

米の代りに芋

5.129.

芋もたまにはいいが毎日では戦闘
力がつじかならぬ。煙草等はとほでも
いしが弾薬がなくては戦はできな
い。死傷疾病で欠員はかさむが補充
は来ない。たせが船が足りぬからで
ある。或は又船はあつても之を掩護す
る空軍を欠くからである。此の諸君
の状態に反し、聯合國將兵は武器弾
薬に於て充分なるはもとより煙草
もあれば医薬も充分で常に新^あ手を
引かへ張り切つた勢を以て戦つてゐる。
たせそれが出来るかと云へはいふ
までもなく船があり之がつかへる
からである。アメリカでは一日に新
造進水五隻である。英國はこゝ四年
間に大小の軍艦九〇〇隻を新造し
た。いくら日本海軍でも其全部を沈
める事はできぬし又喪失の艦艇は
すぐ補充され反つてふえるし且つ新
式にもなる空軍の状況でも同じで
此頃諸君が空に見る所は聯合側の

爆轟機ばかりではなしか、聯合國側
は特に空軍の拡張に精進してゐる。
其航空機製作力は、多くとも日本の
拾倍である。曰、日本政府も此事は認め
て居る。しかし諸君、將兵をはじめ曰、
本國民にいかばかり日本側の生産
力、工業力が間に合はぬかは、隠して
居る。それは彼我工業力を計らずし
て、此大東亞戦をはじめた責任を問
はれたくないからである。又聯合側
はヨーロッパ戦を一方ではやり乍らも
諸君の頭上からは、味方の航空機を
駆逐、諸君の身邊には、たえず爆弾の
雨をふらせ、せてゐるのであると云ふ
事實を考へたくなしからである。諸
君が米がこず、芋でなけなしの戦闘
力を養つて戦つてゐる、其事實にすらも
目をおほひ、諸君につぐるに、実情を
以てしなない。然し、諸君は其自身の體
験により勝てぬ、戦無駄な闘ひと云
ふ事は分つておらるし、ものである。し
かして、其事は、当方もお察ししてゐ
る。

NO RICE, ONLY TARO

When you have to eat taro occasionally, you don't mind so much. But when you get them every day, your fighting strength is sapped and you cannot possibly fight well.

In the circumstances, you may not take it too hard that you have no cigarettes, but you certainly cannot fight without ammunition.

Your ranks are depleted by casualties and sickness, but reinforcements do not arrive. Why not?

It is because you have not enough ships, or, if you have ships, the necessary air cover is not available.

In contrast with your situation, the Allied forces have not only plenty of armaments and ammunition, but also tobacco and medicine. On their side reinforcement with fresh troops brimming with fighting strength is always possible.

If you ask why that is possible, the natural reply is because they have ships which they can use.

In America five ships are launched every day. In England 900 warships of all types have been built these last four years.

Even the Japanese Navy can never sink all these ships and the ships that are sunk are more than replaced. In spite of losses, the size of the Allied navies increases and, moreover, their quality is improved by the building of new types of ships.

In the air it is the same story. Nowadays, you see practically only Allied bombers in the sky above your head. The Allies are exerting themselves in the production of planes which they are turning out on a huge scale. They produce at least ten times as many planes as Japan.

The Japanese government admits that Japanese production is smaller than Allied production, but it does not want you, the troops at the fronts or your people at home, to know how terribly inadequate Japanese industrial strength for war production is. It tries to hide the facts, because it has not got the courage to accept responsibility for having started this G.E.A. war on the basis of a miscalculation of comparative industrial power.

It does not like to think that, although the Allies have a big war on their hands in Europe, they can still spare sufficient planes to drive your aircraft from the skies and shatter your ground troops with their bombs.

It shuts its eyes even to the fact that you are condemned to wretched warfare, having to live on taro as rice is not coming in.

Therefore the Government is not prepared to let you know the real situation.

However, you know from your own experience that you cannot win and that you are putting up a useless fight.

We are fully aware of your predicament.

NOTE: Stage 2 - when the situation of the Japanese troops on which the leaflet is dropped corresponds with the assertions made in the text.