

U-BOAT STRUGGLE 'A WAR OF WITS'

New Devices and New Tactics
Used by Both Sides in
Continuing Battle

By **SIDNEY SHALETT**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—This week's announcement by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill that Nazi submarine warfare "flared into renewed activity" in December served to emphasize the views of Navy experts that the U-boat may not be a "menace" now, but, as Admiral Ernest J. King said in his last official report, it still remains a "problem."

There is good reason to believe that the U-boat is even more of a problem at present than it was at the time the Commander in Chief of the Fleet, who personally supervises anti-submarine operations, made his report. U-boat warfare is one of the greatest see-saw battles of science and wits in the war picture. The enemy constantly improves his weapons, and we try to counter his gains by keeping one jump ahead of him in scientific anti-submarine devices.

Swing to Nazis

Thus, at the present, there is some suggestion that the Nazis may be in one of their moments of temporary ascendancy because of technical improvements, while United Nations scientists, it may be assumed, are hastening to find the answers to whatever new threats the enemy may have to offer.

This week's warning by Admiral Jonas H. Ingram, Commander in

THE MENACE



The St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Ever-present undersea threat to
our life-line.

Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, that robot bombs, possibly launched from submarines, might strike New York or Washington within the next thirty to sixty days, further highlights U-boat warfare.

Although the Navy took pains to discount his warning, the Admiral made it plain in his statement that he considered the danger both real and possible.

The revival of the underwater activity is significant not only because it suggests development of new technical methods by the Nazis, but also because the U-boat now is primarily a weapon of desperation. The increased use of the submarine either through preying on our shipping or through launching robot attacks on our Eastern seaboard, indicates the vengeful lengths to which the Nazis are prepared to resort in their struggle against certain defeat.

Period of Stagnation

Last August, the President and Prime Minister, who authorized the issuance of monthly statements on the Nazi submarine situation, disclosed that more than 500 Nazi submarines had been sunk since the war began. Before the invasion of France, the combination of sinkings of U-boats at sea and attacks on submarine production and concentration centers by Allied air forces had forced the U-boat fairly well into a state of stagnation.

In November, however, the Roosevelt-Churchill statement broke the news that Admiral Karl Doenitz's Nazi raiders were back to sea in a new form. German scientists had perfected what was described as "extensible air intake and exhaust machinery" which permitted them to remain submerged for long periods.

Thus, the wolf packs were able to penetrate into areas long denied them, for instead of having to surface at night to recharge their batteries, they could travel longer distances underseas.

It is the opinion of those here who follow the situation that Admiral Doenitz's last-inning struggle may give us trouble, but in the long run, it will gain little except additional hatred for the embattled Reich.

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