

... her legacy

The third ship to carry the name of COLUMBUS was named in honor of the city of Columbus, Ohio.

The new COLUMBUS was at least four times as large as the two other ships that bore the same name. The fire power and equipment that went into the new ship was staggering.

On the 29th of November, 1944, the third COLUMBUS was launched at the Boston Navy Yard. On September 7, 1945, COLUMBUS departed the yard for the Caribbean. She operated out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for intensive training. On December 7, 1945, she sailed for the Panama Canal with orders to report to the Commander, Pacific Fleet, for duty and ultimate assignment to the Seventh Fleet at Shanghai, China.

In September, 1948, COLUMBUS returned to the east coast and joined the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. For the next seven years she made several deployments to the Mediterranean and Northern Europe.



COLUMBUS rejoined the Pacific fleet in November, 1955, and remained there until her decommissioning for conversion in May, 1959.

COLUMBUS' transition to a guided missile cruiser got underway at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, with the adoption of "Operation Cleansweep." Everything above the main deck was removed, loaded into barges and shipped to scrap yards. The revolutionary conversion in hull and superstructure introduced a totally new concept in design with the "Mack." This is the identifying word for combining the "mast" and "stack" into one unit.

The new COLUMBUS, with batteries of Talos, Tartar and Asroc, was recommissioned in December, 1962.

After her shakedown cruise from March to June 1963, COLUMBUS remained in the Pacific Fleet operating area until January 10, 1966, when she pulled out of her homeport of San Diego for the last time and headed east to her new homeport of Norfolk, Virginia.

Upon her arrival, COLUMBUS began a continuous shuttle to and from the Mediterranean that was to last with regularity until April, 1971, when she entered Norfolk Naval Shipyard for the first major overhaul since her recommissioning.

In April, 1972, after a six month yard period and a visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for refresher training, the "Tall Lady" was once again ready to return to the Mediterranean.