the intended combat objectives.

The three "Queen Elizabeth-class" battleships began to speed up and rush to the battlefield. It's just that because their previous mission was to attack the rear of the German Navy's 1st Battlecruiser Squadron, they had to make a big circle. This made it take them almost an hour to arrive at the battlefield after receiving the telegram from Lieutenant General David Beatty. Of course, in Major General Benjamin's view, the battlecruiser detachment led by Lieutenant General David Beatty should have no problem holding on for an hour.

Rear Admiral Benjamin believed that once the fleet he led arrived on the battlefield, the situation would definitely be reversed. He is still very confident in the "Queen Elizabeth class" battleship. The power of its 381mm main gun is not small, enough to penetrate the armor of the battlecruisers of the German Navy.

However, what Major General Benjamin didn't know was that they were not the only ones who had reinforcements. The 1st Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy also had reinforcements. The six battlecruisers of the 2nd Battleship Squadron of the German Navy are also on their way to the battlefield.

Lieutenant General Hipper, when they sank the British Navy's "Invincible" battlecruiser, also sent a telegram to Lieutenant General Spee, asking him to rush to the battlefield as soon as possible. Of course, Lieutenant General Hipper did not ask for help, but hoped that Lieutenant General Spee could arrive in time to block the British retreat. In this way, they will be able to eat all of these British battlecruisers in one fell swoop.

Lieutenant General Hipper was worried that once they sank more British battlecruisers, the British would be scared and flee in embarrassment. In that case, it will not be conducive to their further expansion of the results of the war.

Lieutenant General Hipper believes that once the 2nd battlecruiser detachment arrives, there will be no problem at all to encircle and annihilate the Japanese battlecruiser detachment.

"Boom!"

The British Navy's "Queen Mary" battlecruiser hit the German Navy's "Prince Frederick". The 343mm main gun directly hit the No. 1 main turret of the "Prince Frederick".

"Hooray, well done!"

Lieutenant General David Betty just saw this scene and couldn't help cheering.

"God bless the British Empire! Kill the German battleship." The other officers on the battlecruiser 'Tiger' also cheered.

However, soon their smiles froze on their faces.

Because, when the smoke cleared, the battlecruiser "Prince Frederick" of the German Navy was completely safe and sound.

"Damn, what's going on? Our shells didn't penetrate the turrets of the German warships. How is this possible?" A British naval officer exclaimed.

"God! How do you fight this?"

David? The expression on Lieutenant General Betty's face also became gloomy. Even if their shells hit the target, they cannot damage it. In this case, there is no way for them to continue fighting! It won't be long before their warships will be sunk one after another.

When the "Prince Frederick" was hit, Lieutenant General Hipper was also shocked. This is their main battleship. If it is severely damaged or even sunk because of this, the consequences will be disastrous.

Although, the top brass of the German Navy knew that in a decisive battle with the British Navy, it was impossible for them not to lose a single warship. However, in order to deal with other potential enemies, the German Navy still hopes to lose as few warships as possible. Only in that way can the German navy continue to maintain a strong strength to deal with other enemies.

"General, the No. 1 turret of the 'Prince Friedrich' was hit, but it was not penetrated. But the huge explosion still killed the gunner inside." An officer told Lieutenant General Hipper reported.

Lieutenant General Hipper was relieved.

Immediately afterwards, ten minutes later, the German Navy's 'Von der Tann' and 'Leopold' joined forces to sink the British Royal Navy's 'Indomitable' battlecruiser, making the British Navy's The loss rose to two ships.

Of course, this is also because the battlecruiser "Unyielding" is also one of the "Invincible" battlecruisers, and the defense is too bad. Otherwise, it would not have been sunk so easily.

Two battlecruisers were sunk successively, giving the German Navy an even greater advantage in the 1st battlecruiser formation. Lieutenant General Hipper even ordered three "Blücher-class" battlecruisers to besiege the British Navy's "New Zealand" battlecruiser in order to further expand their lead.

"God! How long will it take for General Benjamin and the others to arrive? We will soon be unable to hold on!" Lieutenant General David Betty was very anxious.

The strength of the German navy made him even more worried about the next step.

However, Lieutenant General David Betty soon knew that the reinforcements he was expecting would never come.

The 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the British Navy encountered the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the German Navy on its way to the battlefield. Without further ado, Lieutenant General Spee immediately ordered the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron to launch a siege against the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron of the British Navy. It is undoubtedly an excellent opportunity to use six battlecruisers to deal with the British three battleships.