

EYE WITNESSES GIVE FIRST INTIMATE TALE OF GREAT SEA FIGHT

Tramp Steamer Was Innocent Cause of Clash Between British and German Ships.

TEUTONS OUTNUMBERED

British Said to Have Had 70 to 80 Ships in Fleet, Germans 40 or Less, With Zeppelins.

Copenhagen, Denmark, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—When the history of the great war comes to be written, it will be set down that a little tramp steamer, plying from port to port, on the North Sea, was the innocent cause of Wednesday's great collision between the German and British fleets.

Merchant ships caught in the zone of fighting brought here today the first eye witness stories of the terrific clash off Jutland, on Wednesday afternoon and night.

German Ships Outnumbered.

According to these stories, the German fleet was vastly outnumbered. The captain of the Danish vessel *Miskow* states that he sighted the British fleet a short time before the battle and that it numbered from 70 to 80 ships. The *Politiken* yesterday afternoon printed tales brought to port by Danish sailors to the effect that the German fleet consisted of 25 dreadnaughts, eight cruisers and 50 torpedo boats.

The crew of the Danish steamer *Naesborg*, who saw part of the battle, estimates the German fleet at about 40 ships, ranging from battleships to torpedo boats. With the fleet were Zeppelins.

Tramp Starts Conflict.

The story of the battle is really the story of the *Naesborg*, the tramp over which it all occurred.

According to the story gleaned by the *Politiken*, the accounts of sailors from two British torpedo boats stopped the *Naesborg* on Wednesday afternoon to examine its papers. While the formality was taking place a German fleet appeared on the horizon. While the British made ready for a running fight, the Germans opened fire. Several hundred shells splashed around the torpedo boats, but no hits were made. The British pulled back, and the *Naesborg*, between themselves and the Teutons, fled toward the west. The German squadron, pursued the British vessels.

Started at 4 O'Clock.

They steamed off beyond the horizon. Then, firing was heard. The *Naesborg* was held up at about 4 o'clock. The first heavy firing was heard about an hour later. The scene of the first clash is given as about 120 miles west of Hantsford.

Shortly after the German squadron dashed by, two Zeppelins were sighted flying rapidly to the westward. They were going in the direction of the fleet.

The four-hour battle was a heavy firing being, the battle raged. Finally the sea was quiet again about 9 o'clock at night.

Shells Lash Water.

The crew told of how Wednesday afternoon when off Hantsford, the *Naesborg* met a German fleet steaming at full speed, half hidden in the smoke, in a southerly direction.

At about 3.30 o'clock, the German warships began firing toward the south. Shells from unseen warships began falling around the *Naesborg*, the bombardment from beyond the horizon steadily increased. Projectiles lashed the water until the sea boiled.

The *Naesborg* fled for safety. The last it saw of the German fleet, practically every ship was firing by the broadside. An hour later, a Zeppelin was sighted, flying low.

The cannonade lasted until late in the evening.

GERMAN DREADNAUGHTS SANK CRUISERS, FLED LATER, BRITISH VERSION

(Continued From Page One)

hind the cruisers and low banking bombs was the German battle fleet of dreadnaughts and superdreadnaughts. Beatty, commander of the British fleet, treated before the heavy German guns were able to do deadly execution.

Super-Dreadnaughts Rush Up.

His cruisers and destroyers were shattered by the heavy fire and Beatty signalled for help. Sir John Jellicoe, England's guardian of the sea, headed his fleet of super-dreadnaughts to the rescue.

Then came the battle of ages. With dreadnaught against dreadnaught, battleship against battleship, and cruiser against cruiser, the guns of the mighty sea forces belched forth their fire. Not a British dreadnaught was lost. The German statement of the sinking of the *Wapscipe* is officially denied. But two German dreadnaughts succumbed to the British fire and the retreat was ordered.

Small Craft Fight at Night.

From mid afternoon until darkness began to fall the main battle raged. At 9.20 in the evening the finish of the encounter of big ships came. All during the fight torpedo boats and submarines had been used for small sallies, but with the fall of darkness came the real struggle for the smaller craft.

Like Infantrymen in Land Fighting.

These small boats made desperate charges against the lines of their enemy. Eight British destroyers were lost. The Germans lost six.

It was declared at the admiralty today that in the German torpedo boat charges, not one torpedo scored a hit. After Jellicoe arrived and the torpedo attacks were completed, the Germans withdrew.

Jellicoe Waited All Night.

Jellicoe remained on the scene of the battle during the remainder of the night. On Thursday morning, when there remained nothing to fire at, he returned to the British coast.

Most of the fighting was at a range of from five to six miles. It was established this afternoon that despite his narrow escape, Admiral Beatty has returned safely to port.

At the admiralty it is considered the British fleet fully showed its superiority to the Germans. Emphasis is laid on the fact that Jellicoe waited on the scene for many hours for further possible action, but that the Germans did not again offer battle with the English when they offered their full strength.

The sum total of the English claims at the admiralty is that a portion of the British fleet met a portion of the

German fleet and forced it to retire, also that the Germans were in their own waters while the British were nearly 500 miles from home.

If the encounter in Jutland fought in British waters, not a single German would have reached home, was one official statement of the admiralty.

A story in circulation that Prince Albert, King George's sailor son, was in the engagement was denied today.

British Losses Large.

"The admiralty this afternoon stated that the loss of life is unknown, in cases where ships exploded owing to torpedoes or gunfire."

"The British losses in men were very large owing to the fact that three British ships were from inferior positions, an admiralty statement said."

"Admiral Hood of the *Invincible*, went down with his ship."

Admiral Hood's wife is an American woman, the daughter of a former U. S. George Nickerson.

Hood Was King's Aide.

Rear Admiral Horace Alexander Hood was the second son of the fourth Viscount Hood, and in Jutland, in 1912, he was made a commander in the *Summerville* expedition. In 1912 he was aide-de-camp to the king.

Rear Admiral Sir Robert Keith Arbuthnot was born March 28, 1863, and entered the navy in 1877. He was made commander in 1897, captain in 1902, and rear admiral in 1912.

"The John Jellicoe reports that Admiral Hood was a gallant and a daring and gallant," the admiralty statement added.

Marlborough Torpedoed.

"Submarines took part on both sides. The British dreadnaught *Marlborough* got into the zone of submarine torpedoes. She dived three times, but was hit by a fourth, but despite the damage inflicted the *Marlborough* was able to make port."

"Admiral Beatty's call for help was sent to the British main fleet and brought Admiral Jellicoe and an unknown number of British battleships to the scene."

"The main battle then ensued with the British battleships in direct engagements with German battleships, and the British dreadnaughts against the German dreadnaughts. During this part of the battle the Germans lost two dreadnaughts and the British none."

Beatty Forced to Flee.

"When Admiral Beatty endeavored to cut off the Germans from retreat, he discovered the fleet of German battleships on his left where they had been hiding behind German battle cruisers."

"Admiral Beatty was then forced to retreat his course to the open sea. Thus the situation developed with the German battleships and battle cruisers fighting against British battle cruisers."

"The British battle cruisers, which were outnumbered by the Germans, fled toward the west. The German squadron, pursued the British vessels."

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Four Phases to Battle.

"Thus the four phases were comprised, first, of Admiral Beatty's attempt to cut off the Germans; second, his forced retirement to the open sea; third, the arrival of the British main fleet under Admiral Jellicoe, when it became a dreadnaught against dreadnaught fight; and fourth, retirement of the German forces in the face of the British attack."

It was officially stated that the superdreadnaught *Wapscipe* was not sunk. Only a portion of the British fleet met the entire German fleet and forced it to retire to its harbor. It is the official version and official response to whatever idea neutrals may have of the result of the battle.

Reports Poorly Handled.

Whatever opinions to the contrary that may be entertained are regarded here as being due to the poor handling of the first two days of the battle by the British and the "lies of the German." While retreating, the German dreadnaughts fled, and the British cruisers then forced German destroyers, causing heavy losses among the enemy ships from their own guns.

It is admitted that in cases where ships were blown up, the loss of life was approximately the total complement of the crew. In other cases, where the ships were blown up by torpedoes, the loss of life was caused by shell fire, survivors escaped on rafts in large numbers.

Survivors of the *Shark* said a torpedoed ship struck her oil tanks. Her crew was picked up by the British. The *Shark's* commander and two men continued to work this gun to the end. One of the commander's legs was shot off and he went down with his ship.

Loss of Life Heavy.

Portsmouth, England, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—More than 4000 British officers and men were reported to have been lost in the great battle in the North Sea.

As the port commander admitted, there had been no further survivors being picked up. The British losses will undoubtedly total about 5000.

Known losses announced did not include mention of about ten destroyers, which were the only ships which were lost. This would increase the death toll by 1000, although it was stated "a few survivors" of the *Tipperary* have been picked up.

On the German side, the officers went down with their ships were Rear Admiral Arbuthnot, Hood went down with his ship, and the *Invincible* and *Admiral Beatty* were lost.

All others were lost. When all the *Queen Mary* were lost when that ship went down, with the exception of eight men.

On the German side all were lost, including Rear Admiral Arbuthnot. From the *Warrior* all were saved. A few were picked up from the *Tipperary*.

All were lost aboard the *Indefatigable* and the *Black Prince*. The port commander holds out no hope for other survivors.

Eighty-five Lost on *Shark*.

Hull, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—Eighty-five members of the crew of the destroyer *Shark* are believed to have perished when the vessel was sunk in an attack by British destroyers and another dreadnaught of the Kaiser class is believed to have been sunk by gunfire.

"Of the German battle cruisers, two of which it is believed were the *Derfflinger* and *Lutzow*, one was blown up, another which was heavily engaged by the battle fleet was seen to be disabled and stopped and was observed to be seriously damaged."

German Light Cruiser and Six German Destroyers Were Sunk and at Least Two German Light Cruisers Were Seen Disabled.

"The commander in chief further reports that repeated hits were observed

BRITISH VIEW GREAT DEFEAT A SEA FROM PHILOSOPHICAL STAND

Reason Pointed Out to Be Strength of Germans at the Start.

LOSS OF MEN REGRETTED

Ships, Englishmen Feel, Can Be Replaced and Country Still Has Far Superior Naval Force.

By Ed L. Keen.

London, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—British spirit is undaunted and despite the loss of such ships as the *Queen Mary* and *Invincible*, of which all England was proud, together with a dozen other war craft, the disaster of the North Sea battle is viewed philosophically today.

Chief regret centers in the loss of officers and men. The lost ships can be replaced and at all events Great Britain's sea superiority is still too strong for Germany, Englishmen grimly declared.

One of the chief reasons for the heavy British losses is found in the fact pointed out by experts here that the German fleet was not in the line of the Kaiser's navy—were opposed by nothing heavier than British cruisers until the English dreadnaughts appeared.

Germans Fled Dreadnaughts.

In response to wireless calls and hurried signals from torpedo boats and destroyers sent back to bring aid to the assailed cruiser squadron, the great first line ships of Britain swung forward to the scene of battle. When they appeared, however, the Germans fled, and the British still maintain today that Germany has yet to feel the full force of English sea power.

Efficient Zeppelin scouting enabled the Germans at all times to locate approaching warships. However, the German high sea fleet as it rounded the British cruisers and destroyers to pieces, the Zeppelins were able to give warning of the approach of the active combat of the navy.

In the face of the heavy losses admittedly suffered by the British, English stands grimly determined, and confidence in the fleet remains unshaken.

More Air Scouts Needed.

As a result of the assistance rendered by the Zeppelins, an aerial scout advice that the navy be equipped with scouting air forces.

In some quarters the suggestion is made that Sir John Fisher be returned to active command of the navy. In the face of the heavy losses admittedly suffered by the British, English stands grimly determined, and confidence in the fleet remains unshaken.

In clubs, government offices and from men in every walk of life comes the expression that, while the British suffered the greater losses, the encounter need not be regarded as a defeat, as the Germans were forced to flee as soon as the full force of England's grand fleet could be brought into battle.

Battleships Did Execution.

Facing a superior force, the light cruisers, battle cruisers and destroyers fought gallantly, disposing of ships of their own class, despite the low visibility favoring the Germans. The inference is drawn that the greatest execution was done by the German battleships, which were in action from the start, but that their equals in armament drew near they retreated.

Copenhagen dispatches declare that the steamer *Naesborg* arriving there, reported that the German fleet consisted of 45 vessels of all classes. In the British fleet there were only 11 vessels at the start of the fight. Later eight British warships of the first line joined the battle, members of the *Naesborg's* crew declared. The fact that Zeppelins participated in the battle was confirmed by the *Naesborg's* crew. They reported sighting one Zeppelin.

Vessel's Deck Shook to Guns.

With the arrival of the British fleet, the German fleet retired southward. Heavy gun fire was heard far into the night. The captain of the *Naesborg* declared that the German fleet was firing with so great that members of his crew could not stand on deck, although the *Naesborg* was several miles from the scene of action.

The action opened, he said, with several German vessels in pursuit of smaller English craft. Within a few minutes, British cruisers were sighted heading toward the Germans under full steam. The fleeing British craft, then turned, and under heavy fire, steamed into action against the enemy. The warships were first sighted 120 miles off Hantsford.

Weather Was Misty.

All accounts from Dutch sources agree that the German fleet was proceeding as one unit toward the first British ships were encountered. The German fleet is estimated in different reports to have consisted of from 40 to 50 vessels. The weather was very calm, the sea smooth, and the Dutch reports fix the time of opening of the battle at 4.15 in the afternoon. All reports apparently agree that the British were outnumbered at the start and faced heavier vessels. Later, as darkness approached the British Grand Fleet appeared and the Germans began to retire.

Late Statement Issued.

The admiralty issued the following supplementary official statement on the North sea battle shortly after midnight:

"From a further report from the commander in chief of the grand fleet, the admiralty ascertains that our total losses in destroyers was eight."

"The commander in chief reports that it is now possible to form a closer estimate of the losses and the damage suffered by the enemy fleet."

Warships Blown Up.

"A dreadnaught battleship of the Kaiser class was blown up in an attack by British destroyers and another dreadnaught of the Kaiser class is believed to have been sunk by gunfire."

"Of the German battle cruisers, two of which it is believed were the *Derfflinger* and *Lutzow*, one was blown up, another which was heavily engaged by the battle fleet was seen to be disabled and stopped and was observed to be seriously damaged."

"A German light cruiser and six German destroyers were sunk and at least two German light cruisers were seen disabled."

The commander in chief further reports that repeated hits were observed

on three other German battleships that were engaged.

Great Crowds in London Streets.

Rumors that an important naval battle had been fought brought great crowds into the streets early tonight. Expectations of a victory were dispelled by tonight's official announcement.

From the meager details which have filtered through from Holland and Denmark it is evident that both fleets had been in the area where the battle was fought since early Wednesday morning.

Apparently, the Germans opened the battle. The most reliable report states that patrols of the German fleet sighted two British destroyers which had stopped to examine the papers of a neutral vessel, and unseen by British ships rushed back to the main German squadron.

German Destroyers Open Fire. The Germans came upon the two destroyers and immediately opened fire. The destroyers in turn hastened to their squadron, which immediately came upon the scene. The two squadrons, steaming at full speed, came within range of each other somewhere between the Skarv Itak and Horn Reef.

Both fleets immediately brought their big guns into action and a long range battle of extreme violence ensued. It is believed tonight that most of the heavy ships lost were sunk or fatally disabled during this daylight battle.

Two Zeppelins in Battle. At least two Zeppelins appeared over the battle area during the late afternoon and were seen to have taken an important part in the action. Whether they sank any of the British ships is not known. Darkness found the fleets still maneuvering and firing.

Zeppelins were seen to take part in a range duel and shifted the brunt of the battle to the smaller vessels. The German cruiser *Prinzess Alice* was destroyed by the action, possibly fired under the cover of darkness, as was the British ship *Marlborough*.

Though no mention is made of the proximity of the great British high sea fleet, it is conjectured that the other battle cruiser squadron raced to the scene of combat at the first report of fighting.

Germans Given Back to Base.

The arrival of this force is believed to have caused the Germans to dash back to their base. What part submarines took in the action is not known further than the fact that the British admiral reported that a German submarine is believed to have been sunk.

GERMANS SAY BRITISH FLEET IN BATTLE HAD 34 BIG MODERN UNITS

Berlin, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—It is doubtful whether the fall of Verdun would have occasioned greater public rejoicing than the news of Germany's naval victory in the North Sea.

From the emperor down the feeling is one of greatest elation mixed with astonishment. The Germans have believed it possible that their "young blood" might hold its own in ship for ship, with Britain's veterans of the sea, but none had thought it possible to deliver a crushing defeat to a superior force.

Admiral Hipper commanded the German fleet and he is the idol of the empire today.

Vice Admiral Hipper commanded the reconnaissance forces, which engaged the British fleet, and cruisers played a conspicuous part.

Beitrag Told of Victory.

The official statement by the admiralty was supplemented yesterday afternoon by the following statement by Admiral Jellicoe, director of the naval department, told the members:

"The whole German battle fleet, commanded by Admiral Hipper, on Wednesday afternoon met the British battle fleet, which included 34 big modern units. The battle lasted until 9 o'clock at night, reciprocal attacks between cruisers and torpedo boats following throughout the night."

The result was a magnificent success for our forces against a much stronger adversary. In addition to the known losses, nine or ten British destroyers were destroyed, six being disposed of by the dreadnaught *Westfalen*.

No Statement on Lives Lost.

"A definite statement as to the German loss of life is impossible. It is evident that some of the German ships were considerably damaged, but a major portion of the fleet has returned to its harbor. The morale of the crews is excellent."

This public announcement was followed by an address from the president of the Reichstag, delivered to the members with all standing. He said:

"In the first collision between our navy and the navy of the English fleet we have gained a great and splendid success."

English Losses Much Greater.

"Several of our ships have been lost and many of our sailors have perished. But the English losses are several times greater. Above all, proof has been given that our fleet is able to face a superior British force and gain a victory, which we salute and thank our navy."

Personal commendation from the emperor to his fleet will be given today, when the Kaiser is expected to arrive at Wilhelmshaven to inspect the returning navy.

No Battleships Sunk.

London, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—Denial of German claims that the warships of the English fleet were sunk in Wednesday's battle with the German high sea fleet, was made in a statement issued today by Captain William Hall of the intelligence division of the British admiralty. His statement follows:

"The German report of the loss of the *Marlborough* and *Wapscipe* is untrue. Both are safe in a British harbor."

"The report that the entire British battle fleet engaged in the battle is equally untrue. A portion of the British fleet, including the main battle fleet of the Germans, engaged the fleet and drove it back into a harbor."

"The British are in complete control of the North sea."

German Cruiser Scuttled.

Ymuiden, Holland, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—The German cruiser *Elbing* was so badly damaged in the engagement with the British that she was scuttled by her commander, Captain Madlung, according to reports brought here today.

Details of the sinking of the *Elbing* were brought here by members of her crew. The German battle cruiser, three of which it is believed were the *Derfflinger* and *Lutzow*, one was blown up, another which was heavily engaged by the battle fleet was seen to be disabled and stopped and was observed to be seriously damaged."

"A German light cruiser and six German destroyers were sunk and at least two German light cruisers were seen disabled."

"The commander in chief further reports that repeated hits were observed

School Election on Saturday, June 17

Confusion Has Led Many to Believe That Today Is Day Instead of Third Saturday in Month.

Through mistake a report has been spread in some quarters that the school election would be held today. Such is not the case. The election is set for Saturday, June 17.

The misunderstanding is believed to have arisen from someone being told that the election would be held today, Saturday, June 17. The information being twisted to June 3.

On June 17 a successor will be chosen for Judge M. G. Munly, the present chairman of the board.

ADDITIONS TO NAVAL PROGRAM TO RESULT FROM BIG SEA FIGHT

Two Dreadnaughts, Battle Cruiser and Flotilla of Dirigibles Are Proposed.

Washington, June 3.—(U. S. A.)—Two dreadnaughts, one battle cruiser and a flotilla of dirigibles, the equivalent of Zeppelins, will be added by the senate to the naval program endorsed by the house, as the result of lessons from the Skarv Itak naval battle, Chairman Tillman of the senate naval committee said today.

The battle began on the afternoon of the 31st and lasted well into the night. True, if there were four of the largest British super-dreadnaughts supporting the patrol fleet, it becomes imperative to know why these vessels, with their heavy gun power did not do greater damage to the Germans than reported.

It is hard to realize an apparently inferior British force was the time left on patrol duty in the Skarv Itak without immediate support being available behind it.

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