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WILKES-BARRE PA 187



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Dear Sir

Concerning your uncle Fred Peake yes I knew him very well and he was one of the finest persons I have ever known. He was a very quiet young man a very gentle person. I don't recall him having any special buddy. Perhaps because he was not as raucous as the rest of us. I may have been as close to him as anyone. I often think of him and speak of him to others one day while on watch as a 20 min. Fred stopped by to talk. He had stenciled his initials on his dungarees with black. After talking awhile I pointed

at his initials F. P. and said fireplug  
he jumped back and smatted himself  
with both hands thinking I had said  
he was on fire. We had a good  
laugh over that.

Fred was burned when the barrels  
of turret 3 were hit and blew up a  
box of powder he had just placed in  
the loading tray. our sick bay had  
been destroyed and there was little the  
Dr. could do for him except keep him  
on morphine. we were dead in the  
water but still afloat. I met him <sup>on</sup> ~~and~~  
deck the next morning. he asked me for  
a cigarette I lit one and held it for him  
he took one puff and shook his head and  
walked on. that was the last I saw him  
I will send you information on the  
Atlanta soon. Clear Brewster

Joseph Peake

Dear Sir

The Atlanta was built at Brooklyn  
Navy yard, our stake down cruise was  
at Norfolk Va. and Portland Maine, Left  
N.Y. in March for the Pacific. Damaged  
a screw going through the Caval and  
spent several days in dry dock in Panama,  
arrived at Pearl Harbor the day the Hornet  
returned from the Koolittle raid on ~~Tokyo~~  
Tokyo. Then went south where we  
operated from Tongatabu escorting  
Convoys on their way to Australia,  
we were shadowed by Jap patrol  
bombers after but never attacked, spent  
a few days at Noumea in New  
Caledonia. Then ordered back to Pearl  
our

where we joined the rest of the fleet for the midway battle. following this we went north to the Aleutians. The weather was so foul and foggy the planes could not fly so we returned to pearl, and then again to tongatabu. and then joined the invasion fleet for the aug 7<sup>th</sup> landing on Guadalcanal. we then stayed at sea for more than six weeks. ran low on food and was eating beans and rice for a while. then went to espiro Santo in the new Hebrides, operated from there until sunk in Nov. during this time we took part in the battles around Guadalcanal. we lost several ships including the wasp and Hornet. the Saratoga or enterprise were also damaged. (aircraft carriers)

Adm Norman Scott <sup>killed</sup> came aboard and then we operated with four

Destroyers as a raiding force, we  
 made one nighttime high speed run  
 up the slot looking for the gap fleet,  
 we were going to make a torpedo  
 run on them, lucky for us we did  
 not find them, then on our return  
 we shelled the gaps on Guadalcanal,  
 we fired 4700 rounds. The gun  
 barrels were kept cool with fire  
 hoses. Don't know how many rounds  
 the destroyers fired. The next day  
 the marines advanced 2 miles with  
 out firing a shot, we then returned  
 to E.S. for supplies, fuel, and ammo. If  
 the picture you have of the Atlanta is  
 a side view with land in the back  
 ground it was taken at this time.  
 Fred and I were bath in the 1st Div

(Forward) and no doubt bath in this picture, we then took a large convoy to Guadalcanal, we went to our battle stations at day break sat. morning and stayed there until the battle early friday morning. sandwiches and coffee were delivered to us during this time, during the week we had air raids by zap line & torpedo bombers, I am sending you a copy of the unit citation, also a picture taken from a tanker as we were about to fuel at sea, this was taken in the Coral sea, also a story of the battle and sinking. these were taken from a Sept 1970 issue of sea Classics, Freds battle station was in turret 3. He was one fine man

Clare Burrows

