

THE U-BOAT MENACE.

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"Lick the U)boat and you beat the Hun". That 1917 slogan must be the war cry during these critical times, when the submarine menace impels every man and woman of Britain to face-up to the urgency of the question. This is not a dressed up propaganda story; it's telling you that this U-boat, (one of the wolves that hunt in packs in the Atlantic), is as dangerous to your home as a thousand pound bomb from the Air. There is no one single solution to the U-boat menace. It's a relentless war in which destroyers, corvettes, aircraft, depth charges, bombs, detectors and many secret devices all play their part. You will have read how the question of faster Merchant ships is being widely discussed. Was a ship travelling at 15 knots instead of the usual nine, ten or eleven a better chance of escaping attack? Theoretically, the fast ship has an excellent chance; but several factors conspire to cut down even a 15 knot ship's speed. And "hey-presto" won't suddenly produce speedy vessels. But what you see here demands speedy action. There are still far too many ships and lives being lost to permit of protracted argument.

The German excuse for failing to sink our North African armada was that the ships were too fast. That seems to supply the answer. Convoy speed must no longer be set by the slowest ship. Listen to what Mr. Charles Jarman, General Secretary of the National Union of Seamen, has to say:-

"I am, and always have been, a strong advocate of high-speed Merchant vessels for war purposes, and at an international conference of Seamen held in London, the other day, alarm was expressed that more serious consideration had not been given to this question".

Although Great Britain and America are forging ahead in shipbuilding, are these ships leaving the ways "Ocean Greyhounds"? The answer to that may one day be found in the figures of our losses at sea. Everything the Germans can spare is going into U-boat production. What is the reply from the Clyde, the Mersey and the shipyards across the Atlantic? Mr. Jarman has one last word to say on this vital subject.

"That all the ships in a convoy should be able to move more swiftly than the enemy is vital if we are to overthrow the U)boat menace".

Scenes of launching ships - by the yard.