

[*Beatty begins the action*]

' At 3.30 p.m. I increased speed to 25 knots, and formed line of battle, the 2nd Battle-cruiser Squadron forming astern of the 1st Battle-cruiser Squadron, with destroyers of the 13th and 9th Flotillas taking station ahead. I turned to ESE., slightly converging on the enemy, who were now at a range of 23,000 yards, and formed the ships on a line of bearing to clear the smoke.¹ The 5th Battle Squadron, who had conformed to our movements, were now bearing NNW., 10,000 yards.² The visibility at this time was good, the sun behind us and the wind SE. Being between the enemy and his base, our situation was both tactically and strategically good.

' At 3.48 p.m. the action commenced at a range of 18,500 yards, both forces opening fire practically simultaneously. Course was altered to the south-

¹ i.e. diagonally astern of *Lion*, instead of her being in line ahead of the squadron.

² This was the position of the British and German Battle-cruiser Squadrons at 3.30, when both went south on a parallel course:—

