

Jagged 481

Chapter 481: Frontline Commander

From William II to the generals of the Imperial Army, and then to the ordinary soldiers of the Imperial Army, they are all full of confidence in the upcoming Western Front War. After careful preparation, the strength of each legion on the western front has been further strengthened. Not only have artillery and automatic weapons been greatly increased, but each legion has formed an armored division, making the number of tanks assembled by the German army on the Western Front more than 2,000. Even if the British and French allied forces built a strong defense line on the Marne River, it is undoubtedly impossible to stop the charge of 2,000 tanks. That's why everyone thinks that even though the British and French coalition forces have an absolute advantage in strength, the victory must belong to the German army.

"Your Majesty, if possible, the Imperial Army hopes to form two new legions as a reserve force on the Western Front!" Von Falkenhain said taking the opportunity.

Although the German Army already has ten legions, its total strength is only over two million. This is equivalent to the population of the German Army, and the mobilization is not sufficient, at best only 50% of the mobilization has been carried out. Not to mention comparing it with Russia, which has a large population, even France, which has a much smaller population than Germany, has no fewer troops than Germany in terms of army strength. And this naturally made the generals of the German Army a little bit unwilling.

"If we defeat the British and French allied forces in this battle, we will be able to win the war. Is it necessary to form more troops?" William II frowned. After all, if two more legions are formed, the total strength of the German

Army will be almost three million. This requires a lot of money to be able to afford it.

Although, the war has only passed half a year. Germany was well prepared for this war. But even so, it cost them a lot. The lives of the domestic people have also been more or less affected. If they hadn't been fully prepared before the war broke out, maybe even food and other supplies would be restricted.

Even so, it would undoubtedly be best if the war could end earlier.

"Father, there are not many more legions. The two newly formed legions can be sent to East Prussia and Poland to replace the 9th and 10th legions to the western front as a reserve for the troops on the western front. This will make our troops on the Western Front stronger. In addition, even if we defeat the British and French allied forces and France, we will need a large army in a while. In the style of the British, the possibility of them surrendering to us is almost zero. Therefore, we have to send troops to land in the British Isles and fight the British. Preliminary estimates require us to invest about five legions. The rest The troops need to strengthen the control of the occupied areas. For example, France, Belgium, Poland, the Baltic Sea coast, Belarus and Ukraine, etc., all need to station a large number of troops in order to ensure our effective control of these areas and establish our presence there. Only in this way can we have enough troops to control these areas." Qin Tian said.

Although, the cloth party and Germany have signed a treaty, ceding a large area of territory to the German Empire. However, those territories were not immediately occupied by Germany. After all, such a huge territory requires many soldiers to complete the occupation. What's more, there are many resistance forces in those areas, and various guerrillas are active very frequently. Qin Tian didn't want Germany to fall into the quagmire of the people's war like this. After Germany completely won the war, he will send

troops to these areas on a large scale to complete the occupation of these areas. In that case, under the deterrence of the strong forces of the German Army, those resisting forces have nothing to do.

As for the cloth party, although they are not reconciled, they want to go back on their word. However, in the face of Germany, which has already won the world war, do they have the courage to go back on their word? Therefore, they can only watch Germany occupy the most fertile land in Russia. This is equivalent to weakening Russia's strength in disguise. When waiting for a future war, Germany's chances of winning will naturally be greater.

William II thought about it, and finally decided to form two more legions, namely the 11th Legion and the 12th Legion, which increased the strength of the German Army by more than 400,000.

"Your Excellency Chief of Staff, when can we start our attack on the British and French allied forces?" William II asked.

He undoubtedly attaches great importance to the Western Front, because it is directly related to whether Germany can win the war.

"Your Majesty, our legions have already completed their preparations. All the troops have assembled to the predetermined positions, and a large amount of combat supplies have also arrived at the front line. At most three days, uh, we can launch an attack." Feng? Falkenhain said.

The battle involving more than 1.8 million troops is undoubtedly very complicated. Even if the German General Staff has the most perfect system and excellent talents, it is also very difficult to do all this easily.

"Launch an attack in three days? Well, yes. I have a hope, that is to defeat the British and French allied forces and occupy Paris within a month. I wonder if everyone has confidence in this?" William II asked.

Although, after the war broke out, Germany also hoped to defeat France within a month, just like the Franco-Prussian War back then. However, at that time they completely underestimated the tragic extent of modern warfare. Under the heroic resistance of the French army, the war turned into a trench warfare, which caused the German army to fail to achieve the planned results despite heavy losses.

So, this time, William II's strategic goal of defeating the British and French allied forces and occupying Paris within one month is not too big. If the development of the war situation is beneficial to the German army, it is not impossible to achieve this strategic goal.

"Your Majesty, we will do our best to achieve this strategic goal." Von Falkenhain said. Even he didn't dare to fully guarantee it.

William II nodded and did not force anything.

"Everyone, with regard to this war, I have decided that Oscar will be fully in charge, and he will be the commander of the Western Front. I hope that all of you will follow his orders without reservation so that we can fight in the West." On the front line battlefield, get a brilliant victory!" William II finally announced the order.

Chapter 482: Battle plan

All the generals of the army were stunned. They did not expect that William II would issue such an order. Wouldn't this hand over the eight main armies on the Western Front and the two armies that were immediately transferred to serve as reserves? Have you given Qin Tian command? In this case, it is almost equivalent to putting the entire German army under Qin Tian's control.

You know, William II's character is very conceited and suspicious, and he doesn't trust anyone at all except himself. To be able to make him make such a decision is undoubtedly very incredible.

Of course, with Qin Tian's identity and influence in the army, it is undoubtedly very appropriate for him to command the battle on the western front. Even though Qin Tian is still very young, even those veterans can't help but be convinced by his achievements.

"It seems that His Majesty the Emperor has completely confirmed that His Highness the Crown Prince will inherit his throne, and there will be no change in any of this." Almost all the generals had this idea in their minds.

"Yes, Your Majesty, we will definitely cooperate with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince!" Everyone replied.

Under such circumstances, naturally no one would be stupid enough to object. Even among those generals, some had a very close relationship with Crown Prince William. However, with Crown Prince William becoming a vegetative state, it was already inevitable for Qin Tian to ascend the throne. Now, Qin Tian has even more wings, even if Crown Prince William wakes up, there is no way to prevent him from ascending to the throne.

"Father, I will definitely lead the army to defeat the British and French allied forces and defeat France!" Qin Tian also assured William II.

This is an opportunity for him to establish a leading position in the army, and he will not be stupid enough to refuse. Qin Tian vaguely believed that after this battle was over, his position would truly be unshakable.

With the German Empire already having a great chance of winning this world war, Qin Tian naturally didn't want to give up the opportunity to control this powerful empire. Power is so intoxicating, no one will give up voluntarily after tasting the taste of power.

King William II nodded: "Well, very good, then the next battle plan is up to you to discuss, and I will go back."

After William II finished speaking, he left the war room. Now William II is not young anymore, and his energy is not enough. And Qin Tian's performance was extremely excellent, which naturally allowed him to safely and boldly hand over the empire to Qin Tian to command. He can use this time to deal with other affairs.

You know, ruling a huge empire like the German Empire is undoubtedly very busy. All kinds of affairs are on his shoulders. Now that someone can share part of the pressure, William II is naturally desperate.

After William II left, the war conference continued. However, the way these imperial army generals looked at Qin Tian also changed. Before, they regarded Qin Tian as the crown prince of the empire and respected Qin Tian very much. However, Qin Tian can't really decide their fate. Unless Qin Tian really inherited the throne from William II one day. But now, an order from William II directly made Qin Tian the immediate boss of their group. They naturally need to obey Qin Tian's orders.

"Everyone, in the next period of time, please support my work!" Qin Tian looked at the generals with a smile on his face.

"His Royal Highness, please rest assured that you are the Crown Prince of the Empire, and now you are the commander of the Western Front. We will definitely do our best to assist you!" It was General Ruprecht, the commander of the German Sixth Army, who spoke. He is also the wife of the Kingdom of Bavaria and Qin Tian's brother-in-law. As for Qin Tian, of course he had to fully support him.

The other generals also expressed their opinions one after another, and they will definitely support Qin Tian with all their strength. Regardless of whether they really want it in their hearts, at least on the surface they still need to make such an appearance.

Qin Tian nodded in satisfaction, and then looked at Chief of Staff von Falkenhain: "Your Excellency, Chief of Staff, please introduce the battle plan to everyone!"

"Yes, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince." Von Falkenhain nodded.

As the Imperial Army Minister and Chief of Staff, von Falkenhain is from Qin Tian. If Qin Tian hadn't supported him, it would have been impossible for him to squeeze out Mao Qi and serve as the chief of the general staff. Of course, one of the main reasons is that Mao Qi made a mistake in command on the Western Front, which caused the German army to suffer heavy losses on the Western Front, but failed to achieve the intended combat objectives. This aroused the dissatisfaction of William II, and Qin Tian's help finally made William II remove Maoqi.

Even though von Falkenhain served as the chief of the general staff and became the number one person in the army, he was still loyal to Qin Tian. In his opinion, Qin Tian has achieved what he is now at such an age, and he will definitely be a great emperor in the future. If you follow Qin Tian's words, you will definitely be famous in history.

"Everyone, at present we have assembled 8 legions on the Western Front. Except for the 7th and 6th legions, the other 5 legions are all assembled on the north side of the Marne River. Therefore, our efforts in this battle The primary goal is to cross the Marne River, defeat the British and French allied forces, and then attack Paris, defeating France in one fell swoop." Von Falkenhain said.

"The specific battle plan is as follows. The 1st Army and the 8th Army, forming a right-wing group, set off from Amiens, attack Rouen, cross the Seine there, and then attack Paris eastward. The 2nd Army, the 3rd Army and the 8th Army The 4th Army attacked the Marne River defense line of the British and French allied forces, and supported the 1st and 8th Army. The 6th Army and

the 7th Army attacked Verdun from the east. After taking it, they attacked all the way west. Together with the 4th Army, we will attack Paris. In this battle, our main strategic goal will be to wipe out the main force of the British and French coalition forces in Paris and the front lines of the Marne River." Von Falkenhain said.

"Your Excellency Chief of Staff, if you start from Amiens, capture Rouen, and then turn back to attack Paris, the distance will be almost 200 kilometers. This will undoubtedly be extremely difficult for large troops." No. 1 General Crook, the regiment commander, raised doubts.

"General Crook, we will prepare a large number of trucks for the 1st Army and the 8th Army to ensure the supply of combat materials. At the same time, we can also use trucks and the French railway network to transport troops and combat materials. If it goes well, There is no problem in advancing to Paris within half a month," Qin Tian said.

Admiral Crook nodded and said no more.

Chapter 483: Prologue to the Battle of the Western Front

Reims, an important city in northeastern France. Now, it is already under the control of the German army. Northern France has a convenient railway network and a dense road network, allowing the German army to use these transportation facilities to quickly mobilize troops and supplies. The German Western Front Command was established in Reims. Imperial Crown Prince Qin Tian and a group of generals arrived here on March 28.

Now Qin Tian is still serving as the commander of the 8th Army. However, the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ludendorff, is responsible for all the affairs of the 8th Army. Qin Tian only needs to be responsible in the general direction. Qin Tian valued Lieutenant General Ludendorff's ability very much, and intended to further train him. After the war is over, he is even planned to be the commander of the legion or the deputy chief of staff.

Qin Tian stood in the war room of the headquarters, looking at the map hanging on the wall. Please clearly mark the situation of the enemy and the enemy with red and black on it. The 8 legions of the German army formed four clusters. That is, the right-wing cluster formed by the 1st and 8th legions, the central cluster composed of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th legions, and the left-wing cluster composed of the 6th and 7th legions. The central group has four legions, with a total force of 820,000, the strongest force. The total strength of the right-wing cluster is 500,000, and the total strength of the left-wing cluster is more than 400,000.

Compared with the German army, the Anglo-French allied forces represented in red have stronger troops. The French Army, the British Expeditionary Force, and the numbers of each unit are densely deployed on the south bank of the Marne River, as well as the area from the south of Amiens to the north of Paris.

"Manstein, our military strength is only about 60% of the British and French allied forces. It will be difficult to defeat them in this battle!" Qin Tian said.

"Your Highness, we have fought many times to win more battles with less. I believe that we can also win this time." Major General Manstein is full of confidence in this.

"I am also confident of winning. However, the British and French allied forces are not Russian after all, so we need to be careful this time." Qin Tian said. In Qin Tian's view, the fighting power of the British and French allied forces is undoubtedly much stronger than that of the Russian army.

"Yes, Your Highness." Manstein nodded.

"Your Highness, General Bülow, General Howson, Duke of Württemberg and General Dimling are here." A staff officer came in and reported.

"Let them all come in!" Qin Tian said.

Admiral Bilow is the commander of the 2nd Army, Admiral Howson is the commander of the 3rd Army, the Duke of Württemberg is the commander of the 4th Army, and Admiral Dimling is the commander of the 5th Army. If it weren't for the fact that Crown Prince William was thrown into a vegetable, the commander of the 5th Army should be his.

"Your Highness." Several generals saluted Qin Tian.

"Please sit down, everyone. Manstein, send someone to bring coffee." Qin Tian said.

"Okay, Your Highness." Major General Manstein immediately went to make arrangements.

"Generals, are your troops ready?" Qin Tian asked.

"Your Highness, the 2nd Army Corps is ready to fight and is ready to launch an attack at any time!" General Billo said.

Several other legion commanders also expressed their opinions.

Qin Tian nodded: "According to the previously planned combat objectives, the 2nd Army is responsible for attacking Champagne-Chalons, the 3rd Army is responsible for attacking Epernay, the 4th Army is responsible for attacking Château de Thierry, and the 5th Army is the reserve force. , ready to reinforce the frontline ministries at any time."

Several generals nodded repeatedly. They already knew about these combat missions at the last pre-war meeting.

"According to the information we have received, the armies facing us include the French 2nd Army, 4th Army, 6th Army, 8th Army, 9th Army, and the 2nd Army of the British Expeditionary Force, with a total strength of more than 1.2

million troops. There are more than 400,000 people more than us. But even so, I believe we will be able to defeat them."

"Your Highness, our troops have been strengthened. Each legion has formed an armored force, and the firepower of the ministries below has also been strengthened. Even if the British and French coalition forces are 400,000 more than ours, we can still defeat them." Admiral Howson said.

For the past six months, the German Army has been preparing. The weapons developed by the German military industry company have been tested through the performance of the 8th Army on the Eastern Front. In addition, Xiao Moqi was dismissed, and the new chief of staff, von Falkenhain, was from Qin Tian, so the weapons developed by the German Arms Company began to equip the armies on the Western Front. It's just that, because of the limited time, each legion does not carry out a comprehensive refit like the 8th legion, but among the infantry units, machine gun firepower and semi-automatic rifles have been strengthened.

If it weren't for the heavy task of the right-wing cluster, Qin Tian planned to transfer the 8th Army to the central cluster. However, for the right-wing group to attack two hundred kilometers long-distance, it needs stronger combat effectiveness and maneuverability, which made Qin Tian place the 8th Army on the right wing.

Seeing that everyone has confidence in this, Qin Tian is still very satisfied. With the rigorous character of the Germans, he believed that these generals were not bragging. Besides, he is the Crown Prince of the Empire, the future Crown Prince of the Empire. If these guys brag in front of him, there will be plenty of ways to deal with them after he becomes emperor.

"At 8 o'clock tomorrow morning, our central group will take the lead in launching an attack. The day after tomorrow, the left-wing group and right-wing group will launch an attack. I hope that we can set an example and break

through the Marne River defense line of the British and French coalition forces within three days." Qin Tian said.

"Yes, Your Highness." Several commanders replied. Everyone is confident about it.

Qin Tian talked with several generals about the current battle situation and the possible movements of the British and French coalition forces after the battle started. From the conversation with them, Qin Tian could feel their confidence. Although, while the German army was resting, the British and French allied forces were not idle, and were also preparing for the war. They mobilized a large number of troops and built strong fortifications on the south bank of the Marne in an attempt to stop the German attack through trench warfare.

However, the generals of the German army are still full of confidence in this battle. Everyone believes that under the attack of the powerful German army, the victory will definitely belong to the German Empire. The narrow Marne River is absolutely unable to withstand the attack of the German Army.

In this battle, the German army not only strengthened the infantry firepower, but also received a large number of armored reinforcements. The four armored divisions in the central cluster added up to thousands of tanks. In addition, the four air teams also have thousands of combat aircraft. This will make their offensive even more violent.

Chapter 484: Encourage fighting spirit

A small town called Montmiray, 20 kilometers southwest of Epernay, has been controlled by the army. A French infantry division was stationed here, and the whole city was under martial law.

The residents living here looked at the soldiers patrolling the streets in amazement. Some bold women even took the initiative to wink at those tall soldiers.

Because of the invasion of the German army, the French army had already suffered a series of failures in the early stages of the war, so France had to increase its mobilization step by step. Most of the adult men either joined the army or were produced in the arsenal, making the number of adult men in French society very small. This undoubtedly makes the romantic life of French women empty and lonely. They seem to have forgotten that their husbands are fighting the Germans on the front line, while they stay in the rear, wantonly cuckolding their husbands.

Several cars drove into the city hall, which was heavily guarded by the French army. An older soldier, accompanied by a group of shining generals, entered the city hall. This old soldier is the well-known Marshal Joseph Joffre, who is now the commander-in-chief of the French army. However, because of a series of disastrous defeats by the French army on the battlefield, his position as commander-in-chief has been shaken. If the German army hadn't taken the initiative to stop the offensive last year, and the French army had failed once or twice, maybe his commander would have been replaced.

The group went directly to the meeting room of the city hall. At this moment, there were more generals in the meeting room. Most of the generals of the British and French coalition forces on the front line of the Marne River have appeared here at this moment.

"The commander-in-chief is here!" When Marshal Xia Fei entered the meeting room, a staff officer immediately announced loudly.

Suddenly, the voices of the generals whispering to each other in the meeting room disappeared immediately, replaced by the sound of chairs being bumped. A group of generals stood up one by one and saluted Marshal Xiafei.

"Well, everyone sit down!" Marshal Xiafei said kindly.

The generals all sat down neatly, and everyone looked at Marshal Xia Fei. Everyone knows that the current situation is very critical, and a large-scale battle is imminent. For the British and French allied forces, they will face a tough battle next.

"Everyone, according to the information we have received, the Germans have completed their preparations again. It is very likely that their offensive will start soon, possibly tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. In short, this time is not long. But , What I want to tell you is that last year, we were able to resist the German attack. This time, we can also resist their attack and defeat them in one fell swoop!" Marshal Joffre said confidently.

Marshal Xiafei's confident appearance seemed to have infected other generals of the British and French coalition forces, and they were also full of confidence in the next battle. They seem to have forgotten that last year, they had just suffered a disastrous defeat and were almost defeated by the Germans even the capital. The French may be like this by nature!

"Although the Germans caused us heavy losses last year. However, with the support of us and our British allies, we successfully resisted their attacks. After more than half a year of preparation, the total strength of the British and French coalition forces has now exceeded three There are one million people. The Germans still only have an army of more than two million. In terms of military strength, we have a greater advantage than the Germans. In terms of weapons and equipment, we are no worse than the Germans. In addition, we have spent the past six months , on the south bank of the Marne, built a strong fortification. Therefore, it is almost impossible for the Germans to break through our fortifications. We will soon see that they will hit the head on our defense line The blood is broken. After our defense line consumes all the vital strength of the Germans, we can launch a counterattack, defeat the Germans in one fell swoop, drive them out of our land, and even hit the Germans in one

fell swoop. Arrest all their emperors and crown princes, send them to the gallows, and make them pay for what they have done!" Marshal Xia Fei continued.

I have to admit that Marshal Joffre's speech was very inspiring, and the generals of the British and French allied forces who attended the meeting were all excited, as if the combat effectiveness of the French Army had doubled all of a sudden, and they could easily fight against the French army. German Army defeated.

However, the real senior generals of the British and French coalition forces are not as easy to bewitch as those low-level generals. They clearly remembered how much the German army had caused them on the battlefield last year. This time, after a lapse of half a year, the German army made a comeback after careful preparations. No need to think about it, how much their strength has improved. Although the strength of the British and French coalition forces has also improved a lot. But whether they can withstand the German attack, they are even more uncertain.

Not to mention the current international situation, it is very unfavorable to the Allies. As the Royal Navy was defeated by the German Navy in the decisive battle at sea, it seemed that Germany was only one step away from winning this war. As long as the German army defeats the British and French allied forces on the French battlefield, it will be able to win the final victory.

This also made the generals of the British and French coalition forces undoubtedly feel great pressure. If it fails again this time, the Allied Powers will probably end in failure in this war.

The people present here are undoubtedly high-level people from Britain and France, and they are all people who hold great power. If Britain and France lose in this war, then they are finished. Therefore, even if it is a desperate fight, they all hope to win the war. Anyway, it was not them who

actually went to the battlefield to fight the Germans, but those ordinary failures, and their safety could undoubtedly be guaranteed.

"Generals, you are the bravest people in the French Republic and the British Empire. I hope that in this battle, you can show your bravery and lead your troops to resist the German attack and defeat them. Victory belongs to the French Empire and the British Empire!" Marshal Joffre continued.

"Long live! Long live the French Republic! Long live the British Empire!" All the generals roared, as if the roof of the conference room was about to be blown over.

Inspired by Marshal Xiafei, these generals all ignited their fighting spirit and determined to fight the German army to the death. Their fighting spirit will also inspire their subordinates and ordinary soldiers, allowing them to fight the Germans desperately on the battlefield.

Chapter 485: Defensive counterattack

After Marshal Xiafei finished his speech, ordinary generals all left the conference room. They need to rush back to the station of their troops as soon as possible to prepare for the German attack. No one knows when the German offensive will start. Therefore, it is best to prepare early, so as not to be caught off guard by the German army.

The commanders of several group armies stayed. They still have urgent military needs to discuss with Marshal Joffre.

After those ordinary generals left, the atmosphere in the conference room also became dignified.

"Gentlemen, those words just now are just to inspire everyone's fighting spirit. I hope that you, the commanders of the group army, don't take it seriously. You know, our enemy is still very strong. After half a year of preparation, we will face There is a greater threat from them. This battle is crucial. If we cannot

stop the German attack, then everything will be over! The French Republic will be over, and so will the British Empire!" Xia Xia Marshal Fei said with a serious face.

A group of generals of the British and French allied forces also looked dignified. They all knew that Marshal Joffre was not alarmist. This is a very real situation. The Allies, or Britain and France, are already in an extremely disadvantageous situation in this battle. If you don't grasp it well, Kongpo will be defeated in the end. Once it fails, the consequences can naturally be imagined.

"According to the information we have, the Germans have already completed their preparations. Reims, not far from here, is the headquarters of the German army. This battle will be personally commanded by the German Crown Prince. However, he seems to have us We have become weak Russians, thinking that we are as vulnerable as the Russians." Marshal Joffre continued.

"Isn't the German crown prince only in his twenties? How dare Wilhelm II entrust so many troops to him to command, it's a joke." A middle-aged general shook his head. He is a general of the British Army and General Roy, commander of the 2nd Army of the British Expeditionary Force.

"Perhaps William II was blinded by the performance of the German Crown Prince on the Eastern Front! The Western Front is not the Eastern Front, and we are not poorly equipped Russians who are vulnerable to a single blow." French Second Army Admiral Decasy Turno said.

"Haha!" All the generals laughed. Indeed, they are qualified to laugh. The strength of the British and French allied forces is indeed much stronger than that of the Russian army. Therefore, they do not think that the German army has the ability to defeat them as easily as they defeated the Russian army. In their view, this is absolutely impossible.

"Okay, everyone. Let's all be serious! The German army opposite us has four armies with more than 800,000 people. Although, we have assembled six armies with 1.2 million people on the Marne River line. However, I still have no idea. I hope that in the next battle, our army can withstand the German attack. Even if we try our best, we must resist them and try our best to consume their energy Vitality." Marshal Xiafei said.

"Your Excellency, Marshal, we have built strong fortifications in the south of the Marne River. These fortifications, which are composed of trenches and barbed wire, must be able to withstand the German attack." Admiral Mao Nuli, commander of the French Sixth Army Said.

"Your Excellency, Commander, how should we deal with the German tanks? German tanks have displayed great combat effectiveness on the Eastern Front. The reason why the German 8th Army was able to defeat the Russian Army on the Eastern Front , the tanks have played a huge role." General Foch, the commander of the French Ninth Army, asked with some concern.

"We are already actively developing tanks. Unfortunately, we have no similar design before, and we can only imitate them according to German tanks. But we don't know many internal structures inside. Therefore, The progress of imitation is a bit slow. It is estimated that mass production will not start until the end of this year. The progress of the British side is almost the same. So, until now, we have not been able to provide tanks to the troops." Marshal Xiafei said.

With the help of Qin Tian, Germany took the lead in developing tanks and equipped them with troops, which also played a very important role in actual combat. In contrast, Britain and France are far behind in this respect. This made the British and French coalition forces suffer a lot if they encountered German tanks in battle.

Sure enough, after hearing such words, the smiles on the faces of the generals of the British and French allied forces disappeared immediately.

"However, everyone, although we have not been able to develop tanks. However, we have developed weapons that can restrain tanks. Aren't those weapons already equipped with troops? Please believe our scientists and engineers, those weapons must be It will play a great role in the battle!" Marshal Xiafei said.

Under the circumstances that tanks could not be put into service as soon as possible, Britain and France jointly developed anti-tank guns and anti-tank guns. The former is based on the two-pound gun of the British Army as a prototype. The barrel is strengthened, the rate of fire is enhanced, and it has good armor-piercing ability. The latter is a large-bore rifle capable of firing 13mm bullets. This rifle bullet has extremely strong armor-piercing ability and can penetrate the armor of ordinary tanks.

After the large-scale production of anti-tank guns and anti-tank guns in Britain and France, the British and French allied forces have equipped a lot. This makes them at least not like the Russians, who are helpless in the face of German tanks.

"Your Excellency, Marshal, in the face of the German attack, can we only blindly defend? This is not very good." General Nevel, commander of the French 4th Army, said.

"Okay, I will try my best to find a solution in terms of armaments. Your task is to hold the line of defense and cause as much damage as possible to the Germans. Prepare for the follow-up counterattack. I hope you can do this One point. In this way, we may defeat the Germans in future battles." Marshal Joffre said.

Marshal Joffre and British Expeditionary Force Commander Sir French discussed the tactic, which was defensive counterattack, relying on solid fortifications to resist the German attack and consume the German army's vital strength. Then gather superior forces, launch a counterattack, and strive to defeat the German army in one fell swoop. Therefore, at the beginning of the battle, it is undoubtedly the most important to resist the German attack. If the German attack cannot be resisted, let alone a follow-up counterattack.

Chapter 486: Firepower preparation

On the morning of March 31, 1915, the positions of the four corps of the German Army Central Group were already busy. Although the 5th Army served as a reserve team, their artillery still participated in this attack.

After Qin Tian became the commander of the Western Front, the tactics he advocated were naturally carried out to all the troops on the Western Front. In each attack, sufficient firepower preparations will be made so that the infantry that follows the attack can clear obstacles and reduce the loss of troops.

Qin Tian was very disgusted with every battle on the Western Front, which often caused hundreds of thousands or hundreds of thousands of casualties. Germany's population was not large, even fewer adult men. Every adult man is undoubtedly precious. Such waste on the battlefield is undoubtedly very detrimental to subsequent operations and the future development of Germany.

Qin Tian got up early in the morning, and together with Major General Manstein, inspected the German positions. On the more than 100-kilometer-long defense line, the artillery of the four legions is preparing for firing. In the past six months, the four armies of the German army have all increased their artillery strength. Originally, only the 8th Army was equipped with 150mm heavy artillery at the division level, but now all armies are equipped with it.

The 75mm field gun also replaced the previous 77mm field gun, which strengthened the artillery strength of the various German regiments.

"It seems that the French have prepared carefully in the past six months. They have already built a solid fortification on the south bank of the Marne River. It is not easy for us to break through their fortification." Standing on a small hillside, Qin Tian used the binoculars to easily see the positions of the British and French coalition forces on the south bank of the Marne River.

Those positions are only tens of meters away from the river bank. There are endless barbed wire fences and trenches, and even anti-tank trenches. The entire Anglo-French position on the south bank of the Marne River has become a fortress with dense trenches. Under such circumstances, if the infantry launched an attack, the difficulty can be imagined.

"Your Highness, I hope that our artillery can destroy the position of the British and French allied forces on the other side of the river. After the assault troops cross the river and establish a solid bridgehead, the armored troops will be able to cross the river. At that time, the tracks of the tanks, These positions of the British and French allied forces will be crushed." Manstein said. He is full of confidence in the German armored forces.

On the Eastern Front, the German armored forces made great contributions. Facing the attack of the German armored forces, the Russian army could not resist at all, and was easily defeated by the German army in the end.

Qin Tian nodded: "Is our aviation team ready?"

In the past six months, in addition to focusing on the development of armored forces, the German army has also focused on the development of the aviation team. In addition to the establishment of the 8th Army's air force, several other legions have also established their own air force one after

another. Each air force has more than 250 aircraft, basically half of which are fighter jets and half bombers. . This allowed the German air power to be strengthened once again. You must know that although the British and French coalition forces also have some aircraft at this moment, they are not many, at most one or two hundred. Moreover, the performance of those aircraft is completely incomparable with that of the German aircraft. There is no doubt that the German army dominates the sky on the Western Front.

"Your Highness, it's ready. Three days ago, the air teams have entered the airport we built in northern France. This time, the air teams will provide us with aerial reconnaissance and fire support," said Manstein. .

"Well, there is still half an hour before the attack will start. We must ensure the smooth supply of logistics. This time, the artillery preparation will take a day!" Qin Tian said.

In order to smash the trenches built by the British and French allied forces on the south bank of the Marne River, the German army prepared for a long-term firepower preparation. The day-long firepower preparation, you don't need to think about how many shells will be fired. Therefore, Qin Tian required that the logistic supply must be unblocked. Otherwise, if the shells are exhausted and cannot be replenished, how will the subsequent battles be fought?

"Your Highness, we have already prepared logistical support in advance. The ammunition stored is enough for us to fight a large-scale battle. Moreover, a large number of trains are continuously passing through the railway, transporting combat supplies from the country to northern France There will be no problems with our logistical support." Major General Manstein replied.

"We must pay attention to preventing French guerrillas from attacking our supply lines." Qin Tian said.

Although northern France is now occupied by the German army, there are still many French people who are unwilling to be subjugated slaves. They organize guerrillas and attack the German army's supply lines, convoys, and sentries, causing certain casualties to the German army. This forced the German army to deploy a considerable number of troops in the rear. Otherwise, these guerrillas will have a great impact on the fighting on the German front.

"Yes, Your Highness." Major General Manstein nodded.

Qin Tian picked up the binoculars and continued to watch the situation on the other side of the Marne River. In the spring, the Marne River has begun to increase its water volume due to the influx of ice and snow melt water. But even so, the width of the river is less than 50 meters, and most river sections are only 30 to 40 meters. The depth of the river is just below the top of a person's head. Although it is impossible to wade directly across the river, it is not a big problem for engineers to erect pontoon bridges.

The British and French allied forces on the south bank of the Marne River also discovered the situation of the German army across the river and became nervous. A large number of British and French soldiers began to enter the position, ready to resist the German attack.

In this battle, it seems that there is no need for any tactics or intrigues, and it depends entirely on the strength of the two sides. The stronger side can crush the weaker side in battle and win. Other than that, there seems to be no other way at all.

The time passed by every minute and every second, and soon it was eight o'clock in the morning.

On the German artillery position, the commander gave the order to fire.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The cannons began to roar, and the shells, under the action of kinetic energy, slammed into the French army's position.

"Boom!"

The artillery shell exploded on the British-French coalition's position, and the earth and rocks were scattered all over the place. The shrapnel was mixed in the earth and rocks, and they shot around, harvesting all the lives they encountered.

Although, the soldiers of the British and French allied forces had already hid in the strong anti-gun holes when the German shelling just started. However, the fortifications on the position began to be destroyed under the heavy shelling of the German army.

Chapter 487: Artillery Battle

The four armies of the German Central Group have a total of 47 infantry divisions, and the number of artillery in each infantry division is also equipped in the same way as the infantry divisions of the 8th Army. This makes the four armies add up to 846 150mm heavy howitzers, 1692 105mm light howitzers and 2538 75mm field guns, not counting mortars and grenades, etc., these artillery add up There are more than 5,000 gates.

You must know that the length of the attack positions of the four German armies is only one hundred kilometers. Calculated in this way, there are more than fifty artillery pieces deployed per kilometer. This density is already outrageous.

If you count the mortars and grenades of various troops, the number of artillery that the German army will invest in this war will be even greater. The Anglo-French coalition forces on the opposite side, even though their strength far exceeds that of the German army. However, in terms of the number of artillery, it is far from being comparable to the German army.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

On the artillery positions of the German army, the artillerymen have taken off their shirts, and their strong bodies have been wet with sweat. Although, in Western Europe at the end of March, it was not hot, and there was even a hint of coolness. However, the soldiers were sweating profusely during the heavy process of carrying the shells.

Every artilleryman is firing at the maximum rate of fire, smashing as many shells as possible onto the positions of the British and French coalition forces. No matter whether the enemy can be killed or not, as long as they can destroy their defensive positions, it will undoubtedly be extremely important. Big win.

In the previous battles, many German soldiers died on the way to attack. Facing the trenches of the British and French allied forces, coupled with barbed wire and machine gun fire points, every step forward often requires great casualties. Therefore, when preparing for firepower, if the positions of the British and French coalition forces can be destroyed, this will undoubtedly be of great benefit to subsequent operations.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

Shells hit the positions of the British and French coalition forces like raindrops, and there were violent explosions everywhere. During the explosion, the defensive positions built by the British and French allied forces were blown up to the sky. The barbed wire fence was blown up and down, and the firepower points of the machine guns were directly destroyed.

However, the British and French allied forces are much more professional than the Russian army in soil work. This makes their fortifications undoubtedly much stronger than those of the Russian army. In particular, the anti-bunker holes where the soldiers hid have been specially reinforced. As long as it is not hit continuously by large-caliber heavy artillery, there will be no major

problems under normal circumstances. Therefore, it is almost impossible to cause too many casualties to the British and French coalition forces during firepower preparations.

However, the British and French allied forces hiding in the anti-gun caves are certainly safe. But the fortifications outside can't resist it. Under the heavy shelling of the German army, a large number of fortifications were destroyed.

"Damn it, how many cannons did the Germans assemble? Are they trying to completely destroy our position?" Admiral Decasy Terno, commander of the French 2nd Army, saw the turmoil of his troops. The position was completely covered by gunpowder smoke and flames, and he couldn't help but curse. Although, before each attack, both sides will carry out powerful firepower preparations, which has become a practice on the Western Front battlefield. However, this time, Admiral Decasy Terno still felt something different, that is, the artillery fire of the German army seemed to be stronger than it was half a year ago.

"General, among the German artillery, there seem to be 150mm heavy artillery. And there are quite a few of them." An artillery general reminded.

"Have all the heavy artillery moved to the battlefield? It seems that they are determined to win this attack!" Admiral Decasy Turno's face was serious.

"General, the German field guns seem to be different. The rate of fire is very fast, and it can almost catch up with our 75mm field guns." Another general said.

"Damn the Germans, they must have imitated our 75mm field gun shamelessly. Those despicable guys are simply too shameless!" The air strike? Admiral Terno couldn't help cursing.

The 75mm field gun of the French army has a very fast rate of fire, with a maximum rate of fire of 15 rounds per minute. This is regarded as a secret

weapon by the French army. Every infantry division is equipped with 36 such artillery pieces. As for larger caliber artillery, the French army is rarely equipped.

During the battle in the second half of last year, the French army succeeded in severely injuring the German army with this fast-firing and powerful 75mm field gun. Although, in the artillery battle with the large-caliber artillery of the German army, the French army suffered a lot of losses. But overall, their 75mm field gun was very successful. Qin Tian disclosed the key technology of the French army's 75mm field gun to the Krupp factory. With Krupp's scientific and technological strength, after mastering the key technology, it is naturally easy to give the French army's 75mm field gun to the factory. Imitation came out. And improvements have also been made, such as greatly reducing the weight of the artillery, making the transportation and deployment of the artillery more flexible. To some extent, the performance of the 75mm field guns equipped by the German army is already stronger than that of the 75mm field guns equipped by the French army.

"General, Your Excellency the Marshal ordered us to counterattack immediately, and we cannot let the German artillery destroy our defensive positions." A staff officer reported.

Admiral Decasy Terno nodded: "Order the artillery to counterattack immediately to suppress the German shelling!"

"Yes, General."

Almost at the same time, several group armies deployed by the British and French coalition forces on the front line also received orders to counterattack. Their artillery immediately entered the position and counterattacked. A fierce artillery battle ensued.

Among the six legions deployed by the British and French coalition forces on the Marne River, four of them were deployed on the front line. The other two legions were deployed in the rear as reserves. After all, in order to resist the German attack, it is very necessary to keep sufficient reserves. Otherwise, once the battle is unfavorable and there is not enough reserves to counterattack, the consequences will be serious.

"Counterattack immediately, suppress the Germans!"

The artillery commanders of the British and French coalition forces issued an order. A series of 75mm field guns, 105mm field guns, 83.8mm field guns and 114mm howitzers started a fierce counterattack.

Among them, the 75mm field gun and 105mm howitzer are equipped by the French army, and the 83.8mm field gun and 114mm howitzer are equipped by the British army. However, the number of 105mm howitzers equipped by the French army is very small, and the most important artillery is 75mm field guns.

Chapter 488: Air Strike

French infantry divisions, each equipped with 36 75mm field guns, and a very small number of 105mm howitzers. British infantry divisions, each equipped with 58 83.8mm field guns and 18 114mm howitzers. The four armies deployed by the British and French allied forces on the front line are one British Expeditionary Army and three French Army Armies. These troops are equipped with a total of 1,296 75mm field guns, more than one hundred 105mm howitzers, 696 83.8mm field guns and 216 114mm howitzers.

Although, such artillery is already considered very powerful. However, compared with the German army, it is undoubtedly much worse. In terms of quantity, it is only less than half of the German army. More importantly, they did not have heavy guns above 150 mm caliber. The heavy artillery of the 105mm howitzer level is also seriously less than that of the German army.

This also made the British and French allied forces completely suppressed by the German army in the artillery battle.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The artillery of the British and French coalition forces began to fire on the German artillery positions in an attempt to suppress the German artillery, protect their positions, and prevent their positions from being destroyed by German artillery fire.

It's just that most of the artillery positions of the German army are deployed far from the front line. The artillery of the British and French allied forces, except for a few 105mm howitzers and 114mm howitzers, are simply out of reach.

On the contrary, they were discovered by the German army as soon as they fired. Under the guidance of reconnaissance planes and observation balloons, the artillery positions of the German army began to cover the artillery positions of the British and French allied forces.

"Your Highness, the artillery of the British and French coalition forces opened fire. Our artillery began to use 105mm howitzers and 150mm howitzers to attack their artillery positions." Major General Manstein said.

Qin Tian nodded, using a telescope to observe the situation of the British and French allied forces on the opposite side.

Sure enough, pillars of smoke soon rose behind the British and French allied forces. Those places were where the British and French allied forces deployed their cannons. It's just that these artillery positions of the British and French allied forces are completely within the range of the German artillery. Especially the 150mm heavy artillery can directly pose a great threat to the artillery positions of the British and French coalition forces.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

You must know that the 105mm howitzers and 150mm howitzers possessed by the four armies of the German army are larger in number than all the artillery possessed by the British and French allied forces combined. When these artillery were concentrated to bombard the positions of the British and French allied forces, the consequences can naturally be imagined. The artillery positions of the British and French allied forces were destroyed one after another under the heavy shelling of the German army.

"Very good, very well done. If this continues, it won't be long before the artillery of the British and French coalition forces will be completely lost. At that time, our cannons will be able to continuously bombard their positions and destroy their fortifications." All destroyed." Qin Tian was very satisfied with the performance of the artillery. After solving the artillery of the British and French allied forces, the artillery of the German army will be able to fire at the positions of the British and French allied forces without interference. With fierce artillery fire, all the fortifications of the British and French coalition forces were directly smashed, clearing the way for the subsequent infantry attack.

Although, the artillery battle was very tragic. The artillerymen on both sides couldn't meet each other, but once the shells they fired hit each other, they were enough to tear each other to pieces.

"Bastard, **** the Germans, how many cannons have they assembled? They shouldn't have gathered all the cannons on the entire Western Front here?" De Kathy Terr, commander of the French Second Army Admiral Nuo complained.

During this battle, the French army suffered a lot from the German artillery. But unfortunately, because of the urgency of the war, a large amount of weapons and equipment need to be produced. The 75mm field gun with more mature technology has become the first choice for French arsenals to produce. As for the large-caliber heavy artillery that is urgently needed on the

front line, the production quantity is very small. This also makes the French army on the front line, under the fierce German shelling. I can't hold my head up at all.

Also very depressed, and those generals of the British Expeditionary Force. The British Army also attaches great importance to artillery. The number of cannons owned by each infantry division was still the largest in the world in the second half of last year, more than the number of cannons owned by each infantry division of the German army. However, after only half a year, they were completely surpassed by the German army.

Behind the British and French allied forces, Marshal Xiafei personally sat in the town and directed the battle. In his view, this attack by the German army is undoubtedly very threatening to the British and French allied forces. If it cannot withstand the German attack, the British and French allied forces may not be able to hold on to the Marne River defense line. Once the Marne River defense line is breached, then the German army will be able to directly threaten Paris.

However, the battle had just begun, and the German army showed an extremely strong attack power, which made Marshal Xia Fei worried.

"Your Excellency Marshal, the front line requests more artillery support. Under the heavy shelling of the Germans, the artillery losses of the front line departments are very large." A staff officer reported.

Marshal Xia Fei frowned involuntarily. In his hands now, except for the artillery of the reserve teams of the two armies, he has no other artillery at all. He can't send the reserve teams to the front line just after the battle has just begun, right?

"Tell the frontline that there is no extra artillery to support them. Now, the battle has just begun, and they need to rely on their own strength to hold the line of defense!" Marshal Joffre ordered.

"Yes, Your Excellency the Marshal." The staff officer immediately went to send a telegram.

"God bless the French Republic!" Marshal Joffre murmured. He knew that this battle was undoubtedly the final test for France. If it can withstand it, then France will be able to continue to maintain it. If you can't resist it, the collapse of France is just around the corner!

However, under the well-prepared offensive of the German army, it is almost impossible for the British and French allied forces to resist the German attack on the Marne River.

The artillery fire of the German army is still raging, and the artillery positions of the suppressed British and French allied forces have suffered heavy losses.

What's more terrible is that the various air teams of the German Army also actively participated in the attack on the artillery of the British and French coalition forces.

At 9 o'clock in the morning, more than two hundred fighter jets and bombers arrived at the front line. These fighter jets used machine guns to shoot the anti-aircraft firepower on the positions of the British and French allied forces, and covered the bombers for bombing.

"Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!"

Bombs fell from the bomber's magazine like dumplings, and the artillery positions of the British and French allied forces were instantly shrouded in smoke and flames. After the smoke cleared, the artillery positions of the

British and French allied forces were in a mess. The cannons were blown up, and the artillery was gone.

After the German air force joined in, the artillery losses of the British and French allied forces began to rise sharply.

Chapter 489: passive defense

"Da da da!"

A fighter jet of the German army is using an aviation machine gun to shoot at an artillery position of the British Expeditionary Force. The bullets are chasing the escaped British artillery.

This kind of condescending attack from the air is generally difficult to escape.

Suddenly, there was a burst of machine gun fire on the ground, and the bullets violently shot at the German fighter jets in the air. The fighter plane was hit, and several holes were punched in the skin on the wing. The frightened fighter immediately pulled up and fled quickly.

The British and French allied forces are not like the Russian army. Facing the German air attack, there is nothing they can do. With the technology of Britain and France, they can easily develop weapons for anti-aircraft shooting. When the German aircraft showed more and more powerful combat capabilities, the British and French allied forces also deployed a large number of anti-aircraft machine guns to the front line as the main weapon to defend against German aircraft. When the fighter planes of Britain and France were unable to confront the German fighter planes, this was the only way to counterattack.

"Damn it, I almost shot down the German plane." A second lieutenant officer of the British army said with some regret.

However, soon he will no longer feel sorry, because the German fighter jet has gone and returned.

After evading the British ground anti-aircraft fire, the German fighters began to counterattack. The order they received was originally to suppress the anti-aircraft firepower of the British and French coalition forces on the ground and provide cover for the bombing of the bombers. Now that the anti-aircraft firepower of the British army has been discovered, it is natural to try our best to destroy it. In this way, it is also possible to ensure that one's own bombers will not be shot down when they drop bombs.

"Da da da!"

The aviation machine guns of the German fighter jets fired, and the dense bullets fired at this anti-aircraft firepower point of the British army.

The bullets hit the shield of the anti-aircraft machine gun, making a tinkling sound, splashing sparks one by one.

Several British machine gunners hid behind the shields, trembling with fright, for fear of being hit.

When the German fighter jets passed over their heads, they finally breathed a sigh of relief. But when they turned their heads, they screamed in terror. At some point, the second lieutenant officer had already fallen to the ground. His head was even shattered. Obviously, during the German fighter jet attack just now, the second lieutenant officer was hit.

"The chief is dead, what should we do?" A British soldier asked timidly.

"Let's run away, we will flee immediately. The German attack is too strong, we can't resist it at all." Another British soldier suggested.

However, before they finished their discussion, German fighter jets attacked them again. This time, none of these British soldiers could escape.

They were hit by the aviation machine gun bullets of the fighter jets and fell into a pool of blood.

Although the ground anti-aircraft firepower of the British and French allied forces fought back frantically, they still suffered heavy losses under the attack of fighter planes from the German air force. One artillery position after another was destroyed by the German air force, causing the artillery fire of the British and French allied forces to suffer a heavy blow.

Although, the battle has only just begun. However, the situation on the entire battlefield was that the British and French allied forces were completely suppressed. Not only did their fortifications suffer heavy losses under the heavy German shelling, but their artillery also suffered heavy losses under the German shelling and air strikes. If this continues, no one knows how long the British and French allied forces can last.

The air force of the German army dispatched more than 200 fighters at a time, taking turns to attack the positions and artillery of the British and French allied forces, further increasing the losses of the British and French allied forces.

In less than half a day, the artillery of the British and French allied forces suffered heavy losses, so that they had to disperse the artillery to avoid greater losses.

The artillery of the British and French allied forces withdrew from the battle with heavy losses, which made the German artillery no worries, and could use all their firepower to attack the fortifications of the British and French allied forces. Under the heavy shelling of the German army, the fortifications of the British and French allied forces were destroyed one after another. At the same time, casualties are also increasing.

Admiral Decasy Terno, the commander of the French 2nd Army, rushed to the headquarters in person to report the loss to Marshal Joffre.

"Your Excellency the Marshal, the 2nd Army suffered heavy losses during the morning's shelling and bombing by the Germans. The fortifications we built in the past six months have lost one-third of the fortifications under the heavy shelling by the Germans. The loss of the artillery is as high as half. What's more terrible is that the German attack is still going on, and there is no meaning of ending at all. No one knows how long they will last. If this continues, there is no need to wait for the Germans to launch Attack, our troops may collapse first." Admiral Decasy Turno said.

Marshal Xiafei frowned tightly: "Is it so serious?"

"Your Excellency, Marshal, it will only be more serious than what I said." Admiral Decasy Turno had a serious expression.

"Okay, General, I understand. But, do we have a way to deal with it now? Our artillery is less than half that of the Germans. Even if we send the artillery of the other two armies to the front, we can only The number of our artillery has reached 75% of the Germans. This still does not count the losses this morning. If the losses are included, I am afraid it is still only half of the Germans. Under such circumstances, we have no It is impossible to engage in artillery battles with the Germans. In that case, our artillery will only be lost faster. Therefore, let the soldiers hide in the anti-aircraft holes! The German bombardment cannot continue forever The shells they need must be transported from the mainland of Germany to the front line. Such a large-scale consumption will definitely not last long." Marshal Xiafei said.

If possible, he certainly hopes that the artillery of the British and French allied forces can launch a counterattack and defeat the German artillery in one fell swoop. But it's a pity that they don't have this ability at all! Instead of letting the artillery and artillery reported by one's own side be lost in the tragic

artillery battle, it is better to order the artillery to hide, preserve their strength, and play a greater role at critical moments.

Marshal Joffre believed that the German army would launch a crossing operation soon. At that time, the artillery they have preserved will undoubtedly play a greater role.

Of course, this will have a great impact on the morale of the frontline troops. The enemy's shelling was fierce, but one's own artillery was misfired, which will inevitably bring more pressure to the soldiers.

Chapter 490: air supremacy

"Your Excellency Marshal, under the heavy bombardment of the Germans, even the strong anti-gun holes we built have been damaged to varying degrees, and some of the anti-gun holes have even collapsed. It is precisely because of this, so Our losses are getting bigger and bigger. In addition, if the German bombardment continues, our fortifications will soon be lost. At that time, what will we use to resist the German attack?" Dekka Admiral Sin Terno looked aggrieved.

"General, even if there are no fortifications, we can still resist the German attack. Although the Marne River is not wide, I believe it will become an insurmountable natural moat for the Germans. At that time, we can use this natural moat Let the Germans shed blood." Marshal Joffre was not so easy to persuade. Of course, if possible, he naturally hopes to send more support to the front line. But it's a pity that he has nothing to do now!

"Okay, Marshal, we'll do our best. But, the German planes are so annoying, why don't our planes take off to meet the enemy? If the Germans are attacking, they will also be constantly strafing or flying over our heads." If I drop bombs, I can't guarantee that my soldiers will lie in the trenches obediently and resist the German attack." Admiral Decasy Turno continued.

Marshal Joffre frowned immediately. The German planes were very powerful, which was not beyond his expectation. In fact, in the second half of last year, German planes hit the air forces of Britain and France, unable to parry. It's just that at that time, the number of German aircraft was still small, and their effects were limited, and they did not have much impact on the battle situation.

But now, the German army is actually using aircraft on a large scale to bomb their defense lines, destroy their fortifications, and cause damage to their personnel. Under such circumstances, Marshal Xiafei naturally needs to pay attention.

"I will immediately order our air force to take off to meet the Germans. I hope our air force can resist them!" Marshal Joffre said.

Since its establishment, the number of aircraft owned by the French Air Force has also continued to rise. At the same time, the British Expeditionary Force also sent many fighter planes to France to assist in the war. Now, the total number of aircraft that the British and French allied forces can deploy exceeds 2,000. Moreover, these two thousand aircraft are all fighter jets. It's just that, compared with the fighter jets of the German Air Force, the performance of the Farmand F.20 fighter jets equipped by the French Air Force and the F.E.2b fighter jets equipped by the British Air Force are very poor.

These two aircrafts adopt a propulsive design and have two seats at the front and rear. The driver is in the back seat, and the observer and shooter is in the front seat. They are generally equipped with one or two machine guns. However, although the aircraft with a push-in design is convenient for installing weapons and shooting, it has poor maneuverability and often cannot deal with the more flexible pull-in aircraft.

When the British and French allied forces were frowning in the face of the fierce shelling and bombing of the German army, the generals of the German army were all smiling.

"Your Highness, the fortifications of the British and French allied forces have been severely damaged by our shelling and bombing. When the attack in the afternoon is over, their fortifications will probably be completely destroyed. At that time, our infantry will You can cross the Marne River very easily." Admiral Bilow smiled.

Although, large-scale shelling and bombing consumed a lot of combat materials. This makes the logistics pressure on the troops very high. But if it can effectively reduce the casualties of the troops, it is undoubtedly worthwhile.

"Well, for problems that can be solved with shells and bombs, the soldiers are absolutely not allowed to work hard. The life of every German soldier is extremely precious. We also hope to use these soldiers to occupy France, Britain, the whole of Europe and even In the whole world!" Qin Tian said with a smile.

"Your Highness is right, our soldiers are the best soldiers in the world, and we need to minimize their casualties." Admiral Howson also echoed.

In the eyes of these generals, a commander who cherishes the lives of soldiers is an excellent commander, and they understand why Qin Tian has such a high prestige in the army. It can be clearly seen from the munitions company under him that has developed a large number of advanced weapons, as well as his command philosophy during combat.

"Tomorrow morning, when the troops launch the crossing operation, let the aviation team also provide support. At that time, it will be able to further

attack the British and French coalition forces and reduce the troops' morning." Qin Tian said.

For the German army, the biggest problem in launching this campaign was undoubtedly crossing the Marne River. It was also the battle that was most likely to cause the greatest casualties to the German army. This made Qin Tian have to think of various ways to reduce the casualties of the troops during the river crossing operation.

"Yes, Your Highness." Major General Manstein nodded. He was in charge of sending Qin Tian's orders to all ministries.

"In addition, let the aviation team pay attention. If there are planes from the British and French coalition forces in the sky, they must be beaten down. From the beginning to the end of this battle, this piece of sky belongs to the German Empire!" Qin Tian deliberately said. asked.

In this era, perhaps no one cares more about the fight for air supremacy than Qin Tian. Although, the aircraft performance of this era is still very different from that of later generations. However, the importance of air supremacy has not changed at all. With air supremacy, not only can you use powerful air power to attack the enemy, but even the enemy's troop mobilization and logistical supplies are all in your own eyes.

The side with air supremacy will undoubtedly be able to deploy troops more flexibly and use more reasonable tactics to deal with the enemy.

Therefore, when Qin Tian commanded the troops to fight, he often made fighting for air supremacy the top priority of the troops.

"Yes, Your Highness. The air team is ready. Once the British and French coalition planes are spotted, they can launch an attack immediately!" Major General Manstein replied.

On the afternoon of March 31, the German shelling and bombing continued. Although the force of the attack is not as strong as before, the target of the attack is more clear. With the help of the reconnaissance aircraft of the air force and the observation balloons of the artillery, the artillery can be more purposeful when shelling, focusing on attacking the fortifications or firepower points of the British and French coalition forces that were not destroyed in the previous shelling.

This shelling and bombing, similar to precision strikes, caused greater damage to the fortifications of the British and French allied forces. A large number of surviving fortifications and firing points were destroyed in shelling and bombing.