

Pathfinder

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Navy's Wars

The Navy was having its say and there was nothing bashful about Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King's third and final report on the war.

The Navy, said Admiral King, won the war in the Pacific "with ground and air support."

Biggest factor in this victory was the perfection of amphibious landings. King called it the "outstanding development of the war."

Losses. Hardest Pacific battle was the Okinawa invasion when the Japs damaged 250 Navy vessels.

Of 332 major Jap warships lost, the Navy claimed 257 (a figure Army Air Forces seemed likely to question). American subs destroyed at least 275 warships of all types, and more than 1,000 merchant vessels totaling some 5 million tons.

Jap subs were relatively ineffective even though, as King now revealed, they were joined by German U-boats which fought in the Pacific after the European war's end. The Germans, incidentally, lost 782 U-boats, the last one off Long Island, N. Y., two days before VE-Day.

Meaning. The U. S. must be prepared for the era of "push-button" warfare, must continue its development of revolutionary new weapons such as remote control guided rockets and pilotless aircraft. (With an eye to this, Navy named air admirals to three of its seven top jobs.) But, said King, in referring to the touchy merger question, the Navy must develop on its own: "To attempt unity of command in Washington is ill-advised in concept and would be impracticable of realization."