

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

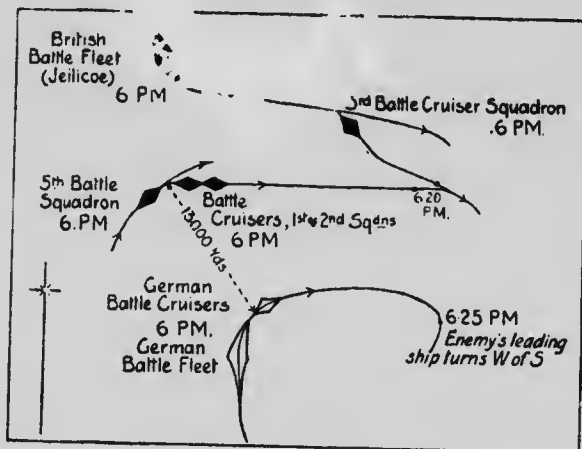
17

hour Rear-Admiral Hood, commanding the Third Battle-cruiser Squadron, was sighted on *Lion's* port bow. Six minutes later, at 5.56 p.m., the leading battleships of the Grand Fleet were discerned due north at a distance of five miles. Simultaneously (5.55 p.m.) Jellicoe's First Cruiser Squadron, under Sir Robert Arbuthnot, came into action ahead of the advancing German line. Beatty's second task was fulfilled. The main fleets were in touch. The German 'enterprise', if Beatty's destruction was its purpose, conclusively had failed.

PHASE III

(See Map II, 6.0-9.24 p.m.)

At 5.50 p.m. the strategic situation reached its crisis. Thousands of tons of shot-belching gun-platforms, after racing up and down the North Sea for two and a half



hours, were now brought together on a common point of action.

Beatty and the German Fleet to the SE. of him were