

GRIDLEY completed outfitting on 2 August 1963 and departed Bremerton, Washington for Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada for a good-will visit from 2-5 August 1963. In Esquimalt, the first port of call, some 1500 Canadian men, women and children, both military and civilian, turned out to tour the ship. On the morning of 5 August, GRIDLEY stood out of port and proceeded to the Esquimalt degaussing range. On completion of running the range, GRIDLEY stood-in to Puget Sound waters once again. This time GRIDLEY visited in Tacoma from 9-12 August 1963. Taking her departure on 12 August, GRIDLEY proceeded to Deboe Bay and conducted Sonar and self noise tests until 14 August when GRIDLEY set course for her homeport of Long Beach, California. Assigned as Flagship of Destroyer Squadron NINETEEN, GRIDLEY arrived at Long Beach 17 August 1963. Her first time in Homeport.

After a two week period in port, GRIDLEY stood out of Long Beach, California and commenced an extensive phase of testing and trials. The very crowded schedule which GRIDLEY was to face did not leave room for the normal shake-down cruise. Missiles were tested, checked, and successfully fired, her engines were put through the paces and all facets of shipboard life and equipments were strained to prove the ship. All of these checks, tests and trials were culminated with Final Acceptance Trials the 21st-23rd of October 1963.

On 1 November GRIDLEY took her departure from Long Beach and journeyed again to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard via San Francisco (2-4 November). Arriving Bremerton 8 November, GRIDLEY commenced her Post Shakedown Availability. The availability having been most successful, GRIDLEY departed on 10 December and set course for home. Arriving Long Beach Naval Shipyard 13 December,