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# "PAYOFF BATTLE UNDER WAY" IN TUNISIA

## WLB Panel Resumes Hearings

### COUNTY BOARD FORMS POST-WAR PLANNING GROUP

In its closing session Wednesday afternoon the Wood county board, meeting here, turned to the matter of post-war planning—turned to that subject through devious passages leading through the Rowland building, the old red brick courthouse and the county jail at which state inspectors perennially lift their eyebrows.

After inspecting the Rowland building yesterday afternoon the board heard Supervisor Frank D. Abel, Wisconsin Rapids, start discussion of rental and eventual purchase of the building. When Supervisors I. C. Dow, town of Hiles, and Edmond Zettler, town of Richfield, questioned desirability of more than temporary rental of the building, Abel quickly moved that the subject be tabled.

**Would Build Up Fund**  
Romeo Plenge, Nekosa supervisor, said "I'd still like to see Frank get his new courthouse. Why not put \$25,000 to \$30,000 in the budget each year to build up a fund? Make the public property committee have a study of this. Sooner or later we're going to face this building problem."

Chairman F. G. Kulp, amending Plenge's views, said "No, what we need is a new courthouse. We need to get into all phases of this problem." Supervisor A. E. Bennett, town of Cranmore, pointed out that "the county now has only \$70,000 indebtedness left and that can be cleaned up this year. We've been making annual levies of \$50,000 to pay on indebtedness, and we should keep on having this \$50,000 even after we have no debt, place that in a building fund." Bennett agreed with the others that "we might as well realize we'll have to build a new courthouse in the near future."

**Suggests Road Program**  
Plenge suggested that a road program should go into post-war planning for Wood county. Kulp advocated that a special urban-rural committee to have representation from towns, cities, villages and various parts of the county study all phases of post-war planning. Abel reviewed the proposed county see—COUNTY BOARD—Page 11

### Local Convention of Metal Workers Union Nears Close

With election of officers and selection of a 1944 convention city scheduled for this afternoon, the International Council of Fabricated Metal and Enamelware Workers neared the close of its four-day convention in this city.

Scheduled for action at this afternoon's session is a resolution calling for appointment of a committee to meet with the American Federation of Labor executive council for the purpose of requesting an international charter and defining the union's jurisdiction.

President Paul J. Smith, Washington, D. C., addressed the morning session, discussing the Connally anti-strike bill which was passed Wednesday by the United States senate.

At the convention banquet Wednesday evening, Dwight Teas of this city acted as toastmaster, and musical entertainment was provided by the Sackett Sisters of Marshfield. Following the banquet, a team of eastern delegates defeated delegates from the west in a bowling match by a margin of 72 pins.

Charlesston, W. Va., and St. Paul, Minn., are bidding for selection as the union's 1944 convention site.

### Corridor Symbolizes "Honor of a Nation"

Allied Headquarters in Australia—(AP)—Corridor, which fell to the Japanese just a year ago, was described by General Douglas MacArthur today as symbolizing "that priceless, deathless thing—the honor of a nation."

### Russian Army Captures Krymskaya; Continues Drive on Novorossisk

London—(AP)—The red army has advanced "far beyond" Krymskaya in the Caucasus and now is storming new German fortifications, the Moscow radio reported today in a broadcast recorded here by the Soviet Monitor.

Moscow—(AP)—The red army, hammering today at the northeast approaches of Novorossisk, has taken a dozen more villages in the area in addition to Krymskaya and nine other towns which the Soviets announced they captured yesterday in smashing through the Kuban delta.

One of the villages is about nine miles northeast of Novorossisk in the hilly marsh country through which the Soviet troops are sweeping the Germans toward the sea in a drive gaining daily momentum.

**Moscow Artillery Barrages Paved the way for new thrusts and mowed down hundreds of German and Rumanian soldiers in the front lines and in deeply-fortified positions.**

Soviet bombing planes sprayed the axis troops with bombs and cannon fire as they tried to cling to their defense points against the mounting pressure. Bomber and fighter planes also continued to pound the German-held railways behind the front lines. Prisoners were poured to the Soviet rear.

The loss of 7,000 dead and of numerous men captured in the last few days has weakened the axis forces but their strength probably remains far from crushed. For weeks Hitler has been bringing up tanks and munitions, possibly in preparation for a spring offensive in the Kuban.

**Nazis Claim 20 Soviet Tanks**  
(The Berlin radio said that German forces had frustrated heavy Russian attacks in the Kuban bridgehead, destroying 20 Soviet tanks, and that they had halted several sporadic thrusts made by the Russians south of Novorossisk. The broadcast was recorded by the Associated Press.)

(Far to the north, the Finns reported in their communique as broadcast by the Berlin radio and recorded by the Associated Press that Russian planes in two waves raided Kotka, on the Gulf of Finland east of Helsinki.)

### Japs Begin Offensive Against Chinese Army

Chungking—(AP)—A new Japanese offensive against the "rice bowl" of China in north Hunan and south Hanchuan provinces has been launched by a force of between 7,000 and 8,000 troops with heavy aerial support, a Chinese communique said today.

The southward push below the Yangtze, probably designed to seize or despoil the great rice crop now ripening in the region, opened on Tuesday but was thrown back, the Chinese said. Again yesterday the Japanese surged to the attack, supported by more than 20 planes which bombed in relays, and fierce fighting was reported to be in progress.

A Chinese spokesman told a press conference today that Japan was preparing to "make an important move"—with China the most probable objective. Announcement of the attack on the "rice bowl" followed.

### Jap Installations in Toungoo Bombed

New Delhi—(AP)—A American heavy bombers dropped more than 30 tons of bombs yesterday on Japanese installations in Toungoo, Burma, blasting the enemy headquarters there and causing great damage to other buildings, a communique of the U. S. army air forces announced today.

The attack on Toungoo was accompanied by a raid by B-25 medium bombers on railway installations at Nyngyan, west of Mandalay, where hits were registered on tracks and storage sheds and a turntable was demolished, the communique said.

### If Italy Gives In It'll Be Dignified

London—(AP)—The possibility that Italy might succumb to an allied invasion was acknowledged today by Carlo Scorza, secretary of the Fascist party, in a speech to Fascist dignitaries in Rome.

### HOPE EXPRESSED THAT UMW WILL ATTEND MEETING

Washington—(AP)—A war labor board panel started a public hearing on the soft coal wage dispute today with the expressed hope that President John L. Lewis and other United Mine Workers officials would change their minds and decide to attend.

"The latchstring," said Panel Chairman Morris L. Cooke, "is on the outside of the door."

Only the coal operators and their representatives and reporters were present as the hearing was opened to the public after a brief closed session. Cooke explained that normally panel hearings are open only to the contestants. But, he added, finding only one side represented, "the panel decided, with the approval of the board, to open the hearings to the press so that the public and the absent contestant may be advised of our day to day proceedings." In addition, the chairman said, a verbatim transcript will be supplied to the UMW.

"My colleagues on the panel," said Cooke, "join me in expressing regret that Mr. Lewis and the other officers of the United Mine Workers have not been able to attend." He stressed that the dispute is being handled in accordance with the procedure laid down by President Roosevelt in the calling both parties March 22 that the case "must be settled like any other dispute."

"We will be happy," Cooke continued in his opening statement, "to have the United Mine Workers join us, and we hope they will see the advantage of doing so. To use an old Quaker expression the latchstring is on the outside of the door."

**Anthrax Operators to Appear**  
In New York, anthrax operators, who have been continuing contract negotiations there with the UMW, announced they would appear here tomorrow before the panel.

Acceptance of a similar invitation last week by the bituminous operators brought a change from Lewis that the operators had taken "French leave" of the negotiations.

Lewis is represented on the panel by David B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, which, like the UMW, is an independent union. The employer member is Walter White, assistant to the chairman of the business advisory council, department of commerce.

Retracting some of the ground it covered in a brief session last week, the panel announced it was accepting as exhibits a transcript of last Cronin's negotiations in New York. Charles O'Neill began the presentation of the case for the northern Appalachian operators.

**OWI Represented**  
During the closed session a member of the staff of the office of war see—STRIKES—Page 11

### Kiwanis Club Hears Paratrooper, Collector

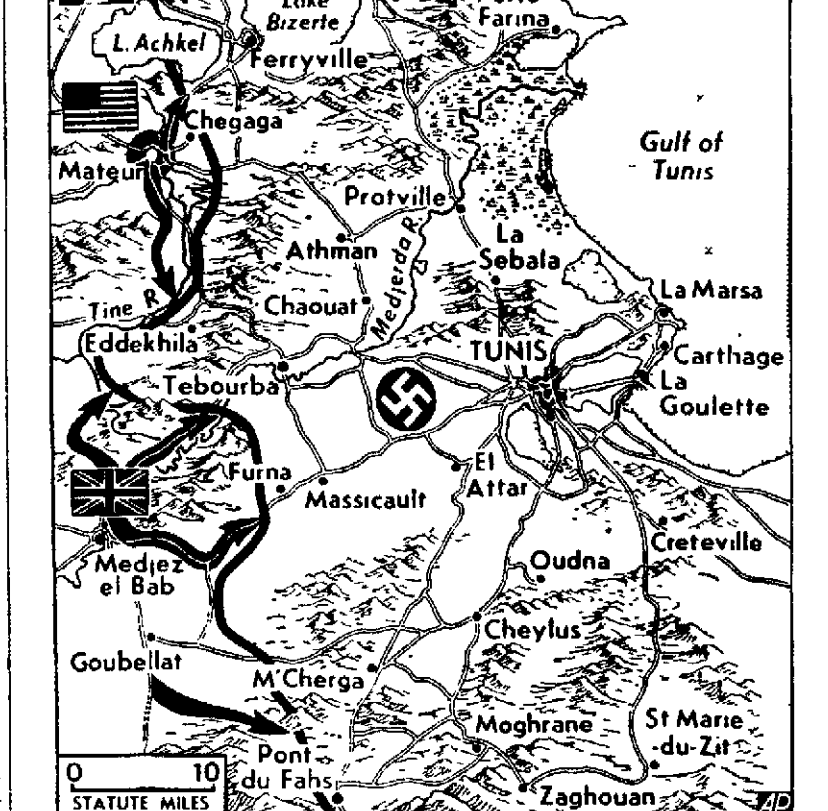
Members of the Kiwanis club heard about the training of paratroopers from Pfc. Robert Kahoun, of Biron, and about collection of Indian relics from Clyde Spear at the regular weekly meeting of the club at the Hotel Witter today.

Pfc. Kahoun, who is home on furlough, told of the rugged training which is given to the parachute troops and answered many questions. He is stationed at McColl field, North Carolina. He told of having jumped in a demonstration for President Roosevelt recently when the president toured the camp.

Mr. Spear, whose collection of Indian relics has been gathered from various parts of the country, stated his belief that every one should have some sort of hobby for relaxation. He showed a number of pieces from his collection and told of their origin.

### Mine Operators Take Case to WLB

New York—(AP)—Anthracite operators, who have been continuing negotiations here with the United Mine Workers for a new contract, announced today they would appear tomorrow in Washington before the war labor board panel considering the coal wage dispute.



YANKS, FRENCH THRUST TOWARD BIZERTE—Arrows indicate allied drives in northern Tunisia, where U. S. forces have fanned out toward Bizerte and Tebourba from Mateur. French and American forces near the coast pressed closer to Bizerte and the British made slight gains 10 miles north of Medjez el Bab. Americans were also pushing toward Ferryville on the road to Bizerte and had driven southeastward from Mateur to a point about 10 miles from Tebourba. Solid line is approximate battle front.

### Treasury Favors Ways and Means Committee Plan Over House Bill

Washington—(AP)—The treasury told the senate finance committee today that while there is "little room for choice" between three plans for current collection of taxes, the abatement of revenues proposed under the Carlson-Ruml measure advocated unsuccessfully by Republicans in the house "is thoroughly inequitable and unfair."

In an analysis of the house-approved Forand-Robertson bill, the rejected ways and means committee measure and the Carlson-Ruml plan, Randolph Paul, treasury general counsel, said that any choice between the three measures must be based primarily on the proposals to abate 1942 tax liabilities.

**Both Work on Fair Basis**  
"Insofar as the distribution of forgiveness is concerned, the treasury department believes that both the ways and means committee bill and the house bill distribute the cancellation of the 1942 tax on an essentially equitable and fair basis," Paul added.

He said that the smaller amount of cancellation provided under the ways and means bill "results in a substantial increase in the revenue collections in the next few years at a time when such an increase is vitally necessary."

"The treasury therefore believes that the ways and means committee bill possesses a definite advantage over the house bill," he added. "Little Room for Choice"

In the important aspects of collection at the source and the current tax payment provision, Paul said "the treasury believes there is little room for choice between the three major bills."

"All three provide for the fundamental change in tax payment methods which is necessary in our tax law," he added.

Rebuffed by the house, Republican Rumlites enlisted some Democratic support and carried to the senate finance committee today a fight for abatement of a full year's levies in the new current-collection tax bill.

Minority Leader McNary of Oregon said a move to substitute a modified version of the Ruml "skip a year" plan of putting income taxes See—INCOME TAX—Page 9

### Premier Tojo Promises Philippines Freedom

(By The Associated Press)  
The Tokyo radio quoted Premier General Hideki Tojo today as saying in an address at Manila that the Philippines would be granted their independence "as soon as the Filipinos are in a position really to collaborate with Japan."

This vague promise, reported in a broadcast heard by the Associated Press in London, obviously was a bid for cooperation from the Filipinos, who would have received full sovereignty from the United States in 1946 under the Tydings-McDuffie act, the provisions of which were ratified overwhelmingly by the Philippine electorate in a plebiscite on May 14, 1935.

The statement disclosed the real significance of Tojo's visit to the Philippines—which was announced by the Tokyo radio last night—and indicated the strenuous efforts which the Japanese are making to consolidate their position there.

## Massicault Taken By British; Are 17 Miles From Tunis

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(AP)—It was officially announced today that an allied offensive had begun on both the Second U. S. army corps and British First army fronts of Tunisia and a field dispatch said "the payoff battle is under way."

Massicault, 17 miles southwest of Tunis, was captured by armor-supported First army infantrymen this afternoon and this was but one of a series of victories rolled up by British and American troops on a broad front.

**Penetrate Deeply**  
A special communique announced that enemy positions in the Medjerda river valley had been penetrated deeply and a field report from Daniel De Luce, Associated Press correspondent with the British First army, said the British had broken through for four miles along the main road from Jedjez-El-Bab to Tunis after capturing Djebel Bou Aoukaz.

The special headquarters communique issued tonight said: "The first army with the magnificent support of our air forces took the offensive south of the river Medjerda early today.

"Infantry and armored units have penetrated deeply into enemy positions. The village of Massicault was captured this afternoon. Many prisoners from a large number of different units have been taken."

"The Second United States corps in cooperation with the first army have also advanced on the wide front against strong opposition. 'Fighting continues.' American and British troops advanced on a broad front against the axis' final mountain defenses before Tunis and Bizerte, repeatedly battered by allied aerial bombardments."

**French Maintain Pressure**  
Moreover the French detachments on both flanks of the offensive movement maintained their pressure on the German and Italian lines. A French high command communique said operations of the French African corps moving along the Mediterranean coastal sector in the direction of Bizerte were developing favorably and in the south, in the Pont Du Fahs sector, "a small enemy attack was repulsed."

American infantrymen captured strategic heights both north and south of Lake Achkel in a powerful offensive, supported by tanks, field guns and bombers, aimed at the conquest of Bizerte.

Lieut. Gen. K. A. N. Anderson's British First Army blasted the Germans from blood-stained Djebel Bou Aoukaz and moved on toward Tunis; less than 19 miles away. Detachments of the Second U. S. army corps on the First Army's left flank closed upon the western defenses of Chourgou, four miles northwest of Tebourba, as the British approached Tebourba from the southwest.

**Abies Hold Edge**  
In both manpower and weapons, the allies held the edge. Formations of allied planes appeared over the central battle zone at seven-minute intervals. Hundreds of guns and bombers helped the infantry and armored forces in the effort to drive the enemy to the See—WAR IN AFRICA—Page 9

**2,000-Ton-a-Day Scrap State Peak**  
Milwaukee—(AP)—William E. Simons, deputy regional director of the war production board, said today that an all-time monthly record for industrial scrap metal collections in Wisconsin was set during March.

Simons said the state collected 60,821 tons of scrap during the month, surpassing the previous high of 49,559 tons set in February. He said the mark gave Wisconsin leadership over Illinois, Indiana and Iowa, other states in region six of the WPB, for March.

Among issues of fact for the court are two cases involving Leo A. Miller, sole trader doing business as the Wisconsin Phonovision company, as defendant. In one case Charles Hopp is the plaintiff, while in the other Hopp and Alvin S. Kouhl are plaintiffs.

Other cases for court determination are: Leo Nikolai, doing business as Nik's dairy, vs. Grube Berg; Lucille Rhodes vs. Walter S. Rhodes; Emil Swanson vs. Walter Schallack; Guy R. Wood vs. Marvin Steller, William E. Steller, Oscar Steller and Adolph Arneson; Joseph J. Kotas vs. Celestine J. Kotas and Lucille Kotas.

### THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Much cooler to night and Friday forenoon, freezing temperature in northwest and north central; snow freezing in southwest portion tonight; occasional light rain in north portion early to night, becoming mixed w.h. light snow late tonight; snow flurries in extreme north portion Friday forenoon.

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m. 81; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m. 51; temperature at 7 a. m. 58. Precipitation .30.



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