

皇國將兵に

他國民の風習心理を尊重するも
文明國家のたふらむ不幸干戈に相まみゆ
るもつらくんぞ疾せん故に聯合國各員
相計り事の甚だ困難をゆかへりみ先
日軍將兵遺骨送還の儀を企つ即ち
ブナ及ソブタにおいて戦死せる皇軍將兵
遺骸を我方に客たる日本將校監督の
下より正式に茶田比に附し其遺骨を夫
其遺族に送還の儀を囑すうらむるも
屍體多くも認儀茶田比の便共なく送還
遺骨の數甚だ多からざる事を

J89

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

It is the usage of civilised nations to respect the traditional sentiments of other nations, even though they may be at war with them.

It is in pursuance of this conviction that we, as members of the Allied forces, have resolved to do what we can, in difficult circumstances, to respect the traditional regard of the Japanese soldiers for the return to the homeland of the ashes of those who have been killed in battle.

At Buna and Soputa the bodies of some of the Japanese dead were collected and respectfully cremated. The cremation was supervised by two officers of the Imperial Japanese Army who are now with us.

Unfortunately it was impossible for us to cremate more than a very few of the dead as most of the bodies could not be identified. We are, however, sending you the ashes of those who could be identified and ask you to return them to their relatives so that they may rest in their native land.