

日軍ラエサラモーを失ふ

七月にはラエサラモーの死守が叫ばれ各將兵其所在即墓穴と云ふ様な事迄云はれだが今回はキス力同様又はレカタ湾と同じ様に敵の迫らざるに先立ち日軍將兵は撤退占領^はサラモーが九月十二日ラエは十六日下第五十一^及援軍のお四十一師団がひどくやうに後^ちとは云へ兵に老ひたるやりくちだ。無論之は統帥部からの命令で回復力の早い即ち大工業力を其背後に有する米英海軍空軍のままへに懸軍万里殆んど裸^はに

等しいラエサラモーの成兵を晒すに
忍びず、去の命令が出たものだが、実は
去年の九月堀井兵团がポートモ
スビ間近まで來たが、軍命令で、廻
れ右をしたら、あの当時以來の日本の
作戦方針は、西はビルマ南はジャバ東
は小笠原北は千島の線で、所謂百年
戦争的持久戦をやる腹となつておた
ものである。したが、て今なほ南方に
棄てておられる諸君は、本當に無用の
石となつたわけである。

LAE AND SALAMAUA CAPTURES BY ALLIED FORCES.

"The strongholds of Lae and Salamaua must be defended to the death," said your commanders last July. They added further, "Every man must regard his position as his grave". Time has shown the hollowness of these words. Salamaua and Lae, so far from being defended to the death, were evacuated as your commanders realised that further defence was useless. The capture of the first was on September 12 and the second on September 16. But this did not happen before your 51st division had been decimated and new elements of your 41st division badly mauled.

You may have been surprised when you learnt that, on the approach of the American forces, the Japanese garrisons at Kiska in the Aleutians and Rekata Bay in the Solomons evacuated without a fight. These actions were wise, and so was ultimate decision to evacuate Lae and Salamaua. What brought about these decisions to evacuate? The answer is both simple and significant. It was the certain knowledge of the Japanese commanders that the Japanese Navy and Air Force are no longer strong enough to maintain supply routes and protect the garrisons in Lae and Salamaua from the ever-increasing naval and air power of the Allies.

Since the Horii division, in September last year, turned round and retreated by order of the High Command almost at the door of Port Moresby, the Japanese have been forced to a holding war. The High Command seems resigned to carrying on the so-called "Hundred Years' War" within the contracted circle, relying on the bastions of Burma in the West, Java in the South, Ogasawara Islands in the East and the Kuriles in the North. You who are still fighting further south are like useless pebbles thrown away on a beach. (Japanese expression for having a function without any importance; also for being left in the lurch).