

Pattern: HMZ New Zealand, Indefatigable Class Battle Cruiser; Introduced in to NZ Service: 1912; Withdrawn: 1922
Builder: Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd Glasgow; Launched: 1/7/1911; Commissioned in RN: 12/11/1912.
Tonnage: 18,800; **Dimensions:** 590 x 555 x 80 x 30 ft (179.8 x 169.2 x 24.4 x 9.1 m).
Machinery: 4 shaft, coal fired – later oil fired steam turbines, 44,000 ihp; **Speed:** 26 knots.
Armament: Guns – 8 x 12 in, 16 x 4 in, 2 x 3 in AA guns, Torpedo Tubes - 2 x 21 in; **Complement:** 800.



NZ Service

HMS New Zealand was a Royal Navy ship purchased by the New Zealand Government and presented to Great Britain as an act of loyalty to the Crown. The offer was made by the then Prime Minister Sir Joseph Ward on 23 March 1909 and the vessel cost £ 2.3 million, the loan finally being repaid in 1944. She made two visits to New Zealand in 1913 and 1919, touring ports around the country.

In the Great War she served with the Grand Fleet engaging in 3 battles in the North Sea, Heligoland Bight 26/8/1914, Dogger Bank 24/1/1915, Jutland 31/5/16. She contributed to the sinking of two German Cruisers and received only one hit with no casualties, this good fortune being attributed to the sacred tiki and pui-pui presented to the ship by an old Maori chief and worn by the captain in battle. After her second visit to New Zealand she returned to the UK and was placed in reserve at Devonport in 1920. In 1922 she was sold for scrap following the Washington Naval Treaty, which limited the size of nations Navies and broken up at Rosyth in 1923.

14 of her 4 in. guns came to New Zealand and were used at Fort Dorset and Godley Head. In WW II they were used for harbour defence at Auckland, Wellington and Lyttelton. Two surviving guns, No 927 & 928 BL 4 in Wire Mk VII, are now in front of Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Specification of 4 In Mk VII gun: Calibre 4.0 in (101.6 mm), Length 208.45 in (5.29 m), Weight 4704 Lb (2135 Kg)
Rifling 32 grooves 1 in 30 cal twist, Shell 31 Lb (14 kg), Charge 9.3 Lb (4.2 Kg), MV 2821 fps (860 mps)
Range 11,600 yds, (10600 m)

Acknowledgements: *New Zealand Naval Vessels* by RJ McDougall.

Great Guns by Peter Cooke & Ian Maxwell

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/hms-new-zealand-1913>