

MIGHTY NINETY



WINTER 2009

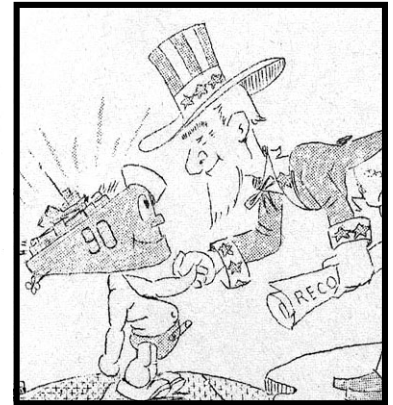
The Quarterly Newsletter of USS ASTORIA CL-90

Welcome to the 1st issue of the Mighty Ninety newsletter!

This newsletter will be published four times a year. It will contain announcements and content surrounding the light cruiser USS ASTORIA CL-90 and the men who served aboard ship during her career, 1944-1949.



The newspaper masthead and cover art from the first issue of the ship's paper, published on October 20th, 1944 as USS ASTORIA prepared to leave the west coast for the first time.



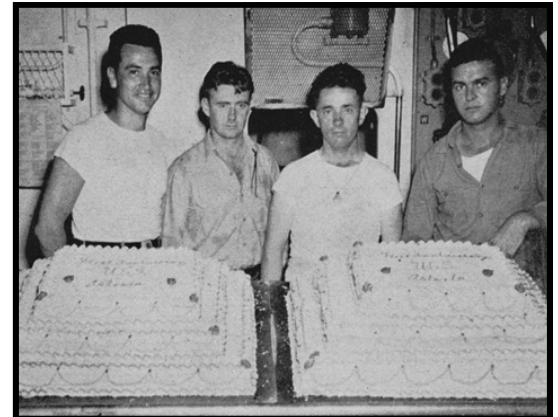
MIGHTY NINETY WEBSITE IS ONE YEAR OLD

In December 2007 design began on a commemorative website for USS ASTORIA CL-90 at www.mighty90.com. In the first year, more than 40 shipmates, family members, and friends have contributed in some way to the site—and the number grows each month.

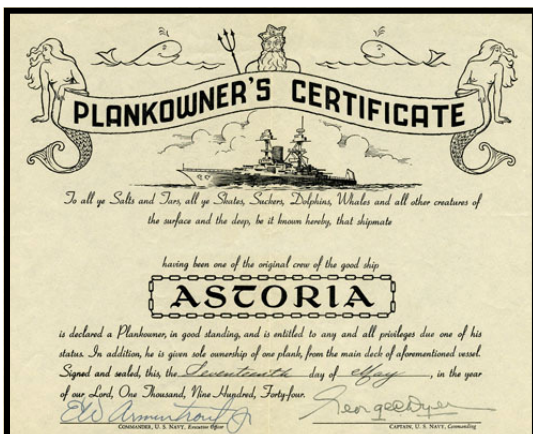
The website is still under construction and updates are added each month. The ship's history through December 1944 is "complete," although new information will always be added as it becomes available.

Updates for the next few months will include the 1945 ship's history, an expansion of the ship technical section, and, of course, additional shipmate biographies as photos and information continue to be shared by shipmates and their family members.

Here is a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have made the Mighty Ninety website what it has become!



Cakes from USS ASTORIA's 1st anniversary celebration at Leyte in June 1945.



USS ASTORIA PLANKING LOCATED

Although the Curator Branch of the U.S. Navy Historical Center no longer officially distributes ship planking to plankowners, John Moccia is in discussions with them. The Curator Branch has agreed to provide John with a quantity of original planking from CL-90 to be distributed to eligible USS ASTORIA plankowners or their families.

If you are eligible for a section of planking, you can reach John at:

Email john_moccia@pall.com

Cell phone (516) 903-4534

MIGHTY NINETY

COLOR FILM FOOTAGE SHOT ABOARD USS ASTORIA—FOUND!



In March-April 1945, two reels of silent color film footage were shot aboard the Mighty Ninety during Okinawa operations by a U.S. Navy fleet photographer named Charles McGillis.

McGillis was hometown friends with 6th Division Coxswain Mario DiMaio, and forty years later he provided DiMaio with a VHS copy of the color footage. The film depicts:

- Carrier flight operations against the Japanese home islands
- Kamikaze activity over USS ASTORIA, including several planes shot down by CL-90
- Firefighting and recovery operations aboard the aircraft carriers USS FRANKLIN, ENTERPRISE and HANCOCK
- Underway replenishment off Okinawa
- OS2U Kingfisher rescue operations, including footage of Captain Dyer and the ship's rescue pilots

The entire 28 minutes was shot from the decks of USS ASTORIA CL-90.

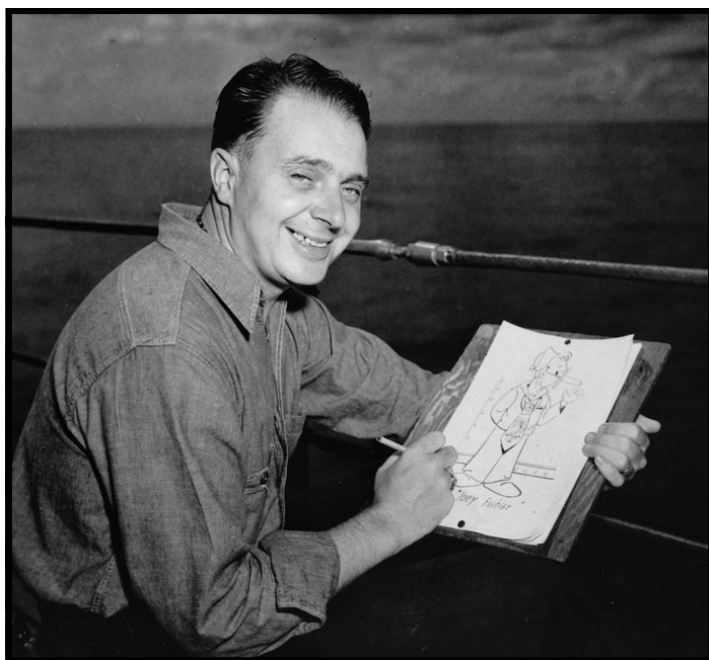
This film footage has been placed on permanent display within the Mighty Ninety website. However, Internet limitations result in the footage appearing in small windows on the computer screen.

If you would like a full-screen DVD copy of this footage, please contact Brent Jones at:

Email brentj@mighty90.com

Cell phone (214) 995-9224

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT: JOE AMAN AND JOEY FUBAR



USS ASTORIA shipmate Joe Aman provided cartoon drawings for the Mighty Ninety ship's newspaper throughout the wartime cruise. He is responsible for the art on the front page of this newsletter as well as the cartoon at right. Most of his drawings chronicled the misadventures of Apprentice Seaman Joey Fubar, named after a popular wartime acronym (the socially acceptable version is "Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition.") One of Aman's Joey Fubar cartoons will be featured in each forthcoming Mighty Ninety newsletter.

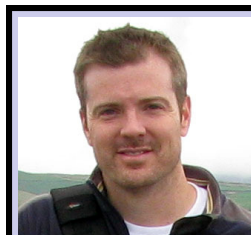
SHIPMATE PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHIES WANTED

To date a dozen biographies have been placed on the Mighty Ninety website by the contributions of shipmates and their family members. As of the printing of this newsletter, another eight are in the works. If you wish to contribute photos and information for a shipmate biography, please contact Brent Jones at the email or phone number on the previous page. Shipmate biographies will remain on permanent display within the Mighty Ninety website.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks for contributions included in this newsletter:

- Herman Schnipper (wartime photographs and 1st issue of ship's newspaper)
- Corey Bullard (Joey Fubar cartoon)
- Gary DiMaio (wartime film footage)
- CAPT Dominic DeSciolo, USN (sample plankowner's certificate)
- Tony and Andy Coffaro (CL-90 underway photo)



The Mighty Ninety website and newsletter are primarily written and maintained by Brent Jones, great-nephew of E Division plankowner Lawrence C. Jones.

Brent is looking to contact as many Mighty Ninety shipmates as possible to share the website and newsletter with them. If you can help locate someone new, please share!

- brentj@mighty90.com



USS ASTORIA CL-90 underway at the beginning of her shakedown cruise, June 8th, 1944.