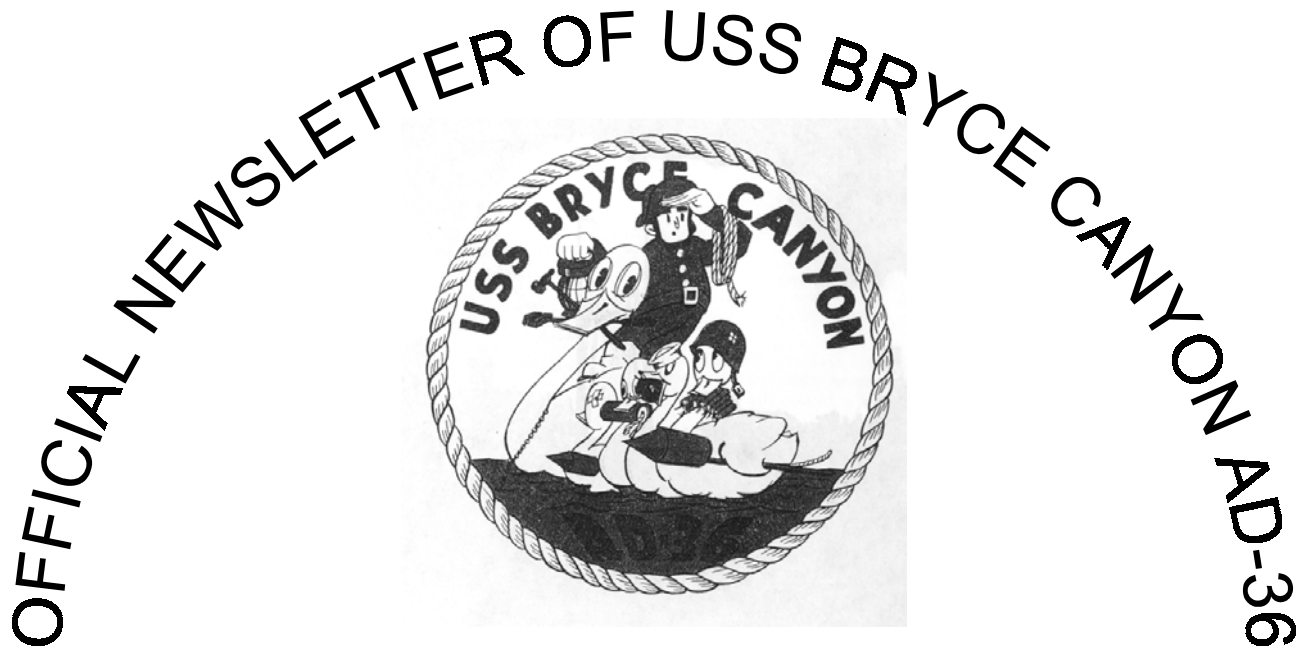


# BRYCE CANYON UPDATE

Volume 8, Issue 2

March 2003



## *Points of Special Interest*

- *If you remember Freddie Hawes, you will enjoy reading the cover story.*
- *WELCOME MAT on page three has thirty new names for the association. Hope you see an old friend listed.*
- *MAIL CALL on pages four and five have letters from former Barton crewmen and letters concerning the war in Iraq. Don't miss any of them.*
- *Pictures of the Barton explosion are on page six.*

## THE LEGENDARY FREDDIE HAWES

*By Dean J. Ferguson YN1 1951-54 Ex "X" & 8th Division*

Over the past several years, numerous references and articles in the *Bryce Canyon Update* have referred to Frederic W. Hawes. Perhaps I can clear up some of the questions. He was XO of the Bryce Canyon from Sep 1950 to May 1952. In fact, I believe he was acting CO during Aug-Sep 1950 at the Charleston Naval Shipyard when she was commissioned. Plankowners may be able to verify this.

I joined the B-C in early June 1951 in Sasebo, Japan, as a TESN fresh out of Class

"S" Teleman School. When Freddie saw from my service record that I could type, he changed my rating to YNSN and put me to work in the small XO's office across from the Supply Office. My responsibilities included some correspondence, but predominately legal work; i.e., Masts, Court Martials, etc. I continued there until Freddie was transferred to the Naval Ammunition Depot, Hawthorne, NV, as XO in May 1952.

About that time there was an opening in the Repair Department Office for a YN3 under Repair

Officer CDR Stewart. I remained there until Oct 1954 and left the B-C for discharge as YN1.

I remember Freddie as an extremely capable, hard working officer and strict disciplinarian. Woe to those who had the misfortune to get on his "list." While very fair, he would tolerate no sloppiness or hint of insubordination. He seldom slept more than two hours per night and I would be subject to call at all hours. He kept the Personnel Office guys hopping 24 hours a day also, maintaining mountains of

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

service records in the cabin. He continually drank coffee and chain smoked Kools, up to a full carton per 24 hours.

Freddie was a true hero, winning the Navy Cross (2nd highest decoration) in 1942 during the battle of the Coral Sea on the USS Lexington (CV-2). Full text of the citation follows:

*“For extraordinary heroism as Officer-in-Charge of Repair Party #4 of the USS Lexington in action against Japanese forces in the Coral Sea on May 7 and 8, 1942. In order to effect the rescue of wounded officers and men, Lieutenant Hawes repeatedly led his repair party into gas-filled compartments in the face of frequent explosions, and personally conducted rescue squads through areas of imminent danger. Rallying from two lapses into unconsciousness, and with utter disregard for his own safety, he was responsible for the rescue of at least twenty of the wounded. His courageous conduct and strict devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”*

On 29 Mar 1957 he was transferred from Staff, 14th Naval District to Naval Medical Unit, Tripler Army Hospital, Oahu. On 1 Mar 1958 he was advanced to Captain on the basis of combat awards and transferred to Temporary Disabled Retired List as of that date, with retirement pay based on rank of Commander. That type of advancement is commonly referred to as a “Tombstone” position.

No, Freddie did not make Rear Admiral as some have surmised. He had a son born on 23 Nov 1958. Freddie would have been 48 at that point. The record goes silent after that entry. Anyone who would like a copy of his official Transcript of Naval Service may write to me directly. This shows all duty stations from time of entering

Annapolis in 1930. He graduated from the Academy in the class of 1934.

On board the B-C the story was that he had been third from last off the Lexington. The XO and CO were last off as survivors. Over 500 lives were lost in the sinking.

By coincidence, the 50th and last Survivors Reunion takes place on 7-8 May 03 (61st anniversary of the sinking) in Buena Park, CA. The reunions started in 1953 and under terms of the by-laws were set to run for 50 years only. Approximately 50-60 survivors are expected to attend.

My brother, John K. Ferguson, CDR, USN (Ret.) is covering the event for the Naval Historical Foundation, Washington, DC. He will take pictures, do interviews and a write-up for them. I have asked him to inquire if any in attendance have a recollection of Freddie and his exploits.

We do not know when or if Freddie has passed away. He would be 93 this coming August. Who knows, he may turn up at the reunion!

Respectfully,  
Dean J. Ferguson  
Ex “X” & 8th Divisions  
340 Long Branch West  
Prescott, AZ 86303

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The UPDATE is the official publication of the USS BRYCE CANYON Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the BRYCE CANYON. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article’s writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer’s name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 01/03 issue  
**Minus \$7.39**

Funds Received since 01/03  
**\$593.50**

Funds Available for 04/03 issue  
**\$586.11**

Funds Expended 04/03 issue  
**\$457.54**

Balance Remaining for 07/03  
**\$128.57**

Thank you for your contributions for the Bryce Canyon Update. **Funds will be needed for the next issue.** Send contributions to ML&RS at the address on the right. Be sure to state it its for the Bryce Canyon Update.

**Published By:**  
Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc  
PO Box 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

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828-256-6559 (fax)  
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*“Our Reunions Work So You Don’t Have To”*



## WELCOME MAT

The USS BRYCE CANYON Association announces the following former crewmen have recently been located. Welcome aboard and we hope to see you at the next reunion.

*Ed Buss (1972-74) MR2*  
13461 Cronese Rd  
Apple Valley, CA 92308

*Randall Kuhn (1966-67) SFP2*  
HC83 Box 27-S  
Custer, SD 57730  
605-673-4541  
rgkuhn@gwtc.net

*Edward Martin (1955-56)*  
9819 Willowood Pl SW  
Lakewood, WA 98498

*James Nechanicky*  
N 12715 Ruby Rd  
Spokane, WA 99218-3600  
ceskyman@cs.com

*Charles Looney (1970) SH3*  
501 Greenridge  
Longview, TX 75605

*Draper (1968-71) PM2*  
PO Box 4401  
San Diego, CA 92614-4401

*Jay Shook*  
300 Pleasant Ave  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
jay532@juno.com

*Richard Spires*  
7528 Valley St  
Omaha, NE 68124

*Robert Donoho (1955-57)*  
428 Paseo Companeros  
Chico, CA 95928  
530-895-8090  
bdonoho@infostations.com

*Don Watt*  
9097 Sherwood  
Davisburg, MI 48019

*Edward Fought (1963-64) FTGSN-FTG2*  
3549 County Rd 170  
Fremont, OH 43420  
419-332-6915  
eefought@peoplepc.com

*Richard Docherty, Sr*  
652 East Bay Ave  
Barnegat, NJ 08005  
chiefsta11@aol.com

*Randy Deremiah*  
303 N Main St #0-11  
Mesa, AZ 85013  
deremiah@aol.com

*William Young (1968-70) MM2*  
1440 NE 57th Ave  
Portland, OR 97213  
waylay@ix.netcom.net

*John Duke (1961-64) SF1*  
Rt 4 Box 45  
Martinez Lake, AZ 85365  
jbokeyduke@aol.com

*Walter Muller (1969-70)*  
2104 LeMoyné Dr  
LaPlace, LA 70068  
wmuller@rtconline.com

*Van Zoldock (1971-72)*  
640 Lathers  
Garden City, MI 48135  
van.zoldock@gm.com

*Abundio Gonzalas*  
1202 31st St  
Hondo, TX 78661  
830-426-3864

*Charles Paul (1950-52) Lt(jg) Supply*  
15329 Little Valley Rd #101  
Grass Valley, CA 95949  
530-477-5424

*Francis Lawrence*  
439 SW Monroe Dr  
St. Lucie West, FL 34986  
772-872-1500

*Hank Bexjarlaix*  
4000 Tenlar Rd  
Washington, DC 20007

*Robert Watt*  
1504 Woodbridge  
Joliet, IL 60436

*Patrick Lindsey (1960-63) B/M SN*  
1913 W Lang #2  
Alvin, TX 77511  
281-585-6398

*Doug Tjomsland*  
500 Estate  
Rush City, MN 55069

*Joe Peone (1978-80) EM3*  
42 Chestnut St  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148  
315-568-1649  
jazzyjoe1410@yahoo.com

*Dennis Grace (1961-64)*  
12449 Glasgow  
Romeo, MI 48065  
agrace@triton.net

*Courtland Browning (1961-63) RM2*  
1816 28th St West  
Williston, ND 58801

*John Spehar*  
jspehar@trudex.com

*Berlyn Buchanan*  
516 Lexington Ave  
Lawrenceville, IL 62439  
618-943-2182

*James Kamler*  
201 Ohio St  
St. Joseph, MO 64504

## NEW WEB ADDRESS FOR BRYCE CANYON ASSOCIATION

The new web address for the Bryce Canyon is as follows:

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.com/~ussbyrcecanyon/>

The e-mail address for the ship is as follows:

brycecanyonad36@hotmail.com

Thank you,  
Gary Wiles  
Historian/Webmaster



## TAPS

The Bryce Canyon Update learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased.

Anyone knowing of, or learning of, the death of a shipmate, please inform ML&RS so his name can be added to the Honor Roll and included in TAPS.

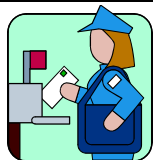
*Richard Bremer (1954-55)  
DC1 Repair  
Died April 2002*

*William Bowman (1955-57)  
Died December 13, 2002*

*Donald Van Wormer  
Died December 15, 2002*

*Don (Doc) Holliday (1971-73)  
Died September 9, 2000*

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## MAIL CALL

*The following letters are correspondence between Don Banks of Bryce Canyon, who wrote about the Barton Incident, and crewmembers of the USS Barton.*

Dear Don,

I have forwarded your newsletter article to others who were aboard in 1952. They have expressed their appreciation of what a dirty job you had. One of the officers said he teared up. Thanks again.

Jim Deters

Hey Don,

I just read the article that you had written about the USS Barton DD-722. That must have been hard for you to write. I am a real sentimental old slob, and the article brought tears to my eyes. I was a cook on board that ship during that time. In fact, I was on that ship from 1951 until 1955. I had a wonderful time while I was in the Navy, but that wasn't one of them.

You did such good work on that article, and I thank you very much.

Best wishes,  
Bill L. Baldwin

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Dear Don,

This is a typical reply. I'm sure you know that had the mine hit just a few feet forward, it would have taken out the mess hall and two-thirds of the crew attending the movie.

Jim Deters

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Jim,

I remember that night as though it happened just yesterday. I was the last one in the mess decks to watch the movie (Winchester 47 or whatever the number of that rifle was). When the mine hit I was the first one to get topside. I saw steam coming from the fire room since the hatch was no longer there. At first I thought it was a torpedo. After that I only remember going to the evaporators in the forward engine room where I was stationed. We had to shore up the bulkhead and plug holes with mattresses. We were dead in the water for several days, as I remember when the Captain decided to get underway, all the shoring fell down as the bulkhead was moving with the flow of sea water against it.

When we finally got to Sasebo, Japan, I was elected, for some unknown reason, to go into the fireroom and put body parts into pillow cases to be sent to an ambulance waiting for them. The only one we could identify was one of the guys behind

the boiler who was pretty much in decent shape, although minus an arm. And the one black man, neither of their names can I remember and I do not recall which one had the Popeye tattoo either.

Do you remember the man that was killed when we were hit by shore batteries? Dale Gray was in the battery locker when we were hit. Some of our own ammo was hit and sent it below decks and hit Gray. That happened about a month before the mine hit.

Thanks again,  
Tony Palm

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*ML&RS sent out an e-mail to all Bryce Canyon addresses for stories about any family member who may be serving in Iraq. We asked for any news they might share with us.*

*We also asked for letters of support for our troops from anyone.*

*The following letters are responses from our request.*

Our junior son in a blended family, 1LT Steve Thompson, is in Iraq with the 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment. We haven't heard from him since the war began, but we believe that his unit is firing in support of the 1st Marine Division moving on Baghdad. As a Vietnam veteran ('66-'67) I am inherently suspicious of the veracity and motivations of our political leaders. While we don't agree with the President about this war, now that we are there, our prayers are with our son and all of the troops for their safety and a quick victory and return home. We would like to request that you all offer them the same spiritual support.

Doug Williams  
1957-58

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Karen Hoyle,

Just a note on my opinion on the Iraq war. This is about the same situation that we had in the Korean

*(Continued on page 5)*

War and the Vietnam War. It is very unpopular to be for the war in Iraq. Most of the idiots think Sadaam is no threat to the world, but they sure have another thought coming.

After it's all done and gone, then they will all want to be on the band wagon. Same old story as before.

I believe we should firmly back our government and our troops no matter what. It's our country, and our freedom has been bought in blood. These protesters wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for the troops making it possible in all the wars before.

Thank them for a thankless job well done.

Don Radloff  
200 E 10th St  
Merrill, WI 54452  
Korean Vet  
USS Bryce Canyon AD36 1950-54

Your prayers are needed for our people who are serving our nation and are in harms way wherever they may be assigned. **There is nothing like the power of prayer!**

Our President recently made the remark in public that "The most Power I have is when I am on my knees." Let's follow his example and leadership.

R. H. "Dick" Nickles,  
DM 1 USN (Ret)

I have no family members in or around Iraq in the military. I do strongly support our men and women in the military who are there serving their country by putting their lives in harm's way in order to rid the world of a dastardly regime bent on promoting terrorism throughout the world in the name of God. Any government that would kill its own people by using poison gas or just plain execution, just because of their religious sect, needs to be replaced. I regret that the entire world did not rise up as one to end this tyranny. I'm happy to see the U.S. and Britain will champion

world justice when other governments are too scared to do so.

David White  
2521 23rd Ave N  
Texas City, TX 77590

## THE AVERAGE MILITARY MAN

The average age of the military man is 19 years.

He is short haired, tight-muscled kid, who under normal circumstances is considered by society as half-man, half-boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country.

He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old car, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away.

He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing can be hard, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark.

He can recite to you nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his

teeth, but never to clean his rifle.

He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food.

He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life-or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them.

He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.

Beardless or not, he is not a boy.

He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

Please pray for all our American Fighting Men.

### Trivia

**A pitcher's glove can be any color except white or gray.**

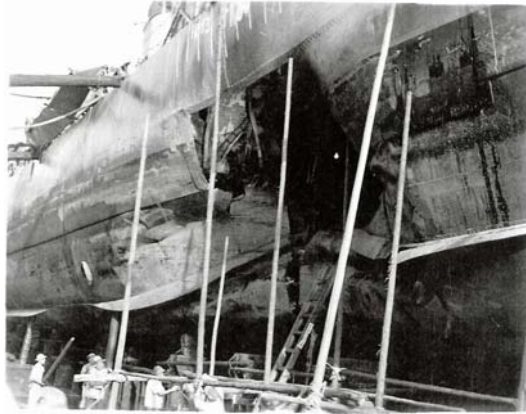
## Pictures from the USS Barton Mine Explosion

*Submitted by Don Banks*



USS Barton after its hit by a mine.

The damage extends almost to the keel. The damage was extensive for sure. It was amazing the ship didn't break apart on the way into port in Sasebo, Japan. The crew did an amazing job to accomplish what they did to save the ship.



This picture was taken on the morning when we got back on the Bryce Canyon, after working all night on the Barton. I am on the left and Herman is on the right.

## NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS BRYCE CANYON reunion is available to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

If you are able to visit our web site and download the Newsletter, and therefore do not need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Please visit our web site at [www.mlrsinc.com](http://www.mlrsinc.com), then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS BRYCE CANYON. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. (As a side note - it took about 4 minutes on my computer). This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the BRYCE CANYON E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site. **Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

To subscribe to the BRYCE CANYON E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to [SubscribeMLRS@aol.com](mailto:SubscribeMLRS@aol.com), put the phrase **SUBSCRIBE BRYCE CANYON** in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

If you have any question regarding this, do not hesitate to ask!

Dina Coffey