

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

**Strong Pressure From U. S. 2nd Army Forces Axis to Last Tunisia Cover; House Approves 'Pay as You Go' Tax; 43 Nations to Discuss Food Problems**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Testifying before the Truman defense investigating committee, Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson, right, revealed that a truce had been arranged in his feud with Rubber Administrator William Jeffers. Long at odds over a battle for priorities for equipment for aviation gasoline and synthetic rubber plants, Patterson and Jeffers were brought together by Ferdinand Eberstadt, former WPB official, in a Washington hotel room. They agreed to make a personal inspection of the gasoline and rubber plants, working out arrangements for breaking bottlenecks in either program.

**PAY AS YOU GO: 75% Forgiven**

As the shadows lengthened on Capitol Hill, 313 congressmen ended a hectic day of debate by passing the Robertson-Forand pay-as-you-go measure, forgiving 75 per cent of the 1942 income taxes and putting all tax payers on a current basis.

After rejecting the Rumpl plan as embodied in the Carlson bill, which would have forgiven all taxes, and voting to recommit the house ways and means committee measure, which would have applied 1941 rates to 1942 incomes, the congressmen acted on the Robertson-Forand proposal.

**RUSSIA: Nazis Repulsed**

Nazi attacks against Russian lines around Novorossisk were repulsed with losses, the Reds claimed, and all of the enemy's efforts to enlarge its bridgehead in the vicinity were checked.

While ground fighting flared, Russian airmen were active over the Caucasian front, shooting down 54 Nazi planes in swirling dogfights west of Krasnodar.

Minor artillery duels were reported all along the rest of the battle-line. The Nazis announced Allied planes again raided East Prussia, one being shot down.

**NAVAL BATTLE: Convoy Scattered**

Happening upon a Jap convoy northwest of the Aleutian islands, a daring American naval task force closed in for an attack even as strong Japanese units bore down off its flank.

After breaking up the convoy which included three transports headed for Attu and Kiska, the American force, led by Rear Adm. C. H. Morris, then wheeled toward home, and with three destroyers running interference, maneuvered clear of the enemy fleet.

Racing in close to hold off the Jap fleet with torpedo fire, the destroyers threw up smoke screens to cover their withdrawal after the attacks. Checked by the fire, the enemy stood by while the Americans slipped through.

Despite the intense barrage of the heavy Jap cruisers and destroyers which fell within the proximity of the American ships, the U. S. units emerged with no material losses.

**FOOD CONFERENCE: 43 Nations to Meet**

Representatives from 43 nations will meet at Hot Springs, Va., next week for the Allied food conference.

The conference will revolve around American proposals for achieving more efficient production and wider distribution of the world's food.

Plans also will be discussed for restoration of agricultural production in Europe after occupation by Allied forces.

The conference will be wholly exploratory, it was said, with the different representatives laying the conference recommendations before their respective governments for individual adoption.

**SUBS: Japs Efficient**

According to Allied spokesmen, Japanese submarine activity in the South Pacific has equaled that of the Germans in the Atlantic.

In both cases, Allied naval leaders said enemy U-boats have sunk about 2 per cent of total shipping.

Using 2 per cent as a basis, the Allies have lost 210,000 tons during the five months of the Tunisian campaign. No actual figures were given for the Pacific theater.

The Japs put out a claim recently that they had sunk a 12,000-ton tanker, a 12,000-ton trooper and an 8,000-ton freighter.

**MEETING PLACE: Nazis to Hit England?**

According to reports received in Madrid from authoritative diplomatic and military sources, Adolf Hitler may try to invade England and end the war after stabilizing the Russian front.

Allied circles accepted the reports with a goody grain of salt, however. There was a feeling that the rumors may have been planted to confuse Allied preparations for a second front in Europe.

**SUPREME COURT: No Tax on Evangelism**

Reversing its stand of one year ago, the United States Supreme court ruled as invalid all forms of licensing the spreading of the written and spoken word.

Particularly, the court attacked the collection of license fees by four cities from Jehovah's Witnesses for distribution of its religious tracts. Such fees, it said, were a violation of the first constitutional amendment guaranteeing speech freedom.

**COAL TRUCE: Time to Dicker**

Following the establishment of a 15-day truce in the bitter coal strike, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes ordered the nation's 3,800 mines to shift to a six-day week or suffer cancellation of price increases recently granted them to cover the expense of such operations.

Under the miners' present contract, they are paid time-and-a-half for all work over 35 hours on the sixth day. The additional pay they receive under Ickes' order was said not to be the approval of the War Labor board.

Reached by the government with the United Mine Workers' chieftain, John L. Lewis, the truce assures continued coal production and opportunity for additional negotiation with the operators.

From the first, Lewis gave no indication of backing down on his demands for a \$2 a day wage increase; for time spent in the mines traveling to and from the coal faces, and unionization of minor bosses.

At the same time, Lewis continued to hammer at the War Labor board's formula for limiting wage increases to 15 per cent over 1941 levels.

**MYSTERY: House on R Street**

Everybody in Washington is talking about the house on R street. A big, red, Georgian mansion, almost as spacious as a hotel, it is the residence of one John Monroe, also known as Monroe Kaplan, businessman and manufacturers' representative.

"Sometimes the food's terrible," Monroe said in talking about the now famous parties held in the house, "but my guests don't come for food, but for interesting conversation."

Topping the list of Monroe's guests were Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox; Maj. Gen. Levin H. Campbell, chief of army ordnance; Senator Warren R. Austin of Vermont; and Representative James H. Morrison of Louisiana. Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire was honored at the house with a party celebrating his recovery from an illness.

Rubber Administrator William Jeffers said he had received many invitations to break bread at the hospitable house, but refused them all. Jeffers said that Monroe was trying to promote an important man in the United States senate for President.

**CHINA: Fight for Rail Line**

Continuing in their reported campaign to obtain full grasp of the railroad system of China to build up a communication line from the Asiatic mainland to Japan, select Nipponese troops continued hammering at strategic Chinese positions.

While the Japs claimed to have encircled 20,000 Chinese troops along the Peiping-Hankow railroad, the Chinese asserted that their troops repulsed persistent Jap attacks.

Japanese efforts to drop picked troops behind Chinese lines by parachute failed, the Chinese said, when their forces wiped out these units in hard fighting. All along the Taihang mountains where the battle raged, the Chinese held their ground in hand-to-hand warfare.

In Washington, D. C., the army announced that Gen. Edgar E. Glenn of the 14th air force in China was wounded by bomb fragmentation when Japanese bombers struck at an American base.

Despite the intense barrage of the heavy Jap cruisers and destroyers which fell within the proximity of the American ships, the U. S. units emerged with no material losses.

**TRAGEDY: In Iceland**

Tragedy on the bleak island of Iceland claimed the life of the eighth American general to be killed or missing in this war when Lieut. Gen. Frank M. Andrews, commander of all American forces in the European theater, crashed to his death.

With the general and sharing his fate was Methodist Bishop Adna Wright Leonard, on an inspection tour of religious facilities in U. S. military bases on behalf of 31 American Protestant denominations.

A former cavalry officer who transferred to the air force during the last World war, General Andrews was foremost among the early advocates for a strong American air arm. He was partly credited with the development of the famous Flying Fortress.

**MISCELLANY:**

**STORMY:** Stormy weather accounted for some of the Allied losses in the recent big Japanese bombing raid on Port Darwin, Australia. Strong winds developed during the dog fight and forced some of the fliers into the ocean.

**VISITOR:** Coming as a visitor, with no handout, Edward Benes, chief of the exiled Czechoslovak government, will visit the U. S. in May, confer with President Roosevelt and make three speeches in Chicago.

**PROFITS:** Profits of British ship-builders constructing warships reached 80 per cent in one instance, with the average aggregating between 20 and 30 per cent.

**ESCAPE:** The entire crew of 42 of a medium-sized U. S. merchant vessel recently survived torpedoing in the North Atlantic. They took to lifeboats in a calm sea.

**MORE ROOM:** Three types of caskets have been lengthened three inches in order of WPB which took the action after a storm of criticism greeted an earlier directive to limit coffins to six feet.

# Washington Digest

## U. S. Army Is 'On Alert' For Chemical Warfare

Many Developments in Gas Warfare Date From World War I; America Thought to Have Greatest Potential Gas Offensive.

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

That was not the first use of gas in warfare—the first recorded use was some time earlier—in fact, just 2,445 years earlier—at the siege of Plataea, when the Spartans burned wood saturated with pitch and sulphur under the walls. It failed because a rain came up. Five years later a similar "gas attack" was a complete success at the siege of Delium where the fumes drove the defenders from the city's walls in a panic.

**Recent Developments**

The most recent developments in gas warfare has just been revealed. The Allies have known for some time that the Germans had a new powerful gas which it is almost impossible to detect by smell. It can now be stated that this gas is nitrogen mustard, a relative of the deadly, burning mustard gas of the last war but far more volatile and that much more effective, for it enters the lungs in greater quantities. It can also now be stated that the Americans are able to manufacture this gas rapidly and in quantity, if necessary. Our experts are thoroughly familiar with its characteristics.

The other development which will greatly increase the efficiency of the use of gas, if it is used today, is the new method of spraying it from low flying planes. This makes it possible to contaminate an area containing troops almost without warning. However, it is believed that the United States is not only prepared with the best protection but probably has the most effective potential gas offensive weapons of any of the armies.

What are the arguments in favor of the use of this weapon which, so far, has not been used? Let me quote Brigadier General Waitt:

"Every sensible man is agreed that war should be resorted to only when all peaceful methods have failed. When, in order to sustain its policies, a nation has no other choice but to use force to gain its ends, it should do this with as little loss as possible. Not only should there be little loss to the nation itself but unnecessary loss to its enemy should be avoided. Victory depends on the amount of loss. The smaller the loss to both sides, the greater the victory to the victor. This may be strange doctrine but it is sound."

**Unusual Outlook**

"War," Waitt believes, "is not carried on to kill or destroy but rather to enforce a policy, and if possible, the enforcement should be accomplished without loss of life or property."

We can work toward this end by the use of gas. He points to these facts for his argument: There were 275,000 American casualties in the American ranks in the last war. More than one-fourth were caused by gas. Of the gas casualties, only about 2 per cent died. In other words, the men wounded by gas had about 12 times the chance to live as those wounded by other weapons.

To urge the use of gas sounds strange, indeed. I recall how surprised I was when a young Chinese captain, who had fought through most of the campaigns against Japan, said to me: "Gas is a kindly weapon." Of course, he had never met it himself but he had seen plenty of men blown apart by shrapnel and high explosive and he was very positive in his statement.

What about civilians if gas is used? In the first place, America, of course, is in less danger than Britain because of distance but not out of danger. There has been much contradictory opinion expressed as to the possibility of gassing cities. One view is that it would be utterly ineffective, the other is that whole populations could be blotted out. Waitt says both extreme views are wrong. That there is a middle ground, that gas can be used against industrial and political centers of importance for its disorganizing and demoralizing effect but that the chief targets will be strategic points such as railway stations, power and light plants and the like. Gas will not wipe out populations, he believes, it will not entirely supplant explosives. But it will be an effective weapon.

The most important defense, aside from material means of protection which Waitt describes in detail, is education and discipline.

There have been, of course, many developments in this little-discussed weapon of warfare since gas was first used in World War I by the Germans and used so successfully and yet so stupidly. The attack took the British and French colonial troops utterly by surprise and caused what amounted to a rout. If the Germans had had the sense to follow it up, they could have broken through the lines and reached Calais.

Polish saboteurs killed or wounded 424 Nazis, damaged 17 German trains and destroyed seven oil wells within one month.

A farmer who sells butter, lard or any other food rationed under the meat and fats program to a retailer now must collect ration points for the sale.

If you are having trouble with the point rationing system, go to your Red Cross chapter. A nutrition expert will gladly explain point rationing to you.

## TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

**HEAD INJURIES**

For a number of years I treated all the injured athletic students of a large university. Fortunately, most of the injuries were cuts, bruises, dislocations and occasional fractures, with not infrequent head injuries causing unconsciousness.

For many years also I treated all the injured amateur and professional boxers and wrestlers in which head injuries were not uncommon. While most cases of head concussion recovered consciousness in minutes and often seconds, I often wondered if I made them take sufficient rest before resuming athletic activities.

This whole question of how soon after a blow that has caused unconsciousness, the patient should resume his regular occupation, has been studied by Dr. H. Cairns: some of his findings are recorded in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine.

In deciding when a patient should be fit to return to work, it is necessary to bear in mind the severity of his injury, and the best yardstick at present available is the length of time he was unconscious after the injury. The shortest time in which ability to carry out full work may be expected to return is as follows:

"If unconscious for five minutes to one hour—four to six weeks.

"If unconscious one to 24 hours—six to eight weeks.

"If unconscious one to seven days—two to four months.

"If unconscious over seven days—four to eight months.

"If patient was very tired when injured, more time should be given. The type of work must also be considered as a simple task may be resumed earlier than one which calls for much brain effort.

"Almost every patient who makes a full recovery from concussion suffers at a certain stage of his recovery from headaches. In mild cases headaches usually occur early and disappear, whereas in more severe cases headaches appear much later, in fact after patient is well enough to return home though not to work."

There was a time when a man or woman wearing glasses was thought to be student or one who did a great deal of reading. Glasses were almost a badge of scholarship. It was a rare thing to see a child with glasses and many wearing glasses were doing so to correct a squint or crossed eye.

Within the last 20 years there has been a great increase in the number of men and women wearing glasses and glasses on school children no longer attract attention.

Most of us will likely attribute this increase in the number wearing glasses to the examination of the eyes of school children and to the education by departments of health of the importance of having the vision corrected in those afflicted with shortsightedness, longsightedness and astigmatism (objects not seen distinctly). The last war also taught the value of acquiring proper glasses as many men were rejected for poor eyesight.

However, we learn from the Better Vision Institute in one of their monthly releases that America is becoming a nearsighted nation. Every 10 years the figures show that vision is becoming narrower and human eyes, which from the beginning of history had been adapted to far vision, have now their sharpest vision when fixed on near objects not very far from the end of the nose.

What is causing the population to become nearsighted?

Some research workers on the eye state that (a) living conditions today find man looking at "near" objects instead of "far" or distant objects, and (b) nearsightedness seems to be handed down from parents to their children.

Today, education has become almost universal and children start to read at an early age. Occupations are indoors for the most part and modern living conditions require almost continuous close vision.

We should, therefore, be kind to our eyes, and if our eyes need help make sure that they get help, and the right kind of help.

**QUESTION BOX**

Q.—What is the best kind of deodorant to use to overcome under-arm perspiration?

A.—Deodorants containing formaldehyde or aluminum give good results. X-ray is used in severe cases.

Q.—What, other than high blood pressure, could cause cerebral hemorrhage?

A.—Cerebral hemorrhage may be caused by an injury to the brain that would cause rupture of a blood vessel even in a young individual.

## HIGH SCHOOL HOME COURSE