

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FLEET NOW IN CALIFORNIA WATERS

Fifty-Three War Ships and Auxiliary Naval Crafts Ready for Voyage Across Pacific.

The greatest fleet of warships the world has ever seen, fifty-three vessels, will salute the flag with big guns at the review of the Atlantic and Pacific fleets in San Francisco Bay May 28th, just before the sixteen battleships resume their record-breaking voyage of 45,000 miles around the world.

The two miles of fighting ships that sailed the English Channel at the Jubilee of Queen Victoria could not stand up against them. The fleet that dotted Oyster Bay when Roosevelt reviewed his strong right arm numbered but thirty-five ships.

The battleships and cruisers alone aggregate more tonnage than all the ships of the Japanese navy. The fleet, according to the official list of the Bureau of Navigation, Washington, D. C. will be made of the following:

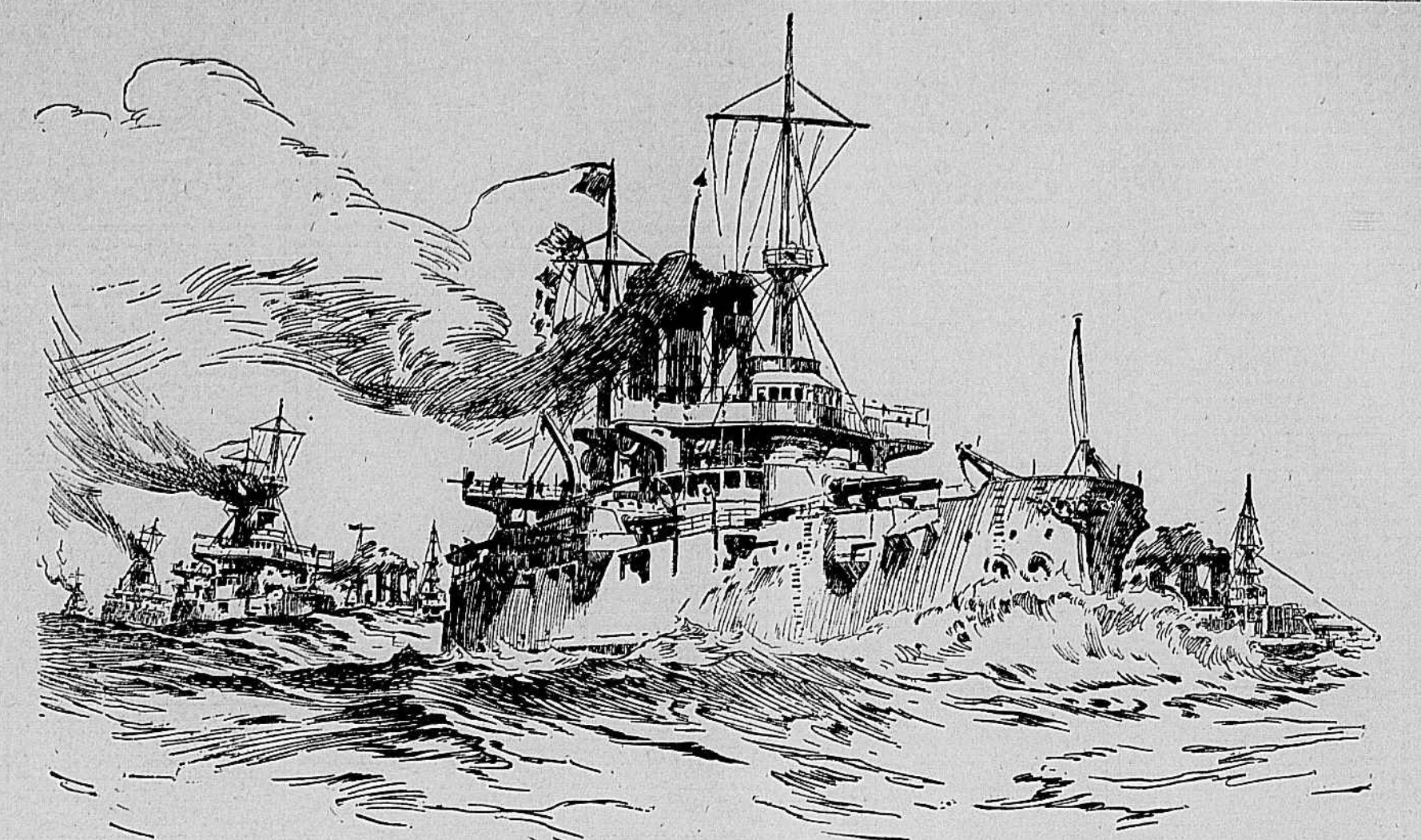
- Ships of the Fleet.
First-class battleships 13
Armored cruisers 8
Protected cruisers 4
Torpedo-boat destroyers 8
Torpedo boats 3
Gunboats 2
Submarines 2
Collars 4
Supply ships 2
Hospital ship 1
Repair ship 1

At the head of the fleet will be the sixteen battleships that sailed 14,000 miles around the South American continent, headed by the flagship Connecticut with her crew of 1,050 men, and the two battleships Wisconsin and Nebraska, just completed in Pacific shipyards.

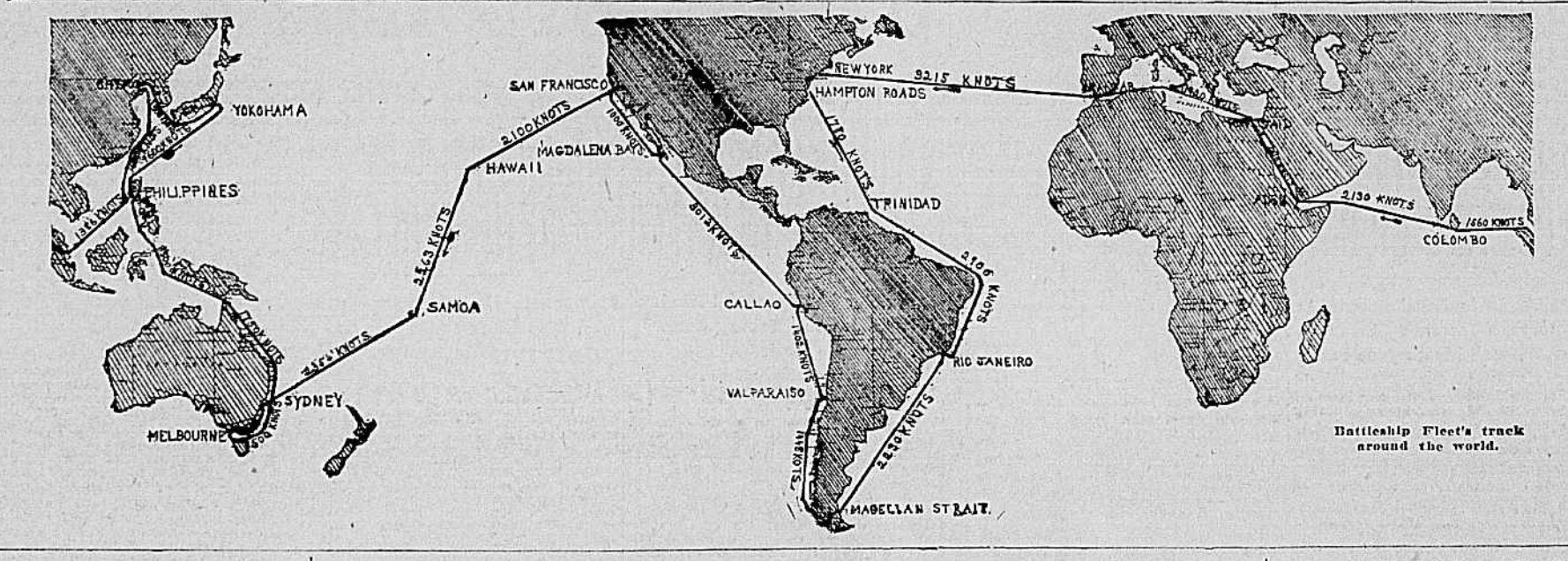
These twenty-six floating fortresses, 500 feet long, are masses of honey-combed steel, giants trained to the minute, but with the agility of a yacht. They are belted with foot-thick steel, and shoot 12 and 13-inch shells to the horizon and beyond.

The United States navy now ranks second, and of the world's powers only Great Britain has a greater aggregation. Of necessity, England's ships must remain scattered among her dominions, on which the sun never sets.

Placed end to end, with bows and sterns touching, the ships would make a boulevard of steel along which one might walk four miles. Strung out at anchor in single file, the fleet would stretch away for ten miles, which is nearly as far as the eye can reach at sea, and with the farthest ship's hull down on the horizon.



Flagship Connecticut leading the fleet.



Battleship Fleet's track around the world.

In fact, the administration has sent its entire fighting strength to the Pacific. The sixteen battleships alone cost \$100,000,000, and are manned by over 15,000 men and 725 officers.

The fighting machines bristle with guns. Were they placed twenty feet apart in the wall of a fort the broad-

THE DEFENDERS OF THE NATION The Fighting Ships.

Table with columns for Ship, Length, Tons, Speed, Horse Power, Cost, Guns, Armor, Coal, Officers, Men. Includes sections for First-Class Battleships, Armored Cruisers, Cruisers, Gunboats, Torpedo-boat Destroyers, and Torpedo Boats.

come south again and steam 1,050 miles to Shanghai, China, and then 1,410 miles to Singapore.

Heading across the Indian Ocean, and after a run of 1,770 miles, the ships will halt at Colombo, Ceylon, with its wealth of color and odors of the east, for coal. Then they will continue across the Indian Ocean for 2,130 miles, when the ships will bring up at Aden, the entrance to the Suez Canal.



ADMIRAL "FIGHTING BOB" EVANS, of Floyd county, Va., who will relinquish command of the fleet when the warships reach San Francisco.

TO COMMAND 53 WAR SHIPS



ADMIRAL CHARLES M. THOMAS, who will succeed Admiral Evans in command. Admiral Sperry will succeed Admiral Thomas, and will command the great fleet in the trip around the world.

side would extend a length of eight miles, or make a square two miles long on each of its four sides.

The big guns that constitute the main batteries in the fleet number as follows:

- Four-inch rifles 56
Five-inch rifles 450
Six-inch rifles 328
Seven-inch rifles 120
Eight-inch rifles 188
Ten-inch rifles 14
Twelve-inch rifles 52
Thirteen-inch rifles 20

for Apia, Samoa, a mere speck far down in the Southern Pacific, and calling for a run of 2,263 miles. Having shown themselves to our possessions in the Pacific, the fighters will steam 2,345 miles over to Sydney, and then 600 miles to Melbourne, Australia.

After being wind and dined, and having showed the English what we have in the fighting line, the fleet will set out for a stretch of 5,750 miles to the China Sea, the highway through which passes all the sail and steam traffic of the many nations of the sea with the Orient and the west. After consorting with the flags of all nations and hearing the jargons of all races that swarm through this nautical highway of the east, the ships will drop anchor in Manila. Then, after full manoeuvres and target practice, the fleet will go 1,800 miles up to Yokohama, Japan. Next the ships will