WELCOME ABOARD

USS BRYCE CANYON AD-36

BRIEF HISTORY OF
USS BRYCE CANYON AD-36

The BRYCE CANYON, a SHENANDOAH class Destroyer Tender, was named after Bryce Canyon National Park, located in the towering plateau country of southern Utah. The ship was launched on 7 March 1946, but with the end of the Second World War, construction of the ship was suspended. In late July 1950, after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, plans to put the ship in the Reserve Fleet were dropped and Charleston Naval Shipyard was ordered to complete the ship. The BRYCE CANYON was placed in commission on the afternoon on 15 September 1950 by Rear Admiral R. W. HAYLER, USN, Commandant of the Sixth Naval District.

The ship passed through the Panama Canal on 5 December 1950 and reported to the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet for duty. She arrived in her first homeport of San Diego, California in December 1950. In 1953 the ship's homeport was changed to Long Beach.

From March 1951 through 1961, the BRYCE CANYON made eight deployments to the Western Pacific. During this period BRYCE CANYON was the first ship to win five consecutive Battle Efficiency Awards, making her the only ship in the United States Navy to earn the Gold "E". Again in 1962 she won another "E". The BRYCE CANYON was selected to carry Chinese art treasures valued at over three million dollars when she returned from her 1960-61 Western Pacific deployment.

Between 1961 and 1965 the BRYCE CANYON did not operate west of Hawaii, but in 1966 as she was preparing for another MIDPAC deployment, her orders were changed at the last moment and she made her first WESTPAC deployment in five years. It was during this deployment that BRYCE CANYON established what is believed to be a first when she went alongside an angled deck carrier. The carrier was the USS ORISKANY which had just suffered a disastrous fire and put into Subic Bay, R. P. for emergency repairs prior to her return to the United States.
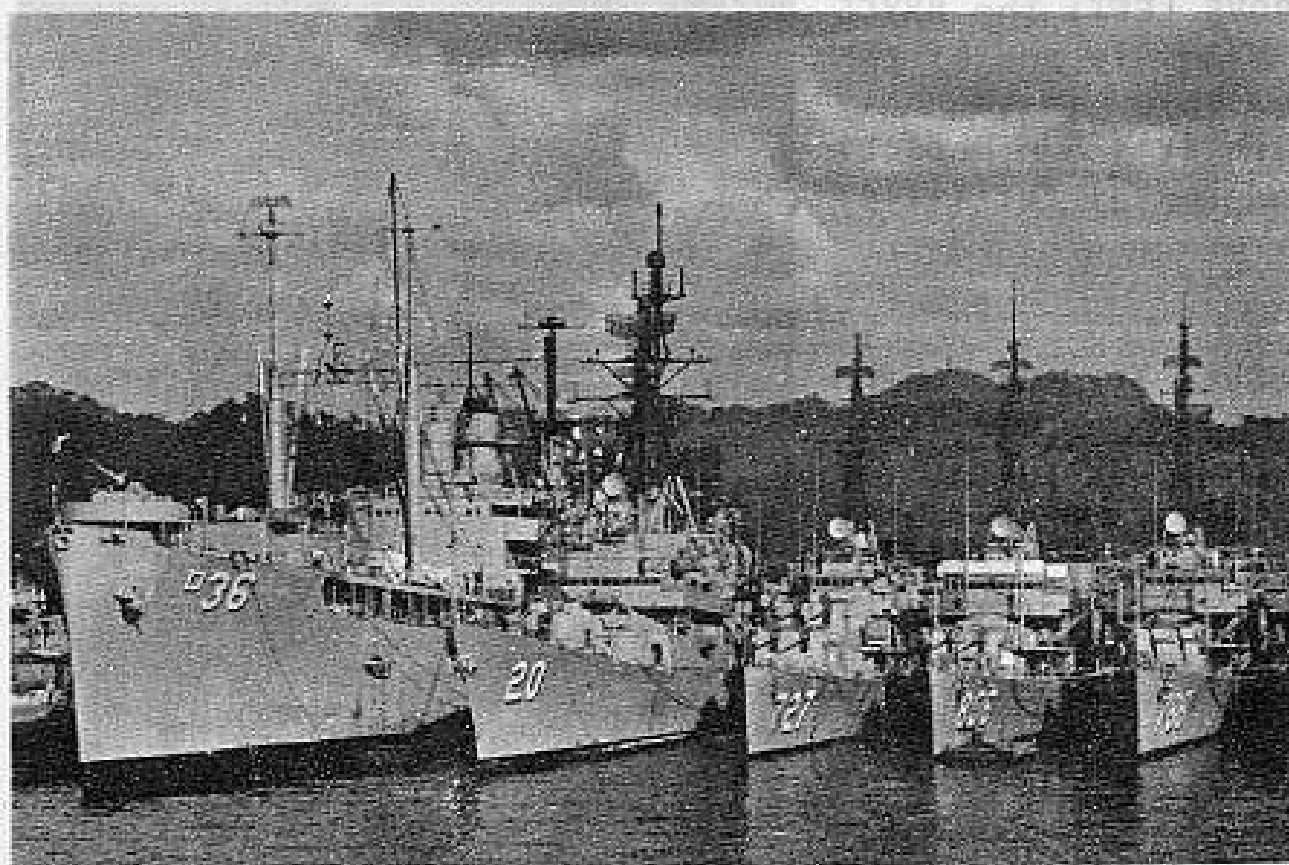
Shortly before the BRYCE CANYON was scheduled to depart for her regular six month deployment to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, she received new orders from the Chief of Naval Operations and Pearl Harbor became the third homeport for the BRYCE CANYON on 1 September 1969.

BRYCE CANYON CHARACTERISTICS:
LENGTH.................492 feet
BEAM...................70 feet
DRAFT..................28 feet
DISPLACEMENT......16,000 tons

From The Commanding Officer

On behalf of the 30 officers and nearly 600 enlisted men of the USS BRYCE CANYON, is is my pleasure to WELCOME YOU ABOARD. The mission of the BRYCE CANYON is to provide mobile repair and logistics support facilities to the ships of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. We are proud of the BRYCE CANYON's ability to successfully carry out this mission and of its important role in our nations defense. As you tour the ship, please feel free to ask any questions of the crew. I hope your visit will be an interesting and informative one, and that you will see many of the reasons for my pride in the ship and it's crew.
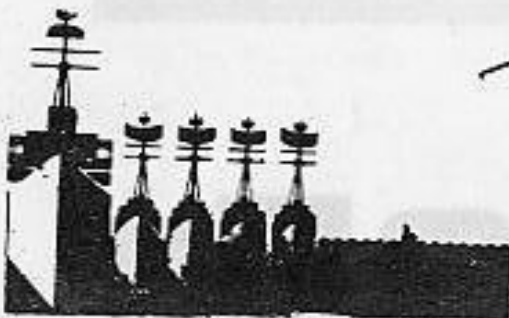
As Commanding Officer of USS BRYCE CANYON and on behalf of her crew, I am happy to welcome you on board our ship. BRYCE CANYON is manned by over 30 officers and 600 enlisted men -- most of them highly trained and experienced in the operation and maintenance of the ship and her equipment. Our mission is to provide mobile repair and logistic support to the Pacific Fleet Cruiser-Destroyer Force and to other ships of the Pacific Fleet -- whenever and wherever needed. We are proud of BRYCE CANYON's ability to carry out this mission and of the important role she has in our nation's defense.

As you tour the ship, feel free to ask questions of any member of the crew. I hope that your visit will be an interesting and an informative one, and that you will see many of the reasons for my pride in the crew of USS BRYCE CANYON.

Raymond E. WARD
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

ABOVE LEFT: The BRYCE CANYON is one of the few ships in the Navy with it's own Medical and Dental facilities

ABOVE: The ship's two boilers provide all the power necessary to take the ship any-place its services may be required by the fleet.

RIGHT: An operator is about to manufacture a needed repair part