

THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND BANK

MAY 31—JUNE 1, 1916

I. ADMIRAL SIR JOHN JELlicOE'S DISPATCH

Iron Duke,

24th June, 1916.¹

SIR,—Be pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the German High Sea Fleet was brought to action on **31st May**, 1916, to the westward of the Jutland Bank, off the coast of Denmark.

The ships of the Grand Fleet, in pursuance of the general policy of periodical sweeps through the North Sea, had left its bases on the previous day, in accordance with instructions issued by me.²

In the early afternoon of Wednesday, **31st May**, the 1st and 2nd Battle-cruiser Squadrons, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Light-cruiser Squadrons, and destroyers from the 1st, 9th, 10th, and 13th Flotillas,³ supported by the 5th Battle Squadron, were, in accordance with my directions, scouting to the southward

¹ The times throughout are Greenwich mean time.

² The German semi-official communication of June 5 alleges: 'The German High Sea forces pushed forward in order to engage portions of the British Fleet, which were repeatedly reported recently to be off the south coast of Norway.'—*The Times*, June 6.

³ Under the immediate command of Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty.