SUBMARINES OF U. S. NAVY ARE VERY EFFECTIVE

Secretary Daniels Answers Criticism of Policy by an Anonymous Expert

[By Latest Mail]

WASHINGTON.—Battleships still hold their place as the paramount factor in warfare on the sea in the opinion of leading American naval authorities, despite the remarkable effectiveness of submarines demonstrated since the European war began.

The general board of the navy is so much interested in the real tests that are now going on abroad, however, that it will withhold its recommendations as to the naval needs of the United States during the coming year as long as possible, and Secretary Daniels will not prepare his report to Congress until late next month.

In an official statement Daniels said:

"While the submarine is a most effective defense weapon and has great possibilities of marked development in the future as an offensive weapon, it is not believed that submarines in their present state of development will decide any naval war, but that the paramount need of the present day is for battleships by which the ultimate test of strength will be decided."

U. S. Navy Prepared.

The statement followed the publication of an article by an anonymous naval expert, who criticised the American navy as woefully unprepared for war. The secretary defended the organization of the navy, and in particular the general board, which, he said, "constitutes in effect a general staff."

"The permanent detail of our first naval officer, Admiral Dewey as his successor," Daniels added, "insures a continuing policy in its recommendations."

Discussing the strength of the American navy in submarines, the secretary said:

"When the relative sizes of the fleets of the great nations are considered, it will be seen that the United States possesses a submarine flotilla relatively and actually very powerful. England's fleet is more than twice as great as that of this country, yet she has but little more than half as many more submarines. France has a considerably larger submarine fleet than ours, with a smaller navy, but she has in the past taken the lead in submarine building, and this lead undoubtedly overawes, and we are on the road. Germany, with a more powerful fleet than ours, but many less submarines, and Japan, which is about our fighting core in strength, has only half as many submarines.

Many Conditions.

"It is true that the conditions are not all equal, and requirements for submarine strength cannot be based entirely on fleet strength. Harbors and coasts to be defended must be considered, and the United States, with long coast lines and many harbors, may need rather more than a proportional number of submarines.

"As far as the submarines are concerned it is believed that ours are on a par with any in the world. The development of our types has been logical, and in each new type the ideas and comments of the officers and men who operate the submarines in service have been considered. In the appropriation made by the last Congress two types, for the first time were included—one of high surface speed, to accompany the fleet, and one coast and harbor defense. In the building of two such distinct types we are in accord with what foreign navies are doing, and submarine flotillas in the future probably will be composed of vessels of these two types.

Only Ships as Good as Any.

"In general, then, it may be said that our submarines themselves are the equal of any, and in point of numbers we compare most favorably with foreign navies. However, the importance of submarines is undoubtedly being shown at the present time, and rapidly as the submarine flotillas of other countries, notably England, have been built, this pace will probably be increased.

"For many reasons we should undoubtedly then keep up and increase our submarine strength, building not only to defend our long coasts, but to accompany the fleet. Congress is appropriating for twelve in the last two years, in following out this idea, and with the navy department and Congress both working to secure an adequate submarine fleet, it is believed our concurrent progress with foreign countries is fairly assured."

ORDERS OF THE HAWAIIAN DEPT.

Special Orders No. 204.

2. Upon arrival in this city in compliance with paragraph 14, Special Orders, No. 193, current series, War Department, First Lieut. Gustav E. Buchman, Dental Corps, will proceed to the Department hospital, Honolulu, T. H., reporting upon arrival to the commanding officer for duty.

The travel directed is necessary in the military service.

2. Private Arthur J. Bond, 14th Company, Coast Artillery Corps, Fort Kamehameha, will be discharged from the service by the commanding officer, Fort Kamehameha, under the provisions of General Orders No. 31, current series, War Department.

Special Orders No. 205.

1. The following named enlisted men now sick in the Department Hospital, this city, will be sent to Honolulu, upon arrival thereof, and reported to the commanding officer, western department, with a view to their admission to the Letterman General Hospital, the Presidio of San Francisco, Cal.: Corporal Leroy C. Smith, 4th Cavalry; Sergt. Maj. Gustav Lery, 1st Battalion, Coast Artillery; Sergt. Maj. Jacob Rosenberg, 1st Battalion, Coast Artillery; Sergt. Maj. Ernest Rudolph