

ESTABLISHED 1888

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# HEAVY U. S. BOMBERS STAGE FIERCE REVENGE RAID ON WAKE ISLAND JAPS

Allied Subs  
And Planes  
Soften Axis  
For Battle

Tunisian Supply  
Lines Hard Hit

LONDON.—(AP)—Allied admiralties and planes scored new successes in the Tunisian battle of supply as patrols on both sides tested the battle lines, possibly as a preliminary to the decisive test of strength.

Two more Axis supply ships and a transport and a destroyer have been sunk by British submarines off the Gulf of Tunis and off Sicily, the Admiralty announced.

A fourth ship, *Caine*, was hit by an aerial torpedo in a forty off Sicily and was set on fire.

**CRETE AIRDROME HIT**

In another attack Axis supply ships and an airfield were hit in the Middle East. Command also visited Andros Airdrome in Crete and set twenty fires, the communiqué said.

There was no report from the British Eighth Army, however, as it continued its pressure on Marshal Erwin Rommel west of El Alamein, El Cheir, 100 miles east.

An Allied Headquarters communiqué last night said the Germans, in what apparently was an exploratory operation against the port, the second largest in Northern Tunisia, had made a stab in the *El Souf* Arada, fifteen miles west of *El Souf* and shelled the station there.

Previously French forces had been reported exerting pressure south of *Pont-Du-Fahs*, but there was no report of an indication that the Germans had penetrated into allied lines in this operation.

**ALLIES SOFTEN** on page 84

**Enemies Cut Up  
For Last Time**

**PHILADELPHIA**—(AP)—The *Munich* and *King George* *4*-run—said good-bye until victory came in a grim New Year's Day懂得。 The *Prinz Eugen*, the last of the *Admiralty* communiqué last night which reported a Nazi cruiser had sunk and a destroyer.

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The *Prinz Eugen* last was reported.

SEE MYSTERY SEA on page 5A

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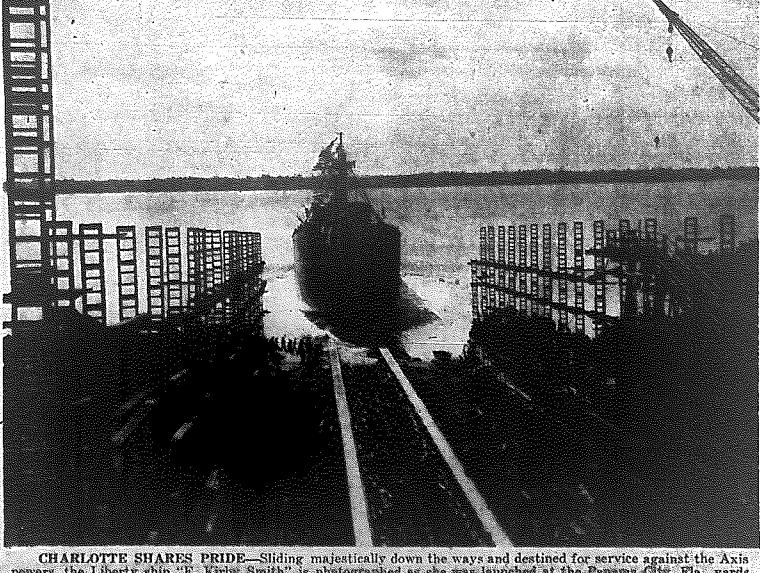
to be a year, sometimes bringing military reversals but more often triumphs, prosperity, and the like.

Other military progress was made by civilian production which increased production of civilian and fewer and fewer civilian goods.

And even in its midnight birth, the New Year received from coast to coast with an almost unanimous roar of reverberation, reverberation by watch throngs in churches; sober workers by contributions of their war workers; and those made homeless by floods in sections of Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Ohio and Oregon.

**TRAVEL CUT DOWN**

Nationwide gasoline rationing reduced the usually heavy holiday travel and fewer visitors marked the New Year Eve celebration. Virtually all



CHARLOTTE SHARES PRIDE—Sliding majestically down the ways and destined for service against the Axis powers, the Liberty ship "E. Kirby Smith" is photographed as she was launched at the Panama City Flats, yards of the J. A. Jones Construction Co. of Charlotte. This vessel, named to honor General Kirby Smith of the Confederate Army, was the first constructed at the Wainwright Yards. Going down to the sea four months ahead of schedule, this steel vessel represents an industrial miracle accomplished by the company headed by J. A. Jones, as it was only last May that ground for this shipyard was broken on the Florida shore. Soon other steel cargo carriers for the United States will slide down the Wainwright ways.

## Mystery Sea Battle Rages

Nazi Tirpitz, *Prinz Eugen* May Be Trapped

LONDON.—(AP)—A sharp battle between units of the British and German fleets apparently still was being fought somewhere in northern waters today but news of the engagement was not available.

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**Nose To The Grindstone, Nation Ushers New Year In Amid 'Cold Fact' Capital Forecasts**

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## Japs Put Up New Defense At Kiska

Zeroes Surprise Attacking U. S. Planes; Bag Three in Aleutians

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—The Navy reported today that four Japanese "Zero" float planes had shot down two American lightening fighters and a bomber while losing only one of their own number in a battle over Kiska in the Aleutian Islands.

Communication No. 225 said:

"NORTH PACIFIC.—"On Dec. 30, at 9:30 P. M., a force of Mitchell medium bombers, *North Star* and *24*, escorted by Lightning fighters (Lockheed P-38), was intercepted by four Japanese Zero float planes which were proceeding to attack two American lightening fighters, *Wildcat* (Bell P-39) fighters, bombers (Martin B-26) escorting *Airacobra* (Lockheed P-38) fighters, bombers (B-25) and *Marauder* (Martin B-26) bombers, all based at Munda on New Georgia Island. Results were not reported.

"On Dec. 31, at 1:45 A. M., *U. S. S. Sardinian* bombers attacked the enemy ships in Kiska harbor. These hits were observed on one of the ships and two hits on the other. No. U. S. planes were

other. No. U. S. planes were shot down. The Japanese had shot down the American lightening fighters and a bomber.

"At midnight last night the new victory tax went into effect, and Uncle Sam will start clipping from every pay, envelope, tax form, and item of each week's pay in excess of \$12.

"The tax will be withheld from your pay, the responsibility of collecting and turning it over to the Treasury resting with the employer.

**CREDITS ALLOWED**

"At the end of the year, each employer must certify to each employee the amount of victory tax withheld during the year.

"The tax will be the largest tax ever levied on the American people.

**SURPRISE TO NAVY**

The reported presence of Japanese fighter planes at Kiska came as something of a surprise to Navy officials.

See JAPS SURPRISE on page 5A

## Victory Tax Hits Incomes

Five Per Cent Hunk Coming Out of Checks

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Starting today the average American who works for a living will have to get along with at least 5 per cent less income, but eventually he will set some of it back in one form or another.

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Stalingrad Siege Ended, Soviets Aim For Caucasus

Troops Spur Beyond Elista

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW.—(AP)—Leaving the Malmyk capital of Elista far in its rear, the Red Army has driven to the shores of the great lake east of Salsk in an offensive aimed directly at the Caucasus after trapping 22 divisions at Stalingrad and killing or capturing 312,650 of the enemy. The Russians reported today.

The rush to the shores of the great lake, now frozen and snow covered, carried the Russian troops to a point about 40 miles south of Salsk in the biggest single day's jump of the offensive below Stalingrad.

The Russian Winter campaign thus had put the German forces in the rear of the Red Army in a extremely dangerous position after building a wall 37 miles thick at the narrowest point around the lake, trapping 22 divisions.

**GARRISON ENCLERED**

The advance reached yesterday, a Soviet communiqué disclosed, "Privoynye, about 40 miles south of Salsk, which was taken the previous day."

The German garrison at Elista was virtually encircled, with the Russians having passed by both on the north and south.

The lake spreads northeast to the approaches of Salsk, only about 30 miles away, and its frost-bound surface, it was believed, would facilitate the Russian advance at Stalingrad.

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