

Nazis Report Slim Pickings
By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, June 2—Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz's U-boat packs found only slim pickings along Atlantic highways during May. Sunken tonnage announced by the German Admiralty today is set at 430,000 gross tons.

The figure is slightly less than 500,000 tons under the wartime record for March, which was 926,000. The May figures are even up with those of April.

Unofficial forecasts during the past week sought to prepare the German public for the slump, as the bulletins of the High Command progressively failed to mention spectacular U-boat performances.

Hints that Allied defense methods had been improved and that Anglo-American air forces were proving a powerful factor in defending convoys were put forward to support Admiralty explanations that the German submarine fleet was not being wantonly exposed to any new defense methods by the enemy.

Until these had been "studied" the U-boats would temporarily curtail their far-flung activities, it was hinted.

The disappointed showing of the past few months, it was also assured, was only a temporary manifestation.

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