

"LIST OF PLACES I HAVE SEEN
IN THE PACIFIC"

1. PANAMA
2. HAWAII
3. ULLITHI - FLEET ANCHORAGE
IN CAROLINES.
4. OKINAWA - RYUKUS
5. GUAM - MARIANNAS
6. SAIPAN - MARIANNAS
7. JAPAN !! AUG 30 TO SEPT.
SAGAMI BAY TO TOKYO BAY
NAGOYA, YOKOSUKU.
Maizaka, Shioyama,
Kamaishu. Yokohama
harbor, Sendai.

Coast of Japan
July 16th 1945

Today is July 16th.

We, the members of the U.S.S. Rescue, are lying off the Coast of Japan. Our position runs latitudinally with Honshu. We are members of Admiral Halsey's 3rd Fleet. Our ship is the (AH-18) Auxillary hospital ship, "Rescue". This ship was formerly the transport "Antaeus". She was converted 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
anyplace 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} 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. In 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 a (1000) 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 patient on the Jap hospital ship from Wake were suffering from malnutrition. This island which is left stranded without medical aid or food supplies 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

"AWA Maru"

our men to take. We are much farther advanced anyhow, towards Japan. The Jap doctors on the Japanese hospital ship, estimated that 15% of their 1000 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 battleswagons, 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's no rest for the weary, because every time we got to sleep, the Japs

gave us a raid with suicide planes
of course, or bombs. And we would
have to go to our attack quarters.
Of course this wasn't too good on our
patients either, because they were
wounded & sick men. They were
very good patients though. One night
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 "Twiggs" and we
got several patients from her. She
was hit by a suicide plane.

16 June
1945

I

We got one patient with a Compound fracture of the mandible (lower jaw) and other cuts and lacerations, from the "Twiggs". His name was ~~is~~ 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

buddies 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 cans 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 patients if they have any, from this daring attack by the 3rd fleet of Admiral Halsey on the Yap 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 inhumanly 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 attacked our hospital ship. As close as we are to them, I know we are constantly being observed by the

¹²
Japs, 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 Hokkaido.

"August 15th"

Japan Accepts Potsdam Ultimatum.
And the rising sun has set on
a land that has caused not only
America, death and destruction,
but also to themselves! With the
Atomic Bomb, the Russian's 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 re-
turn home and be civilians once
more.