

## HISTORY

### U.S.S OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5)

The USS OKLAHOMA CITY (CLG-5), a guided missile light cruiser, is named for the capital city of Oklahoma. She was originally built as the light cruiser OKLAHOMA CITY (CL-91) by William Cramp and Sons of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her keel was laid on 8 December 1942, and she was commissioned on 22 December 1944.

After a series of shakedown cruises in the Caribbean, she conducted local operations in the Hawaii area and then sailed for Ulithi, arriving there on 1 June 1945.

Once in the Pacific Theater, OKLAHOMA CITY served as a screen for carriers and participated in the bombardment of the Japanese home islands. She pulled into Tokyo Bay 10 September 1945, and conducted local operations until early 1946.

OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in San Francisco on 14 February for inactivation. She was decommissioned on 30 June 1947, and assigned to the San Francisco group of the Pacific Reserve Fleet.

### OUT OF MOTHBALLS

On 7 March 1957 the ship arrived at the yards of the Bethlehem Pacific Coast Company of San Francisco and conversion of OKLAHOMA CITY to a guided missile light cruiser commenced on 21 May 1957. USS OKLAHOMA CITY, was commissioned as CLG-5 at Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard 7 December 1960.

On 8 February 1961, the OKLAHOMA CITY became the first combatant unit of the US Pacific Fleet to successfully fire a Talos guided missile. Following this exercise, final acceptance trials were run in early March for the Navy Department Board of Inspection and Survey.

-more-

SHIP'S HISTORY 2-2-2

OKLAHOMA CITY conducted shakedown cruises and trained from March through May 1961 under the operational control of the Commander, Fleet Training Group, San Diego. On the Pacific Missile Range during the week of 3-5 May, the OKLAHOMA CITY's missile system again checked out satisfactorily, marking her as a power in the new line of guided missile cruiser.

On 1 December 1961, the OKLAHOMA CITY departed Long Beach for a deployment in the Western Pacific. Arriving in Pearl Harbor on 7 December, the OKLAHOMA CITY anchored near the USS ARIZONA and participated in the twentieth anniversary memorial ceremony in honor of those who died in the attack of 7 December 1941. The cruiser hosted some two hundred and fifty guests for the ceremony, among them Gold Star mothers and veterans of the attack.

WESTPAC AS CLG-5

OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in Yokosuka, Japan on 20 December and relieved the USS ST. PAUL (CA-73) as flagship for Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet, Vice Admiral William A. Schoech, and his staff of 250 officers and men.

Throughout her Western Pacific stay OKLAHOMA CITY fulfilled all her cruiser operational requirements and fired four successful Talos missile shots, She earned an "E" for her missilery as well as an "E" for 6-inch gunnery.

The USS PROVIDENCE (CLG-6) relieved OKLAHOMA CITY as SEVENTH Fleet flagship on 26 May 1962 at Yokosuka, Japan. OKLAHOMA CITY left the Far East on 28 May.

-more-

### SHIP'S HISTORY 3-3-3

Following a short stay in Pearl Harbor, 5-6 June, OKLAHOMA CITY arrived in her U.S. homeport of Long Beach, California on 12 June and began her post-deployment leave period. At the U.S. Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, minor repairs and upkeep work were performed.

OKLAHOMA CITY was presented with the Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Nine Battle Efficiency "E" on 15 February 1963. She won the award for her superior anti-air warfare performance and internal organization.

In October and November 1963, OKLAHOMA CITY conducted missile firings on the Pacific Missile Range. On 23 October OKLAHOMA CITY embarked the Surface Missile Systems Steering Committee. After watching a missile firing by the USS BERKELEY, the group was taken to Port Hueneme, California, where the ship was visited by the Under Secretary of the Navy, Paul B. Fay.

In early 1964, OKLAHOMA CITY began preparations for again assuming the role of flagship of the SEVENTH Fleet. January and February were spent in the shipyards.

On 23 March, the ship conducted competitive Refresher Training. On 24 April, OKLAHOMA CITY fired in competitive exercises on the Pacific Missile Range, receiving grades of Outstanding in all fields, and earning the missile efficiency "E".

While in Pearl Harbor, the ship became the temporary flagship for a Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet change of command ceremony in which Admiral T .H. Moorer relieved Admiral U. S. Grant Sharp. Before leaving Hawaii, OKLAHOMA CITY fired in another exercise; this time the 6-inch won an "E".

-more-

IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

The OKLAHOMA CITY sailed to Yokosuka, Japan, and arrived on 7 July 1964 to relieve the USS PROVIDENCE (CLG-6) as flagship for Vice Admiral Roy L. Johnson, COMSEVENTH. She was to be flagship until December 1966.

On August 6 the ship departed for a 25-day alert in the Gulf of Tonkin following the attacks of North Vietnamese gunboats on two SEVENTH fleet destroyers.

Over the Christmas holiday period, OKLAHOMA CITY added the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to her other awards and decorations.

During the first two months of 1965, the OKLAHOMA CITY continued making operational port visits to various ports of the Far East including Osaka, Beppu and Iwakuni, Japan and Naha, Okinawa.

During a total of 402 days in the Vietnam combat zone, the OKLAHOMA CITY fired nearly 2,000 rounds of 6-inch and some 1,000 five-inch shells on enemy positions. She also participated in assault operations such as "Piranha", "Double Eagle," and the "Deck House" series.

December 1, 1966 marked the conclusion of her two and a half year tour of duty as flagship of the SEVENTH fleet. December 15, OKLAHOMA CITY passed under the Golden Gate Bridge and slipped into Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard for an extensive overhaul period.

-more-

SHIP'S HISTORY 5-5-5

On 18 July 1967, her overhaul completed, OKLAHOMA CITY again steamed from under the Golden Gate Bridge, this time bound for her new homeport, San Diego, Calif.

Arriving at San Diego on 22 July OKLAHOMA CITY immediately began an intensive training program to ready the ship in all aspects for combat and other assigned duties, including that of flagship for the Commander U. S. FIRST Fleet.