
BERLIN RADIO BOASTS OF 17 NEW SINKINGS

Nazis Report U-Boats Bagged 103,500 Tons of Allied Shipping

A special German communiqué made the claim yesterday that Nazi U-boats, dealing new "heavy blows to various supply lines of the enemy," had sunk seventeen heavily laden Allied merchantmen, totaling 103,500 tons, in the North and Central Atlantic and in the Mediterranean.

Most of the ships were sailing in convoy and the U-boats in the North Atlantic were handicapped by heavy gales, the special bulletin, broadcast by the Berlin radio and recorded by The United Press in New York, said. It added that "submarine anti-aircraft defenses" had shot down five Allied heavy bombers during an attack on U-boats in the Bay of Biscay.

The Berlin radio reported that the latest sinkings brought to more than 850,000 the total tonnage of Allied ships sent to the bottom by U-boats in March, "the first month of the so-called 'Doenitz [Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz] submarine offensive.'"

The British Broadcasting Corporation asserted Wednesday that Nazi submarine commanders were falsifying sinking figures in their reports to the German Naval Command.
