

212 Heligoland to Keeling Island

for all the German light cruisers carry the same number and type of guns.

These were the ships which were engaged off the Chilian coast on this Sunday afternoon. As the First Lord has observed, the material is not available for "a true judgment of the episode." But, on the other hand, it is now possible to reconstruct the scene.

The "Good Hope," flagship of Admiral Cradock, the "Monmouth"—both armoured cruisers—the "Glasgow," a scout cruiser, and the auxiliary ship "Otranto"—of little fighting value—were in company at two o'clock on the afternoon of November 1st, when the "Good Hope" picked up wireless signals, which indicated that "there was an enemy's ship to the northward." This may have been a purposely sent out message with the intention of giving the impression that there was one German ship and no more. Admiral Cradock may have been deceived. At any rate, he directed that the squadron should spread north-east by east, the ships gradually working up to a speed of 15 knots—about two-thirds their full speed.

Rather over two hours later—at 4.20—smoke was seen. "The enemy's ship" proved to be "enemy's ships—one small cruiser and two armoured cruisers." The British vessels then proceeded to concentrate on the "Good Hope." By this time the strength of the Germans must have been known, because the "Scharnhorst" and "Gneisenau" were the only armoured cruisers at large, and the character of the smaller vessel was unimportant, since all the scout