

BERLIN TELLS HOW BATTLE WAS FOUGHT

Germans Able to Choose Their Distance When 11 and 12 Inch Guns Were Not Overmatched.

COUNT FOE'S FLEET BIGGER

The Kaiser Promotes Vice Admiral Scheer and Decorates Many of His Officers and Men.

BERLIN, June 5. (by Wireless to The Associated Press, via Sayville.)—An authoritative account of the North Sea battle, issued here today, gives the first detailed picture of the engagement between the German High Seas Fleet and that of the British.

Many details of the engagement are suppressed for strategic reasons, leaving unsatisfied for the present the German public's thirst for interesting touches in regard to the individual achievements of the German warships and the manner in which the mighty British vessels were sent to the bottom.

The recital, however, meets clearly what is characterized as the British attempt to explain defeat by the statement that the German sea forces in the action were much larger than those which the British were able to bring into play.

This account states explicitly that twenty-six of Admiral Jellicoe's most powerful battleships, including six of the most modern Queen Elizabeth class, and the entire British flying wing, composed of battle cruisers equal to dreadnoughts in every respect except armor protection, were engaged in all but the early stages of the day battle. The fleet thus assembled surpassed in tonnage and weight of broadsides the German forces engaged, was at least equally modern, and was far speedier than the squadron of German pre-dreadnoughts, which, lumbering along at eighteen or nineteen knots, were soon left far to the rear by their swifter consorts, out of the main action.

For obvious reasons the recital leaves untold the tale of damages sustained by German units and the losses in personnel. It says nothing of the brilliancy in battle tactics displayed by Admirals Scheer and Hipper, the smoothness and precision with which the German ships manoeuvred, and the deadly sureness of the German marksmanship, although it is an open secret that these three factors were largely responsible for the achievements of the Germans.

It is shown that the Germans on this occasion, unlike the Dogger Bank engagement of cruiser squadrons, were able to choose their distance and fight considerable portions of the battle at ranges of about eight miles, (now ranked as a moderate distance,) at which the German eleven and twelve inch guns were virtually as effective in penetrating power as the big-mouthed thirteens, fourteens, and fifteens with which the modern British giants are armed. Furthermore, they are far superior in rapidity of fire. Naval experts have intimated that this was one of the most decisive factors in the titanic struggle.

German battleships and battle cruisers were able to shower the British with a hail of shell which, at a range of eight miles and sometimes even closer, smashed and riddled British armor belts and wrought havoc to ships' vitals. The ponderous British projectiles naturally were no less effective, but the Armstrong & Whitworth monsters could land scarcely one punch to each two from the vicious Krupp eleven-inchers.

The hazy weather was Germany's friend, as it necessitated action at closer range.