The Battle of Jutland

The Battle of Jutland took place from May 31st to June 1st in 1916. Involving 250 ships and 100,000 men, it was the biggest naval battle that took place during World War I. It was also the only time that British and German dreadnoughts (battleships) engaged in battle.

The German fleet had a plan to ambush British battleships in the North Sea. Thanks to intelligence from their codebreakers, the British learned about the German plan and sent their ships to sea early. The British lost several ships to German shells early in the battle and withdrew until the second contingent of British ships arrived. The Germans then retreated, as they were severely outnumbered. It wasn't a decisive victory for either side, but although the British Navy lost 14 ships and the Germans only lost 11, the British Navy remained ready for action, while the Germans did not. The Battle of Jutland confirmed that Britain had the dominant navy. It also left Britain in control of shipping lanes, leading to the blockade that was one of the reasons that the Germans surrendered in 1918.

Why was the Battle of Jutland a significant event in WWI?

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