The "War of Greater East Asia" continued to hold its position of pre-eminent importance in the present world conflict during January 1942. The Japanese Navy seems to have gained complete control of the southwestern Pacific, and we are publishing a Domei summary of Admiral Shigetaro Shimada's speech before the Diet on January 21, 1942, reviewing the successes by which this was achieved:

The Navy Minister, Admiral Shigetaro Shimada, outlining the Japanese naval operations since the outbreak of the Greater East Asia war at the 79th Diet session today declared that the Japanese Navy virtually commands the Pacific from Malaya and the Dutch East Indies to the West Coast of the United States, and is now closely co-operating with Army land and air forces in assaults against Singapore, the Philippines, Borneo and the Netherlands East Indies.

Admiral Shimada said that the Imperial Navy is engaged in rapidly expanding the scope of operations against enemy war vessels, especially submarines, in Asiatic waters and against United States Pacific strongholds.

Admiral Shimada listed the Navy's successes since the outbreak of the war as follows:

1. Sunk—battleships, seven; aircraft tenders, two; cruisers, two; destroyers, six; submarines, eighteen; and other warships such as gunboats and minesweepers, twenty-six;

2. Damaged—battleships, four; seaplane tender, one; destroyers, three.

Commenting on the operations of Japanese undersea-craft, Admiral Shimada revealed that Japanese U-boats operating off United States waters up to date had sunk ten vessels, aggregating 70,000 tons, and heavily damaged three others totalling 30,000 tons, and also partially damaged five vessels aggregating 40,000 tons.

He added that the United States aircraft-carrier Langley was sunk on January 8 south-west of Johnston Island, while the aircraft-carrier Lexington was destroyed west of Hawaii on the evening of January 12.

Since the outbreak of the war the Japanese Navy had lost four destroyers, four minesweepers, three submarines, four transports, 67 aircraft, while one cruiser was partly damaged, the Navy Minister revealed.

Reviewing Japanese naval operations in the Philippines, Admiral Shimada declared that since the start of the war the Japanese Navy had shot down or destroyed on the ground a total of 336 enemy aircraft, sunk four destroyers, seven submarines and five merchantmen, in addition to damaging many other enemy war vessels including a seaplane tender, while Japanese naval aircraft were now battering the Corregidor fortress in Manila Bay.

Turning to the campaign against enemy islands in the South Pacific, the Navy Minister revealed that in the campaign which led to the capture of Kuching, capital of Sarawak, on December 24, 1941, Japanese naval units sank two enemy submarines, losing one destroyer, one minesweeper and one transport. He revealed for the first time that Jolo, one of the group of islands of the Sulu Archipelago, was captured by the Japanese Navy.

During the Tarakan campaign, he said, the Japanese Navy sank the Netherlands East Indies warship Prinz van Oranje, while nine enemy bombers were shot down in the vicinity of Menado. He added that in the operations off Celebes and Borneo, the Japanese Navy had so far accounted for 18 submarines.

Concluding, the Navy Minister said that Japanese naval bombers since December 17 have been inflicting the islands of Maui, Johnston, Palmyra, as well as Rabaul (New Britain) and Tutuila (Samoa) to continuous assaults, destroying wireless facilities and other military objectives.

A REMINDER . . . .
that there it still time to submit entries for our Second Photo Contest on the subject of "Mongolia." First prize wins Ch. $300.00, second prize Ch. $200.00, third prize Ch. $100.00.
Closing date for entries: March 5, 1942.
(For details please refer to our January issue.)