

同本軍将兵猶君

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RC04923

To the Officers and Men of the Japanese Forces:

One of the tests of the capacity of a High Command is whether it can keep its troops on a healthy condition so that they can fight strongly.

At Buna, Gona, Lae, Salamaua and Finschhafen thousands of your comrades died of disease before they had a chance to fight well. We must keep on bombing and shelling you until you surrender.

Even from a distance you can easily see the well-fed and healthy condition of our troops who are fighting.

It is foolish for you to continue a fight without strategical value. The High Command was carried on with the tide at the beginning of the war, and has now left you completely isolated from your faraway bases, suffering from disease and lacking medicines and food.

You had better surrender and, having recovered your health, live on to serve your country after the war. To do so is your duty:

It is useless trying to fight with bodies weakened by malaria, beri-beri, diarrhoea, etc. The inevitable end will be that you are struck down before you can deliver any blow at the enemy.

Think it over carefully.