



This most remarkable photograph was made during the last moments of the goomed German cruiser -Blucher, just a few moments before she capsized and sank, following the first battle between Dreadnoughts. With her machinery and armament shot into massos of twisted iron and steel, great fires raging forward, Amidships and aft, the officers of the Blucher may be seen, a dark mass astern, standing arm in arm, ready for the end, while hundreds of the crew, either intentionally or unavoidably, slipped down the sides to the more merciful sea.

Despite the fact that German dirigibles hovered overhead, dropping bombs, the British cruiser Arethusiastood by to rescue such of the crew as might be found floating in the water after the Arethusia had fired the torpedo which settled the Blucher's fate. Having converted the great cruiser into a floating mass of junk, her decks an inferno, the British battle cruiser left her to the "mosquito" fleet and continued the pursuit of the other German battle cruisers, which had been caught in the North Sea, evidently bent upon another raid upon the English coast. The photograph of the dying Blucher was made by an officer from the deck of the Arethusia a few seconds after that vessel had discharged the fatal torpedo.

With hundreds of her crew dead and wounded, while hundreds more calmly faced death, the Blucher, after floating for a brief time on her side, keeled out of the water, turning deliberately over. For a space of perhaps ten minutes, she floated keel up, while several of her crew ran along the bottom of the vessel, and then disappeared from sight.

In the photograph some of the crew may be seen walking along the slippery bottom. One man climbed down to the bilge-head, from which a cataract poured, while others were sliding into the sea. One man jumped. Others may be seen swimming, dark spots bobbing about in the water. Many of these were rescued. Some of those in the water had either stripped off their clothes, or had their garments burned or shot away. Many of them wore swimming jackets.

Dense white smoke is seen pouring from the hull amidships and heavy black smoke belching forth from forward. When the photograph was made the Blucher was afire in a score of places. Her magazines had been exploded, her guns dismantled, her masts foreshortened and her machinery crippled. The Blucher's two funnels evidently had been shot away, for they cannot be seen in the photograph. The tripod foremast is seen to the right and just below, and to the left of it a six-inch gun is seen outlined against the sky. Abaft the second turret, with its pair of 8.2-inch guns, is seen another 6-inch gun. Her armor belt runs as a black line for the entire length of the sido. Evidently the booms which carried the torpedo netting had not been hit, altho one forward had its fastenings shot away and is hanging. The others are in their usual places.



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