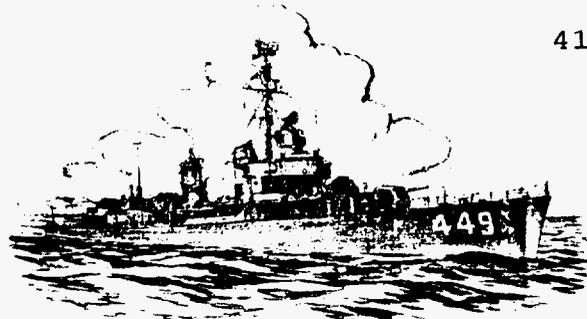


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U. S. S. NICHOLAS DDE-449

Bikini Atoll
27 Mar. 1954

Hi:-

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Hard to write tonight for destroyers are not noted for smooth riding in a rolling sea. I do, however, want to have a letter ready for mailing when we get in to Eniwetok in the morning, to account for the lack of mail for the past few days.

We were asked to undertake a part of a special mission to measure the contamination of some of the eastern atolls that were caught in the fallout of the March 1 shot. We have used this ship as a base of operations and stopped by Bikini both going and coming from Eniwetok to Rongelap Atoll about 150 miles east of Bikini. We were able to

finish up our collections at Ponglake
last night in time for the ships to
leave to go ~~to~~ the Task Group for this
mornings experiment.

It was like "old home week" being
back at Bikini for operations. I think
every one of our groups were greatly
impressed with the events here.

We should arrive back at Eniwetok
in the early morning. Tomorrow
will be busy unloading our equipment
and getting cleaned up, reading our
mail, I hope we have some, and getting
organized for the big push over there.

I'll pack up all the samples and
myself and start back for the "zone
of the interior" (Z.I.) I should be back
about April 3 or 4, with good luck.
At least in time for my Monday
mornings class. Be seeing you soon.

F.P.D.

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