

# Doenitz Pledges U-Boat Warfare Backed by Total Nazi Sea Power

By The Associated Press.

LONDON, Jan. 31—Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, Nazi Germany's wily submarine warfare wizard, assumed command of the German Navy today with the prompt declaration that every ounce of German sea power was to be thrown into the submarine war against the Allies.

Raising his new Commander in Chief's flag—a black cross on a white field—over his headquarters, Admiral Doenitz was quoted by the German radio in a broadcast recorded by The Associated Press as saying:

"I will put the entire concentrated strength of the navy into the submarine war, which will be waged with still greater vigor and determination than hitherto.

"The entire German Navy will henceforth be put into the serv-

ice of inexorable ~~U-boat~~ warfare. The German Navy will fight to a finish."

The declaration was regarded here as a substantiation of views expressed previously that Admiral Doenitz's appointment yesterday as successor to Grand Admiral Erich Raeder was a forecast of a greatly intensified U-boat campaign that already is causing marked concern in Allied war councils.

Stockholm dispatches said the elevation of Admiral Doenitz, originator of the "wolf pack" method of U-boat fighting, was regarded by observers there as a sign that Reichsfuehrer Hitler was pinning all his hopes of winning the war on the submarine weapon.

Admiral Raeder, it was reported,

—Continued on Page Three

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Continued From Page One

would become a sort of honorary "first adviser on naval affairs" to Herr Hitler.

Even as Admiral Doenitz was assuming command, the German radio today announced, without verification from Allied sources, the sinking of 450,000 tons of Allied shipping in January. Included in this claim were nine Allied merchant ships of 45,000 tons which the German High Command said today had just been sunk in the North Atlantic, Arctic and Mediterranean.

Allied sources have estimated that the Germans have anywhere from 300 to 700 submarines available for duty, a third of which might be on the hunt at any one time.

Stockholm dispatches said it was believed there that the Germans could step up construction until they were producing one new submarine a day. Allied sinkings of the U-boats are known to be far behind such a pace.

Virtually calling a halt to all other naval construction Herr Hitler is believed to have concentrated all his shipbuilding facilities upon U-boats for the past two years.

Observers pointed out that Admiral Doenitz's concentration of all naval efforts on the offensive might call for the transfer to submarine service of sailors who heretofore have been manning battleships and cruisers tied up at their docks most of the time.

The training of submarine crews is believed to have been the greatest German problem, and boys as young as 16 and 17 years are reported being taken into the service.

Delegates of the International Seamen's Conference, meeting in London today, adopted a resolution calling for greater protection for Allied convoys.

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