

南太平洋週報

路が決定的場
面にさしかか
るや不思議に
た日本側掩護
隊も甚だ不手
際で其部

カムベラ通信 本週
のニュースの壓巻は何
全一の空襲日
和とたして機
能を失し内六

と云、ても日本護送船
り最初から此護送船
十三機は撃破
此間聯

圍殲滅のニュースであ
團にオーストラリア
合國側策戦は
間然す

る三月始めニューブリ
カタリナ水上機
が艦船を襲撃
する一

テニ島北沿岸を西航
たが此いたり即ち三
が艦船を襲撃
する一

しておる日本側艦船
月三日米國爆撃機に
方オーストラ
リアビ

十四隻を当方が發見
より第一回空襲が
行一ブルツ機
其他は終

やがてそれに八隻が
はれ艦船數隻を沈め
日ラエを空襲
日本側

くわはり輸送船十二
翌四日の攻撃にお
い空軍に船團
救援にお

巡洋艦驅逐艦十隻の
て全弾命中ひんく
ともむくの豫
猶をあた

ものとなり東航ニ
して起り全艦船は
みへず日本側
の損害は

ギニアに向、た、当時航
るみる海底に其姿を
武器裝備彈藥
器材完

空作戦に不向な天候
没し残るもの大破
の備の陸軍一
師團其將

を利用して、たが航
驅逐只二隻之も亦し
兵一万五千艦
船廿二

隻と其乗組員で全部
犬死である。

ベルリン特電 右ど

スマルク海のニュース

はベルリンラジオが

いち早く枢軸がわで

報じたのであるが日

本軍部の不用意千万

なる軍隊移動に不満

で批判的態度にいで

其えんご空軍の不足

航路を岸より遠くと

り戦闘機によるえん

ごを困難ならしめた

ることえんご艦の對

空射撃の不正確空中

偵察の甚だ不充分た
めに敵空軍にやすく

と襲撃の機會をあた
へたることを指摘し
ておる。

東京通信

アムリシャン、此方面

進駐の日本部隊の勞

苦にかんし某將官は

過日新聞記者團にく

はしく説明其要旨は

米國空軍の爆撃が毎

日行はれしかかもそ

が日に日に大規模と

なりきたりおること

又島には何もできぬ

から糧食は全部を舟

でおくりつけねばな

らず其困難等につい
ていあった。

共產軍兵力 陸軍省
の佐藤軍務局長が議
會において説明した

ところによれば重慶

軍と別個の中國共產

軍の兵力は五十万又

は六十万其日本軍占

領下に入りこみ軍後

方に策動しておるの

は誠に厄い千万な事

であるがとくに北支

において此事甚しく

当局をなやましてお

ると。

在支米國空軍 堀情

報部長は數日前新聞

記者團の問に對し新
疆省内に米國空軍が

多数の基地をまづき
たるよし言明せざる
を得なかつた。

ベルリン通信 モス
コウ正面戦況はルジ
グ及びジツクのロシア
軍による奪回に引續
き其ビヤジマ方面進
撃によりナチ軍諸集
團は撤退に先ち其側
背に脅威を感じおり
ビヤジマより六十回
キ口鉄道上の要衝シ
チブ力のナチ軍の如
き既に撤退グジツク
方面より進軍の口シ
ア軍は既にそれ以上
にナチ軍此方面の最

重要據点ビヤジマに
迫つておる。オレル
方においてオレル
ブリアンスク鉄道方
面を指すもの如く
キ口シア軍の攻勢は
ますます進展。二月中
ロシア戦局にかんし
ナチ軍將官クワデは
次の如く講評してお
る。曰く「ロシア軍は各
所に優勢なる兵力を
集結、砲火戦車による
反復攻撃戦法を用ひ
各種航空機により晝
夜ナチ軍陣地を襲撃
以て地上部隊の進路
を開き、作戦はつねに

決戦を求むる如く指
導せられ、且英軍によ
るドイツ本土空襲は
牽制の効果満卓で其
上ハムブルグ、ヌーレ
ムブルグ、コロン、ウル
ヘルムスハーフェン、そ
れからベルリンなど
は甚大なる損害をこ
うむつた。と
カサブランカ特電
チニシア中央地帯に
おけるロメル軍の敗
退に引つゞき同軍は
マレス防備線東方に
於て英第八軍を攻撃
歩兵部隊機甲部隊と
も大なる損害をうけ

全面的に退却を開始しておる。

海運界、大坂商船の副社長は先般戦時下海員の危険労苦又其前線將兵への補給などの役割の重要性にかんし世間の注意をうながし空軍力不足よりもたうきれた海路補給のとだえがちは、ガダルカナル等にかいて皇軍將兵がくさ、ためしにこなみそをぶ、かけてわづかに腹をみたした実況並に空襲下に無惨な死をとげた輸送船乗組

員などについて語た。能率のあがらぬ木造船にかんしサイゴンからの報道は左の如く、のべておる。曰く、此廿月、た、た、一、その木造船速力拾溼のものが本年二月廿八日に進水した、船舶不足の折柄この漫々式的なやりくちには非難の聲がたかま、ておる。

筆のしづく、拾遺集にある読み人しれずの春はたい花のひとへに さくばかり

ものあはれは秋ぞまされるはじつによく人の肺ををつくもので異郷に進駐の將兵の心でもあり同時に又家郷にいじらしくも我子我夫我兄我友をまちわぶる人の心でもあ

小林一茶の 苦の婆婆や

花がひらけば

ひらくまで

などもた、た、十七文字たがらよく望のあせた世相人心をあらはして千言萬語にもまさるものがある。

CANBERRA News of the great Allied victory in the battle of the Bismarck Sea dominates this week's world news. Detailed reports now give the sequence leading to the annihilation of the Japanese convoy.

Early last week a Japanese convoy was seen steaming west along the north coast of New Britain. The Japanese fleet, then consisting of 14 vessels which were later joined by 8 more, comprised 12 transport and supply ships and then ten warships, cruisers and destroyers. The convoy headed for the East coast of New Guinea under cover of a bad weather front which made aerial observation difficult at first. In the decisive stage of the battle the weather cleared, sealing the doom of the Japanese expedition. Australian Catalina flying boats shadowed the ships from the time they left their base, watching every movement. On the morning of March 3 the first attacks were delivered by American bombers and several vessels were sent to the bottom. The most telling attacks, however, were made on the fourth and it was on that day that the convoy was virtually blown out of the water. Direct hits of heavy calibre bombs were continually observed. On the 5th only two Japanese destroyers were left afloat, wallowing helplessly. These were quickly destroyed by Allied planes.

The Japanese air escort provided to safeguard the ships fared almost as badly as the surface fleet. 102 Japanese planes which unsuccessfully attempted interference with Allied bombers, were shot out of combat, 63 being definitely destroyed. The Allied planning was most successful. While heavy bombers hammered the "enemy" ships, Australian Beauforts and other planes delivered an all-day attack on Japanese aerodromes on the Lae area, keeping the Japanese planes grounded so that they could not assist the stricken ships. It is now virtually certain that all 22 ships were sunk with their crews and large amounts of supplies aboard. An estimated 15,000 fresh troops, equal to one full division, completely equipped, were drowned.

BERLIN. The German Radio was the first Axis source to give news of the Bismarck Sea battle. Commenting on the destruction of the Japanese convoy in the Bismarck Sea Berlin expressed amazement that the Japanese command should suddenly have lost sight of all caution. German commentators dwelt on these four points:-

- 1) That insufficient fighter aircraft were available to cover the Japanese convoy.
- 2) That the convoy had not kept close to the shore in order to make the most use possible of fighter protection.
- 3) That the escorting warships were destroyed so rapidly and apparently with such ease.
- 4) That a strong Allied bomber force could have reached the Bismarck Sea apparently undetected by the Japanese.

TOKYO Aleutians. A Japanese officer, describing conditions to Journalists at Tokyo, revealed the extreme hardships facing the Japanese on their outposts in that theatre. The Nipponese troops there face extreme climatic hardships, the cold being intense. The officer, when referring to other hardships, presumably meant supply difficulties. He stated that no food is grown on the islands and that everything must be transported by sea. The officer admitted that air attacks by the American Air Force "came almost daily and were on a large scale." Those attacks came regularly, even in severest storms.

China. Director Sato declared in the House of Representatives that the total strength of the Chinese Red Army, as distinct from the regular Chungking troops, today was estimated at between 500,000 and 600,000 men. The infiltration of small parts of this unit behind areas nominally under Japanese control, especially in North China is a serious matter occupying the attention of the Japanese Army authorities in China. At last Friday's press conference Mr. Hori, spokesman of the board of information, was forced to confirm the reports that the Americans have constructed many bases and airfields in Sinkiang Province.

BERLIN. Events in the Moscow sector are following swiftly on the fall of Rjev and Gjatsk. The Russians are punching holes in the German defence system and threaten to cut off the garrisons of strong points before they can be withdrawn. Russian forces driving on Vyazma from Rjev have forced the Germans to evacuate Sychevka which is on the railway 40 miles north of the enemy base. Another Russian column advancing from Gjatsk is even closer to Vyazma. There is continued Russian progress in the sector south west of Orel. The advance appears to be directed against the Orel-Bryansk railway.

General Quade of the German Air Force discussed the operations in Russia during February. He explained the German defeats in these terms:-

- 1) The Russian armies were vastly superior in numbers at all parts of the front where they sought a decision.
- 2) The Russians massed vast quantities of artillery and great waves of tank brigades.
- 3) The Russians were almost always superior in numbers. Squadrons of bombers, dive-bombers, and armoured battle planes protected by whole wings of fighters, attacked in waves, smashing a way for the Russian ground forces. By day and night the Russians were bombing German aerodromes and supply routes.
- 4) The Russian leaders left nothing unattempted to force a decisive success.
- 5) The raids of the British Royal Air Force over Germany and Western Europe were a serious distraction to the German Air Force. Tremendous damage had been done in Hamburg, Nuremberg, Cologne, Eilhelmshaven and Berlin.

CASABLANCA. Rommel's attack against the British 8th Army east of the Mareth line has been thrown back with heavy losses in tanks and infantry. This follows his defeat in the Central zone.

THE SHIPPING WORK. The Vice-President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha recently drew public attention to the great sufferings facing the merchant seamen. He stressed the vital importance of supplying troops in forward areas by sea. Special mention was made of the position at Guadalcanal where Japanese troops, unable to obtain sea-borne supplies were forced to live on spoiled rice sprinkled with "kōna-miso" (powdered bean cakes) and to drink salt water. The Vice-President then gave a particularly vivid example of how merchant seamen, practically unarmed and without protection, had to endure heavy attacks from Allied aircraft.

News received from Saigon discloses that, owing to various difficulties, mainly those having to do with supply of materials and labour, the first wooden supply ship built locally was only launched on Feb 28. This is the first such vessel built in French Indo-China since the Japanese occupied Saigon 20 months ago. The vessel is described as a wooden steamer, estimated to possess a speed of 10 knots. In view of the present serious shortage of ships there is growing dissatisfaction at the inefficient handling of the problem of increase in shipbuilding.

A DROP FROM THE BRUSH. In one of your well-known collection of uta (variety of Japanese song) of olden times, there appears a beautiful poem by an unknown poet in which the difference between spring and autumn is described with unrivalled elegance and deep emotion. The poet recognises the beauty of spring with its abundant blooming of thousands and thousands of lovely flowers but still, whilst comparing spring with autumn, he finds autumn superior to spring as it inspires man with deeper emotion by making him aware of the impermanence of all that is of the earth and imbues him with melancholy. However as things are, one may surmise that this year your beloved ones in the home country, as you have been away so long and no news from you has reached them, whilst life is becoming more and more difficult in the pressing times of war, will find melancholy in viewing the spring flowers. Perhaps they will remember Issals haiku in which this mood has been so well expressed:-

Even if blossoms show us that spring has come, still our world is a world of suffering.