

Basic Detail Report



00015376

Title

New Zealand souvenir, August 1908

Date

August 1908

Primary Maker

J W H Martin

Medium

Card, ink

Dimensions

Overall: 91 x 143 mm

Name

Postcard

History

In December 1907 United States President Theodore Roosevelt sent the US Atlantic Battle Fleet of 16 battleships and seven auxiliary ships on an 18 month goodwill cruise around the world. The fleet was a chance for the Navy to practice seamanship and express America's world power. Roosevelt was also concerned about rising Japanese aggression and their expansionist foreign policy. The cruise would be a political and public relations exercise to build domestic support for more naval construction. Led by the flagship, USS CONNECTICUT, the Great White Fleet as it became known, consisted of 16 battleships painted white, as was the practice of all US Navy ships in times of peace. The ships sailed in four divisions of four ships each. Early in the voyage the order of the ships was altered to allow the best-looking vessels to be at the front of the fleet. The cruise incorporated six continents, 26 countries and 32 ports with 614 officers and 13,504 crew. It consumed 435,000 tons of coal, more than any other naval expedition and was the largest fleet to ever accomplish a circumnavigation of the globe.