

U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

OFFICIAL RECORD

DO NOT REMOVE ANY PART OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS FILE.

**Subject:** TAX:

Song.

"I Paid My Income Tax Today"

**NOTE:** THIS FILE IS CHARGED OUT FOR A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF  
30 DAYS. FURTHER EXTENTION OF LOAN WILL BE RECORDED.

PLEASE DO NOT TRANSFER THIS FILE TO ANOTHER  
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CENTRAL FILE, CODE 172, EXTENSION 2588.

1124  
RETURN TO ROOM ~~B-36~~

RECORDS ADMINISTRATION SECTION

DIVISION OF OFFICE SERVICES



National Archives of the United States

Record Group 56 - GENERAL RECORDS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Central Files of the Office of the  
Secretary of the Treasury, 1917-1956

Central Files of the Office of the  
Secretary of the Treasury, 1933-56

Entry 193

Box 157 - Tax -- Social Security Taxes 1940-1956

to

Tax -- State Taxation of Federal Agencies and  
Property 1933-1955

File: - Tax--Song

"I Paid My Income Tax Today"

*Song*

January 9, 1942.

Dear Mr. Berlin:

This will authorize you to have plates made and to print a limited number of copies of the piano copy of the tax song and to furnish us with a copy in order that we can reprint it.

This will also authorize you to have an orchestration made and to have plates made for the orchestration and to print a limited number so that we may also reprint the orchestration in the quantity needed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

George Buffington

George Buffington,  
Assistant to the Secretary.

Mr. Irving Berlin,  
Irving Berlin, Inc.,  
799-7th Avenue,  
New York City.

*Boyle* r.k.

GB:amo 1/9/42

Fry

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
Washington

FOR RELEASE, MORNING NEWSPAPERS,  
MONDAY, January 26, 1942.

Press Service  
No. 29-90

Irving Berlin has written another song for the Treasury Department.

"I Paid My Income Tax Today," the copyright of which has been turned over to Secretary Morgenthau, has just come off the presses as a companion piece to Berlin's "Any Bonds Today?"

The Treasury's first patriotic song was written by request. But, on a visit to Washington several weeks ago, Berlin learned about the Department's intensive preparations for unprecedented income tax collections this spring, and volunteered to do a "popular" tune on the subject.

The words of the new song are as follows:

VERSE

I said to my Uncle Sam  
"Old Man Taxes, here I am."  
And he was glad to see me.  
Mr. Small Fry, yes indeed,  
Lower brackets that's my speed,  
But he was glad to see me.

1st CHORUS

I PAID MY INCOME TAX TODAY.  
I never felt so proud before,  
To be right there with the millions more  
Who paid their income tax today.  
I'm squared up with the U.S.A.  
You see those bombers in the sky,  
Rockefeller helped to build them,  
So did I.  
I PAID MY INCOME TAX TODAY.

2nd CHORUS

I PAID MY INCOME TAX TODAY.  
A thousand planes to bomb Berlin.  
They'll all be paid for, and I chipped in,  
That cert'nly makes me feel okay.  
Ten thousand more and that ain't hay!  
We must pay for this war somehow,  
Uncle Sam was worried but he isn't now,  
I PAID MY INCOME TAX TODAY.

2.

## 3rd CHORUS

I PAID MY INCOME TAX TODAY.

I never cared what Congress spent.

But now I'll watch over ev'ry cent,

Examine ev'ry bill they pay,

They'll have to let me have my say

I wrote the Treasury to go slow

Careful, Mr. Henry Junior, that's my dough,

I PAID MY INCOME TAX TODAY.

-oOo-



## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

DEFENSE SAVINGS STAFF

Irving Berlin, the world famous song writer, composed a new number, "I Paid My Income Tax Today", especially for the Treasury Department in connection with the new taxes which are payable beginning March 15. We will appreciate your playing the enclosed copy as often as possible in these tense days.

The song is copyrighted in the name of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury. All licenses for this song have been cleared and you are at liberty to broadcast it as often as possible.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has given permission for this song to be broadcast and no further clearance is necessary.

Will you let me know what disposition you make of this matter?

Please accept my thanks for the intensely patriotic manner in which you are cooperating with the Treasury Department.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Ruffington".

George Ruffington,  
Assistant to the Secretary.

FOR DEFENSE



224

February 4, 1942.

Dear Mr. Arnheim:

Enclosed please find a copy of Irving Berlin's new number "I Paid My Income Tax Today", which is copyrighted in the name of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has given permission for this song to be broadcast and no further clearance is necessary.

The Secretary would greatly appreciate your playing this number as often as possible between now and March 15th.

Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

George Buffington

George Buffington,  
Assistant to the Secretary.

Mr. Gus Arnheim,  
Music Corporation of America,  
745 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

GB:dma 2/4/42

*Sample letter sent to orchestra leaders*

February 10, 1942.

*See Feb 7  
from Victor Mastaglio*

Dear Mr. Albert:

Irving Berlin, the world famous song writer, recently composed a new number, "I Paid My Income Tax Today". The song was especially written for the Treasury Department in connection with taxes payable beginning March 15. We are very anxious to have the enclosed copy distributed as widely as possible during the next six weeks.

The song is copyrighted in the name of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury. All licenses have been cleared.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has given permission for this song to be broadcast and no further clearance is necessary.

If you will give us a list of the American Legion bands in your state, we will be glad to send them each a copy of the orchestration.

I will appreciate very much a prompt response.

Sincerely yours,

George Buffington,  
Assistant to the Secretary.

Mr. Lester F. Albert,  
216 State House,  
Boise, Idaho.

Enclosure.

GB:vm:ew

*Sample letter to  
American Legion*



February 24, 1942.

Dear Mr. Berkedal:

Thank you for your letter of February 20, <sup>filed</sup>  
1942, regarding the song "I Paid My Income Tax Today".

I regret very much that we do not have a  
band arrangement of this song. We are enclosing  
a copy of the sheet music from which you can have  
a band arrangement made.

We appreciate very much your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

George Buffington,  
Assistant to the Secretary.

Mr. Norman Berkedal,  
Band Director,  
Guy Drews Post No. 88,  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

GB:amo 2/24/42

March 6, 1942

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

This is in reply to your letter of February 27, 1942, addressed to Mr. Carlton Duffus. *jd*

For reasons which Mr. Kuhn explained to Mr. Berlin over the telephone yesterday, we have not made any printing of the song "I Paid My Income Tax Today" beyond the original printing of 2,000 professional copies.

We have on hand about 1,000 of these professional copies. We are sending you 500 of these today in the hope that they will be an acceptable substitute for a more pretentious printing. Would you like another 500?

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)  
George Buffington

George Buffington,  
Assistant to the Secretary.

Mr. S. H. Bernstein,  
Irving Berlin, Inc.,  
799 Seventh Avenue,  
New York, New York.

WDH:eh



## TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

NOTED  
J. RUFFINGTON

JAN 12 1942

Mr. Marcel L. Valentine,  
General Manager, Station KPAB,  
300 Lorton Avenue,  
Laredo, Texas.

Dear Mr. Valentine:

Irving Berlin, the world famous song writer, composed a new number, "I Paid My Income Tax Today", especially for the Treasury Department in connection with the new taxes which are payable beginning March 15. We will appreciate your broadcasting the enclosed recorded copy as often as possible in these tense days.

The song is copyrighted in the name of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury. All licenses for this song have been cleared and you are at liberty to broadcast it as often as possible.

On the reverse side of this record is another tune which Mr. Berlin composed entitled "At The President's Birthday Ball". The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has given permission for this song to be broadcast and no further information is necessary.

Will you let me know what disposition you make of this matter.

Please accept my thanks for the intensely patriotic manner in which you are cooperating with the Treasury Department.

Sincerely yours,

*George Ruffington*

George Ruffington  
Assistant to the Secretary

1/12/42

Dear Mr. Ruffington - Please be advised that we will be pleased to use the above referred to record often in the next few weeks and appreciate the opportunity of serving you.

RADIO STATION KPAB.

**WARNING:**

The sale of this copy is in violation of copyright. The seller and purchaser guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction liable to punishment by imprisonment or fine, or both, under the Copyright Law.

# I Paid My Income Tax Today

By IRVING BERLIN

Moderately Bright Bounce Tempo

Piano introduction in 2/4 time, marked *f*. The right hand features a rhythmic melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line.

VOICE

+) C Cdim G7 G9 C Cdim G7 G9

I said to my Un-cle Sam— "Old Man Tax-es, here I am,"— and

The vocal line is in 2/4 time, starting with a quarter note on 'I' and ending with a quarter note on 'and'. The piano accompaniment is marked *mf* and follows the same rhythmic pattern as the introduction.

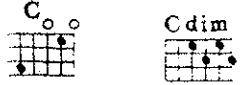
C Gdim Dm7 Gaug C Dm7 G7

he \_\_\_\_\_ was glad to see me \_\_\_\_\_

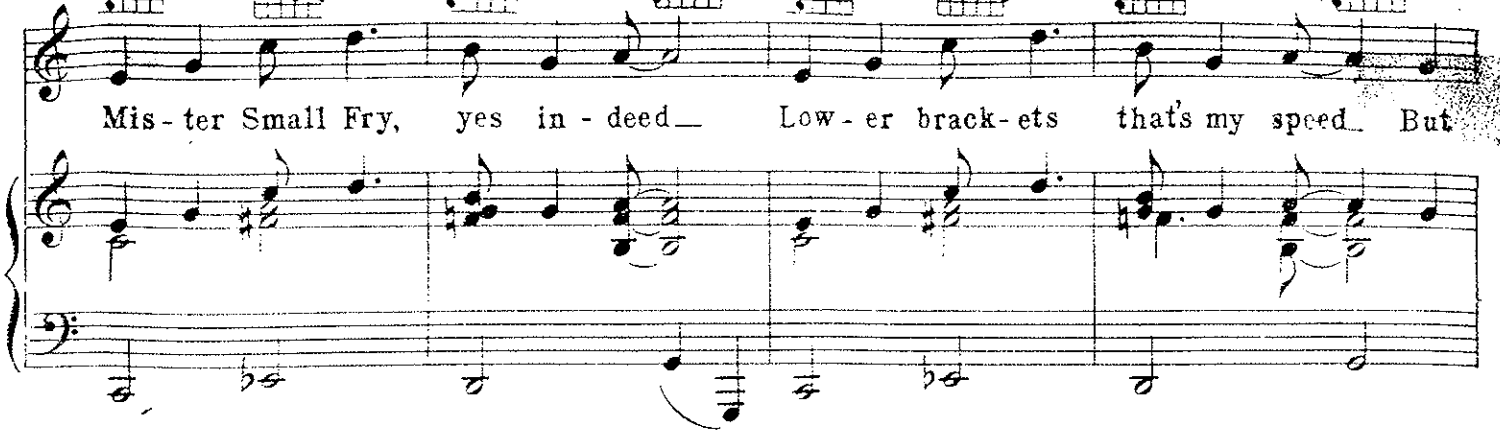
The vocal line continues with a half note on 'he' and a half note on 'me'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

+) Symbols for Guitar, Chords for Ukulele and Banjo.

C Cdim



Mis-ter Small Fry, yes in - deed — Low - er brack - ets that's my speed. But



B7 Am B7 Em Gdim Dm7 G7



he \_\_\_\_\_ was glad \_\_\_\_\_ to see me. \_\_\_\_\_



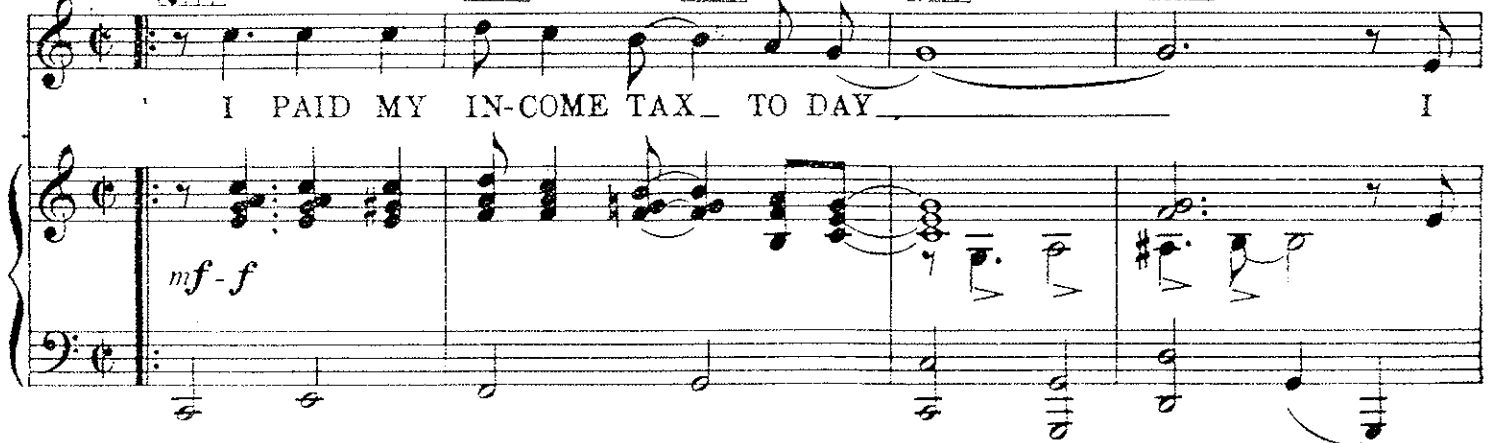
CHORUS

C F G7 C G7




I PAID MY IN-COME TAX TO DAY I

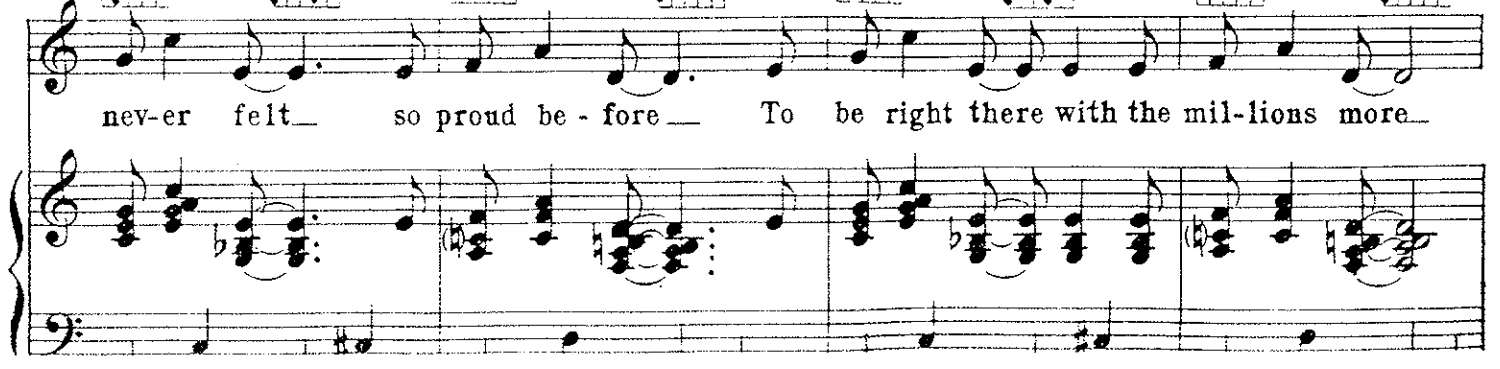
*mf-f*



C Gdim Dm7 G7 C Gdim Dm7 G7



nev-er felt — so proud be - fore — To be right there with the mil-lions more.



C Gdim G7 Caug

Who paid their in-come tax \_ to - day \_\_\_\_\_ I'm squared up

with the U. \_ S. A. \_\_\_\_\_ You see those bomb - ers

Gm A7 Dm Fm C

in the sky \_ Rock - e - fel - ler helped to build them, So did I \_ I PAID MY

D7 G7 1. C Dm7 G7 2. C Dm7 C

IN COME TAX \_ TO DAY \_

# I Paid My Income Tax Today

Arranged by  
Helmy Kresa

**FOX-TROT**

Words and Music by  
**IRVING BERLIN**

**1st Violins**

Medium Jump Tempo

trpt + mics  
fff  
Tromb. Solo + Tromb.  
Play

I PAID MY IN-COME TAX TO DAY

I nev-er felt so proud be-fore To

be right there with the mil-lions more

1

Who paid their in-come tax to day

ff



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 Made in U. S. A.  
 All Rights Reserved, including the Right of Public Performance for Profit

2  
1st Violins

I'm squared up with the U. S. A.-

You see those bomb - ers

in the sky ——— Rock-e-fel-ter helped to build them,

So did I ——— I PAID MY IN-COME TAX-TO DAY-

So did I ——— I PAID MY IN-COME TAX-TO DAY-



# I Paid My Income Tax Today

Arranged by  
Helmy Kresa

**FOX-TROT**

Words and Music by  
IRVING BERLIN

### Drums

Medium Jump Tempo

The drum score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a **fff** dynamic marking. The second staff includes a first ending bracket labeled '1'. The third staff includes a second ending bracket labeled '2'. The fourth staff includes a third ending bracket labeled '3'. The fifth staff includes a fourth ending bracket labeled '4'. The sixth staff includes a fifth ending bracket labeled '5'. The seventh staff includes a sixth ending bracket labeled '6' and a **ff** dynamic marking. The eighth staff includes a seventh ending bracket labeled '7' and a **Cym.** (cymbal) marking. The ninth staff includes an eighth ending bracket labeled '8' and a **Cym.** marking. The final staff concludes with a **fff** dynamic marking.



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