

## Light Cruiser USS OAKLAND CL 95

- USS OAKLAND was an Atlanta-class Light Cruiser. The ship weighed six thousand tons, was approximately two city blocks in length and could accommodate a crew of 802 men and officers.
- The keel for the Light Cruiser USS OAKLAND was laid down by Bethlehem Steel at Hunters Point Shipyards in San Francisco on July 15, 1941.
- USS OAKLAND was launched on October 23, 1942, sponsored by Dr. Aurelia H. Reinhardt, President of Mills College in Oakland.
- USS OAKLAND was commissioned on July 17, 1943; the first United States Navy ship to bear the name of the city of Oakland, California.
- USS OAKLAND sailed for Pearl Harbor and joined the Pacific Fleet in 1943 and was assigned to duty with the fast carrier strike force. The ship earned nine battle stars in duty that took its crew from the Gilbert and Marshall Islands to Okinawa, including the epic actions of the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf.
- USS OAKLAND was present in Tokyo Bay alongside the battleship *MISSOURI* to witness the surrender ceremonies that ended World War II.
- USS OAKLAND sustained three casualties during World War II.
- USS OAKLAND was decommissioned in 1949, struck from the active list in 1959, and sold for scrap. The mast and nameplate of the USS OAKLAND were salvaged by the Navy, presented to the people of Oakland, and installed on the Jack London Square waterfront in November 1965.
- The USS OAKLAND artifacts were removed from Jack London Square in 1999, as part of the renovation of the Jack London Square Marina.
- The Port of Oakland sponsored a display at City Hall, highlighting the history and contributions of USS OAKLAND, which includes materials supplied by USS OAKLAND shipmates.
- The Oakland City Council passed a resolution, acknowledging the contributions of the USS OAKLAND and her crew, on December 5, 2000.
- The USS OAKLAND mast and nameplate were restored and installed on the city's western waterfront at the Port of Oakland's new Middle Harbor Shoreline Park on the site of the former Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Oakland, in July 2002.