

**TO OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE JAPANESE NAVY
AND ARMY.**

You have fought bravely and endured hardships with fortitude. But you cannot have failed to notice that the sky is clear of your planes and the sea is clear of your ships.

If there was any possibility of your rescue after the Allied landings at Aitape, Hollandia and Sansapor, it vanished completely when the Allies invaded the Halmaheras on September 15, and the Philippines on October 20.

The Japanese fleet has been forced on to the defensive. It cannot possibly rescue you. After the Allies landed in the Philippines, it came out to give battle. It lost four aircraft carriers, two battleships, eight cruisers and an indeterminate number of destroyers and was forced to retire. The American fleet lost only six ships.

There is nothing more that you can do. You are faced with death from disease, from lack of good food and medical supplies, or from the superior armament of the Allies. If you die, you die uselessly, achieving nothing.

Many of your comrades at Hollandia came to the wise but hard decision to surrender to fate. Thousands of others who found themselves in similar circumstances to yourselves, have done the same. They are now with us, recuperating in body and mind and awaiting the day of rebirth in the service of their country.

Reverse: Map showing war situation.

TARGET: Japanese forces in Aitape area.

LATEST DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: One month after receipt.

日本軍將兵諸君

諸君が孤軍奮闘よく固に堪へ草根木皮を食とし、しかも敢てゆづらざるもの實に増援の来着を心待ち待って居らるゝからである。アイタペ、ホーランヂア、サンサポルへの敵が上陸は全く一縷の望を断たざりしとせば九月十五日のハルマヘラ、十月廿日のフリッピン上陸は全く之を断つたのであった。且つ情況の切迫に止むなく立ち上つた貴國海軍もフリッピン東方海面並びにレイテ灣方面会戦に於て扶桑山城より二戦闘艦を始め空母四隻、甲級巡洋艦六隻、乙級巡洋艦二隻、駆逐艦數隻を沈めらるゝの痛手を蒙り、之に對する聯合側損害は船団護衛用空母三隻、駆逐艦二隻、駆逐護衛艦一隻並びに快速艦數隻であつた。

事ここに至り、四回の情況亦御承知の通りであつて見れば諸君の頑張りも今では徒に飢餓病魔のえじきになるか、無益に当方の火力のまへに潰れるか、二途其一に出ざるを得ぬものである。ホーランヂア及び其他の方面貴軍將兵にして、いま無益の死より、戦後の日本に、この信念の下に出で、当方に来られた人々の數は、今や相当なものである。皆心身の修養に又練磨にその日その日を靜に送り、以て他日の盡忠報國を期し、以て臣子の本分を全して居られる。

