

10 THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND BANK

a victorious decision. On June 5, evidently in answer to the British Admiralty's communication published that morning, stating that the High Sea Fleet, heavily punished, had sought shelter in its protected waters, the German Admiralty issued a semi-official message, published in the press of June 6, which alleged that the battle was the issue of the High Sea Fleet's resolution 'to engage portions of the British Fleet, which were repeatedly reported recently to be off the south coast of Norway'. The communication, informed, as is evident from Sir John Jellicoe's dispatch, by full knowledge of the chart and tactics of the engagement, concluded indefinitely: 'The battle against superior British forces lasted until darkness fell.' It alleged, however, very heavy British losses, and conveyed the inference, not definitely stated, that the High Sea Fleet had emerged victorious. A few days later the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* published an inspired semi-official 'explanation' of the 'victory'.¹ By that time the extravagant claims of the German Admiralty, and their patent incongruity with facts, had laid its loud assertions under heavy suspicion. The *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* therefore was employed to 'explain' the battle of May 31. For the earlier part of the engagement the semi-official communication of June 5 was followed almost literally. But the conclusion of the battle at length emerged with gratifying clearness. By means of destroyer attacks, the 'explanation' stated, 'the English Main Fleet is driven away to the

¹ The article was published in *The Times* of June 28. The date of the Hamburg paper's issue is not stated. Its statements and diagrams have been incorporated into the notes in the following pages. The present writer acknowledges the courteous permission of *The Times* to use its translation of the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt* 'explanation'.