

日本軍將兵諸君

ラエサラモア喪失の前後からニュー
 ギニア、ニューブリテン方面放棄は彼我
 航空勢力の比較から見て当然の
 帰決である事は日本統帥部も考
 へて居るところだ。然し優柔不斷
 率直に之を命ずる事をせず列兵
 關將になほ無益の犠牲を餘儀な
 くせしめて居る始末だ。ラエサラモア
 方面^及其後の戦闘に於て当方空軍
 の爲糧道^{醫藥}を断たれ芋や苺らび
 を喰^つて戦はざるを得なかつた日本軍は
 甚だ見^み栄^{はえ}せぬ戦果をしかあけ得
 ず。一步は一步と敗れていった。
 統帥部が既に見^み切^{きり}をつけて居る
 当方面になぜなほ無益な戦闘を
 繼續するの要があるのであらうか
 了解に苦むところである。

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Since the loss of Lae and Salamaua, the Japanese High Command has realised that, in view of the incomparably greater strength of the Allied air forces, it would be a natural decision to withdraw from its positions in New Guinea and New Britain.

Instead of resolutely ordering withdrawal, they went on dilly-dallying and left the troops in the outlying garrisons to continue a futile struggle and exposed them to meaningless sacrifices.

In Lae, Salamaua and later fighting (in the Huon Peninsula), as they were cut off from supply of food and medicine by the Allied domination of the area, the Japanese troops had little else but roots and ferns to eat and could not put up much of a fight. They were beaten back step by step with increasing speed.

It is difficult to understand how there can be any need to carry on a wasteful and futile struggle on a front which has already been given up by the High Command.
