

4-26-1914

Fleet Order No. 17-14 - USS Arkansas (BB-33)

Charles Johnston Badger

USS Arkansas (BB-33)

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UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET,
U. S. S. **KANSAS, Flagship,**

Vera Cruz, Mexico,
May 4, 1914.

FLEET ORDER NO. 18-14.

The following cablegram, received from the Secretary of the Navy, is quoted for the information of the Fleet and will be published to the crews at quarters on board all vessels:

"Speaking for myself as Secretary of the Navy, and voicing the sentiment of the American People, I wish to convey to the officers, sailors and marines now in Mexican waters, the National thanks and appreciation for your patriotic service at Vera Cruz on April twenty-first and succeeding days.

The names of the men who fell at Vera Cruz will be written high upon our National Roll of Honor and their comrades who survive are assured of every honor that a grateful Republic can bestow. Those fallen in the firing line and those who were spared for future service added new lustre to the honorable history of the Navy.

As we reflect upon this recent baptism of fire it is good to remember that not a shot was fired by the Naval Forces except to carry out orders, or in self defense; no blow was struck for aggression or in retaliation.

The courage and wisdom of the men of the Navy and Marine Corps have not been illustrated more gloriously than in the courage displayed at Vera Cruz. Never before did the Service better justify the faith and pride of the American People in its preparedness and efficiency.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS'.

CHAS. J. BADGER,
REAR-ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET.