

rivals pounded away at each other for some time, but in the end the superior range and weight of our guns told its tale.

In the course of the fight the "Loyal" was hit almost exactly in the middle of the stern, about four feet above the water-line, by a shell which ploughed its way into the interior of the ship. It made a hole some four inches in diameter. Another shell swept across her deck and took off the right foot of a lieutenant who was working the after gun. An able seaman was killed and another was wounded. The bridge, on which Lieut.-Commander Burges Watson was on duty throughout the action, was untouched, and, save for the hole in the stern, the destroyer showed few signs of having been in action.

The promptness with which these four German destroyers had been rounded up and dispatched proved how efficiently the British patrol of the North Sea was maintained. Day and night, without intermission and regardless of weather conditions, the watch was kept, for the most part by small torpedo-craft, which are not remarkable for the spaciousness or comfort of their living accommodation. Many stories bore witness to the hardships and perils encountered by our men during the bad weather and incidentally to the stoutness of our warships. For the first five weeks of the war, the Grand Fleet was able to undertake the arduous duties assigned to it under conditions as good as any sailor could desire. Fog was the only drawback, and even that was not so troublesome as is sometimes the case. But the third week in September brought with