

United States Ship

U.S.S. RICHARD B. ANDERSON (DD-786)

Richard B. Anderson (DD-786) was laid down on 1 December 1944 by Todd Pacific Shipyards, Incorporated, Seattle, Washington; launched on 7 July 1945; and commissioned on 26 October 1945, Commander Hugh H. Murray in command.

Richard B. Anderson, homeported at San Diego, served as plane guard for Essex-class carriers. She was fully active by January 1947. On 9 March 1948, she sailed for Pearl Harbor. In April, she arrived at Tsingtao, China, then shifted to Buckner Bay, Okinawa, for further exercises. On 12 November she sailed for California. In March 1949, the destroyer took part in Aerobee guided missile tests at the magnetic equator. She again sailed west for duty with the 7th Fleet. She visited Saigon, Indochina, 16-23 March 1950. Richard B. Anderson returned to the United States in June. On 19 February 1951 she sailed west again. On 12 March, she arrived at Sasebo, and 2 days later joined TF 77 off the east coast of the embattled peninsula. The destroyer arrived at San Diego on 30 September. Seven months later she headed back across the Pacific, again stopping in Hawaii. On 12 June 1952 she rejoined TF 77.

On 24 November, Richard B. Anderson departed Korea for Yokosuka. SAR duty followed and on the 6th of December she headed for Guam and the United States. After Korea, Richard B. Anderson alternated between duty with the 7th Fleet in the western Pacific. In July 1960, she put into the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for a FRAM I overhaul and emerged in May 1961 with ASROC. In 1962, the "new" destroyer participated in Operation "Dominic" the nuclear test series carried out at Christmas Island. Through 1950's and during her 1962-63 deployment, Richard B. Anderson participated in ASW/HUK exercises, SEATO operations. In mid-January, she steamed into Yokosuka Harbor and on the 19th she sailed for home. Arriving at San Diego on 1 February 1965, Richard B. Anderson, resumed duties with the 1st Fleet. On 7 January 1966, she headed west again. In early February she joined TG 77.5 off the coast of South Vietnam. In early April she briefly visited Hong Kong, then resumed operations in Tonkin Gulf. She alternated between plane-guard duty with Intrepid (CVS-11) and shore bombardment missions in the Mekong Delta.

Richard B. Anderson arrived back at San Diego on 10 July. On 25 April 1967, she again sailed west. During June, July, part of August, and most of September, she performed plane-guard and SAR duties off the coast of Vietnam. By the end of October, she was back in San Diego. At the end of September 1968, she again deployed to WestPac. Two weeks of exercises off Hawaii followed her departure from California and on the 27th she arrived at Yokosuka. Three days later she steamed for Vietnam. Gunfire support duty south of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) and off Da Nang took her well into November. From Da Nang to the DMZ, she returned to Tonkin Gulf for plane-guard duty, she then sailed for home. Arriving 11 May she underwent overhaul during the later summer and early fall, then resumed a schedule of training exercises, schoolship duty, and in March 1970. On May 27th she got underway but was forced to turn back by a damaged engine. Repairs were completed at Long Beach and in August was once again en route to WestPac and another tour with the 7th Fleet which she completed in January 1971.

Richard B. Anderson arrived at San Diego 10 February 1971 and operated out of that port until 20 October. She arrived in Yokosuka, Japan, her new home port, 11 November 1971. Duties off the coast of Vietnam including duty on the gunline and plane guard duty with aircraft carriers. She was decommissioned in the late 1970's and she was struck from the Navy Register. Sold to Taiwan on 10 June 1977.