

南太平洋週報

東京通信

「地久節及ひなまつり」

三月六日は地久節三月
 七日は桃の節句であつた
 が時節柄萬事質素菱餅
 あられ白酒のみやびほ
 求むべくもなかつた。それ
 でモ女工務員達の心盡
 で離壇のてきた工場等
 もあり軒傾いたが伏
 やあり一軒を竹の短筒
 屋に桃一枝を掛る内裏
 軸の前には供へてあつた
 所等も見受けられた。
 由來物事は其源が忘れ
 られ勝てあるが此の離

祭等も其最なるも
 のであらう。人皇
 第二十三代顯宗天
 皇の御代千五百年
 程まへ支那の禱曲水の
 宴等に其端を発し各人
 人形を作りそれにて流し
 まで其人形を川に流し
 て魔除無病の呪としたり
 此事も其後約千年第百
 三代後土御門天皇の御
 頃から今日の如き雅と
 をたもつのである。如き
 國內の不安慮去ら
 去年一月以來引續く南
 方敗戦の責任者として
 先に杉山參謀總長永野
 軍令部總長の罷免を見
 たが又それには先立て内
 閣の一部の更迭が行はれ

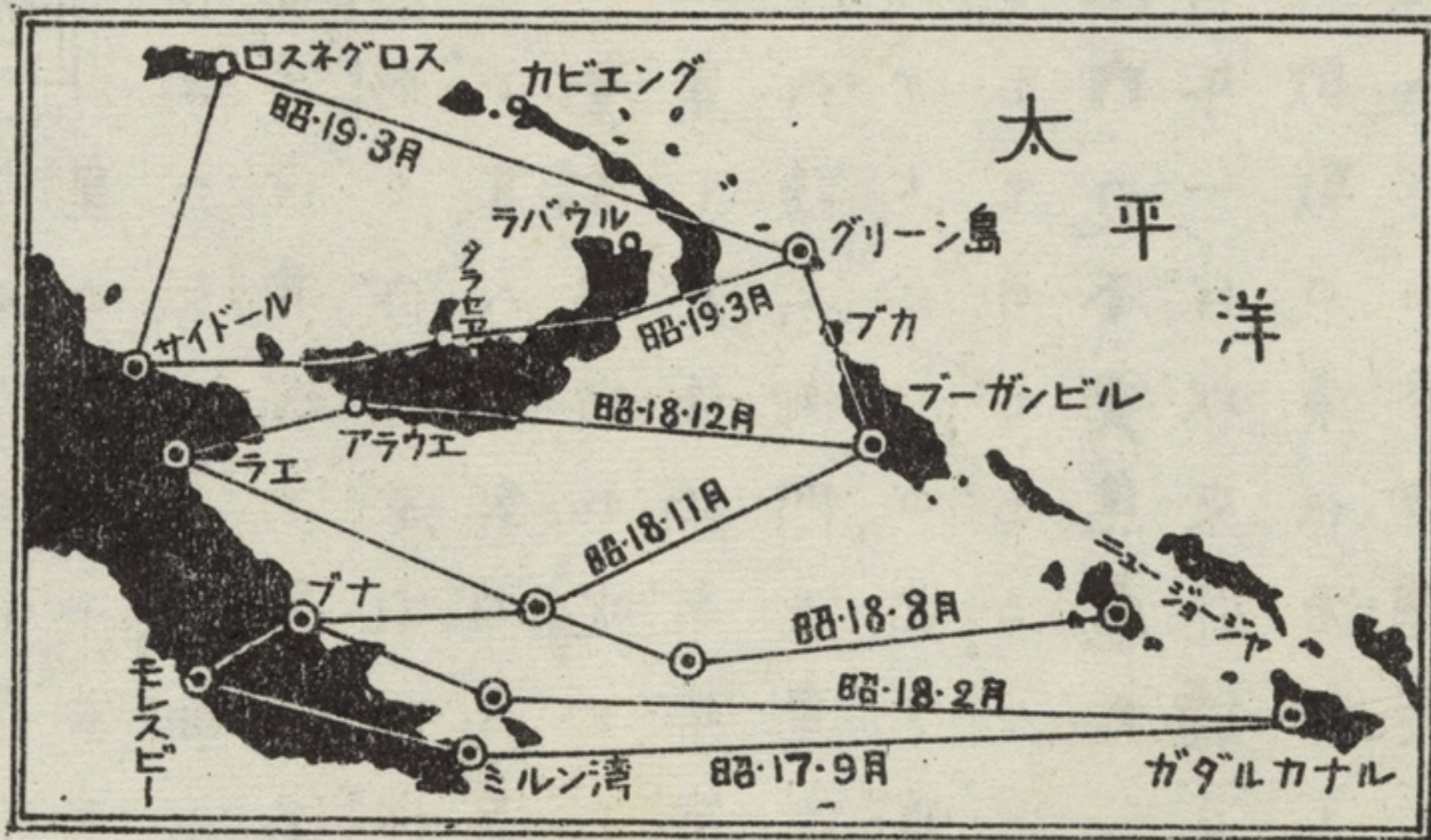
最も其弱体を曝露して
 居る交通部に後藤氏
 を持て來た。然し由來
 其國土は延々二千キロ
 に亘るもので山岳あて
 運河なく沿岸は波荒く
 鐵道は狭軌とへ楠孔
 明を据えて見た處でど
 うにもなる物でもなく
 此の運輸交通の部門が
 結局敗を齎すに非ずや
 との不吉な豫感が人心
 を支配し始め政府が司
 法官警察官を督励其撲
 滅に懸命を閣取引等が
 反て盛んであるのも交
 通不円滑より來る物資
 偏在が其原因である。と
 朝日はじめ諸新聞の論
 調である。又待ちに待

5.175

南太平洋方面戦況

たビルマ戦局の勝報も
発表があるにはあつたが
ちと期待外れで且つ
つもと違ひ味方死傷の
発表はななく其爲一時当
局の弾圧で下火となつて
居た流言蜚語が又盛ん
となつて来た。 **國**
より大正にかけ漢詩人
とし有名人の國介青厓
氏は八月十八日の高齡を
以て三月七日逝去され
た。氏は仙台の出て帝
國藝術院會員を仰せつ
けられ居たが晩年には
は時勢を慨したもののか
全く世と絶て居る。 **國**
様をさまであつた。

此図の示す如く既に



ド聯合軍二月廿九日のア

合軍の手中にあるグリ
ン島のトロキナキリウ
十グロスドクフィンシ
フンサイバウルモシハ
共ニラバウルの海空封
鎖を完璧にしたりする
みならず困難な方面よ
りの輸送を困難ならし
むるの輸送を困難なら
ス進駐部隊は日本軍の
反要を要退其飛行場も
既に修理を了へ使用可
能此間米國海軍艦艇は
ラバウル空軍の無爲に
乗じ上陸掩護射撃は固
よりにラバウル港内は
で進入した港内には
今や全一船一艦もな
く九日以來日本軍部の
攻もななく日本軍部の

方放棄決定を裏づけて
ある。又三月六日米軍
がラバウルから僅二百
五十キロのタラセア上
陸も殆ど無血でニューギ
ニアでは日本軍地上部
隊のマダンへの退却が
續きソロモンでは時お
り水上機の飛來がある
のみといふ状況である。

中部太平洋方面

クワジロン及エニウエト
ク占領並びトラックに
対する牽制海空作戦以
後全面的には小康を見
せてゐるが部分的には
米空軍の活動は毎日
此方面でも日本側は全
く専守防禦である。マ
シヤル群島中のマジロ

も亦攻略戦初期に米軍
が占領飛行場を建設サ
イパンチニア十二月廿
二日日本側損害は航空
機百廿五艦船十一隻重
破で三月三日のポナペ
及クサイエの航空作戦
々果に關しては作戦續
行中故まだ其詳細の発
表を見ない。

ビルマ方面戦況

比較的作戦の容易なア
ラカン方面において約
三師を用ひて反撃に出
た日本軍も例に依りて空
軍の支援を欠き一旦包
圍した英印第七師も敵
側空輸による補給によ
り何等補給の實あがら
ず日本側は反て死傷四

千五百を出して此方面
作戦を断念目下チン丘
陵地帯に於て反攻に出
んとしてゐる様である
が近來印度より重慶へ
の補給は空輸と康西省
の公路に依り月額〇万
トンに上つてゐる。

輸送破壊戦成績

御難續の日本海運界は
本年二月中及三月上旬
又々油輸送船五隻商船
貨物船廿六隻余更に航
母一隻駆逐艦一隻を潜
水艦攻撃により空襲及
艦砲射撃により更に艦
艇拾隻油輸送船二隻船
船廿八隻を失ひ合計船
船損害廿七万トンに上
り此等損害と睨み合せ

統帥部南方放棄も無理
からぬ事と領かるゝに
至った。

ヨーロッパ方面戦況

正面に於て多大の戦果
を獲得遂にフ、ンランド
が軍独講和を議する迄
に至、たロシアではバル
チック海其他の海軍強化
のため艦艇〇〇隻を英
米海軍より贈らるゝ事
とな、たがウ、クライ十方
面でも亦更に攻勢が開
始され、十千軍の退却は
ル、イマニア國內にも動
揺を來し、おり一時停頓
するかに見られ、露軍
攻勢は又々活潑となつて
來た。

航空戦景況

聯合空軍
による不断の十千航空
機製作所其他軍需工場
爆撃は益、十千側作戦を
消極的ならしめてゐる
が英空軍は一個五トン
余の巨弾を用ひおり本
年一月廿一日より三月
四日迄はシュ、ワイ、ン、
ト、ス、チ、ア、レ、イ、ン、
ル、グ、他、三、都、市、及、
ンのメ、ッ、サ、シ、ミ、ト、
等、に、對、する、投、下、爆、
は、三、万、六、千、ト、ン、
ン、ス、諸、工、場、等、に、
は、約、一、万、ト、ン、で、
間、十、千、側、の、ロ、ン、
他、英、國、に、投、下、し、
は、僅、に、一、千、七、百、ト、
云、ふ、如、き、全、く、析、外、
の、

伊太利亞方面戦況

形相を呈してゐる。
此方面戦況は目下山岳
地域では雪、海岸地帯で
は雨で双方とも作戦果
々しくないが最近アン
チオ方面では十千軍が
三日間、亘る猛攻に失
敗、反、壘、續、行、か、守、
る、か、の、岐、路、に、あ、
如、く、見、ら、れ、て、ゐ、
る。

尼、ろ、身、を、離、れ、
去、年、今、日、此、門、中、
人、面、桃、花、相、映、紅、
人、面、不、知、何、所、
桃、花、依、舊、笑、春、風、
来、し、春、は、我、家、の、桃、も、
又、さ、け、
こ、ぞ、見、し、人、を、今、や、
と

去、年、今、日、此、門、中、
人、面、桃、花、相、映、紅、
人、面、不、知、何、所、
桃、花、依、舊、笑、春、風、
来、し、春、は、我、家、の、桃、も、
又、さ、け、
こ、ぞ、見、し、人、を、今、や、
と

TOKYO NEWS - Empress' Birthday and Dolls' Festival.

March 6 is the anniversary of the birthday of the Empress and March 3 the date of the dolls' festival. This is the season of peach blossoms. Alas, the usual delicacies for this festival were missing because of the times, and the celebration was simple indeed. (More elaborate in Japanese text which mentions a few of these delicacies). Still there were some factories in which the girl hands had been able with great difficulty to get a display of dolls for the occasion. In some rural cottages a branch of peach blossom was displayed in a bamboo vase in front of a simple scroll of the dolls' festival. The original meaning of old customs and traditions is often forgotten, and this goes for the dolls' festival too. It originated in a Chinese exorcism ceremony in which body and mind were purified and diseases taken away by immersion. Afterwards a banquet was held on the river bank. This custom is said to have been adopted in Japan during the reign of Kenso, the 23rd human Emperor (A.D. 485-487). They made midget human figures of paper and used them as charms to expel evil and sickness. People stroked their limbs with the paper figures and then cast them into a stream. About a thousand years later, in the reign of Go-tsuchi, the 183rd emperor, (A.D. 1465-1500) the paper figures were changed into the dolls of the dolls' festival.

Uneasiness in the country continues.

Continuous reverses in the South since January of last year led to the discharge of the Chief of the General Staff, Field Marshal Sugiyama, and the Chief of the Naval Staff, Fleet Admiral Nagaon, as scapegoats made to bear the responsibility. Even before these dismissals, a partial change of the Cabinet had been announced. On this occasion Mr. Goto was put in charge of the Department of Transport and Communications, which has proved to be one of the weakest spots in the national organisation. In view of the geography of Japan, an elongated country extending over more than 2,000 kms., a mountainous country with a stormy coast, possessing very few canals and a narrow gauge railway system, the people are wondering whether even a genius could effectively remedy these defects. The feeling prevails that this regrettably inefficient transport system may even prove the final cause of Japan's defeat in this war.

The Government has issued special orders to judicial and police officials to stamp out black marketing, but in spite of all their efforts, this sort of illegal trade is continually on the increase. The "Asahi" and other papers have pointed out that inadequate means of transport, causing stoppages and blocking of supplies, give further impetus to black market trading.

Although there have been some victory reports from Burma, these were rather disappointing, particularly because, contrary to usage, no figures of Japanese losses have been published. This lack of information has revived rumours which had been making the rounds previously, but had been temporarily suppressed by the drastic measures taken by the authorities.

Death of Mr. Seigai Kokubu.

On March 7 the death of Mr. Seigai Kokubu, famous literary scholar and classical poet, was announced. He had reached the great age of 88. He was an outstanding figure in his field from the middle of the Meiji period and throughout the Taisho period. The deceased scholar hailed from Sendai (capital of Miyagi prefecture) and served for many years as a member of the Imperial Institute of Arts and Literature. Perhaps because he was not in agreement with the trend of the times, he seems to have almost completely severed his ties with the world during the last years of his life.

War Situation in South Pacific.

As indicated by the map, the Allies seized a position of great strategic advantage when on Feb. 29 they landed on Los Negros island in the Admiralty group, and occupied Momote airfield. Japanese counter-attacks, aimed at retaking the airfield, were repulsed. The airfield is now ready for use, and the whole of the island is under Allied control.

Added to Green Islands, Torokina, Kiriwina, Gloucester, Finschhafen, and Saidor, Momote completes the ring of bases surrounding Rabaul. It will now be impossible for supplies to get through to this once strong base.

Not only does Momote airfield seal off the Bismarck Sea but it also brings all the waters between Truk and the New Guinea mainland within Allied air range.

While this Admiralty operation was in progress, U.S. destroyers and torpedo boats were shelling Rabaul and its subsidiary bases in the Bismarck Sea. Taking advantage of the impotence of Rabaul's defences, the torpedo boats ran right into the harbour. There was so little shipping, they could find no targets for their torpedoes.

The constant Allied bombing of Rabaul has met with no aerial opposition since February 19. These facts only confirm that the Japanese High Command has at last realised that any further attempts to hold the Southern fronts are useless.

On the ground, Allied troops are pressing eastwards. On March 6 U.S. Marines effected a landing at Talasea, on New Britain, only 250 kms from Rabaul. Opposition was slight.

In New Guinea, Japanese withdrawal towards Madang continues.

In the Solomons, Japanese air activity seems to have ceased apart from an occasional floatplane.

War Situation in Central Pacific.

There have been no new major developments in the Central Pacific since the American capture of Kwajalein and Eniwetok atolls, and their diversionary attack on Truk. But Allied bombings on various sections is of almost daily occurrence. In this sphere too the Japanese have been forced completely on the defensive.

It is now known that Majuro atoll, one of the Marshalls, was occupied without opposition early in the Marshalls operations. An airfield is being constructed on this atoll.

Details of the U.S. attack on Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas on Feb. 22 have now been published. The attacking force destroyed 135 Japanese aircraft and 2 ships, and damaged 9 ships. On March 3 there was another raid by U.S. planes on Kusaie and Ponape in the Carolines. The results of this raid have not yet been published as operations continue in this area.

War Situation in Burma.

Japanese forces operating on the comparatively easy Arakan front launched an offensive employing about three divisions. They achieved a temporary success in surrounding the 7th Indian Division, but on account of the usual lack of air power on their side, they completely failed in following this up. The 7th Indian Division was kept supplied by air and was therefore able to hold their position until relieved. The Japanese gave up the operation after having lost about 4,500, killed and wounded.

It seems that the Japanese have now started new operations

in the Chin hills area. Of late the transport of war materials from India to Chungking by air and over the Nepal land route has reached a monthly five figure tonnage.

Glimpse of the Destruction of Shipping.

February 1944 was the worst month of the war so far for Japanese shipping. During this period 1 aircraft carrier, 1 destroyer, 5 tankers and over 20 merchantmen were sunk by Allied submarines. 10 naval vessels, 2 tankers and 28 merchantmen were sunk by Allied surface or air forces. Excluding the naval losses, the Japanese lost in all about 200,000 tons of merchant shipping.

Subsequently U.S. submarines have sunk an additional 70,000 tons of shipping.

These heavy shipping losses are one of the main factors forcing the Japanese High Command to abandon its outposts and withdraw to inner positions at the end of shorter sea routes.

WAR SITUATION IN EUROPE.

War in Russia. In the North the Russian armies have continued to be successful. They have made great advances and forced the Finns to come out with proposals for a separate peace. The Allies have sent a certain number of naval ships to reinforce the Baltic and other Russian fleets. In the South the offensive in the Ukraine is pushing the German army further back and causing great anxiety in Roumania. The Russian offensive has been revived on both fronts with great force.

Germany and Occupied Europe. War in the Air. The air war in Europe against German aeroplane factories and other war plants is still gaining in intensity. It is reducing the activities of the German airforce and forcing the Nazis increasingly on to the defensive. The R.A.F. is using a new 5 ton bomb.

Since January 21 to March 4 the Allied air forces dropped considerably more than 3,600 tons of bombs on Germany. Heavy attacks were made on Schweinfurt, Steyr, Regensburg and three other centres of war production, in addition to the continuous raids over the Berlin area. Amongst others, Messerschmidt aeroplane factories have been one of the main targets.

About 10,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Northern France and other German occupied territory in Europe during the same period. In marked contrast the weight of bombs dropped by the Germans over London in this time did not exceed 1,700 tons.

War in Italy. Operations in Italy are being hampered by snowfall in the mountains and rainfall in the coastal areas. Lately the Germans have suffered a reverse in a three-day attack on the Anzio front and it is doubtful whether they will continue the attack.

Poems Inspired by the Peach Blossom Season.

1. How lonely is the festival time! Having become a nun (i.e. broken off ties with the world) there is no display of dolls any more.
2. Yesteryear on this day my beloved lived with me. Our faces were flushed like the peach blossom. Now I do not know where my beloved has gone, though the peach blossom smiles as of old in the soft spring breeze. (Poem by a certain Taku, Tang period).
3. Spring has come and the peach blossoms in my garden are again in bloom. My beloved who was here last year, where has he (she) gone?