

DOENITZ ORDERS LAST 300 U-BOATS TO CEASE FIGHT

Submarine Warfare Cost Allies Millions of Tons of Shipping

LONDON, May 7 (UP)—Fuehrer Grand Adm. Karl Doenitz today ordered all German U-boats still in action—approximately 300—to cease hostilities and return to port immediately, thus ending the Nazis' ruthless under-seas campaign which cost the Allies millions of tons of shipping.

The order from Doenitz, former chief of the German Navy before taking over leadership of the Reich, was broadcast by the German-controlled Flensburg radio. It said continuation of submarine warfare was impossible from the bases that remained in German hands in Norway and France.

300 U-boats Involved

Some 150 seagoing submarines and 150 coastal types—the most potent weapon still left to the shattered Reich—probably were immobilized by the order. Most of them were in Norway, in isolated French ports or still at sea. Upwards of 600 others carrying crews totalling 20,000 men have been sunk by the Allies during almost six years of sea warfare in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Arctic. In the last war, Germany admitted the loss of 198.

The London Evening News' naval correspondent reported that although the order undoubtedly would be obeyed by the U-boat commanders, the British Home Fleet and anti-submarine flotillas would take no chances and not relax their vigilance for some weeks.

Most Fanatical Nazis

Naval experts always placed U-boat captains among the most fanatical Nazis in Hitler's organization. Some of them, experts believed, might fight to the death despite Doenitz's order and might even scuttle their craft rather than surrender when their last torpedoes are fired.

LAST 300 U-BOATS

Ironically, the order to cease fire was given by the man who had built up the Nazi U-boat fleet and sent his ships out with the order to "kill, kill, kill," ordering them even to destroy life-boats carrying men from stricken vessels.

Issued Last Friday

The Flensburg broadcast said Doenitz, as of last Friday, issued an order to submarine forces to "cease hostilities and to start their return journey." It then quoted the following order of the day which was broadcast today:

"My U-boat men, six years of U-boat warfare lie behind us. You have fought like lions. Crushing superiority has compressed us into a very narrow area. Continuation of the struggle is impossible from the bases that remain.

"U-boat men, unbroken in your warlike courage, you are laying down your arms after a heroic fight that knows no equal. In reverent memory we think of our comrades who have sealed their loyalty to the Fuehrer and the Fatherland with their deaths.

"Comrades, maintain in the future your U-boat spirit, with which you have fought at sea bravely and unflinchingly during long years for the welfare of our Fatherland. Long live Germany."

Tonnage Not Revealed

Exact Allied tonnage sunk by U-boats has not been revealed, but it probably was in eight figures. Victims ranged from tramp freighters to the British battleship Royal Oak.

A United Press compilation as of last September 25 showed 797 Allied and neutral merchant ships sunk in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, of which 320 were American. That did not take into account warships of all types and ships sunk on the Arctic run to Russia, where some of the most vicious battles were fought.