Australia
August 20 - September 18th

On Aug. 15, the fleet sailed for Sydney, Australia, where it arrived five days later. The fleet was greeted by more than 250,000 people, who had stayed up all night so as not to miss the ships' arrival. For the next eight days, there was a non-stop celebration in honor of the Navy visitors.

With all this celebrating, some of the crewmen were beginning to feel the wear and tear. One sailor was found asleep on a bench in one of Sydney's parks. Not wishing to be disturbed, he posted a sign above his head which read:

"Yes, I am delighted with the Australian people.

"Yes, I think your park is the finest in the world.

"I am very tired and would like to go to sleep."

Being truly hospitable, Sydney let him sleep.

Melbourne also rolled out the red carpet for the fleet. Nothing was too good for the Yankee sailors, and they were given the key to the city. Melbourne's hospitality made such an impression that many sailors were reluctant to leave when the ships got underway for Manila on Sept. 18 and arrived Oct. 2

Sydney

View of Sydney Harbor from North Sydney, showing the entire American Fleet and Auxiliaries.

These are two Keystone stereoviews that depict the fleet in Sydney. Though there are many stereoviews from the Rose company, these are the only two I have from Keystone.

Landing a naval brigade at Fann Cove and Woolloomooloo Bay the next day, the fleet marched up Pitt Street, renamed American Avenue for the occasion. They march through the city to Mrs. Macquarine's Point where lunch was served.

The next day railways excursions were planned to Newcastle and other destinations. At Newcastle station they were received by the Mayor, tow brass bands and over 200,000 citizens.

Temporarily renamed American Avenue, the Fleet paraded down Pitt Street in downtown Sydney.

Melbourne

Shortly after 11:00 am on Saturday, 29 August, the fleet rounded Port Philip Heads to start the thirty-mile trip to anchorage at Hobson's Bay. This port was to be universally acclaimed the best port-of-call of the entire cruise. Sailors were greeted like heroes and enjoyed the favor of the citizens of Melbourne.

The postcards and souvenirs were fantastic. Melbourne was ready with booklets of the city and the surrounding countryside that contained images, tips, schedules and maps.
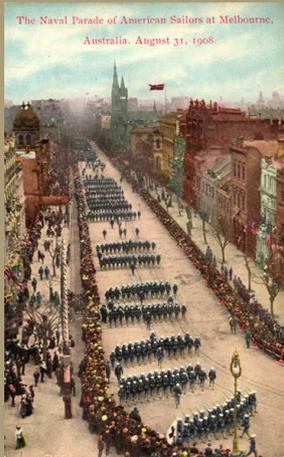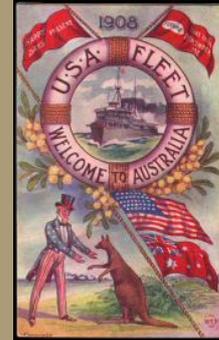
Being competitive cities, Melbourne worked hard to out-do Sydney. The reception was known as "American Week" and in exuberance and frenzy, topped anything that the fleet had experienced thus far. The crowds at events were over whelming.

Albany

Albany would be an important stop for the fleet to take on coal. It was the smallest city the fleet had been but was geographically located in an ideal place to replensih the fleet supply of coal before completing the 3,500 mile transit to Manila. The above two cards showing fleet sailors returning to the ships after the parade, and at right, the welcome sign at the fleet landing.