

Second World

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"I prefer to take out those ships without losing a single soldier," Jack said.

"Everyone wants that, Your Majesty, but we have to be realistic," Samuhn said. "We need an army of fliers to take out those ships."

"Or we wait one more day so King Jack and Grand Chief Four Winds can summon their country guardians," Vanessa suggested.

"Don't worry, we don't need to wait. We have a one-man army right here," Bowler declared loudly. "King Jack will head over and take all those ships down by himself!"

"Leave it to me!" Jack exclaimed. He smashed his right fist into his left palm in an eager gesture.

"Uh... I'm just joking," Bowler said. "You are truly going over by yourself?"

"Hehe, I am also joking. I will go, but not by myself," Jack said with a grin. "I'm serious about wanting to lose no one, but we also don't need to wait another day. Everyone, please gather those who are at least level 80 and can fly. Have them come forward and be ready. If they are natives, they must also be at least special elite grades."

Arther, Vanessa, Four Winds, Jennifer, and Dytess went and gathered the people from their armies.

Jennifer was in command of the Aurebor army. She represented her mother in this campaign. Nova stayed in Lorethion to work the country's politics to secure her place in Aurebor. Although the agreement mentioned that she was only a temporary sovereign, she didn't intend it to be so. She needed to start getting used to the ruling and do well enough to show the others that she was qualified to be the permanent queen of Aurebor.

After around an hour, the high-level people gathered. There weren't that many people who fulfilled Jack's requirements. Only around one thousand natives and five hundred players fulfilled these conditions.

Most of the players were the top players from the top guilds. Everlasting Heavenly Legends occupied the largest percentage of those five hundred players compared to the other guilds.

As for the natives, the majority was from the Themisphere army. This was due to Jack's constant usage of Mass Drill every month. The largest percentage of those one thousand natives were the ex-members of the Council of Charites, both the ones who joined the Themisphere army and those who became the companions of Everlasting Heavenly Legends' guild members. They were already high-level, to begin with. Their levels increased even more after joining Themisphere, especially the ones who became players' companions. They gained the leveling speed of players, which was faster than Mass Drill.

"We are ready," The four commanders said to Jack.

"Okay, please ask them to wait. It's not yet time," Jack said.

"Oh? What are we waiting for?" Vanessa asked.

"Please be patient. It should be around one more hour," Jack replied.

The others didn't know what Jack was waiting for, but they complied and waited.

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After more than an hour passed, several ships appeared at the far end of the river.

The ethereal soldiers on the ships guarding the border river were ecstatic when they saw those ships. Ships from every country had slightly different appearances. For example, ships from Palgrost had their hull covered in metallic plates, giving them a sturdier look. Themisphere's ships had a common appearance similar to the ships from the real world. Verremor's ships were covered in leather and adorned by animal bones. As for Liguritudum ships, they were slimmer than the ships from other countries and they had slick-looking hulls. Their masts were also generally taller.

Hence, it was easy to identify which country a ship was from simply by its looks. The ships that were coming toward them were Liguritudum ships.

"Yeah! Reinforcements finally arrived," an ethereal soldier on the deck of one of three galleasses celebrated.

The other ethereal soldiers echoed his excitement. They had been restless after seeing the enemy's massive number. They knew they would perish if the enemy decided to force the way. They would take down as many enemies as they could but they would fall. They did not doubt that. With the incoming reinforcements, they thought maybe they had a chance to survive this.

The incoming fleet numbered thirteen ships. It was still not enough to prevent the enemies from crossing the river, but it was enough to take down many enemies and also give them a chance of surviving. Two among the thirteen ships were even the man-of-war-class ships. The ethereal soldiers recognized one of the two as their flagship.

"I'm glad they are okay. I have been worried since no one replied to our transmission," One of the ethereal officers said. "We should have brought one or two outworlders with us to make use of their instant communication system."

"But why are there only so few ships?" Another officer asked.

"The war with the Palgrost Armada probably isn't over yet," the captain of the ship, who had the rank of executor commander, said. "High Executor Kaghest must have sent these ships to aid us while they continue chasing the Palgrost Armada."

"Yes, that must be the case," The first ethereal officer said.

The other officer was more critical. He asked, "Then why don't they return our transmission?"

"Probably the transmission device is broken," The executor commander replied.

"Yeah, a battle with the Palgrost Armada must have taken place. The transmission device was probably damaged in the process," the first officer said. "Look, there are parts of the ships that showed signs of receiving cannon fire."

The thirteen ships had approached close enough for them to see their details. Several parts of the ships were broken, but they were not severe enough so the ships could still sail.

"Then why is our flagship here?" The second officer asked.

"What about it?" The executor commander and the first officer were getting annoyed by this second officer's incessant questions.

"If the Palgrost Armada is not yet defeated and our high executor sent these ships to aid us, he should stay with the Armada to continue battling the Palgrost Armada. He won't come here. The flagship should stay with him. Why is the flagship here?"

Upon the questions, both the executor commander and the first officer went silent. It took them several seconds before the executor commander answered, "Perhaps the Palgrost Armada has been defeated and these are the ships that survive the battle..."

This caused gloom among the three. This statement implied that although the Palgrost Armada was defeated, their once great Armada had been reduced to only these few ships.

When the second officer was about to say something, a loud explosive sound was heard. They turned to the source and found that the incoming flagship had opened fire. They then saw an explosion on one of their ships.

Before they could make sense of what was happening, all the newly arrived reinforcement ships opened fire, and they were the targets.

Chapter 1710 Chapter 1710. Crossing the Border River

The newly arrived ships were the Liguritudum ships that had been captured and reintegrated into the Themisphere and Palgrost's fleets. The allied fleets had arrived nearby but they stayed back and only had the captured Liguritudum ships sail forward.

Aside from interrogating Gridhacker about Jeanny, John also interrogated Gridhacker about the blockade in this border river. He was sure the enemies left some ships behind to harass the allied armies from crossing the border river.

The first thing John asked Gridhacker was if there were any players following those ships who guarded the river. If there were, the news about the Liguritudum Armada's defeat would surely have reached those ships. If there were none, then their communication could only be through a transmission device.

Transmission devices were coupled. One transmission device could only send messages to its paired device. The one in the ships on the border river was paired with the one in the flagship. The flagship was captured without anyone making the time to use that device, so the ships on the border river were still oblivious about what had happened.

Gridhacker was second-in-command on the flagship, so he knew the details regarding the ships that were sent to this border river.

After making sure that the ships on the border river were oblivious to the fate of the armada, John used this Trojan Horse tactic. Having the captured ships close enough to the unsuspecting enemies before ambushing them. Each of the captured ships aimed at different targets. They also aimed at the enemy's cannons, taking out as many as those cannons so the enemies couldn't retaliate.

Following the ambush, Jack and the elite regiment he had gathered took to the sky. They flew to the enemy ships that were suffering under bombardment from who they thought were their allies. The ethereal soldiers on those ships were still dazed when Jack and the others descended on them.

Their confusion turned to panic when they saw their comrades fall in droves. Their morale dropped sharply. Many chose to abandon ships and jump into the river, only to become prey to the high-level monsters residing in the river.

With the combined onslaught, the ships that guarded the border river were quickly subdued. Half of the ships were destroyed, and the remaining half surrendered.

The surrendered soldiers were bound and brought to the shore. Their ships were then used to ferry the waiting armies across the river.

After receiving the news, the remaining fleets from Palgrost, Verremor, and Themisphere showed themselves.

Palgrost's transport ships docked by the shore and let off the Palgrost's troops they carried. Around 300,000 dwarven soldiers disembarked. These were half the number of troops that departed from Palgrost. These transport ships then joined the others to ferry the allied forces across the river.

With that many ships, they managed to ferry the massive troops to the other side of the river before the end of the day.

The armies rearranged themselves after disembarking. Tents were set up. It was nighttime already. Everyone decided to continue the march tomorrow. Everyone except for the Sangrod army. But since they were the minority, they followed along.

While the armies were resting, Jack went to the Liguritudum flagship they had captured. He went around the ship admiring it. John was on the bridge when he entered.

"Nice catch," Jack praised. "Don't you lose her. We can't build one of these, yet."

"Don't worry, I will sacrifice our allies' ships first before I risk endangering her," John replied.

Jack couldn't be sure if he wanted to approve that.

"So, what's the plan?" Jack asked.

"We march to Dritzuut," John answered. "With the force Master got remaining, he knows his only chance is playing defense in the capital."

"You are not worried he places some traps for us along the way?" Jack asked.

"With his number compared to us, he won't be able to place any meaningful traps," John answered. "He escaped from Hydrurond with only 300,000 troops and 500,000 zombie units. Our last knowledge was that he had around 850,000 troops inside Liguritudum. Even if he recruits troops since then, it will just be around one million. He also didn't have that many players supporting him. In total, his army of natives, players, and zombies won't exceed two and a half million. We have six million troops on our side, not yet including the half million Sangrod troops who were still on their way. Not to mention,

we also have three armadas with almost one hundred ships. Master won't stand a chance against us."

"Don't get cocky, many sure-win wars ended up losing because the leaders got careless," Jack warned.

"Oh, really? Name me one of those wars," John asked.

"Uh... I forgot the title."

"Wars in movies don't count, nerd," John mocked. "But you are not wrong, careless leaders were indeed the downfall of many wars in history. Don't worry, I already made the arrangements with the Dogs of War and the Jackal Crews. If you go out there, you will find many of their members missing. They went ahead of us. They will scout all the areas we will be passing. Those people are professionals. Whatever trap Master or my mother set up for us, it won't escape them. If there is anything suspicious. They will inform you and me."

"You will stay with the fleet?" Jack asked.

John pressed a button and a holographic map was displayed above them. It showed the map of Liguritudum.

"This river had many branches along this country," John explained while pointing at the map. "Most of them wide enough for our fleet to pass. One of these rivers leads to the lake that is directly beside Dritzuut. You will go by land. I, the river. We will meet at the capital and we will lay siege there. We will attack from two sides. With our mobile fortress, siege weapons, and the cannons from these ships, Dritzuut's wall won't last long. Our victory is at hand."

Jack looked at the map. It would be great if that was so, but he knew Master wouldn't just lay down and die. He believed they would be in for one hell of a battle even when it seemed like they completely outnumbered the enemy.