

# BIG NAVAL BATTLE FOUGHT OFF JUTLAND

**Both British and Germans Lose Several Large Ships Each—Loss of Life is Very Heavy—German Fleet Retire as Main British Fleet Comes into View.**

BERLIN, June 2.—A battle took place between Skagerak and Horns Rev on May 31st, lasting a day and night. Several German ships, including part of the crews of the British, the high sea fleet returned to-day, Thursday, into port.

LONDON, June 2.—The German fleet was greatly aided, the admiralty statement said, by its low visibility. It avoided a prolonged action, and accomplished its results by a quick retreat and withdrawal. The main British forces have returned to port, it was by a low visibility tactics that Admiral Von Spee's squadron annihilated the British fleet under command of Admiral Craddock off the Chilean coast in November, 1914, the admiralty statement adds, that the Warrior 13,550 ton cruiser, carrying 744 men, was disabled and later abandoned. An attempt was made to tow her back to British waters, but the vessel was too badly damaged. No mention is made of the fate of the crew.

LONDON, June 2.—An official bulletin at nine o'clock to-night states that at least one German battle cruiser is known to have been sunk, and one severely damaged. It also states that a zeppelin fleet co-operated with

losses are not definitely known but believed to be three large warships and a number of torpedo boat destroyers lost.

LONDON, June 2.—The scene of the battle was in the eastern waters of the North Sea. Probably the German fleet was on one of its excursions into the North Sea, which has taken place from time to time during the war and met, whether or not by design with the British fleet. The Skagerak is an arm of the North Sea, between Norway and Denmark. The point referred to in the German official statement as Horns Rev probably is a reef off Cape Horn, the south-western point of Norway. This would indicate that the battle was fought off the coast of Denmark. From the reef to Helligoland is the main German naval base in the North Sea about 100 miles. News of the engagement was withheld by the British authorities, possibly pending the return of the Home fleet. Cruisers Defence and Black Prince were also sunk, and the cruiser Warrior disabled. German losses are described as serious. The announcement says two German battle cruisers are sunk and two German light cruisers disabled, probably sunk. Losses in the engagement must have been extremely heavy. The battle cruiser Indefatigable, for instance, from which the German admiralty reports only two men were saved, probably had more than 900 on board. Other vessels sunk carried complements equally or nearly as large.

Previous to this battle, Britain lost during the course of the war 10 battleships, 11 cruisers and small craft. Germany has lost 18 cruisers, 19 auxiliary cruisers and other small craft. Since the beginning of the war British cruisers and destroyers have patrolled during day and night the approaches to the German fleet's base at the bay formed by the mouths of the Elbe and Weser. Protected by the mighty fortifications of Wilhelmshaven on the south north by the supposedly impregnable defence of the Kiel Canal, guarded by the outlying island of Helligoland, until the engagement that has just occurred no German fleet put forth in force to necessitate giving an alarm to the British main fleet that its base was coming out to give battle. The rendezvous of the British battle fleet has been secret, but generally believed to have been Orkney Islands, north of Scotland.

The British dreadnought Warspite, reported destroyed in the North Sea engagement, was a sister ship of the Queen Elizabeth and carried 750 men. The Queen Mary and Indefatigable, both British battle cruisers of 27,000 and 18,750 tons respectively. The Indefatigable carried complements of between 900 and 850 men.

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COPENHAGEN, June 2.—According to the "Politiken," a Danish steamer arrived to-day from Friedrichshaven, which witnessed the battle in the North Sea. The steamer reports that yesterday afternoon, 120 miles off Hantsholm, she was stopped by two British torpedo boats to have her papers examined. At the same moment a large German fleet appeared. The British warships immediately prepared for action. The German fleet approached at full speed, and consisted of five large modern Dreadnoughts, eight cruisers and twenty torpedo boat destroyers. Suddenly the Germans began firing, and several hundred shells splashed around the torpedo boats, without, however, damaging them. The British ships went westward and were pursued by the German fleet. At 5 o'clock cannonade was renewed and continued until 9 o'clock in the evening. Zeppelins were seen going at high speed northward to the scene of the battle.

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BERLIN, June 2.—Admiral Heiberg, director of the Admiralty, told the Reichstag this afternoon that British torpedo boat losses were greater than had been at first reported. At least three destroyers, a torpedo flagships, said the Admiral, and nine or ten other destroyers were sunk. The German battleship Pommern was sunk by a torpedo, the Admiral continued, and the Wiesbaden by artillery. The Frauenlob was last seen by a German destroyer on the night of the encounter, with a heavy list. The Admiral said, and it is assumed she had been sunk.

LONDON, June 3.—Capt. Wm. Hall, Chief of the Intelligence Division of the Admiralty, authorizes the Associated Press to say that the German report of the loss of the Marlborough and Warspite is absolutely untrue. Both these dreadnoughts are safe in harbour. The German report that the entire British battle fleet was engaged is equally untrue. A portion of the British fleet of the Germans, engaged that fleet and drove it back into its harbour. The British control the North Sea.

LONDON, June 3.—An additional British official, just issued, says:—"Since the foregoing communication was issued, a further report has been received from the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Fleet, stating that it has now been ascertained that our total losses in destroyers amounted to eight boats in all. The Commander-in-Chief also reports that it is now possible to form a closer estimate of the losses sustained by the enemy fleet. One Dreadnought battleship of the Kaiser class was blown up in an attack by British destroyers; another Dreadnought battleship of the Kaiser class is believed to have been sunk by gunfire. Of three German battle cruisers, two of which, it is believed, were the Derfflinger and Lutzow, one was blown up, another heavily engaged by our battle fleet, and a third was observed to be seriously damaged. One German light cruiser and six German destroyers were sunk. At least two more German light cruisers were seen to be

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disabled. Repeated hits were observed on three other German battleships, being brought here. The loss of the Elbing is not mentioned in either the British or German official accounts of the battle, but the British Admiralty statement says that a light German cruiser was sunk.

YMUJIDEN, Holland, June 3.—Three officers, three petty officers and 12 sailors of the crew of the new small German cruiser Elbing, which was landed here, One officer said that the Elbing sank after she was rammed by another German vessel, which rescued the remainder of her crew, fought gloriously, sinking and damaging another maintained that the Elbing's aging three of their assailants. The boats, containing some of her crew, Vallant rammed and sank an enemy and some British officers, who were submarine.