"List of places I have seen in the Pacific"

1. Panama
2. Hawaii
4. Okinawa - Ryukus
5. Guam - Mariannas
6. Saipan - Mariannas
   Sagami Bay to Tokyo Bay
   Nagoya, Yokosuka,
   Maizaka, Shiojiri,
   Kamaishio, Yokohama
   Harbor, Sendai.
Today is July 16th.

We, the members of the U.S.S. Rescue, are lying off the Coast of Japan. Our position is latitude 40° 50' with Honshu. We are members of Admiral Nimitz’ 3rd Fleet. Our ship is the (AH-18) Auxiliary hospital ship "Rescue." This ship was formerly the transport "Antaeus." She was convoyed in February of 1945. We left Brooklyn on March 3rd, 1945. From there we went to Norfolk, Va. We loaded some supplies there and left on a 9 day trip to Panama. We spent two days in Panama, where I took one liberty
in Balboa, one of the Panamanian cities. Liberty was the best and more like liberty in the States than anywhere else I have seen yet, including Hawaii. From there we went to Hawaii (Pearl Harbor). We spent about 6 weeks there, installing Hoists and etc. for hoisting patients into the ship. Also a lot of supplies was loaded on the ship there. The ship was also painted again there. I spent many liberties in Honolulu and Waikiki Beach there. I started an album of pictures etc. After leaving Pearl Harbor we set out for Ulithi, a fleet Anchorage about 3 to 4 days from Okinawa. I saw almost as many ships there as I saw in Brooklyn. There was
far as you could see around you. On our trip from Hawaii we bypassed a couple little islands, one of them was Wake, still held by the Japs. Recently a Japanese Hospital Ship took over 2,000 thousand patients from Wake. She was given free passage by America, since she was a ship of mercy and was of no military importance. All of the patients on the Jap hospital ship from Wake were suffering from malnutrition. This island which is left stranded without medical aid or food supply will no doubt starve to death. She is still held by the Japs, but no doubt will finally give up. She is of no military value to us and was not worth wasting the lives of
our men to take. We are much further advanced anyhow, towards Japan. The Jap doctors on the Japanese hospital ship, estimated that 15% of their 1,000 or more patients would die before they could get back to the Jap mainland with them. The Jap hospital ship was investigated by men from one of our destroyers. But getting back to Ulithi, the fleet anchorage we took patients from several of the ships there before leaving for Okinawa. When we arrived at Okinawa in the middle of June, the Marines and Army were having trouble there. They had no opposition there at first when they landed, but on the southern end of the island they were still fighting heavily, and were still fighting for a few days after we left there.
with a load of patients. When we arrived at Okinawa, we saw several battleships, cruisers, destroyers etc. lying off shore firing salvo's into the Jap positions. When we arrived at our anchoring place about a mile from shore and a couple miles from the fighting, we saw the hospital ship "Solace" which was already nearly loaded, and did pull out the next day. We were loading patients there 4 or 5 days and worked like hell. When we worked like hell all day long for 14 hours we sure did feel like hitting the Old Sack at night. But there was no rest for the weary, because every time we got to sleep, the Japs
gave us a raid with suicide plane of course, or bombs. And we would have to go to our attack quarters. Of course this wasn't too good now. Patients either, because they were wounded & sick men. They were very good patients though.

The Japs nearly hit us off the starboard bow with bombs. They found shrapnel all over the deck. The next morning, and I think three men on a ship next to us were wounded by shrapnel from those bombs. I can't say I wasn't scared that night because I sure as hell was. The Japs sank the Destroyer "Swiggs" and we got several patients from her. She was hit by a suicide plane.
We got one patient with a Compound fracture of the mandible (lower jaw) and other cuts and lacerations, from the "Sweggs." His name was Billy Sulcer, and he was from Alabama. He was a good kid, and I was given a special watch on him, more or less. Of course all these kids out here are good kids, and they're all doing their job, a better job than I am doing because I'm in the medical corps. But we do our job too, and I think we have done a swell job so far. One morning while Sulcer was in the shower, he complained that his head hurt and I looked at his head, which had quite a large laceration. I cut his hair and shaved his head around the
wound. And then applied treatment and bandage. He took a liking to me, and said he would send me a quart of whiskey when he gets back to the States. "I'm still looking for it." By the way, I certainly would like to have a drink right now. We went through bombing every night at Okinawa, sometimes three or four raids a night. When we finally were filled with patients we went on a four day trip to Guam one of the Mariana's Islands. We unloaded all our patients there and incidentally there was one thing more I forgot to mention, I met a buddy from my home town, who was with the 8th Maine Regt. on Okinawa. He was not a victim of the Japanese, but one of his
buddy accidentally fell on his toe with a knife and severed it right below the nail of the toe. Not serious, but enough to get him out of action, since he couldn’t carry on as usual with part of his toe gone. He was from High Point, N.C. His name was Jack Smith. He had a big laugh out of it, and was ashamed of his wound, but nevertheless it might have been a good thing, since he had been out here for 30 months, and had seen all the Campaigns out here: Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, etc. I imagine he was sent back to the States from Guam. From Guam we went to Saipan where I went ashore, looked around for souvenirs, and drank my usual three can of beer.
Then after a couple days we went back to Guam for a few days and on July 5th we left Guam for a rendezvous with the fleet, the 3rd fleet which is now bombing and shelling Holy hell out of Tokyo and every other Japanese city. We are lying here, or rather we are moving around in a circle waiting for this naval force to return and to take their patient if they have any, from this daring attack by the 3rd fleet of Admiral Nelsey on the Jap Mainland. They aren't getting much opposition from the Japs now at present. There is one other incident I wish to tell you about and that is Concerning The
suicide plane attack on the Comfort in May. Perhaps there was a reason for this inhumanely act. If you recall back in April, the "Awa Maru", a Japanese relief ship, exchanging prisoners with us, was granted free movement in our waters. She was sunk with a loss of over 1000 lives to the Japanese, by one of submarines, due to the fact that she could not be recognized because of a fog. This information concerning the "Awa Maru" was just recently revealed to us. So since the Japanese relief ship was sunk by us, the Japs attack our hospital ship. As close as we are to them, I know we are constantly being observed by the
Gaps, but so far so good, they haven't given us any trouble as yet. But they are being kept pretty well occupied by the fleet in and around Tokyo Bay and Hokaido.

"August 15th"

Japan Accepts Potsdam Ultimatum. And the hiring sun has set on a land that has caused not only American death and destruction, but also to themselves. With the Atomic Bomb, the Russian Entry into the war and the bombardment by the 3rd fleet, of the Jap homeland no doubt ended the war a lot sooner than we all thought. Peace was signed officially on Sept 2nd. Thank God!! The world is once more at peace and we can return home and be civilians once more.