

# Eyewitness account of Bikini bomb tests

## 70th Anniversary of Operation Crossroads

**OPERATION  
CROSSROADS**

**LEST WE FORGET!**

An Eyewitness Account  
Bikini Atomic Bomb Tests 1946

WILLIAM L. MCGEE WITH SANDRA V. MCGEE



A new book about the Bikini nuclear bomb tests was released this month to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the first nuclear tests at the atoll. It is written by Bill McGee, who witnessed Crossroads from the deck of the heavy cruiser USS Fall River (CA-131), the Flagship for the target fleet, with his wife Sandra.

Bill has recounted his story in "Operation Crossroads — Lest We Forget! An Eyewitness

Account, Bikini Atomic Tests 1946" to help preserve this history few know about today. He was one of the 42,000 military, scientific, and civilian personnel assembled at the Bikini Atoll test site in 1946.

In his signature spare and straightforward writing style, Bill gives an eyewitness account of his participation in what scientists considered the most important event of the twentieth century: from the plan that was

comparable to a major wartime battle plan, to the build-up, the rehearsals, the tests, and to the all-important later lessons learned about the devastating effects of radiation on man, animal, and ships that no one saw coming.

The Foreword is written by Dr. F. Lincoln Grahls, Vice Commander of the National Association of Atomic Veterans. A later chapter, "Later Lessons Learned," two of the nation's

leading authorities on the dangers of radiation inherent in nuclear weapons — Dr. Oscar Rosen, an advocate for "atomic vets," and Jonathan M. Weisgall, the legal representative of the people of Bikini Atoll since 1975 — express their findings and conclusions.

The book is a quick read at 132 pages with 59 photographs and illustrations. The book is available in both print and Kindle editions from Amazon.