

NAZI GRAND ADMIRAL STRESSES NAVAL ROLE

Says Britain Can Be Beaten Only at Sea—Spurs U-Boat Drive

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, April 2—Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, it was revealed today, is in complete agreement with Secretary Frank Knox's statement that the present war is pre-eminently a naval war. The concurrence, however, appears to derive from conflicting premises.

Addressing crews of a flotilla of U-boats and speed boats at an Atlantic base in France, the Grand Admiral asserted that Britain could only be defeated on the high seas. It was essential, he said, to cut Britain's communication lines.

"More U-boats and speed boats are constantly being put into service to attack convoys," he said. "We must pursue the enemy tenaciously and doggedly and allow him no respite wherever he shows himself."

While the sunken tonnage—926,600 gross tons—claimed by the German Admiralty for March, falls short of the target figure of 1,000,000 tons, it served the purpose of jubilation in the press.

Four U-boat commanders have been decorated by Reichsfuehrer Hitler with the Knight's Cross in recognition of their sunken tonnage scores. They are:

Captain Neitzel—Twelve ships of 92,000 tons of which eight merchant ships were said to have been bagged out of a convoy off the North coast of Brazil.

Lieutenant Captain Seibicke—Eleven merchantmen, totaling 80,000 tons, five of which were said to have been sunk in the North Atlantic.

Lieutenant Captain Folkers—Sixteen ships of 80,000 tons.

Lieutenant Captain Gelhaus—

Ten ships of 90,970 tons claimed to have been sunk, and one of 10,000 tons said to have been torpedoed.