

14 THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND BANK

enemy, made the most of the last hours of daylight, low visibility, and misty atmosphere, to bring the German Fleet to action. At 9.24 p.m. the British Fleet was between the Germans and their bases, and disposed itself to renew the engagement at daylight on the morrow.

PHASE IV. 9.24 (*Lion*) p.m., May 31–11 a.m., June 1. During the night attacks were conducted by the Flotillas upon portions of the German Fleet. Jellicoe and Beatty remained in the proximity of the battlefield, and near the line of approach to Scheer's bases, until 11 a.m. the next morning. The Germans, however, already had gained their ports under the cover of darkness.

PHASE I

(See Map II : 3.30–4.52 p.m.)

At 2.20 on the afternoon of May 31 Beatty's Battle-cruiser Fleet was on a northerly course to join the Battle Fleet when the *Galatea*, on the east of the screen of light-cruiser scouts preceding Beatty's advance, reported enemy ships to starboard, off the Danish coast. Beatty altered course immediately towards Horn Reefs, with the intention of cutting the enemy from his bases and forcing an engagement. At 3.31 p.m. the enemy was sighted, and proved to be Hipper's five battle-cruisers, supported by light-cruisers and destroyer flotillas. Forming line of battle, Beatty put himself on a course to close with the enemy, then 23,000 yards (13 miles) distant, and action began at 18,500 yards (10½ miles). Hipper, however, properly fulfilling his functions as a decoy force, declined Beatty's invitation to close, and, turning about, steamed southward towards his main fleet, some 40 miles in the rear.