

thus assigned an honourable place, as was fitting, in the historic homecoming pageant, and the honour was jealously appreciated by every officer and man in these ships. Two hours later the *Diadem* was once more told off to the post of danger, going ahead, and leading the fleet about eight cables in front of the *Ophir*.

All Wednesday afternoon the fleet steamed, under lowering skies, across a steadily-rising sea, and by night-fall we were once more in the teeth of the gale. It blew hard all night. The *Lizard* was sighted at 12.52 a.m. on Thursday, and the Eddystone Lighthouse was passed at a distance of nine miles at 4.50. An hour later a fishing smack was sighted ahead showing lights. The *Diadem* turned her starboard searchlight on her, at the same time calling the attention of the *Ophir* to the small craft's dangerous position. In the early morning the third-class cruiser *Pactolus* joined the fleet, and took her station on



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Her Royal Highness