

sight, and a second destroyer was not seen until the sights were past. All torpedoes were heard to hit and the destroyer vanished. As the enemy gun-fire was getting hot and they had the advantage of the light I increased speed and cleared out.

6. Just before entering the harbour two columns of water were seen ascending just inshore of the HUNTER, and it is thought that they were caused by badly aimed torpedoes from an enemy destroyer.

7. While leaving the harbour I passed close to NORTH CORNWALL, and one of the guards there fired on the bridge with a revolver. He was silenced by a Lewis gun.

8. Firing now increased from the harbour and HAVOCK was straddled but not hit. Fire was returned by the after group and an explosion seen in an enemy ship, while the foremost group bombarded the shore with H.E. shell, from which quarter a hot fire from rifles and machine guns was arriving.

9. Once clear of the harbour HAVOCK passed backwards and forwards across the entrance engaging ships inside with gunfire at 3,000 to 4,000 yards. Spotting was almost impossible owing to smoke but blind ladders were used and success hoped for.

10. At 0507 a number of torpedoes were seen approaching from the harbour and were avoided by going full speed ahead or astern. One torpedo appeared to pass underneath the ship, and if it was fitted with a magnetic pistol the de-gaussing circuit undoubtedly saved the ship. I then withdrew out of torpedo range and as ships were interfering with each others fire formed astern of Captain D. who made a signal "Follow Round" at 0514. By this time we were 6,000 yards from the harbour.

11. At 0535 we passed the harbour for a second time but were not fired at and then HARDY led towards Rombaks Fjord.

12. At 0540 three German destroyers were sighted bearing 350 degrees apparently coming from Herjangs Fjord. Captain D. ordered 30 knots and withdraw to the westwards at the same time opening fire on the second ship. I turned to follow him and engaged the leading ship at 10,000 yards. HARDY made an enemy report of a cruiser and two destroyers and in the bad light this looked possible. The enemy however appeared to turn away under our fire.

13. At 0558 two more enemy destroyers appeared ahead and opened fire. HAVOCK was slightly to port of HARDY and I engaged the left hand ship but as soon as I saw that the leader was not fired at shifted to her. The range was about 3,000 yards, and fire soon took effect, the third salvo hitting aft and caused a violent explosion. She ceased fire with her main armament but continued to fire machine guns, an incendiary bullet from which set fire to a ready-use cordite locker at A gun.

14. As we passed her I ordered the remaining torpedoes to be fired but they unfortunately passed astern due to an underestimation of the enemy speed.

15. Just before HAVOCK fired torpedoes enemy torpedoes were seen approaching on the surface and easily avoided by combing the tracks. HARDY however who was steering more to port appeared to be hit by one as

there was a high column of smoke from her after boiler room and much flame from the funnel. Actually from accounts afterwards this was a salvo of shell, and she rapidly lost way and passed astern.

16. As I was now at the head of the line and no enemy appeared to be to the westward of us, I turned to starboard 180 degrees and closed the enemy astern, opening fire at 10,000 yards.

17. During this run I passed HUNTER who was on fire and losing speed and HOTSPUR whose steering gear seemed to be out of action.

18. Unfortunately the order to open fire could not be complied with as both foremost guns were out of action, and having no torpedoes I decided that it would be folly to close the range any further, and turned to starboard passing close astern of HOSTILE who was making smoke.

19. At this moment the two leading enemy appeared to be unhit and were firing well placed salvos, while two in rear were very ragged. HAVOCK was again straddled but not hit except by splinters. While withdrawing the after group continued the engagement, until the enemy was lost in smoke.

20. While running to the west HOTSPUR was observed to collide with HUNTER who appeared to be in a bad way, but the former got clear.

21. Once clear of the smoke I drew up alongside HOSTILE and both foremost guns being reported again in use, followed her back into the action to relieve the pressure on HOTSPUR. Fire was opened at 10,000 yards and continued until HOTSPUR was out of range when all ships withdrew. The leading enemy appeared to be still untouched and were straddling effectively while we were turning. They made no attempt however to close the range, after we had slowed to HOTSPUR'S speed.

22. On the way down the fjord a merchant ship was sighted which proved to be the German S.S. RAUENFELS, and HOSTILE stopped her with a shot and ordered me to examine her. I fired another round into her bow and she stopped and her crew hurriedly abandoned ship. I stopped and picked them up while the ship slowly drifted to the beach. I sent an armed boat over but she was burning furiously and I was uncertain as to whether she had used her W/T to call her friends, I decided not to risk the loss of my party and ordered their return. When the boat was hoisted I fired two H.E. into her to hasten the fire and went ahead. The result was certainly startling, as the German literally erupted and a column of flame and debris rose to over 3,000 feet as testified both by HOSTILE and HARDY'S survivors to the west who saw it over the mountains that height. Fortunately no casualties were sustained in HAVOCK but some damage to the hull was done. Judging from the fragments picked up she contained all the reserve ammunition and torpedoes for the destroyer flotilla, and also the Narvik mine-field.

23. HAVOCK then joined HOSTILE off Tranoy Light.

24. From the evidence of the crew of the NORTH CORNWALL there were four destroyers in Narvik harbour when the attack