



George W. Anderson, Jr., Admiral, USN

(Naval Aviator Number 3711)

George Whelan Anderson, Jr., was born on December 15, 1906, in Brooklyn, New York, son of George W. and Clara (Green) Anderson. He attended Brooklyn Preparatory School, and entered the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from his native state in 1923. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 2, 1927, he subsequently advanced in rank to that of Rear Admiral, to date from August 1, 1954. He served in the rank of Vice Admiral, from May 1, 1957, until January 18, 1958, and on September 14, 1959 he again assumed the rank of Vice Admiral. He took the oath of office as Chief of Naval Operations, with the accompanying rank of Admiral, on August 1, 1961.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1927, he remained there for the short course in aviation, before joining the USS *Chaumont*, for transportation to the USS *Cincinatti*, in which he served as a Junior officer until 1930. He was then ordered to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training and was designated Naval Aviator in October of that year. He was then ordered to the Atlantic Fleet for duty in the aviation units of the USS *Concord* and USS *Raleigh*, successively.

Between 1933 and 1935 he was assigned to the Flight Test Division of the Naval Air Station, NOB, Norfolk, Virginia, after which he had duty afloat with Fighting Squadron TWO, based on the USS *Lexington*. He was detached from that squadron with orders to the Newport News (Virginia) Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, where the USS *Yorktown* was building, and joined that aircraft carrier on her commissioning on September 30, 1937. From the fall of 1939 until early 1940 he was attached to Patrol Squadron 44, Patrol Wing FOUR, based at Seattle, Washington.

He was next assigned to the Plans Division, Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and while there participated in the formulation of the American aircraft program for World War II. This included association with war-time agencies charged with production and allocation of

all United States aircraft, and planning the aircraft aspects of the expansion of Naval aviation. For this liaison work with the Army Air Force while in that assignment he received a Letter of Commendation from the War Department, with authorization to wear the Army Commendation Ribbon.

In March 1943 he again reported to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, this time to assist in fitting out the new USS *Yorktown* (CV-10), and became Navigator and Tactical Officer when she was commissioned on April 15, 1943. He was aboard that aircraft carrier during her early action in the Pacific and received a Letter of Commendation, with authority to wear the Commendation Ribbon, from the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, for outstanding services from August 15 to November 1, 1943, while attached to the USS *Yorktown*.

He is also entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Yorktown* for "extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, at sea and on shore in the Pacific War Area from August 31, 1943 to August 15, 1945...Daring and dependable in combat, the *Yorktown* with her gallant officers and men rendered loyal service in achieving the ultimate defeat of the Japanese Empire."

He next had duty as Plans Officer on the Staff of Commander Aircraft, U. S. Pacific Fleet, and for "exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Head of the Plans Division of the Staff of Commander Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet during the period from November 1943 to March 1944..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit. The citation further states: "In this capacity it was his grave responsibility to prepare plans for the activation and employment of Air Force, Pacific Fleet aircraft units and ships, and to supervise the preparation of plans for the establishment and initial logistic support of advanced air bases. The ultimate success of these plans may be attributed, in large measure, to the highly efficient manner in which he contributed to the compiling and evaluating of the mass of details upon which these plans were based, and to his sound judgment in estimating future requirements and availability of Pacific Fleet aviation units..."

On March 28, 1944 he reported as Assistant to the Deputy Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "meritorious achievement (in that capacity) ...during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War Area, from March 28, 1944 to April 169 - 1945..." The citation further states so "Intelligently planning and estimating for the needs of Naval aviation in the Pacific, (he) contributed materially to the improvement in organization, training and logistical support..."

In June 1945 he became Aviation Officer in the Strategic Plans Section on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, with headquarters at the Navy Department, Washington, D. C. As such he also had duty as Deputy Navy Planner on the Joint Planning Staff. Ordered to the Office
(- Continued -)

of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, he was appointed a member of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense (Canada-United States) in November 1946; was also one of the Navy members of the Brazilian-United States Defense Commission and served with the Joint War Plans Committee of the Joint Staff.

In July 1948 he returned to sea as Commanding Officer of the USS *Mindoro*, and when detached from that anti-submarine carrier in August 1949, reported for instruction at the National War College, Washington, D. C. Completing the course there in July 1950 he joined the Staff of the Commander SIXTH Fleet as Fleet Operations Officer. In December 1950 he transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (SHAPE), and remained there until July 1952 as the Senior U. S. Officer in Plans and Operations. He served as Commanding Officer of the USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* for a year, and when detached from command of that aircraft carrier in June 1953, reported for duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department.

In July 1953 he became Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C., continuing to serve in that capacity until July 1955. On August 3, that year, he assumed command of the Formosa Patrol Force with additional duty as Commander U. S. Fleet Air Wing ONE (his title was changed late in 1955 to Commander U. S. Taiwan Patrol Force). He was Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Commander in Chief, Pacific, from July 1956 until May 1957 when he reported in the rank of Vice Admiral as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander in Chief, Pacific.

He served in the rank of Rear Admiral as Commander Carrier Division SIX from July 1958 until September 14, 1959, when he became Commander SIXTH Fleet and Commander Naval Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe, with the accompanying rank of Vice Admiral. "For exceptionally meritorious service...as Commander SIXTH Fleet from September 1959 to June 1961..." he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. The citation continues in part: "A dynamic leader and skilled diplomat, Admiral (then Vice Admiral Anderson) developed and maintained an exceptionally high standard of morale and combat readiness within the SIXTH Fleet, and succeeded in elevating his command to a new high level of prestige and effectiveness as an instrument for the conduct of the foreign affairs of his country. Keenly aware that the mission of good will was second only to that of readiness, he has been an outstanding exponent of the President's People to People Program and has indoctrinated personnel of his command in its objectives so successfully that the ships and personnel of the SIXTH Fleet have been welcome visitors at each port of call. Through his exceptional diplomatic and political talents, Admiral Anderson has made a major contribution toward encouraging and strengthening the ties of friendship between the United States and the littoral Mediterranean nations, and toward supporting these nations in their resolve to resist Communism and Communist infiltration. In bolstering the morale and combat readiness of the SIXTH Fleet, he has been instrumental in enhancing the

military posture and prestige of the United States..."

His appointment to be Chief of Naval Operations for a term of two years, with the accompanying rank of Admiral was approved by the Senate on June 29, 1961 and he was sworn into office at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland on August 1, 1961. He served in that capacity until relieved of all active duty pending his retirement, effective August 1, 1963. "For exceptionally meritorious service...while serving as Chief of Naval Operations, principal naval advisor to the President, and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from August 1961 to August 1963..." he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Distinguished Service Medal. The citation continues in part: "Admiral Anderson has displayed superb qualities of leadership and professional competence in one of the most responsible positions in the Department of Defense. Under his skillful and effective guidance, the operating forces of the Navy have contributed significantly to our national posture and have carried out their world-wide responsibilities with a view toward enhancing the prestige of the United States and its objective of world peace. Admiral Anderson's consummate knowledge and understanding of the complexities of international relations, his recognition of the requirements generated by swiftly paced, changing world situations, and his dedication to high military standards have been applied effectively toward keeping the Navy strong and maintaining the United States in a preeminent position among the maritime powers of the world..."

On May 21, 1963, President John F. Kennedy announced his intention to appoint Admiral Anderson as United States Ambassador to Portugal. The appointment was approved by the Senate on July 31, and he was sworn in as Ambassador by Secretary of State Rusk on Sep. 4, 1963.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Medal with Gold Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Commendation Ribbon with Combat V (Navy), the Commendation Ribbon (Army), and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with one star, Admiral Anderson has the American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Europe Clasp; the China Service Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal. He has also been awarded the Order of the British Empire, rank of Honorary Officer, by the Government of Great Britain; the Precious Tripod Medal by the Government of the Republic of China; the Maltese Cross and others.

Admiral Anderson was married to the former Mary Lee Lamar Sample of Pensacola, FL., and had two sons, Lieutenant George W. Anderson, III, USN (Class of 1957) and Thomas Patrick Anderson; a daughter, Mary Annette (now Mrs. Daniel Coughlin of Hartsdale, NY; and step-daughter, Carolyn Sample (now Mrs. David M. Abshire of Alexandria, VA).