

Great Ships of The U. S. Navy

U.S.S. Boston

by Mike Prero

USS Boston (CA-69/CAG-1), a Baltimore-class heavy cruiser, was the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for the city of Boston, Massachusetts. Boston was launched 26 August 1942 by Bethlehem Steel Company's, Fore River Shipyard, Quincy, Mass.; and commissioned 30 June 1943.

Boston reported to the Pacific Fleet, arriving at Pearl Harbor 6 December 1943. She joined Task Force 58 (TF 58) in January and took part in the raids on the Marshall Islands in support of the invasions of Kwajalein, Majuro, and of Eniwetok (31 January – 28 February 1944).

Boston also supported the assaults on the Palaus and Western Carolines between 30 March and 1 April, and operations at Hollandia (currently known as Jayapura) and Western New Guinea on 21 – 24 April. The ship participated in the attack on Truk, including bombardment of Satawan Island between 29 April – 1 May. *Boston* also supported the invasion of Saipan (11 and 24 June), and took part in several raids on the Bonin Islands in June and July. She was also supporting the carrier task forces during the Battle of the Philippine Sea on 19 June. *Boston* towed the crippled *USS Houston* after it was torpedoed by the Japanese.

Boston returned to the Marianas, to support the invasion of Guam on 12 July, until the successful completion of the campaign on 15 August. The ship also took part in the raids on Palau-Yap-Ulithi between 25 and 27 July, as well as the landings on Morotai on 15 September, and the seizure of the southern Palaus between 6 September – 14 October. She also supported the raids on the Philippine Islands, starting on 9 September, until 24 September.

She served with TF 38 during the Okinawa raid on 10 October, and the northern Luzon and Formosa raid on 11–14 October, as well as the Luzon raids on 15 October and 24–26 October, 13–14 November and 19–20 November, and 14–16 December. *Boston* also participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf on 24 October, as well as the Formosa raids in January, on 3–4, 9, 15, and 21 January 1945). Further raids on Luzon took place on 6–7 January, with raids on the Chinese mainland on 12 and 16 January. In January, February, and March, she bombarded Japan itself.

In 1945, *Boston* joined TF 38 for the raids on the Japanese home islands (20 July – 15 August), including the bombardment of Kamaishi, Honshū (9 August). Following the Japanese surrender, *Boston* remained in the Far East on occupation duty. She then returned to the United States and was placed out of commission in reserve at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on 12 March 1946.

Boston was reclassified CAG-1 on 4 January 1952 as the world's first guided missile cruiser and served with distinction in the Vietnam War. She was decommissioned on 5 May 1970, she was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in January 1973 (one source says 1974) and sold for scrapping in March 1975. Scrapping was completed in 1976. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Boston_\(CA-69\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Boston_(CA-69))]

