

First Order 881

### **Chapter 881: Counterattack**

Ren Xiaosu did not say anything as he carried Yang Xiaojin and ran towards the Great Wall. That was because he was still wearing his helmet, so anything that he said on the radio would be recorded.

The appearance of the sniper bought some time for the entire recon company. When they got into the proximity of the cover fire of the Great Wall, everyone heaved a sigh of relief. They knew that the barbarians would definitely not dare to continue pursuing them.

Seeing that the two sides were only about 200 meters apart, the recon company's soldiers thought to themselves that if it weren't for the sniper, those who had fallen behind would have really gotten left behind out here.

However, right at this moment, even though the barbarians were no longer chasing after them, an extremely tall and muscular barbarian with a full beard suddenly threw the axe in his hand with all his might.

The axe carried all of the barbarian's discontent with it. In that split second, even the recon troops found it difficult to get a clear view of the flying axe's movements.

The axe flew straight for T40219's back. By the time T40219 heard the sound of the axe whizzing through the air, it was too late to dodge!

T40219 turned around and faced the flying axe. But just as it was about to reach his face, T40219 discovered that Ren Xiaosu had already reached his side with Yang Xiaojin on his back and had his hand stretched out.

His slender but powerful hand grabbed the handle of the axe. Then Ren Xiaosu threw it back with great force at an even faster speed.

As the axe spun horizontally through the air, it made a whizzing sound that made people feel uneasy.

A second later, it landed squarely in the face of the axe thrower!

Outside the Great Wall, the recon troops felt up close the power displayed by Ren Xiaosu. It was a counterattack that rocked them to the core.

Meanwhile, the people on the Great Wall had an even clearer view of the big picture.

After the barbarian threw the axe, Ren Xiaosu suddenly turned around and completed a series of rapid movements, catching the axe and throwing it back, all in a single breath.

They suddenly felt like they were watching an exciting show, with the wilderness outside the Great Wall being the stage, while there was only one main character.

"Hurry up and run! Don't just stand there," Ren Xiaosu shouted at T40219.

T40219 said in a low voice, "Thank you!"

"Gratitude received from T40219, +1!"

Ren Xiaosu beamed with joy. *'That's the way!'*

A gate in the Great Wall slowly raised, opening up a path for everyone to enter. Meanwhile, the infantry brigade responsible for covering the front had moved towards the east where they would naturally be assisted by other troops.

After getting behind the Great Wall, everyone took off their helmets and turned off their radios. With their helmets off, the cool breeze brushed past their sweaty heads, and everyone felt they had gained a new lease of life.

Off to the side, Ren Xiaosu put Yang Xiaojin down and muttered, "You clearly know that I'm not afraid of them. How could those barbarians possibly catch up to me? Why did you even take the risk to run out?"

"Because I know you won't let anything happen to me," Yang Xiaojin matter-of-factly.

"Alright then." Ren Xiaosu beamed.

At this moment, P5092 walked down from the Great Wall. He said to Ren Xiaosu with a smile, "How devastating. I really look forward to our future cooperation."

Ren Xiaosu whispered to Yang Xiaojin, "Hear that? This guy has already made up his mind to join us in the Prosperous Northwest. I've already convinced him!"

P5092 could not hear what Ren Xiaosu was mumbling about. He wondered, "What did you say?"

Ren Xiaosu knew it was not a good time to mention anything about the Prosperous Northwest while so many soldiers were around them. So he laughed out loud. "It's nothing. I'm going to eat now since there's nothing much to do here. That field trip has me a little exhausted. Has the chow hall prepared supper for us yet?"

"Of course." P5092 nodded and said, "Those who go out on a mission will be allowed to take a hot shower and have a warm meal as soon as they get back to base."

But just as Ren Xiaosu was about to turn around and leave, P5092's adjutant suddenly said, "Wait a minute, you haven't reported your mission status yet."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. "What mission?"

The adjutant raged on the inside. *'See! He forgot about the mission! He totally forgot about it!'*

The adjutant said, "Your mission was to scout out their emplacements. Why did you engage in guerrilla warfare after entering the forest instead? I admit you're very powerful, and I really admire you from the bottom of my heart, but this is not how war works. Identifying the enemy's emplacements is much more important than killing a few hundred people."

However, P5092 said, "Enough. We've scored a great victory this time, so let's not haggle over these details. It's not that easy to identify emplacements, after all."

But Ren Xiaosu interrupted, "Where's the sand table? I'll mark the emplacements for y'all."

The adjutant and P5092 were stunned. The combat staff officers at the side looked at one another. They had been watching the live feed of the reco company the entire time. Didn't Ren Xiaosu remain with the group throughout? How could he know about the enemy's emplacements then?!

Ren Xiaosu went straight for the command center. As he walked, he said, "I've only located seven emplacements. Based on my estimates, they should have over a dozen of them in total. But as time was tight, I didn't have enough opportunities to search for the others."

With that, they arrived at the command center. Ren Xiaosu gestured here and there on the sand table and even used a ruler to measure the distance. Then he used small yellow flags to mark the emplacements.

Ren Xiaosu said, "I feel that it'll be a hassle if we have to use troops to break through these emplacements. The terrain they're located on gives them the advantage in defending, so y'all might just as well blow them up."

At the side, the adjutant wondered, "You were with the group the entire time, and I didn't see you looking for the emplacements, so how do you know all this?"

"Just assume I guessed it." Ren Xiaosu waved it off and left.

P5092 stood at the sand table and studied it seriously. His adjutant asked, "Sir, do you trust him?"

P5092 did not answer directly. Instead, he said, "If I were the barbarians' commander, I would probably deploy my emplacements at these locations too."

The adjutant gave a mental sigh. It seemed that his superior did believe that kid.

P5092 continued, "We should be able to launch a counterattack and chase these barbarians out of the forest if we can take out seven of their emplacements."

"But even if it's true, it's only a portion of where they deployed their emplacements," the adjutant said.

"There are no wars where we can be absolutely confident of winning. The emplacements identified in this scouting mission should already account for over half of them, so that should be enough for us to work with." P5092 said, "Report this matter back to HQ and let them decide if we're to launch a counterattack or not."

"But HQ will not believe in speculation. They only believe in real evidence," the adjutant said.

P5092 stayed silent for a while before saying, "Report it to them using my name as a P5 division commander. Don't tell them it was just a speculative guess and say that it's intel gained from a scouting mission."

His adjutant sighed and said, "Do you know how it'll affect you if the intel turns out to be wrong?"

P5092 smiled and patted him on the shoulder. "I'll just have to take the rap then. Rather than thinking about this, why don't we try to kill more barbarians instead? Go on and report it."

### **Chapter 882: Information protection**

What the adjutant meant was that if they were to report this intel in P5092's name, P5092 would have to bear all the responsibility should anything go wrong.

In other words, if Ren Xiaosu were just guessing where the emplacements were located, P5092 would have to take all the blame for it.

Honestly, very few high-ranking officers were willing to take such a risk. That was because committing a mistake as serious as this in the war would likely affect their career in the Pyro Company.

But there was nothing he could do about it. The adjutant realized his superior trusted that kid's word a great deal for some reason.

As his adjutant, what could he do? He could only summarize the intel in a document as per his superior's instructions. Furthermore, he had to fabricate some details and events so that HQ would believe the authenticity of it.

After the adjutant left, the deputy chief editor of Hope Media, Ji Yi, visited the command tent. P5092 was still very polite towards Ji Yi. He smiled and said, "Mr. Ji, what brings you here?"

"I heard that you just won a battle, so we'd like to do an interview here. If possible, can you reveal some details of this battle? For example, your strategic decisions, the number of barbarians casualties, whether any soldiers performed outstandingly, and other things like that." As an outsider, Ji Yi did not know Ren Xiaosu had also participated in the battle. He had not seen Ren Xiaosu for the entire day.

P5092 thought for a moment and then said, "Sure, I can tell you every detail of this battle!"

Ji Yi's eyes lit up. He was afraid this matter would involve military secrets that could not be reported.

However, he heard P5092 say, "This battle was originally meant to scout out the deployment of the barbarians' emplacements. Due to the fall of Stronghold 176, the barbarians got their hands on some of our Central Plains' firearms and explosives. These weapons are extremely lethal to our troops. Moreover, in complex terrain like the forest, we would have to pay a very heavy price if we fought against armed barbarians..."

"Thus, I entrusted the mission to a highly skilled individual by the name of Ren Xiaosu. He led a recon company into the forest while our infantry brigade took charge of covering the front. I didn't have much hope for the mission initially, but Ren Xiaosu has surprised the Pyro Company greatly..."

"In this battle, it could be said that Ren Xiaosu fought entirely on his own..."

As P5092 spoke, he suddenly noticed that Ji Yi's expression had become strange. "Mr. Ji, what's wrong?"

Ji Yi said, "So you're saying this great victory was all the credit of Ren Xiaosu?"

"Yes." P5092 nodded and said, "I hope you can spend more time noting his achievements while writing the report."

In truth, P5092 had an ulterior motive in requesting this. He wanted to expose Ren Xiaosu's name to the world. Although he still did not know which organization Ren Xiaosu belonged to, if the other party's superiors were to see this report and see how close Ren Xiaosu had become with the Pyro Company, it would probably be very difficult for Ren Xiaosu to return to his organization, right?

The higher-ups were usually paranoid about such matters, and even the Pyro Company was no exception. P5092 even felt that there was basically no exception to this anywhere in the world.

Therefore, this move of his was the same as how the Great Hoodwinker had forced Wang Yun into a corner. It was a ploy to sow discord!

Moreover, he was openly trying to sow discord. After all, P5092 was praising Ren Xiaosu!

In the end, Ren Xiaosu would only be able to remain at the Pyro Company because of this.

However, P5092's plan was foiled. When he flipped through the newspaper the next day, there was not a mention of Ren Xiaosu at all. Any references to him were all replaced by "a certain soldier"!

That was not right. Why was it reported like that?!

When P5092 went to look for Ji Yi, he asked puzzledly, "Why didn't you specify Ren Xiaosu's name in the report? Shouldn't he be honored for his contributions?"

Ji Yi shook his head and said, "I'm sorry, but we won't report anything regarding Ren Xiaosu."

P5092 was a little taken aback. "Why? Isn't Hope Media all about reporting the truth? Could it be that the truth surrounding Ren Xiaosu is not the truth? Isn't that a little against your principles?"

"I'm sorry, but there's no reason." Ji Yi sighed and said, "Everything regarding him will not be published. It will only be recorded down in Hope Media's private archives and labeled as top secret. Those records will only be made known to the public 50 years later."

P5092 was speechless. He suddenly realized Ren Xiaosu seemed to be a very special existence to Hope Media. The reason Hope Media did not report anything about him was to protect his personal information from being made known to more people!

However, P5092 did not find it a pity. After all, Ren Xiaosu had already said they were going to be one family soon. The instigation of his defection was already progressing great. Even though he could not

drive a further wedge between Ren Xiaosu and his organization, the war would still go on for a very long while, so he still had a lot of time to work on it.

...

At the same time, at a campfire in the forest, the commander of the advance guard, Valentin, was furious over the loss of his troops.

At first, they thought it was the Pyro Company's main forces that had infiltrated the forest and caused such a large number of casualties to their advance guard. But when Ren Xiaosu and the others fled from the forest, they realized there were only a 100 of them!

Just over a 100 people were enough to kill several hundred of them, and what was even more critical was that the other party did not suffer a single casualty!

If the other party had consisted of about a 100 T5 combatants, the barbarians could have accepted it. But the problem was that during the pursuit, they realized the Pyro Company soldiers were only as strong as their standard barbarians. They were not even comparable to the centurions other than a young man who seemed more powerful.

As such, this battle became his disgrace!

The barbarians did not mind losing a battle. If a person who had been fighting battles for so many years could not even accept defeat, that would be too fragile of them. But he could not accept losing to a group of people who were weaker than them!

At this moment, a person in a black robe slowly walked over from the north behind them. Black Robe said in a hoarse voice, "The general has already received news of the defeat at the front lines."

"How did the general find out?" Valentin sneered. "You're the one who told on us, right?"

"That's right, it was me." Black Robe said calmly, "The general thinks this forest is no longer safe, so he's ordering you to carry out plan B. I've already brought the people here for you, but they're still behind us at the moment and will only arrive after three hours. If you make another mistake this time, get ready to return to the north where you'll be made to repair prisons."

Deep down inside, Valentin really disliked Black Robe. When he heard the words "repair prisons," he immediately threw the axe beside him at Black Robe angrily. However, Black Robe easily sidestepped and dodged the flying axe.

The axe did not stop moving and shattered a tree trunk.

But while Black Robe managed to dodge the axe, the wind from the throw blew up a corner of his hood. Valentin was stunned. "Wait, didn't you have gray skin before? Why did it turn so dark?"

Black Robe took a step back and retreated into the shadows. After a while, he gritted his teeth and said, "I got a tan."

## **Chapter 883: The Pyro Company's strategic decision**

P5092's deputy commander had submitted the intel regarding the deployment of the barbarians' emplacements. Moreover, because this document was submitted in P5092's name, the headquarters attached great importance to it.

After all, there were only a few dozen P5 commanders, and P5092 was even one of the best ones around.

But when this document was seen by the higher-ups, the headquarters immediately issued a notice to hold an emergency meeting. The participants would be all the commanders of the main forces that were guarding the Great Wall, and the 3rd Division's base was chosen as the meeting site.

On the same afternoon, a long convoy of vehicles arrived at the entrance of the 3rd Division's military base. They stopped at the entrance and displayed their identification documents before being allowed to pass. After that, they headed straight for the 3rd Division's command headquarters.

When Ren Xiaosu saw these vehicles, he had a feeling that something big was about to happen.

One by one, professional soldiers walked into P5092's command center with stern expressions on their faces while their subordinates waited outside.

There was even an old man who got out of an off-road vehicle and walked into the command tent calmly. All of the Pyro Company soldiers who saw him saluted him.

Ren Xiaosu had heard from Yang Xiaojin in the Sacred Mountains that the Pyro Company was controlled by five scientists. Could this old man be one of them?

From afar, the old man was dressed simply and did not even wear a watch. If he were walking on the streets of the stronghold, Ren Xiaosu might think he was just a normal old man going out to buy groceries to cook for his grandson.

In the headquarters, more than a dozen people were sitting around the conference table. These were all of the division commanders at the Great Wall's front lines.

The old man looked at everyone and said, "I called all of you here to discuss the next step of the battle plan. P5092 scored a beautiful victory yesterday and even brought back intel regarding the seven locations where the barbarians have deployed their emplacements. This is very important information. As time is rather tight, to prevent the barbarians from diverting their emplacements to other locations, we have to quickly decide whether to counterattack or not. However, let's first confirm with P5092 whether this intel is accurate or not."

P5092 thought for a moment and said, "Sir, the intel I submitted to you is absolutely accurate. The sand table is right there. I guarantee on my P5 rank this intel is accurate."

"That's good. Then let's talk about what to do next." The old man nodded.

A division commander said, "Since we've already confirmed the location of the seven emplacements, let's just destroy them with our missiles. After that, we can deploy six of our divisions and completely encircle the barbarians by overwhelming them."

P5092 suddenly frowned. "P5041, don't you think it'll be too risky to send out six divisions at once?"

That division commander looked at P5092 and said, "I'm suggesting this because I trust you. Since you vouch on your P5 rank for the accuracy of the intel, there's no longer any doubt about the outcome of this battle."

"What if there's other barbarian forces hiding in the forest?" P5092 said, "I personally think it's better to be more cautious."

P5041 explained, "If any more barbarians had been hiding in the forest, they wouldn't have been defeated by a 100-odd men from your 3rd Division in the last battle. Besides, I even heard all of your men managed to escape unscathed after winning? It's not that I'm not being cautious, but all of this shows the barbarians in the forest only appear to be strong. I suspect their main forces are currently concentrated on the Wang Consortium's side. The two battlefields are more than 200 kilometers apart. Even if we launch a counterattack in the forest, they won't be able to come to their comrades' aid in time."

P5092 was speechless. Of everyone present, he was the only one who knew about the special circumstances that led to the recon company escaping unscathed. Ren Xiaosu had been leading them. If not for Ren Xiaosu, none of the recon company's troops would have been able to make it back alive.

But he could not mention Ren Xiaosu now. As long as Ren Xiaosu had not officially joined the Pyro Company, he could not tell anyone he had let an outsider participate in such an important mission.

The old man looked at him and asked, "P5092, what plan do you have?"

P5092 answered, "My idea is to have the 3rd Division carry out a surprise attack in the forest after bombarding their emplacements. They'll be supported by a further two divisions in the attack. This way, it'll be safer and more reliable. As you can see, the barbarians are very cunning."

But someone off to the side laughed and said, "092, are you afraid that others will steal your glory? Don't worry, getting such an important piece of intel is already to your credit."

P5092 sighed. There was a saying that politics followed people.

Politics in one's profession, politics in the workplace, politics in religion, there were all kinds of politics. But when it came to politics, it was always about power and interests. In this aspect, the Pyro Company was no exception.

Ever since the Pyro Company set up camp at the Great Wall, it was P5092 who stood out the most. He first used the barbarian corpses to lure the enemy over before using his artillery to wipe out thousands of them. In terms of contributions alone, his achievements were the most dazzling among the division commanders.



Importantly, the position of commander-in-chief of the military corps above the division commanders was still vacant at this moment. It was headed by this old man in front of them for now, but everyone knew full well he was not interested in taking charge here.

Some years ago, it was said the higher-ups had found a suitable candidate for the role. It was rumored that the Life Research Department had created a clone but nothing came out of it after that.

P5092 was more informed. He knew the higher-ups had created a clone of Qing Zhen. But when that clone named Qing Shen started showing signs of defection, the higher-ups did not hand over the command of the military corps to him. Instead, they placed him under house arrest in the Sacred Mountains.

Right now, the position of commander-in-chief would probably be decided once this war was over.

However, for some reason, P5092 did not have much interest in this position. When his colleagues started targeting him as a result of their interest to become the commander-in-chief, he only felt a sense of fatigue.

In his opinion, war was a very pure thing. It should be fought with the purpose of securing victory by making the most rational decisions. It should not be affected by any other factors that could very well cause instability to their efforts.

At this moment, the old man said, "Our Pyro Company has a total of 12 divisions. In that case, we'll send out six divisions to make a counterattack. However, P5092 will be the acting commander for this battle plan to be carried out, and the objective is to successfully occupy the forest. 092, I know your concerns, but I still have to plan this from the overall situation. It's not that I want to take the risk but that our Pyro Company cannot fight a protracted war any longer."

After that, the old man dismissed the meeting with a wave of his hand. As he was getting on in years, he was severely lacking energy. Just holding this meeting had taken a lot out of him.

P5092 followed the old man out of the command center. He stood at the entrance of the command center and sighed. In the end, the old man still chose to balance the relationship between the various division commanders.

However, the old man was absolutely right about one thing. After the Pyro Company's supplies were destroyed, they could not fight a protracted war anymore. This should also be the main reason why he decided to launch a counterattack with half of their troops.

If they did not win as soon as possible, the Pyro Company could not hold on for much longer.

#### **Chapter 884: Identity exposed**

At noon, Ren Xiaosu brought Yang Xiaojin to the 3rd Division's temporary chow hall to get some food. When they came out of the medical center, they saw the students clumsily learning how to bandage wounds.

When Ren Xiaosu walked out of the medical center, the students watched the soldiers at the entrance suddenly salute him in an orderly manner. They said loudly, "Sir!"

The students recalled that the soldiers had allowed Ren Xiaosu to pass through their stations freely yesterday, but they totally ignored him otherwise. Why did they become so respectful towards him today?

Before this, everyone only knew Ren Xiaosu had the black ID in his possession, but they did not show any respect for him.

But after the recon company returned to base, they were full of praise for Ren Xiaosu's performance in the battle.

When the Pyro Company soldiers found out what Ren Xiaosu had done, they finally came to a realization. It was no wonder their commander handed the black ID to him!

A Qinghe University student said with a puzzled expression, "I somehow feel like I've seen him somewhere before, but I can't remember where exactly."

"Maybe he just looks like one of our upperclassmen? Didn't you hear from the Trinity Institute's people that they came from the Wang Consortium?" someone nearby said doubtfully.

"No way. He must've been to Luoyang City before. Otherwise, why would Mr. Ji Yi address him as 'sir'? They definitely know each other," the puzzled student said.

"We don't know about that then." Everyone curled their lips and did not reply any further.

However, the student who thought Ren Xiaosu looked familiar felt that something was amiss the more he thought about it. He walked to the entrance of the medical center and asked the soldier, "Can I trouble you and ask who that person is?"

"Oh, he's an exemplary soldier of our Pyro Company's 3rd Division. He led a recon company to infiltrate the northern forest last night. He's extremely powerful, but it's not only him. Even his girlfriend is very powerful as well.... I was on duty on top of the walls yesterday and saw how his girlfriend slid down from the walls with a sniper rifle in hand to help him take out the pursuing barbarians!"

The student was stunned by the soldier's story.

In the past, he did not have anyone in mind he could relate to regarding Ren Xiaosu's identity. But when it came to those who were strong enough to earn the respect of the Pyro Company and Ji Yi, there were probably only a handful who were worthy enough.

Thinking of this, the student was stunned on the spot. He listened to the Pyro Company soldier speak for a while more before saying to his classmates nearby, "I think I might've guessed who he is...."

"Who?" The students were puzzled.

“Let me summarize the information I know now. That young man is very strong and is a superhuman. He has a very powerful sniper working with him and has even gained Mr. Ji Yi’s respect...”

Back when Luoyang City was embroiled in that chaotic battle, Qinghe University was one of the sites where people had been taken hostage. This also meant the students would know more about it and pay more attention to this matter that affected them.

Therefore, the moment all this information was gathered together, the answer became obvious.

The students went to the field hospital to look for Ji Yi, who was writing a report and asked if their guess was correct. In the end, Ji Yi did not answer them and got them to leave.

The fact that he did not deny it proved it. Ji Yi did not like lying because of the field he was in. When Jiang Xu recruited Ji Yi into the media industry, he once said something that would affect him for life.

At that time, Ji Yi had just graduated from university. Jiang Xu told him that in the journalism profession, once he started telling lies, he would only continue to tell more of them.

At that time, you might not even believe the news articles that you wrote, so how would you convince others?

The students were a little excited at the field hospital. After all, the sculptures of these two people were still on Wangchunmen Boulevard in Luoyang City. They looked at Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin before recalling the two statues. No matter how hard the statues tried to hide Ren Xiaosu’s true appearance, the students could still match it with some of his characteristics.

“We’ll wait for him at the field hospital and get him to give us an autograph!” the students said excitedly.

Wang Jing and the others were watching from nearby. “Why are those students suddenly so excited?”

Liang Ce shook his head. “I don’t know. I heard them talking about getting some autographs or something. Could a celebrity have come to visit the base?”

But as they were chatting, the students started walking towards them. A female student suddenly asked, “Excuse us, we’d like to ask what Ren Xiaosu usually likes to do? What does he like to eat and how long have you guys known him for...”

Wang Jing and the others looked at each other. No way, these people were actually discussing Ren Xiaosu?

Seeing that the students must have already guessed Ren Xiaosu’s identity and that they were the ones who were still in the dark instead, Liang Ce could not help but ask, “Is the Ren Xiaosu you guys are referring to the same person as the Ren Xiaosu on our team?”

“Of course we’re talking about the same person.” After the students went to verify with Ji Yi, they were sure of this answer. In fact, they did not guess wrong either.

Liang Ce could not help but ask, "Why are you asking about him?"

The students were clearly taken aback. "Don't you know?"

Liang Ce did not know whether to laugh or cry. "What should we know? Please tell us..."

"He's the guardian of Luoyang City. Don't tell me you don't know what happened in Luoyang City? Hope Media's newspaper reported about it before, although they didn't mention his name." A student explained, "At that time, he used the alias of 'Zheng Hang' and saved many of our Qinghe University students. Later, he went to protect Hope Media and killed several hundred thugs at the steps of the Hope Media headquarters all by himself. Didn't you guys see how much Mr. Ji Yi respects him?"

"Also, that famous sniper in Luoyang City is that girl next to him! By the way, what's her name?" a female student asked curiously.

"Yang Xiaojin," Liang Ce answered.

The female student's eyes lit up. "Ren Xiaosu, Yang Xiaojin, even their names sound really compatible."

Wang Jing wondered, "Are you sure it's him?"

"Yes, it's definitely him. I guess you read Hope Media's newspaper as well, right? Have you seen the words on the fifth page? My cousin used to work at Hope Media, and he said Ren Xiaosu said those words to Chief Editor Jiang Xu." The female student had a gossipy look on her face as though she were chasing after a celebrity.

In this era, some people liked to chase after female singers like Li Ran, so of course there were also people who admired strong people like Ren Xiaosu.

Meanwhile, Wang Jing was astonished. He had even given special praise for those words, but he did not expect the person who said it was actually sitting right across from him at the time. It was no wonder Ren Xiaosu wore such a strange expression back then.

Suddenly, Wang Jing figured out a lot of things...

Those words became clearer in his mind again. Don't let the sorrows of our era become your sorrow as well.

### **Chapter 885: Total war**

Ren Xiaosu did not know what was going on at the field hospital. As he walked through the military base, he realized the Pyro Company's soldiers were packing up their equipment. The atmosphere seemed to have suddenly turned tense. He had already seen several soldiers sitting at the entrance of their tents and checking their firearms.

Moreover, the various fighting forces were also distributing enough rations and ammunition to last the troops for three days.

It looked like they were preparing to leave the Great Wall and head into battle.

After Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin ate lunch, they swaggered off to P5092's command center. Along the way, Yang Xiaojin asked, "Is the information you gave them real?"

"Of course it's real. It was discovered by Old Xu." Ren Xiaosu said, "Initially, I wanted to supply them with false intel. That way, if P5092 lost the war, he could only turn to the Prosperous Northwest."

This was also a ploy to sow discord. When the Pyro Company discovered the information provided by P5092 was wrong, P5092 would probably be court martialed like Wang Yun.

At that time, Ren Xiaosu would save him and bring him along to the Prosperous Northwest.

It had to be said that this thought process was exactly the same as when the Great Hoodwinker was messing with Wang Yun.

But the only problem was that the Kong Consortium was up against the Pyro Company at that time, not fighting against foreign enemies.

But now the Pyro Company was facing the barbarians on behalf of humans in the Central Plains, so Ren Xiaosu could not do it that way.

When Ren Xiaosu thought about how he would end up killing tens of thousands of Pyro Company members by deliberately feeding them the wrong intel, he felt it was better to forget it. He would just sow discord when another opportunity arose.

After all, such a scheme would still require them to be able to defeat the barbarians first.

When they arrived at the command center, P5092 was standing alone at the sand table. Ren Xiaosu wondered, "Why do I feel like you're a little unhappy?"

P5092 looked up at him and said with a smile, "I'm not. It's just that I'm thinking about our next battle plan."

"I saw that y'all had a meeting this morning." Ren Xiaosu said, "What's the conclusion?"

"Hm, there's no need to hide it from you." P5092 said, "At 2 o'clock this afternoon, 28 missiles will be launched to bombard the seven emplacements of the barbarians. Then we send out six of our Pyro Company's divisions to head beyond the walls and launch a counterattack against the enemy. In other words, half of the Pyro Company's forces will be participating in this battle, totaling 72,000 people."

"That's quite a lot of people." Ren Xiaosu sighed and said, "But aren't you afraid that I might have given you the wrong intel?"

P5092 said seriously, "I trust you."

"Alright then. First of all, I can guarantee that the intel I gave was not from guessing, so just bombard them without any worries." Ren Xiaosu said, "Since victory is already in sight, why are you still frowning?"

"I don't know. Maybe I'm just a little worried." P5092 smiled and said, "By the way, you'll still be in charge of leading the recon company this time."

"No problem." Ren Xiaosu said, "Yang Xiaojin will be working with me as well."

"I can rest easy that way." P5092 said, "If the two of you need anything, you can let me know directly. There's only about an hour left before we set off. I hope you can get ready as soon as possible."

"Alright, carry on with your analysis of the battle plan then." Ren Xiaosu said, "By the way, are you going to participate in the battle this time?"

"The entire 3rd Division has been deployed, so I'll definitely have to head to the front lines together. There's no reason why I should get to stay behind the safety of the Great Wall like I'm some prince." P5092 said, "After all, I'm also a T4-ranked combatant."

Ren Xiaosu became very happy at the words. If he could recruit P5092 to join the Prosperous Northwest, not only would he have gained a military commander, he would have also gained a T4-ranked expert.

Although a T4 combatant was not really that great to Ren Xiaosu, their physical fitness was much better than most average superhumans.

Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin reported to the recon company together and put on a set of reconnaissance equipment.

This time, the soldiers from the recon company did not have any doubts. Rather, they were all in high spirits.

Although they were not afraid of death, wouldn't it be better if they did not die?

At two o'clock in the afternoon, 28 missiles rose into the air from the rear of the Pyro Company's front lines after the target coordinates were locked in. The missiles resembled the Holy Lance as they spat out long columns of fire in the sky and flew accurately towards the target locations.

Amid loud explosions, the Great Wall shook. A large amount of dust fell from the walls and covered the soldiers standing underneath it in a layer of dirt.

During this commotion, a gate in the Great Wall was slowly raised. Then tens of thousands of troops formed a long column and marched off towards the northern forest.

Military off-road vehicles drove out one after another, followed closely by the Pyro Company's E-33 armored vehicles and E-34 tanks that were equipped with machine guns.

The Central Plains people's competence in ground attacks was finally going on display in front of the barbarians.

This time, Ren Xiaosu and the recon company were sitting in a few of the armored vehicles as they set off for the north. It was only after they entered the northern forest that they split off from the main forces.

At this moment, the students at the field hospital were still waiting for Ren Xiaosu to get back so that they could ask for his autograph. But little did they expect that Ren Xiaosu would not return to the field hospital again after he departed this time.

...

At the front line of Mt. Daniu, south of Stronghold 176.

“All clear here.”

“All clear here as well.”

The messages were being transmitted with a unique frequency through the radio. A five-man team consisting of the Wang Consortium’s elite special forces was infiltrating the north of Mt. Daniu, and their mission was to investigate the troop movements of the northern barbarians.

After Stronghold 176 was destroyed, the Wang Consortium’s main forces retreated to the area around Mt. Daniu and waited for the troops that had occupied the Kong Consortium to arrive and join up with them.

In fact, over the past half a month, the Wang Consortium had experienced a few more battles than the Pyro Company did. After all, they were the first to bear the brunt of the barbarians’ attacks after they marched south.

The war situation was extremely tragic, and it only improved after the Wang Consortium’s main forces arrived at the defensive line at Mt. Daniu.

The good news was that the barbarians seemed to have suffered heavy losses as well. This northern tribe no longer attacked forcefully but turned to guerrilla warfare in the mountains instead.

The five-man team had quickly infiltrated the north of Mt. Daniu, with their destination this time being Wanggan Ridge. That place was one of the known forward operating bases operated by the barbarians.

The Wang Consortium had captured a few barbarians and interrogated them. In the end, they confessed that a general of the expeditionary army was stationed there.

“We’re still 21 clicks away from the target location and will be arriving in two hours,” the captain of the special forces team said on the radio.

Two hours later, the five-man team trekked over other mountain ridges exceptionally smoothly. This left them a little puzzled as they did not encounter a single barbarian along the way.

When they saw Wanggan Ridge from afar, the five-man team was stunned. The captain quickly reported to the rear on the radio, “Wanggan Ridge is no longer occupied by any enemies. I repeat, the expeditionary army at Wanggan Ridge has already disappeared!”

They could only see the messy garbage left behind on Wanggan Ridge through their binoculars. The campfires had been put out at some point in time, and it looked like the expeditionary army here had been gone for quite a while.

## **Chapter 886: Waiting for Ren Xiaosu**

**Translator:** Legge

When the six divisions of the Pyro Company advanced towards the northern forest, the massive formation of infantry troops moving behind the cover of the E-33 armored vehicles and E-34 tanks looked extremely magnificent.

The Pyro Company was taking a layered approach as they advanced forward in the wilderness. The tens of thousands of troops who were densely packed together on the ground awed those watching from the top of the Great Wall. This was the power of the Central Plains people.

Due to the missile barrage, a wildfire had started burning in the forest. But at this moment, the first spring rain started falling from the sky. Before the wildfire could burn uncontrollably, it was extinguished.

The 3rd Division did not launch an all-out attack yet like the other divisions. Instead, they only dispatched a recon company and an infantry brigade exactly like they had done yesterday.

Curious, Ren Xiaosu asked P5092 about this arrangement. P5092's answer was that the main force of the 3rd Division had always been the artillery, and the artillery were best at fighting positional battles. In a battle where they were required to advance quickly, the artillery would only become a burden.

So instead of bringing a burden with them, it would be better to leave the artillery on the Great Wall and let them play their optimal role.

P5092 was still a little uneasy about this battle. If any problem cropped up in the north, they would still have the artillery as their trump card on the Great Wall to provide cover for the rest of the troops to retreat.

When they were about to enter the forest, P5092 suddenly ordered Ren Xiaosu's armored vehicle to stop. He came over to the side of the vehicle and said to Ren Xiaosu, "I need you to maintain full communications at all times."

Ren Xiaosu wondered, "Why?"

"Because I need to use your understanding of the barbarians and the wilderness to fight this battle." P5092 explained, "During the battle at Mt. Dashi and yesterday's battle, I realized your anticipation of where the barbarians would appear has fully exceeded my expectations. So I need your help in this battle."

Ren Xiaosu thought for a moment and said, "But you're the commander."



P5092 shook his head. "What the commander needs to do is not to indulge in arbitrary decisions but to use whatever useful resources, intelligence, and manpower to win the war."

Being the commander did not mean one was omnipotent. A commander was inferior to the recon troops when it came to gathering intelligence, and he was inferior to the T5 combatants when it came to open battle. However, the reason why P5092 was able to become one of the top commanders in the Pyro Company was because he was good at leveraging others' strength.

In Mt. Dashi, it was the same when he felt he could not resolve the problem of the barbarians' sneak attack on the military base. As such, he applied for a special forces unit from outside the 3rd Division to take on that mission.

Ren Xiaosu felt that this humility was actually very good. War was very pragmatic. Even if you insisted you could handle everything, the outcome would not just play along with what you expected.

P5092 then said, "Furthermore, we need two snipers to provide suppressing fire on the front. So after seriously contemplating things just now, I felt that the recon company would only become a burden to you two if you had to lead them. In that case, why don't we have the two of you act alone instead?"

The recon company's commander, T40219, was also seated in the armored vehicle. When he heard his commander say the recon company was a burden, he was a little speechless. Although he knew this was the truth, the commander could have been a little more subtle.

The recon company was definitely not a burden to the Pyro Company, but the soldiers knew that if Ren Xiaosu were to be attached to them, he would indeed be a little restrained.

Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin jumped out of the armored vehicle, and he said, "Alright then, the two of us will act alone. I also think it's better that way."

Only by doing so could he and Yang Xiaojin roam freely in the forest without becoming obvious targets on the battlefield.

P5092 watched Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin depart. When they left, Ren Xiaosu even took a copy of the command center's map with him. It was labeled with grid coordinates that marked various zones so it would be easier for Ren Xiaosu to provide information and coordinate with them.

The battle had started, and the forest was rumbling. The usually quiet forest was now especially active as startled birds in the treetops flew off into the distance.

There were many soldiers across the Pyro Company's six divisions. The elder from the Pyro Company had originally ordered P5092 to command this battle, but in fact, the Pyro Company did not officially appoint an acting commander for the battle. So P5092's authority as commander was only limited to the planning of the battle. Once it started, the other P5 division commanders would no longer have to follow his lead.

In this battle, a few of the division commanders intended to vie for the position of commander-in-chief of the military corps. This was also the reason why everyone had targeted P5092. It was because they did not want him to keep getting all the credit with his contributions.

But now they discovered that P5092 had only brought along an infantry brigade with him. How then was he supposed to vie for credit with them? As such, the division commanders breathed a momentary sigh of relief.

Although there were a lot of troops in an infantry brigade, the numbers seemed a little insignificant in the face of this battle.

In the eyes of the other division commanders, the other divisions were going all out in this battle. If the 3rd Division was only sending an infantry brigade, the contributions P5092 could achieve would surely be incomparable to theirs. Therefore, the division commanders even felt that P5092 was showing weakness and concluded that he did not intend to fight for the position of commander-in-chief of the military corps.

The divisions of the Pyro Company would receive a situation report every hour. This was so the various troops would know about the battlefield situation in a timely fashion and have a general understanding of what was happening.

In the first hour after their departure, the other division commanders discovered the 3rd Division's infantry brigade was moving at a slower pace than the other troops.

The other troops were all advancing quickly in hopes of gaining valor, but 3rd Division was not in a hurry at all.

During the second hour of the battle, the other troops started making direct contact with the expeditionary army. In the situation report, the number of enemies killed and casualties suffered was starting to be reported.

However, some of the other P5 division commanders suddenly realized that on the 3rd Division's side, the number of enemies killed or the number of casualties suffered still remained at zero.

It was as though 3rd Division were only here to observe the battle. "You guys fight. We'll just watch."

The other division commanders thought to themselves, *'Could P5092 really have no intention of vying for the position of commander-in-chief of the military corps? Is he voluntarily stepping back after being targeted by the other commanders during the meeting?'*

Actually, it did not matter to them how many enemies the 3rd Division killed. What everyone cared about was P5092's attitude.

But this was also good. If P5092 did not compete with them, they would have one less person to worry about.

At this moment, P5092 was sitting in the command vehicle with his eyes closed. After the infantry brigade entered the forest, they actually slowed their pace further. His adjutant next to him was getting

anxious. After all, if P5092 were to become the commander-in-chief of the military corps, he might even be able to get officially promoted to commander of the 3rd Division.

But P5092 was in no hurry. He knew it would not help to be anxious.

“Sir, the other troops have already started fighting,” his adjutant reminded him. “We already have fewer troops on the battlefield than the others....”

“I’m waiting,” P5092 said without even opening his eyes.

“What are you waiting for?” his adjutant asked.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu’s calm voice rang out over the radio, “Advance towards alpha-one-seven, then turn towards alpha-two-one and set up an ambush.”

### **Chapter 887: Who’s the bait?**

Ren Xiaosu’s cooperation with P5092 was to have Ren Xiaosu voice his ideas for P5092 to follow.

This was what P5092 had suggested. In other words, the entire 3rd Division infantry brigade of the Pyro Company had become Ren Xiaosu’s reinforcements. These few thousand soldiers were only here to provide him with tactical support.

Since Ren Xiaosu ordered them to circle around from A17 to A21 to carry out an ambush and suppress the enemy, the infantry brigade would just have to follow their orders and provide tactical support.

For P5092, this was the best battle plan he had chosen after giving it rational consideration.

An absolutely outstanding commander definitely did not have to take the lead at all times. As long as he could win, he was allowed to achieve it through any method.

P5092 asked on the radio, “How quickly do you need us to reach alpha-two-one? I estimate that the infantry brigade can reach the designated zone in 15 minutes at their fastest.”

“Be there in 15 minutes then.” Ren Xiaosu said, “Set up a temporary machine gun position. When the time comes, some of the barbarian troops might pass through there to surround the other Pyro Company’s divisions. I’ll find a sniping spot in advance and help y’all with suppressing fire.”

P5092 replied, “Alright, we’ll proceed according to your plan.”

P5092’s deputy commander pursed his lips. “I know he’s very powerful, but the strength of two snipers won’t be too effective in a battle involving thousands of people. I’ve even specifically asked and found out they had only taken two anti-materiel sniper rifles with them. But the problem is that they only brought a total of 50 bullets with them. If they can only kill 50 people, that wouldn’t count as providing suppressive fire.”

The adjutant seemed to have developed a deep resentment towards Ren Xiaosu because he was so often slapped in the face by his actions. It was not that he hated Ren Xiaosu. On the contrary, he really admired him, but he just wanted to “win” for once.

P5092 looked at him in amusement. “Just wait and see.”

With that, the Pyro Company's 3rd Division quickly set off towards A21. When they got there, the entire infantry brigade speedily set up their position in an orderly manner. It only took the soldiers five minutes to dig a simple trench with their entrenching tools and complete the setup of 12 machine gun nests.

In war, tactics alone were not enough. If the soldiers on the battlefield did not have strong operational ability, all tactics would be useless.

After waiting five minutes, everything went as Ren Xiaosu had expected. There really was a group of barbarians passing through not far from their position!

When the adjutant discovered the barbarians, he felt a little helpless. At the very least, he had to admit that Ren Xiaosu's reconnaissance capability and judgment skills in this forest were like cheating.

P5092 quietly looked at the barbarians who were planning to quickly pass through A21. He glanced at the map and realized they were planning to take a detour to attack 6th Division.

"Open fire and take out these barbarian troops," P5092 said.

"Should we inform 6th Division to get their rearguard to surround the barbarians together with us?" the adjutant asked. "There's probably close to a 1,000 barbarians here. If they attack our position, they'll likely charge us before we can finish killing them. Sir, look at them, they even have those leather shields with them."

With the barbarians' physical fitness, it would be very dangerous if a few of their warriors, who were comparable to the Pyro Company's T4s, or even the T5s, were to charge into their defensive line.

P5092 thought for a couple seconds. "No need. Attack!"

As they spoke, the Pyro Company members hiding in the forest caught the barbarians off guard. Those barbarians did not seem to have expected there to be Pyro Company members lying in ambush here. They roared as they raised their shields and rushed towards the Pyro Company's position.

P5092 frowned. He had thought the enemy would panic a little. That way, the infantry brigade could inflict more casualties on them.

However, the enemy reacted very quickly. With the shields protecting them, the Pyro Company's machine gun positions were put in danger.

However, P5092 did not immediately make any tactical adjustments. Instead, he continued waiting.

A moment later, the sound of two sniper rifles going off came from the opposite side of the infantry brigade. Two barbarians who were holding up a shield together were shot, and bloody mist spurted out of them.

The shield was extremely heavy and required the combined efforts of five barbarians to lift it. After the two barbarians died, the three remaining barbarians immediately collapsed to the ground.

Once the shield was taken down, the barbarian soldiers being protected behind it were revealed. A gap immediately opened up in the formation of the barbarian troops who were charging in.

This time, it was not only the barbarians who had not expected the snipers to appear behind them. Even P5092's troops did not expect that Ren Xiaosu and Yang Xiaojin would actually dare to hide behind the enemy. If the infantry brigade were any less capable, the barbarians could turn around and surround the both of them!

Seeing that the barbarians had already split off a small portion of their troops to retreat, it looked like they were going to look for the snipers.

P5092 quickly said to his adjutant, "Pin down those barbarians. Don't let them have a chance to find the snipers!"

But just as he finished speaking, they saw that the small group of barbarians that had split off had already started falling down one by one. The snipers were hidden in the shadows, and since the barbarians did not have any effective long-range killing powers, they could only allow themselves to be slaughtered by the snipers.

In the blink of an eye, dozens of barbarians had already died to the snipers.

The barbarians had originally been charging in a direction with the snipers behind them. Now that they were being attacked from both front and back, they were caught in a dilemma.

As the barbarians fell one after another, the adjutant suddenly muttered, "Didn't they only bring 50 bullets with them? But they must've already killed nearly a 100 of these barbarians, right?"

P5092 suddenly wondered if Ren Xiaosu had used him as bait to ambush the barbarians in A21.

Wasn't the purpose of the infantry brigade right now to pin down the barbarians from the front so they would have no choice but to reveal their backs to the snipers?

Thinking that he had also acted as someone else's bait, P5092 could not help but reveal a smile. This was way too interesting.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu asked on the radio, "How does it feel to be bait?"

P5092 laughed and said, "It feels pretty good."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He had wanted to take this opportunity to make P5092 the bait so he could tell him it did not feel good to be bait. Then when they got to the Northwest, he could tell P5092 not to casually use others as bait anymore.

But after P5092 was used as bait, he actually said it felt quite good? Ren Xiaosu was somewhat confused.

How should he try to persuade and change P5092?

At this moment, the hundreds of barbarians who remained were looking to retreat. They held up more than a dozen shields to protect their front and back and scuttled off in another direction.

But before they could get far, they heard gunshots coming from yet another direction.

This P5092 stunned. When they heard the rapid and continuous gunshots earlier, they thought this was the result of two snipers firing at the same time. After all, their Pyro Company's anti-materiel sniper rifles were designed to be bolt action to ensure accuracy.

Therefore, it would be impossible for a sniper to shoot so quickly.

But now they realized there was actually only one sniper behind the barbarians during the encounter thus far. Meanwhile, the other sniper was waiting in the other direction the barbarians might escape towards.

### **Chapter 888: What on earth is the 3rd Division doing?**

After the battle ended, Ren Xiaosu got the infantry brigade to head to A22.

P5092 said, "The soldiers need to reorganize first."

"It's fine, alpha-two-two is safe. Head there to reorganize instead." Ren Xiaosu said, "It's no longer safe at alpha-two-one." Then Ren Xiaosu switched off communications.

After the infantry brigade left, Ren Xiaosu appeared on the battlefield and started picking up the axes happily.

Actually, A21 was still very safe. The reason why he got the infantry brigade to leave was purely to make it more convenient for him to collect the axes. After all, there was no way he could collect them if the infantry brigade was around, right?

However, Ren Xiaosu also had other motives after picking up the axes. That was because he realized all the barbarians he had encountered today were wearing helmets and armored masks.

Other people might not think much of it and would just assume they were standard issue gear for the barbarians upon stepping into total war. After all, the barbarians were the weakest at their heads and eyes, so there was nothing wrong with protecting those areas.

But Ren Xiaosu started feeling doubtful. He somehow felt that something was wrong. If it were standard issue gear, why didn't they wear them before?

After he finished collecting all the axes, he pulled off the helmet of a barbarian. He was stunned. He saw the barbarian's hair was all gray, and the cheeks underneath his beard were full of wrinkles.

Although the northern tribe's people looked different from the Central Plains people, it was still very easy to distinguish between the young and the old.

This person in front of him was clearly an old barbarian!

What was this situation with the expeditionary army? Could it be that their battlefield had been stretched too far, so they did not have enough soldiers and had to send their older veterans onto the battlefield?

That couldn't be it, right?

Ren Xiaosu took off the helmets of a dozen barbarians in quick succession. Most of them were middle-aged, while a few were already in their old age. This puzzled him a great deal.

It was no wonder 3rd Division did not seem to have struggled much just now. So it was because they were fighting against a group of old soldiers.

As the saying goes, fists of the young and strong are feared. Once a person reached a certain age, they would definitely experience a decline in their bodily functions. Presumably, the barbarians were no exception.

They might still have some strength left, but their stamina was definitely not as good as when they were younger.

Ren Xiaosu did not know if this discovery would be considered good news or not. He would have to discuss it with P5092 later.

The voice from the palace suddenly said, "An ongoing quest has not been completed after a prolonged period. The deadline for the quest will be three hours from now. Please complete it as soon as possible. Otherwise, one of your Basic Skill Duplication Scrolls will be destroyed."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. Only then did he remember the palace had issued him with a quest during the previous time he led the recon troops into the forest. Furthermore, he did not manage to complete it at that time.

This was the first time he had failed to complete a quest. He was not expecting the palace would actually implement a penalty for that.

It looked like he had to think of a way to finish it.

...

In the fourth hour after the Pyro Company's divisions entered the forest, the situation report left everyone stunned.

For the past three hours, the 3rd Division seemed to have become completely invisible on the battlefield. They did not kill any enemies, nor did they suffer any casualties.

When the other division commanders heard the updates, they thought P5092 was just here to clock his participation. But with the 3rd Division only activating an infantry brigade for this battle, it seemed that they had expressed their stance very clearly.

However, by the fourth hour of battle, the number of enemies 3rd Division had killed suddenly increased to more than 900. But the strangest thing was that they didn't suffer any casualties!

The various divisions had also started fighting the barbarians. The barbarians had coarse skin and thick shields, breaking past several of the Pyro Company's defensive positions so far and causing massive casualties.

What was even more shocking was that they actually encountered an elite among the barbarians in this forest. That barbarian wore heavy armor and was covered by a helmet and armored mask. He went up against heavy machine gun fire alone and flipped over three armored vehicles and two tanks with his bare hands!

It was extremely shocking to witness such power with their own eyes.

In the eyes of normal people, armored vehicles and tanks symbolized strength and destruction. Even the rumbling of the armored vehicles moving on the ground could make one feel as though their hearts were being crushed.

However, there was actually someone among the barbarians strong enough to flip tanks with their bare hands? At this level, they might even be able to crush the T5s!

Even though it was not heavy tanks that had been deployed this time, they still weighed 40 tons. In addition to five people sitting inside with their weapons and ammunition, the total weight was around 41 tons.

Of course, the barbarian did not strictly flip the vehicles over by lifting the armored vehicles and tanks. They were basically tilted up from the side and overturned. This way, the barbarian did not have to fully bear all 41 tons of weight, but that was still scary enough for the Pyro Company soldiers!

When the soldiers saw that sight, they even felt that no firearms other than a missile could deal any damage to that barbarian!

In this encounter, the Pyro Company had sacrificed several hundred soldiers in order to deal with the barbarian. In fact, it took a unit of special forces led by a T5 combatant to finally surround and kill him.

Moreover, the barbarian was only killed when a T5 combatant managed to get the barbarian's helmet and armored mask off during battle before a soldier with excellent marksmanship shot him in the eye.

Compared to this, the 3rd Division managed to kill nearly a 1,000 barbarians without suffering any casualties. This made all the other division commanders wonder what the 3rd Division was doing.

A division commander said to his staff officer next to him, "I know that you're close with a staff officer from 3rd Division. The two of you graduated in the same class, so find an opportunity to check what they are doing when you communicate with him next time."



“Understood.” The combat staff officer said.

By the fifth hour of the battle, there were no changes to the statistics achieved by the 3rd Division. There was no increase in the number of enemies killed, nor were there any casualties suffered.

The staff officer from the 7th Division called the 3rd Division over the radio. When the familiar voice of his classmate answered the call, he went straight to the point and asked, “What’s everyone at 3rd Division doing?”

The 3rd Division staff officer hesitated for a moment before replying, “We’re not doing anything.”

“What do you mean you’re not doing anything?” The 7th Division’s staff officer was stunned. “Our soldiers are either only marching or fighting. You guys would have to be doing something, right?”

“We’re really not doing anything.”

“Wait a minute, why do I hear someone singing Five Little Ducks over there?” The 7th Division’s staff officer was stunned again. He placed the transceiver close to his ear and even covered his other ear to listen more carefully.

But before he could hear it clearly, the other party hurriedly ended the call.

The P5 commander of the 7th Division looked at his staff officer and asked, “What exactly is the 3rd Division doing?”

The staff officer hesitated for a moment before answering, “It sounded like they were singing nursery rhymes?!”

The senior commander across from him stayed silent for a moment before asking, “Do you think I’m stupid or something?”

### **Chapter 889: Strolled through like this last time too**

After four hours of battle, practically all of the divisions started paying more attention to the situation reports due to the 3rd Division’s contributions. Most of the soldiers wanted to know what the 3rd Division was doing and why they could annihilate nearly a 1,000 barbarians without suffering any casualties.

At this moment, the six divisions of the Pyro Company were fanning out towards the north in six different directions.

Although the Pyro Company had suffered many casualties in the battle thus far, it was still within their acceptable limits.

By the fifth hour, it had turned dark, and the situation report arrived as scheduled. The first thing the other five division commanders did was to check the statistics achieved by the 3rd Division.

In the end, the 3rd Division’s statistics remained at a standstill again for the hour, with no changes in the number of kills and casualties suffered.

This puzzled the other division commanders. They had no clue what the 3rd Division was up to.

Normally, even if no new battles had occurred in the past hour, they should still have encountered some scattered barbarians along the way. However, the statistics of the 3rd Division did not change at all. Could it be that they had remained in their position without moving?

However, by the sixth hour, the 3rd Division wiped out another 3,000-odd barbarians within an hour after nightfall. Meanwhile, they only suffered a few dozen casualties!

This rate of casualties could only be described as terrifying. If the other divisions tried to kill more than 3,000 barbarians, they would still lose over a 1,000 people no matter how good their battle went.

This was what war was like. It was the norm to use one's own troops to deplete the enemy's troops!

By the seventh hour, when the new situation report was announced, the other division commanders were all stunned, because the 3rd Division had reached the top of the standings by killing 12,000 barbarians in total. In this past hour, the 3rd Division's total number of annihilated enemies had suddenly jumped to become the highest among the divisions.

Although the battle progress was not purely based on statistics, the P5 commanders were basically competing with each other. It was not yet time for them to really discuss their contributions, so what else could they do but compare the statistics from the situation reports?

As a matter of fact, the 3rd Division that came to the forest only consisted of an infantry brigade. Their military strength was only one-third of the other troops!

In other words, the 3rd Division had fewer troops than the other divisions, yet they still killed more barbarians than the rest. It was very clear. Some of the staff officers of the other divisions were thinking that it was no wonder their commanders always regarded P5092 as their potential competitor. P5092 was indeed very capable.

But even if the 3rd Division was strong, their contributions would still have to be logical, right? How could an infantry brigade with a few thousand soldiers wipe out more than 10,000 barbarians? And from the looks of it, they only suffered several hundred casualties!

No matter what kinds of battles the 3rd Division had gone through, the results were still a great victory!

For a moment, the other P5 commanders felt a sense of urgency and immediately started to formulate their next battle plan.

However, the various division commanders also realized something. Perhaps it was due to the fierce attacks of the Pyro Company's divisions, or that the barbarians had been devastated by the missile attacks, but after night fell, the battle was going smoother and smoother.

The initially fearless barbarians began to retreat in defeat. The Pyro Company's divisions were like divine troops that had entered the battle as they started chasing after the barbarians in attack!

This boosted the confidence of the Pyro Company soldiers greatly. The worried expressions on the P5 commanders' faces were also replaced by smiles.

At this moment, Yang Xiaojin was walking in the forest with a sniper rifle slung over her shoulder. She asked Ren Xiaosu next to her, "Why are you suddenly in such a hurry? You're practically leading that infantry brigade to kill the barbarians without rest."

Ren Xiaosu answered, "I've always wanted to kill the barbarians, but I want to kill them even more now. I have something I must do, and that's to help our comrades ease their anxiety within the next three hours."

"Is that your quest?" Yang Xiaojin asked curiously. This was the first time she had heard Ren Xiaosu mention this.

However, she was not surprised. After all, who would suddenly pull her away to jump rope together in the mountains if it were not for a quest?

Ren Xiaosu nodded and said, "I can't explain it to you in-depth. I've tried many ways to ease everyone's anxiety. I couldn't do it by putting on a show for them, and neither did it work when I made the soldiers perform...."

Yang Xiaojin was speechless. She thought to herself, *'You're only making the soldiers on the battlefield even more nervous!'*

Then Ren Xiaosu said, "So I'm reconsidering what I need to do to complete this quest. What is the source of the soldiers' anxiety?"

Yang Xiaojin turned around and looked at him.

Ren Xiaosu said with certainty, "The source of their anxiety is the barbarians! So I wonder if they will be less nervous after all the barbarians are killed? Everyone in the forest doesn't know what they'll be facing next. A group of barbarians could pop up at any moment, so who wouldn't be nervous? But after the barbarians have been cleared out of this forest, won't everyone feel at ease? Do you think what I said makes sense? This is why we have to quickly kill all of the barbarians!"

Yang Xiaojin thought for a moment and felt that there was indeed nothing wrong with this logic. Although it sounded a little extreme, it was a way to resolve his problem. He was going straight for the root of the problem.

But she suddenly said, "Have you ever considered that you can actually come up with a proper mobilization plan for the battle to ease their tension?"

"That so?" Ren Xiaosu was taken aback. "Never mind! Since we've already killed so many barbarians, let's just continue doing it!"

As he spoke, Ren Xiaosu quickened his pace. "Follow me. Old Xu has encountered a small group of barbarians, but they've already been killed. Come with me and collect the axes."

With Old Xu's current strength, even a T5 combatant would get crushed by it, let alone the barbarians.

At this moment, P5092's voice crackled over the radio. "Ren Xiaosu, what's your next plan?"

"Oh, I just encountered a small group of barbarians over here. Wait a moment," Ren Xiaosu said.

Puzzled, P5092 asked, "Which zone? We'll quickly head over to provide support."

"No need, I've already killed them all."

These words transmitted to everyone's earpiece kept replaying in their minds. In fact, the 3rd Division had only engaged in one head-on battle in the past hour. For the rest of the time, they only heard Ren Xiaosu reporting over the radio in monotone the number of enemies he had killed. P5092 and the others did not even know where the barbarians had appeared before they got killed by Ren Xiaosu...

This was a little different from their previously agreed upon battle strategy. At the beginning, everyone was cooperating and dividing up the workload, so there was still a sense of participation by everyone.

But now, there was really no sense of participation to speak of anymore. Everyone was just following Ren Xiaosu and advancing forward. They could even chat along the way since the barbarians in front had already been killed by Ren Xiaosu.

P5092 suddenly felt that Ren Xiaosu's combat style seemed to have changed. It was as though he had been hiding his strength before this, but now, he was unleashing everything he had.

The recon company's troops expressed they were not unfamiliar with this feeling. That was because they had strolled through their last mission like this too.

### **Chapter 890: Idiot**

Not only had the recon company gained experience by strolling through their missions, but they also imparted that experience to their comrades. "Don't worry, that's just how he is. Being a sniper is only his title; his close combat skills are actually even more terrifying. Have you heard how he caught the axe below the Great Wall and threw it back at the enemy? When I turned around and saw the axe, I thought I was dead for sure. But he caught the axe with his bare hands and even killed a barbarian with it..."

"So there's no need to worry too much. We can just march forward in peace," a soldier from the recon company said calmly.

Ren Xiaosu probably did not expect the recon company to actually start telling their comrades not to worry.

After seemingly enough barbarians had been killed, and the fact that they had it so easy thus far, the soldiers of the infantry brigade gradually let go of their fear and nervousness.

As Ren Xiaosu detoured back to pick up the axes, he suddenly heard the voice from the palace say, "Quest complete. Awarded two allocatable attribute points."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He added one each to his Strength and Dexterity. His Strength and Dexterity now reached 17.5 and 17.1, respectively.

“That’s strange. Why was the quest suddenly completed?” Ren Xiaosu was still a little puzzled. This was the first time he did not know how he had completed a quest.

As he was picking up the axes, Yang Xiaojin saw he was also taking off the barbarians’ helmets. Curious, she asked, “Are you collecting their helmets too?”

“No, those helmets smell of their greasy heads. Who would want them?” Ren Xiaosu said, “I’m just checking out the age of these barbarians.”

As a result, Ren Xiaosu realized the barbarians he encountered this time were all their elderly!

At the beginning, only 20% of the barbarians he encountered were their elderly, so it did not make Ren Xiaosu too suspicious. But now that this group of barbarians were all elderly people, Ren Xiaosu realized something must be wrong.

If the barbarians did not have enough manpower and had to send their elderly into battle, why not just retreat? The old barbarians’ combat power was way too weak.

It was no wonder the Pyro Company’s main forces were able to advance so smoothly until now. So it turned out that it was not that they were strong, but that the barbarian troops had become weaker!

Ren Xiaosu switched on the radio and shouted, “P5092, P5092, answer me if you can hear me.”

The soldiers of 3rd Division lowered their heads and did not say anything. This was the first time they had encountered anyone shout at their commander like that. However, they could not afford to offend Ren Xiaosu either, so they could only pretend not to have heard him.

Puzzled, P5092 asked, “What’s the matter?”

“I’m in bravo-one-one. Come over here for a moment, I have something to discuss with y’all.” As Ren Xiaosu was not far away from the 3rd Division, they arrived very quickly.

P5092 immediately saw a bunch of gray-haired barbarians scattered across the ground. He asked, “What’s this?”

“These are the barbarians that I just killed,” Ren Xiaosu said.

P5092 took a look at them. The barbarian corpses were all covered in slash wounds, and it looked like Ren Xiaosu had directly attacked over a 100 of them.

His way of putting it sounded really strange. It was as though a person had surrounded more than a 100 people, yet that was just what happened.

Ren Xiaosu said, “Look, these barbarians are all the elderly. I seriously suspect that the reason why they suddenly put on their helmets was to cover up the fact that they’re old barbarians.”

P5092 crouched down to have a look. "Were the barbarians we encountered earlier the same? Why weren't they equipped with their axes?"

"Uh..." Ren Xiaosu looked around. "I'm not sure either...."

It was not that these barbarians did not carry axes but that they had been taken away by Ren Xiaosu.

However, that was not the main point. P5092 asked, "Did you also check the barbarians that were killed previously? Scouts, quickly go back and check those barbarians that were killed earlier. Check their age and the ratio of the elderly to their total numbers!"

P5092's reaction was very fast. In an instant, he felt something was not right and that he had to analyze the earlier situations along with this discovery.

However, Ren Xiaosu quickly stopped him. "I've already checked. There's no need for the scouts to go back. Among the barbarians that we encountered previously, the ratio of the elderly was either 30 to 70 or 20 to 80. There weren't that many of them in our previous encounters, but it's different this time. These barbarians here are all old."

Ren Xiaosu had to stop the recon company from heading back to the earlier battlefields. Otherwise, they would discover that all the axes had disappeared.

Then it wouldn't be a war incident but a paranormal one.

Ren Xiaosu changed the subject and said, "Why do you think the barbarians did this?"

"I'm not sure." The first thought that came to P5092's mind was that they did not have enough soldiers. However, he gave it some thought. "Something feels off somewhere."

At this moment, a radio operator ran over. "Sir! The 6th Division has announced that they've captured the leader of the expeditionary army's advance guard, Valentin! The main forces of the barbarians have already been defeated and are fleeing back towards the North!"

In all wars since ancient times, capturing the ringleader first before capturing his followers was almost always a shortcut to victory. Once the enemy's highest-ranking officer was captured or killed, the rest of the troops were as good as defeated. On one hand, it was because they would be left without a leader, and on the other hand, their morale would decline.

After all, morale was one of the most important factors in a war.

But now that the highest-ranking officer of the expeditionary army's advance guard, Valentin, had been captured, the defeat of the barbarians in the forest was set in stone.

But P5092 felt that something was amiss. He said to the radio operator, "Connect me with the 6th Division immediately!"

When the call connected, P5092 bluntly said, "This is P5092. I'm looking for P5031."

P5031 was the highest-ranking officer of the 6th Division. However, the deputy commander who answered the call said, "I'm sorry, our commander is currently busy commanding the troops and has no time to answer your call. Why don't you tell me what's the matter, and I'll inform him."

P5092 sneered in his head. He knew full well that 031 was next to the radio and just did not want to answer his call. What speaking authority did a deputy commander have when it came to a confidential call between two P5 commanders? Since this deputy commander dared to say he would help pass on the message, he must have been ordered by 031 to do so. How else would a P4 deputy dare to speak like that?

After the other party captured Valentin, P5031 probably felt that the position of commander-in-chief of the military corps was in the bag. Therefore, he did not intend to care about P5092.

Then, if P5031 were really promoted, this deputy commander would immediately get promoted to become a P5 commander and be on par with P5092. Therefore, he was not worried about P5092 either.

P5092 said coldly, "Don't be in a hurry to chase the barbarians north. Let me ask you: How did you all find out the person you captured was the barbarians' advance guard commander, Valentin?"

The deputy commander sounded a little impatient. "When we captured him alive, he was surrounded by a group of barbarians. After we captured him, we interrogated him, and he admitted it himself! Furthermore, the barbarians also started fleeing back towards the North after he was caught, so how could this be fake?"

P5092 sneered and said, "What if he's lying? I'm warning you all: You're not to continue pursuing northwards!"

The deputy commander replied, "The battle in the forest ended when we captured Valentin. You're no longer the acting commander, so our 6th Division will formulate our own battle plan. There's no need to trouble you. If you're worried that all the credit will go to the 6th Division, why don't you take the initiative and go kill more barbarians instead?"

After that, the deputy commander surprisingly hung up. P5092 muttered coldly, "Idiot."