

GERMANS CONCEDE DEFEAT OF U-BOATS

Berlin Looks to Further Drop in Sinkings of Allied Ships When June Toll Is Shown

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, June 21—The Battle of the Atlantic has lost the preferred position accorded to it in German High Command communiqués during the early months of the current year, and reports from Berlin predict a further heavy slump in the sunken tonnage figures for June claimed for Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz's U-boat packs.

German naval commentators say that improved allied methods of defense and attack have confronted Admiral Doenitz with the necessity of overhauling his operating methods and general strategy, which enabled his submarines to wreck havoc among Anglo-American tonnage in the North Atlantic during February and March.

The Germans say that the former productive Atlantic hunting grounds no longer now intrigue German U-boat commanders. The reasons are discussed and the German public is prepared for unfavorable returns for June. The current sunken tonnage totals, it is reported, still will fall considerably below those of May, and it is suggested that the July showing will probably lag behind that for June.

Credit for the improved defense and attack methods now employed by the Allies for the protection of the Atlantic convoys is mainly accorded to the Anglo-American Air Forces. The German U-boats' commanders, it is stated, admit the effectiveness of fast planes in signaling and warding off submarines. As evidence of the major part played by the allied air weapon in the war on German U-boats, a recent High Command communiqué claimed that German U-boats had shot down seven enemy planes in the Atlantic.

The type of plane employed by the Allies suggests that their speed has affected the cruising radius of German submarines, and overcome the so-called U-boat strategy which accounted for earlier German successes. German submarines, it is said in Berlin, have been less active in the Atlantic during the past month, as it was decided to await development of the new allied defense and attack methods.

German naval quarters deny that losses of submarines more than canceled the building of new units. The fleet, it is asserted, is numerically stronger than at any other period during the war, and will give an account of its renewed striking force in due time.

Pending that performance, Grand Admiral Doenitz, it is hinted, is reviving his U-boat strategy with a view to adjusting it to new conditions.

The slump in sunken tonnage figures during the spring months, it is claimed, is a passing manifestation, and the U-boat packs will again be heard from.

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