

24 THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND BANK

of the Battle Fleet, which was accompanied by the 3rd Battle-cruiser Squadron, 1st and 2nd Cruiser Squadrons, 4th Light-cruiser Squadron, 4th, 11th, and 12th Flotillas.¹

The junction of the Battle Fleet with the scouting force after the enemy had been sighted was delayed owing to the southerly course steered by our advanced force during the first hour after commencing their action with the enemy battle-cruisers.² This was, of course, unavoidable, as had our battle-cruisers not followed the enemy to the southward the main fleets would never have been in contact.

The Battle-cruiser Fleet, gallantly led by Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, K.C.B., M.V.O., D.S.O., and admirably supported by the ships of the Fifth Battle Squadron³ under Rear-Admiral Hugh Evan-Thomas, M.V.O., fought an action under, at times, disadvantageous conditions, especially in regard to light, in a manner that was in keeping with the best traditions of the service.

[*The enemy sighted*]

The following extracts from the report of Sir David Beatty give the course of events before the Battle Fleet came upon the scene :—

‘ At 2.20 p.m. reports were received from *Galatea* ⁴ (Commodore Edwyn S. Alexander-Sinclair, M.V.O.,

¹ Under the immediate command of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe.

² See Map II, 3.30–4.40 p.m.

³ Four battleships of the *Queen Elizabeth* class: *Warspite*, *Valiant*, *Barham*, *Malaya*.

⁴ Light armoured cruiser, *Arethusa* class, 3,750 tons, 410 ft. long, 29 knots, 6-inch and lesser armament.