

300 U-BOATS IDLE BY DOENITZ ORDER

Allies to Guard Convoys Until Certain There Will Be No At- tacks by Fanatical Germans

LONDON, May 7 (U.P.) — Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz's order today to all German U-boats to cease fighting affected about 150 seagoing submarines and 150 coastal types. Most of them were in Norway, in isolated French ports or still at sea.

[The 10,000-ton German heavy cruisers Prinz Eugen and Seydlitz, together with 160,000 tons of merchant shipping, have been surrendered to the Allies at Copenhagen, the British radio said Monday night in a broadcast by the Blue Network.]

More than 600 U-boats, carrying crews totaling 20,000 men, have been sunk by the Allies 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 weeks.

Some Expected to Fight On

Naval experts always placed U-boat captains among the most fanatical Germans. Some, experts believe, may fight to the death despite Admiral Doenitz's order and might even scuttle their craft rather than surrender, when their last torpedoes are fired.

The order to cease fighting was given by the man who had built up the U-boat fleet and sent his ships out with the order, "Kill! kill! kill!" ordering them even to destroy lifeboats carrying men from stricken vessels.

The Flensburg broadcast said yesterday that Admiral 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."

Estimate of Sinkings

LONDON, May 7 (Canadian Press) — The total of merchant ship tonnage sunk by German submarines is one of the war's best kept secrets but estimates recently published in the British press said 22,000,000 tons of British, Allied and neutral shipping were lost by the end of 1943. British losses alone were set at 11,600,000 tons.

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