



AMERICAN WARSHIP ARRIVES ON VISIT TO AUCKLAND: The 10,000-ton cruiser Vincennes entering the harbour yesterday afternoon. She will remain at Auckland until Monday, when she is due to leave for Wellington.

CRUISER'S VISIT UNITED STATES SHIP STAY AT AUCKLAND

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The U.S.S. Vincennes, flagship of Rear-Admiral Paul Hendren, Commander of the South Pacific Area and Force, arrived at Auckland from Noumea yesterday afternoon. She berthed on the eastern side of Princes Wharf at 4 o'clock, having arrived in the inner harbour at 2 o'clock. She will remain at Auckland until Monday, when she will leave for Wellington, being due there on Tuesday.

Rear-Admiral Hendren followed his Navy's peacetime practice and had the New Zealand Ensign hoisted for the Vincennes' entry into port. Almost his first action after his ship had been berthed was to express his pleasure at being able to make the visit and to extend an invitation to the public to visit the ship. Hours will be from 2 to 4.30 p.m. today, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and from 1.30 to 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Heavily Armed Ship

Of 10,000 tons and classed as a light cruiser, the Vincennes is commanded by Captain William G. Lalor, U.S.N., his executive officer being Commander L. W. Bailey, U.S.N. There are rather more than 70 officers and about 1100 enlisted men on board. The main armament consists of 12 6in guns, in four triple turrets, and there are also 12 5in guns and a large number of 40 and 20 millimetre pieces, the former being the familiar Bofors and the latter the equally familiar Oerlikons. Four float-planes are carried.



Captain W. G. Lalor

The Vincennes belongs to the largest cruiser class in the world, far more than 50 having gone down the ways in the United States during the past few years. She has a flush deck, there being no break between forecastle and amidships, and fairly square, slab sides, but the built up mass of turrets and gun platforms amidships, and the supplementary positions and sponsons forward and aft, speak clearly of her power. She is more like a battleship than a cruiser in the degree of superstructure, especially in the tiered tower of her bridge and fighting top.

Third of Her Name

Third of her name, the Vincennes has had two notable predecessors. The original Vincennes was a sailing ship which, early last century, was the first American naval vessel to sail around the world. The second Vincennes was a heavy cruiser which was commissioned in 1937 and was sunk in the first Battle of Savo Island in August, 1942, during the assault on Guadalcanar.

The present Vincennes was commissioned in January, 1944, and made her first contact with the enemy in June of the same year. Since then she has been present at every major engagement in the Pacific. She took part in the Marianas operations, including the First Battle of the Philippines, the later action in Leyte Gulf, when the Vincennes sank a Japanese heavy cruiser, air strikes and sweeps against Luzon and Formosa and in the South China Sea, the invasion of Iwo Jima, strikes against Tokyo, and the seizure of Okinawa. On June 17 the Vincennes started to return home for overhaul. She was at Mare Island navy yard when Japan surrendered, and her present assignment, as Rear-Admiral Hendren's flagship, was given to her there.

Admiral and Captain

Admiral Hendren's service in this war includes participation in the North Africa, Sicily and Salerno operations. He has been decorated with the American Legion of Merit, a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit, the Oak Leaf Cluster—this being awarded to him by the United States Army—and the British Distinguished Service Order.

Captain Lalor spent the early part of his naval career in destroyers. He was at Cavite, in the Philippines, when the Japanese attacked, and reached Australia after being taken off by submarine to Java. Until November, 1942, he was stationed at Perth as Chief of Staff to the Commander of Allied Naval Forces, Western Australia, and he then went to Washington and served on the planning board of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He joined the Vincennes last January, in time for the Iwo Jima operation.

ADMIRAL'S FLAG BAND

PERFORMANCES IN CITY

On the cruiser Vincennes is the flag band of the Commander of the South Pacific Area and Force, Rear-Admiral P. Hendren. The band consists of two units, each of 23 pieces, and has been brought to New Zealand by Rear-Admiral Hendren for the purpose of giving benefit performances in aid of various local institutions and organisations.

The bands belong to the United States Navy School of Music and it is stated that they are equally capable of presenting concert and dance music. They have been in the South Pacific Area for 18 months. The first Auckland performance will be in the Town Hall at eight o'clock tonight, when a small charge will be made for the O. and G. Fund. Another performance for the same object will be given at 12.30 p.m. tomorrow. On Saturday there will be a concert at the Auckland Hospital and on Sunday a similar concert will be given in the Parnell rose gardens for the Blind Institute.