

Hawaiian Gazette.

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WHOLE No. 2938

BIG FOUR CRUISER SQUADRON AT HONOLULU

WHY THE BIG FOUR CAME HERE

A Direct Result of the Acute Phase of Japanese Question.

The visit of the present cruiser squadron to these waters, the most important naval visit, and the most formidable array of naval vessels since the visit of Admiral Evans' fleet in December, 1903, is undoubtedly due to the acute stage the Japanese question reached in the latter part of last year. The relation of the two things may not be obvious on the surface, but it is no less real.

The strained relations with Japan suddenly precipitated by the action of the School Board of San Francisco, found the United States with most of its formidable war vessels in the Atlantic, and the Pacific denuded of an efficient fighting force for a serious occasion, such as might then readily have been reached, and which in spite of the absence of any suggestion of trouble, and where mere supporting distance of legations and embassies was all that was required, in case of some sudden mob uprising, or an unexpected anti-dynastic diversion affecting the interests or safety of Americans.

The suddenness of the Japanese situation and its acuteness put a different aspect on Oriental and Pacific Coast matters. There was a sudden, almost an explosive, realization of the fact that the foreign danger point, so far as the United States was concerned and so far as the need of a strong and effective naval force was concerned, was in the Pacific, and not in the Atlantic. The outposts that needed guarding were not in the East but in the Far East.

But the very suddenness of the realization, and the gravity of it, precluded hasty or precipitous action. To have hurried the fleet to the Pacific would have been construed by our own people as evidence of greater danger than really existed, and by foreign nations as evidence of a belligerency that was the very opposite of what was felt. The situation was one that pointed to the necessity and importance of the Pacific from a naval point of view rather than one which demanded the immediate presence there of strong naval forces. The situation was one in which anything that might savor of panic-stricken action was to be avoided, but delay was to be diplomatic and not negligent.

How carefully the situation had to be handled is shown by the way it was handled. First there was a rumor allowed to get out that a strong naval force was to be sent to the Pacific.

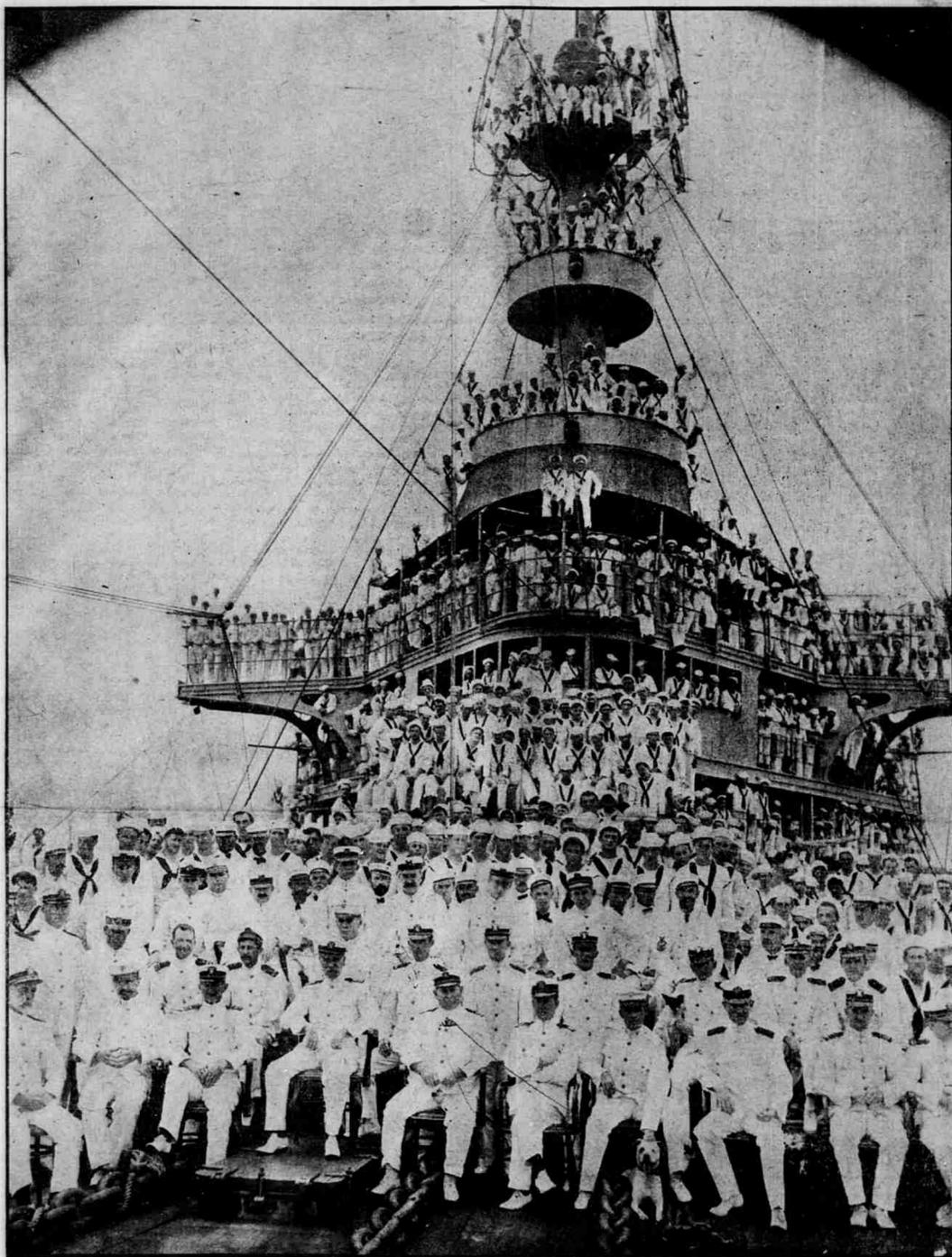
This was at once officially denied so that the effect of the announcement both at home and abroad could be watched and controlled—the denial made effective if necessary, or to be forgotten when the situation at home

and abroad had adjusted itself to it. As this latter was accomplished, the rumor was again allowed to get into circulation, to be denied again but less categorically and soon to be admitted, but explained as being merely depart-

mental orders in the ordinary course of naval routine and naval maneuvers. The latter explanation has never been officially modified, though later rumors—still unconfirmed—but becoming more and more generally probable and ac-

cepted, assert that the Pacific will never see a smaller naval force than is now intended for it. From the first rumor of the dispatch of the battleship fleet to Pacific waters to the final of-

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Admiral Dayton.

Captain J. B. Milton.

ADMIRAL DAYTON AND STAFF. OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE FLAGSHIP WEST VIRGINIA.

ROSTER OF THE SQUADRON

Men Who Are in Charge of Uncle Sam's Four Great Fighting Machines.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Rear Admiral J. H. Dayton, U. S. N.
PERSONAL STAFF.

Chief of Staff, Captain J. B. Milton.
Flag Lieut., Lieutenant J. T. Tompkins.
Aid, Lieutenant J. C. Fremont, Jr.
Aid, Ensign E. C. S. Parker.

FLEET STAFF.

Surgeon of the Fleet, Med. Insp. J. C. Byrnes.
Engineer of the Fleet, Lt. Commander C. B. Price.
Paymaster of the Fleet, Paymaster W. J. Littell.
Marine Officer of the Fleet, Major J. T. Myers.

FIRST SQUADRON.

FIRST DIVISION.
U. S. F. S. WEST VIRGINIA.
(Flagship of the Commander-in-Chief)

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LOOPING THE GLOBE ON WEST VIRGINIA

By Old Salt.
From Oyster Bay we started on a fair September day,
Across the wide Atlantic, four greyhounds lashed with spray,
Ploughed the fretful ocean, in their wake four tiny streaks,
In nine days' steady steaming found Gibraltar's towering peaks.

Four days we stayed at anchor in Naples' charming bay,
Vesuvius threw out flames by night and clouds of smoke by day,
Viewed the master works of art, whose beauty, oh! how rare,
With Rome's and Pompeii's ruins, were grand beyond compare.

Through Suez and the Red Sea, by Arabia's burning sand,
Swept across the Indian ocean that breaks on Hindustan,
Where splendor forms from nature emerald groves so sweet,
The Bengalee, the Singalee, Sepoy and Sikh's retreat.

Then skirt along Sumatra, Malacca, Singapore,
Where many Oriental types adorn the sunny shore,
Past the wilds of Borneo and the Philippines so gay,
Touch at many China cities, then back to Dewey Bay.

Among our bland and Jappy friends we spend a month or two,
Then across the broad Pacific to home, sweet home, we flew,
Gleaming waters sport and play o'er chrysal depths of blue,
On glittering sands and coral reefs round Honolulu.

Now back to God's own country, the fairest I have seen,
My native hills and prairies in memory ever green,
And after being round the world on every sea and shore,
My native plains and canyons, I am yours for evermore.

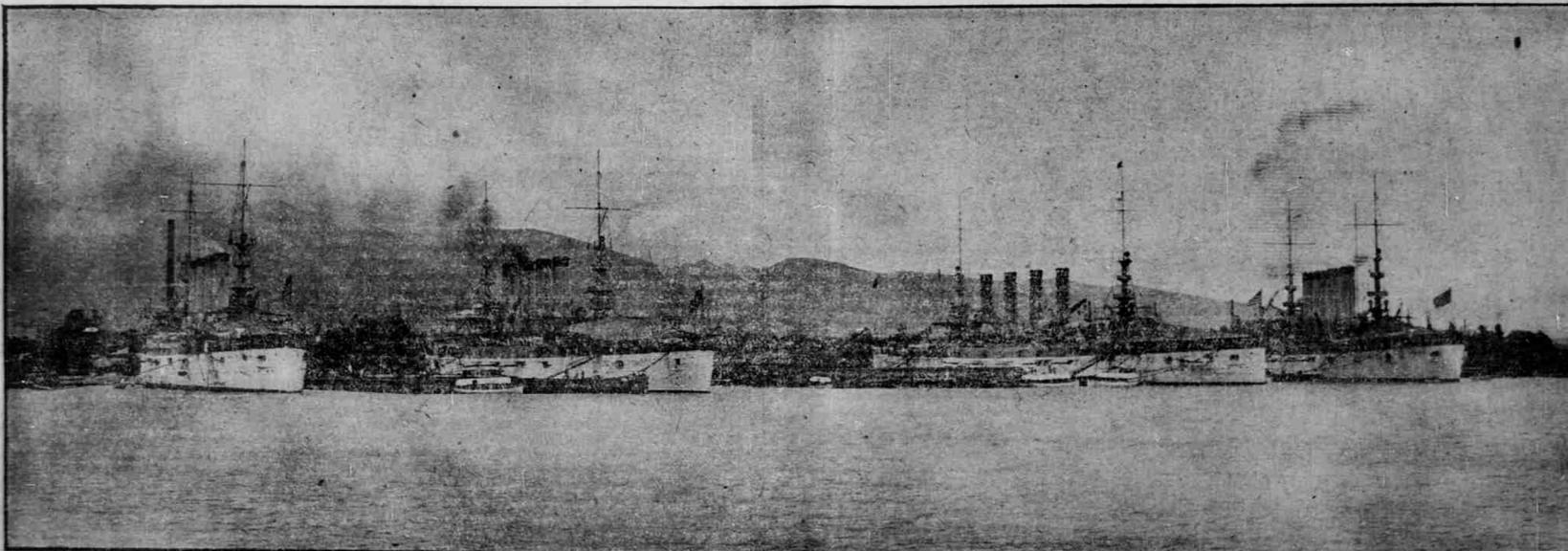
(Continued on Page Two.)

Maryland

Colorado

West Virginia

Pennsylvania



THE BIG FOUR SQUADRON OF UNITED STATES CRUISERS IN HONOLULU HARBOR.