

PACIFIC FLEET ENDS PROBLEM 21 GAMES

Admiral Richardson Lauds New Type of Destroyers Which Were Criticized as Topheavy

PATROL PLANES HAD PART

Colorful Searchlight Review Is Feature of Arrival of Ships at Pearl Harbor

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
HONOLULU, April 26—Ships of the United States fleet did not venture out of the Hawaiian group of islands (a string 1,200 miles long) during Fleet Problem 21, which came to a close this morning with the arrival of nine men-of-war at Pearl Harbor, Admiral Richardson, fleet commander in chief, said today.

While declining to describe the exact boundaries of the war game exercises, the admiral did comment that the manoeuvres involved more steaming than he had seen in any others in the Pacific area. He revealed, however, that patrol planes from the Naval Air Station at Pearl Harbor had taken part in advance base operations at Johnston Island and French Frigate Shoals. New advance bases at Midway, Palmyra and Wake were not utilized.

Complete satisfaction was expressed by Admiral Richardson with the performances of officers, men and ships under high pressure. He asserted the new type destroyers on which there had been criticism that they were top-heavy had proved themselves entirely satisfactory in what at times was heavy sea weather, so bad that two destroyers were withdrawn from the manoeuvres and sent to Pearl Harbor for minor repairs to bent plates.

The heavy cruiser Houston is scheduled to go to an Orient station in August, replacing the heavy cruiser Augusta. Eighteen destroyers will depart with the fleet when it sails homeward May 9. These are the Mahan, Lamson, Flusser, Drayton, Phelps, Dewey, Hull, Macdonough, Worden, Aylwin, Dale, Farragut, Monaghan, Porter, Cushing, Perkins, Preston and Smith. Other destroyers will be sent here to replace them and keep the Hawaiian detachment at present strength.

More than forty ships of the base force and train entered the harbor Wednesday and Thursday and last night staged a striking searchlight review, steaming slowly past Diamond Head and off to the west with every available searchlight flashing first in rhythmic patterns and then individually for nearly an hour. The display was watched by 100,000 spectators.