The **County-class** Light Cruiser

**Dimensions:** 290 ft. x 51 ft. x 65 ft. (excluding funnels & masts)

**Complement:** 282

**Weight:** 4,900 tons

**Engines:** Triple expansion, producing 18,000 shaft hp (max. speed 38 knots)

**Fuel:** (coal) normal 750 tons; max 950 tons

**Armament:** 3-6”, 4-4.7” QF

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The *County-class*, with its distinctive “pillbox bridge,” is recognisable across the British Empire. Fast, with remarkable endurance and capable of independent operations, these vessels can be found patrolling the furthest reaches of the realm.

The HML *New Zealand* is one of the last *County-class* hulls laid down—the so-called “Dominion ships,” funded by contributions from the colonies. They feature expanded accommodations, improved ventilation, and enhanced storage, including an innovative ammonia-based refrigeration system licensed from Herr Professor Linde of Germany.

The *New Zealand* spent the last three years patrolling the South Pacific, keeping an eye on the rebellious so-called “Federation of Australia” and its German allies to the west, and on French territorial claims to the north. Supply depots have been established on Tonga and Fiji to support these patrols, with the vessel spending little time in the air above its namesake. In 1909, it made the voyage home to Britain for overhaul; the vessel and its captain, Commander Kenneth “Kai” Knight, are participating in exercises with the Grand Fleet before commencing the return voyage.