

quick-firers, two machine-guns, and three torpedo tubes, the crew consisting of sixty officers and men.

The British ships soon demonstrated their superior speed by steadily reducing the distance between them and their prey. Finding their retreat cut off, the German boats turned on their pursuers and opened a brisk fire. The distance is said to have been four miles, and it was at this range that the guns of the "Undaunted" and her consorts opened upon the doomed quartet. A few moments after the cannonade had begun the leading German boat was seen to be in distress. Clouds of débris and smoke arose from her as the British lyddite shells struck home and exploded, rending the thin steel plating of the hull like brown paper, amidst a shower of death-dealing splinters. One shell smashed the machinery and brought the boat to a standstill. An instant later she was simply driven to the bottom by the concentrated fire of the British ships, and a few survivors were left struggling in the water.

But until the other three boats had been disposed of the British squadron could not stop to pick up these unfortunate men. In rapid succession a second and third destroyer succumbed to the deadly fire of our ships, which, in spite of the great speed at which they were travelling, scored a remarkably high percentage of hits on the small, low-lying, and swiftly moving targets. It was a fine exhibition of gunnery, and one which testified to the magnificent training and coolness of our seamen. At last