

GERMANS ADMIT THAT LUCK WON FOR THEM

London, Dec. 14—The first full official report of the battle in the Pacific near the Island of Santa Marian, which the British were overpowered by German cruisers, is given in The Daily Telegraph here today. The report was prepared by the German victors and was seen by an official of the Chilean navy, who was received on board the German cruisers.

"The concentration of the German warships took place north of Valparaiso, and they united and sailed south in search of the British squadron," says the report.

"On the afternoon of Sunday, November 1st, four German warships steamed in line abreast—the Scharnhorst nearest the coast, the Gneisenau in second position, the Dresden and Nürnberg third and fourth, and in the rear the Leipzig and the transports.

"The British flotilla—the Monmouth Glasgow and the transport Otranto—was navigating line ahead, south to north, to join the Good Hope coming from the west. When the German squadron reached the latitude of Concepcion, the British lookouts reported the German fleet at a little past six in the evening. A gale was blowing from the north.

"The British squadron changed its course from south toward the coast in order, probably, to gain territorial waters and avoid a disadvantageous engagement. The German ships, seeing that this manoeuvre, if gained, would benefit the English, passed between them and the coast to force the fight. At the same time the German ships changed formation from line in front to line in file, the Scharnhorst in front, followed by the Gneisenau, Dresden and Nürnberg. At this moment the Good Hope was seen approaching from the west at full speed. Making southwest, she placed herself in line with her companions.

STEAMED TO THE SOUTH.

"The two flotilla, following parallel lines, steamed toward the south, the Germans near the coast and the British further seaward. The Germans were shortening the distance at each moment. At 6.30 p.m. the officer at the Scharnhorst's telescope reported the distance from the Good Hope at 10,300 metres (something over six miles.)

"At 6.32 p.m. the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau fired the first salvo, two forward guns, two starboard and two stern guns. The fire was concentrated on the Good Hope. The German continued firing twelve simultaneous volleys in the same manner at 10,000 metres. The Good Hope could not at first reply on account of the heavy sea. For a time, the German shots fell wide for the same reason.

"The opposing forces continued steaming from north to south, but the Germans followed more to the south west. When the distance was reduced to 6,000 metres the Good Hope began to reply, but could only do so with two nine-inch guns. Her eight six-inch guns were on such a low line that they were rendered useless by the gale and resultant heavy seas.

"After the Good Hope had fired three volleys, a German projectile struck her tower. Fire followed and obliged her to cease firing. The Good Hope turned to starboard and the Monmouth came forward to cover her and take up the fight. The distance was reduced to 5,000 metres. The German ships were able to use both six-inch and eight-inch guns. (The shells at this point were covering a distance of about three miles.)

"Now the contest was between the Monmouth and Glasgow and their four adversaries. The Otranto lay further out to sea, damaged. Two of the German armored cruisers concentrated the fire of their twelve 8.2-inch guns on the Monmouth. At the first broadside four shots went home. The second broadside holed the Monmouth and set her on fire. She foundered after the Scharnhorst, with two more shots, completed the ruin.

"When the Monmouth went down the opposing forces were at a distance of 4,500 metres.

VON SPEE FEARED TORPEDOES.

"Up to this time the German admiral was engaged in getting nearer the enemy. Dominating by gun fire from the first, he gave up the idea of using torpedoes, but, having sunk the Monmouth, he feared the Good Hope or the Glasgow might endeavor to torpedo him. He therefore, changed his course slightly to get nearer the coast at the same time keeping up a hot fire on the remaining British vessels.

"The Glasgow, damaged, soon sheered off. The Good Hope, hit by more shells, began to burn seriously. A big explosion was heard and the vessel burned, drifting west. This was at 1.11 p.m. when the Good Hope was distant 6,300 metres (equivalent to about three miles and three-quarters.)

"Night had almost completely fallen, and the Good Hope disappeared. Admiral Spee detached the Nürnberg to search for the Good Hope but could find neither the vessel nor any sign of her having foundered.

"During the night the Germans intercepted six messages from the Glasgow calling the Good Hope but could find neither the vessel nor any sign of her having foundered.

"The German flotilla made no at-

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tempt to save the survivors of the Monmouth, as it was impossible to launch boats. An officer of the Gneisenau said they fired sixty shots from their heavy guns and forty hit the enemy.

"The conditions were all against the British—the storm, unfavorable conditions for navigation and the practical inferiority of the guns."

IN MEMORIAM

To Mrs. E. Miles Merritt, who entered into rest on December 17, 1911, in the sixty-ninth year of her age.

