

was carried out magnificently, Rear-Admiral Hood bringing his squadron into action ahead in a most inspiring manner, worthy of his great naval ancestors. At 6.25 p.m. I altered course to the ESE. in support of the Third Battle-cruiser Squadron, who were at this time only 8,000 yards from the enemy's leading ship. They were pouring a hot fire into her and caused her to turn to the westward of south. At the same time I made a report to you of the bearing and distance of the enemy battle-fleet.¹

'By 6.50 p.m. the battle-cruisers were clear of our leading battle squadron then bearing about

¹ Map, p. 38, elucidates the situation 5.50-6.25 p.m. At 5.50 Hood's Third Battle-cruiser Squadron was sighted by Beatty and proclaimed the advent of the Battle Fleet. Simultaneously the whole German fleet began to go about with an eye to its home ports. To head it off and to clear the path for Jellicoe's battleships, Beatty steamed eastward and then south-eastward, Hood at 6.21 taking station ahead of *Lion* in that operation. From 7 p.m. the two fleets were on a parallel south-westerly course, Beatty (leading the new course) and Jellicoe standing between the Germans and their bases.

The position at 7 p.m. was as follows:—

