

天が見て居る

本戦役の始りに日本軍は実に無人の境をゆくが如くであつた。ナチドイツも亦ヨーロッパに於てそうであつた。而して其理由は空軍優勢で制空権を握つて居たからである。

今や情況は正反對で日獨伊何れも全く制空権を失つてゐる。此事は諸君が日夜の體験馬車で同盟通信の記者等も南方から歸つていくら日軍航空將兵が優秀でも一機對廿機或は廿機と云ふ様な優勢では敵はぬ敵は今や一空襲に百五十乃至二百機編隊を用ひおる様な有様である。と國民に警告してゐる。

この制空権喪失の爲に諸君もナチ軍も共に此頃は戦果が思はしくない。ナチ軍等は負けてゐる。航空機艦船將兵器材人員等においてあれ迄の犠牲をだした。ガダルカナル、ブナ、ゴナ、サナ、ンダ、アッツ

の戦果は今之を云ふ必要はあるまゐ。
日本軍は歩々後退である。しかるに、兵站
線が短くなり乍ら反、て補給も増援も
来ない。耳ならず遙か後方の占領地す
ら安全でない。オーストラリアから四
千キロのボルネオの大油田地、バリク
パンは最近既に二回の連続爆撃を受け
同所は火の海と化し、数日ゆえに
諸君が本戦役の始にあつた様な情
況が今度は反對に聯合國側の方にあ
る。米英蘭は自由主義民主々義だか
ら利己的だ。戦はできぬと教へた。吾
人は信を人の腹中におくから戦争の
計画はやらぬ。が他國が其信をうら
切、てくれは後馬也。乍ら立上る出
足はおそいが其結果はご覧の通り
である。自主自由の民反、てよく
闘ふゆのである。其事は諸君が仰
て大空を眺められはすぐ分る。あへ
てくどく云ふ必要はあるまゐ。

At the beginning of this war, all over East Asia, you won many victories. The reason was clear. You had crushing air superiority. Allied planes were vastly outnumbered every time they took the sky. Similarly Germany was able to overrun Europe in the early days of the war. The reason here was the same. Axis planes outnumbered Allied planes.

Now the situation is entirely different. You yourselves know very well that Allied planes now command the sky above you. You have seen this with your own eyes. A Domei correspondent, returned to Japan from the South Pacific front, also saw it. He told the people of Japan that however good the Japanese air crews were, they could not win victories when outnumbered by 20 or 30 to 1. He said that since May this year, the Allies have been commonly using 150 to 200 planes in a single attack.

From this comes the result that you, like the Germans, are sustaining defeats, and the Allies are winning the victories. Despite tremendous efforts at defence, involving heavy losses in aircraft, ships and men, Munda has followed Guadalcanal, Papua and Attu into the hands of the Allies. You yourselves are cut off. You know that ships bringing supplies and reinforcements cannot reach you. Even far behind the front lines you are not safe to enjoy the loot you have temporarily won. For example, the oil refineries and stores at Balikpapan, the largest oil port in Borneo, 2,500 miles from Australian bases, were recently successfully bombed twice by Allied planes. The Allies are now in the position that you were in when you won your early victories.

Your military leaders have tried to make you despise the freedom and democracy of the West as selfish and inefficient. Certainly free peoples are the slowest to prepare for war. Often, therefore, they lose the first rounds of a fight. But when they have recovered from the first attacks of the aggressors, the strength and whole-hearted self-sacrifice only given to free men fighting in a just cause, enables them to surpass the efforts of their most warlike enemies.

You know that this is so. There is proof in the sky above your heads.