

## アッツ島とキスカ島の戦い【2】

昭和18年(1943年)5月27日から作戦が始まり、第一期撤退作戦は潜水艦での撤退であったがアメリカ軍の哨戒により潜水艦の損傷、損失が多く断念する。第二期撤退作戦は濃霧に紛れて、駆逐艦・巡洋艦10隻で高速、素早く収容し離脱する計画でした。指揮を執ったのは第一水雷戦隊司令官木村昌福少将です。7月10日から出撃するも、霧がかからず、反転、幌筵へ帰投しました。「帰れば、また来られるからな」と言い残しての命令だった。7月22日再出撃し、7月29日にキスカ湾に突入、樋口中将は収容時間を短縮するために兵士がもつ三八式歩兵銃を海に投棄させ身軽に撤退させたことで55分で守備隊員5200名を収容し、幌筵島に無事帰還した。

7月26日アメリカ軍はレーダー日本艦隊を発見し、集中砲撃を加え、機影が消えたので日本艦隊全滅と判断して、砲弾、燃料が無くなり補給に戻ったのが7月29日でした。日本艦隊のレーダー機影は本当は島が影だったのです。その日がアメリカ軍の包囲が解けた唯一の日でした。アメリカ軍は日本軍が撤退したことに気が付かず2週間後に34,000名が上陸して、霧の中同士討ちで21名が戦死しました。霧が晴れて日本軍が全軍撤退した事が判明しました。これをアメリカ軍はパーフェクトゲーム、太平洋戦争の奇跡と呼んだ。

戦後GHQの取調官のキャスル中佐が樋口中将に如何してあの様なことが出来たのかと尋ねた時、中将はアッツの英霊が助けてくれたとか言い様の無い奇跡だと答えたそうです。

## The Battle of Attu and Kiska Islands【2】

The withdrawal operation started on May 27, 1943. The first phase of the withdrawal operation was to retreat by submarine, but this was abandoned due to heavy losses and damage to the submarines caused by American patrols. The second phase of the withdrawal operation was planned to be carried out by 10 destroyers and cruisers in thick fog, maneuvering at high speed, swiftly accommodating, and then disengaging. The command was taken by Rear Admiral Masatomi Kimura, commander of the 1st Torpedo Squadron, which sailed out on July 10, but there was no fog. This led the squadron to reverse course and return to Horomushiro Island (Paramushir Island). He issued the order, saying, "If we return there, we can come back to Kiska Island." On July 22, the squadron launched a second sortie and stormed into Kiska Bay on July 29. To shorten the time required to accommodate the officers and soldiers on the Kiska Island, Lieutenant General Higuchi had his men dump their Type 38 infantry guns into the sea. This enabled the garrison members to board the ships swiftly and safely. The 1st Torpedo Squadron accommodated the 5,200 garrison members in only 55 minutes and returned to Horomushiro Island.

On July 26, the U.S. forces spotted the Japanese fleet on radar, and after a concentrated bombardment, they determined the Japanese fleet had been annihilated because its shadow had disappeared. The U.S. forces ran out of shells and fuel and went back to resupply on July 29. In reality, the radar shadow of the Japanese fleet was the shadow of the island. That was the only day the American siege was lifted. The Americans were unaware the Japanese had retreated, and two weeks later, 34,000 men landed on the island, 21 of whom were killed in a friendly fire battle in the fog. Once the fog had lifted, it was discovered that the entire Japanese army had retreated. The U.S. military called this the Perfect Game—the miracle of the Pacific War.

After the war, when Lieutenant Colonel Castle, an interrogator at the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, asked Lieutenant General Higuchi how he had been able to pull off such a feat, he replied that it was an unspeakable miracle and that the spirits of the dead on the Attu Island had saved him.