

such adventurous craft. Shortly after the fall of Antwerp the enemy's small craft gave increased signs of activity. It has been surmised that a movement was on foot to station a force of German torpedo boats at Antwerp, in spite of the breach of Dutch neutrality which the passage of warships up the Scheldt would imply. But to gain the Belgian port they had to run the gauntlet of our patrols in the southern area of the North Sea, and on at least one occasion the adventurous enemy came completely to grief.

The bare facts of the affair were given in an Admiralty announcement on October 17th, as follows :

"The new light cruiser 'Undaunted,' (Captain Cecil H. Fox), accompanied by the destroyers 'Lance' (Commander W. de M. Egerton), 'Lennox' (Lieut.-Commander C. F. Dane), 'Legion' (Lieut.-Commander C. F. Allsup), and 'Loyal' (Lieut.-Commander F. Burges Watson), engaged four German destroyers off the Dutch coast this afternoon. All the enemy's destroyers were sunk."

A later message added that the British loss in the action was one officer and four men wounded, that the damage to the British destroyers was slight, and that thirty-one German survivors had been picked up and made prisoners of war.

The news of this highly successful affair was the more welcome because it came a day or two after the disaster to the cruiser "Hawke," which is chronicled in a former chapter. Moreover, by a piquant coincidence, the hero of the engagement was Captain Cecil H. Fox, of the "Undaunted,"