

A copy

625 Lasuen Ave.  
Stanford Univ. Calif.  
Feb. 2, 1943

Dear Mr. Peake

Your letter of Jan. 15th just reached me. The delay was caused by being forwarded through several previous addresses.

Your son was stationed in No. 3 turret and was at his station during the night action of Nov. 12-13.

No. 3 turret was hit early in the engagement by several 5 inch shells fired from a Jap cruiser. Later on after the ship had been struck by two torpedoes and completely disabled we received many 8 inch hits. I cannot tell whether Peake was injured by the 5 in ch or 8 inch fire as I do not have that information. All of the wounded were immediately cared for. The officers carried morphine (Tynettes) to prevent suffering of those badly wounded. Your son was removed in one of the first boats and sent to the hospital at Guadalcanal. He died there shortly after arrival and was buried in the first Marine Division Cemetery Row 62, Grave 1.

I wish there were more details that I could give you.

Peake's pay accounts have been sent to the Navy Dept. and any money that was due and unpaid will be sent to the person he assigned as his beneficiary. His government insurance, if he had any, will be paid without any action on the part of the beneficiary named in the policy. If he had insurance with an outside insurance Co., I suggest that you notify their agent and arrange to present such evidence as they may require as to his death. None of his personal effects were saved.

You can be very proud of your son. If ever men fought and died courageously for their country the men of the Atlanta did that night in Savo Sound. I have the deepest respect and admiration for them all. Please accept my sincerest sympathy.

Most sincerely

(Signed) S. P. Jenkins  
Capt. U.S.N.