

Double Earthquake Shock Rocks Dreadnoughts of Rodman's Fleet Near Colima, Mexico

ON BOARD U. S. S. NEW MEXICO. Aug. 2, (By Wireless to Associated Press.)—Six dreadnoughts of the Pacific Fleet were shaken severely by a double earthquake shock at 4:18 o'clock this afternoon twenty miles off the coast of the State of Colima, Mexico. None of the warships reported any damage.

The New Mexico trembled from bow to stern as if she had struck an uncharted reef, and the navigating officer sounded "Collision Quarters" on the flagship's siren. Sailors in the foretop said the basket masts of the warships swayed like poplar trees in a gale.

Officers on the quarter deck hurried to their posts and the crew and the marines took their places. Meanwhile, all watertight compartments on the New Mexico were closed, and inspection parties were sent into the holds to see if there had been any damage to the hull.

Admiral Hugh Rodman, commanding the fleet, quickly recognized the cause of the disturbance. "It's an earthquake," he said. "We are right off the coast of Colima, where there are many earthquakes."

Then, turning to Commander Brainard, he ordered:

"Signal all ships in the fleet and see if they felt any excessive vibration."

Wireless telephone messages were received soon from the five other dreadnoughts reporting that they felt the shocks. The Mississippi, which was further off shore, reported heavy vibrations.

"Just what I thought—an earthquake," Admiral Rodman repeated.

When the first tremor was felt those below hurried on the flagship's deck. The faces of some of the recruits showed alarm as the men stood at quarters awaiting orders, while the flagship rolled and pitched in the heavy ground swells that followed the shocks.

Admiral Rodman kept the crew at quarters for fifteen minutes, and then ordered the "Secure Signal" to be sounded. He took the whole incident as if it were a matter of routine, giving his orders quietly on the quarter deck, while officers and men were running to their posts in the tense excitement of the first few moments.

One of the officers reported that he believed the earthquake came from an old crater in the Sierra Mountains, which fringe the coast line near here and drop off into the sea.

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