

## Great Ships of The U. S. Navy

### *U.S.S. Albany*

by Mike Prero

Initially commissioned as the second OREGON CITY - class heavy cruiser, the USS ALBANY was the fourth ship in the Navy named after the city in New York. Designated CA 123, the ALBANY was decommissioned on June 30, 1958, and entered the Boston Naval Shipyard on January 2, 1959, to be converted to a guided missile cruiser. The ALBANY was recommissioned as CG 10 on November 3, 1962.

On 30 June 1958, ALBANY began conversion to a guided missile cruiser and was redesignated CG 10. The warship spent the next four years at Boston undergoing very extensive modifications as part of the conversion. The ship was recommissioned at Boston on 3 November 1962. For almost five years, she again alternated deployments to European waters - both to the Mediterranean Sea and to the North Atlantic - with operations along the east coast and in the West Indies. During that time, the cruiser visited many foreign ports and participated in a number of exercises with units of friendly navies. On 1 March 1967, she was decommissioned at the Boston Naval Shipyard once again to undergo extensive modifications. Some 20 months later, on 9 November 1968, the guided missile cruiser was placed back in commission at Boston.

ALBANY embarked upon her shakedown cruise to the West Indies on 15 September, 1969 and then returned to Mayport to begin operations with the Atlantic Fleet. Late in February 1970, ALBANY embarked upon her first deployment to European waters since her modernization. During the next six years, she made three cruises to the Mediterranean and completed one assignment to northern European waters. On 10 August 1976, ALBANY put to sea from Norfolk, bound for an extended tour of duty with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. Operating from her overseas home port at Gaeta, Italy, she served as flagship for the Commander, 6th Fleet, for almost four years.

Relieved of that duty at Gaeta by PUGET SOUND (AD 38) on 28 May 1980, the guided missile cruiser returned to the United States on 2 June. After stops at Mallorca, Spain, and Lisbon, Portugal, she arrived in New York City on 20 June. From there, the warship moved south to Hampton Roads, Va. On 29 August 1980, ALBANY was placed out of commission at Norfolk, Va. She was berthed with the Norfolk Group, Atlantic Reserve Fleet. Her name was struck from the Navy list on 30 June 1985. [<http://navysite.de/cg/cg10.htm>]

