

# 太平洋



# 太平洋最近の戦局情勢

軍部は其多年抱いて居た野望達成のため中部太平洋在諸基地の防備に關しては多大の日子を費して之が完璧を期した。然るに其廿年を費して築き上げた物が今回殆んど一夜にして聯合國の日に月に強大を加ふる戦力のまへに崩壊した。此の日本軍部の布いた防禦諸據矣の急速なる崩壊に對し軍部は只手を拱いて居る取で、さきにギルバートをとり九千五百の將兵がそこに全滅したが海軍は之を見殺にした。ついでマールシャル群島が攻害をうけたが海軍はおろか何等増援隊も來す。また統帥部の無能を曝露。名ジャロンの如き一月廿一日から僅三日でおち口イ島をもとり又々六千五百名の將兵軍屬を犬死せしめた。而して今ヤトラクも攻害を受け二月廿四日には内南洋のサ

インパンが航母による猛空襲を受けた。同島はトラクより千二百八十キロ日本々土に近く其の南緯東二千二百四十キロにあるもので戦は一步く日本々土に迫って居る。諸般の準備、武器、器材、裝備の改善、それに伴ふ戦術の進歩はマール上陸作戦に於ける聯合側損害を殆ど言ふに足らぬものとした。これ等狀勢は軍部も包みきれず、事の真相を發表、揺ぎなき堅城と他ゆゆるし我もゆるして居た。トラクで巡洋艦三隻、駆逐艦二隻、輸送船十三隻、沈没航空機百廿隻、失の事を公表。聯合側發表は艦船十九隻、毒沈航空機二百一毒墜破であった。實に昨今の戦局の推移、即ち日本々土近くが攻略されだした事、しかもなほ十九日にはカビエン、ラバウル迄が敵海軍により砲害を受けた事等はたゞに太平

洋諸地矣部隊將兵をしてま  
すます孤立の感を深からし  
むる取ならず当方面戦域全  
體に甚大なる交感を及ぼす  
もので統帥部何の策あてか  
よく最南方諸地矣の増援又  
は其守備將兵の撤退を計り  
得るものであるう。

巨大なる心力なしに

巨大なる物量は生ぜ

ず。物心一如此物量の背

後にある聯合國軍民

が侵略者軍閥に對す

る怒の力を思は水よ。



マニラ上陸  
聯合軍野戦  
倉庫の一部

Officers and men of the Japanese forces!

For many years, while planning their schemes of conquest the Japanese militarists were strengthening their bases in the Central Pacific. Now, their work of twenty years is being destroyed almost overnight by terrific and increasing Allied blows.

Japan's inner defensive zone is crumbling with dramatic suddenness, and it is evident that the militarists are powerless to stop this. The Gilbert Islands were captured in November and 4,500 officers and men of the Japanese army were annihilated in the fighting. The Japanese Navy did not intervene. Then the Allied attack swept on to the Marshalls. Still the Japanese Navy made no attempt to interfere. No help came, and the defending troops were abandoned by their incapable High Command. The main base of Kwajalein fell only three days after the attack had been started on January 21. Roi Island was also captured causing the useless loss of 6,500 officers and men and Army employees. The Allied offensive rolled on.

Next Truk came under heavy attack. On 23 February (Jap date 24 February) carrier planes raided the Marianas Islands, 3240 klm. south - south - east of Japan that is 1280 klm. nearer Japan than is Truk. Step by step the Allied forces are approaching the Homeland.

In the Marshalls landings and other operations Allied losses were comparatively light. This was due to the completeness of their preparations and to improvements in tactics and equipment. The Japanese military clique, no longer able to conceal the facts, have had to reveal in their communiques the loss of 3 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 13 transports, and 120 planes in the attack on the supposedly impregnable base of Truk alone. Allied reports mention Japanese losses in this attack as 19 ships sunk and 201 planes destroyed.

These developments in the war are full of significance both to the hopelessly outfought Japanese troops on isolated fronts and to the garrisons who still await their fate elsewhere in the South. Yet whilst these wide spread attacks were made against Japanese bases in the Pacific United States Navy also attacked bases in the South bombarding Rabaul and Kavieng on February 18 (Japanese date 19 February). As things are the High Command cannot prevent the Allies from taking the bases which lie close to the Homeland therefore what expectation is there that it will be able either to reinforce or withdraw the troops in the far Southern Regions.