

Nazis' Claims of U-Boat Sinkings In June Are Lowest of Entire War

Submarines Credited With 107,000 Tons Against 851,000 in March—Improved Allied Defensive Tactics Blamed

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, July 1—Superior attack and defense tactics against U-boats brought Allied shipping losses on the seven seas during June to the lowest wartime point, according to figures released by the German Admiralty today.

Of the total of 149,000 tons officially claimed to have been sunk, only 107,000 tons are conceded to Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz's U-boat packs, which are credited with sinking twenty of the thirty-one enemy ship sunk during the month. The remaining tonnage is credited to air and surface operations.

The communiqué asserts that fifty-one additional ships of an aggregate tonnage of 250,000 were heavily damaged by bombing planes and that the greater part must be considered lost.

While the almost perpendicular plunge from 851,000 tons, the all-high scored in March, temporarily dampens popular enthusiasm for U-boat performances, German admiralty officials take it less tragically. The comment gives the Allies complete credit for having evolved improved defense methods and in general intercepting mass operations. It is not, however, accepted as definite that the Allies are entirely convinced that the U-boats have been eliminated as a danger factor in the Battle of the Atlantic.

German naval commentators adduce a number of reasons to account for the June slump. A large number of U-boats, it is asserted, have been recalled during past weeks for overhauling after prolonged service. It was also deemed necessary, it is stated, to keep them nearer the Mediterranean in anticipation of Allied operations in connection with invasion plans.

A major explanation advanced is that German submarine strategy is being subjected to revision in view of new Allied methods of defense. The assumption abroad that U-boat losses have been heavy is countered by the assertion that they have not exceeded the normal ratio and that Germany is producing new craft at a pace exceeding the losses.

The prevailing "fever curve," German experts assert, represents a normal occurrence in U-boat warfare. The diagnosis concludes with the prediction that U-boat activities will soon be resumed under new conditions and methods, Anglo-American calculations to the contrary notwithstanding.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's reference to the U-boat war brought a rejoinder in the Wilhelmstrasse today to the effect that Mr. Churchill would soon be apprised "in terrible fashion" of the reasons for the reduced tonnage losses.