

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Bombers Hit Axis War Plants As Allied Chiefs Ponder Italy's Fate; Reds Push Nazis Back on Two Fronts; Trap Jap Forces in Central Solomons

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



Sicily's fall came only after stiff fighting such as this, in which British Tommies from the Eighth army advanced through a railroad siding under heavy fire.

SICILY:

Happy Ending

Thirty-eight days after the first Allied troops set foot on Sicily's southeastern shore, the island fell, with 140,000 Axis prisoners reported captured. As Gen. George S. Patton's Doughboys from the Seventh American army swept into Messina to take over the enemy's last stronghold, the Italian mainland loomed two miles away.

Gen. George S. Patton

The fall of Sicily was preceded by the Axis' evacuation of the island behind the rugged action of their rearwards, fighting fiercely from natural defenses in the mountainous terrain. According to Berlin, about 35,000 German troops with all of heavy equipment were hauled to the Italian mainland on small vessels.

The Sicilian campaign was marked by bitter action. In the early landings, American troops withstood strong German counterattacks to establish a beachhead at Gela; Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British columns encountered stiff opposition before Catania, where the Axis machine gunners could hide to advantage in the grain fields; and finally, German units planted in the mountains slowed Allied advances to a steady crawl up the open, craggy slopes before Messina.

Discuss Open City

As President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill came together for their sixth conference in the historic citadel of Quebec, Marshal Pietro Badoglio's Italian military government pressed efforts for the recognition of Rome as an open city. Acting as intermediary, the Vatican was reported to have presented Badoglio's proposals for such recognition to Allied representatives.

Before recognizing Rome as an open city, the Allies insisted that the metropolis be stripped of all military activity. In their bombings of Rome, the Allies concentrated on the San Lorenzo railroad yards.

As Roosevelt and Churchill discussed Italy's fate, British and American bombers loosed a rain of explosives on the Italian industrial centers of Milan and Turin. Waves of four-engine bombers blasted at the famous Caproni aircraft works, chemical plants and the royal arsenal.

RUSSIA:

Nazis Fall Back

Hitler's armies fell back along the central and southern Russian fronts as the Reds' masses of tanks and troops ground forward in bitter action. The Germans put up stiff resistance, slowing the Russians' advance with local counterattacks, and making them pay for every yard gained.

But the sheer weight of the Reds' drive told in the eventual German retreats. In the central sector, the Russians bore down on the important Nazi base of Bryansk, as they moved westward from recently fallen Orel. Farther to the south, Kharkov lay encircled from three sides, and Soviet troops stood at the gates of the once great Pittsburgh of Russia, now a blackened ruin.

OPA:

Changes Made

As a result of Office of Price Administration policies, the cost of living dropped fractionally during the last two months and should register a further decline in August, Chester Bowles, new OPA general manager, declared. Aim of the government is to bring prices to the September, 1942, levels, and keep them in line with the stabilization of wages at 15 per cent over the early 1941 figures.

SOUTH PACIFIC:

Slip on Noose

By occupying Vella Lavella, island, American troops slipped a tight noose around remaining Japanese forces in the central Solomons. Vella Lavella lies to the north of Kolombangara island, where 8,000 Nipponese stood entrenched. To the south of Kolombangara is New Georgia island, which U. S. doughboys dominated.

As General MacArthur's offensive developed, with the central Solomons in the Americans' grip, the Japanese were left with outposts only in the northeastern area of the islands.

As MacArthur's Solomons' forces wound up for the knockout punch, waves of Allied bombers staged a surprise attack on the Japanese airbase at Weewak, New Guinea, destroying 120 planes and killing 1,500 personnel. Caught unawares, Jap planes were packed solidly on the field when the Allied airmen flew over, proving easy targets. The enemy craft represented reinforcements that had been sent to bolster Jap ground troops at Salamaua to the south, where Allied units had pressed within 15 miles of the big base.

WAGES:

Go Up

Average pay of workers in all manufacturing industries was 95.9 cents an hour in June, the department of labor figures disclose. This is 13 per cent higher than in June, 1942. Weekly earnings averaged \$43.35 in June, compared with \$43.22 for May. In durable goods factories (makers of tractors, furniture, planes, etc.) the average was \$49.37 and in non-durable (canned vegetables, paper products, etc.) the average pay was \$34.41 a week. Because of expanding activity, man-hours increased some five million over May.

Employment figures show that there are now 17,100,000 women working, an increase of three million over last year. In the same period number of men employed declined by 2,700,000, from 39,900,000 to 37,200,000. Nearly two million more women are wanted by industry.

HOME FRONT:

Roads Long, Bloody

Tempering increased optimism on the home front, War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes told the nation "the roads to Berlin and Tokyo are still long, hard and bloody."

We have met less than 7 per cent of the enemies' armed forces in Europe, he said, and in the Pacific, the Japanese not only control most of the productive resources of China, but also the great wealth of Malaya and the Indies.

Looking at home, Byrnes promised prices of actual necessities will be scaled down under the stabilization program. Increased taxes or "forced savings" must be adopted to draw off 20 billion dollars of excess purchasing power, he said. And revisions in the government's procurement program will make possible production of some essential civilian goods, he reported.

POST OFFICE

Postal deficit was set at \$3,543,122 for the fiscal year ending June 30, when the post office department closed its books. This loss is the lowest since 1919. Last year the deficiency was \$11,825,185.

Revenues totaled \$961,059,690, an increase of \$101,242,199 over last year. The increase almost equalled the entire income for the year 1900. Expenditures amounted to \$964,602,812, an increase of \$92,960,135. Salaries of employees accounted for 77 per cent of the costs.

DRAFT:

Deferment Grounds

In an effort to provide industry with necessary labor, the War Manpower Commission headed by Paul V. McNutt laid down new regulations for Selective Service, making occupation rather than dependency the basis for deferment.



Paul V. McNutt

At the same time, the WMC broadened the list of jobs which are non-deferrable, and placed certain positions requiring high skills at the bottom of the draft rolls.

In effect, the new regulation puts teeth into the order to draft fathers after October 1, since dads holding non-essential jobs will be called ahead of others employed in essential industry. Provision has been made, however, for fathers to switch to essential occupations.

BEER:

Drought for Duration

Beer is scarce, and will probably be scarcer soon, War Production board officials indicate. Demand is running some 50 per cent above production, and areas away from breweries face a real "drought." Communities near a source of supply will fare somewhat better.

Restrictions on materials of all kinds are limiting brewers to production of 63 million barrels. Last year they turned out 68 million, and that wasn't enough to satisfy everyone. Malt supplies have been reduced by 7 per cent, and bottles by 35 per cent. Caps are hard to get. Transportation is irregular.

The WPB has ordered that 13 per cent of the beer must be set aside for servicemen. It contains 3.2 per cent alcohol or less, lower than most commercial beers.

Air Hero at 16

Tired of working on the farm, and doing odd jobs around Elmwood, Ill., 14-year-old Clifford R. Wherley took a last look at the old home early one morning and started down the road toward an adventure which saw him a hero in the air force at 16.

Later that morning, Wherley gave his age as 18 and was inducted into the army. Because he liked to shoot rabbits, squirrels and foxes, he decided to become an aerial gunner.

Wherley's craving for action was soon satisfied. As staff sergeant and turret gunner on a Martin bomber, he participated in 21 missions over North Africa. But when his real age was discovered, the army gave him an honorable discharge, and now he must await his 18th birthday before he can get back into the service.

In the meantime, Wherley will work in the Glenn L. Martin plane factory, helping turn out the bombers in which he rode to such early glory.

RATION BOOKS:

Brown Stamps

Purchase of meat, fats, oils and dairy products will be made through use of brown stamps in ration book No. 3 beginning September 12. However, the last red stamps, X, Y and Z, will remain valid to October 2.

Because the blue stamps, U, V and W for the purchase of processed foods will be good to October 20, ration book No. 2 will not be immediately discarded.

One series of stamps in ration book No. 3 will be used for canned and processed foods when the blue stamps of book No. 2 are exhausted. Book No. 1 will remain valid for shoe rationing. In an effort to ensure black market operators, new gas coupons will be issued. It is planned to distribute an "F" series to check the use of old coupons which might have been turned in for eventual utilization at the full ration rate after the deadline for the 25 per cent cut.

MINERS:

48-Hour Week

Miners working 42 hours a week were permitted to work an additional six hours at time-and-a-half pay under an order issued by the War Labor board and approved by President Roosevelt. With the \$9 obtained for the extra six hours, miners will receive \$51 for their 48-hour week.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, government operator of the mines, had asked the WLB for the 48-hour week to stimulate production of coal and avert a possible fuel shortage. The 48-hour week formed one of John L. Lewis' proposals for a new contract, along with pay for underground travel of \$1.25 a day, which the WLB has been considering.

NORWAY:

Underground Stirring

Apparently moving to suppress "underground" activities, lately sparked by hopes of Allied invasion, Nazi authorities have placed Norway under virtual martial law. According to Swedish radio reports, a state of siege has been declared for the entire nation. Imprisonment and executions are being employed to suppress all organizations that might be able to assist the Allies in the event of invasion.

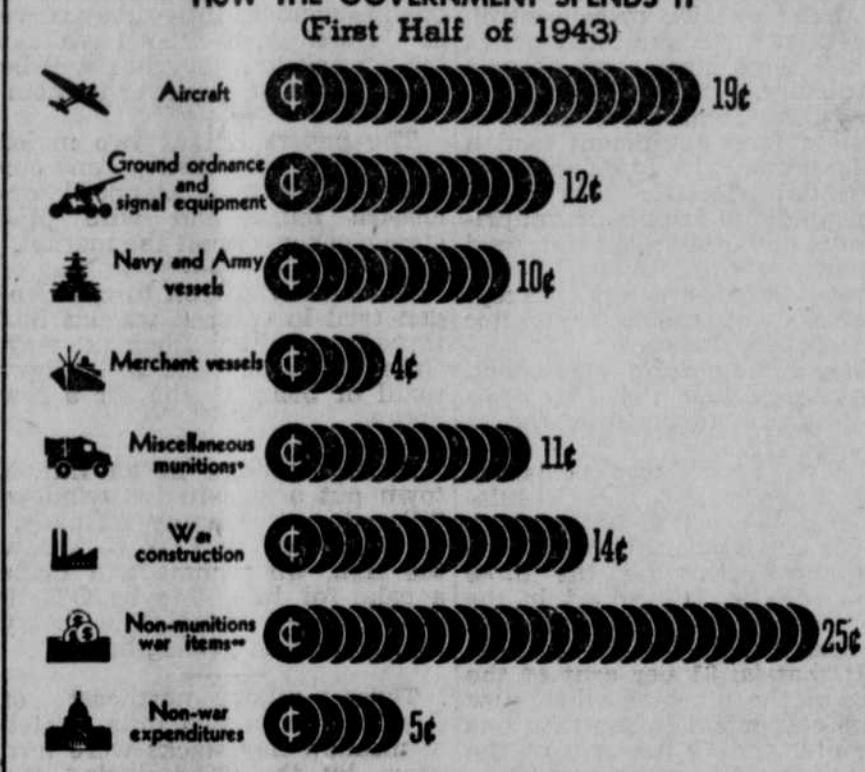
Washington Digest

Many Tax Laws Suggested To Get 'Nervous Dollars'

Compulsory Savings, Personal Excess Income Tax, Spending Levy Found Unpopular or Unwieldy; Orthodox Bill Seen.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

YOUR TAX- AND BOND-DOLLAR HOW THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS IT (First Half of 1943)



*Automotive vehicles and equipment, clothing and personal equipment and other expenses.
**Pay, subsistence, travel for armed forces and civilians, agricultural commodities for export and miscellaneous expenses.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building

Washington, D. C.

As far back as biblical days, the tax collector was an unpopular person.

Today you don't see the tax collector but you know who writes the tax laws and the folks who do (congress) lead a most unhappy life, especially in an election year such as we are approaching.

The complicated problem they face can be simply stated—think it over and figure out what you would do if you had to write a tax law. The problem is this: how to collect the most dollars and lose the least votes.

Soak the rich? Well, they have the money and it hurts them the least, but unfortunately there are not enough of them to soak. It is too bad because they are so few in number that their votes don't matter so much. (Only 46,949 people or approximately one eight-hundredth of those with incomes earn over \$10,000 a year.)

Tax the rest? That will bring in the biggest total but they are the ones with the votes.

The President says we need 106 billion dollars to run the war this year. The treasury says that out of every dollar collected, 90 cents goes to pay the war bills.

So there have been a number of schemes concocted which are aimed at getting the nervous dollars, the ones most likely to create inflation. Presumably they are the dollars that belong to the people who are now getting a lot more money than they did before the war. It would be just to take the "excess profits" to pay for the war especially because the people who are getting a lot more than they are used to are the ones who spend most freely.

So compulsory savings has been suggested. That is, making Uncle Sam collect a part of everybody's income, which would be returned after the war. Then there is a scheme to tax spending. In other words, tax the dollars which are spent on extras, dollars that get back into circulation and push up the inflation spiral. Not the dollars that go into homes or life insurance or paying old debts, but the dollars that romp off for more clothes than you need to wear, more food and drink than you need to absorb, more gadgets than you ought to get along with in wartime.

Then there is another tax—the personal excess income tax. That is a tax on the amount of money that you are receiving now that you weren't receiving before the war.

Lacking Popularity None of these methods is popular. There is a sentimental objection to compulsory savings. It smacks, according to its opponents, too much of totalitarianism, of an interference with the individual's personal habits. The President is opposed to

it—and his wife agrees with him—the treasury is opposed to it.

The spending tax is said to be too complicated and likewise appears to be unpopular with the treasury.

Then there is this personal excess income tax of which you will soon be hearing more. The chief objection to that tax seems to be that it is too hard to work out; that it is too hard to make it just and fair. Even the Nazis who tried it gave it up after about a year's trial.

When the personal excess income tax comes up, you will hear many arguments against it. Like many of these other "unorthodox" methods, it requires the establishment of what is called a "base period" to establish a comparison. That is, some period of time during which the amount earned by the individual is taken as a base. Then what he is making now is compared with that "base" and the difference taxed. But that is a pretty hard thing to work out because so many adjustments would have to be made for special cases that the government would never be able to examine each case and pass on it fairly.

Take the young doctor. The year before the war, he may have been graduated from medical school. Probably he had little or no income then. Then he begins to practice and in wartime, doctors are in demand. He may have made a fair income this year. Would it be fair to tax the "excess" if it were the difference between this year's earnings and the "base period" when he was earning nothing at all?

Too Many Inequities

Then there are many men who are getting more money now because they work longer hours or have received just and deserved promotions—all these things immediately come into the picture when you begin to straighten out the inequities, when you really try to tax a just percentage of a man's income.

And so the predictions which are being made in Washington now are that the next tax bill will be a pretty "orthodox" affair, it will simply have about the same kind of exemptions, a little higher percentage tax, and will be rushed through at the last minute after as many members of congress have objected to the clauses which they think will be unpopular with their constituents. The government needs the money and needs it quickly. The people don't want to be taxed any more than can be helped and the congressmen will lean over backwards trying to please the people.

Meanwhile, the treasury tells us that most of the money which is being earned due to the great increase in production caused by the war is going to people whose incomes are less than \$5,000 a year—seven-eighths of it. So at least seven-eighths of the taxes ought to come from that group.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

An honorable discharge from the army during the present war will be signified by a lapel button, the war department has announced.

The British radio in a French-language youth hour broadcast to the continent declared: "Young men, gain time. If you avoid going to Germany today, perhaps you will never have to go."

The Nazi ministry of propaganda has ordered all literature about Benito Mussolini withdrawn from German libraries and bookshops especially those drawing a parallel between him and Adolf Hitler, the Russian Tass news agency said in quoting a report from Berlin reaching Geneva. The parallel did exceedingly little to help the cause of Hitler in his countrymen's eyes.

TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON
Released by Western Newspaper Union,
PLEURODYNIA—FALSE PLEURISY

Some years ago I wrote about an epidemic of pleurodynia in England. Pleurodynia is an inflammation with pain in muscles of the chest. It is sometimes called false pleurisy—pain in lower part of chest and upper part of abdomen, pain on breathing and with any movement of chest muscles. At that time it was considered an infectious disease, but as symptoms were light, lasted but a short time and no bad effects followed, nothing more was heard about it.

It is interesting to learn that an epidemic of pleurodynia is reported in Brooklyn, N. Y. Cases of this disease began to appear in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn in July, 1942. To date at the Long Island College hospital, 166 cases were observed, of which 40 were admitted to hospital. Apparently there were more nose and throat symptoms in these Brooklyn cases than those reported in England, Norway and some parts of the United States.

"The prominent symptoms in adults were fever, severe pain in upper right side of abdomen or lower part of the chest, or both, sufficient to make breathing painful and difficult. The abdominal symptoms were frequently so severe that surgeons were called into consultation. The recoveries were prompt, often within 24 to 48 hours, though further attacks of pain and fever often occurred." In a number of these adult cases, headache, dizziness, lack of interest and fear of light occurred.

In children, in addition to fever and pain in upper abdomen and lower chest, there was sometimes very difficult breathing, vomiting but no diarrhea, severe inflammation of the throat and quick and complete recovery. In most of the infants violent convulsions occurred. Fortunately for physicians, parents and child, the convulsions quickly disappeared.

I am passing this information along, as the symptoms are so severe that the patient suffers as much as if he had heart disease, pleurisy, gall-stone colic, or a surgical condition of the abdomen. That these symptoms disappear so quickly and leave no after effect is much for which to be thankful.

However, when these or similar symptoms appear, the family physician should first be called, as an examination will show whether they are due to pleurodynia or something more serious.

How to Avoid Food Poisoning

In these days when the need and value of food is so much on our minds it is possible that in our efforts to get certain foods we may not watch as closely as we should the foods offered for sale.

The danger signals of food spoilage are: 1. Cans with bulging sides. 2. Glass containers showing seepage over the tops. 3. Food discoloration. Because of canned goods shortage there has been considerable storing of canned goods, some of which may be kept for longer periods than in former years. It is then doubly necessary to make sure that the can has not become damaged, allowing entry of disease-producing organisms.

Suspected foods should never be tasted to discover spoilage, since even small amounts of some foods infested with organisms can cause illness or death.

Because of the shortage of cans and canned foods, there will be more home-food canners and home canners are reminded that canned foods must be thoroughly sterilized to safeguard against botulism, a highly fatal type of food poisoning which affects the brain. Formerly it was thought that botulism was caused entirely by raw or insufficiently cooked sausage, but lately most cases that have occurred involved vegetables; but fruit, meat and fish were also at times found to be the cause.

Fatal poisoning from commercially canned goods, however, is actually rare. A further warning is given against buying illegally prepared or distributed meats as a disregard of the usual sanitary measures goes hand in hand with the sale of such products.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—What is the cause of a husky throat?
A.—You should not permit hoarseness to exist so long. See your physician first, then a throat specialist if necessary.
Q.—What would cause constant pains in the head for several years?
A.—There are more than 100 causes for head pains. Ask your physician about X-rays to discover cause if eyes, nose, throat, digestive and generative organs are normal.

Use Waste Space For a Linen Closet

EVERY homemaker knows how many steps could be saved if table linens could have a special closet in the kitchen or pantry. In one home that we know of space for such a closet was going to waste all because cupboard doors or drawers would interfere with the door shown here in the small sketch. At the right you see how



that space became an efficient linen closet complete even to a smart laundry bag. The high compartment has a door of plywood. Below this are shelves with a curtain on a shade roller. The curtain runs up and down between the shelves at the left.

NOTE: Mrs. Spears has prepared a large sheet giving complete working sketches for making this closet and the laundry bag. All dimensions are given and step-by-step directions are illustrated. An itemized list of all materials and fittings is included. Ask for Design No. 256 and enclose 15 cents. Address:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills New York
Drawer 10
Enclose 15 cents for Design No. 256.
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