



VISITING CRUISER OPEN TO PUBLIC: Aucklanders going aboard the U.S.S. Vincennes yesterday afternoon, when she was open to the public for the first time.

## CRUISER'S VISIT

### PUBLIC ON BOARD

#### KEEN INTEREST IN SHIP

The visiting American cruiser Vincennes was open to the public yesterday afternoon, and hundreds of Aucklanders tramped her decks and inspected her guns and other visible equipment. Entry had to be prohibited to many parts of the ship, mainly because her crew of 1100 have their cots suspended in almost every flat and alleyway, and because as a sizeable housekeeping establishment much work has to continue throughout all hours of the day and night.

However, free access was allowed to most of the upper parts of the cruiser, and Aucklanders continued to go on board almost until the moment, at 4.30, when they had to leave. The ship is to be open today from 1.30 to 3 p.m., the shorter hours being necessary because a reception is being held on board at 4 p.m. by Rear-Admiral Paul Hendren. For tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday visiting hours will again be from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

A gangway broke under some of the first people to go on board yesterday. It fractured suddenly just below the deck of the ship, but all the men and women on it were able to jump or scramble off and no one was injured.

The visitors took special interest in the two Grumman float-planes on the catapult apparatus near the stern, and in the amazing array of guns. Special comment was also excited by the comprehensive radar installations, it being a sign of the times that this formerly most secret equipment was frankly outlined for the benefit of the visitors.

Many officers and enlisted men again received shore leave yesterday. Others helped to replenish stores, much fresh food being taken on board during the day, or worked at a multitude of other duties.

Rear-Admiral Hendren received and paid a number of calls during the morning, and was the guest of the Naval Officer in Charge at Auckland, Commodore W. K. D. Dowding, at lunch. In the afternoon he attended a reception given by the United States Consul at Auckland, Mr J. C. Fuess.