

OPERATION CROSSROADS (Continued)

## The Vice Admiral

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Commander Joint Task Force ONE  
 U.S.S. MOUNT MCKINLEY (AGC-7), Flagship  
 Care Fleet Post Office  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA


OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE. \$300

**ATOMIC BOMB TEST**

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**BIKINI ATOLL**



The Honorable Harry J. McGregor  
 The House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C.

"Personal"




Illustration 13/9 [cover]  
 (93% of actual size) 70-

The U.S.S. Mount McKinley was the Flagship of the Commander, Joint Taskforce ONE. The cover is reproduced by courtesy of Bernd Neuhaus. Bernd believes that all member of the U.S. Congress received this cover and letter. [Illustration 13/9]

JOINT TASK FORCE ONE  
 U.S.S. MT. MCKINLEY (AGC-7), Flagship  
 Fleet Post Office  
 San Francisco, California

Bikini Atoll,  
 Marshall Islands.  
 1 July, 1946.

GREETINGS FROM BIKINI:


This letter is being addressed and mailed to you on ABLE Day, the day on which the atomic bomb was dropped in the first of the tests known as Operation CROSSROADS.

All mail passing through the Mobile Fleet Post Office, Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands, (LST-861) on this day bears a special ABLE Day cancellation with the words "Atomic Bomb Test Bikini Atoll" in the killer bars and with the date of the test appearing in the cancellation.

It is estimated that approximately two hundred thousand (200,000) letters will be cancelled this day with this special postmark. The cachet will be placed in the archives of the Chief of Naval Operations, Postal Affairs Section, for reference in authenticating the postmark for philatelists and collectors.

It is believed that such a souvenir of this occasion may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,




W. H. P. Blandy  
 Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy  
 Commander Joint Task Force ONE

Illustration 13/9 [letter]  
 (70% of actual size)

## The Research Vessel

Geo. A. Heffernon, Lt. Col. MC.  
 US3 Chilton (APA-38)  
 Bikini Scientific Resurvey,  
 c/o Fleet Post Office, FPO-150.



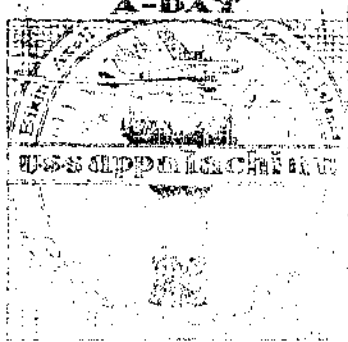
Mrs. Geo. A. Heffernon  
 Post Office Box 1581,  
 Honolulu, Oahu, T. H.

Illustration 13/10  
 (70% of actual size)

The U.S.S. Chilton was used as a Scientific Personnel and Research Vessel after the A-Bomb tests at Bikini. The normal on-board ship canceller is seen on this cover used a little over a year after the first test. (Reproduced by courtesy of Cy Kitching)[Illustration 13/10]

The U.S.S. Appalachian was a Communications Vessel. The datestamp was used for one day only at 13746 Br Post office. (Cover reproduced by courtesy of Cy Kitching)[Illustration 13/11]

## The Communications Vessel




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**ATOMIC BOMB TEST**

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**BIKINI ATOLL**

VIA AIR MAIL



Mr. Kellogg M. Patterson  
 559 Forest Avenue  
 Highland Park, Illinois.

Illustration 13/11  
 (70% of actual size)