

cruisers of the German Navy carry the same armament at large. The British officers would be aware, therefore, that the two big ships had a broadside of twelve 8·2-inch guns—very powerful weapons—whereas they possessed only two 9·2-inch guns of an old pattern, apart from 6-inch weapons.

By 5.47 the enemy, who had turned south, was seen to be in single line ahead 12 miles off. Admiral Cradock had to decide whether, with inferior force, he would seek an action or endeavour to avoid it—if he could—for his squadron was slower than the German vessels. He may have under-estimated the force opposed to him; he may have decided that an action could not be avoided. In any rate, he increased speed to 17 knots and signalled, of course by wireless, to the battleship "Canopus," "I am going to attack enemy." He determined not to fall back on the battleship, with her four 12-inch guns in two turrets and twelve 6-inch guns in armoured casemates, nor did he call her up. This vessel is seventeen years old, and her speed cannot be more than about 16 knots. The speed of a squadron is that of its slowest ship. The Admiral was evidently anxious that the enemy should not escape him, and the day was already far spent.

Whether it would have been possible to delay action so that the "Canopus" might join the flag, we do not know. It is stated that a signal was sent to the battleship, but the captain of the "Glasgow" also adds that the Germans were "jamming wireless signals"—just as in a crowded room some persons by chattering can make a