



## USS *Richey* (DE-385) & USCGC *Richey* (WDE-485)

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CGC *Richey*".

Scan provided by Glenn & Vivian Spain.

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Joseph Lee Richey was born 8 June 1920 in Barnard, Mo. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve 28 October 1940 and was commissioned ensign, 26 August 1941. Following training at Pensacola that led to his designation as naval aviator, he was assigned to Observation Squadron 2 on board *California* (BB-41). He was killed 7 December 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

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### **DE-385; WDE-485**

***Edsall Class*** Destroyer Escort

Displacement: 1,253 tons standard; 1,102 tons full load

Length: 306' oa

Beam: 36'7"

Draft: 10' 5' full load

Machinery: 2-shaft Fairbanks Morse diesels, 6,000 bhp

Range: 10,800 nm at 12 knots

Top Speed: 21 knots

Complement: 186

Armament: 3-3"/50; 2-40mm; 8-20mm; 3-21" torpedo tubes; 2 depth charge tracks; 8 depth charge projectors; 1 hedge hog.

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### History:

USS *Richey* (DE-385) was laid down 19 April 1943 by Brown Shipbuilding Company in Houston, Texas. She was launched on 30 June 1943 and was sponsored by Mrs. Joseph Lee Richey. *Richey* was commissioned on 30 October 1943 under the command of CDR Petros (Peter) D. Mills, USCG.

Following shakedown off Bermuda *Richey* commenced convoy escort duty in the Atlantic. From January to July 1944, she escorted convoys from New York and Norfolk to Casablanca, Morocco, Oran, Algeria, and Bizerte, Tunisia. From September to October, she guarded convoys from New York to Belfast and Londonderry, Ireland. From January 1945 to late May she escorted convoys between the United States, France, and Britain. That April, *Richey* rescued 32 men from two tankers that had collided and caught fire, SS *Nasbulk* and SS *St. Mihiel*.

Following arrival in New York in May and overhaul, she proceeded via Cuba and the Panama Canal to the Pacific where she reported in July to the North Pacific Fleet at Adak, Alaska. In September she occupied the Japanese naval base at Ominato, northern Honshu, Japan. After a return to Adak, she sailed via Okinawa to Taku, China, to assist the occupation forces. Her Coast Guard crew was removed on 13 June 1946 and the destroyer escort was decommissioned and mothballed in January, 1947.

In March 1950 she entered the Atlantic Reserve Fleet. Loaned to the Coast Guard 1 April 1952, she was subsequently returned and entered the Pacific Reserve Fleet in June 1954, where she remained until struck from the Navy list 30 June 1968, and sunk as a target.

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### Sources:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

*Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*. Washington, DC: USGPO.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft, 1946-1990*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1990.

