

戦友に告ぐ

戦争といふものは何といふはかけたものではないか。戦争をしてこの國の人間がより幸福になつた例があるだろうか。そしてどんなに悲惨なむごたういものたかは私達が自身で経験した。

私はある戦友がこんなことを云つたのを今でもわすれる事が出来な。それは軍隊に入る前のいぢの思ひ出はなしのあとてまあおれた方の死も時の問題だといつた事を話してゐた時だつた。彼は胸膜炎とそれにバラリヤをわづらつてゐた。

俺は今まで日本の國でもつともい、國民だつたといへる。政府のやり方にたてをづく様な事を考へた事もないし、勿論云つた事もない。所謂「忠良の臣民」だつた。

だが俺はいま日本の行き方が明治維新以来の政治の進み方が何かまろがってゐた様な氣がする。

一体だれが俺にこんな事を考へる様にしたのだ。

その戦友もおそらく今は死んでしまつたのではないかと心配してゐる。二ユイギニヤのビヤングルの中で、わかれてしまつてから三月、そのときだつてもう喰ふものはなかつたんだから。しかし今でも、あつたはどこかに生きてゐてくれる事をそればかりのつてゐる。

馬鹿な事だ。何故に戦争なんてするんだ。

私は今は、日本の國が本當にじんそこから立なほされなければならぬ事を、信ずる様になつた。少数の人達が國民の声をきかないで政治を行ふ行き方が、どんなにあやまりやすいものか。

聯合軍は國際法に従つて我々を正當に對遇してゐます。病氣、負傷の人達も手厚い看護をうけて、日増しに元氣になつて行きます。

日本軍一兵士より



My Comrades,

What a foolish thing is war! Is there any country in which the people have been made happier by war? We know from our own experience what a cruel and wretched thing it is.

I cannot forget one of my comrades who talked to me of his civilian life, and of the imminence of death. He was suffering badly from malaria and pleurisy.

"I think I have been a good citizen of Japan," he said. "I have neither talked against the government, nor had any intention of opposing it. I have been a so-called loyal subject."

"I now realise," he continued, "that since the Meiji Restoration Japan's politics have not been directed towards the happiness of the people. I know that somehow the people have been deceived. I wonder who made me feel like this?"

I am afraid that my friend is dead by now. It is three months since I talked with him, and even then there was no food. Nevertheless I sincerely pray that he is still living somewhere.

What is the use of war? It is simply foolish. I now firmly believe that Japan must be rebuilt from her foundations. How easily a national policy, controlled by a few regardless of the opinions of the many, can go astray!

We who are now in Allied hands are being treated well, in accordance with International Law. Those who are wounded or sick are being cared for and are getting better day by day.

TARGET: Japanese troops in pre-operational or non-operational areas.

LATEST DATE

OF DISTRIBUTION: Indefinite.