

# FIRST NEWS SHOCKED BRITISH

## But Later Bulletin Telling Foe's Loss Was More Assuring.

### MOURN SIX BIG SHIPS GONE

Loss of Life Believed to be Heavy, but the Censor Withholds Unofficial Accounts.

### FEW FACTS OF FIGHT KNOWN

Combat Began Wednesday Afternoon and Lasted Into Night

—Six Zeppelins Took Part.

#### *Loss Admitted by British*

##### **Battle Cruisers.**

Queen Mary.

Indefatigable.

Invincible

##### **Cruisers.**

Defence.

Black Prince.

Warrior.

##### **Destroyers**

Tipperary.

Turbulent.

Fortune.

Sparrowhawk.

Ardent.

Three others.

#### *London Statement of Foe's Loss*

##### **Battleships.**

One battleship of Kaiser class

blown up.

Another of same class sunk.

##### **Battle Cruisers.**

Derfflinger or Lützow, blown up.

Another "disabled."

Another "seriously damaged."

##### **Cruisers.**

One "light" cruiser sunk.

Two others disabled.

##### **Destroyers.**

Six sunk.

##### **Submarine.**

One rammed and sunk.

LONDON, June 2.—Picking its way from its base in the Kiel Canal the German high sea fleet on Wednesday afternoon emerged into the North Sea and off the coast of Jutland, engaged a British fleet throughout the afternoon and night in what probably was the greatest naval battle in the world's history so far as tonnage engaged and tonnage destroyed was concerned.

When the battle ended Great Britain had lost the battle cruisers Queen Mary, Indefatigable, and Invincible, the cruisers Defense, Black Prince, and Warrior, and eight torpedo-boat destroyers, while the German battleship Pommern had been sent to the bottom by a torpedo and the cruiser Wiesbaden sunk by the British gunfire. In addition several German torpedo craft were missing and the small cruiser Frauenlob had last been seen badly listed and was believed to have gone to the bottom. These losses have all been admitted by Great Britain and Germany.

Aside from Great Britain's conceded losses, Germany claims that the British battleship Warspite, sister ship of the Queen Elizabeth, and one of the largest and most powerful ships afloat, had been sunk; that the battleship Marlborough, a vessel of 25,000 tons, had been hit by a torpedo, and a submarine had been destroyed. Great Britain also added to Germany's acknowledged losses with the claim that one dreadnought of the German Kaiser class—vessels of 24,700 tons, and carrying a complement of 1,088 men—had been attacked and destroyed by British torpedo craft; that another battleship of the same class was believed to have been sunk by gunfire; that one battle cruiser had been blown up, and two others damaged, and that a submarine also had been sent to the bottom.

Great Britain's admitted loss in tonnage was 114,810 for the six battle cruisers and cruisers. That of Germany, including the tonnage of the Wiesbaden, supposed to be of the Breslau class, (4,550 tons,) was 20,262. Adding the tonnage of the six destroyers and one submarine which the British say they sank, the figures would approximate 27,000. If, as the British allege, they also sank a dreadnought of the Kaiser class, the total German tonnage destroyed was 51,000.

The tonnage of the capital ships sunk by the Japanese in their fight with the Russians in the battle of Tsushima in May, 1905, aggregated 93,000. Twenty-one Russian craft

# British Ships Lost in the North Sea Battle.

were destroyed in this fight, including six battleships and four cruisers. The remainder of the sunken craft comprised coast defense and special service vessels and torpedo boats.

That the casualties in the fighting off Jutland were heavy is indicated by the fact that of the crew of some 800 on board the Indefatigable only two men are known to have been saved. Full details of the fight, in which Zeppelins are declared to have taken part, are being gathered by the British Admiralty, and pending their receipt the censor is withholding permission to correspondents to send out stories from London.

With their full complements the crews of the British ships lost would number over 5,000 men.

Rumors had been flying about London all day that a naval battle had taken place in the North Sea, but it was not until evening that the Admiralty gave out its official statement. The news was flashed out in special editions of the evening newspapers, and caused greater consternation in the West End of London than had been witnessed on any previous occasion since the declaration of war.

The frankness of the Admiralty announcement concerning the serious nature of the British losses and the apparently small losses of the Germans in comparison led to the assumption in most minds that the British vessels must have been led into a mine field.

Following quickly upon the Admiralty announcement came the German official version of the fight, which, in general, confirmed the British account, but carried the assertion that the battleship Warspite also was sunk and other British battleships damaged.

**Official Accounts of Battle.**  
The British Admiralty announcement reads as follows:

On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 31st of May, a naval engagement took place off the coast of Jutland. The British ships on which the brunt of the fighting fell were the battle cruiser fleet and several cruisers and light cruisers, supported by four fast battleships. Among these the losses were heavy.

The German fleet, aided by low visibility, avoided a prolonged action with our main forces. As soon as these appeared on the scene the enemy returned to port, though not before receiving severe damage from our battleships.

The battle cruisers Queen Mary, Indefatigable, and Invincible, and the cruisers Defence and Black Prince were sunk. The Warrior was disabled and, after being towed for some time, had to be abandoned by her crew. It is also known that the destroyers Tipperary, Turbulent, Fortune, Sparrowhawk, and Ardent were lost, and six others are yet to be accounted for. No British battleship or light cruiser was sunk.

The enemy's losses were serious. At least one battle cruiser was destroyed, and one was severely damaged. One battleship is reported to have been sunk by our destroyers. During the night attack two light cruisers were disabled and probably sunk. The exact number of enemy destroyers disposed of during the action cannot be ascertained with any certainty, but must have been large.

Later in the evening this additional communication was issued:

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 amount to eight boats in all.

The Commander in Chief also reports that it is now possible to form a closer estimate of the losses and the damage sustained by the enemy fleet.

One dreadnought battleship of the Kaiser class was blown up in an attack by British destroyers and 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 the Lutzow, one was blown up, another was heavily engaged by our battle fleet and was seen to be disabled and stopping, and the third was observed to be seriously damaged.

One German light cruiser and six German destroyers were sunk, and at least two more German light cruisers were seen to be disabled. Further repeated hits were observed on three other German battleships that were engaged. Finally, a German submarine was rammed and sunk.

The official Press Bureau shut down late at night on unofficial accounts of the battle, issuing this bulletin at 11 o'clock:

Owing to lack of information we are unable to pass various accounts of the sea battle that are being submitted. By tomorrow the Admiralty, no doubt, will possess fuller details and then, if the articles are submitted, they can be properly dealt with.

**How the Fight Started.**

A few early evening dispatches from the Continent, largely from points in Denmark and Holland, give fragmentary but interesting details of the fight.

**Says Germans Dropped Mines Behind.**

A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen says:

"During the retreat of the German fleet large numbers of mines were thrown out. Today several German floating mines were seen in the North Sea."

"Fishermen say that a cruiser struck a mine fifty miles northwest of the Wyl Lightship, outside Blaavandshuk. Only a few men of the crew were saved."

A dispatch of Thursday comes from Ringkøbing, on the Danish coast, about thirty-two miles north of Horn Riff. It says:

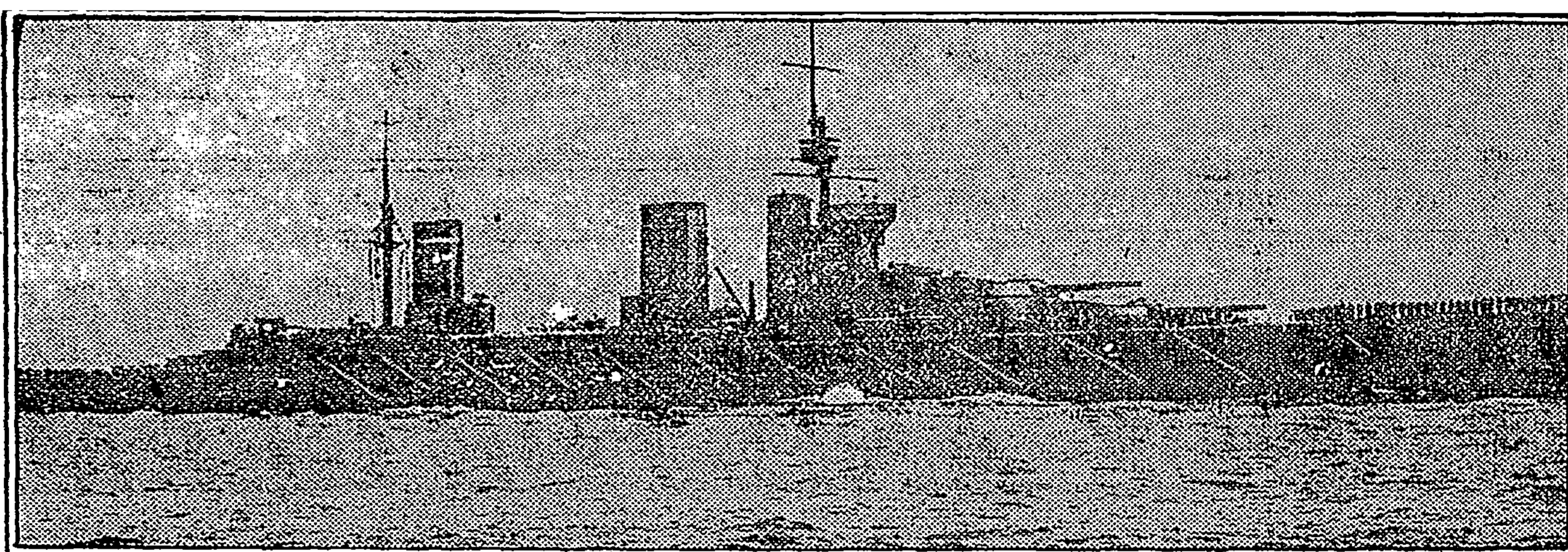
"From 4 o'clock yesterday (Wednesday) and during the greater part of the night a heavy cannonade was heard from several points on the west coast of Jutland. Many windows were broken here, and people left their beds to ascertain the meaning of the firing."

At midnight a Zeppelin passed off the coast.

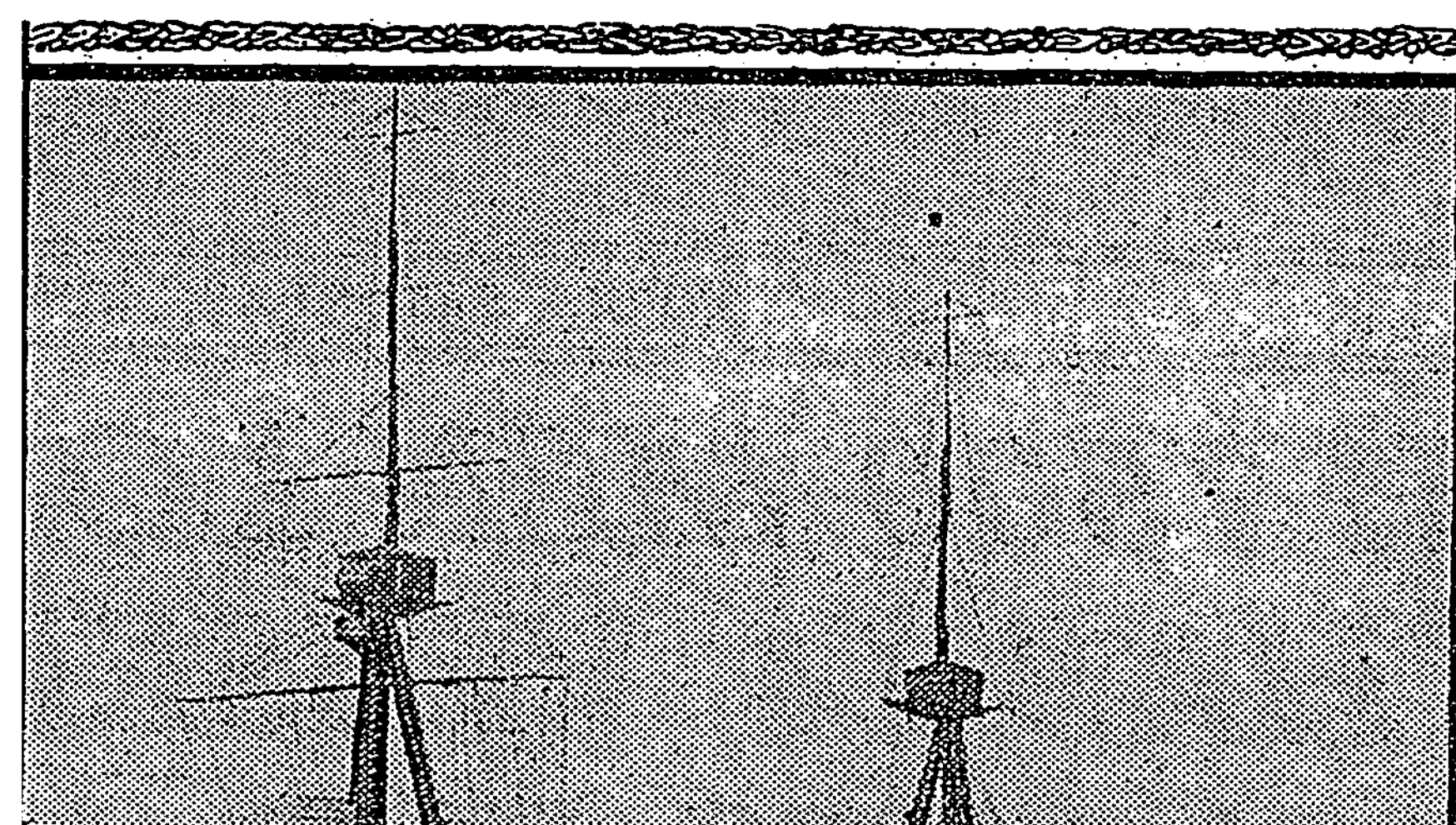
At 11 o'clock this morning (Thursday) a German destroyer appeared off Noerre Lyngvig Lightship with engine trouble and unable to proceed. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon another German destroyer arrived and left an hour later with the disabled destroyer in tow."

From Copenhagen comes this dispatch under today's date:

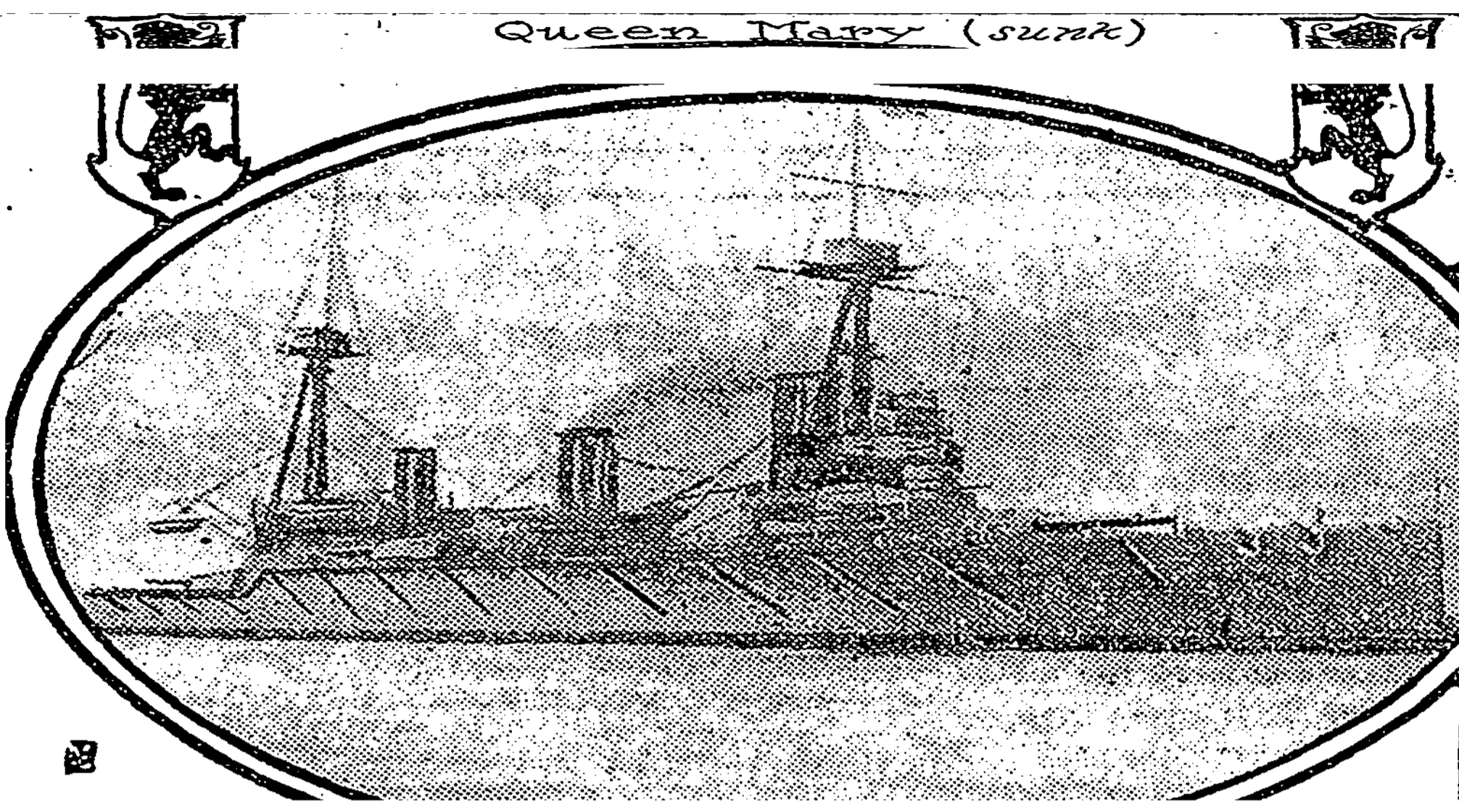
The National Tidende says that last night ten German torpedo boat destroyers passed through the Little Belt from the north going very slowly. The newspaper adds that a torpedo



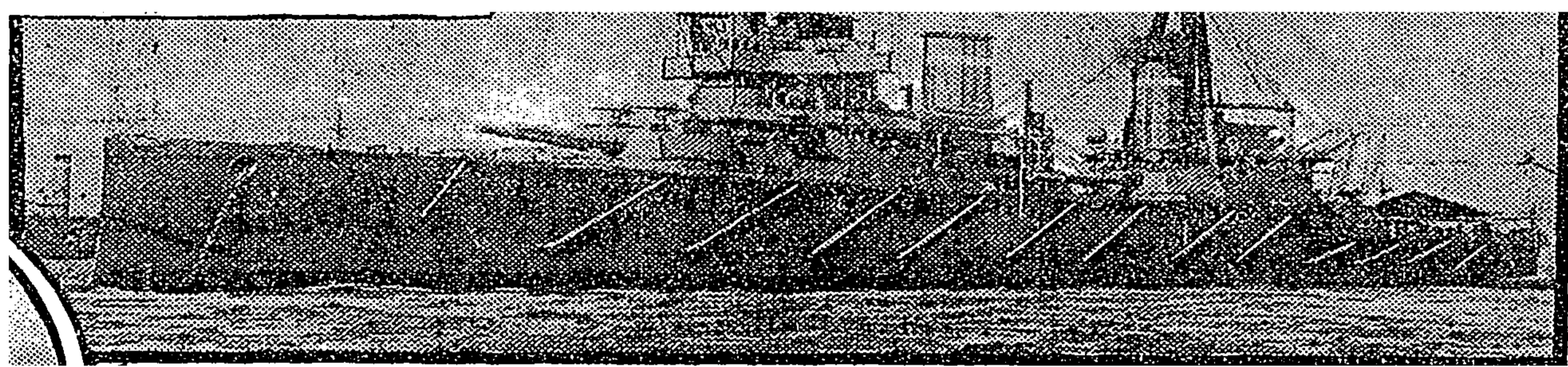
Queen Mary (sunk)



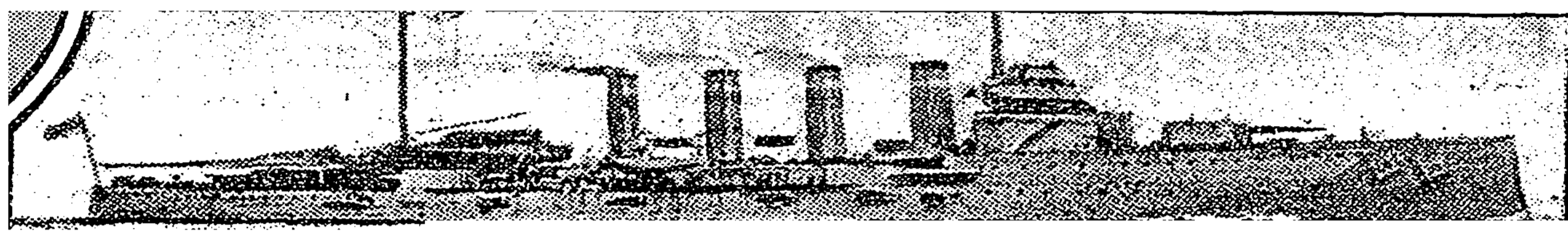
Invincible (sunk)



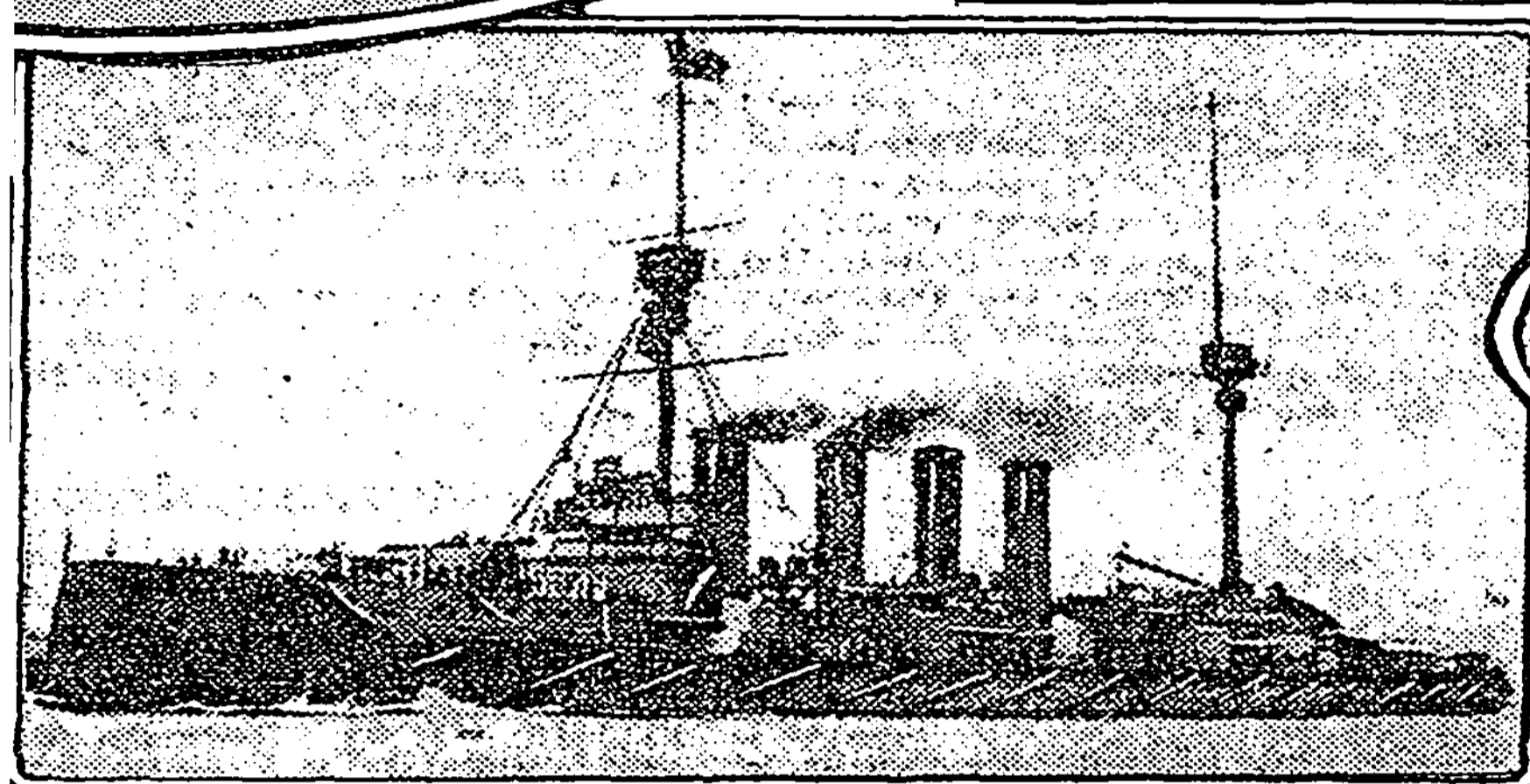
Indefatigable (sunk)



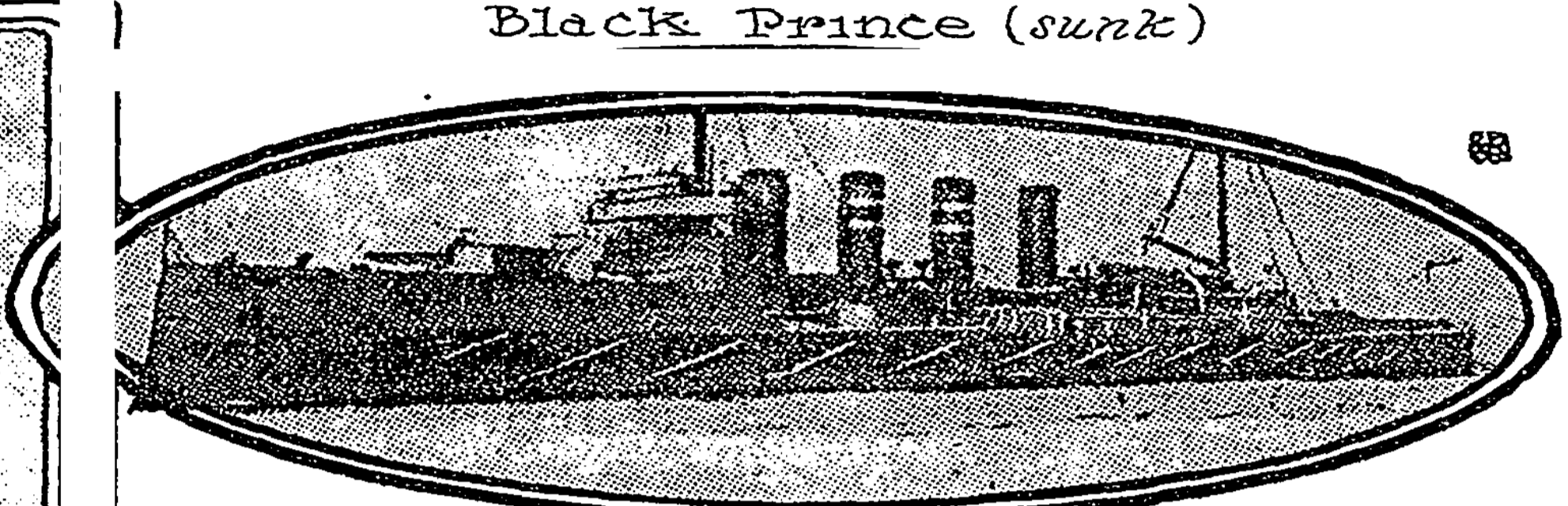
Black Prince (sunk)



Warrior, (Disabled and abandoned)



Defence (sunk)



boat, badly damaged, is lying off Lynvig, near Ringkøbing.  
The Politiken says that sentries fired numerous shots at a Zeppelin airship passing over France Island and that the airship withdrew over the international boundary. This, the newspaper adds, was the first time the Danish had fired against a belligerent airship.

**Wounded Reaching Dutch Ports.**

Advices from Dutch sources are largely concerned with reports of rescues of survivors of the combat. A dispatch from The Hague reads:

"A Dutch trawler has arrived at the Hook of Holland with one dead and seven live Germans who were saved from the naval battle."

"Another trawler has taken into Ymuiden three German officers and twelve sailors and one British sailor, who was wounded."

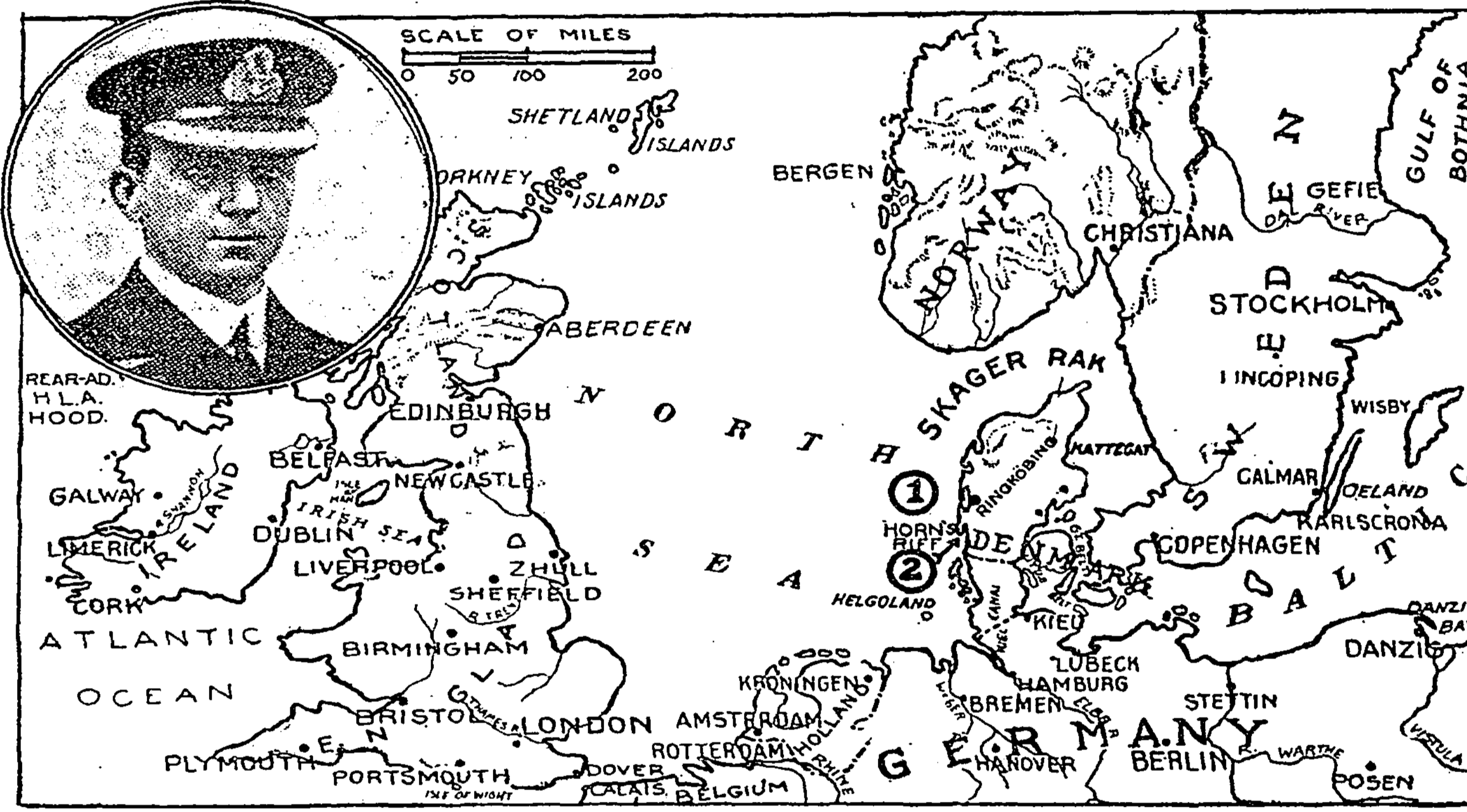
A Reuter dispatch from Rotterdam reports the tugboat Scheldt entering the new waterway with dead and wounded men from the naval battle.

**Lost Battle Cruisers Veterans.**

Among the British vessels lost in the Jutland fight there were no more noted veterans of the navy than the battle cruisers Queen Mary, Indefatigable, and Invincible. The Queen Mary played a prominent part in the Heligoland Bight engagement under the command of Captain William Hall, who has since been prominent as chief of the intelligence division of the Admiralty. The Queen Mary missed the Dogger Bank action by being in drydock for minor repairs. A few weeks ago a large part of her crew came to London on shore leave, and upon their departure Captain Hall, their old commander, came to say farewell to them.

The Indefatigable and Invincible bore scars from the Falkland Islands encounter, where they had a prominent share in sinking Admiral von Spee's squadron, and from the Dardanelles, where they played a leading part in the bombardment of the strait. They had participated in previous North Sea actions.

When a correspondent visited the battle-cruiser fleet in the North Sea last Winter these three vessels were exhibited as the pride of the fleet, which had just come in from a scouting cruise that took them to the German coast. The Queen Mary was pointed out as the finest type of speed and gun power in the British Navy.



Scene of the Great North Sea Battle (Shown by the Numerals 1 and 2.)