

# Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45 Libya (Tripolitania & Cyrenaica) & Egypt

By Henry L. deZeng IV



**Benina/North**  
21.02.41

Shown: 10 hangars (7 of which are partially destroyed), administrative and related buildings, barracks, quarters, storage buildings and a number of others, airfield operations buildings and the munitions dump. Benina/South is at the bottom right of the photo

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## **Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45**

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# **Airfields**

## **Libya and Egypt**

### **Introduction**

#### Conventions

1. For the purpose of this reference work, "Libya and Egypt" means the borders that existed on 10 June 1940, the date Italy declared war on Britain and France, with hostilities commencing along the Libyan-Egyptian border the following day.
2. All place name spellings are as they appear in wartime German, Italian and Allied documents with the addition of alternate spellings where known, these mainly being transliterated spellings from Arabic.
3. It is strongly recommended that researchers use the search function because each airfield and place name has alternate spellings, sometimes 3 or 4. A search is best done by downloading this .pdf document and then performing the search.
4. See the General Introduction for matters concerning other conventions such as format, limitations of data, abbreviations, glossary, sources, etc.

#### Preface

The Italian colonization of Libya began with an attack on the Ottoman Turks at Tripoli and the ceding of Libya to Italy a few months later in 1912. From 1934 it was officially known as Italian Libya and its status on June 1940 was that of an Italian colony with an Italian administration. Egypt on the other hand, was an independent monarchy with a strong British civil and military influence. The British Royal Air Force already had significant assets in Egypt by June 1940, mainly to protect the Suez Canal.

In Libya, the Italians had developed a modest number of airfields, landing grounds and emergency landing grounds (ELGs) throughout the country but the exact numbers are not known. What is known is that by the end of December 1942 there were in Tripolitania 7 airfields (airdromes), 25 landing grounds, 52 emergency landing grounds, 1 seaplane station, 1 seaplane anchorage and 1 emergency seaplane anchorage. At the same time in Cyrenaica there were 5 airfields (airdromes), 73 landing grounds, 50

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emergency landing grounds, 3 seaplane stations and 2 seaplane anchorages. Some of these were built or established by the Italians and Germans while the remainder were constructed by the Allies, mainly the British and South Africans. The vast majority were simply patches of open desert with markers, no buildings and no facilities. Tents were used for accommodations, operations and supply shelters. These landing grounds were typically used for a few days or weeks and then the war moved on leaving them vacated and abandoned. Nearly all of them flooded out during the fall and winter rains which made them unserviceable for days at a time.

In Egypt, the airfields were much more developed and were mainly centered in the Alexandria – Cairo – Port Said area. Those in the northern coastal area west to Sidi Barrani were less developed and even primitive in some cases, not unlike their counterparts in Libya. By the end of December 1942 there were in Egypt 26 airfields (airdromes), 77 landing grounds and emergency landing grounds (ELGs), 2 seaplane stations, 6 seaplane anchorages and 9 emergency seaplane anchorages.

Axis airfield construction efforts were minimal aside from laying out an airstrip of sorts, and this was largely due to the lack of building materials caused by the shortage of shipping space for lower priority war material such as prefabricated huts, concrete, etc. Few details regarding this subject have been found, but here are two exceptions: (1) on 8 November 1941 the senior Luftwaffe territorial command (ITALUFT) ordered Luftgaustab Afrika to increase the light Flak defenses around the existing airfields and, presumably, build Flak positions for these defenses; and (2) on 29 March 1942 OBS (Luftflotte 2) in Italy ordered the construction of blast bays and aircraft shelters to proceed as quickly as possible despite the shortage of matériel. The one airfield that probably received the greatest amount of attention and improvements from the Germans was Benina. On the other hand, the Allies had far more resources and were much better organized for this construction work and, accordingly, were able to build new airfields and landing grounds and improve existing ones at a comparatively rapid rate.

### Airfields Listed

A total of 14 airfields, 147 landing grounds, 27 satellites and 101 emergency landing grounds are listed below along with 4 seaplane stations and 3 seaplane anchorages. Additionally, 90 landing grounds used by the Allies but not by the Axis are listed without details aside from the coordinates. It should also be pointed out that quite a few of the airfields and landing grounds had multiple airstrips. Some named airfields deep in Egypt along the Suez Canal and in the Sinai Peninsula that were well behind

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Allied lines are not listed. The grand total of all listings in this monograph is 386.

### **NOTE:**

While the primary source documents and a few secondary works cited after each listing provided 90% or more of the data used in this monograph, it was necessary to rely on four excellent reference books for some of the details concerning the order of battle and losses of the *Regia Aeronautica* (Italian Air Force), and these are:

Dunning, Chris. *Courage Alone: The Italian Air Force 1940-1943*.

Manchester: Crécy Publishing Limited, 2009. ISBN: 9 781902 109091. 360p.

Shores, Christopher and Hans Ring. *Fighters Over the Desert: The Air Battles in the Western Desert June 1940 to December 1942*. London: Neville Spearman Ltd., 1969. 256p.

Shores, Christopher and Giovanni Massimello with Russell Guest, Frank Olynyk & Winfried Bock. *A History of the Mediterranean Air War 1940-1945. Volume One: North Africa June 1940 – January 1942*. London: Grub Street, 2012. ISBN-13: 9781908117076. 560p.

Shores, Christopher and Giovanni Massimello with Russell Guest, Frank Olynyk & Winfried Bock. *A History of the Mediterranean Air War 1940-1945. Volume Two: North African Desert February 1942 – March 1943*. London: Grub Street, 2012. ISBN-13: 9781909166127. 736p.

## A

**Abar el Afan** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. L.G. 102) (31 06 45 N – 27 34 45 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 42.25 km SE of Mersa Matruh and 7 km SW of Zawya Haroun village. History: no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here, but they undoubtedly were. This landing ground was part of the greater Quasaba airfield complex. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface but considered rocky. In Nov 41, it measured 910 x 1200 meters (995 x 1310 yards) according to German documents. British sources at the end of 1942 stated there were 4 airstrips measuring approx. (1) 1830 x 135 meters (2000 x 150 yards), (2) 1325 x 90 meters (1450 x 100 yards), (3) 1100 x 90 meters (1200 x 100 yards), and (4) 1325 x 135 meters (1450 x 150 yards). The landing area had an irregular oval shape. Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed. Infrastructure: had 3

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operations buildings or bunkers. Dispersal: ample space for dispersing aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

25 Jun 42: evacuated by the RAF during Rommel's drive toward El Alamein. [Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1019 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Abar Nimeir** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Abu Nimeir, Bagush Waterloo, L.G. 068) (31 07 30 N – 27 47 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 58 km ESE of Mersa Matruh, 5 km WSW of Abou Haggag village and 600 meters N of the main coastal road.

History: used by Italian units from July to October 1942. Surface and Dimensions: hard-packed natural gravel surface measuring approx. 1005 x 915 meters (1100 x 1000 yards) with an irregular oval shape in late 1942.

German aerial photos from Sep 41 show 800 x 1000 meters (875 x 1095 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: fuel storage highly probable.

Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: ample space and aircraft parking pens available. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

30 Jun 42: the first Italian aircraft arrived this date.

7 Jul 42: raided by SAS commandos – *claimed* 7 x C.R.42 fighters and 1 x S.M.81 transport destroyed. In practice, 4 of the C.R.42s were destroyed and 6 more damaged.

5 Oct 42: temporarily unserviceable due to heavy flooding.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 23<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Oct 42); 66<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Sep 42); 101<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BaT (Aug-Oct 42); 158<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jul-Oct 42); 159<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jul-Oct 42).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Abiar Bcheis** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir el Baheira No. 1, Bir el Baheira No. 2, L.G. 167) (31 48 00 N – 24 50 00 E and 31 50 00 N – 24 46 50 E and 31 47 30 N – 24 48 30 E)

General: landing grounds in Cyrenaica 24 km and 32 km WNW of Bardia respectively and 3.25 km S of the Bardia – Tobruk road. History: built by the Allies and then probably improved in early 1942. In June 1942, the two landing grounds were being used by transport aircraft and as forward airstrips for operational aircraft. No record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sandy surface with sparse camel thorn measuring approx. 1370 x 1370 meters (1500 x 1500

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yards) and 1370 x 825 meters (1500 x 900 yards) respectively. Fuel and Ammunition: brought in when needed. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

3 Jan 42: 1 x Bf 110 and 1 x Hs 126 wrecks found here after being overrun by Allied troops.

22 May 42: first identified in Allied use by Luftwaffe intelligence.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 084 and 098 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Abiar Zaid** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gambut No. 4, Gambut Comm., L.G. 156) (31 54 30 N – 24 26 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 45.5 km ESE of Tobruk, 6.5 km NW of Gambut/Main and 1.5 km S of the Bardia – Tobruk main road.

History: Allied built - used as a satellite for Gambut/Main. Taken over by the Axis in Jun 42 and then recaptured by the Allies in Nov 42. Surface and Dimensions: natural clay surface with thick camel scrub and consisted of 2

airstrips at right angles to each other - (1) approx. 1005 x 230 meters (1100 x 250 yards) aligned NNW/SSE, and (2) approx. 1190 x 230 meters (1300 x 250 yards) aligned WSW/ENE. This was not considered a good landing ground. Fuel and Ammunition: brought in when needed.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample aircraft parking off both airstrips. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

18 Apr 42: existence first reported by Luftwaffe intelligence.

May 42: in daily use by 4 to 16 Allied aircraft.

Operational Units: I. and III./JG 27 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 085 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Abu Haggag** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Fuka Satellite, LG 016) (31 06 00 N – 27 49 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 61 km ESE of Mersa Matruh, 4.5 km SSW of Abu Haggag village and just S of the main coastal road. Considered a satellite of Fuka. History: used by Italian fighter units from July to October 1942. Surface and Dimensions: all weather hard sand natural

surface measuring approx. 2285 x 825 meters (2500 x 900 yards) with an irregular oval shape in 1942. German aerial photos taken Aug 41 show 870 x 1650 meters (950 x 1805 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both available.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had at least some pens for parking aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

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### Remarks:

7 Jul 42: strafed by Allied aircraft – 1 x Ju 87 R-2 belonging to I./St.G. 3 severely damaged on the ground.

11/12 Aug 42: night raid by RAF bombers – 1 x C.200 fighter destroyed and 7 Italians killed (6 of them pilots) plus 5 wounded (3 of them pilots).

21 Oct 42: bombed at dusk – 4 x C.200 fighters destroyed and 5 more damaged, and 1 x C.202 fighter destroyed and 8 more damaged, all on the ground.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Jul-Oct 42); 13° Gruppo CT (Jul 42); 18° Gruppo CT (Jul-Oct 42); 23° Gruppo CT (Jul-Oct 42).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1012 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Abu Smeit** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Bîr Abu Smeit, LG 015) (31 06 N – 27 44 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 55 km SE of Mersa Matruh, 10.5 km WSW of Abou Haggag, 9.5 km SSE of the nearest point on the coast and 3 km S of the main coastal road. History: used by the Italians as a fighter field from October until the first half of November 1942. Surface and

Dimensions: all weather sand and gravel natural surface measuring approx. 1370 x 550 meters (1500 x 600 yards) with an irregular shape. German

data from Jul 41 reported 610 x 1250 meters (665 x 1365 yards). Fuel and

Ammunition: available when in use. Infrastructure: none. Dispersion: available. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

2 Nov 42: landing ground bombed – 2 x C.202 fighters destroyed on the ground, 2 x C.202 and 1 x C.R.42 fighters damaged.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 9° Gruppo CT (Oct 42); 10° Gruppo CT (Oct 42); 18° Gruppo CT (Oct 42); 23° Gruppo CT (Nov 42); 101° Gruppo BaT (Nov 42).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1011 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Abu Sueir/North** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. L.G. "X", LG 005, Sanyet Khorashif?) (31 32 05 N – 26 01 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**Acroma** (LIB) (32 00 30 N – 23 38 30 E)



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General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 32.5 km WSW of Tobruk and 6.75 km SW of Acroma crossroads. History: used by the Allies but no evidence found of Axis use. There was air combat in the skies over the Acroma area in late November 1941 and Hurricanes fighters were using it in February 1942. Surface and Dimensions: level, but sandy and loose, surface with sparse camel scrub and hammocks that consisted of two desert airstrips measuring approx. 915 x 80 meters (1000 x 90 yards) and 825 x 80 meters (900 x 90 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities other than a few taxi/parking lanes. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 086 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Agedabia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Agedabia, Ajdäbiyä, Jedabya) (30 45 N – 20 13 E)

General: village or small town in Libya 152 km S of Benghazi and location of a complex with 2 wartime landing grounds and a satellite strip. The main landing ground was Agedabia/West.

Remarks:

4-5 Apr 41: first use by the lead elements of the Luftwaffe which had just transferred eastward from Sirte/Libya.

7 Apr 41: bombed by a few RAF Wellingtons during early morning sandstorm – 1 x Ju 87 destroyed, 2 more severely damaged, 4 WIA.

2 Dec 41: strafed by RAF Hurricanes in the morning and afternoon – *claimed* a total of 9 x C.R.42s, 4 x S.M.79s and 1 x Ju 87 destroyed or damaged.

Italian records admit to 4 x C.R.42 fighters destroyed, 7 x C.R.42s damaged and 1 x S.M.81 transport damaged.

5 Dec 41: strafed by 6 RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 3 x C.R.42s destroyed, 5 x C.R.42s and 2 x S.M.79s damaged. Italian records show 2 x C.R.42s destroyed, 1 x S.M.81 destroyed and 4 x C.R.42 damaged.

19 Dec 41: Agedabia complex seen to be crowded with 75 German and Italian aircraft, mostly single-engine.

21/22 Dec 41: Agedabia landing grounds raided by commandos from the RAF Special Air Service – *claimed* 8 x C.R.42s, 5 x Fiat G.50s, 6 x C.200s, 2 x Ca.311s, 1 x S.M.79 and 2 x Ca.164 liaison planes destroyed or damaged on the ground. The actual number was 18 instead of 24 according to some sources.

3 Jan 42: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 2./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.

4-5 Jan 42: Agedabia landing ground complex evacuated after taking heavy shelling from enemy artillery, but retaken by the Germans a few weeks later.

14 Nov 42: strafed by RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 3 x C.R.42s destroyed.

Dec 42: after 10 months of little activity, Agedabia became active again as Axis forces retreated toward Tripoli.

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### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 6° Gruppo CT (Jan 42); 8° Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Jan-Feb 42); 236<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CB (Nov 41, Jan-Feb 42); 375<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CT (Dec 41).

*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 2 (Apr 41, Dec 41, Jan 42); Kurierstaffel Fliegerführer Afrika (Dec 41 – Jan 42); III./JG 27 (Dec 41 – Feb 42); I./St.G. 1 (Jan 42); Stab, I., II./JG 27 (Jan-Feb 42); Stab, I., II./St.G. 3 (Agedabia/East, Jan-Feb 42); 7./ZG 26 (Agedabia/West, Jan-Feb 42); 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Agedabia/West, Jan-Feb 42); Wüstennotstaffel (Agedabia/West, Jan-Feb 42).

Station Commands: Flugplatzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI Derna (Jan/Jan-Feb-Jun 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Apr 41, Jan 42); Koflug Afrika (Apr 41, Jan-Feb 42); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Feb-Mar 42); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (May 42); kl.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonie 2/IV (Mar 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp.133-35 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA (incl. DEFE & HW Sigint material); BNA AIR 40/1990; KTB/OKW - 1942/I, p.197; C.Dunning – *Courage Alone*; C.Shores – *Fighters Over the Desert*; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1725); web site ww2.dk]

**Agedabia/East** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ajdäbiyā, Jedabya) (30 45 30 N – 20 14 30 E)

General: landing ground (Landeplatz) 150.6 km S of Benghazi (Banghāzi) in Cyrenaica and about 19.5 km inland from the SE shore of the Gulf of Sirte and close to Agedabia village. Dimensions: not clearly defined but the longest run was 1,920 meters. Eventually had 2 airstrips 1190 meters (1300 yards) in length. Runway: packed sand that was soft in spots.

Infrastructure: all service and support facilities were at Agedabia/West.

Dispersal: had 6 aircraft blast shelters on the NW side in December 1941.

**Agedabia/West** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ajdäbiyā, Jedabya) (30 46 00 N – 20 12 30 E)

General: operational airfield 149 km S of Benghazi (Banghāzi) in Libya and about 18 km inland from the SE shore of the Gulf of Sirte and close to the colonial fort. History: this was the most used of the three landing grounds at Agedabia during 1940-41. After that, Agedabia/East was almost exclusively used for operations because the runway conditions were much better there. The roof of the hangar was destroyed during an Allied air attack in 1942. Dimensions: triangular landing area roughly 1,555 x 460 meters. German data dated Nov 41 gives the dimensions as 900 x 400 meters (985 x 435 yards). Runway: packed sand that was soft in places and very bumpy due to small piles of blown sand around clusters of vegetation. Additionally, very dusty and was unserviceable during rains.

Infrastructure: had a medium double bay hangar at the W corner of the fort. Admin buildings, barracks and a stores depot were all located in the fort.

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**Agedabia/Satellite** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ajdäbiyā, Jedabya) (30 44 00 N – 20 11 25 E)

General: landing ground (Landeplatz) 152.3 km S of Benghazi (Banghāzi) in Libya, about 18 km inland from the SE shore of the Gulf of Sirte and 2.4 km SW of the Agedabia fort. Dimensions: not clearly defined but the longest run was 1,070 meters. Runway: packed sand. Infrastructure: none.

**Agheila** (LIB): see El Agheila.

**Ain bu Sfia** (LIB) (32 21 00 N – 21 58 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 78 km SW of Derna.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 365 x 275 meters (400 x 300 yards).

Infrastructure: none - located in open desert without habitation.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ain Doua** (LIB): see Oweinat – Ain Doua.

**Ain el Gazala** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ayn al Ghazālah, Ayn al Ulaymah?, Al Qardabah?)

General: landing grounds in N Cyrenaica 62 km WNW of Tobruk. There were 3 landing grounds – Gazala/North, Gazala/South, Gazala No. 3, plus 1 seaplane anchorage – Mersa Ain el Gazala.

Remarks:

Jun 40: in Italian hands.

16 Dec 40: attacked by Blenheims – 1 x Ca.133 bomber-transport destroyed on the ground.

1 Jan 41: bombed by RAF Wellingtons – 1 x S.M.79 destroyed and 2 more damaged on the ground.

5(8?) Jan 41: low-level attack by 2 RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 2 x S.M.79s destroyed. Evacuated by the Italians and taken over by the British the last week of January.

10 Apr 41: landing ground captured by German forces.

16 Apr 41: landing ground being subjected to nightly naval gunfire.

19 Apr 41: low-level attack by RAF Blenheims - 3 x Hs 126s and 1 x Ju 52 from 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 destroyed on the ground, plus 5 KIA and 10 WIA.

9 Jun 41: low-level attack by RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 6 x Bf 109s and Fiat G.50s set on fire.

12 Jun 41: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 E-7s from I./JG 27 damaged on the ground.

26 Jun 41: bombed by 15 Blenheims - 2 x Bf 109s destroyed and 3 more damaged. (German report)

28 Jun 41: bombed by SAAF Marylands – 2 x Bf 109 E-7s from I./JG 27 damaged on the ground.

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3 Aug 41: bombed - 1 x Bf 109 E-7 from I./JG 27 destroyed and 1 x Bf 109 E-7/N from 7./JG 26 destroyed.  
1 Sep 41: bombed - 1 x Bf 109 E-7 from 2./JG 27 destroyed on the ground.  
21 Oct 41: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 5./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.  
9 Nov 41: bombed - 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from II./JG 27 damaged.  
10 Nov 41: bombed - 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from II./JG 27 badly damaged.  
21 Nov 41: night bombing - 1 x C.200 fighter destroyed and at least 3 x G 50 fighters damaged.  
23 Nov 41: bombed - searchlight and tents damaged.  
24 Nov 41: bombed - 1 x Junkers W 34 hi from II./JG 27 destroyed.  
25 Nov 41: bombed - 2 x Bf 109s damaged on the ground.  
27 Nov 41: bombed - 3 Messerschmitt Bf 109s damaged on the ground.  
1 Dec 41: bombed - damage to rations stores and Flak positions.  
7 Dec 41: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from II./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.  
9 Dec 41: bombed - 3 x Fi 156s from Wüstennotstaffel destroyed or damaged on the ground.  
Dec 41: 71 abandoned Axis aircraft, about half German, were found on the 3 Gazala landing grounds when they were overrun by British forces.  
c. 13-14 Jun 42: Gazala landing grounds taken by advancing Axis forces.  
17 Jun 42: low-level attack by RAF and RAAF Curtiss Kittyhawks - 3 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 1./JG 27 damaged on the ground, while the Kittyhawk pilots *claimed* a total of 10 x Bf 109s destroyed or damaged plus 2 x Fi 156s damaged during repeated strafing runs.  
21 Jun 42: bombed - 6 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from III./JG 53 destroyed (5) or damaged (1) on the ground.  
14-15 Nov 42: re-occupied by British forces.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun-Jul 42); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun 42); 23<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 41); 54<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jul 40); 73<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Mar 41); 114<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Oct 40 - c.Jan 41); 129<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia OA (Mar 41); 278<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Jan-Feb 41); 376<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Assalto (Aug-Nov 41).

*Luftwaffe*: part of 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Apr 41); I./JG 27 (Apr-Dec 41, Jun 42); Kurierstaffel Afrika (Apr-Aug 41); Verbindungsstaffel/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jun, Jul, Nov 41); 7./JG 26 (Jun-Sep 41); 1. Wüstennotstaffel (Jun/Jul - Dec 41); 1./NJG 3 (Aug-Sep 41); II./JG 27 (Sep-Dec 41); 10./KG z.b.V. 1 (Nov 41); III./JG 27 (Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 27 (Jun 42); III./JG 53 (Jun 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Jun-Jul 42); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Jun 42).

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): 3./Flak-Abt. 841 (Nov 41); m.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonnie (May 41); Koflug 18/XI (Jun 42).

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp.150- (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1708); website ww2.dk]

**Ain el Gazala/North** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gazala No. 1, L.G. 149) (32 10 50 N – 23 21 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 62 km WNW of Tobruk and 3 km E of Gazala Inlet that runs inland from the sea. History: early history not found. In continuous use by fighters, dive-bombers and transports during the war in North Africa. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of stony, sandy clay in good condition measuring approx. 1280 x 1280 meters (1400 x 1400 yards) with an irregular shape. According to German data, the original dimensions in 1940-41 were 1065 x 980 meters (1165 x 1070 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: there was underground fuel storage. No details on ammunition storage. Infrastructure: none, but there was an old fort in use 2 km of the SW corner of the landing ground along with 3 barrack-type huts. Dispersal: had 19 blast bay aircraft shelters along the E and S boundaries in Dec 41. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Operational Units: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Station Commands: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Ain el Gazala (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 121 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1708); website ww2.dk]

**Ain el Gazala/South** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gazala No. 2, L.G. 150) (32 08 30 N – 23 25 35 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 53 km WNW of Tobruk, 3.5 km S of the coast and just S of the main coastal road. History: early history not found. In continuous use by fighters, dive-bombers and other medium-size aircraft during the war in North Africa. Surface and Dimensions: firm but stony natural surface in good condition measuring approx. 1100 x 455 meters (1200 x 500 yards) along one leg of an "L" shape and 915 x 640 meters (1000 x 700 yards) along the other leg. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found regarding storage. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops, but had an underground operations bunker. Dispersal: had 37 blast bay aircraft shelters along the perimeter in Oct 41. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Operational Units: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Station Commands: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Ain el Gazala (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 122 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1708); website ww2.dk]

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### **Ain el Gazala No. 3** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. 152) (32 08 30 N – 23 26 35 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 50 km W of Tobruk and immediately E of Ain el Gazala/South landing ground. History: believed to have been built in fall 1941 as a satellite for Ain el Gazala/South. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural stony surface in good condition measuring approx. 1545 x 1125 meters (1690 x 1230 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had 9 blast bay aircraft shelters made with stones along the perimeter track in Dec 41. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Operational Units: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Station Commands: see under Ain el Gazala (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Ain el Gazala (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 123 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1708); website ww2.dk]

### **Ain Zwaya** (LIB) (21 52 00 N – 24 46 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 1,226 km SE of Benghazi, 300 km SE of Kufra (Al-Jawf) and 4 km W of the Uweinat mountain ridge.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: coarse hard gravel surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none - unpopulated area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Alam Barghut** (EGYPT) (31 29 00 N – 25 17 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 14.5 km SE of Sollum. History: no record found of use by either side. Possibly served as an emergency landing ground. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface of sand with a crust of salt measuring approx. 600 x 700 meters (655 x 765 yards). Unserviceable after a rainfall. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

### **Amseat** (LIB) (a.k.a. Capuzzo) (31 35 10 N – 25 02 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 115 ESE of Tobruk, 20 km S of Bardia and 11.5 km WNW of Sollum (El Salloum) and immediately NW of Fort Capuzzo. There were two airstrips: Amseat I and Amseat II. History: early history not found but mainly used by fighters in 1941. No evidence of use after 1941. Surface and Dimensions: the main airstrip had a slightly stony firm clay surface measuring approx. 1050 x 1145 meters (1150 x 1250 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: had a fuel dump in Dec 41 but no

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further details found. Infrastructure: had an operations building, minor repair facilities and a few other buildings in Dec 41. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

May – Nov 42: 11 reconnaissance reports all showed no aircraft here.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 089-90 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1699); website ww2.dk]

### **Antelat** (LIB) (31 08 40 N – 20 33 45 E)

General: 2 landing grounds in Cyrenaica, No 1 and No. 2, 116.5 km SSE of Benghazi, 55 km NE of Agedabia (Ajdabiya) and 3.25 km WNW of the fort at Antelat. History: early history not found. Surface and Dimensions: clay surface with some camel thorn and hummocks and 3 airstrips each measuring approx. 1100 x 180 meters (1200 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Accessible by desert track. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Dec 41: briefly used by Luftwaffe Ju 87 Stukas.

Dec 42: in use by the Allies with 60 fighters here.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 2 (Dec 41).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 092 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Apollonia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Susah, Marsa Susa) (c.32 53 48 N – 21 57 46 E)

General: airfield 66.5 km WNW of Derna (Darnah), immediately S of the town of Apollonia and the coast road and 500 meters inland from the coast. Good side road access to the landing ground from the main road.

History: staffed by Regia Aeronautica personnel, and although Italian and German aircraft passed through Apollonia, it was not frequently used.

Surface and Dimensions: grass covered gravel soil with some loose stone measuring approx. 825 x 550 meters (900 x 600 yards) with an irregular shape and aligned E/W. Had practically an all-weather capability but surface uneven, bumpy and undulating. No paved or prepared runway. German data dated Jan 42 gives dimensions of 1210 x 700 meters (1325 x 765 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: had 2 small underground fuel storage tanks.

Infrastructure: there was a single medium double hangar of metal construction and several separate workshops on the NW corner, 3 servicing

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hardstands on the N boundary plus messes and 3 well constructed barracks. Storage facilities were adjacent to the E side of the hangar.

Dispersal: had dispersal facilities for about 30 aircraft.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

1 Feb 41: strafed by 6 RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 3 x Caproni Ca.309 *Ghiblis* and 1 Ca.310 light bomber/reconnaissance plane destroyed. Italian records show just 2 x Ca.310s damaged.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 4/VII (Trop) (Jun 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.93 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1695); web site ww2.dk]

**Arae Philaenorum** (LIB): see Arco Philanorum.

**Arco Philanorum** (LIB) (a.k.a. Arae Philaenorum, Arco, Arco dei Fíleni, Ara Fileni, Marble Arch, Ras Lanuf) (c. 30 27 30 N – 18 34 30 E)

General: landing ground or advanced landing ground (Feldflugplatz) 144 mi (232 km) SW of Benghazi, 41 mi (66 km) WNW of Agheila and 3.5 mi (5.7 km) SSE of Ras Länüf in Libya. Located on the N side of the coastal road near a monumental arch that was astride the road.

History: an important landing ground along the coastal route which was used by most types of German and Italian aircraft including Fw 200s. Also used as a staging ground for fighters. Dimensions: at least 1372 x 1190 meters (1,500 x 1,300 yards). Surface: firm and level sand surface that was quite stony.

Infrastructure: no hangars, accomodations or other permanent buildings but stocks of fuel were usually on hand. Dispersal: no aircraft shelters or blast bays but parking hardstands may have eventually existed. Defenses: in Jan-Feb 1942 the landing area was protected by 3 light Flak positions each with 3 guns.

Remarks:

17 Mar 41: 10,000 litres of German B4 fuel ordered trucked to Arco for use by tactical reconnaissance aircraft from 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14.

28 Jan 42: ordered equipped for night landings by aircraft operating from Greece and Crete.

31 May 42: airfield detachment withdrawn and no longer to be used as an intermediate landing ground. For emergency use only.

1 Oct 42: reactivated and serviceable.

15 Nov 42: large scale airlift of fuel began from Brindisi and Lecce in S Italy to Arco using Ju 52, He 111, Fw 200 and S.M.82 transports.

8 Dec 42: 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from 2./JG 77 blown up to prevent capture.

Operational Units:



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*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 3<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 42); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov-Dec 42); 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov-Dec 42); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 236<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CB (Dec 41 – Jan 42).

*Luftwaffe*: 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Mar 41, Jan 42); I./St.G. 1 (Dec 41)?; Stab/St.G. 3 (Dec 41); I./St.G. 3 (Dec 41); Stab/JG 27 (Dec 41); I./JG 27 (Dec 41 – Jan 42); II./JG 27 (Dec 41 – Jan 42, Nov 42); III./JG 27 (Jan 42); elements of 12./LG 1 (Jan 42); elements of 1./Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Jan 42); 4. (H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Nov 42); III./St.G. 3 (Nov 42); elements of III./KG z.b.V. 1 (Nov 42); Stab/JG 77 (Nov-Dec 42); I./JG 77 (Nov-Dec 42); III./JG 77 (Nov-Dec 42); I./Schl.G. 2 (Nov-Dec 42).

Station Commands: Behelfs-Kdtr. Araei Philaenorum (Mar 41 - ?); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Dec 41); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 25/IV ( ? – Nov 42)?; Fl.H.Kdtr. E 23/VII (Nov-Dec 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jan 42, Nov-Dec 42); Stab/Flak-Rgt. 102 (Dec 41, Jan 42); II./Flak-Rgt. 25 (Jan 42); elements of I./Flak-Rgt. 46 (Dec 42); elements of Res.Flak-Abt. 114 (Dec 41 - ?); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Dec 42); Ln.-Geräteausgabestelle 2/VII (Nov-Dec 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 046 (11 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1724); website ww2.dk]

**Auenet Uennin** (LIB) (28 28 00 N – 12 40 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 493 km S of Tripoli. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: open desert – no prepared strip. Infrastructure: none identified.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Augila** (LIB) (a.k.a. Awjilah) (29 10 10 N – 21 22 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 348 km SSE of Benghazi. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## B

**Baheira No. 1** (LIB): see Bir el Gaer.

**Baheira No. 2** (LIB): see Abiar Bcheis.

**Baheira Satellite No. 1** (LIB): see Abiar Bcheis.

**Baltet el Atasc** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. 161) (31 29 30 N – 23 29 30 E)

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General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 78.5 km SSW of Tobruk, 58 km SW of Adam and 10.5 km S of Fort Bir Hakeim (Hacheim). : History: Allied landing ground - no evidence found of Axis use. Probably built by the Allies in fall 1942. Surface and Dimensions: dried mud surface with 2 airstrips measuring approx. 1465 x 275 meters (1600 x 300 yards) and 1100 x 275 meters (1200 x 300 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 097 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Barce** (LIB) (a.k.a. Barce/Nord, El Merg, Al Marj) (32 30 50 N – 20 53 45 E)

General: airfield in Cyrenaica 89 km NE of Benghazi and 1.5 km N of the old town of Barce (Al Marj).

History: early history not found. The airfield changed hands several times during the offensives and counteroffensives across Cyrenaica, but when in Axis hands it was mainly used by Italian bombers and long-range and short-range reconnaissance aircraft.

Dimensions: approx. 1190 x 1190 meters (1300 x 1300 yards). German measurements of Jan 42 were 1350 x 1250 meters (1475 x 1365 yards).

Surface and Runways: clay-base soil with heavy vegetation in good condition, although unserviceable after rain. No paved or prepared runway.

Fuel and Ammunition: stocked and available but details lacking.

Infrastructure: had 2 hangars, several workshops, admin buildings and out-buildings at the airfield. A large barracks was located 2 km S of the town and others on the W outskirts of the town.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities - aircraft parked in open areas full of scrub vegetation along and off the perimeter.

Defenses: Flak protection present but details lacking.

Remarks:

4 Sep 41: low-level attack – 2 x Macchi C.200 fighters destroyed on the ground.

23 Nov 41: strafed by 4 x RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 4 x S.M.79s destroyed. Italian records show 1 x S.M.79 bomber and 1 x S.M.81 transport destroyed, 1 x B.R.20 bomber damaged along with 1 officer and 7 airmen KIA.

2 Dec 41: strafed by 5 RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 7 x Fiat B.R.20s shot up and damaged. Italian records show 1 x S.M.75 transport destroyed and 2 x B.R.20 bombers damaged.

17 Dec 41: bombed by SAAF Marylands – 1 x Cant Z.1007bis and 1 x C.202 destroyed, plus 12 more aircraft damaged, all on the ground.

20 Dec 41: bombed – 4 x C.202 fighters that were being repaired here were destroyed on the ground.

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23 Dec 41: Barce taken by advancing Allied troops who found 2 wrecked Ju 87s on the landing ground.

21 Mar 42: bombed – 1 x Fiat B.R.20 destroyed on the ground.

14/15 Sep 42: raided by SAS commandos – *claimed* 6 x Ca.311s, 1 x Cant Z.1007, 1 x S.M.79, 1 x Caproni Ca.309 *Ghibli* and 1 x Fi 156 destroyed, plus 3 x Ca 311s, 2 x Cant Z.1007s, 1 x Ca.312 and 1 x Ro 43 damaged. Italian records reported 7 x Cant Z..1007s, 6 x Ca311s, 1 x S.M.79 and 1 x Ro 63 destroyed, plus 2 x Cant Z.1007s, 4 x Ca.311s and 1 x Ro 63 damaged.

30 Oct 42: low-level attack – 2 x Cant Z.1007 bombers destroyed by strafing and 2 more damaged by strafing.

Nov 42: heavy Ju 52 transport activity here in mid-November.

17 Nov 42: low-level attack – 1 x Ju 52 from I./KG z.b.V. 1 destroyed on the ground out of 40 reported here.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 9° Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 11° Gruppo BT (Dec 41, Mar 42); 27° Gruppo BT (Nov 41); 28° Gruppo BT (Nov 41); 43° Gruppo BT (Jul-Dec 41, Mar 42); 47° Gruppo BT (Sep-Nov 42); 54° Gruppo BT (1940); 66° Gruppo OA (Sep-Nov 42); 69° Gruppo OA (Mar-Jul 42); 86° Gruppo BM (May-Nov 42); 95° Gruppo BM (Apr-Nov 42); 98° Gruppo BT (May-Jul 41); 176<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Dec 41, Mar 42).

*Luftwaffe*: part of 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Feb-Mar 42); Stab/St.G. 3 (Feb-Mar 42); 12./LG 1 (Apr-Jun 42); 10./ZG 26 (Aug-Sep 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 099 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1718); website ww2.dk]

**Bardia – El Ahmar** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Ahmar, Gadd El Ahmar, Bardia/South, Bardia No. 3) (31 43 20 N – 25 05 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 4 km S of Bardia and approx. 3.25 km E of the Bardia – Amseat main road. History: early history not found. As a satellite in the Bardia-Menastir complex, it was used only occasionally and changed hands several times during the 1941-42 period. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 915 x 825 meters (1000 x 900 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: provided by Bardia – Menastir No. 1. Infrastructure: none. Barracks in Bardia provided accommodations. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

17 Nov 41: attacked by RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 2 x S.M.79s damaged on the ground.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 100 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

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**Bardia – Menastir** (LIB): see Menastir No. 1.

**Bardia – Menastir No. 2** (LIB): see Menastir No. 2.

**Bardia No. 3** (LIB): see Bardia – El Ahmar.

**Bardia/South** (LIB): see Bardia – El Ahmar.

**Belandah No 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bel Audah, Abu al Awshah?) (30 31 00 N – 20 27 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 34 km SE of Agedabia on the W side of the main road in that area. "Belandah" was the name of a prominent hill about 8 km NW of the landing ground. History: little used – no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with thick camel scrub and hummocks - there were 2 airstrips measuring 915 x 135 meters (1000 x 150 yards) and 960 x 135 meters (1050 x 150 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no permanent storage facilities. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Jan 42: Bf 109 fighters from JG 27 operating from here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 102 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Belandah No 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bel Audah, Abu al Awshah?) (30 27 00 N – 20 28 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 41.25 km SE of Agedabia and 9.75 km NW of the fort and crossroads at El Haseiat. Belandah Hill was 14.5 km NNW of the landing ground. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with 2 landing strips each measuring approx. 915 x 185 meters (1000 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both made available when needed. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal areas. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Jun 42: both landing strips were under construction at this time.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 103 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Benghasi-Berca** (LIB) (a.k.a. Benghazi, Banghäzi) (32 07 N – 20 04 E)

General: multiple landing grounds around this port city on the Libyan coast, e.g., Benghasi K1, K2, K3, Benghasi-Berca No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, Berca/East, Berca/South, Berca/West. See below for airfield details. The Remarks, Operational Units and Station Units listed below are common to all three airfields/landing grounds. The Italian civil airline Ala Littoria had routes to both Tripoli and Bengasi in fall 1938 and even prior to that. It was on the route Rome to Mogadishu/Italian East Africa.

Remarks:

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4 Apr 41: town entered and occupied by German forces this date. While in Axis hands from June 1940 through November 1942, Benghazi was relentlessly attacked day and night by Allied aircraft, with the port facilities and shipping being the main targets.

7 May 41: shelled at night by Allied naval forces – 2 x Fiat G.50 fighters badly damaged on the ground.

11 Aug 41: bombed – 1 x S.M.81 air ambulance transport destroyed on the ground.

7 Sep 41: bombed – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed, 2 x Ro 37bis reconnaissance biplanes and 1 x Ca.133 transport severely damaged on the ground.

9 Oct 41: bombed at night – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed, while 1 x C.R.42, 1 x G.50bis, 1 x S.M.79 and 1 x S.M.81 were severely damaged.

5 Nov 41: 2 air attacks – 1 aircraft destroyed and 2,000 litres of B4 aviation fuel set on fire.

25 Nov 41: bombed – 1 x S.M.82 transport, 1 x Ca.133 transport and 1 x G.50bis fighter damaged on the ground.

17 Dec 41: bombed – 1 x Ju 52 destroyed on the ground.

23 Dec 41: Benghazi evacuated by the Germans.

3 Jan 42: the British reported a total of 51 wrecked and abandoned Italian aircraft found on the 2 Berca landing grounds then in use, plus 3 wrecked and abandoned Cant Z.501 patrol and reconnaissance flying boats in Tripoli harbor.

29 Jan 42: Germans retake Benghazi.

6 Feb 42: airfield attacked by 15 aircraft - hits on the ammunitions storage area.

9 Apr 42: bombed – 4 x C.200 fighters damaged on the ground at Benghazi-Berca K3.

28 Mar 42: 3 air attacks – Benghazi-Berca No. 1 landing area cratered.

23 May 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 88 A-4 from 12./LG 1 destroyed on the ground.

13 Jun 42: sabotage – 3 x S.M.79 bombers damaged on the ground during a SAS commando raid on the Berca landing grounds.

17 Nov 42: low-level attack by P-40 Kittyhawks – 4 x He 111s being used as transports destroyed.

### Operational Units;

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 2° Gruppo APC (Jun 40); 3° Gruppo CT (Feb-May 42); 6° Gruppo CT (Feb 42); 8° Gruppo CT (Jul 40, Dec 40, Nov 41, Feb-May 42, Nov 42); 9° Gruppo CT (Jul-Aug 40, Nov 42); 10° Gruppo CT (Jun 40 – Jan 41, Nov 42); 12° Gruppo Assalto (Jan 41); 13° Gruppo CT (Aug-Sep 40, Apr 42, Nov 42); 16° Gruppo Assalto (Jan 41); 17° Gruppo CT (Dec 41, Jan-Mar 42); 18° Gruppo CT (Apr 41); 23° Gruppo CT (Jan-Feb 41); 28° Gruppo BT (Jun 41); 46° Gruppo BT (Aug 42, Nov 42); 47° Gruppo BT (Aug 42); 64° Gruppo OA (Oct 42); 69° Gruppo OA (Mar 42); 73° Gruppo OA (Dec 40, Mar 41); 95° Gruppo BM (Apr 42); 96° Gruppo BaT

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(Feb 41); 98<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Apr-May 41); 131<sup>o</sup> Gruppo AS (Mar-Jun 42); 133<sup>o</sup> Gruppo AS (Apr-Nov 42); 145<sup>o</sup> Gruppo T (Jun 40 – Feb 41, Dec 41); 150<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb 42, May-Nov 42); 158<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (May 42); 129<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia OA (Mar 41); 145<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Jul 40); 174<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Dec 41, Feb-Apr 42); 175<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Jun 41); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Nov 41, Feb-Mar 42); 236<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CB (Feb 42); 239<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Jul-Oct 41); 278<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Dec 40); 279<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (May 41, Dec 41, Feb 42); 284<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Dec 41, Feb-Mar 42).

*Luftwaffe*: detachment of 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Jan 41); 10./KG z.b.V. 1 (May 41); 1./NJG 3 (May-Aug 41); part of Wüstennotstaffel 1 (Aug 41)?; 2./NJG 2 (Nov 41 – Apr 42); 10.(Flieger)/Ln.-Rgt. 40 (Jan 42); II./St.G. 3 (Feb-Mar, May 42); III./St.G. 3 (Mar, Jun 42); 1./KGr. z.b.V. 400 (Berca/West, Mar-May 42); Stab/St.G. 3 (Apr 42); 1./NJG 2 (Apr-Jul 42); 12.(Einsatz-)/LG 1 (Apr, Aug-Sep 42); III./ZG 26 (May 42); Erprobungskdo. 19 (Aug 42); 10./ZG 26 (Berca/West, Jul-Sep 42); I./St.G. 3 (Sep 42); detachment of I./KG 54 (Oct 42); 4.(Pz)/Schl.G. 2 (Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Feb 42); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Mar 42, Nov 42); Koflug Afrika (Apr 41); Koflug 5/XIII (May-Nov 42); elements of Feldwerft-Abt. LE 2 (Apr 41); two Züge of schw.Feldwerft-Abt. IV/20 (Nov 42); Stab/Flak-Rgt. 102 (Dec 41 – Jun 42); 2./Flak-Rgt. 43 (Apr 42); Flak-Abt. 114 (Jun 41, Jul-Aug 42); Flak-Abt. 354 (Sep 42); Flak-Geräteausgabestelle Bengasi (Jun 41); Flak-Geräteausgabestelle 3/III (Nov 42); Ln.-Abt. Afrika (Dec 41; Feb 42); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. Bengasi (1941-42); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle Bengasi (May, Sep 41); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 7/XII (Jul-Nov 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 7/III (May 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 14/XI (Jul 42); Nachschubkolonnen-Abt. d.Lw. 5/VI (Feb 42 - ? ); kl.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonnie 6/III (Mar 42); kl.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonnie 2/IV (Mar 42); m.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonnie 6/VI (Jul 41); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 2/III (Feb 42); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 8/XII (Sep 41); 1./Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. I (Oct 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Benghasi-Berca No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al Birkah, Beraa No. 1, K. 1) (32 05 10 N – 20 05 00 E)

General: airfield in Cyrenaica 4 km SE of the entrance to Benghazi harbor and 3 km SSE of Benghasi town center.

History: early history not found. Used by all types of land aircraft during the war. Squadrons of fighters were usually based here for protection of coastal shipping. By Nov 42, the airfield and its buildings had been considerably damaged and several months passed before the Allies could effect repairs and use it.

Dimensions: approx. 1465 x 825 meters (1600 x 900 yards).

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Surface and Runways: level, firm, natural sand and clay surface in good condition, but subject to flooding in very wet weather. No paved runway. A perimeter track encircled the landing area. Equipped for night landings by Aug 41.

Fuel and Ammunition: there were 11 underground fuel tanks near the main apron and the hangars on the W boundary, 5 more near the center of the landing area and a further 4 in front of the hangars at the NE corner for a total of 20 fuel tanks. Also had an ammunition storage dump.

Infrastructure: had 4 large and 8 smaller hangars, an operations building, separate workshop buildings, motor pool with garages as well as admin buildings. A number of large barracks were N of the airfield and another group of barracks N of Benghazi. The port city also offered hotel accommodations.

Dispersal: a large dispersal area was S of the airfield and another off the SE side. Aircraft also parked along the E perimeter and at the NE corner.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Benghazi-Berca.

Operational Units: see under Benghazi-Berca.

Station Commands: Behelfskommandantur B (Apr 41); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV Berca I (Feb – Jun 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Benghazi-Berca.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 104 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1712); website ww2.dk]

**Benghazi-Berca No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al Birkah, Berca No. 2, K. 2, Berca/South, Berca/West) (32 03 53 N – 20 03 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 5.75 km S of Benghazi harbor on the W side of the main coastal road to Tripoli, and 3.35 km SW of Benghazi-Berca No. 1 airfield. History: in constant use during the war, especially by transport aircraft.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface graded level and measured approx. 3200 x 1555 meters (3500 x 1700 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: aviation fuel storage capacity was 28,000 gallons in 15 storage tanks located at the former Shell depot located immediately N of the landing ground. No details found regarding ammunition storage.

Infrastructure: no hangars but there was a repair facility off the SW corner.

Dispersal: had 2 dispersal areas – West and South – both with a few aircraft blast shelters. Aircraft also parked among trees along the road on the E side. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Benghazi-Berca.

Operational Units: see under Benghazi-Berca.

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV Berca II (May – Jun 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Benghazi-Berca.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 105 (22 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1744); website ww2.dk]

**Benghasi-Berca No. 3** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al Birkah, Berca No. 3, Berca/East, K. 3) (32 00 45 N – 20 03 25 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 11.25 km S of Benghasi harbor on the E side of the main Benghasi-Tripoli road, 4 km S of Berca No. 2 and just SW of Guarscia village. History: considered by the Germans as a satellite of Berca No. 1 and Berca No. 2, it was in constant use during the war, especially by transport aircraft. Surface and Dimensions: medium-heavy soil that had been graded flat and eventually grassy measuring approx. 2745 x 1370 meters (3000 x 1500 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both stocked and available. Infrastructure: no permanent infrastructure. Dispersal: aircraft parked N and S of the road to Guarscia and along the main road off the W boundary. Trees along both roads offered some degree of concealment for the aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Benghasi-Berca.

Operational Units: see under Benghasi-Berca.

Station Commands: operated by Berca No. 1 and/or Berca No. 2.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Benghasi-Berca.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 106 (22 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1745); website ww2.dk]

**Benghasi (See)** (LIB) (a.k.a. Benghasi Harbor) (32 06 40 N – 20 03 47 E)

General: seaplane station in Benghasi inner harbor. History: served as a base for Cant Z.501 and Z.506 air-sea rescue and ambulance aircraft. It was also used by Luftwaffe He 59 seaplanes and Do 24 flying boats during 1941 and 1942. Anchorage: the inner harbor was sheltered with a shallow bottom and afforded E/W take-off and landing runs of 1920 meters (2100 yards). The outer harbor was so full of wrecks, sunken ships and rocks that it could not be safely used by seaplanes. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel storage tanks were on a mole just S of the alighting area. Infrastructure: a slipway was on the W side of the inner harbor and a repair shop was located on a quay just W of the slipway. Barracks and hotel accommodations were available in Benghasi. Dispersal: seaplanes usually moored off Cathedral Mole which had 6 mooring buoys on the E side. Defenses: protected by the Flak belt around Bengasi and the harbor area.

Remarks:

11 Mar 42: German complaint that the inner harbor was too small for He 59 seaplanes and proposed a survey be taken to determine which wrecked and sunk ships could be removed to increase the take-off and landing area.

15 Mar 42: experiments in the harbor revealed that take-off and landing runs were only possible in one direction in a lane 1200 x 100 meters using compass course 280°.



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Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Seenotbezirksstelle Bengasi (Mar 41 – May 42); Seenotkommando 15 (May-Nov 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 107 (22 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Benina** (LIB) (a.k.a. Benina/North, Baninah) (32 05 45 N – 20 16 30 E)

General: airfield and landing grounds in Cyrenaica 21 km E of Benghazi harbor on the N side of the road and railway to Benghazi. Several airstrips there, including Benina/North and Benina/South. Another was called Lete and was located 5 km W of Benina airfield and probably built by the Allies.

History: one of the 3 or 4 largest and most important airfields in Cyrenaica during the war years.

Dimensions: approx. 1550 x 1370 meters (1700 x 1500 yards).

Surface and Runways: firm clay surface that softened in heavy rain. Had a single prepared airstrip that measured approx. 1100 x 230 meters (1200 x 250 yards) and aligned NNW/SSE. This airstrip was constructed in 1941 and was of a lighter color than the surrounding terrain. No paved runway. Airfield access roads were concrete. Equipped for night landings.

Fuel and Ammunition: aviation fuel was stored in 9 underground tanks and 8 above ground tanks located near the hangars. Additional storage was located along the S side of the East dispersal area and in a dump 8 km ESE of the airfield. Also had a munitions dump.

Infrastructure: had 9 medium hangars on the W boundary, 3 of which were of metal construction, with 4 separate workshop buildings just W of the hangars. Additionally, there were admin buildings and officer quarters W of the airfield. Ground personnel resided in 34 barrack-type huts NW of the landing area.

Dispersal: 2 dispersal areas – North and East – were both large.

Defenses: none noted.

Satellites and Decoys:

**Benina/South:** satellite or alternate landing ground in Cyrenaica 1.5 km S of Benina/North airfield. Surface and Runways: clay surface measuring approx. 1680 x 1110 meters (1835 x 1215 yards) with an L-shape. Infrastructure: none. Relied on Benina/North for all support and services.

Remarks:

17 Sep 40: attacked by RAF Blenheims – 3 x S.M.79s under repair were destroyed.

7 Dec 40: air attack – 1 x S.M.79 destroyed on the ground.

8/9 Dec 40: raided by RAF Wellingtons and Blenheims – *claimed* 10 aircraft destroyed or damaged on the ground.

9 Jan 41: strafed by a Hurricane – 1 x C.R.32 biplane fighter destroyed on the ground.

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- 5 Feb 41: strafed by 3 RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 8 x Italian bombers destroyed.
- 6 Feb 41: Australian infantry took Benghazi and surrounding area.
- Apr 41: Benina retaken by Axis forces in mid-April.
- 27 Apr 41: low-level attack by a single RAF Hurricane - 4 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. 104 strafed on the ground and destroyed; additionally, 2 x Ju 52s and 1 x Ju 88 were damaged by shrapnel, 1 NCO KIA and 5 WIA. These were from a total of 38 Ju 52s that flew into Benina this date.
- 1 May 41: Benina being surveyed by German engineers for construction needs, including the installation of lighting and the removal of obstacles.
- 2 May 41: attacked by a single Wellington – *claimed* 2 x Ju 52s destroyed and several more damaged.
- 10 Nov 41: strafed – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 from 9./LG 1 destroyed on the ground.
- 20 Nov 41: low-level afternoon attack by 6 Hurricane fighters – *claimed* 6 x Ju 88 A-5s from III./LG 1 shot up and destroyed. The German after action report states 3 Ju 88s destroyed and 4 damaged.
- 23 Nov 41: bombed – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 (trop) from III./LG 1 destroyed.
- 16 Dec 41: bombed by 5 SAAF Marylands – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 and 1 x Bf 110 E-3 belonging to 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 destroyed on the ground, while the Marylands *claimed* a total of at least 9 destroyed.
- 18 Dec 41: bombed by SAAF Marylands – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 from 8./LG 1 and 2 x Ju 52s from 3./KGr. z.b.V. 500 destroyed, and 2 reported KIA. The South African Maryland crews *claimed* 12 aircraft destroyed and 9 more damaged on the ground at Benina.
- 19 Dec 41: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from II./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.
- 20 Dec 41: airfield evacuated by the Luftwaffe – 64 wrecked, unserviceable and abandoned Axis aircraft, about 48 of them German, were found on the airfield when it was overrun by British forces.
- 12 Jun 42: sabotage at Benina – 1 x Bf 110 E-3 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 and 1 x Ju 52 from KGr. z.b.V. 400 destroyed by SAS commando party of 3 personally led by Major Sterling.
- 17 Nov 42: strafed by RAF Kittyhawks – 2 x He 111s and 3 x S.M.81s destroyed, 1 x Ju 52 damaged and a base hangar and its contents destroyed. The Italians reported 5 x S.M.82 transports destroyed in this attack, probably in lieu of the 3 x S.M.81s.
- 18 Nov 42: no longer in use – being evacuated by the Axis.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (Sep-Nov 40); 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun 40); 12<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jun, Dec 40); 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Dec 40); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov 41); 30<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jun-Jul 40); 32<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jun 40); 33<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Aug-Sep, Dec 40); 35<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Sep-Oct 40); 36<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Sep-Oct 40); 46<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jun 40); 47<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jun 40); 52<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Dec 40); 53<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Dec 40); 54<sup>o</sup> Gruppo

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Autonomo BT (Dec 40); 59° Gruppo BT (Oct 40 – Apr 41?); 60° Gruppo BT (Oct 40 – Apr 41?); 67° Gruppo OA (Sep 40).

Luftwaffe: detachment of 2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 123 (Mar-Jun 41); III./LG 1 (May-Jun, Nov-Dec 41); elements of KG z.b.V. 172 (May 41); III./ZG 26 (Sep 41); 10./KG z.b.V. 1 (Sep, Nov-Dec 41); Stab/LG 1 (Nov 41); I./LG 1 (Nov 41); II./LG 1 (Nov 41); II./St.G. 2 (Nov 41); I./St.G. 3 (Nov 41); 8./JG 53 (Dec 41); 1. St. of I./St.G. 1 (Oct-Dec 41); part of Stabsstaffel Fliegerführer Afrika (Dec 41); detachment of I./NJG 2 (Dec 41, 1942); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Jan-Feb 42); 12.(Einsatz-)/LG 1 (Jan-Feb 42); I./JG 27 (Feb 42); II./JG 27 (Feb 42); III./JG 27 (Feb 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (May, Jun, Sep 41).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): part of Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Apr 41); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (May-Jun 41, Mar-Jun 42); 8. Flughafenbetriebs-Kp./LG 1 (May, Nov-Dec 41); elements of Feldwerft-Abt. LE 2 (Apr, May, Jun 41); a Zug from 1. Res. Flugh.Betr.Kp. Luftgau VII (May 41); 1. Res. Flugh.Betr.Kp. Luftgau XII (May/Jun 41 - ?); elements of Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (1941-42); 9./Flak-Rgt. 25 (May 41); 10./Flak-Rgt. 25 (Oct 41); I./Flak-Rgt. 46 (Nov 42); Flak-Ausb.Stelle Benina (Sep/Oct 42); Ln.-Geräteausgabestelle 2/VII (Jul 42); beh.m.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonne 1/XII (Oct-Nov 41); Trsp.Kol.d.Lw. 5/XI (Jun 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 108 (31 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1713 and 1729); website ww2.dk]

**Beni Ulid** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bani Waled) (31 44 00 N – 14 01 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 126 km SW of Misrata and 1.5 km S of the fort and village of Bani Waled. History: early history not found.

Surface and Dimensions: rough and uneven natural surface measuring approx. 915 x 230 meters (1000 x 250 yards). There was a second strip approx. 100 meters longer close by. Fuel and Ammunition: stocks of fuel were available in Jan 42.

Infrastructure: had 2 medium hangars with concrete aprons on the N boundary. The village and fort both had accommodations. Defenses: 6 AA machine gun positions were spotted in Feb 42.

Remarks:

17 Jan 42: ordered stocked up with B4 and C3 fuel and activated by Luftwaffe as a stopover along an aircraft ferry route.

Jun 42: a battalion of airborne troops reported to be here.

6 Jan 43: an aircraft carrying FM Rommel stopped here to refuel.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): one Zug (40-50 men) from Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (Mar 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263p. 048 (14 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Berca** (LIB) (a.k.a. Berka): see Benghazi-Berca.

**Bersis** (LIB): see Got Bersis.

**Bir Abu Ogos** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 086) (30 51 50 N – 29 52 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. Not used by the Axis.

**Bir Abu Sheheima** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 117) (31 04 20 N – 27 44 20 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt, 66.75 km W of El Daba, 19.5 WSW of Fuka and 14.5 km SSE of Bagush. History: in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural stony surface with 3 airstrips each 1830 meters (2000 yards) in length. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: ample dispersal parking for aircraft.

Remarks:

11 May 42: in use by RAF Wellington bombers.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1022 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, 23 Dec 42); website ww2.dk]

**Bir Aisilan** (LIB) (32 00 40 N – 21 14 40 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 113 km E of Benghazi. History: not found. Surface and Dimensions: packed sand surface measuring approx. 455 x 455 meters (500 x 500 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

31 Dec 42: believed to be abandoned.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir Allagh** (LIB) (31 05 00 N – 11 43 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 244 km SSW of Tripoli. History: already existed in 1938. Surface and Dimensions: packed sand or hard natural surface measuring approx. 605 x 605 meters (660 x 660 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir Basur** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 069) (29 54 00 N – 25 55 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. Not used by the Axis?

**Bir bu Hania** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bu Haneish, Gambut No. 6, Gambut Satellite No. 3, L.G. 158) (31 30 30 N – 24 38 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 40 km WNW of Bardia and 5 km S of the Bardia – Tobruk road. There were 3 airstrips: I, II and III. History: a Gambut satellite known to have been used by St.G. 3 dive bombers in June 1942. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with two airstrips each measuring approx. 1370 x 185 meters (1500 x 200 yards). Fuel and

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Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: aircraft parked on the E side of the landing area. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

27 Jun 42: strafed – 1 x Ju 87 D-1 from 5./St.G. 3 slightly damaged on the ground.

Operational Units: Stab/St.G. 3 (Jun 42); II./St.G. 3 (Jun 42); III./St.G. 3 (Jun 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.110 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Bir Dacar** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir ed Dacar, Bir el Dacar, L.G. 181) (25 39 00 N – 22 45 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 610 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 172 km NNW of the airfield at Kufra. History: no details found, but no Axis air units are believed to have been based here.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 460 x 365 meters (500 x 400 yards). Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks:

Nov 42: reported unserviceable.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir Dufan** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bi'r Düfän) (31 59 00 N – 14 36 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 167 km SE of Tripoli and 64 km SW of Misurata (Misrata). History: history prior to February 1941 not found.

Surface and Dimensions: natural sandy surface with eventually six nearby airstrips measuring approx. 1645 x 185 meters (1800 x 200 yards), 1370 x 320 meters (1500 x 350 yards), 870 x 685 meters (950 x 750 yards), 885 x 440 meters (970 x 480 yards), 825 x 705 meters (900 x 770 yards) and 1370 x 550 meters (1500 x 600 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: fuel in drums (barrels) maintained at the landing ground. Infrastructure: none.

A nearby fort was used for accommodations. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: protected by 4 light Flak guns in Jan 42.

Remarks:

Feb 41: Italian and Luftwaffe units based here for the first time.

14 Jan 43: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from 3./JG 77 slightly damaged on the ground.

15-17 Jan 43: following heavy use by the Luftwaffe during late Dec 42 and the first half of Jan 43, a Ju 88 A-4 belonging to Erprobungsstaffel/KG 30 was destroyed to prevent capture and destruction or partial destruction of the six airstrips by plowing and mining began as the Luftwaffe prepared to depart.

Operational Units:

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*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 11° Gruppo BT (Mar-Apr 42); 43° Gruppo BT (Jan-Feb 42); 54° Gruppo BT (Mar 41); 86° Gruppo BM (Nov 42); 95° Gruppo BM (Nov 42); 96° Gruppo BaT (Feb-Apr 41); 98° Gruppo BT (Mar-Apr 41).

*Luftwaffe*: 8./ZG 26 (Feb-Mar 41); Verbindungsstaffel/Fliegerführer Afrika (Dec 42); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Bir Dufan/North, Dec 42); III./St.G. 3 (Bir Dufan/North, Dec 42 - Jan 43); Stab/JG 77 (Bir Dufan/North, Dec 42 - Jan 43); I./JG 77 (Bir Dufan/North, Dec 42 - Jan 43); III./JG 77 (Bir Dufan/North, Dec 42 - Jan 43); II./JG 77 (Jan 43); 1. Wüstennotstaffel (Jan 43); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Jan 43); I./Schl.G. 2 (Jan 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV (Dec 42 - Jan 43).

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Dec 42 - Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 055 (15 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1732 and 1680); website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Abd** (EGYPT) (31 00 30 N - 28 15 15 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt approx. 104 km ESE of Mersa Matruh, 32 km ESE of Fuka and 17.5 km W of El Daba. History: an RAF base that was occupied by the Luftwaffe from Jul to Nov 42. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring 870 x 1140 meters (950 x 1245 yards).

Infrastructure: had 1 building and 20 tents in Aug 41. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

5 Jul 42: low-level attack - 3 x Ju 88 A-4s from II./LG 1 shot up and slightly damaged.

10 Jul 42: low-level attack - 1 x Ju 88 A-4 from II./LG 1 shot up and moderately damaged.

13 Jul 42: air raid on Bir el Abd - 1 x Ju 87 R-4 from I./St.G. 3 and 1 x Ju 87 D-3 from II./St.G. 3 damaged on the ground.

17 Jul 42: low-level raid by SAAF Kittyhawk fighter-bombers - 1 x Ju 87 D-1 from II./St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground.

19 Jul 42: air raid - 1 x Ju 87 R-4 from I./St.G. 3 destroyed and 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 9./JG 53 damaged, both on the ground.

20 Jul 42: bombed - 1 x Ju 88 A-4 from I./LG 1 destroyed.

9 Oct 42: low-level attack - 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 destroyed and 1 x Bf 109 E-7 from III./ZG 1 damaged, both on the ground.

19 Oct 42: bombed - 2 x Bf 109s destroyed.

4 Nov 42: low-level attack - 4 x Bf 109 G-2s from Stab and I./JG 77 blown up to prevent capture, as well as 2 x Fi 156 C-3s from the Wüstennotstaffel.

11 Nov 42: 1 x Bf 109 E-7 from II.(I.?) / Schl.G. 2 blown up to prevent capture.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

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*Luftwaffe*: Stab/St.G. 3 (Jul-Aug 42); I./St.G. 3 (Jul-Aug 42); II./St.G. 3 (Jul-Aug 42); III./St.G. 3 (Jul-Aug 42); detachment of II./JG 53 (Jul-Sep 42); III./ZG 1 (Aug-Oct 42); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Aug-Nov 42); I./Schl.G. 2 (Sep-Nov 42); Stab u.Stabskp./Aufklärungsgruppe Afrika (Oct 42); Stab/JG 77 (Nov 42); I./JG 77 (Oct-Nov 42).

Station Commands: Platzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Jul-Nov 42)?

Station Units (on various dates): Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (Jun-Oct 42); le.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Nov 42); Stab/Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. I (Oct 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Ahmar** (LIB) (31 01 00 N - 17 27 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 86.5 km ESE of Sirte, 500 meters N of the coastal highway and 1.6 km inland from the coast. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: surface of sand and stones but graded and level in places. Measured approx. 1100 x 900 meters (1205 x 985 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in late Dec 42.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 0926-61 (Tripolitania c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1749); website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Arca** (LIB) (Bi'r al Ashhab, Gambut No. 3, L.G. 143) (31 51 00 N - 24 36 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 45.5 km WNW of Bardia, 13.25 km SE of Gambut (Kambut) town, 11.25 km ESE of Gambut/Main (Gambut No. 1) landing ground and 5 km S of the main Bardia - Tobruk road. History: used by aircraft passing through the Gambut area as the front moved E and then W. Few details found. Surface and Dimensions: natural clay surface with camel thorn and hummocks measuring approx. 1370 x 1370 meters (1500 x 1500 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

3 Sep 41: a large number of Italian aircraft arrived here and then moved on.

22 Jun 42: taken by Axis forces and determined to be very suitable for fighters.

11 Nov 42: 4 x Bf 109 G-2s from I. and III./JG 77 blown up to prevent capture.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

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*Luftwaffe*: 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Jun 42); elements of III./ZG 26 (Jun 42); Stab/JG 77 (Nov 42); I./JG 77 (Nov 42); III./JG 77 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 094 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Astas** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Matruh/West, LG 007, LG "Z", Mahsama) (31 20 30 N – 26 51 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 35 km W of Mersa Matruh and just N of the main road between Sidi Barrani and Mersa Matruh. History: early history not found. Used very little by either side. Surface and Dimensions: natural sand surface measuring approx. 1280 x 1235 meters (1400 x 1350 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: details re storage facilities not found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample dispersal with aircraft parking hardstands. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 18° Gruppo CT (Nov 42).

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 27 (Jun-Jul 42); III./JG 27 (Jun 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Baheira** (LIB): see Bir el Gaer.

**Bir el Behera** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir el Bhera, Bir el Bera, LG 07) ( 32 10 55 N – 12 28 34 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania in NW Libya 102 km SW of Tripoli. History: used by the Italian Air Force during 1940 and 1941, then briefly by the Luftwaffe in Dec 42. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1005 x 1005 meters (1100 x 1100 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 35° Gruppo BT (Jun-Sep 40); 36° Gruppo BT (Jun-Sep 40).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: Platzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Bir el Ghnem) (Dec 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Bergiasi** (LIB) (32 05 40 N – 23 40 40 E)



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General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 27 km W of Tobruk. History: used occasionally by Axis transport aircraft. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface or unstated measurements.

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Chor** (LIB) (30 02 30 N – 12 56 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 317 km S of Tripoli. History: no information found. Very isolated with nearest access road 20 km away. Surface and Dimensions: flat natural surface of unknown dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Churgia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Uadi Zarzur) (31 38 00 N – 15 06 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 84 km S of Misurata (Misrata) and 38 km inland from the coast. Not to be confused with nearby Zarzur landing ground. History: no information found. Possibly a little used satellite of Zarzur landing ground. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1005 x 1005 meters (1100 x 1100 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no information. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

2 Dec 42: ordered inspected immediately and placed in operation.

26-27 Dec 42: unserviceable due to heavy flooding.

31 Dec 42: serviceable again.

13-15 Jan 43: evacuated by the Luftwaffe.

Jan 43: captured by the Allies and found to have been plowed up and mined by the Axis.

Operational Units: 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Dec 42); elements of JG 27 (Dec 42); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Dec 42); I./Schl.G. 2 (Dec 42); II./JG 77 (Dec 42 – Jan 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 054 (15 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Cuasc** (LIB): see El Cuasc).

**Bir el Gaer** (LIB) (a.k.a. Baheira No. 1, Bir el Baheira No. 1, L.G. 140) (31 48 00 N – 24 44 50 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 32.5 km WNW of Bardia and 10 km SSE of the Bardia – Tobruk road. History: used as a forward landing ground for Axis fighters and bombers when the front was in this general

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area. In Allied hands for most of the first half of 1942 and then again from November 1942. No evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sandy surface with some camel scrub measuring approx. 1235 x 640 meters (1350 x 700 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no storage or related details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities but there were some aircraft blast bays. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

17 Nov 41: bombed by RAF Blenheims and strafed by RNFS Hurricanes – results unknown.

18 Nov 41: bombed by Marylands and Blenheims – no claims made on the 12 Axis aircraft on the ground here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 117 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Gebira** (LIB) (31 43 00 N – 14 38 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 85 km SSW of Misrata.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 675 x 560 meters (740 x 610 yards).

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Gheddahia** (LIB) (31 23 30 N – 15 07 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 109 km S of Misrata and 10 to 11 km W of habitations. There was a fort 3.25 km S of the landing ground.

History: in existence in 1938. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 685 x 595 meters (750 x 650 yards).

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Ghnem** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bi'r al Ghanam) (32 19 30 N – 12 34 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 86 km SW of Tripoli on the northern outskirts of the town of the same name. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: dry, firm and level natural surface of sand and stones measuring approx. 660 x 455 meters (720 x 500 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks:

17 Dec 42: reported serviceable for day and night operations. To be used as an alternate landing ground for Castel Benito.

21-22 Jan 43: rendered unserviceable and evacuated.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

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*Luftwaffe*: Verbindungsstaffel/Fliegerführer Afrika (Dec 42).

Station Commands: Platzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Dec 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1692); website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Gobi** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir el Gobi No. 1, Bir el Gubi, El Gobi, El Gubi, Bi'r al Qädi?, LG 170) (31 31 00 N – 24 03 41 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica c. 63 km S of Tobruk on the S side of a desert road to Bir Hakeim. History: little use before and not thought to have been used after October 1941. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1190 x 1190 meters (1300 x 1300 yards).

German data from Dec 41 stated dimensions of 1200 x 900 meters (1310 x 985 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: had a bomb dump and fuel was stored in drums. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

6 Oct 41: just 1 aircraft spotted here this date.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Aug 40).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.124 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600-1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Goradia** (LIB) (31 02 30 N – 13 09 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 205 km S of Tripoli and 45.25 km SSE of Mizda (Mizdah). History: no information found. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1005 x 1005 meters (1100 x 1100 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.938 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Gseier** (LIB) (31 12 00 N – 24 01 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 97 km S of Tobruk.

History: no information found. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Bir El Hanascia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gambut No. 2, Gambut Satellite No. 1, L.G. 142?) (31 50 30 N – 24 35 30 E?)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 6.5 km SE of Gambut/Main. History: this Gambut satellite had an average of 35 to 40 Allied aircraft based on it during May 1942. The Luftwaffe took it over on 22-23 June 1942 and used it until that November. Surface and Dimensions: clay with camel thorn and hummocks surface in good condition measuring approx. 1370 x 1370 meters (1500 x 1500 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: provided from stocks at Gambut/Main. Infrastructure: had an operations room and admin space. Dispersal: there was ample aircraft parking space with taxi tracks. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see Gambut/Main.

Operational Units: see Gambut/Main.

Station Commands: see Gambut/Main.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Gambut/Main.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.659 (1942); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Hacheim** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir Hakeim, Bir el Hacheim No. 1, Godolla, L.G 160) (c. 31 35 10 N – 23 30 22 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 73 km SW of Tobruk and 2.5 km SE of the site of a remote oasis and an old Turkish fort of the same name.

History: occasional use by single-engine aircraft. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sand surface measuring approx. 1100 x 1005 meters (1200 x 1100 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had some small aircraft parking bays off the perimeter.

Defenses: none noted.

Satellites and Decoys:

**Bir el Hacheim No. 2?** (31 25 45 N – 23 23 00 E): satellite of Bir el Hacheim No. 1 20 km SSW of the oasis and Turkish fort. Had a firm natural surface measuring approx. 1370 x 1370 meters (1500 x 1500 yards) with no infrastructure of other facilities.

Remarks:

May 42: unoccupied.

12 Jun 42: work underway on the landing ground pending the arrival of a squadron of C.R.42 fighters on 13 June.

10 Nov 42: still in Axis hands.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 376<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Assalto (Aug-Nov 41).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.125 (22 Dec 42) and p.139 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

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### **Bir el Malla/North** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 076) (31 10 00 N – 26 03 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt approx. 48 km SSE of Sidi Barrani.

History: not in Allied airfield lists but detailed in Luftwaffe documents of February 1942. No evidence found of either Allied or Axis use.

Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface with 2 airstrips measuring 2270 meters (2480 yards) and 1200 meters (1310 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Malla/South** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 076) (c. 31 10 00 N – 26 03 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt approx. 48 km SSE of Sidi Barrani.

History: same as for Bir el Malla/North.

Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface with 3 airstrips measuring 1260 meters (1380 yards), 1000 meters (1095 yards) and 800 meters (875 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Mestuta** (LIB) (25 32 00 N – 14 31 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 826 km SSE of Tripoli.

History: no information found. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here.

Surface and Dimensions: natural terrain of unstated measurements.

Infrastructure: none - located in unpopulated open desert.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Quseir** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 060) (30 42 00 N – 27 33 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NW Egypt 79 km SSE of Mersa Matruh and 55 km SW of Fuka.

History: no information found regarding its origin. No record found of any Axis or Allied air units being based here.

Located in a desolate, uninhabited area.

Surface and Dimensions: neither level nor graded and at risk for becoming unserviceable in wet weather.

Measured 1325 x 750 meters (1450 x 820 yards).

Infrastructure: none, but tent accommodations were available along the W side of the landing area.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Sireihat** (EGYPT) (30 57 00 N – 28 22 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 120 km ESE of Mersa Matruh, 12 km SW of El Daba and 13 km SE of Bir el Abd landing ground. History: no evidence found of any Axis or Allied air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1540 x 720 meters (1685 x 785 yards). Infrastructure: had operations and accommodations tents. Dispersal: there were dispersed parking areas for aircraft.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Uaar** (LIB) (31 56 00 N – 13 30 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 110 km SSE of Tripoli and 49 km NW of Bani Waled. History: no information found regarding its origin. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none - uninhabited area. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Uraiibat** (EGYPT) (30 56 10 N – 28 10 20 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 27 km SW of El Daba, 28 km ESE of Fuka and 15.5 km S of the coast. History: no record found of any Axis or Allied air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1660 x 1010 meters (1815 x 1105 yards). Infrastructure: no buildings but 75 tents were spotted there in August 1941. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities existed.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Ziden** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ziden) (31 02 00 N – 15 37 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 94 km WSW of Sirte. History: no information found. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring 250 x 120 meters (273 x 130 yards). Infrastructure: none - located in open desert.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir el Zimla** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 116?) (31 05 00 N – 27 42 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 53 km SE of Mersa Matruh, 19 km W of Fuka, 10.5 km inland from the coast and 4 km SW of Bir Abu Smeit landing ground. The main highway and the railway line between Mersa Matruh and Fuka was 6 km to the N. History: early history unknown. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface with 2 airstrips measuring 1540 meters (1685 yards) and 1390 meters (1520 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample space for parking aircraft.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Bir Fuad** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 073 and LG 076?) (30 26 00 N – 26 28 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. Not believed to have been used by the Axis.

**Bir Kenayis** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 043) (31 01 00 N – 26 48 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. Not believed to have been used by the Axis.

**Bir Koriayim** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Bir Karalyimi?, LG 009) (30 58 00 N – 28 12 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 101 km ESE of Mersa Matruh, 23.5 km WSW of El Daba (El Dabaa) and 13 km S of the coast. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: dusty sand and clay surface serviceable in all weather. Measured approx. 2010 x 1740 meters (2200 x 1900 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: available when in use. Infrastructure: had an operations hut. Dispersal: there were at least some aircraft parking pens. Defenses: none reported.

Remarks:

Sep 41 and Apr 42: British occupied.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1010 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bir Semander** (LIB) (32 25 00 N – 22 10 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 58 km SW of Derna. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 595 x 230 meters (650 x 250 yards).

Infrastructure: none - open desert location without habitation.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir Tala** (LIB) (31 25 00 N – 14 12 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 189 km SE of Tripoli and 44 km SE of the town of Bani Waled. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 490 x 350 meters (537 x 383 yards). Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir Tashdida** (EGYPT): see Buq Buq.

### **Bir Tininai** (LIB) (31 24 00 N – 13 41 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 171 km SSE of Tripoli and 50 km SW of the town of Bani Waled. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 595 x 595 meters (650 x 650 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Inhabited area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir Uazen** (LIB): see Sidi Azeiz.

### **Bir umm Gilwakh** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 111) (31 00 00 N – 25 58 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. 68 km S of Sidi Barrani, 23 km S of Mischiefa (Misheifa) and 3.25 km E of LG 110. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here, even though it was in Axis occupied territory from Jun to Nov 42. Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural desert surface with 2 airstrips measuring 1280 x 135 meters (1400 x 150 yards) and 1100 x 135 meters (1200 x 150 yards). A third airstrip had been added by late November 1941. Infrastructure: no buildings but there were some tents at the N end of the landing area. Dispersal: ample space available for dispersing aircraft.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1021 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

### **Brak No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Birak) (27 33 30 N – 14 16 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 584 km S of Tripoli, 60 km NNW of Sabhā and 1.5 km N of the main crossroads intersection in the town of Brak. History: no information found, but reportedly used by Axis bombers. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground.

Satellites and Decoys:

#### **Brak/North** (a.k.a. Brak No. 2) (27 40 00 N – 14 16 00 E).

Emergency landing ground and satellite approx. 584 km S of Tripoli.



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Had a natural surface and measured approx. 795 x 795 meters (870 x 870 yards). No infrastructure.

### Remarks:

1942: used by Italian Caproni Ca.311 and S.M.81 bombers.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 049 (14 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Bu Amud** (LIB): see Sidi bu Amud.

**Buerat** (LIB) (a.k.a. Buerat el Hsun, Al Bu'ayrat, Bu'ayrät al Hasün, Bwayrat Al Hasun) (31 24 10 N – 15 42 15 E)

General: landing ground along the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) in Tripolitania 122 km SE of Misurata (Misrätah) and 2.5 km NW of the hamlet of the same name. History: early history not found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1100 x 685 meters (1200 x 750 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: fuel stocks maintained when it use. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshop buildings. Barracks were located between the fort and the sea, a motor pool between the fort and the barracks and underground storage facilities just N of the bend in the nearby main road.

Defenses: protected by 6 Flak batteries (approx. 20 guns) in Dec 41.

### Remarks:

14 Mar 41: in use by the Italians.

7 Dec 42: Luftwaffe gliders (supply gliders?) using Buerat.

Jan 43: found to have been plowed up and mined by the Axis when evacuated.

16-17 Jan 43: Buerat taken by advancing British forces.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 101<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BaT (Dec 42); 158<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Nov-Dec 42); 159<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Nov-Dec 42).

*Luftwaffe:* none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Flak-Rgt. 102 (Dec 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 53 (Dec 42); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 914 (Nov-Dec 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 050 (8 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bu Ngem** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bu Njem, Abu Nujaym) (30 34 30 N – 15 23 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 135 km SW of Sirte.

History: still marked and listed in December 1942. Site of old Roman and Colonial forts. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface measuring approx. 475 x 265 meters (520 x 290 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Buq Buq** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Bir Tashdida, LG 01) (31 28 30 N – 25 24 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 24 km ESE of Sollum, 20 km E of Halfaya, 14.5 km WSW of Buqbuq and 1 km N of the main highway from Sollum to Alexandria. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here even though it changed hands several times during 1941-42. The British used it as a refueling stop and in fall 1941 to overhaul fighters. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of sand mixed with salt crystals measuring 1060 x 900 meters (1160 x 985 yards). Infrastructure: none reported in Feb 42. Dispersal: dispersed aircraft parking available.

Remarks:

Jun 40: British occupied.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Bzema** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bouzma, Bouzema, Bezima, Byzyma, Buzeima) (24 54 00 N – 22 01 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 821 km SSE of Benghazi and 159 km WNW of Kufra – El Giof airfield. LG was adjacent to a beautiful oasis set among rolling sand dunes. History: established pre-war by the Italians as an intermediate or emergency landing ground and continued serving in that capacity during the war. No Axis units are known to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring approx. 915 meters (1000 yards) square. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 111 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## C

**Capuzzo** (LIB): see Amseat.

**Caramanlis** (LIB) (see Tripoli-Caramanlis).

**Carcura** (LIB) (31 33 00 N – 20 05 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 64 km S of Benghazi, 20 km SW of Solluch and 8 km N of Sidi Magrun landing grounds. History: no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Carcura probably served as a satellite for the busy Sidi Magrun landing grounds. Surface and Dimensions: level natural sand surface overgrown with weeds measuring approx. 1430 x 930 meters (1565 x 1015 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 0004-175 (Cyrenaica 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1730); website ww2.dk]

**Carmuset er Regem** (LIB) (32 05 00 N – 23 15 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 67 km W of Tobruk.

History: used occasionally during 1941. Surface and Dimensions: no details found. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Castel Benito** (LIB) see Tripoli – Castel Benito.

**Castelverde** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gasr Carabulli) (32 44 45 N – 13 36 25 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 42 km ESE of Tripoli and 10.5 km W of Castelverde (Gasr Carabulli). History: used occasionally by Axis bombers.

Surface and Dimensions: smooth, natural sandy surface measuring approx. 1005 x 1005 meters (1100 x 1100 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: had an ammunition dump in Sep 41. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none mentioned.

Remarks:

13 Mar 41: in use for emergency landings.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 053 (14 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1686); website ww2.dk]

**Chel** (LIB) (30 43 00 N – 17 07 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 74.5 km SE of Sirte and 9.75 km SW of Gzina landing ground. History: no information found. Surface and

Dimensions: natural desert surface in generally excellent condition measuring approx. 1100 x 1100 meters (1200 x 1200 yards). Fuel and

Ammunition: probably brought in as needed. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: there were taxi tracks for off-perimeter aircraft parking.

Defenses: none mentioned.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p. 931 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Cheriat Esc Scerghia** (LIB): see El Gheria.

**Cirene** (LIB): see Cyrene.

**Crispi** (LIB) (32 17 25 N – 15 05 20 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 11.25 km S of Misurata and 6.5 km ESE of Misurata/West landing ground. History: an Italian-occupied landing ground that was used occasionally. Not known to have been used by the

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Luftwaffe. Surface and Dimensions: natural sandy surface measuring approx. 1145 x 1005 meters (1250 x 1100 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found regarding on-site storage. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: good off-perimeter dispersal possibilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Jan 43: found to have been plowed up by retreating Axis forces.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.932 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Crum el Chel** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tobruk No. 4) (32 04 00 N - 23 54 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 6 km W of Tobruk. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground. Buildings and other structures were to the N and E of the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Cufra** (LIB): see Kufra.

**Cyrene** (LIB) (a.k.a. Cirene, Safsaf, As Safsaf, El Abragh) (32 46 50 N - 21 57 10 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica (Libya) 63.5 km W of Derna, 13 km S of Apollonia, 10 km SE of the town of Cyrene, immediately S of the Italian settlement "Luigi di Savoia" and immediately S of the Derna-Cyrene road.

History: this LG was maintained in custodial status because of a HQ stationed in the town of Cyrene. There are no details on use by Axis forces except for a stray aircraft landing there once in a while, perhaps for fuel or a courier run to the nearby HQ. Surface and Dimensions: two packed soil and limestone strips in a rough area of scrub and grass measuring approx. 825 meters (900 yards) and 550 meters (600 yards). Irregular in shape with berms marking the perimeter. Infrastructure: none aside from a small building 210 meters (230 yards) NW of the landing ground that is believed to have been used as an admin office. No additional information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.112 (22 Dec 42) and A5264 p.655 (Jan 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1690); web site ww2.dk]

## D

**Dar el Droun** (LIB): see El Assa.

**Darragh** (LIB) (a.k.a. Darragh/Main) (31 50 00 N - 14 27 00 E)

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 85.5 km SW of Misurata, c. 22 km SW of Bir Dufan landing ground and 8 km NW of Bir Gebira. History: no information found. Appears to have been built by the Axis but not used by them. Surface and Dimensions: sand and fine gravel surface measuring approx. 1280 x 1100 meters (1400 x 1200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample space for dispersing aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

18 Jan 43: referred to as the "Darragh complex" - the first Allied unit arrived this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.932 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Darragh/North** (LIB) (31 52 30 N – 14 28 00 E)

General: satellite landing ground 7.25 km N of Darragh/Main (see above).

History: same as for Darragh/Main. Surface and Dimensions: good gravel surface measuring approx. 1125 x 1125 meters (1230 x 1230 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.933 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Darragh/West** (LIB) (31 50 30 N – 14 26 00 E)

General: satellite landing ground 5 km W of Darragh/Main (see above).

History: same as for Darragh/Main. Surface and Dimensions: good sand and fine gravel surface measuring approx. 1180 x 1125 meters (1290 x 1230 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.933 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Derg** (LIB) (a.k.a. Dirj) (30 10 00 N – 10 27 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 399 km SW of Tripoli and just N of the center of the town of Dirj. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: good quality hard natural surface measuring approx. 840 x 620 meters (920 x 680 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG but buildings were available in the town.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Derna** (LIB) (a.k.a. Darnah) (32 46 00 N – 22 38 00 E)

General: landing grounds and a seaplane anchorage along the coast in N Libya 145 km NW of Tobruk. See below for the individual landing grounds.

Remarks:

1940: Italian occupied.

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25 Jul 40: low-level attack by RAF Gladiators with bombs – 2 x S.M.79 bombers destroyed on the ground.  
9 Aug 40: air attack – 1 x S.M.79 destroyed on the ground.  
10 Sep 40: bombed – 1 x S.M.79 destroyed on the ground.  
23 Jan 41: bombed by Blenheims – 1 x Breda Ba 65 ground attack plane severely damaged on the ground.  
30 Jan 41: captured by Australian troops.  
6 Apr 41: retaken by German forces and elements of III./ZG 26 began arriving on 9 April.  
9 Apr 41: strafed by 3 Hurricanes – 1 x S.M.81 transport and 1 x Fiat G 50 fighter damaged on the ground.  
15 Apr 41: bombed – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed on the ground.  
23 Apr 41: bombed – 1 x Ju 88 A-10 from 9./LG 1 damaged on the ground.  
8 Jun 41: bombed – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 from III./LG 1 destroyed (damaged?) on the ground.  
18 Oct 41: bombed shortly after dawn by 9 aircraft – 52 bombs dropped, 2 x Ju 52s, 2 x B.R.20s and 1 x Caudron 445 slightly damaged, direct hits on the bomb dump and on the barracks used by ZG 26's aircraft servicing company, 1 Italian KIA and several others slightly wounded.  
1 Nov 41: bombed by RAF Wellingtons - 5 x Ju 87 R-2s from I./St.G. 1 destroyed or damaged on the ground and 9 other aircraft damaged, 5 Germans KIA and 4 more WIA. Italian losses were limited to 1 x Ca.309 transport and light bomber destroyed.  
7 Nov 41: bombed by c. 18 Wellingtons – town and landing ground both hit plus a direct hit on the building used by HQ Fliegerführer Afrika.  
13 Nov 41: bombed – several aircraft destroyed and damaged, the HQ building for Luftgaustab Afrika severely damaged.  
14 Nov 41: bombed – 1 x Ju 87 R-4 from Stab/St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground.  
15/16 Nov 41: bombed – 1 x He 111 destroyed and 4 other aircraft damaged.  
16/17 Nov 41: bombed – bursts on landing ground, personnel casualties and damage to infrastructure.  
17 Nov 41: all land-line cables forward and rearward of Derna unserviceable due to flooding.  
20 Nov 41: bombed by 21 Wellingtons – 1 x Ju 52 from Flieger-Kp./Ln.-Abt. Afrika destroyed on the ground.  
26/27 Nov 41: bombed by 26 RAF Wellingtons – 1 x Ju 52 destroyed, 2 x Ju 88s and 6 x Bf 110s damaged, and 3 x Ju 87s slightly damaged; the Italians lost 1 x C.200 fighter destroyed, 1 x Cant Z.1007bis and 4 x S.M.79s damaged, and 21 trucks destroyed.  
30 Nov 41: bombed – many bursts on the landing ground with 1 x S.M.79 and 1 x Ju 88 damaged.  
2 Dec 41: bombed – 6 x Ju 52s destroyed on the ground.

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8 Dec 41: bombed – 2 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. 102 and 2(5?) x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. 300 destroyed on the ground. The Italian losses were 1 x Cant Z.1007bis destroyed, 3 x S.M.79s damaged and 2 x C.200s damaged.  
12/13 Dec 42: bombed by 24 Wellingtons – 1 x S.M.79 destroyed on the ground.

Dec 41: 74 or 75 abandoned Axis aircraft, about half German and mostly demolished, were found on the airfield when it was overrun by British forces 17-18 December.

20 Mar 42: bombed by RAF Wellingtons – bombs fell off the NE side of the landing ground and no damage was reported.

30 Mar 42: bombed by RAF – 3 x Luftwaffe aircraft destroyed on the ground and another badly damaged.

18 May 42: night landing facilities ordered installed at Derna.

23 May 42: bombed by SAAF Bostons – 1 x Ju 87 R-4 destroyed on the ground.

4 Jun 42: bombed – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed.

27 Jun 42: strafed by 4 Beaufighters – *claimed* 6 x Ju 52s shot up and damaged.

28 Jun 42: strafed by a single Beaufighter – *claimed* 2 x Ju 52s destroyed.

Aug-Nov 42: rapidly escalating transport and towed cargo glider activity here from August through the first half of November.

12 Nov 42: 2 x Ju 52s from II./KG z.b.V. 1 demolished by their own crews to prevent capture by the enemy.

13 Nov 42: 3 x He 111 H-6s destroyed here by the Germans to prevent capture.

15 Nov 42: British troops reoccupied Derna - the landing grounds were in a shambles and the infrastructure demolished.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 2<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Mar-Jul 41); 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (Sep 40); 8<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Aug 40); 11<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jul-Dec 41); 12<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jan-Feb 41); 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Dec 40); 20<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May-Jun 41); 23<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 40); ?? Gruppo BT (Sep 40); 30<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jul-Sep 40); 32<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jul-Sep 40); 47<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Sep 42); 67<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Feb 41); 101<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BaT (Jul-Aug 42); 131<sup>o</sup> Gruppo AS (Jul-Nov 42); 133<sup>o</sup> Gruppo AS (Jun 42); 153<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Sep-Dec 41); 155<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Apr-Nov 41); 157<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jul-Dec 41); 158<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (May-Jun 42); 159<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (May-Jun 42); 175<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Mar 41); 176<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Dec 41); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Jul-Sep 41, Dec 41); 239<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (May-Jun 41, Nov 41); 279<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (May-Dec 41); 284<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Nov-Dec 41); Squadriglia Baylon CT (Apr-Jul 41).

*Luftwaffe*: elements of 2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 123 (Apr-Dec 41); III./St.G. 1 (Apr-May 41); 8./ZG 26 (Apr-Dec 41, Feb-Mar 42); elements of III/LG 1 (Apr-Nov 41); 12./KG z.b.V. 1 (May 41); 1. Wüstennotstaffel (May 41 – Feb 42, Apr-

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Nov 42); 9./ZG 26 (Jun 41, Nov 41); I./St.G. 1 (Jun-Dec 41); 2. (H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Jul 41); II./St.G. 2 (c. Jun-Jul 41); 1./NJG 3 (Aug-Oct 41); Nachrichten-Flugkdo./Ln.-Abt. Afrika (c.Jun-Dec 41, c.Feb-Jun 42); 1. (F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Sep-Dec 41, Mar-Nov 42); elements of Sanitätsflugbereitschaft 2 (Sep-Oct 41); Stab/St.G. 3 (Sep 41-42); 8./ZG 26 (Nov 41); Erprobungsstelle d.Lw. (Tropen) (Nov-Dec 41); Stabsstaffel Fliegerführer Afrika (Nov-Dec 41); Kurierstaffel (trop.) Afrika (Nov-Dec 41, Aug 42); I./St.G. 3 (Nov 41, Derna/South, Apr-Jun 42); II./JG 27 (Oct, Dec 41); III./JG 53 (Derna/West, Dec 41, Derna/East, May 42); 7./ZG 26 (Dec 41, Feb, Mar 42); 10./ZG 26 (Apr-Aug 42); II./St.G. 3 (Derna/South, May-Jun 42); III./St.G. 3 (Derna/South, May-Jun 42); detachment of I./NJG 2 (May-Sep 42); Gefechtsverband Sigel (a.k.a. Stab/St.G. 3) (May-Jul 42); III./ZG 26 (May-Jun 42); 12./LG 1 (Mar-Jun 42); elements of I./LG 1 (Jun 42); elements of II./LG 1 (Jun 42); 1.(DFS)/Verbindungkdo. (S) 2 (Jul-Nov 42); detachment of Sonderkommando Koch (Sep 42); Verbindungsstaffel/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jun, Nov 42).  
Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Apr-Nov 41); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Jun 42); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Jun 42)?; Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV (Jun – Nov 42).  
Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (c.Jun-Dec 41, c.Feb-Jun 42); Gefechtsstand/Koflug Afrika (Apr 41); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Jul-Dec 41); Koflug Afrika (Jun 41); Koflug 18/XI (Feb-Jun 42); 1. Flugh.Betr.Kp. St.G. 1 (Apr, May 41); 2. Flugh.Betr.Kp. St.G. 1 (Jul/Aug 41); 8. Flugh.Betr.Kp. ZG 26 (May, Oct 41, Mar 42); elements of Feldwerft-Abt. LE 2 (May, Jun 41); "F" element of Feldwerft-Abt. LE 50 (Sep-Oct 41); Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (fall 41, Apr-May 42); Werft-Kp. d.w. 33 (Aug 41); Stab/Flak-Rgt. 102 (May, Nov 41); I./Flak-Rgt. 6 (May 42); 5./Flak-Rgt. 18 (Apr 41); 2./Flak-Rgt. 33 (Sep 42); 1./Flak-Rgt. 43 (Apr 42); Stab I./Flak-Rgt. 53 (Jul 42); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Apr 41, fall 41, Dec 41, Feb 42); Stab I./Ln.-Rgt. 40 (Apr-May 41); 11.(Funkh.)/Ln.-Rgt. 40 (May-Jul 41); Ln.-Abt. Afrika (c.Jun-Nov 41, Mar 42); 3./Ln.-RV-Abt. z.b.V. 1 (Aug/Sep 42); (Mar-Jun 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 1/XI (Dec 41 - ?); Kfz.Instandsetzungszug d.Lw. 4/IV (Jul 42); Kfz.Instandsetzungszug d.Lw. 6/VI (Mar-May 42); Kfz.Werkstattzug d.Lw. 106/VII (Nov 42); San.Bereitschaft d.Lw. 10/VI or 20/VI (Jun 41)?.  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600-1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**Derna – El Ftalah** (LIB) (a.k.a. Derna/East, El Ftehja) (32 42 30 N – 22 41 00 E)

General: landing ground near Derna (Darnah) on the coast of Cyrenaica c. 146 km NW of Tobruk, 7 km SSE of Derna harbor on the E side of the main road between Derna and Tobruk.

History: one of the main Axis airfields in Cyrenaica that was very busy from 1940 to 1942. Surface and Dimensions: had a stony undulating



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surface of reddish sand that was obstructed by drifting sand in high winds. Measured approx. 2745 x 1100 meters (3000 x 1200 yards). A German aerial photo taken 1 Dec 42 gave dimensions of 2000 x 800 meters (2185 x 875 yards). The photo also showed a large Ausweichplatz (alternative landing ground) just off the NW side and a large Abstellplatz (dispersal area) just off the NE side. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: had 1 small concrete hangar with a wooden roof in the NW corner along with 6 or so huts or other small buildings. Local caves were reportedly used for storage. A barracks in Derna provided accommodations. Dispersal: there were 4 extensive dispersal areas – Northeast, Southeast, South and Southwest – with a few blast bays for aircraft in the Northeast dispersal. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Derna (above).

Operational Units: see under Derna (above).

Station Commands: see under Derna (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Derna (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 113 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Derna – Siret El-Chreiba** (LIB) (a.k.a. Derna/South?, Derna/Stuka, Siret El-Chreiba) (32 39 25 N – 22 41 05 E)

General: satellite landing ground in Cyrenaica 12 km SE of Derna harbor, 5.5 km S of Derna – El Ftalah landing ground and 2.5 km W of the Derna – Martuba road.

History: satellite of Derna – El Ftalah that was frequently used by transport aircraft.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with 2 intersecting airstrips measuring 1145 x 185 meters (1250 x 200 yards) and 785 x 110 meters (860 x 120 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details but probably provided by Derna – El Ftalah landing ground.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Aircraft may have parked on which ever airstrip was not in use, which was usually the shorter of the two. Defenses: Flak-Vierling Trupps from 4. and 5./Flak-Rgt. 6 (May 42 - ?).

Remarks: see under Derna (above).

Operational Units: see under Derna (above).

Station Commands: see under Derna (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Derna (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 114 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Derna (See)** (LIB) (Derna Harbour) (32 46 00 N – 22 39 20 E)

General: seaplane anchorage in Derna harbor on the coast in northern Cyrenaica. History: considered suitable only for emergency use.

Nevertheless, the anchorage was used by big BV 222 6-engine flying boats during Apr-Oct 42 to fly in supplies and evacuate wounded on the return trip to Crete, Greece or Italy. Air-sea rescue Do 24 flying boats from Greece also used Derna during 1942. Anchorage: small, exposed, subject to

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heavy winds and swells, and poor bottom for anchoring. The harbor dimensions limited take-off and landing runs to 455 to 550 meters (500 to 600 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops. Accommodations, when needed, were in Derna. No slipway, quays, jetties or cranes existed but there was a breakwater. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Derna (above).

Operational Units: see under Derna (above).

Station Commands: see under Derna (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Derna (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 116 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Derna/West** (LIB) (32 42 40 N – 20 40 00 E)

General: satellite landing ground in Cyrenaica 6 km SSE of Derna harbor on the W side of the Derna – Tobruk road and just W of Derna – El Ftalah landing ground. History: a satellite of Derna – El Ftalah. Surface and Dimensions: sandy natural surface measuring approx. 1830 x 915 meters (2000 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details but probably provided by Derna – El Ftalah landing ground. Infrastructure: no hangars but there were a few buildings and huts on the N boundary, these being shared with El Ftalah landing ground. Dispersal: aircraft parked along the S boundary and along the perimeter in general. Additionally, some aircraft blast bays were at the N end. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Derna (above).

Operational Units: see under Derna (above).

Station Commands: see under Derna (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Derna (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 115 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## E

### **El Abiar** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al-Abyār) (32 11 20 N – 20 36 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 51 km E of Benghazi and bordering the E side of the town. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: packed sand measuring approx. 510 x 510 meters (560 x 560 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

31 Dec 42: not in use.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Abragh** (LIB): see Cyrene-Safsaf.

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**El Adem** (LIB) (a.k.a. Adem, Al `Adam, El Adem No. 1, Umm el Hatian, L.G. 144) (31 51 20 N – 23 55 00 E)

General: landing grounds in Cyrenaica 365 km E of Benghazi, 26 km SSW of Tobruk and at the junction of several roads, including the main highway to Tobruk. History: the Luftwaffe used El Adem mainly for fighters and dive-bombers. Surface and Dimensions: level and hard stony loam with a few soft patches measuring approx. 1465 x 1740 meters (1600 x 1900 yards). No paved runway. Equipped for night operations. Fuel and Ammunition: available when needed from a small fuel dump and from drums trucked in. In the NE corner were 5 sheds for storing munitions. Infrastructure: had 4 hangars on the NE and E sides (all extensively damaged by Dec 42), repair workshops, servicing hardstand, at least 30 barrack huts and storage huts in Jan 42 (reduced to just 5 by Dec 42). A paved access road connected the landing ground to the Sollum-Derna-Tobruk highway. Dispersal: there were 2 – Southeast and South – with aircraft parking pens and taxi tracks leading to the landing area. Defenses: unknown.

Satellites and Decoys:

**El Adem/South** (El Adem No. 2, L.G. 157) (31 51 00 N – 23 57 20 E), satellite 3.25 km SE of El Adem landing ground. Had a stony clay surface with scrub and hummocks upon which were 2 airstrips that crossed each other measuring 1000 x 200 meters (1100 x 220 yards) aligned NW/SE and 915 x 185 meters (1000 x 200 yards) aligned NE/SW. No separate infrastructure.

Remarks:

11 Jun 40: bombed by RAF Blenheims – claimed 18 Italian aircraft destroyed or damaged.

Dec 41: 78 abandoned Axis aircraft, about half German, were found on the airfield when it was overrun by British forces.

c. 22-25 Jun 42: reoccupied by the Luftwaffe.

9 Aug 42: designated an alternate airfield for Tobruk in the event of bad weather, but only had an airfield detachment of 1 NCO and 6 men with no tenant units.

Oct 42: heavy Ju 52 transport traffic here - c. 40 Ju 52s on the ground here on 28 October. Had become an important hub for Ju 52 flights after the British counteroffensive at El Alamein.

30-31 Oct 42: low-level attacks by RAF Beaufighters - 2 x Ju 52s from IV./KG z.b.V. 1 destroyed, while the Beaufighters *claimed* 4 x Ju 52s destroyed.

2 Nov 42: orders issued to immediately construct 40 blast bays for Ju 52s at El Adem.

28 Nov 42: bombed – 1 x C.202 fighter badly damaged on the ground.

Operational Units:

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*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 2° Gruppo APC (Jun 40); 8° Gruppo CT (Sep 40); 9° Gruppo CT (Sep-Dec 40); 10° Gruppo CT (Sep 40); 12° Gruppo Assalto (Jun-Sep 40, Dec 40 – Jan 41); 16° Gruppo Assalto (Dec 40); 44° Gruppo BT (Jun 40); 45° Gruppo BT (Jun 40); 46° Gruppo BT (Sep 42); 73° Gruppo OA (Jun 40); 151° Gruppo CT (Sep 40 – Dec 41?); 278<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Sep 40); Reparto Sperimentale Aerosilurante (Aerial Torpedo Experimental Unit) (Aug-Sep 40).

*Luftwaffe*: 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Jun 42); Stab, II./St.G. 3 (Jun 42); 4.(Pz.)/Schl.G. 2 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Jun 42 - ?).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp.87-88 (22 Dec 42) and A5264 pp.656-57 (Jan 43); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; C.Dunning – *Courage Alone*; C.Shores – *Fighters Over the Desert*; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1706); web site ww2.dk; web site fliegerhorste.de]

**El Agheila** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bishr, Al 'Uqaylah) (30 15 00 N – 19 11 42 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 225 km SSW of Benghazi, 113 km SW of Agedabia (Ajdabiya, Jedabya) and 1.2 km SW of a fort and village which are on the N side of the main coastal road. Located at the most southerly point of the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra). History: no information found aside from being built by the Axis (see below). Surface and

Dimensions: all-weather sand and clay surface measuring approx. 870 x 640 meters (950 x 700 yards). A German aerial photo taken 26 Feb 41 showed 670 x 470 meters (735 x 515 yards). Said to consist of 2 adjacent airstrips. Infrastructure: had 1 medium hangar between the N corner and the road. Accommodations may have been in sheds and other buildings located at the fort. The airstrips and infrastructure were all built by the Axis between Mar 41 and Oct 42. Dispersal: surrounded by level ground that could be used for aircraft dispersal. Defenses: protected by 4 or 5 medium and light Flak guns and 5 to 7 searchlights in Jan 42.

Remarks:  
Dec 41: in use by Ju 87 dive-bombers, S.M.79 bombers and C.R.42 fighters.  
24 Dec 41: strafed by RAF Tomahawks – *claimed* 1 x Ju 52 destroyed.  
3-4 Jan 42: El Agheila to be used as an advanced landing ground (ALG); a Fl.H.Kdtr. en-route from Jedabya along with 12,000 litres of B4 fuel and enough bombs for 2 missions.  
12 Jan 42: two Staffeln from JG 27 now flying free lance patrols from here.  
15 Nov 42: strafed by RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 2 x Ju 52s and 1 x Bf 109 destroyed.  
12-13 Dec 42: landing area mined and no longer serviceable.

Remarks:

Dec 41: in use by Ju 87 dive-bombers, S.M.79 bombers and C.R.42 fighters.

24 Dec 41: strafed by RAF Tomahawks – *claimed* 1 x Ju 52 destroyed.

3-4 Jan 42: El Agheila to be used as an advanced landing ground (ALG); a Fl.H.Kdtr. en-route from Jedabya along with 12,000 litres of B4 fuel and enough bombs for 2 missions.

12 Jan 42: two Staffeln from JG 27 now flying free lance patrols from here.

15 Nov 42: strafed by RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 2 x Ju 52s and 1 x Bf 109 destroyed.

12-13 Dec 42: landing area mined and no longer serviceable.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Jan 42); 155° Gruppo CT (Feb-Apr 41); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Jan 42).

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*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 2 (c. Mar-Apr 41); Stab/JG 27 (Jan 42); I./JG 27 (Jan 42); II./JG 27 (Jan 42); Wüstennotstaffel (c. Jan-Mar 42)?, I./St.G. 1 (Jan 42)?; II./St.G. 3 (Jan 42)?; 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Nov-Dec 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Flak-Rgt. 6 (El Agheila area, Dec 42); kl.Flieger-Betriebsstoff-Kolonne 2/IV (Dec 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 045 (22 Oct 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1726); website ww2.dk]

**El Ahmar** (LIB): see Bardia No. 3 (Bardia – El Ahmar).

**El Asabaa** (LIB): see Souk el Asabaa.

**El Assa** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al Assah, Dar el Droun) (32 49 35 N – 11 36 16 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 149 km W of Tripoli, 46 km WSW of Zuara, 9.75 km E of the Libya-Tunisia border and 2 km W of the town of Al Assah.

History: early history not found. Had little or no use until Jan/Feb 43 when it was occupied by Allied units.

Surface and Dimensions: firm and level natural surface measuring approx. 1100 x 905 meters (1200 x 990 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: no storage facilities at the landing ground.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none reported.

Remarks:

Jun 42: fuel in drums brought up by the Axis and stored approx. 3.25 km NE of the landing ground.

5 Jan 43: Fliegerführer Afrika ordered El Assa to remain in use.

13 Jan 43: ordered evacuated by Axis forces. Captured by British forces and by 24 Feb 43 there were 93 single-engine Allied aircraft operating from here.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 047 (24 Oct 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1676); website ww2.dk]

**El Azizia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al-'Azīziyah) (32 32 00 N – 13 01 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 43 km SSW of Tripoli.

History: occasional use by the Italian Air Force reported.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of sand and stones measuring at least 595 x 595 meters (650 x 650 yards). German reconnaissance at the end of Nov 42 reported dimensions of 900 x 300 meters (985 x 330 uards).

Infrastructure: adjacent to the town of the same name.

Remarks: none.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

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Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Gefechtsstand (operational command post)/Luftgaustab Afrika (Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**El Azragh** (LIB) (32 03 30 N – 23 27 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 48 km W of Tobruk. History: occasional use during 1940-41, but not since. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface and thought to be large in size.

Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Cuasc** (LIB) (L.G. 137) (31 06 50 N – 24 10 50 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 170 km SSE of Tobruk, 107 km WSW of Sollum and 112 km SW of Bardia. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface without specified dimensions. Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: none.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Oct-Dec 40).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Daba** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Ad Dab'ah, Mumin Busak, LG 023) (31 02 00 N – 28 28 00 E) See under Mumin Busak for details.

General: landing ground in N Egypt 119 km ESE of Mersa Matruh and 140 km W of Alexandria.

Remarks:

6 Oct 42: strafed by 12 Hurricanes – no claims reported.

Operational Units: see under Mumin Busak.

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Aug 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Aug-Oct 42); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Aug-Oct 42); Koflug 18/XI (Sep-Oct 42)?; Stab/Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Aug 42); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 1/VII (Aug-Oct 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (Egypt c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600 – 1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**El Daba/Süd** (a.k.a. LG 024) (30 56 00 N – 28 12 00 E) or (30 56 00 N – 28 21 00 E).

General: satellite landing ground 14.5 km SW of El Daba village. History: see under Mumin Busak. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard sand and clay but became unserviceable after rain. Measured approx. 1145 x 730

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meters (1250 x 800 yards) with an irregular oval shape. Fuel and Ammunition: brought in from El Daba as needed. Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: dispersal space available. Defenses: none noted. Remarks: see Mumin Busak (El Daba).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (Egypt c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600 - 1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**El Daba/West** (a.k.a. LG 022) (31 05 00 N - 28 27 00 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the Mumin Busak (El Daba) complex.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (Egypt c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600 - 1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**El Ergh** (LIB): see Jalo/El Ergh.

**El Ftehja** (LIB): see Derna - El Ftalah.

**El Garet** (LIB) (32 13 00 N - 13 59 20 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripoltania 106 km SE of Tripoli.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Gatrun** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gatrun, Qatrun, Oase el Gatrun) (24 59 00 N - 14 42 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 884 km SSE of Tripoli, 130 km SE of Murzuq and 9 km NE of Qatrun. History: used occasionally for special operations.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1100 x 1100 meters (1200 x 1200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: had a stockpile of aviation fuel in Sep 42. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: none. Defenses: none.

Remarks:

May 42: 7 bombers seen here.

Operational Units: Sonderkommando Dora (1942).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 056 (15 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Gheria** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Gheriat, Qaryat, Ghariat, Cheriat Esc Scerghia) (30 24 00 N - 13 34 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 278 km S of Tripoli and 2.5 km NW of the town of Qaryat. History: existed before the war.

Surface and Dimensions: hard natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Giof** (LIB): see Kufra.

**El Gubbi** (LIB): see Tobruk/East.

**El Gubbi (Satellite)** (LIB): see Tobruk/West.

**El Hania** (LIB) (Al Hanīyah) (32 50 10 N – 21 31 11 E)

General: emergency landing ground along the coast of Cyrenaica 158 km NE of Benghazi, 42 km WSW of Apollonia, 1 km inland from the coast and 500 meters SSW of the village of El Hania. History: in use on 2 October 1941. Surface and Dimensions: level farmland measuring approx. 640 x 550 meters (700 x 600 yards). German aerial photos showed 475 x 470 meters (520 x 515 yards) in March 1941. Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG. Town buildings were within 200 meters of the landing area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1727); website ww2.dk]

**El Machina** (LIB) (30 42 30 N – 16 26 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 60 km SSW of Sirte near two waterholes and the junction of two desert tracks. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: stocked up with fuel, bombs and ammunition during the first half of Mar 41. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

5 Mar 41: II./St.G. 2 arrived here but supplies of fuel and ammunition must be brought in by road and/or Ju 52 before any missions can be flown.

19 Apr 41: El Machina ordered evacuated, but II./St.G. 2 was still here on 24 April.

1941: maintained a stock of 40,000 liters of B4 aviation fuel.

15 Nov 42: no activity reported here since spring 1941.

Jan 43: taken by the Allies and found to be obstructed by mines and booby traps.

Operational Units: II./St.G. 2 (Mar-Apr 41).

Station Commands: Behelfs-Kdtr. El Machina (May-May 41).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): 2./Res.Flak-Abt. 841 (Mar-Apr 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 062 (15 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Maezil** (LIB): see L.G. 180.

**El Merduma** (LIB) (a.k.a. Merduma, Bir el Merduma) (30 26 00 N – 18 22 00 E)

General: landing grounds on the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) in Tripolitania c. 605 km SE of Tripoli, 19.5 km W of the monumental marble arch over the coastal



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road and close to the airfield at Arco Philanorum (Arco dei Fíleni, Ara Fileni, Marble Arch). History: no information prior to Mar 41 found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface that had been cleared of stones with 3 wide airstrips between 1100 meters (1200 yards) and 1785 meters (1950 yards) in length. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel stocks were on hand in Nov 42 and presumably the same for ammunition. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none noted. Defenses: none reported.

### Remarks:

19-28 Mar 41: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI in strength of 9 officers and officials, 44 NCOs and 129 men with base equipment began arriving at Merduma.

21 Mar 41: 55,800 liters of B4 aviation fuel brought in by road and stocked this date. There was no fuel there prior to this.

19 Dec 41: 3 x C.202 fighters set on fire as the landing ground was prepared for evacuation.

30 Dec 41: Fliegerführer Afrika requested an Italian airfield defense battalion for the protection of El Merduma landing ground.

31 Dec 41: Fliegerführer Afrika ordered it developed and airstrip extended to 1800 meters to accommodate Ju 88s.

Feb – Oct 42: inactive.

9 Nov 42: ordered activated and to prepare for the arrival of units.

12-13 Dec 42: evacuated and demolition mines planted.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 3<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 42); 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Jan 42).

*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 2 (Apr 41); one Staffel of III./ZG 26 (Dec 41); I./St.G. 3 (Dec 41 - Jan 42); 10./KG z.b.V. 1 (Jan 42)?; II./JG 27 (Nov-Dec 42); I./Schl.G. 2 (Nov-Dec 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Mar-Apr 41).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): 8. Flugh.Betr.Kp./ZG 26 (Dec 41); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 4/VII (Jan 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 063 (17 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**El Thalaba** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. LG 118) (31 08 00 N – 25 50 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. 54 km S of Sidi Barrani. Not believed to have been used by the Axis.

**El Uoffana** (LIB) (28 20 30 N – 12 15 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 510 km S of Tripoli.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none - uninhabited area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**En Nofilia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ghindel, An Nawfaliyah) (30 47 00 N – 17 49 00 E)

General: 2 landing grounds in Tripolitania along the Gulf of Sidra 127 km ESE of Sirte to mid-1942. By December 1942, two more airstrips had been set up, making a total of four (Nofilia I, II, III, IV).

Remarks:

3 Mar 41: Stukas from 6./St.G. 2 under Hptm. Christel began arriving here.

May-Nov 41: little or no Luftwaffe activity here except as a refueling stopover.

Jan 42: Luftwaffe air movement control located here.

Feb-Oct 42: little or no Luftwaffe activity here except as a refueling stopover.

15 Nov 42: in use by Stukas, this continuing through mid-December.

11 Dec 42: bombed – 1 x Fi 156 C-6 from III./St.G. 3 badly damaged on the ground.

15 Dec 42: a Ju 87 D-1 and a D-3 from III./St.G. 3 blown up by German troops at Nofilia-North as the airfield was mined and abandoned on 16 December.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Dec 41, Nov 42); 13° Gruppo CT (Nov 42); 18° Gruppo CT (Nov 42); 23° Gruppo CT (Nov 42); 150° Gruppo CT (Dec 41 – Jan 42); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Dec 41); 375<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CT (Jan 42).

*Luftwaffe*: Stab/St.G. 3 (Mar 41); 8./ZG 26 (Mar-Apr 41); II./St.G. 2 (Mar-Apr 41, Dec 41); II./JG 27 (Nov-Dec 42); III./St.G. 3 (Nofilia/North, Nov-Dec 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Mar 41); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV (Dec 41)?; Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Fliegerführer Afrika (Nov-Dec 41); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Nov 42); Koflug 18/XI (Nov-Dec 42); Res.Flak-Abt. 354 (Nov-Dec 42); Kfz.Instandsetzungszug d.Lw. 2/III (Jan-Feb 42); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 4/VII (to Dec 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 058-59 (Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**En Nofilia/North No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ghindel/Nofilia North No. 1) (30 49 33 N – 18 00 12 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 142 km ESE of Sirte, 47 km NW of Ras Lanuf, 20 km NE of Nofilia village and 365 meters inland from the coast.

History: details on early history not found. Surface and Dimensions:

sandy natural surface measuring 915 x 915 meters (1000 x 1000 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: well stocked with fuel, bombs and aerial torpedoes in June 1942. Infrastructure: no permanent buildings. Temporary tent-like structures were used for repair shops and other purposes. There were 9

barrack buildings in Nofilia village and numerous tents at the landing ground

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for accommodations. Dispersal: had 1 double blast bay and aircraft parking along and beyond the W and S boundaries. Additional parking space was on the N side of the main road. Defenses: protected by 8 or 9 Flak guns in Feb 42.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 067-68 (4 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1723); website ww2.dk]

**En Nofilia No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ghindel/Nofilia No. 2) (30 45 45 N – 17 55 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 12 km ESE of Nofilia village and 11.5 km SW of Nofilia/North No. 1 landing ground. History: Luftwaffe Ju 87 dive bombers were stationed here during March and December 1941. Surface and Dimensions: level and firm natural sandy surface with a single airstrip 915 meters (1000 yards) in length and aligned E/W. Fuel and Ammunition: no details on fuel but there was an ammunition dump approx. 900 meters NW of the landing ground. Infrastructure: none. Personnel were billeted in the 9 barrack buildings just S of the fort in Nofilia village. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 069 (4 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**En Nofilia/West No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ghindel/Nofilia West No. 1) (30 52 40 N – 17 48 30 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 126 km ESE of Sirte, 11.25 km NNW of Nofilia (An Nawfaliyah) and 8 km E of the Wadi Umm el Ghindel. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sandy surface measuring approx. 960 x 775 meters (1050 x 850 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Accommodations were located in Nofilia. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none that was permanent.

Remarks:

Nov 42: Italian fighters were operational from here, 22 of them seen on the ground at one time.

Jan 43: taken by the Allies and found to be heavily plowed up by the Axis and unusable.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 058 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**En Nofilia/West No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ghindel/Nofilia West No. 2) (30 54 00 N – 17 45 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 115 km ESE of Sirte, 15.25 km NNW of Nofilia (An Nawfaliyah) and 3.25 km E of the Wadi Umm el Ghindel. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sandy surface measuring approx. 915 x 420 meters (1000 x 460

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yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Accommodations were located in Nofilia. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Nov 42: Italian fighters were operational from here, 27 of them seen on the ground at one time.

Jan 43: taken by the Allies and found to be heavily plowed up by the Axis and unusable.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 059 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Esc Sciueref** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir Seinref) (30 01 00 N – 14 17 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 335 km SSE of Tripoli and 5 km NNE of the town of Ash Shwayrif. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 505 x 475 meters (550 x 520 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Es Sultan** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bi es Sultan, As Sultan) (31 07 30 N – 17 08 00 E) or (31 06 40 N – 17 09 10 E)

General: emergency landing ground on the coast in Tripolitania 53 km E of Sirte and 1.75 km NW of the village of As Sultan. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm sand surface measuring approx. 320 x 230 meters (350 x 250 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1678); website ww2.dk]

## F

**Faidia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Faydiyah) (32 40 20 N – 21 55 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 67 km W of Derna and 13 km S of Cyrene landing ground. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: sandy farmland surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none, but a few buildings in the surrounding area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Fuka** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Fuka/Main, Fuka I, Fûka, Fukah, Zawya Sidi Mousa, LG 017) (31 04 00 N – 27 57 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 75 km SE of Marsa Matruh, 3.5 km E of Fuka village and 3 km S of the closest point on the coast. History: a pre-war British landing ground that was Axis-occupied from late June to

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

early November 1942. It was one of the main airfields along the coast of N Egypt. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard sand surface but unserviceable after heavy rain. Measured approx. 1740 x 1100 meters (1900 x 1200 yards) with an irregular shape. Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground reported, but there were buildings in Fuka and the surrounding area. Dispersal: ample dispersal facilities with hardstands for aircraft parking. Defenses: had an unstated number of fortified Flak positions in June 1941.

### Satellites and Decoys:

**Fuka/South** (a.k.a. LG 018) (a.k.a. Fuka II) (31 03 30 N – 27 54 30 E). General: satellite airstrip 1.5 km SSW of Fuka village and 500 meters SW of Fuka/Main. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard sand surface that was unserviceable after heavy rain. Measured approx. 1370 x 730 meters (1500 x 800 yards) with an irregular shape.

Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: ample dispersal facilities with aircraft parking pens and hardstands. Remarks: see Fuka/Main.

**Fuka/East** (a.k.a. LG 019) (31 04 00 N – 27 57 05 E). General: satellite airstrip 3.5 km E of Fuka village. Surface and Dimensions: similar to Fuka/South. Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: similar to Fuka/South. Remarks: see Fuka/Main.

### Remarks (for all Fuka landing grounds):

Aug 39: British occupied.

2(3?) Jul 42: strafed by Beaufighters – *claimed* 4 x Bf 109s and 1 x S.M.79 destroyed.

7 Jul 42: SAS commando raid – 1 Italian C.202 fighter damaged on the ground.

10 Jul 42: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from I./JG 27, 1 x Bf 110 F-3 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 and 1 x Ju 88 D-5 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 destroyed on the ground by sabotage, and 1 x Ju 88 D-5 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 and 2 x Bf 109 F-4 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 damaged by sabotage.

19 Jul 42: air raid on Fuka – 1 x Bf 109 E-7 and 1 x Bf 110 E-3 belonging to 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 destroyed on the ground.

20 Jul 42: bombed and strafed by a large force of Bostons and Kittyhawks – *claimed* 6 x Ju 88s, 2 x Bf 109s, 2 x C.202s, 1 x S.M.81 and 2 x unidentified aircraft destroyed or damaged. In practice, it appears that just 1 x Ju 88 D-5 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 and 2 x C.202 fighters from 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT were damaged.

14 Aug 42: Fuka/South bombed by RAF Baltimores – 4 x Italian C.202 fighters hit on the ground, 1 apparently burned and destroyed and 3 damaged.

9/10 Oct 42: Fuka/Main and Fuka/South bombed by 49 RAF Wellingtons – 3 x Bf 109 F-4 from 7./JG 27, 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 and 2 x Ju 88 D-1 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 destroyed or damaged on the ground.

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20 Oct 42: bombed and strafed in several air attacks - 2 x Ju 88 D-1s from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 sustained moderate damage on the ground. The Italians reported 6 x C.202 fighters damaged.

29 Oct 42: bombed - 1 x C.202 fighter from 9° Gruppo CT badly damaged.

3 Nov 42: evacuation - 1 x Ju 88 D-1 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 blown up to prevent capture.

5 Nov 42: bombed - 2 x Bf 110 E-3 belonging to 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 destroyed on the ground.

25 Jan 44: Fuka/East and Fuka/South reported abandoned by this date.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 9° Gruppo CT (Jun-Oct 42); 10° Gruppo CT (Jun-Oct 42); 600<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia T (Aug-Nov 42).

*Luftwaffe*: Stab/JG 27 (Jun-Jul 42); II./JG 27 (Jun-Jul 42); III./JG 27 (Jun-Jul 42); II./St.G. 3 (Jun-Aug 42); I./St.G. 3 (Jul 42); III./ZG 26 (Jul-Aug 42); elements of II./KG 77 (Jul 42); elements of III./KG 77 (Jul 42); III./St.G. 3 (Jul 42); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Jul-Oct 42); part of 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Jul - Oct 42).

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jun-Aug 42); Stab/Flak-Rgt. 102 (Jul 42 - ?); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Jul 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1012 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

## G

**Gadames** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gadamis) (30 07 30 N - 09 28 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 470 km SW of Tripoli and 3.25 km WSW of the town of Gadamis. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: had a good hard natural surface measuring approx. 870 x 730 meters (950 x 800 yards). A German aerial photo taken 15 Nov 42 showed dimensions of 1200 x 1100 meters (1310 x 1205 yards).

Infrastructure: had 1 small hangar.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1561); website ww2.dk]

**Gadd el Ahmar** (LIB) (a.k.a. Rotonda Segnali) (31 50 N - 22 54 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 106 km WSW of Tobruk and located in open desert terrain. History: no record found of any Axis air units having been based here. Surface and Dimensions: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

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Jul 41: seen to be in use by a few Allied aircraft.

Apr 42: reportedly in use by a few Allied aircraft.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Gaer Saleh** (LIB) (a.k.a. GaB.R.Saleh) (31 26 00 N – 24 24 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 74 km WSW of Sollum in empty terrain. History: used by Axis aircraft towards the end of 1941 but no evidence of use after that. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with 2 parallel airstrips measuring 1100 x 185 meters (1200 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 118 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gaf el Garbi** (LIB) (28 18 00 N – 15 20 40 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 550 km SSE of Tripoli and 110 km SW of Houn. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: no details stated. Infrastructure: none. In the middle of nowhere - no habitation nearby either.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gambut** (LIB) (a.k.a. Great Gambut, Gambut No. 1, Gambut/Main, Kambüt, LG 139) (31 52 20 N – 24 29 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 53 km ESE of Tobruk and 3.25 km S of the Tobruk – Bardia road. Had 5 satellites: Abiar Zaid, Gambut/West, Bir el Arca, Bir bu Hania and Bir el Hanascia. History: early history not found, but in constant use during the war in Cyrenaica. Surface and Dimensions: poor quality natural sand surface that had been graded level and measured approx. 1740 x 1555 meters (1900 x 1700 yards). German aerial reconnaissance photos taken 11 Jan 42 showed dimensions of 3300 x 1200 meters (3610 x 1310 yards). Landing area was occasionally obscured by sandstorms and fog. Fuel and Ammunition: both available but storage details lacking except that the fuel was in drums. Infrastructure: no hangars but there were limited repair facilities, a few stone buildings in compounds off the N boundary and a house on the S side of the Bardia – Tobruk road. There were also numerous shelters and dugouts. Dispersal: aircraft parked off the E, N and S boundaries. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

31 Oct 40: bombed by Blenheims – 3 x S.M.79s destroyed and a fourth damaged.

3 Jun 41: low-level attack by SAAF Hurricanes - 2 x Ju 87 R-2s from II./St.G. 2 and 1 x Bf 110 E-1 from 8./ZG 26 destroyed on the ground.

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14/15 Sep 41: bombed – 2 x Bf 110s destroyed and 5 more damaged by bomb fragments. Additionally, 2 x Italian C.200 fighters were destroyed on the ground.

23 Sep 41: bombed by 9 SAAF Marylands – claimed 1 aircraft set on fire.

1 Oct 41: bombed by 6 Blenheims – results unknown.

15 Nov 41: attacked before dawn by 9 FAA Albacores – 1 x C.200 destroyed on the ground by bombs and another damaged.

18 Nov 41: disastrous flooding of the landing ground on 16 and 17 November destroyed servicing, maintenance and other equipment.

25 Nov 41: landing ground taken by New Zealand infantry who found 1 x Ju 87 R-2 belonging to I./St.G. 3 destroyed on the landing ground plus 41 other abandoned or wrecked Axis aircraft, about half of them German.

22 Jun 42: Axis resumed operations from Gambut with fighters moving here during the day.

7 Nov 42: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 blown up by I./Schl.G. 2 to prevent capture.

8 Nov 42: landing ground defenders drove off a British tank attack.

11 Nov 42: 4 x Bf 109s and 1 x Ju 87 of the estimated 50 Axis aircraft here demolished by the Germans to prevent capture.

13-15 Nov 42: taken over by the Allies.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Sep 40); 13° Gruppo CT (Sep 40); 20° Gruppo CT (Aug-Nov 41); 155° Gruppo CT (Nov 41 – Mar 42); 175<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Sep, Dec 40).

*Luftwaffe*: elements of II./St.G. 2 (Jun 41); 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Aug 41); detachment of 1./NJG 3 (Aug 41); 8./ZG 26 (Jun-Oct 41); I./St.G. 1 (Oct-Nov 41); III./JG 53 (Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 53 (Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 27 (Jun 42); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Nov 42); Stab/JG 27 (Nov 42); II./JG 27 (Nov 42); Stab/JG 77 (Nov 42); I./JG 77 (Nov 42); III./JG 77 (Nov 42); I./St.G. 3 (Nov 42); III./St.G. 3 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jun 42, Nov 42); Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropic I (fall 41); II./Flak-Rgt. 25 (Jun, Nov 41); I./Flak-Rgt. 46 (Nov 42); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 3/XVII (trop) (Sep 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 119 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1702); website ww2.dk]

**Gambut/West** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gambut No. 5, Bir Sloma, L.G. 159) (31 52 20 N – 24 25 45 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 52 km ESE of Tobruk, 6.5 km SW of the town of Gambut (Kambut) and the same distance W of Gambut of Gambut/Main landing ground. History: reportedly set up in early 1942. Changed hands at least once during the war. Used by fighters with some Axis or Allied 60 aircraft seen here in November 1942. Surface and



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Dimensions: firm natural clay surface with camel thorn measuring approx. 2195 x 1555 meters (2400 x 1700 yards) with a roughly rectangular shape.

Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Gambut (above).

Operational Units: see under Gambut (above).

Station Commands: see under Gambut (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Gambut (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 120 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gambut Comm.** (LIB): see Abiar Zaid.

**Gambut No. 2** (LIB): see Bir el Hanascia.

**Gambut No. 3** (LIB): see Bir el Arca.

**Gambut No. 4** (LIB): see Abiar Zaid.

**Gambut No. 5** (LIB): see Gambut/West.

**Gambut No. 6** (LIB): see Bir bu Hania.

**Gambut Satellite No 1** (LIB): see Bir el Hanascia.

**Gambut Satellite No 2** (LIB): see Bir el Arca.

**Gambut Satellite No 3** (LIB): see Bir bu Hania.

**Garet Cudi** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. 9, L.G. 185) (23 32 00 N – 23 50 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 868 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 88 km SE of Kufra airfield. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Garet Dalma** (LIB) (25 29 00 N – 23 52 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica approx. 688 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 156 km NNE of the airfield at Kufra Oasis. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 685 x 640 meters (750 x 700 yards). Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gasr bu Hadi** (LIB) (a.k.a. Qasr Abu Hadi) (31 03 00 N – 16 41 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 19.5 km SE of Sirte and on the eastern outskirts of Qasr Abu Hadi. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: grass surface measuring approx. 595 x 595 meters (650 x 650 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

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Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gasr Carabulli** (LIB): see Castelverde.

**Gasr el Abid/North** (EGYPT) (LG 132) (31 07 30 N – 24 53 20 E)  
General: landing ground in NW Egypt. 57.5 km SSW of Sollum, 32 km N of Maddalena and 550 meters E of the Egypt-Libya border. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: level natural sand surface measuring approx. 780 x 665 meters (855 x 725 yards) with 2 airstrips running diagonal to each other. Infrastructure: none in Nov 41. Dispersal: had ample space for parking aircraft.

Satellites and Decoys:

**Gasr el Abid/South** - satellite 3 km S of Gasr el Abid/North and measuring 500 x 490 meters (545 x 535 yards) with 2 airstrips running diagonal to each other.

Remarks:

19 Nov 41: occupied by RAF and SAAF fighter-bombers.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Gasr el Arid** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Arid, L.G. 141) (31 45 40 N – 24 33 40 E)  
General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 52 km W of Bardia, 3.25 km S of a desert railway and 700 meters SSE of Cistern Gasr el Arid (a water source). History: Allied landing ground - no evidence found of Axis use even though a stock of Axis fuel was stored here in 1941. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1465 x 1550 meters (1600 x 1700 yards) with a diamond shape. According to German aerial photos, the dimensions in Jan 42 were 1170 x 1100 meters (1280 x 1205 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no storage details found. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops, but in July 1941 there were 2 half-buried sheds that were probably used for accommodations or storage purposes. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Oct 41: 10 cbm. (cubic meters) of B 4 aviation fuel maintained here.

3 Jan 42: 2 x wrecked Bf 109 F-2s found here after being overrun by advancing Allied troops.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe:* none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 095 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1701); website ww2.dk]

**Gasr el Sahabi** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gasr el Regen?) (29 59 00 N – 20 47 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 102 km SE of Agedabia and close to the junction of several roads. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 595 x 410 meters (650 x 450 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks:

Jun-Jul 41: if this is Gasr el Regen, then 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 here with 27 aircraft.

Operational Units: see above under Remarks.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Gazala** (LIB): see Ain el Gazala.

**Gazala Bay** (LIB): see Mersa Ain el Gazala.

**Gebel Hauaisc** (LIB) (25 14 00 N – 23 11 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 673 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) and 118 km N of Kufra airfield at Al Jawf. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gerdes el Abia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Jardas Al Abid) (32 18 00 N – 20 56 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 84 to 88 km ENE of Benghazi. History: in use in November 1941. Surface and Dimensions: details not given. Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG. Buildings in the village could be used.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gerawala** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Maaten Gerawala, LG 010) (31 11 00 N – 27 21 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 22 km SE of Mersa Matruh and 2 km SW of Gerawala (Garawlah). History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: had natural sandy surface measuring approx. 1370 x 1100 meters (1500 x 1200 yards) with an irregular shape. Earlier in August 1941, the measurements were given as 1050 x 980 meters (1150 x 1070 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: available when in use and limited storage probable. Infrastructure: had an

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operations hut plus a few tents for billeting. Dispersal: ample space existed for dispersing aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Jun 40, Nov 41, May 42: British occupied.

25 Jan 44: Gerawala reported abandoned by this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1010 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Gezira** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tazirbu) (25 39 30 N – 21 06 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 542 km SSE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra). The ELG was located on the eastern outskirts of this oasis town. History: existed in 1938. Surface and Dimensions: none stated.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ghat** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ghāt) (24 56 30 N – 10 11 00 E)

General: airfield in Tripolitania 925 km SSW of Tripoli, 12 km E of the border with Algeria and 2.5 km S of the town of Ghat.

History: existed in 1939-40 when a flight of colonial aircraft were stationed here.

Dimensions: approx. 1190 x 900 meters (1300 x 985 yards).

Surface and Runways: good quality natural surface but soft following rain. No prepared or paved runway.

Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was stocked at the airfield. No information regarding ammunition stocks, but the dump was on the N side of the hangar.

Infrastructure: had 1 large hangar on the N boundary with an attached workshop. The airfield admin offices and air photography lab were on the N side of the hangar. Being a garrison town and border strongpoint, the town of Ghat had a fort, military barracks, police barracks, military school building and a native hospital.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: there were at least two Flak positions at the NE and NW corners of the landing area in Sep 41.

Remarks: none.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 057 (15 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ghemines** (LIB) (a.k.a. Qaminis) (31 38 00 N – 20 03 00 E)

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General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 53-54 km S of Benghazi and 8.5 km inland from the coast. History: in use in August 1941.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG, but houses and other buildings were just 1 or 2 km to the west.

Remarks:

1943: by July, two huge Allied heavy bomber bases had been built 10 and 20 km N of the town of Ghemines.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1738); website ww2.dk]

**Ghindel** (LIB): see En Nofilia.

**Ghirza** (LIB) (30 52 30 N – 14 28 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 176 km SSW of Misrata and 11 km SW of the famous Ghirza Roman tombs. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gialo** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gialo el Ergh, Jalo el Ergh, Jalu) (29 01 00 N – 21 33 00 E)

General: desert landing ground in Cyrenaica c. 230 km SE of Agedabia (Ajdäbiyā) in the middle of the present day Gialo oil field and oasis. The landing ground was located just 200 meters N of the northern outskirts of Gialo. History: all types of aircraft, especially transports, used this landing ground throughout the 1941-42 war years in North Africa. Surface and

Dimensions: firm natural sand surface in fairly good condition measuring approx. 1005 x 1005 meters (1100 x 1100 yards) in fall 1942. German aerial photos taken 10 Jan 42 show dimensions of 600 x 280 meters (655 x 305 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found but fuel was said to be available. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops, but permanent barracks probably existed. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

14 Jun 40: in Italian hands.

22 Mar 41: now in Allied hands.

22 Aug 41: fuel stocks were maintained here.

19 Sep 41: 26<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia (Ca.309 *Ghibli* transports) belonging to the Battaglione Aviazione Sahariana here.

18 Nov 41: strafed by RAF Hurricanes – 1 x C.R.42 damaged on the ground.

24 Nov 41: re-captured by Allied forces and subsequently used by the Long-Range Desert Group and the SAS as a forward reconnaissance and raid-staging base.

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7 Feb 42: Gialo retaken by German paratroops (Fallschirmjäger) this date.

5 Apr 42: attacked by a Maryland and a Beaufighter – 1 x Ju 52 from KGr. z.b.V. 400 destroyed on the ground.

15/16 Sep 42: a planned night raid on the landing ground by British commando forces was called off because the defenders were alert and ready.

15 Nov 42: still in Axis hands, strafed by RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 1 x Cant Z.1007, 2 x S.M.79s, 1 x Ju 88 and 2 x C.R.42s destroyed, plus 1 x Cant Z.1007 damaged.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 160<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov-Dec 41).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.129 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600-1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**Giarabub/North** (LIB) (a.k.a. Jarabub/North, L.G. 107, Al Jaghbub) (29 46 00 N – 24 32 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 225 km SSW of Bardia, 207 km SSW of Sollum, 3 km NNE of Fort Giarabub and adjacent to an important oasis of the same name. History: early history not found, but built after Oct 41.

No Axis air units are believed to have been based here.

Surface and Dimensions: generally firm natural surface with soft patches measuring approx. 1005 x 1005 meters (1100 x 1100 yards). German aerial photos taken 26 Oct 41 showed dimensions of 1450 x 775 meters (1585 x 845 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found regarding storage facilities.

Infrastructure: had 2 small hangars and a small building next to them on the SW boundary. Additional buildings were located in the fortified oasis area that had a village and a fort. Dispersal: a small number of stone pens served as blast bays for parked aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

17 Jul - Oct 41: Giarabub in Allied hands but landing grounds unoccupied and obstructed with empty oil barrels. Remained in Allied hands to the end of the war in North Africa.

13 Nov 41: Giarabub now occupied by 14 Blenheims and 27 Hurricanes.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.130 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Giarabub No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Jarabub No. 2, L.G. 119, Al Jaghbub) (29 42 00 N – 24 35 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 243 km S of Bardia, 223 km SSW of Sollum and 13 km SE of Giarabub (Jarabub) oasis. History: early history not found, but built after Oct 41. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring

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approx. 1100 x 1370 meters (1200 x 1500 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found regarding storage facilities. Infrastructure: none. Buildings were located in the fortified oasis area that had a village and a fort. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see Giarabub/North.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.131 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Giarabub No. 3** (LIB) (a.k.a. Jarabub No. 3, Gsebaid, L.G. 108, Al Jaghub) (29 35 00 N – 24 41 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 233 km SSW of Sollum, 93 km NW of Siwa Oasis and 22 km SE of Giarabub (Jarabub). History: early history not found, but built after Oct 41. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with an irregular shape measuring approx. 1190 x 1190 x 1830 meters (1300 x 1300 x 2000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: Infrastructure: none. Buildings were located in the fortified oasis area that had a village and a fort. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Jun 42: built spring 1942 and became operational about this time.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.132 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Giof el Matar** (LIB) (30 38 00 N – 20 49 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 60 km ESE of Agedabia. Located in open desert. History: no information found regarding when it was established, but Axis transport aircraft were using it in February 1942. Said to have had bad approaches and therefore not popular with pilots. Surface and Dimensions: poor quality gravel surface measuring approx. 730 x 550 meters (800 x 600 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Giosc** (LIB) (32 00 30 N –11 40 15 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 174 km SW of Tripoli, 103 km SSW of Zuara and 1.75 km N of the village of Al Jawsh. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm, level natural sand surface measuring approx. 730 x 365 meters (800 x 400 yards).

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks:

Jan 43: taken over by the Allies and tripled in size.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1672); website ww2.dk]

**Godolla** (LIB): see Bir el Hachiem.

**Goor Garian** (LIB): see Souk el Asabaa.

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**Got Bersis** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bersis, Ghwat Barsis?) (32 27 00 N – 20 28 20 E)

General: landing ground on the N coast in Cyrenaica 53 km NE of Benghazi city center on the N side of the coastal road and 2 km inland from the shore.. History: used occasionally by Axis aircraft assigned to coastal patrols and convoy escort. Surface and Dimensions: bumpy grass surface measuring a minimum of 915 x 915 meters (1000 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: brought in when needed. Infrastructure: no buildings but there were a few huts about 1.4 km S of the landing ground on the S side of the road. Dispersal: some bushes between the landing ground and the road afforded some limited concealment for parked aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Feb 42: 3 x Ju 88s seen to be parked here.

Apr 43: by this date had been turned into a large base with 3 airstrips by the Allies.

Operational Units: Stab/JG 27 (Dec 41).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.109 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1728); website ww2.dk]

**Got es Sultan** (LIB) (32 07 00 N – 20 30 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 41 km E of Benghazi and 6.25 km ESE of the village of Bu Marim. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG which was located in a populated area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Gsebaid** (LIB): see Giarabob No. 3.

**Guerat bu Sciascia** (LIB) (29 55 00 N – 17 20 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 159 km SSE of Sirte.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural

surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none - open desert area without habitation.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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### **Halfaya** (EGYPT) (31 27 15 N – 25 11 30 E)

General: landing ground or emergency landing ground in NW Egypt 12 km SSE of Sollum and 9 km WSW of Alam Barghut landing ground. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of sand and stone measuring approx. 970 x 720 meters (1060 x 785 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no information found.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

### **Haseiat** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Haseiat) (c. 30 24 00 N – 20 34 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 51 km SE of Agedabia near Fort El Haseiat. History: noted in April 1941. No record found of any Axis air units being based here. Used by the Allies in Dec 42. Surface and Dimensions: well drained, firm natural surface measuring approx. 940 x 825 meters (1025 x 900 yards) with an irregular shape. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.127 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Homs** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al-Khums) (32 36 50 N – 14 17 15 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 107 km ESE of Tripoli and 4.5 km SE of Al-Khums town center. History: in existence by 1940. Surface and Dimensions: an all-weather graded airstrip measuring approx. 660 x 660 meters (720 x 720 yards). Infrastructure: had 1 small hangar and a barracks.

Remarks:

20 Jun 41: strafed by an RAF Maryland after spotting 1 or more Italian trimotors there.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1685); website ww2.dk]

### **Hon** (LIB) (a.k.a. Hün) (29 07 30 N – 15 57 00 E)

General: desert airfield in Tripolitania 370 km SSE of Misurata (Misrätah), 243 km SSW of Sirte (Surt) and immediately E of the small town of Hon in the desert oasis of Giofra.

History: together with Cufra (Kufra, Al Kufrah) oasis in SE Libya near the border with Egypt, the Hon oasis was a key Axis strongpoint vital to control of the remote desert area in Libya. The advanced headquarters of the Italian Sahara Command was here along with 10 to 12 Caproni Ca.309 *Ghibli* aircraft that were used for reconnaissance and transport missions.

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Italian S.M.81 and S.M.82 transports that were based elsewhere flew in and out of Hon fairly often.

Dimensions: approx. 1190 x 665 meters (1300 x 725 yards) with an irregular shape.

Surface and Runways: firm natural surface.

Fuel and Ammunition: there were 3 underground excavations or pits for storing fuel and a stock was usually on hand. A surface dump was located among some trees to the W of the town, and this was believed to be for ammunition.

Infrastructure: had 2 medium hangars, one at each end of a walled compound on the E boundary, plus 3 repair workshops in the center of the compound. A military compound and area just S of the town had 2 large barrack buildings, 40 smaller barracks and an officers' mess.

Dispersal: aircraft parked around the perimeter of the landing area.

Defenses: there were 3 Flak positions in December 1941 with a total of 14 guns.

Remarks:

21 Dec 42: strafed by 6 RAAF Kittyhawks – *claimed* 7 German and Italian planes and several gliders shot up and set on fire. According to a German report, 2 x S.M.79s, 1 x S.M.81 and 3 x Ca.309 *Ghibli* were destroyed and another Ca.309 severely damaged, plus 1 Go 242 glider and 1 DFS 230 glider were destroyed.

24 Dec 42: strafed again by 6 Kittyhawks but results unknown.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): Battaglione Aviazione Sahariana (all or elements Jun 40 – Jan 43).

*Luftwaffe*: Sonderkommando Blaich (c.Dec 41 – Jun 42); Sonderkommando Dora (Jun 42 – Jan 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 060-61 (3 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Hueisciat/West** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. 163) (31 24 30 N – 24 26 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 71 km WSW of Bardia, 55 km S of Gambut and 42 km ESE of Bir el Gobi. History: Hueisciat/West had another landing ground 3.25 km to the E that was still under construction in June 1942 and designated LG 162. No record found of any Axis air or ground units being based here.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with two airstrips measuring approx. 1100 x 130 meters (1200 x 140 yards) and 915 x 130 meters (1000 x 140 yards). Fuel and

Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.128 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### J

**Jalo el Ergh** (LIB): see Gialo.

**Jedabya** (LIB): see Agedabia.

### K

**K. 1** (LIB): see Benghazi-Berca No. 1.

**K. 2** (LIB): see Benghazi-Berca No. 2.

**K. 3** (LIB): see Benghazi-Berca No. 3.

**Kendall's** (LIB) (a.k.a. 24. 24.) (24 06 00 N – 24 01 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 72 km E of Kufra airfield at Al-Jawf. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm, level natural surface of fine gravel measuring approx. 825 x 825 meters (900 x 900 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Kufra No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Kufra – El Giof, El Giof) (24 12 00 N – 23 20 00 E)

General: airfield in Cyrenaica 936 km SSE of Benghazi and 2.5 km ENE of the village of El Giof in the Kufra Oasis.

History: established by the Italian but date not found. The Allies used it mainly for air defense of the oasis and as a forward reconnaissance field.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1100 x 1100 meters (1200 x 1200 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: underground fuel storage with 8 tanks, each of which held 1,540 gallons), existed as well as underground ammunition storage bunkers.

Infrastructure: had 1 small hangar and nearby workshops, plus several buildings for admin offices, barracks and supply storage.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities reported.

Defenses: existed but details not found.

Remarks:

1 Jun 41: occupied by the Allies and remained in Allied hands for the rest of the war in North Africa.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

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*Luftwaffe*: none.

Station Commands: none.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.137 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Kufra No. 2** (LIB) (L.G. 598) (?????)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica near Kufra No. 1. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## L

**Landing Grounds** (L.G.s, LGs, LG-s)

**LG 001** (EGYPT): see Buq Buq.

**L.G. No. 1** (LIB): see L.G. 176.

**LG 002** (EGYPT): see Sidi Barrani.

**L.G. No. 2** (LIB): see L.G. 177.

**LG 003** (EGYPT): see Sidi Barrani Satellite.

**L.G. No. 3** (LIB): see L.G. 178.

**LG 004** (EGYPT): see Sidi Barrani/West.

**L.G. No. 4** (LIB): see L.G. 179.

**LG 005** (EGYPT): see Abu Sueir/North.

**L.G. No. 5** (LIB): see L.G. 180.

**LG 006** (EGYPT): see Qassasin.

**L.G. No. 6** (LIB): see L.G. 181.

**LG 007** (EGYPT): see Bir el Astas.

**L.G. No. 7** (LIB): see L.G. 182.

**L.G. No. 7** (new) (LIB): see L.G. 183.

**LG 008** (EGYPT): see Mersa Matruh.

**L.G. No. 8** (LIB): see L.G. 184.

**LG 009** (EGYPT): see Bir Koriayim.

**L.G. No. 9** (LIB): see L.G. 185.

**LG 010** (EGYPT): see Gerawala.

**L.G. No. 10** (LIB): see L.G. 186.

**LG 011** (EGYPT): see Quasaba.

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- LG 012** (EGYPT): see Quasaba.
- LG 013** (EGYPT): see Zimlet el Thalaba.
- LG 014** (EGYPT): see Tanyet-Harun.
- LG 015** (EGYPT): see Abu Smeit.
- LG 016** (EGYPT): see Abu Haggag.
- LG 017** (EGYPT): see Fuka/Main.
- LG 018** (EGYPT): see Fuka/South.
- LG 019** (EGYPT): see Fuka/East.
- LG 020** (EGYPT): see Quotaifiyah I.
- LG 021** (EGYPT): see Quotaifiyah III.
- LG 022** (EGYPT): see El Daba/West.
- LG 023** (EGYPT): see El Daba.
- LG 024** (EGYPT): see El Daba/Süd.
- LG 025** (EGYPT): see Sidi Abd El-Rahman.
- LG 026** (EGYPT): (El Imayid) (30 44 00 N – 29 16 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 027** (EGYPT): (El Hamman) (30 48 00 N – 29 27 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 028** (EGYPT): (Burgh el Arab) (30 53 50 N – 29 32 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 029** (EGYPT): (Amriya, Amiriya) (30 58 00 N – 29 49 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 030** (EGYPT): (Amiriya Satellite) (30 58 00 N – 29 50 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 031** (EGYPT): (Ikingi, Iking Maryut) (31 00 00 N – 29 47 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 032** (EGYPT): (Dekheila, Aldekhela) (31 08 00 N – 29 48 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 033** (EGYPT): (Aboukir/North, Abu Qir) (31 18 00 N – 30 04 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 034** (EGYPT): (Aboukir, Abu Qir) (31 18 00 N – 30 04 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 035** (EGYPT): (Bir Hooker) (30 22 00 N – 30 26 00 E) or (30 25 30 N – 30 21 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 036** (EGYPT): (Khatbara) (30 21 00 N – 30 47 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 037** (EGYPT): (El Hamman/South) (30 47 00 N – 29 27 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

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- LG 038** (EGYPT): (El Hamman/East) (30 48 00 N – 29 30 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 039** (EGYPT): (Burgh el Arab/South) (30 51 50 N – 29 33 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 040** (EGYPT): (Bahig/South) (30 53 00 N – 29 37 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 041** (EGYPT): (Bahig/East) (30 55 00 N – 29 40 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 042** (EGYPT): (El Naheidat) (c. 30 30 00 N – 30 30 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 043** (EGYPT): see Bir Kenayis.
- LG 044** (EGYPT): (Wadi Natrun) (30 26 00 N – 30 21 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 045** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 045) (30 11 00 N – 30 05 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 046** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 046) (30 13 00 N – 29 58 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 047** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 047) (30 15 00 N – 29 47 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 048** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 048) (30 16 00 N – 29 41 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 049** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 049) (30 18 00 N – 29 35 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 050** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 050) (30 21 00 N – 29 23 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 051** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 051) (30 26 00 N – 29 14 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 052** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 052) (30 26 00 N – 28 59 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 053** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 053) (30 40 00 N – 27 55 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 054** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 054) (30 40 00 N – 27 51 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 055** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 055) (30 36 00 N – 27 50 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 056** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 056) (30 41 00 N – 27 49 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 057** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 057) (30 46 00 N – 27 51 00 E) - not used by the Axis?

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

- LG 058** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 058) (30 43 00 N – 27 46 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 059** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 059) (30 41 00 N – 27 43 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 060** (EGYPT): see Bir el Quseir.
- LG 061** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 061) (30 42 00 N – 27 39 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 062** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 062) (30 53 00 N – 27 36 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 063** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 063) (30 42 00 N – 27 27 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 064** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 064) (30 41 00 N – 27 24 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 065** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 065) (30 46 00 N – 27 25 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 066** (EGYPT): see Siwa/North.
- LG 067** (EGYPT): see Siwa/South.
- LG 068** (EGYPT): see Abar Nimeir.
- LG 069** (EGYPT): see Bir Basur.
- LG 070** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 070) (31 09 00 N – 26 32 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 071** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 071) (31 11 00 N – 26 32 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 072** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 072) (29 30 00 N – 26 23 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 073** (EGYPT): see Bir Fuad.
- LG 074** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 074) (31 06 00 N – 26 32 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 075** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 075) (31 12 00 N – 26 04 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 076** (EGYPT): see Bir Fuad.
- LG 077** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 077) (30 45 00 N – 29 26 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 078** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 078) (31 07 00 N – 25 32 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 079** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 079) (31 24 00 N – 25 31 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 080** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 080) (31 23 00 N – 25 22 00 E) - not used by the Axis?

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

- LG 081** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 081) (31 24 00 N – 25 24 00 E) - not used by the Axis?
- LG 082** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 082) (30 28 00 N – 30 16 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 083** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 083) (30 28 50 N – 30 12 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 084** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 084) (30 28 50 N – 30 13 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 085** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 085) (30 47 00 N – 29 51 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 086** (EGYPT): see Bir Abu Ogos.
- LG 087** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 087) (30 50 00 N – 29 52 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 088** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 088) (30 59 50 N – 29 51 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 089** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 089) (30 49 00 N – 29 55 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 090** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 090) (30 51 50 N – 29 54 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 091** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 091) (30 52 00 N – 29 54 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 092** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 092) (30 54 00 N – 29 51 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 093** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 093) (31 00 00 N – 29 48 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 094** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 094) (30 59 00 N – 29 47 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 095** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 095) (30 59 00 N – 29 46 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 096** (EGYPT): number not used.
- LG 097** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 097) (30 48 50 N – 29 57 00 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 098** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 098) (30 47 50 N – 29 55 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 099** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 099) (30 48 50 N – 29 54 50 E) - not used by the Axis.
- LG 100** (EGYPT): see Wadi el Natrun.
- LG 101** (EGYPT): see Quasaba/West.
- LG 102** (EGYPT): see Abar el Afan.



## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

**LG 103** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 103) (31 03 00 N – 27 46 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 104** (EGYPT): see Quotaifiyah.

**LG 105** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 105) (30 59 30 N – 28 29 30 E)  
General: landing ground in NW Egypt 5 km SE of El Daba train station and 6.5 km inland from the coast. History: considered a satellite of El Daba (see Mumin Busak) landing ground. No evidence found of any Axis air units being based here, but it was almost certainly used by Axis aircraft based at El Daba (see Mumin Busak) between Jul and Oct 42. Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural desert surface with 2 airstrips each measuring 1645 x 185 meters (1800 x 200 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample dispersal space for aircraft.

Remarks:

8 Sep 41: occupied by SAAF Maryland bombers.

28 Jun 42: occupied by SAAF P-40 Kittyhawk fighters.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1020 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**LG 106** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 106) (30 58 00 N – 28 39 00 E)  
General: landing ground in NW Egypt 22 km E of El Daba and immediately S of the railway that ran along the coast. History: no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here, but it was certainly used by Axis aircraft between Jul and Oct 42. Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural sand and light gravel surface with 3 airstrips in 1942 each measuring 1830 x 185 meters (2000 x 200 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample space for dispersing aircraft.

Remarks:

25 Jun 42: in use by RAF Wellington bombers.

5 Jul 42: bombed and strafed 3 times during the day by SAAF and RAF P-40 Kittyhawks – claimed 12 Bf 109s and Bf 110s, but German records show only 1 Bf 109 F-4 from III./JG 27 possibly destroyed on the ground here.

2-5 Nov 42: LG 106 retaken by British forces.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1020 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 107** (LIB): see Giarabub/North.

**L.G. 108** (LIB): see Giarabub No. 3.

**LG 109** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 109, Misheifa?) (31 01 00 N – 25 51 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**LG 110** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 110) (30 59 30 N – 25 57 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**LG 111** (EGYPT): see Bir umm Gilwakh.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

**LG 112** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 112) (30 51 50 N – 25 56 00 E) - not used by the Axis?

**LG 113** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 113) (30 46 50 N – 26 03 50 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 114** (EGYPT): number not used.

**LG 115** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 115) (31 04 00 N – 27 38 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**LG 116** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 116, Bir el Zimla?) (31 04 30 N – 27 41 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Also see Bir el Zimla.

**LG 117** (EGYPT): see Bir Abu Sheheima.

**LG 118** (EGYPT): see El Thalaba.

**L.G. 119** (LIB): see Giarabub No. 2.

**LG 120** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 120) (29 16 00 N – 25 46 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 121** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 121) (31 32 00 N – 26 11 30 E)  
General: landing ground in NW Egypt 27.5 km E of Sidi Barrani, just S of the main coast highway and 4 km inland from the coast. History: a British landing ground that was occupied by the Axis between Jul and Nov 42, although no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural stony desert surface with 3 airstrips measuring 1740, 1465 and 1465 meters (1900, 1600 and 1600 yards) in length. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: ample space for dispersing aircraft.

Remarks:

25 Aug 42: attacked by 6 SAAF Bristol Bisley light bombers – claimed direct hits on a Ju 52 and a Ca.133 on the ground.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1022 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**LG 122** (EGYPT): see Scegga I.

**L.G. 123** (LIB): see Scegga III.

**L.G. 124** (LIB): see Scegga II.

**L.G. 125** (LIB) (30 18 30 N – 22 54 00 E)

General: remote, isolated desert landing ground in Cyrenaica 336 km SE of Behghasi, 220 km SSW of Tobruk. History: built by the Allies and used as a forward strip for long-range fighters operating against the Axis landing ground at Gialo in November 1942. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.137 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**LG 126** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 126) (30 43 50 N – 25 05 00 E) - not used by the Axis?

**LG 127** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 127) (30 58 00 N – 25 10 00 E) - not used by the Axis?

**LG 128** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 128) (30 52 00 N – 25 50 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**LG 129** (EGYPT): number not used.

**LG 130** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 130) (30 56 50 N – 25 55 00 E) - not used by the Axis?

**LG 131** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 131) (31 04 50 N – 25 19 50 E) - not used by the Axis?

**LG 132** (EGYPT): see Gasr el Abid.

**L.G. 133** (LIB) (30 55 00 N – 25 13 50 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 174 km SE of Tobruk and 73 km S of Sollum. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with 2 airstrips, both measuring 960 x 135 meters (1050 x 150 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Jun 42: existed.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.138 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 134** (LIB) (31 06 30 N – 24 28 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 83 km SW of Sollum. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated measurements. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 135** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Medscesc) (31 07 00 N – 24 17 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 97 km SW of Sollum. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated measurements. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 136** (LIB) (31 04 50 N – 24 14 50 E)

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General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 105 km SW of Sollum.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated measurements. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 137** (LIB): see El Cuasc.

**LG 138** (EGYPT) (Landing Ground 138) (30 52 00 N – 25 12 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**L.G. 139** (LIB): see Gambut.

**L.G. 140** (LIB): see Bir el Gaer.

**L.G. 141** (LIB): see Gasr el Arid.

**L.G. 142** (LIB): see Bir el Hanascia.

**L.G. 143** (LIB): see Bir el Arca.

**L.G. 144** (LIB): see El Adem No. 1.

**L.G. 145** (LIB): see Tobruk/East.

**L.G. 146** (LIB): see Tobruk/West.

**L.G. 147** (LIB): see Sidi bu Amud.

**L.G. 148** (LIB): see Sidi Azeiz.

**L.G. 149** (LIB): see Ain el Gazala/North.

**L.G. 150** (LIB): see Ain el Gazala/South.

**LG 151** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 151) (30 49 00 N – 29 22 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**L.G. 152** (LIB): see Ain el Gazala No. 3.

**L.G. 153** (LIB): see Sidi Rasegh.

**LG 154** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 154) (30 46 50 N – 29 50 50 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 155** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 155) (31 07 00 N – 25 59 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**L.G. 156** (LIB): see Abiar Zaid.

**L.G. 157** (LIB): see El Adem/South.

**L.G. 158** (LIB): see Bir bu Hania.

**L.G. 159** (LIB): see Gambut/West.

**L.G. 160** (LIB): see Bir el Hacheim.

**L.G. 161** (LIB): see Baltet el Atasc.

**LG 162** (LIB): (Landing Ground 162) (31 26 00 N – 23 23 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

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**L.G. 163** (LIB): see Hueisciat/West.

**L.G. 164** (LIB): see Sidi Azeiz (Bir Uazen).

**L.G. 165** (LIB): see Rgubet el Ageremia.

**LG 166** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 166) (31 07 00 N – 25 31 00 E) - in Axis occupied territory Jun/Jul to Nov 42, no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

**L.G. 167** (LIB): see Abiar Bcheis.

**LG 168** (LIB/EGYPT): number not used.

**LG 169** (LIB/EGYPT): number not used.

**L.G. 170** (LIB): see Bir el Gobi.

**LG 171** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 171) (30 56 00 N – 29 31 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 172** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 172) (30 46 50 N – 29 29 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 173** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 173) (30 52 50 N – 29 51 50 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 174** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 174) (30 52 00 N – 29 56 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**LG 175** (EGYPT): (Landing Ground 175) (30 55 00 N – 29 55 00 E) - not used by the Axis.

**L.G. 176** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 1) (28 26 00 N – 21 45 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 300 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 70 km SSE of Jalu (Gialo). History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 177** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 2) (27 52 00 N – 21 57 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 362 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 136 km SSE of Jalu (Gialo). History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 178** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 3) (27 20 00 N – 22 08 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 421 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 198 km SSE of Jalu (Gialo). History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

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Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 179** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 4) (26 46 00 N – 22 20 00 E )

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 484 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 264 km SSE of Jalu (Gialo). History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

Nov 42: reported to be unserviceable.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 180** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Maezil, L.G. No. 5) (26 13 00 N – 22 31 00 E )

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 545 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 327 km SSE of Jalu (Gialo). History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

Nov 42: reported to be unserviceable.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 181** (LIB): see Bir Dacar.

**L.G. 182** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 7) (25 05 00 N – 22 57 00 E )

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 677 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 102 km NNW of Kufra (Al-Jawf). History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 183** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 7 (new)) (25 16 00 N – 22 55 00 E )

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 657 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 123 km NNW of Kufra (Al-Jawf). History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

Nov 42: said to have been recently constructed near L.G. 182.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 184** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 8) (24 39 00 N – 23 07 00 E )

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 728 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 52 km NNW of Kufra (Al-Jawf). History: no information

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found. Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface measuring approx. 795 x 795 meters (870 x 870 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**L.G. 185** (LIB): see Garet Cudi.

**L.G. 186** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. No. 10) (22 51 00 N – 24 15 00 E )

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 960 km SE of the Gulf of Sirte (Sidra) and 177 km SE of Kufra (Al-Jawf). History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: level natural surface measuring approx. 505 x 505 meters (550 x 550 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**LG 187 - LG 200** (LIB/EGYPT): numbers not used.

**LG 201 – LG 251** (EGYPT) were all landing grounds in Allied territory and not used by the Axis. The numbers 206, 207, 232, 235, 244 and 250 were open and not used.

**L.G. 598** (LIB): see Kufra No. 2.

**Lazarus** (LIB) (26 24 00 N – 24 23 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 628 km S of Tobruk.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: level sand and gravel surface with stony patches measuring approx. 730 x 730 meters (800 x 800 yards). Landing area marked with empty fuel drums.

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Maddalena** (LIB): see Scegga.

**Magrun** (LIB): see Sidi Magrun.

**Magta el Arrasa** (LIB) (30 25 00 N – 19 45 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 13.5 km E of Marsa Brega.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 550 x 410 meters (600 x 450 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Marada** (LIB) (29 13 10 N – 19 12 40 E)

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General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 328 km SSW of Benghazi, 116 km S of the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) and located on the eastern outskirts of the village of Marada (Maradah). History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: level, firm natural sand surface measuring approx. 455 x 365 meters (500 x 400 yards). Unserviceable in wet weather. Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

### Remarks:

1941-42: determined by the Germans to be an entirely unsuitable landing ground and accordingly not used.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1715); website ww2.dk]

**Maraua** (LIB) (a.k.a. Marawah) (32 30 10 N – 21 22 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 133 km ENE of Benghazi, 47 km E of Barce and 4 km NW of Maraua (Marawah). Located in a valley with bad approaches. History: early history not found. Used as a forward operational base for bombers based elsewhere and as a reception center for troop-carrying transport aircraft. Little activity here after mid-1941.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of a clay and lime mixture that was quite weedy and measured approx. 1215 x 695 meters (1330 x 760 yards) with an irregular shape. During 1941-42, an extension was added to the NE that measured an additional 400 x 730 meters (440 x 800 yards). However, German aerial photos taken 11 Mar 41 showed dimensions of 1920 x 1520 meters (2100 x 1660 yards). Landing area subject to flooding and mud during wet weather. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none aside from a few dugouts and a hut or two, but a fort about 1 km SE of the landing ground had 10 buildings that could be used for admin offices, accommodations and storage of supplies. Dispersal: there was a large dispersal area E of the SE corner. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

30 Sep 40: bombed by RAF Blenheims – 2 x S.M.79s destroyed on the ground and 2 more badly damaged and 4 more received light to moderate damage, all from 47<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT.

26 Jan 41: attacked – 1 x Fiat G.50 from 2<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT destroyed on the ground and 3 men KIA.

20 Dec 41: being used to stage Ju 88 raids before being evacuated this date or during the next day or two. When the Allies arrived, 2 wrecked Ju 87s were found on the landing ground.

5 Feb 42: unserviceable due to mud.

28 Apr 42: to be used by transport aircraft arriving with German Army personnel.

14 Nov 42: still in German hands - 250 tons of fuel ordered sent to Maraua.

Operational Units:



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*Italian*(Regia Aeronautica): 2º Gruppo CT (Jan 41); 46º Gruppo BT (Jun 40 at Tarhuna T18, Sep 40 at Maraua); 47º Gruppo BT (Jun 40 at Tarhuna T18, Sep 40 at Maraua).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Dec 41); Koflug Afrika (Dec 41); half of Res.Flugh.Betr.Kp. 1/XII (Nov 41); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 3/XVII (trop) (Mar 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.141 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1719); NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Marble Arch** (LIB): see Arco Philanorum.

**Marsa Brega** (LIB) (a.k.a. Marsa al Brega) (30 24 00 N – 19 35 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica on the coast of the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) 72 km SW of Agedabia. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks:

19 Dec 42: had been turned into an Allied fighter base by this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1747); website ww2.dk]

**Marsa Susa** (LIB): see Apollonia.

**Martuba** (LIB) (a.k.a. Martubah) (32 34 40 N – 22 45 46 E)

General: landing grounds in Cyrenaica 23 km SE of Derna and scattered around the SW, S and SE sides of Martuba village. These were numbered Martuba No. 1 to Martuba No. 5 (see below).

Remarks:

8 Jan 41: low-level attack by 2 RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* at least 2 x S.M.79s shot up and destroyed. In practice, it was 2 x S.M.81 transports that were strafed and destroyed.

16 Jun 41: bombed – 1 x Ca.133 transport and 1 x G.50bis fighter severely damaged on the ground.

11 Sep 41: bombed at night – 1 x G.50 fighter destroyed, and 5 x S.M.79 bombers damaged on the ground.

7 Nov 41: night bombing – 1 x S.M.79 destroyed on the ground.

17 Nov 41: low-level attack by 15 Hurricanes and 2 Blenheims – 1 x Hs 126 destroyed and another badly damaged.

21 Nov 41: low-level attack by RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 3 x Ju 87s, 1 x Ju 88 and 1 x Hs 126 shot up and destroyed. German sources show 1 x He 111 destroyed and 1 x Fi 156 damaged, both belonging to Kurierstaffel Afrika, and 1 x Hs 126 from 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 so severely damaged it was probably scrapped.

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30 Nov 41: strafed by 4 RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 8 x aircraft shot up and damaged. Italian records show 6 x S.M.79s damaged during this raid.

9 Dec 41: bombed – 4 x G.50bis fighters destroyed and 2 more badly damaged on the ground.

10 Dec 41: bombed by SAAF Marylands – 4 x G.50bis fighters destroyed and 6 more of the same damaged on the ground.

13 Dec 41: strafed – 5 x C.202 fighters damaged on the ground.

Dec 41: 37 wrecked and abandoned Axis aircraft, about half German, were found on the airfield when it was overrun by British forces.

10 Feb 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from III./JG 27 damaged on the ground.

24 Feb 42: sabotage – 2 x Bf 109 F-4. from 7./JG 27 damaged on the ground.

14 Mar 42: bombed by 12 Bostons – 1 x Bf 108 belonging to Gruppenstab III./St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground, while the bomber crews reported 3 x Bf 109s damaged.

15 Mar 42: 50 bombs dropped on landing area and dispersals – 1 x Bf 108 from I./St.G. 3 and 4 Italian C.200 fighters destroyed plus 3 x Ju 87s severely damaged.

18(19?) Mar 42: attacked by 14 bombers and 8 fighters – *claimed* several Bf 109s damaged and 1 x Bf 109 E-7 from 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 destroyed on the ground.

20 Mar 42: bombed by SAAF aircraft – 2 x Ju 87 R-2s from I./St.G. 3 slightly damaged.

23 Mar 42: bombed by SAAF Boston IIIs – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 7./JG 27 badly damaged on the ground.

28 Mar 42: bombed in the evening, 200 bombs being dropped – 4 x Bf 109 F-4s from 2./JG 27 and 2 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from II./JG 27 destroyed (3) or damaged (3) on the ground; additionally, the airfield bomb dump was hit and destroyed.

14 Apr 42: bombed – 1 x C.202 fighter damaged on the ground.

25 Apr 42: strafed – 3 x Italian C.200 fighters severely damaged and 6 more slightly damaged.

27 Apr 42: bombed – 6 x Bf 109s from JG 27 and 1 x Fi 156 C-2 from Wüstennotstaffel damaged on the ground, and a hut containing equipment, tools and ammunition destroyed.

22 May 42: bombed at night – 2 x C.200 fighters destroyed on the ground and 5 more damaged; 2 x C.R.42 fighters destroyed.

24 May 42: bombed – 4 x C.200 fighters damaged on the ground, one severely.

25 May 42: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from Stab and 9./JG 27 damaged along with 3 x C.202 fighters destroyed and 2 more C.202s damaged.

26 May 42: bombed – 1 x C.202 fighter destroyed and another damaged on the ground.

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27 May 42: bombed – 1 x C.202 destroyed and 2 more damaged on the ground.  
28 May 42: bombed – 2 x C.202s destroyed and 6 more damaged on the ground.  
29 May 42: bombed – 1 x C.202 damaged.  
1 Jun 42: air attack – 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from I./JG 27 damaged.  
5 Jun 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 3./JG 27 destroyed on the ground.  
6 Jun 42: bombed – 3 x C.202s damaged.  
4 Aug 42: bombed – 1 x C.200 fighter destroyed and 3 more damaged; 1 x C.202 fighter damaged.  
12 Nov 42: 1 x Ju 52 belonging to KGr.z.b.V. 800 blown up to prevent capture.  
14 Nov 42: 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from I./Schl.G. 2 and 6 x Bf 109 E-7s from II./Schl.G. 2 destroyed by the Germans to prevent capture and then Martuba evacuated and abandoned.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 3<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May-Jun 42); 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov 41, Mar 42); 8<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May-Jun 42); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov 41, May 42, Nov 42); 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May 42, Nov 42); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May 42); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov 41, Mar-Jun 42); 20<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun-Aug 41); 29<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Sep-Dec 40); 43<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Nov-Dec 41); 54<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (c. Jan 41); 150<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb-May 42); 158<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Nov 42); 159<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Nov 42); 209<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia BaT (Dec 41, Feb 42).  
*Luftwaffe*: 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Apr-Jun, Aug, Nov 41, Feb-Apr 42); II./St.G. 2 (Apr-Jun 41); Stab/JG 27 (Dec 41, Feb-May 42); I./JG 27 (Dec 41, Feb-May 42); III./JG 27 (Dec 41, Feb-Jun 42); Stab u. Stabsstaffel/St.G. 3 (Dec 41); II./JG 27 (Feb-May 42); 1. Wüstennotstaffel (c. Feb-Jun 42); Gefechtsverband Woldenga (Feb-May 42); I./St.G. 3 (Feb-Apr 42); II./St.G. 3 (Mar 42); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Apr-Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 27 (May-Jun 42); III./JG 53 (May-Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 53 (Jun 42); Stab/JG 77 (Nov 42); I./JG 77 (Nov 42); III./JG 77 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Behelfskommandantur B Martuba (Apr 41 - ?); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Feb-Jun 42); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Mar 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): 1. Flugh.Betr.Kp. St.G. 2 (May 41); Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (Feb-Mar 42); part of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (Mar 42); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 3/XVII (trop) (Mar 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp.142-46 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Martuba No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Martuba/Main, Martuba/West) (32 31 30 N – 22 42 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 24 km SSE of Derna and 8 km SW of Martuba. History: early history not found. This was the main landing ground of the 5 scattered around Martuba. It was used by all types of

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aircraft during the war in North Africa. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface, that was unusually firm and stony, measuring approx. 840 x 825 meters (920 x 900 yards) sitting on an L-shaped piece of terrain twice those dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found but several dumps had been set up. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops, but did have an underground operations and control bunker along with a few sheds. Accommodations were in 3 buildings next to a hospital in Martuba village. Dispersal: there were 11 aircraft blast bays around the N boundary in May 42 plus ample aircraft parking along the perimeter. Defenses: none noted. Remarks: see under Martuba (above).

Operational Units: see under Martuba (above).

Station Commands: see under Martuba (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Martuba (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.142 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1671); website ww2.dk]

**Martuba No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Martuba/East) (32 28 45 N – 22 48 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 11.25 km SSE of Martuba village.

History: this was the original and only airfield at Martuba until the other 4 were built during the early part of the war. Surface and Dimensions:

smooth natural surface measuring approx. 915 x 870 meters (1000 x 950

yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: had 7 aircraft blast bays off the N boundary and the SE corner in May 42. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Martuba (above).

Operational Units: see under Martuba (above).

Station Commands: see under Martuba (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Martuba (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.143 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Martuba No. 3** (LIB) (a.k.a. Martuba/West - Satellite) (32 32 00 N – 22 40 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 10 km SW of Martuba village and 3.25 km W of Martuba No. 1. History: built during 1941-42. Surface and

Dimensions: firm natural surface in good condition measuring approx. 1550 x 915 meters (1700 x 1000 yards) including the dispersal areas. Fuel and

Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had ample space around the perimeter for parking aircraft and there was just 1 blast bay in May 42. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Martuba (above).

Operational Units: see under Martuba (above).

Station Commands: see under Martuba (above).

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Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Martuba (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.144 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Martuba No. 4** (LIB) (a.k.a. Martuba/East - Satellite) (32 31 30 N – 22 44 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 6.5 km SSW of Martuba village and c. 3.25 km E of Martuba No. 1. History: built during 1941-42. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1235 x 870 meters (1350 x 950 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: at one time had a barracks and storage facilities, but later there was none. Dispersal: had 13 aircraft blast shelters off the NW, SW and E sides of the landing area in May 42. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Martuba (above).

Operational Units: see under Martuba (above).

Station Commands: see under Martuba (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Martuba (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.145 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Martuba No. 5** (LIB) (32 32 16 N – 22 33 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 19.5 km WSW of Martuba village and 14.5 km W of Martuba No. 1. History: built during 1941-42 and used by fighters. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of sand and small stones overgrown with grass and weeds measuring approx. 1190 x 1100 x 365 meters (1300 x 1200 x 400 yards) with a dog-leg shape. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Martuba (above).

Operational Units: see under Martuba (above).

Station Commands: see under Martuba (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Martuba (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.146 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mechili** (LIB) (a.k.a. Mekili, Mechli, Zäwiyat al Mukhaylá) (32 09 33 N – 22 16 49 E)

General: 2 landing grounds in Cyrenaica 75 km SSW of Derna, Mechili/North and Mechili/South (see below).

Remarks:

7 Apr 41: low-level attack by RAAF Hurricanes - 2 x Ju 52s from III./KG z.b.V. 1 shot up and destroyed by fighters on the ground near Mechili.

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8 Apr 41: in use by elements of II./St.G. 2, 7./ZG 26 and 7 Italian dive-bombers to stage attacks on Allied concentrations and port activity in Tobruk.

20 May 41: strafed by RAF Hurricanes – *claimed* 1 x Ju 52 destroyed.

8 Aug 41: the second of the two airstrips at Mechili/North was under construction but not yet completed.

24 Jan 42: occupied by Allied aircraft.

Operational Units: no Axis units identified as being based here.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp.147-48 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Mechili/North** (LIB) (a.k.a. Mekili/North, Mechili No. 2) (32 08 00 N – 22 18 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 73 km SSW of Derna and 4 km SSE of Mechili village and Fort Mekili. History: early history of this occasionally used forward landing ground not found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of desert gravel with some scrub with 2 airstrips measuring approx. 1050 x 135 meters (1150 x 150 yards) and 825 x 135 meters (900 x 150 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none at the landing ground, but the fort had 1 large and 7 smaller buildings. Dispersal: aircraft were able to park anywhere on or off the landing area due to the barren terrain. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Mechili (above).

Operational Units: see under Mechili (above).

Station Commands: see under Mechili (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Mechili (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.147 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mechili/South** (LIB) (a.k.a. Mekili/South, Mechili No. 1) (32 07 30 N – 22 19 15 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 83 km SSW of Derna and 5.5 km SE of Mechili village and Fort Mekili. History: early history of this occasionally used forward landing ground not found. Used occasionally by dive-bombers and fighters. Surface and Dimensions: good quality firm natural sand surface that had been graded and measured approx. 1100 x 795 meters (1200 x 870 yards). German reports of 20 Nov 42 gave 700 x 500 meters (765 x 545 yards) and said the landing area was quite rocky. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none at the landing ground, but the fort had 1 large and 7 smaller buildings. Dispersal: there was ample space for parking aircraft along and off the perimeter. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see under Mechili (above).

Operational Units: see under Mechili (above).

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Station Commands: see under Mechili (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see under Mechili (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.148 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1670); website ww2.dk]

### **Melah en Nogra** (LIB) (30 29 00 N – 19 56 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 40 km SW of Agedabia and 16 km inland from the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) coast. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 685 x 595 meters (750 x 650 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mellaha** (LIB): see Tripoli-Mellaha.

**Menastir** (LIB) (a.k.a. Menastir No. 1, Bardia-Menastir, Zäwiyat al Manästir, Bir el Menastir, Uadi el Menastir) (31 47 40 N – 24 59 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 44 km ESE of Gambut, 10.5 km WNW of Bardia (Al Burdī) and just N of the Bardia – Tobruk road. History: early history not found. Used mainly by Italian and then German fighters. Changed hands several times during 1941-42. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of sand and stone measuring approx. 1280 x 915 meters (1400 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: reportedly had underground storage for both fuel and ammunition. Infrastructure: none. Accommodations were available in barracks located in Bardia. Dispersal: had 5 aircraft blast bays in Jun 41. Taxi tracks led to dispersal areas off the boundaries. Defenses: none noted.

Satellites and Decoys:

**Menastir No. 2** (a.k.a. Bardia-Menastir No. 2) (31 50 00 N – 24 55 30 E) - satellite emergency landing ground.

Remarks:

4 Jul 40: in use by Italian fighters.

22 Sep 40: strafed by RAF fighters – claimed several C.R.42 fighters damaged on the ground.

16 Dec 40: attacked by a Blenheim – 1 x S.M.79 strafed and damaged on the ground.

13/14 Apr 41: bombed by RAF Wellingtons – claimed 1 unidentified aircraft destroyed.

14 Apr 41: strafed by 2 Hurricanes – claimed 1 Ju 52 shot up and damaged.

17 Apr 41: bombed - 3 x Ju 52s from III./KG z.b.V. 1 destroyed on the ground (loss data actually reads "Bardia").

21 Aug 41: bombed by RAF Marylands – results not reported.

7 Nov 41: raided by 10 Blenheims – results not reported.

10 Nov 41: bombed – buildings damaged.

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2 Dec 41: still in Axis hands.

26 Feb 42: runways under construction.

22 Jun 42: reoccupied by Luftwaffe ground staff and next day by II./JG 27.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Sep, Dec 40); 73<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Sep 40).

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 27 (Apr 41); II./JG 27 (Jun 42, Nov 42); I./JG 27 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Fliegerführer Afrika (Jun 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 101 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1714); website ww2.dk]

**Menelao Bay** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bomba, Bombah) (32 24 45 N – 23 07 30 E)

General: seaplane station and auxiliary landing ground at Menelao Bay in Cyrenaica 62 km SE of Derna on the E shore of Menelao Bay. A small peninsula-like island 1.5 km to the south was called Bomba at the time. The landing area was adjacent to the seaplane station and had usable dimensions of 2000 x 650 meters (2185 x 710 yards).

History: early history not found, but during the war it was a regular base for Italian flying boats and floatplanes for a considerable time. In fact, during the months Tobruk was in Allied hands it was the only Axis seaplane base in Cyrenaica, aside from Benghazi.

Anchorage: very sheltered shallow waters in the Bay and even in the adjacent Gulf of Bomba. Close to the quay were some 12 seaplane mooring buoys,

Fuel and Ammunition: no details found but almost certainly available.

Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops identified, but had 2 large buildings under construction (Oct 42) plus 2 to 5 small huts. A wide quay measuring 90 meters (100 yards) in length supported 2 small jetties and 3 short slipways.

Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

22 Nov 40: attacked by RAF aircraft – 1 x Cant Z.501 maritime reconnaissance plane destroyed.

6 Oct 42: seaplane base strafed during the morning by 3 twin-engine Beaufighters – 4 x Cant Z.501 and 1 x Cant Z.506 floatplane torpedo bomber damaged.

7 Oct 42: early afternoon raid on the base by 4 Beaufighters – 8 aircraft hit with 1 x Z.501 and 1 x Z.506 destroyed and 2 x Z.501s severely damaged.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 143<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Jun 40); 145<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Jul 42); 148<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Jul 42).



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*Luftwaffe*: detachment of 7. Seenotstaffel (Jun 41 - 1942).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): elements of II./Flak-Rgt. 25 (Apr 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.149 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990 and 1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1703); website ww2.dk]

**Merduma** (LIB): see El Merduma.

**Mersa Ain el Gazala** (LIB) (a.k.a. Gazala Bay) (32 10 00 N – 23 19 00 E)

General: seaplane anchorage in Cyrenaica 62 km WNW of Tobruk on the E shore of a long narrow bay. History: not known if this anchorage was set up by the Axis or the Allies, but in any event no seaplane units were ever based here. Anchorage: well sheltered shallow waters with a bottom of mud, wood and sand. A take-off and landing run of 2.5 km was thought to be possible. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops but there were 3 huts with concrete floors 1.2 km from the pier that could be used for accommodations. Had a heavily constructed wooden pier.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.150 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mersa Matruh** (EGYPT) (Marsá Matrüh, Marsa Matrouh, LG 008) (31 20 00 N – 27 12 05 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 255 km W of Alexandria and 4 km SW of Mersa Matruh town center. History: an RAF base as early as August 1939. While in Axis hands from July to early November 1942, it served mainly as a supply hub rather than as an operational airfield. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard-packed sand surface with 2 airstrips measuring approx. 1600 x 230 meters (1750 x 250 yards) and 1280 x 230 meters (1400 x 250 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: had a hangar plus admin and other buildings. Dispersal: there was an ample dispersal area reached by taxi tracks. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

26-28 Jun 42: Mersa Matruh captured by advancing Italian and German forces.

29 Oct 42: strafed by 6 RAF Kittyhawks – *claimed* 2 x He 111s and 1 x Ju 86 destroyed, plus 2 x Ju 86s damaged. The Luftwaffe reported the destruction of just 1 x He 111 H-6 belonging to Flugbereitschaft/Fliegerführer Afrika.

3 Nov 42: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 5./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.

5 Nov 42: unserviceable Caudron C 445 belonging to Kurierstaffel Afrika blown up to prevent capture.

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6 Nov 42: 1 x Do 24 T-1 destroyed in Mersa Matruh harbor to prevent capture by advancing British troops.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 600<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia T (Nov 42).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (c. Sep-Oct 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Jul 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 6 (Jul 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 53 (Jul 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 46 (Sep, Nov 42); 2 Battr. of Flak-Abt. 354 (Sep 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. z.b.V. Afrika (Jul 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Misurata** (LIB) (a.k.a. Misrätah) (c. 32 22 N – 15 05 E)

General: 2 landing grounds in Cyrenaica 191 km ESE of Tripoli, Misurata-Marina and Misurata/West (see below).

### Remarks:

26 Apr 41: the Luftwaffe began using Misurata as an intermediate stopover for refueling.

26 May 41: reported 60,000 liters of B4 and 12,000 liters of C3 on hand, all in drums (barrels).

20 Jun 41: bombed by an RAF Maryland – 1 x S.M.81 transport destroyed and 3 x S.M.82 transports damaged on the ground.

20 Dec 42: landing ground occupied by 60 Axis aircraft.

11 Jan 43: evacuated and left unserviceable.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 42); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 42); 11<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Dec 41 – Mar 42); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Mar 42); 20<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May 41); 23<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 27<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Dec 41); 28<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Dec 41); 43<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Dec 41 – Jan 42); 68<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Jul 42); 131<sup>o</sup> Gruppo AS (Nov 42); 133<sup>o</sup> Gruppo AS (Nov 42); 145<sup>o</sup> Gruppo T (Dec 41); 159<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Dec 42); 176<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Dec 41); 236<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CB (Jan 41); 279<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Dec 41 – Feb 42); 284<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (Dec 41 – Feb 42).

*Luftwaffe*: 7./ZG 26 (Nov 41); 4.(Pz.)/Schl.G. 2 (for repairs, Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Nov-Dec 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Fliegerführer Afrika (Dec 42 – Jan 43); Koflug 10/III (Nov 42 – Jan 43); Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (Dec 41); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 914 (Nov 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 2/XI (Dec 42); Flieger-Geräteausgabestelle 1/VII (Dec 42); Nachschubkolonnen-Abt. d.Lw. 5/VI (Dec 41, Jan 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 064-65 (Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Misurata-Marina** (LIB) (a.k.a. Misrata) (32 21 20 N – 15 12 50 E)

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General: landing ground in Tripolitania 11.75 km ESE of Misurata (Misrata) city center and 400 meters from the shoreline. History: used frequently during 1941 but inactive after that. Surface and Dimensions: reasonably firm sandy surface with some grass measuring approx. 825 x 505 meters (900 x 550 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no information regarding fuel storage, but there was an underground ammunition dump off the SE corner of the landing ground. Infrastructure: had a small hangar near the shore. Barrack accommodations were in Misurata. Dispersal: there was an area for parking aircraft W of the hangar. Defenses: 2 Flak positions with a total of 9 guns were seen in Dec 41.

Remarks: see Misurata.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 064 (6 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Misurata/West** (LIB) (a.k.a. Misrata) (32 19 45 N – 15 03 35 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 6.5 km SW of Misurata city center. History: early history not found, but used by reconnaissance aircraft, fighters and torpedo bombers from 1940/41 to the end of 1942. Surface and Dimensions: level sandy surface measuring approx. 1830 x 1280 meters (2000 x 1400 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: a fuel storage site was located off the NW side of the landing ground. Infrastructure: no hangars or aircraft workshops, but there was a nearby workshop for repairing vehicles and several other buildings. Personnel were billeted in barracks in Misurata. Dispersal: aircraft parked around the perimeter and in bays. Defenses: protected by 16 x 2.0 cm Flak guns in Apr 42.

Remarks: see Misurata.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 065 (5 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1684); website ww2.dk]

**Mizda** (LIB) (a.k.a. Mizdah) (31 25 30 N – 12 58 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 165 km S of Tripoli and 2.5 km SSW of the village of Mizdah where there was an old colonial fort. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sand surface measuring approx. 730 x 620 meters (800 x 680 yards). Infrastructure: had 1 hangar.

Remarks:

15-17 Dec 42: Mizda ordered restored to operational readiness by Fliegerführer Afrika.

21 Jan 43: Mizda plowed and rendered unserviceable by the retreating Axis. [Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1682); website ww2.dk]

**Msus No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Zeit Msus, Masous) (31 34 30 N – 21 01 45 E)

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General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 107 km SE of Benghazi and 2.5 km ESE of Fort Msus. The village and fort were along the highway to Benghazi and the landing ground was just 2 km E of the village. History: early history not found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of clay and gravel with 2 airstrips measuring approx. 1100 x 275 meters (1200 x 300 yards) and 1100 x 185 meters (1200 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

3 Apr 41: in use by RAAF Hurricanes.

24 Dec 41: 4 squadrons of RAF and SAAF P-40 Tomahawks at Msus.

11 Jan 42: occupied by 25 to 30 British multi-engine aircraft.

Feb-Oct 42: no mention of any activity here.

20 Nov 42: British occupied.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: Kurierstaffel Afrika (Jan 42)?

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.151 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Msus No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Zeit Msus, Masous) (31 33 15 N – 21 02 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 4.25 km SE of Msus village and just SE of Msus No. 1 landing ground. History: early history not found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with sparse camel scrub supporting 2 airstrips measuring approx. 915 x 185 meters (1000 x 200 yards) and 915 x 185 meters (1000 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none at the landing ground. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see Msus No. 1 (above).

Operational Units: see Msus No. 1 (above).

Station Commands: see Msus No. 1 (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Msus No. 1 (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 152 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mumin Busak** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Bi'r Mu'min Būsäk, Daba, El Daba) (30 57 40 N – 28 40 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt c. 30 km NW of El Alamein (Al 'Alamayn), 21 km ESE of El Daba, 6 km W of Sidi abd El-Rahman and 3 km S of the coastal highway. History: used as a forward fighter field during the first half of Jul 42 when it was evacuated because its proximity to the front lines attracted constant air attacks. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface with a level or graded airstrips and landing area with 4 airstrips measuring (1) 1600 x 200 meters (1750 x 220 yards) and aligned

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W/E; (2) 2700 x 200 meters (2950 x 220 yards) aligned WNW/ESE; (3) 2400 x 200 meters (2625 x 220 yards) aligned N/S; and (4) 2000 x 200 meters (2185 x 220 yards) aligned SW/NE. Infrastructure: none reported in May 42. Dispersal: covered a large area with ample room for parking aircraft.

### Remarks:

(also see El Daba)

3 Jul 42: the first Axis air units arrived and occupied the landing ground.

4 Jul 42: daily attacks by Allied bombers and fighter-bombers began.

5 Jul 42: low-level attack – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) belonging to III./JG 27 destroyed and 1 x C.202 fighter from 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT destroyed, both on the ground.

6 Jul 42: bombed and strafed by Kittyhawks – claimed 2 Italian planes destroyed, but in reality 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) belonging to 7./JG 27 and 1 x C.202 from 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT were destroyed, both on the ground.

13 Jul 42: bombed - 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) belonging to 8./JG 27 damaged beyond repair.

26 Aug 42: low-level attack – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 6./JG 27 destroyed.

28 Aug 42: low-level attack – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 6./JG 27 destroyed by strafing.

4-5 Nov 42: retaken by advancing British and Commonwealth troops.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jul 42).

*Luftwaffe*: Stab/JG 27 (Jul-Nov 42); I./JG 27 (Jul 42); III./JG 27 (Jul 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Murzuk No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Murzuch, Murzuq) (c. 25 55 00 N – 13 56 30 E)

General: airfield in Tripolitania 776 km S of Tripoli, 132 km SSW of Sabhā and 1.5 km E of Murzuq town center. History: no details of early history found. Surface and Dimensions: firm and level sandy surface measuring approx. 795 x 795 meters (870 x 870 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no information. Infrastructure: had 1 hangar, but no other buildings.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

27 Mar 41: a Ju 88 (2F+YA) from Stabsstaffel/St.G. 3 made an emergency landing here and was reported unserviceable.

3 Mar 42: an old fort on the N side of the town was bombed by a Free French Martin Maryland, but no mention of the airfield.

10 Jan 43: now in Free French hands.

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Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 066 (17 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Murzuk No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Murzuch, Murzuq) (25 54 00 N – 13 53 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 776 km S of Tripoli.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural terrain of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## N

**Nalut** (LIB) (31 47 00 N – 10 58 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 243 km SW of Tripoli, 162 km SW of Zuara and 9.5 km S of the town of Nalut. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: good grass surface measuring approx. 805 x 505 meters (880 x 550 yards). Infrastructure: a meteorological station was there and there were some scattered houses and buildings N of the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1687); website ww2.dk]

**Nofilia** (LIB): see En Nofilia.

## O

**Oweinat** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ain Doua) (21 52 00 N – 24 59 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 311 km SE of Kufra Oasis on the S side of an isolated mountain mass called Jebel Oweinat that lies close to the SW border of Egypt and the NW border of Sudan. History: used by the Italians as the last refueling point along the trans-desert air route to East Africa. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: hard gravel surface in good condition measuring approx. 915 x 915 meters (1000 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersion: none. Defenses: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.153 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Oweinat – Ain Doua** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ain Doua) (21 48 00 N – 24 51 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in the south Libyan desert in Cyrenaica near the border with Egypt. History: not found. Surface and Dimensions: hard natural surface measuring approx. 455 x 365 meters (500 x 400 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## P

**Pisida (Land)** (LIB) (33 03 21 N – 11 46 20 E)

General: emergency landing ground on the coast in Tripolitania 137 km W of Tripoli and 4 km ESE of the village of Abu Kammash. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface and agricultural land measuring approx. 805 x 705 meters (880 x 770 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG, but there were numerous houses and buildings in the vicinity.

Remarks:

Jan 43: plowed and rendered unserviceable by the retreating Axis forces.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1697); website ww2.dk]

**Pisida (See)** (LIB) (33 04 40 N – 11 45 51 E)

General: seaplane anchorage in Tripolitania 8 km up a long inlet close to the border with Tunisia and 2.5 km E of the present day village of Abu Kammash (Pisida, Farwah?). History: used by flying boats for maritime reconnaissance and air-sea rescue. Anchorage: very protected waters with ample take-off and landing room for seaplanes and flying boats.

Infrastructure: no hangars or slipway, but there were 15 small buildings and a narrow jetty 110 meters (120 yards) in length. Defenses 3 AA machine gun positions reported here in Dec 41.

Remarks:

4 Nov 41: an Italian seaplane squadron based here this date.

20 Dec 41: seaplanes previously at Benghazi evacuated to Pisida.

28-29 Nov 42: air attack on the anchorage – 1 x Cant Z.506 sunk, 1 more destroyed, 1 damaged and unserviceable and 2 more damaged but believed repairable here. (Axis report)

12 Jan 43: attacked by 12 American aircraft – no damage to property or personnel.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 145<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Oct-Nov 42); 148<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Oct-Nov 42).

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Luftwaffe: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 070 (24 Oct 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## Q

**Qassasin** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Qassassin?, LG "Y", LG 006) (31 23 00 N – 26 37 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt approx. 70.25 km ESE of Sidi Barrani and 59 km W of Mersa Matruh. History: fighter field occasionally used by the RAF. No Axis air units are known to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

29-30 Jun 42: evacuated by the RAF.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 0991-1036 (Egypt 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600 – 1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**Quasaba** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Quasaba/Main, Haggag el Quasaba, El Qasaba, Sidi Haneish/South, L.G. 13) (31 07 00 N – 27 30 30 E)

General: landing grounds in NW Egypt 37 km SE of Mersa Matruh, 12.25 km WSW of Zawya Haroun and 2.75 km SW of Sidi Haneish/North. History: established RAF base that was occupied by the Luftwaffe from July to November 1942, mainly as a forward field for dive-bombers. Surface and Dimensions: firm, sandy, stony, dusty surface measuring approx. 1830 x 1005 meters (2000 x 1100 yards) with a rectangular shape. Earlier, in June 1941, measured 875 x 850 meters (955 x 930 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: brought in as needed. Infrastructure: had 4 barracks and approx. 120 tents in Jun 41. Dispersal: there were 14 parking pens for aircraft in Jun 41. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Jun 40: occupied by RAF army co-op (tac recce) aircraft.

26 Jul 42: shot up by tanks – 3 x Ju 88 C-6s from I./NJG 2 destroyed or damaged on the ground.

27/28 Jul 42: SAS commando raid – 3 x Ju 88Cs from I./NJG 2 destroyed on the ground. The commandos, mounted in 16 jeeps, *claimed* a total of 5 x Ju 87s, 3 x Ju 88 Cs and 2 x Ju 52s destroyed, plus 7 x Ju 87s, 3 x Ju 88s and 1 x Bf 110 damaged. Research 70+ years later states actual losses were 10 Luftwaffe aircraft destroyed and 11 more badly damaged, mostly Ju 87s from St.G. 3.



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27 Aug 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 87 D-3 (Trop) from III./St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground.

13 Sep 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 87 D-1 from II./St.G. 3 badly damaged on the ground.

24 Sep 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 87 D-3 destroyed, another badly damaged and 1 x DFS 230 glider slightly damaged, all 3 of these from I./St.G. 3, and 1 x Ju 87 D-3 from II./St.G. 3 badly damaged.

27/28 Sep 42: bombed by 4 SAAF Bostons – results unstated.

6 Nov 42: German evacuation of Qasaba landing grounds underway.

11 Nov 42: Bf 109 E-7 belonging to II./Schl.G. 2 demolished to prevent capture by the enemy.

25 Jan 44: Qasaba/Main, Qasaba/North and Qasaba/South all reported abandoned by this date.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: III./JG 53 (Jul-Aug 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 53 (Jul-Aug 42); III./JG 27 (Jul-Sep 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 27 (Jul-Aug 42); Stab/St.G. 3 (Aug-Nov 42); I./St.G. 3 (Aug-Nov 42); II./St.G. 3 (Aug-Oct 42); III./St.G. 3 (Aug-Nov 42); detachment of I./NJG 2 (c. Jul-Nov 42); detachment of Sanitätsflugbereitschaft 2 (Aug-? 42)?; detachment from III./KG 54 (Oct-Nov 42); elements of I./Schl.G. 2 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 9/III (Aug-Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Koflug 18/XI (Aug 42 - ? ); le.Werkstattzug 1/10 (Aug-Sep 42); elements of le.I/Feldwerftverband 30 (Aug/Sep 42); elements of Feldwerft-Abt. (mot) (trop) I (Sep 42); Ln.-Stelle E 1/III (Oct 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1008 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720);website ww2.dk]

**Quasaba/North** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Haggag el Quasaba/North, El Qasaba/North, LG 011) (c. 31 10 00 N – 27 24 00 E)

General: satellite landing ground for Quasaba/Main and c. 8 km NNW thereof. The Mersa Matruh – Fuka highway ran along the N boundary of the landing ground. History: no information found except that it was built after June 1941. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring 970 x 770 meters (1060 x 840 yards). Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Operational Units: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Station Commands: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Quasaba/Main (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720);website ww2.dk]

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**Quasaba/Ost** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Haggag el Quasaba/East, El Qasaba, Sanyet el Quasaba?, Sidi Haneish/North, LG 012) (31 10 05 N – 27 27 00 E) or (31 11 20 N – 27 27 30 E)

General: satellite landing ground for Quasaba/Main and c. 5 to 10 km N thereof. History: no information found except that it was built after June 1941. Surface and Dimensions: No details found. Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Operational Units: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Station Commands: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Quasaba/Main (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Quasaba/West** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Haggag el Quasaba/West, El Qasaba, LG 101) (31 08 30 N – 27 31 10 E).

General: satellite landing ground for Quasaba/Main and 38.25 km SE of Mersa Matruh. History: no information found, but it already existed in June 1941. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard sand and gravel surface measuring approx. 1370 x 1370 meters (1500 x 1500 yards) with a square shape. Earlier in Jun 41, measured 940 x 780 meters (1030 x 855 yards). Infrastructure: approx. 60 tents here in Jun 41. Dispersal: adequate with an unstated number of aircraft parking pens in 1942. Defenses: there were fortified Flak positions with at least 2 heavy Flak guns in Jun 41.

Remarks: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Operational Units: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Station Commands: see Quasaba/Main (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Quasaba/Main (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1019 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Quotaifiyah** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Quotaifiyah/Main, Quotaifiya, Quotaifiya I, Qotefiya, Quteifiya?, Sanyet Turbiya?, LG 020) (31 04 00 N – 28 18 00 E)

General: landing grounds in N Egypt roughly 105 km ESE of Mersa Matruh, 13.75 km WNW of El Daba, 5 km NNE of Quotaifiyah (Qotefiya) village and just 1 km N of the Fuka – Alexandria road. History: pre-war RAF base. Surface and Dimensions: natural sand and clay surface with 3 airstrips measuring approx. 1190 x 185 meters (1300 x 200 yards), 960 x 185 meters (1050 x 200 yards), and 1050 x 185 meters (1150 x 200 yards). Overall dimensions in Aug 41 were 1240 x 1120 meters (1355 x 1225 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: none

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reported in Aug 41 aside from a few tents. Dispersal: ample space available with aircraft parking pens. Defenses: none noted.

### Satellites and Decoys:

**Quotaifiya II** (a.k.a. Sanyet el Quotaifiya, LG 104) (31 02 30 N – 28 18 00 E) and/or (31 02 50 N – 28 16 30 E). General: 15 km W of El Daba and just SW of Quotaifiyah/Main. Surface and Dimensions: natural all weather surface of hard sand and clay with 2 airstrips measuring approx. 1830 x 185 meters (2000 x 200 yards) and 1465 x 185 meters (1600 x 200 yards) with an overall irregular shape. Fuel and Ammunition: available as needed. Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: dispersal space and aircraft parking pens available.

**Quotaifiya III** (a.k.a. LG 021) (30 59 00 N – 28 17 00 E). General: satellite airstrip 15.25 km WSW of El Daba and 5.25 km S of Quotaifiyah (Qotefiya) village. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard-packed sand and clay surface with 3 airstrips measuring approx. 1190 meters (1300 yards), 1145 meters (1250 yards) and 1035 meters (1130 yards) in length. Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: ample space available with aircraft parking pens.

### Remarks (for all 3 Quotaifiya landing grounds):

Jul 40: RAF Blenheims based here, followed by SAAF Marylands in Nov 41.  
29 Jun 42: still in British hands.

1 Jul 42: strafed by 4 Beaufighters – *claimed* 2 x Ju 87s.

5 Jul 42: bombed and strafed by RAAF Kittyhawks – 2 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from III./JG 53 damaged, while the Kittyhawks *claimed* 7 x Ju 88s damaged and 1 x Bf 109 destroyed.

8 Jul 42: Kittyhawk fighter-bomber attack on Quotaifiyah/Main and Quotaifiyah III – 3 x Bf 109 F-4s from 8./JG 27 and III./JG 53 shot up and damaged just as they were taking off.

19 Jul 42: low-level attack by RAF Bostons and Kittyhawks – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 9./JG 53 shot up and badly damaged. The RAF ground *claims* were for 3 x Ju 87s, 4 x Ju 88s, 1 x Bf 110 and 1 x Ju 52 shot up and damaged, and 7 bomb hits on the airfield. A later attack the same day by 19 Kittyhawks *claimed* 5 x Ju 87s, 5 x Ju 88s and 3 x Bf 109s shot up.

24 Jul 42: bombed by 18 Bostons and 12 Baltimores – 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from 2./JG 27 and 3 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 4./JG 27 destroyed (3) or damaged (2).

8 Aug 42: bombed – 5 x Bf 109 F-4s from II./JG 27, 2 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from Stab and III./JG 53, 1 x He 111 from Kurierstaffel Afrika and 1 x Bf 108 B-1 from Flugbereitschaft Fliegerführer Afrika destroyed (3) and damaged (5).

22 Sep 42: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from 9./JG 53 destroyed.

23 Sep 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 87 D-3 from II./St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground.

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9 Oct 42: bombed and strafed by 12 RAAF Kittyhawks – 13 x Bf 109 F-4s from III./JG 53 and 4 x Bf 109 G-2/F-4s from II./JG 27 destroyed or damaged. A Fi 156 C-3 belonging to the Wüstennotstaffel was also shot up and damaged.

11 Oct 42: 1 officer with 60 construction troops to arrive by 13 Oct to construct aircraft blast bays on the personal orders of GFM Kesselring.

19 Oct 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 9./JG 53 damaged.

21 Oct 42: bombed - 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 7./JG 53 damaged.

22 Oct 42: bombed - 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from 9./JG 53 destroyed (1) or damaged (1).

23 Oct 42: bombed - 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from 7./JG 53 damaged.

27 Oct 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 6./JG 27 damaged.

29 Oct 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from 5./JG 27 badly damaged.

30 Oct 42: low-level attack – 1 x Bf 109 G-2 (trop) from I./JG 27 badly damaged.

1 Nov 42: bombed – 3 x Bf 109 F-4s from II./JG 27 damaged.

3 Nov 42: bombed – 3 x Bf 109 G-2s from I./JG 77 damaged.

4 Nov 42: 6 x Bf 109 F-4/G-2s and 1 x Bf 108 B-2 from II./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.

6 Nov 42: undocumented or verified accounts state that JG 27 left behind 30 burning Bf 109s when the Quotaifiya airfields were evacuated this date. RAF units moved in the same date and the next day.

25 Jan 44: Quotaifiya I, II and III all reported abandoned by this date.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 27 (Jul-Oct 42); II./JG 27 (Jul-Oct 42); III./JG 27 (Jul 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 27 (Jul 42); III./JG 53 (Jul-Oct 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 53 (Jul 42); 1. Wüstennotstaffel (Jun/Jul – Nov 42); Kurierstaffel Afrika (Jul/Aug – Oct 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Aug-Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Gefechtsstand/O.B.S.

(Antonius 4) (Sep 42); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Oct 42);

elements of le.Flak-Abt. 914 (Oct 42); elements of Lw.-Bau-Btl. 21/XI (Sep-Oct 42); Stab, 1., 2./Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. I (Sep 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp.1012-13 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## R

**Ras Lanuf** (LIB): see Arco Philanorum.

**Rebiana** (LIB) (24 15 00 N – 22 00 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 720 km SSE of the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) and 132 km W of Kufra airfield and the village of Al-

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Jawf. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none - located in uninhabited open desert.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Rgubet el Ageremia** (LIB) (a.k.a. L.G. 165) (31 31 00 N – 21 47 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 176 km ESE of Benghazi, 69 km WSW of Msus and located along a road in open desert. History: early history not found but was in use by a few aircraft in June 1942. However, no record found of any Axis units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with 2 airstrips measuring 1280 x 230 meters (1400 x 250 yards) and 1100 x 185 meters (1200 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.155 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ridotta Maddalena** (LIB): see Scegga.

**Rotonda Segnali** (LIB): see Gadd el Ahmar.

## S

**Sabratha** (LIB): see Sorman.

**Safsaf** (LIB): see Cyrene.

**Sanyet Khoraisif** (EGYPT): see Abu Sueir/North.

**Saunnu** (LIB) (31 01 30 N – 20 52 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 69 km NE of Agedabia.

History: an old fort located here and in use as an ELG in 1941. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Scegga I** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Maddalena I, Maddalena/East, Ridotta Maddalena, L.G. 122) (30 55 00 N – 25 06 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 73 km S of Sollum (El Salloum) and 14.5 km ENE of Fort Maddalena on the border between Libya and Egypt.

History: a British landing ground that was in Axis occupied territory between Jul and Nov 42, although no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface with 2 airstrips

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measuring 960 x 230 meters (1050 x 250 yards) and 915 x 230 meters (1000 x 250 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: there was plenty of space available for dispersing aircraft.

### Remarks:

24 Nov 41: British occupied – 175 aircraft on the 3 Scegga landing grounds at one time due to an evacuation from other airfields brought on by an advance by German tanks in this area.

1942: does not appear to have been used very much.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1023 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Scegga II** (LIB) (a.k.a. Esc- Scegga II, Maddalena II, Maddalena/South, Ridotta Maddalena, L.G. 124) (30 52 00 N – 24 57 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 160 km SE of Tobruk, 81 km SSW of Sollum and 3.25 km WNW of Ridotta Maddalena, which as a fort 3.25 km W of the border between Cyrenaica and Egypt. History: early history not found. The landing ground changed hands several times during 1940-42 and it was being used by fighters during 1942. Surface and Dimensions: had a good gravel surface with 2 airstrips each measuring approx. 915 x 165 meters (1000 x 180 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.156 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Scegga III** (LIB) (a.k.a. Esc- Scegga III, Maddalena III, Maddalena/West?, Ridotta Maddalena III, L.G. 123) (30 54 30 N – 24 52 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 79 km SSW of Sollum, 9.75 km WNW of Ridotta Maddalena and 9.75 km W of the border between Cyrenaica and Egypt. History: see Scegga II (above). Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with 2 airstrips measuring 935 x 275 meters (1025 x 300 yards) and 850 x 275 meters (930 x 300 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.157 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Sebha** (LIB) (a.k.a. Sabhā) (27 00 00 N – 14 27 30 E)

General: airfield in Tripolitania 678 km SSE of Tripoli, 6.25 km SE of the town and oasis of Sebha and 2 km SSE of Fort Elena. History: early history not found, but during the war it was used mainly as a base for reconnaissance and special operations aircraft. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring 595 x 410 meters (650 x 450 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: fuel stocks were maintained here during 1941-42.

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Infrastructure: had 1 large hangar with small admin buildings attached to it. Accommodations for personnel existed. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: limited defenses reportedly existed in Oct 41.

Remarks:

28 Dec 42: Allied air attack – 2 x Caproni C.R.42 fighters and the hangar destroyed. (Axis report)

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): elements of 160<sup>o</sup> Gruppo (CT) (Mar 42).

*Luftwaffe*: elements of Sonderkommando Blaich (Jan-Jun 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 071 (17 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sedada** (LIB) (31 30 30 N – 14 40 00 E) or (31 31 00 N – 14 46 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 104 km SSW of Misrata, 71 km ESE of the town of Bani Waled and immediately NW of Fort Sedada.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring 750 x 620 meters (820 x 680 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks:

Jan 43: plowed up and rendered unserviceable by the retreating Axis forces.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sedada/South** (LIB) (31 21 30 N – 14 55 30 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 114 km S of Misurata (Misrata) and 24.25 km SE of Sedada (Al Sadadah) village. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1100 x 1100 meters (1200 x 1200 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.948 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Serdeles** (LIB) (a.k.a. Sardalas) (25 47 00 N – 10 35 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 826 km SSW of Tripoli and 2.25 km E of the village of Serdeles. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Shterasat I** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Sanyet el Shterasat I, Shterasat, LG 06?) (31 34 40 N – 26 00 45 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 9 km ESE of Sidi Barrani and 3.5 km S of the Mediterranean coast. The main highway from Sidi Barrani to Mersa

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Matruh ran just 500 meters N of the landing ground. History: in use by the Allies in mid-September 1941 and occupied by the Axis from July to November 1942. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1470 x 1400 meters (1605 x 1530 yards).

Infrastructure: none in Sep 41. Dispersal: had aircraft blast bays in the NW and SE corners of the landing area in Sep 41.

Remarks:

7 Nov 42: possibly being used by Ju 52 transports from IV./KG z.b.V. 1.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: III./St.G. 3 (Jul-Aug 42); part of 8./JG 77 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Platzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 9/III (Aug 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Koflug 18/XI (Jul 42).

**Sidi Abd el Aàti** (LIB) (31 11 00 N – 20 10 20 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 104 km S of Benghazi, 35 km SSE of Carcura and 8 km S of the village of Sidi Abd el Aàti. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: rocky, clay soil measuring approx. 1540 x 940 meters (1685 x 1030 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none mentioned.

Remarks:

30 Nov 42: unoccupied.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 0004-175 (Cyrenaica 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600-1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Abd El-Rahman** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Sidi Abdel Rahman, LG 025) (30 56 00 N – 28 43 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 29 km ESE of El Daba, 26 km NW of El Alamein and 3.5 km SSW of Sidi Abd El-Rahman village. History: no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural hard-packed sand and clay surface that was unserviceable in rainy weather. Measured approx. 915 x 775 meters (1000 x 850 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: made available when needed.

Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: ample space available.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1013 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Abmedel** (LIB): see Sidi Magrun.

**Sidi Azeiz** (LIB) (a.k.a. Bir Uazen, L.G. 148) (31 40 30 N – 24 53 40 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 20 km WSW of Bardia and 1 km S of the desert railway. History: history prior to June 1940 not found. Sidi Azeiz changed hands several times during the war in North Africa. Used by Axis aircraft but entire units are not known to have been based here.



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Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 1005 x 915 meters (1100 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: had a fuel dump (drums) and an ammunition dump in Apr 41. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops but in 1940 there were a few huts here. Additionally, there was a large fortified enclosure some 460 meters NE of the landing area that may have been used. Dispersal: an area off the NW boundary was thought to be used for aircraft dispersal. Defenses: none noted.

### Satellites and Decoys:

**Sidi Azeiz No. 2** (a.k.a. Sidi Azeiz/West, Bir Uazen, L.G. 164) (31 41 30 N – 24 46 00 E) - satellite landing ground 29 km WSW of Bardia and approx. 3.25 km S of the desert railway. Had a natural surface with 2 airstrips each measuring approx. 1370 x 185 meters (1500 x 200 yards). No infrastructure or dispersals. It was set up by the Allies in spring 1942 specifically as a satellite for Sidi Azeiz landing ground.

### Remarks:

14 Jun 40: strafed by RAF Gladiators – 1 Ca.309 *Ghibli* damaged.  
6 Apr 41: several squadrons of RAF Wellingtons transferred here.  
15 Jun 41: strafed by RAF Hurricanes – no claims made.  
3 Jan 42: 1 x Bf 109 E-1, 1 x C.R.42 and 1 x Ca.309 *Ghibli* wrecks found here by advancing Allied troops.  
17 May 42: occupied by P-40s and Hurricanes.  
16 Jun 42: still occupied by Allied fighters.  
21 Jun 42: bombed by 8 P-40 *Kitthawks* – results unknown.  
13 Nov 42: reoccupied by the Allies with fighters based here.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 097 and 162 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990 and 1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1700); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Barrani** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Sidī Barrānī, Sidi Barrani/Main, Maktilla, LG 02) (31 35 05 N – 25 57 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 129 W of Mersa Matruh, 71 km E of Sollum and 3.75 km SE of Sidi Barrani village. This was the main landing ground at Sidi Barrani. History: existed in June 1940. Surface and Dimensions: natural sandy surface measuring approx. 960 x 730 meters (1050 x 800 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: none noted. Dispersal: had ample dispersal space and at least some rudimentary aircraft parking bays or pens. Defenses: none noted.

### Satellites and Decoys:

**Sidi Barrani/West I** (a.k.a. LG 04) (31 34 00 N – 25 53 00 E) - 6.5 km SW of Sidi

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Barrani village and 6.5 km WSW of Sidi Barrani/Main landing ground. Had a natural desert surface of unrecorded dimensions, no infrastructure but ample space for dispersing aircraft.

**Sidi Barrani/West II** (a.k.a. LG 03) (31 34 00 N – 25 56 00 E) - 4 km SSE of Sidi Barrani village and 1.5 km SW of Sidi Barrani/Main landing ground. Had a natural desert surface measuring approx. 1645 x 1465 meters (1800 x 1600 yards), no infrastructure but ample space for dispersing aircraft.

**Sidi Barrani/Ost** (a.k.a. LG 05) (31 32 05 N – 26 01 00 E) - 10.5 km SE of Sidi Barrani village and 1.2 km S of the main road along the coast. Had a natural hard sand surface measuring approx. 1280 x 1205 meters (1400 x 1320 yards), an operations building, 5 other buildings and good dispersal facilities with at least some aircraft parking bays or pens.

### Remarks:

26 Jun 42: bombed – 7 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from III. and 10./JG 53 and 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from 5./JG 27 destroyed (3), badly damaged (4) or slightly damaged (2). The Italians lost 2 x C.202 fighters damaged and 11 more slightly damaged, probably in the same bombing.

29 Jun 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 9./JG 53 destroyed on the ground.

3 Jul 42: strafed by Beaufighters – *claimed* 6 x Bf 109s destroyed or damaged.

8-9 Nov 42: 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from III./JG 77 blown up to prevent capture.

25 Jan 44: Sidi Barrani (LG 02) reported abandoned by this date.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun 42); 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun 42); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun 42).

*Luftwaffe*: Stab/JG 27 (Jun 42); I./JG 27 (Jun, Nov 42); II./JG 27 (Jun 42); III./JG 27 (Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 27 (Jun 42); III./JG 53 (Jun 42); 10.(Jabo)/JG 53 (Jun 42); III./JG 77 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jun 42); Flug-Betriebsstoff-Kolonnie 506/VII (Nov 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi bu Amud** (LIB) (a.k.a. Wādī Bü `Amūd, Bu Amud, Al Qa`arah, L.G. 147) (31 56 30 N – 24 10 50 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 25.5 km SE of Tobruk and 2 km SW of the village of Al Qa`arah and lay on the S side of the Tobruk-Bardia road.

History: early history not found. It changed hands several times and used mainly by fighters but it also served as an alternate landing ground for the Tobruk airfields during sandstorms. Surface and Dimensions: poor quality desert surface with loose sand and stones measuring approx. 1550 x 1370

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meters (1700 x 1500 yards) with an irregular shape. Equipped for night landings. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found but storage pits had been excavated 1 km off the NW corner that were believed to have been used to store fuel in drums. Infrastructure: had a half-buried building at the NE corner. Dispersal: 12 small double-bay blast shelters were spaced along the N half of the landing area and there was additional parking around the perimeter. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

1940: in use by the Italians.

Feb 41: now British occupied.

19 Jul 42: retaken by Axis forces and the Italians and Germans agree to share Sidi bu Amud.

25 Jul – Aug 42: in use by Italian S.M.82 and Fiat G.12 transport aircraft.

15 Oct 42: Italian C.R.42s operating as night fighters here.

18 Nov 42: back in British hands.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Oct 42); 13° Gruppo CT (Jul-Nov 42); 18° Gruppo CT (Nov 42); 23° Gruppo CT (Nov 42); 46° Gruppo BT (Sep-Oct 42); 47° Gruppo BT (Sep 42); 101° Gruppo BaT (Nov 42).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 091 (22 Dec 42); BNA AIR 40/1990; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1692); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Haneish** (EGYPT): see Quasaba (el Quasaba).

**Sidi Magrun I** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al Maqrün, Sidi Magrum, Sidi el Magrun, Sidi Ahmed el Magrun) (31 28 30 N – 20 10 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 71 km S of Benghazi, 11.5 km E of the Gulf of Sirte and 4.5 km NNW of the village of Al Magrun. History: early history not found. Surface and Dimensions: leveled sand and stone measuring approx. 1500 x 1300 meters (1640 x 1420 yards). No paved runway. Equipped for night landings. Fuel and Ammunition: no storage details found. Infrastructure: none at the landing ground but there was a fort and barracks to the W of it. Dispersal: there were extensive dispersal areas off the N, E and S boundaries, and a few small blast shelters for aircraft along the S boundary. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

20 Dec 41: strafed – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 belonging to 2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 123 destroyed. First mention of German aircraft here.

21 Dec 41: a single Ju 90 landed during the day.

22 Dec 41: two separate low-level attacks by RAF and SAAF Tomahawks – *claimed* some 13 planes destroyed or damaged on the ground, including 3 x Ju 52s and 2 x Ju 87s.

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22 Dec 41: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from I./JG 27 blown up to prevent capture.  
17 Nov 42: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from 4./JG 27, 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from 6./JG 27, 1 x 1 Bf 109 F-4 from I./Schl.G. 2, 1 x He 111 H-6 from Verb.Kdo. (S) 2 (and 3 x Bf 110 Fs from III./ZG 26?) blown up or otherwise destroyed to prevent capture.

18 Nov 42: low-level attack by P-40 Kittyhawks – 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from 8./JG 77, 4 x Ju 88 A-4s from I. and II./LG 1, 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 400, 1 x Fw 200 and 2 x Italian S.M.82 transports. These losses do not square with some later sources which do not include the Ju 52 nor the Fw 200, but add 1 x Ju 88 D-1 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 as also destroyed on the ground.

19 Nov 42: 2 x unserviceable Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. Frankfurt (Wittstock?) and II./KG z.b.V. 1 blown up to prevent capture by the advancing enemy.

26 Nov 42: Allied fighters arrived to occupy the landing ground.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41).

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 27 (Dec 41); II./JG 27 (Dec 41); III./JG 27 (Dec 41); II./St.G. 2 (Dec 41); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.140 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Magrun II** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al Maqrün, Sidi Magrum) (31 29 50 N – 20 08 30 E)

General: landing ground 3 km NNE of Sidi Magrum I. History: satellite of Sidi Magrum I. Possibly built by the Allies in December 1942. Surface and Dimensions: leveled packed sand measuring 1200 x 1000 meters (1310 x 1095 yards). No paved runway. Fuel and Ammunition: provided by Sidi Magrum I. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see Sidi Magrum I (above).

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720, Jan 43); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Omar** (LIB) (a.k.a. S'idī `Umar) (c. 31 24 N – 24 49 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica c. 35 km SW of Sollum/Egypt.

History: used occasionally as an advanced airstrip for fighters. The skies over Sidi Omar were usually hotly contested and this limited the prospects of basing aircraft here. Surface and Dimensions: no information found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none.

Remarks: none.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 3<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 42).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

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Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 0004-175 (Cyrenaica 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1600 and 1700 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Rezegh** (LIB) (a.k.a. Sidi Rasegh, LG 153) (31 48 30 N – 24 10 20 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 32 km SE of Tobruk, 31 km WSW of Gambut, 23 km ESE of El Adem and 4.5 km SE of the 3 cisterns of Sidi Rezegh, a Muslem cemetery. History: early history not found. Used occasionally up to the end of May 1942 by both sides but no record found of use thereafter. Surface and Dimensions: leveled sand and clay measuring approx. 1330 x 1100 meters (1450 x 1200 yards) There were 2 airstrips measuring 1005 x 135 meters (1100 x 150 yards) and 915 x 135 meters (1000 x 150 yards). No paved runway. The landing area was distinguished by being a slightly lighter color than its surroundings. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: had 3 huts in Oct 41. Dispersal: ample dispersal was available. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

19 Nov 41: strafed by SAAF P-40 Tomahawk fighters – *claimed* 16-18 x Fiat G.50 fighters destroyed and damaged on the ground. Italian records show 16 x G.50s destroyed along with a Ca.133 trimotor transport and bomber destroyed. More recent accounts state that these 17 aircraft were captured intact on the landing ground by British tanks and infantry.

May 42: 21 aircraft here of which 17 were damaged.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 20<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov 41).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.154 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1705, Jan 42); website ww2.dk]

**Sinauen/North** (LIB) (31 05 30 N – 10 36 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 317 km SW of Tripoli and 30 km E of the border with Tunisia. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: had a good natural surface measuring approx. 730 x 685 meters (800 x 750 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1733, Jan 42); website ww2.dk]

**Sinauen/West** (LIB) (31 02 00 N – 10 35 15 E)

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General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 315 km SW of Tripoli, 29 km E of the border with Tunisia and 5.5 km SSW of Sinauen/North ELG. Fort Sinauen was 2 km to the SE. History: Surface and Dimensions: natural hard-packed sand surface measuring approx. 600 x 230 meters (655 x 250 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none reported.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1688); website ww2.dk]

**Sirte** (LIB) (a.k.a. Surt) (31 12 15 N – 16 35 00 E)

General: airfield in Tripolitania on the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) 380 km SE of Tripoli and about halfway between Tripoli and Benghazi. The landing ground was on the S outskirts of the small town of Sirte and parallel to the coastal highway (the Via Balbia). History: used mainly as a staging and transit airfield for aircraft operating between Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

Surface and Dimensions: firm leveled sand measuring approx. 1400 x 500 meters (1530 x 545 yards). No paved runway. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel stocks were on hand and reportedly stored in the hangars. Additionally, a civilian gasoline station was located 230 meters ESE of the hangars.

Infrastructure: had 1 large and 1 medium hangar on the N boundary that were used for repair work and refueling. A paved servicing hardstand was adjacent to the hangars. Admin offices were in 3 buildings E of the hangars. Dispersal: aircraft parked around the perimeter of the landing area. Defenses: in Jan 42, there was a 4-gun heavy Flak position beside the fort located between the airfield and the town, and 2 to 4 light Flak guns near the bend in the road leading to the airfield.

Remarks:

Feb-Mar 41: fuel and other supplies sent to Sirte as the landing ground was to be used as a major stepping stone for the Luftwaffe's advance eastward.

Jun-Nov 41: relatively inactive.

Mar-Oct 42: relatively inactive.

Jan 43: plowed up and rendered unserviceable by the retreating Axis forces.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: elements of 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (c. Feb-May 41); 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Mar 41); 9./ZG 26 (Mar, May 41); Stab/JG 27 (Dec 41); I./JG 27 (Dec 41); 7./ZG 26 (Dec 41 – Feb 42).

Station Commands: Behelfs-Kdtr. 022 Sirte (Mar 41 - ?); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Dec 41 – Jan 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Feb – c.May 41; Dec 42); Koflug 18/XI (Dec 41 – Feb 42); 5. Battr./Flak-Rgt. 6 (Dec 41); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot.) (Mar, Dec 41); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 5/XI (Jan 42); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 3/XVII (trop) (Mar, Jun, Dec 41).

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 072 (6 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1679, 23 Dec 42); website ww2.dk]

**Siwa/South** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Siwa Town, Siwah, LG 067) (29 11 00 N – 25 31 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt c. 290 km SW of Mersa Matruh and 2.25 km S of the oasis town of this name. No mention of wartime activity found. Reported abandoned by 25 Jan 44.

**Siwa/North** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Siwah, LG 066) (29 21 50 N – 25 31 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt c. 290 km SW of Mersa Matruh and 17.75 km N of Siwa town center. History: no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural packed-sand surface measuring approx. 870 x 640 meters (950 x 700 yards). Infrastructure: a single hut with a radio station. Dispersal: ample dispersal room available.

Remarks:

Jun 40: a small detachment of RAF tactical reconnaissance aircraft here and it was still being used as a reconnaissance outpost in 1941-42.

10 Apr 43: officially abandoned by this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1015 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Slonta** (LIB) (a.k.a. Suluntah) (32 35 00 N – 21 43 40 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Cyrenaica 20 km S of Beida (Al Bayda) and 1.25 km SE of Suluntah. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 730 x 365 meters (800 x 400 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Socna** (LIB) (a.k.a. Sawknah) (29 04 00 N – 15 47 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 250 km SSW of Sirte.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG. The town offered ample accommodations.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Solluch** (LIB) (a.k.a. Soluch, Soluk, Suluq) (31 40 20 N – 20 14 35 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 52 km SSE of Benghazi and located on the NW outskirts of the town. History: early history not found. Little used by the Axis. The Allies had plans to develop this into a major base but later abandoned them due to inaccessibility. Surface and Dimensions: level sand surface in good condition measuring approx. 1200 x 1400 meters

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(1310 x 1530 yards). No paved runway. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: had 2 aircraft sheds on the SE boundary. Barracks were reportedly on the E side of the village of Solluch. Dispersal: aircraft parked along the perimeter. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

24 Jan 41: bombed – 2 x S.M.79 bombers destroyed on the ground.

1 Feb 41: bombed by Blenheims – 1 x Ca.309 *Ghibli* transport damaged on the ground.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.158 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1719); website ww2.dk]

**Sollum** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Salûm, As Sallüm) (31 34 30 N – 25 08 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt 2.5 km WNW of the town and port of the same name. The Amseat I landing ground was 8 km to the W and a large military barracks with 28 buildings was 1.2 km to the E. History:

changed hands 4 times and used for little more than refueling and as a courier stop during the 1940-42 period. Surface and Dimensions: natural sandy desert surface measuring 1400 x 1000 meters (1530 x 1095 yards).

Infrastructure: had 1 small barrack building in the SE corner in late Nov 42.

Dispersal: ample space was available for parking aircraft.

### Remarks:

Jun 40: Sollum area occupied by the British but captured by the Italians several months later.

26 Sep 40: bombed by RAF Blenheims – 1 x Meridionali Ro 37bis reconnaissance biplane destroyed and 2 more damaged on the ground.

29 Oct 40: bombed – 2 x Ro 37bis reconnaissance biplanes destroyed on the ground.

9 Nov 42: 1 x Ju 87 R-4 and 1 x He 126 B-1 destroyed on the ground by the Germans to prevent them from falling into Allied hands as they rapidly approached the town via the Halfaya Pass.

21 Feb 44: reported abandoned by this date.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 73<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Sep 40).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): I./Flak-Rgt. 33 (Sollum, Jun 41); I./Flak-Rgt. 18 (Sollum, 1941).

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1309); website ww2.dk]

**Sorman** (LIB) (a.k.a. Şurmān, Sabratha) (32 46 15 N – 12 33 45 E) or (32 45 30 N – 12 26 30 E)



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General: landing ground in Tripolitania 58 km W of Tripoli, 3.25 km inland from the coast and 1 km NW of the oasis and town of Sorman. History: major Italian landing ground in NW Libya. Also used as an air park where Italian aircraft were fitted out for desert flying. Surface and Dimensions: partially leveled salt deposit and sand measuring 1300 x 1550 meters (1420 x 1695 yards). Equipped for night landings. Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: none. Accommodations were available in the nearby town military post. Subsequent information stated that a narrow track led to at least 2 hangars, workshops, admin buildings and some limited billeting for flight crews. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. The nearest rail connection was in Sorman. Defenses: protected by 7 light Flak guns in Jan 42.

### Remarks:

29 Jun 41: air attack – 2 x C.R.42 fighters and 1 x Ca.133 transport/bomber destroyed on the ground.

11 Jan 43: bombed – 2 x C.R.42 fighters destroyed on the ground.

Jan 43: plowed up and rendered unserviceable by the retreating Axis forces.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 3<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jul-Dec 41); 12<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jun 40); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 43); 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jun 40); 18<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 41, Aug 41); 23<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb 41); 46<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Nov 42 – Jan 43); 47<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Nov 42 – Jan 43); 64<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Nov 42); 67<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Feb 42); 158<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Dec 41 – May 42); 160<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41 – Mar 42, Jul-Dec 42); 236<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia CB (Dec 41).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 073 (24 Oct 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1691); website ww2.dk]

**Souk el Asabaa** (LIB) (a.k.a. Goor Garian) (c. 31 59 N – 13 03 E) or (32 04 30 N – 12 55 45 E)

General: desert emergency landing ground in Tripolitania c. 100 km S of Tripoli, 20-25 km E of Miskah and 6.5 km ENE of El Asabaa Well. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: grass surface measuring approx. 605 x 550 meters (660 x 600 yards). Infrastructure: none reported.

### Remarks:

12 Jan 43: Bf 109 fighters here being used to intercept Allied raids on Tripoli.

20 Jan 43: 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from Stab/JG 77 blown up to prevent capture.

22 Jan 43: evacuated by the Germans and abandoned.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 95<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BM (Dec 42 – Jan 43).

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*Luftwaffe*: II./JG 77 (Jan 43); I./Schl.G. 2 (Jan 43); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1990; website ww2.dk]

**Stherasat** (EGYPT): see Shterasat.

**Suani ben Adem** (LIB) (a.k.a. Al-Swani) (32 42 50 N – 13 04 10 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 22.5 km SSW of Tripoli.

History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 595 x 595 meters (650 x 650 yards).

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks:

Jun 42: being used as a garrison for paratroops.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sultan** (LIB): see Got es Sultan.

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**Tagiura** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tajoura) (c. 32 52 50 N – 13 20 30 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 15.5 km ESE of Tripoli and 6.5 km ESE of Tripoli-Mellaha airfield. Exact location of the landing ground not determined. Possibly an a.k.a. for Tripoli-Mellaha airfield. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: said to have 3 hangars.

Remarks:

1936: Italian S.M.81 bombers reportedly based here.

Nov 41: landing ground bombed by the Allies, according to an Italian report.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 074 (19 Nov 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tagrifet** (LIB) (29 12 30 N – 17 21 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 234 km SSE of Sirte and less than 1 km N of Tagrifet Fort. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 605 x 200 meters (660 x 220 yards). Infrastructure: none - uninhabited area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tamet** (LIB) (a.k.a. Wadi Tamet, Wādī Thämit) (31 14 00 N – 16 11 00 E)

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General: landing ground in Tripolitania along the S side of the via Balbia 38 km WNW of Sirte. History: Tamet was the main transit field and stopover for aircraft flying between Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. Surface and Dimensions: natural sand surface measuring approx. 1830 x 1000 meters (2000 x 1200 yards) with a rectangular shape. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel stocks were maintained. Infrastructure: no permanent buildings. Personnel were accommodated in huts and tents near the beach on the N and W sides of the landing area. Dispersal: aircraft parked around the perimeter. There was 1 blast shelter in Feb 42. Defenses: had 1 heavy Flak position with 3 guns, 2 light Flak positions with 6 guns and a number of AA machine gun positions in Feb 42.

### Remarks:

28 Feb 41: fuel stocks and other supplies augmented as Luftwaffe aircraft begin using Tamet to move forward into Cyrenaica

12 Mar 41: Tamet reported 100,000 litres of B4 fuel on hand.

15 Dec 41: raided by SAS/LRDG – 3 x C.R.42s, 1 x C.200 and 1 x Ju 87 R destroyed on the ground.

26 Dec 41: designated a transit field and for Ju 52 transport operations.

28 Dec 41: raided by SAS – 9 x C.202 fighters destroyed on the ground.

31 May 42: designated the only intermediate landing ground for Luftwaffe aircraft in coastal Tripolitania to the east of Tripoli.

17 Dec 42: air attack - 1 x Ju 88 D-1(D-5?) from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 destroyed on the ground and 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from I./JG 77 damaged.

18 Dec 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from I./JG 77 badly damaged on the ground. Tamet declared unserviceable due to softness of the landing area.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 17<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 41); 18<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb-Apr 41, Aug 41); 47<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Nov 42); 66<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Nov 42); 67<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Dec 41); 174<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Dec 41 – Jan 42); 176<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Jan-Mar 42).

*Luftwaffe*: elements of III./KG z.b.V. 1 (Nov 42); elements of KGr.z.b.V. 400 (Nov 42); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Nov-Dec 42); Stab/JG 77 (Dec 42); I./JG 77 (Dec 42); III./JG 77 (Dec 42); I./St.G. 2 (Dec 42); elements of I./Schl.G. 2 (Dec 42); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Dec 42).

Station Commands: Flugplatzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI Derna (Jan-Jun 42); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Nov-Dec 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): 5. Battr./Flak-Rgt. 6 (Dec 41); 2./schw.Flak-Abt. 114 (Nov-Dec 42); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 914 (Nov-Dec 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 7/III (Jan-Feb 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 075 (6 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tanyet-Harun** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Maaten Bagush, LG 014) (31 09 10 N – 27 39 20 E)

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General: landing ground along the coast of N Egypt 45.5 km SE of Mersa Matruh and 3 km ESE of Tanyet-Harun (Zawya Haroun) village. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here, although it was occupied and used by Axis aircraft at times between July and November 1942. Surface and Dimensions: all weather natural surface of hard-packed sand measuring approx. 1190 x 915 meters (1300 x 1000 yards) with a rectangular shape. Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: had an underground operations and headquarters bunker. Dispersal: none mentioned. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Aug 39: British occupied.

7 Jul 42: strafed by Hurricanes – *claimed* 2 Italian fighters shot up on the ground.

7 Sep 42: strafed at night by a Hurricane – *claimed* 2 unidentified enemy aircraft hit.

31 Oct 42: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from 8./JG 77 destroyed on the ground.

3 Nov 42: 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from III./JG 77 blown up to prevent capture.

25 Jan 44: reported abandoned by this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.1011 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tarhuna** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tarhūnah) (32 26 30 N – 13 37 30 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 65 km SE of Tripoli and 700 meters NNW of the town of Tarhuna. History: no evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: partially leveled surface measuring approx. 900 x 1050 meters (985 x 960 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Jan 43: found by Allies to be small, neglected and abandoned.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.956 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1746); website ww2.dk]

**Tauorga** (LIB) (a.k.a. Täwurghä) (31 57 30 N – 15 02 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 205 km SE of Tripoli, 40 km S of Misurata (Misrätah) and 6.5 km SE of the western side of Tauorga oasis. History: the history of this rudimentary landing ground not found, but probably had occasional use as a stopover field until operational units arrived in November 1942. Surface and Dimensions: firm and level natural surface measuring approx. 1190 x 915 meters (1300 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: no hangars but there were buildings on the W side of the road and landing ground. Dispersal: aircraft parked around the perimeter of the landing area. Defenses: none mentioned.

### Remarks:

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

28 Feb 41: decision made for Tauorga to be exclusively Italian with no Luftwaffe units to be based here.

21 Mar 41: reconnaissance photos showed 31+ aircraft here.]

2 Dec 42: not occupied by the Luftwaffe until this date.

7 Dec 42: Construction work underway.

20 Dec 42: photo recce showed 40 aircraft here.

26-28 Dec 42: flying units withdrawn and transferred to Bir Dufan/North.

5 Jan 43: still occupied by the Italian but dismantling and demolition work being prepared.

18 Jan 43: Tauorga now officially abandoned and unserviceable after being partially plowed up and mined.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Dec 42); 13° Gruppo CT (Nov 42 – Jan 43); 18° Gruppo CT (Nov 42 – Jan 43); 23° Gruppo CT (Nov 42 – Jan 43).

*Luftwaffe*: Stab/JG 77 (Dec 42); I./JG 77 (Dec 42); III./JG 77.

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Dec 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/19. Flak-Div. (Dec 42); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Dec 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 076 (17 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Tegerhi** (LIB) (24 23 00 N – 14 29 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 955 km S of Tripoli in the Tibu tribal area near the border with Niger. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: grass surface measuring approx. 860 x 860 meters (940 x 940 yards). Infrastructure: had a radio station.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Tigi** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tiji) (31 59 40 N – 11 21 30 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 200 km SW of Tripoli and 1 km S of the town. History: nothing found, but no Axis air units were known to have been based here.

Surface and Dimensions: level sand surface measuring approx. 1150 x 1550 meters (1260 x 1695 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 p.952 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1689); website ww2.dk]

### **Tmimi No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Tmimi, Tmimi/South, At Tamimi) (32 18 00 N – 23 01 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 88 km WNW of Tobruk, 63 km SE of Derna and 4.5 km SSW of the village of At Tamimi. History: an important

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

Axis landing ground that changed hands several times during 1941-42.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sand surface with sparse camel scrub measuring approx. 1510 x 1005 meters (1650 x 1100 yards). Fuel and

Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had 10 to 12 aircraft blast bays on the SE side in Dec 41 and Jun 42. Defenses:

Tmimi No. 1 and No. 2 were surrounded by 8 Flak positions in Jan 42.

### Remarks:

21 Aug 40: landing ground raided – 2 x S.M.79 bombers destroyed on the ground.

6 Sep 41: bombed by RAF Wellingtons – 25 H.E. bombs dropped, 1 x Ju 87 R-2 destroyed on the ground.

15 Nov 41: RAF dropped 40 to 50 bombs – 1 x Ju 87 destroyed on the ground.

18 Nov 41: Tmimi unserviceable and tents washed away due to heavy flooding along the road to Gazala.

18 Nov 41: low-level attack by 6 RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 5 x Ju 52s, 4 x S.M.79s and 1 x Hs 126 destroyed. Italian records only show 2 x S.M.79s damaged.

19 Nov 41: low-level attack by 6 RAF Beaufighters – *claimed* 5 x Ju 87s and 2 c Bf 109s destroyed.

20 Nov 41: low-level attack by 4 RAF Beaufighters – 1 x Ju 87 R-2 from II./St.G. 2 shot up and badly damaged on the ground and 3 others slightly damaged, while the Beaufighters *claimed* a total of 14 x Ju 87s and 1 x Bf 109 destroyed. A stock of 5,400 litres of B4 fuel was also ignited.

5 Dec 41: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 F-4s from III./JG 53 severely damaged on the ground.

6 Dec 41: low-level attack by 4 RAF Beaufighters – 1 x Ju 87 R-2 (Trop) from II./St.G. 2 shot up and badly damaged on the ground, while the Beaufighters *claimed* 5 x Ju 87s.

11 Dec 41: low-level attack – 1 x Ju 88 A-5 from I./LG 1 shot up and destroyed on the ground and 4 x Bf 109 F-4s from III./JG 53 demolished to prevent capture by the advancing enemy.

12 Dec 41: Tmimi evacuated by the Axis.

3 Jan 42: 23 wrecked and abandoned aircraft found here by the advancing Allied troops, 14 German and 9 Italian.

Dec 41 – late May 42: occupied by the Allies.

25 May 42: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 4./JG 27 destroyed (1) or damaged(1).

22 Jun 42: air attack – 1 x Ju 87 D-1 from I./St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground.

Nov 42: reoccupied by the Allies.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Sep 40 – Feb 41); 44<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Sep 40); 45<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Sep 40).

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*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 2 (Jun-Dec 41); Stab/JG 27 (Dec 41, May-Jun 42); I./JG 27 (Dec 41, May-Jun 42); II./JG 27 (Dec 41); May-Jun 42); III./JG 27 (Dec 41); III./JG 53 (Dec 41); I./St.G. 3 (May 42); II./St.G. 3 (May-Jun 42).  
Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (May-Jun 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.159 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1710); website ww2.dk]

**Tmimi No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. El Tmimi, Tmimi/North, At Tamimī) (32 18 30 N – 23 01 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground and satellite in Cyrenaica 62 km SE of Derna, 92 km WNW of Tobruk and 3.5 km SW of the village of At Timimi. It lay in a Wadi immediately adjacent to the NW side of Tmimi/South landing ground. History: used as an emergency satellite to Tmimi No. 1. Surface and Dimensions: firm but rough natural sand surface measuring approx. 640 x 275 meters (700 x 300 yards). A German reconnaissance photo taken 1 Jan 42 showed 950 x 500 meters (1040 x 545 yards) with a prepared airstrip aligned NW/SE. Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: aircraft could park off the NE corner of the landing ground. Remarks: see Tmimi No. 1 (above).

Operational Units: see Tmimi No. 1 (above).

Station Commands: see Tmimi No. 1 (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Tmimi No. 1 (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.159 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1710); website ww2.dk]

**Tobruk** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tubruq) (32 04 N – 23 57 E)

General: landing grounds in Cyrenaica clustered around this port on Libya's Mediterranean coast, e.g., Tobruk T1, Tobruk T2, Tobruk T5, Tobruk/West, Tobruk/East, Tobruk – El Gubbi, etc. (see below).

Remarks:

28 Jun 40: attack on Tobruk T2 by c. 15 RAF Blenheims – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed, several more damaged, 5 ground mechanics and 6 soldiers KIA.  
5 Jul 40: attack on Tobruk T2 by 11 Blenheims – 8 x C.R.42s damaged on the ground.

1941-42: except for a few months during the winter of 1940-41, Tobruk remained in Allied hands until 21 June 1942. After that, the front moved rapidly to the east and RAF Wellingtons and U.S. B-24 Liberators began pounding Tobruk by day and night, at times with over 100 sorties. Many bombers were lost to Flak and defending Bf 110s from III./ZG 26.

Jul-Nov 42: heavy Luftwaffe transport and glider supply activity in and out of the Tobruk landing grounds, including Ju 52s, He 111s, Ju 90s, Fw 200s and S.M.82s.

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9 Aug 42: plans were in the works by the Axis to develop the Tobruk landing grounds into a major airfield complex but a final decision had not yet been reached.

23 Oct 42: Koluft 10/III reported 10 blast bays for Junkers transports completed and 5 more under construction at Tobruk/East landing ground. At Tobruk/West landing ground, 20 blast bays for Junkers transports completed and 5 more were under construction.

27 Oct 42: 82 Ju 52s here at one time off-loading and on-loading passengers and cargo.

2 Nov 42: 134 Ju 52s here at one time off-loading and on-loading passengers and cargo.

11 Nov 42: unserviceable aircraft on the Tobruk landing grounds blown up to prevent capture - 1 x Ju 52 belonging to KGr.z.b.V. 800, 1 x He 111 H-6 from III./KG 4, 1 x Bf 110 F-2 from III./ZG 26, 1 x He 111 H-6 from Sonderstaffel Go 242, and 2 x Ju 87 tugs, 1 x Hs 126 tug, 1 x Go 242 glider and 1 x DFS 230 glider, all from Verbindungsstaffel (S) 2.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 8° Gruppo CT (Jun 40); 10° Gruppo CT (Jun 40); 12° Gruppo Assalto (Sep-Nov 40); 13° Gruppo CT (Jun-Aug 40); 16° Gruppo Assalto (Jun-Oct 40).

*Luftwaffe*: III./KG z.b.V. 1 (Jul-Nov 42); 3.St., 4.St. and LS-Kdo./KGr. z.b.V. 400 (Aug 42); II./St.G. 3 (Oct 42); I./JG 27 (Tobruk/East, Oct 42); II./JG 27 (Oct-Nov 42); III./JG 27 (Tobruk/West, Oct-Nov 42); 2./Schl.G. 2 (Nov 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 23/VII (Aug-Nov 42).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): O.Qu.Abt./Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Jul-Nov 42); Koflug 10/III (c.Jul-Nov 42?); half of Flugh.Betr.Kp. z.b.V. 1 (Aug, Oct 42); Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropen I (Aug 42); le.Werkstattzug 2/30 (mot) (Aug 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 6 (Jun 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 33 (1942); part of I./Flak-Rgt. 46 (Aug 42); I./Flak-Rgt. 53 (Aug 42); gem.Flak-Abt. 114 (Sep-Nov 42); schw.Flak-Abt. 354 (Aug 42 - ?); le.Flak-Abt. 914 (Aug-Oct 42); Flak-Sondergerätwerkstatt 7/III (Jun-Oct 42); Feldflak-Instandsetzungs-Werkstatt 5/XII (Jun-Oct 42); Flak-Geräteausgabestelle 103/IV (Aug 42); Flak-Geräteausgabestelle 2/VII (Aug 42); 3.(Dezimeter)/Ln.-Rgt. 120 (Jun 42); Lw.-Bau-Btl. 21/XI (Sep 42); Lw.-Nachschubleitstelle Tobruk (Aug 42); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 1/VII (Jul-Aug 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 2/XI (Oct/Nov 42); Nachschubkolonnen-Abt. d.Lw. 3/VI (Sep 42); Kfz.Instandsetzungszug d.Lw. 4/IV ( ? – Nov 42); 2. and 3./Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. I (Oct 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 0004-175 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; BNA AIR 40/1991; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL target documents); website ww2.dk]

**Tobruk/East** (LIB) (Tobruk No. 2, Tobruk – El Gubbi, L.G. 145) (32 02 47 N – 23 58 40 E) or (32 03 00 N – 23 59 00 E)



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General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 3.5 or 4 km S of Tobruk town center on the E side of the Tobruk-Bardia road. History: used extensively by fighters and transport aircraft during the war. Surface and Dimensions: very dusty, poor quality, but level and firm natural surface of clay and stone measuring approx. 1235 x 1235 meters (1350 x 1350 yards). No paved runway. German aerial photos of Nov 41 gave the overall dimensions as 1800 x 1500 meters (1970 x 1640 yards) with the effective landing area measuring 1020 x 1000 meters (1115 x 1095 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: made available when needed. Infrastructure: had 3 small hangars or buildings at the NW end in Nov 41 that were used for accommodations. Dispersal: had ample space and there were 15 blast bays at the N end in Oct 42. Defenses: protected by multi-gun Flak positions N, E and S sides of the landing ground, the heavy Flak and searchlight defenses around Tobruk and numerous field fortifications off the W and E boundaries.

Remarks: see Tobruk (above).

Operational Units: see Tobruk (above).

Station Commands: see Tobruk (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Tobruk (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.161 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1707); website ww2.dk]

**Tobruk/West** (LIB) (Tobruk No. 3, Tobruk – El Gubbi Satellite, L.G. 146) (32 02 00 N – 23 54 30 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 4.5 km SSW of Tobruk town center, just W of the Tobruk – Bardia road and opposite Tobruk/East landing ground.

History: used mainly by Luftwaffe gliders and their tow aircraft during Jul-Nov 42. Surface and Dimensions: natural stone and clay surface in fair condition measuring approx. 1280 x 1100 meters (1400 x 1200 yards) with roughly a diamond shape. Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed. Infrastructure: no permanent buildings but had numerous shelters and dugouts. Accessed by a short 330 meter track off the main Tobruk – El Adem road. Dispersal: aircraft were dispersed around the perimeter. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: see Tobruk (above).

Operational Units: see Tobruk (above).

Station Commands: see Tobruk (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Tobruk (above).

[Sources: AFHRA A526r p.658 (1942); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tobruk (See)** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tobruk Harbour) (32 04 48 N – 23 58 15 E)

General: seaplane station in Tobruk harbor and located at the W end of the harbor halfway between Ras el Tin and Ras Azzaz.

History: existed before the war but details lacking. By mid-1942, the harbor was choked with numerous visible and submerged wrecks as well as

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floating driftwood and could no longer be used on a regular basis. The last significant use was by German BV 222 flying boats during May and possibly Jun 42.

Anchorage: sheltered harbor of adequate depth with a calm surface except during easterly winds. The useful area for take-offs and landings measured approx. 2 x 1.2 km.

Fuel and Ammunition: considerable storage existed but most of this had been destroyed by mid-1942.

Infrastructure: had several seaplane hangars and workshops with limited billeting space for personnel in 1940-41, as well as quays, jetties, a slipway and two 40-ton cranes.

Defenses: protected by the Flak belt around Tobruk harbor.

Remarks: see Tobruk (above).

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.160 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tobruk No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tobruk/Town) (32 05 05 N – 23 59 15 E)

General: Tobruk's main airfield located immediately E of Tobruk village on the N side of the harbor. History: early history not found. Surface and Dimensions: 915 x 550 meters (1000 x 600 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: available. Infrastructure: no information found. Dispersal: details not found.

Remarks:

see Tobruk (above).

31 Dec 42: by this date the airfield had been very badly damaged and was not in use.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tobruk No. 2** (LIB): see Tobruk/East.

**Tobruk No. 3** (LIB): see Tobruk/West.

**Tobruk No. 4** (LIB): see Crum el Chel.

**Tobruk No. 5** (LIB) (32 04 00 N – 23 54 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 6.5 km WSW of Tobruk town center and 6 km NW of Tobruk/East (Tobruk No. 2) landing ground. The main coastal highway intersected the NW corner of the landing ground. Rated for bombers and other multi-engine aircraft. History: no details found under this designation and probably operated as a satellite of the other Tobruk landing grounds. Surface and Dimensions: had a firm and level natural surface measuring 2150 x 1100 meters (2350 x 1205 yards).

Infrastructure: none, but a supply dump was just off the E boundary of the LG. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

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Remarks: see Tobruk (above).

Operational Units: see Tobruk (above).

Station Commands: see Tobruk (above).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): see Tobruk (above).

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1716); website ww2.dk]

**Tripoli** (LIB) (see Caramanlis, Castel Benito and Mellaha airfields) (32 53 N – 13 11 E).

General: capital and principal city of Libya.

Luftwaffe Garrison and Station Units (on various dates – specific airfield not identified): Aussenstelle Tripolis d.Luftgaustab z.b.V. 10 (Feb 42); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Feb-Apr 41, Dec 41 – Jan 42); Befehlsstelle 1/Koflug Afrika (Jun 41); 1. Flugh.Betr.Kp. z.b.V. (Dec 42); Stab/Flak-Rgt. 135 (Mar 42); II./Flak-Rgt. 25 (Apr 41); I./Flak-Rgt. 43 (Mar-Apr 42); Stab/Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Dec 42); II./Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Dec 42); Lufttanklager Tripoli (Jun 41); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. Tripolis (May 41 – Dec 42); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. 1/VII ( ? - Jan 43); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. 2/VII ( ? – Nov 42); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle Tripoli (May 41 – Jun 42); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 1/VII (Jun 42 – Jan 43); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 7/XII (Apr-Jul 42, Dec 42 – Jan 43); Feld-Ln.-Geräteausgabe-u.Instandsetzungsstelle 2/VII (Oct-Nov 42); Munitionsausgabestelle d.Lw. 2/VI (Dec 42); Munitionsausgabestelle d.Lw. 3/VI (Dec 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 7/III (Apr/May 41); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 1/XI (Jun, Nov 42); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 14/XI (Feb-Nov 42); Nachschubkolonnen-Abt. d.Lw. 3/VI (Nov-Dec 42); Nachschubkolonnen-Abt. d.Lw. 5/VI (Jan 43); Kfz.Instandsetzungs-Kp. d.Lw. 8/IV (Dec 42); Kfz.Instandsetzungszug d.Lw. 7/III (Dec 42); Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. I (Dec 42); Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 13/XI (Dec 42); Feldlaboratorium (mot) d.Lw. 1 (Mar 42); elements of Kw.-Transport-Rgt. 4 (Speer) d.Lw. (Aug 42).

**Tripoli-Caramanlis** (LIB) (a.k.a. Tripoli-Caramanli, Tripoli-Karamanlis) (32 53 50 N – 13 12 05 E)

General: seaplane station in SE corner of Tripoli harbor/NW Libya.

History: in commercial use prior to the war, the seaplane station was mainly used by Cant Z.501 flying boats for maritime reconnaissance, air-sea rescue and medical evacuation purposes during the war years, and Z.506 floatplane torpedo bombers. The Luftwaffe maintained an air-sea rescue district center here and the seaplane station was visited frequently by 3-engine Do 24 and big Bv 222 6-engine flying boats that were based in Italy and used to transport troops, equipment, supplies and wounded along with performing air-sea rescue duties.

Dimensions: an area approx. 1.5 km x 1.5 km was available for take-offs and landings.

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Anchorage: harbor conditions relatively calm except during December and January. Ample space existed W of the seaplane base and in front of the quay to the N of the hangar.

Fuel and Ammunition: a pipeline provided fuel from storage sources elsewhere in the harbor area. No information found regarding ammunition storage.

Infrastructure: had 1 medium hangar. Workshop facilities at Tripoli-Mellaha airfield were used for any repair work needed. An electric crane was available along Caramanli Mole for inserting and extracting seaplanes. There were no slipways or jetties. Personnel were accommodated in hotels in Tripoli. A train station was located about 2.5 km WSW of the seaplane base.

Defenses: in January 1942 there were 5 heavy Flak positions of 2 or 3 guns each, large numbers of light Flak guns, shipboard Flak from the harbor and 10 to 15 searchlights.

Remarks:

9 Mar 41: bombed – 1 x Cant Z.501 maritime patrol flying boat destroyed.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 145<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RM (Apr, Jul 41, Jan 42); 614<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Soccorso (Jun 40 – 1943).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Seenotbezirksstelle (L) z.b.V. 1 (c. Feb 41 – Oct 41); Seenotbezirksstelle Tripolis (Oct 41 – May 42); Seenotkdo. 16 (May 42 – Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 077-78 (13 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Tripoli - Castel Benito** (LIB) (a.k.a. Castelbenito, Idris, Bin Ghashir) (32 40 10 N – 13 09 24 E)

General: airfield in Tripolitania 24.5 km S of Tripoli and 3.75 km W of the village of Qaser Bin Ghashir.

History: Italian air base and paratroop training school since shortly before WW II. North Africa's main wartime air transport hub and heavily used by all classes of aircraft; arguably the busiest airfield in North Africa 1940-43. During numerous months between Mar 41 and Jan 43, an average of 25 to 50 Luftwaffe transport aircraft flew in and out of Castel Benito every 24 hours hauling fuel in drums, personnel and critically needed parts and supplies.

Dimensions: approx. 2470 x 1280 meters (2700 x 1400 yards). German data from an aerial photograph taken 5 Feb 43 gave measurements of 2500 x 1620 meters (2735 x 1770 yards).

Surface and Runways: level, graded sandy soil with sprinklers set at 45 meter (50 yard) intervals along the take-off and landing strip to control the

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blowing sand and dust. No paved runway. Equipped with floodlights and boundary lighting for night landings.

Fuel and Ammunition: there was a fuel dump near the large hangar at the N end and ammunition and bombs were reportedly stored in 50 small structures just off the S end of the E boundary.

Infrastructure: had 3 hangars E of the main block of airfield buildings on the NW boundary, and 2 very large flight hangars and 1 very large major repairs hangar along the W boundary. There was also a flight control building. Barracks, admin offices and other airfield support facilities were in the main block of buildings on the NW boundary. Another barrack complex was located 730 meters (800 yards) from the NE corner. By the end of 1942, there were accommodations for 2,500 officers and men.

Dispersal: had 3 aircraft shelters with blast walls in Feb 42, but there was no organized dispersal area. German data from 5 Feb 43 reported numerous aircraft parking stands with taxiways off the N and E boundaries.

Defenses: there were 11 Flak positions with a total of 26 Flak guns closely surrounding the airfield along with AA machine gun positions at the NE, SE and SW corners. The airfield was encircled with barbed wire and there were anti-tank ditches and defenses at intervals along the SW, S and SE sides.

### Remarks:

7 Dec 40: RAF night raid on Castel Benito and Mellaha with 11 Wellingtons – 3 x S.M.79s destroyed and 12 more damaged, 1 x C.R.42 destroyed and 9 more damaged, 2 x C.R.32s damaged and 2 x G.50bis fighters damaged, all on the ground.

2/3(3/4?) Nov 41: RAF night raid on Castel Benito and Mellaha – 7 Axis aircraft destroyed (1 x Ju 87, 2 x B.R.20s, 1 x S.M.79, 1 x S.M.81, 1 x S.M.84 and 1 x G.50bis), 16 severely damaged and 31 slightly damaged. The Italians lost 2 KIA and 12 WIA.

8 Dec 41: RAF night raid on Castel Benito – 3 x S.M.81 transports, 1 x S.M.82 transport and 1 x G.50bis fighter, all there for repairs and all destroyed on the ground.

12 Dec 41: Castel Benito bombed – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed on the ground.

22 Dec 41: RAF raid on Castel Benito and Mellaha – 1 x Luftwaffe Ju 52 destroyed and 1 x C.200 and 1 x G.50bis destroyed, all on the ground.

5 Jan 42: Castel Benito bombed – 1 x S.M.82 belonging to Stabsstaffel/KG z.b.V. 1 destroyed on the ground.

12 Mar 42: drainage construction work began along the E boundary of the airfield.

Dec 42 – Jan 43: massive Ju 52, Ju 290 and Fw 200 transport activity in and out of Castel Benito.

12-13 Jan 43: bombed by 12 B-17s from XII Bomber Command – according to a Luftgaustab Afrika report, 3 x Hs 129 Bs from 4.(Pz)/Schl.G. 2 and 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 800 were destroyed on the ground along with 1 x Ju 87, 7 x Bf 109s, 3 x Ju 52s and 1 x Fw 58 from other Luftwaffe units, and 6

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x C.200s, 1 x C.R.42 from Italian units. Damaged were 1 x Bf 110, 1 x Ju 52, 1 x He 111, 1 x S.M.79, 1 x B.R.20, 2 x C.202s and 4 S.M.82s. On the other hand, the B-17s *claimed* the destruction of 20 parked aircraft out of the approx. 60 bombers and transports and 50 fighters and liaison aircraft that were observed on the airfield. The Germans also reported severe damage to the N and S hangars, especially the workshop hangar.

17 Jan 43: air attack – 1 x Ju 88 D-1 from 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 destroyed on the ground.

18 Jan 43: bombed – 11 x Bf 109 Gs and 1 x Fi 156 C from I./JG 77, plus 1 x Fi 156 from 1. Wüstennotstaffel destroyed (4) or damaged (9) on the ground. Additionally, the Italians reported the loss of 5 x C.202 fighters, 4 x C.202s damaged and 1 x S.M.82 transport destroyed and 4 more slightly damaged.

20 Jan 43: 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from Stab and 3./JG 77 blown up to prevent capture.

21 Jan 43: 1 x Fi 156 C-3 belonging to Flugbereitschaft/Fliegerkorps Tunis destroyed by the Germans to prevent capture.

22 Jan 43: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from III./JG 77 destroyed on the ground.

23 Jan 43: bombed – 1 s Bf 109 F-4 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 destroyed. A second F-4 from the same unit was demolished to prevent capture.

5 Feb 43: now in Allied hands and fully serviceable - German aerial photos this date revealed near-total destruction of the Castel Benito airfield infrastructure but the landing area had been repaired and rolled flat.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 2<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 40, Feb-Mar 41); 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (Aug 40); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Dec 42 – Jan 43); 12<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Dec 41); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jun 40, Feb 42); 20<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Apr-May 41); 27<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Apr 41); 28<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (May-Jun 41); 33<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jul-Aug 40); 45<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jan 41); 64<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Oct 42); 73<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Mar 41); 86<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BM (Apr 42); 98<sup>o</sup> Gruppo BT (Jul-Dec 41); 145<sup>o</sup> Gruppo T (Feb-Dec 41, Jul 42 – Jan 43); 153<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jul-Sep 41); 160<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Mar-Jul 42); 129<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia OA (Mar 41); 175<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia RST (Dec 41); 281<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Sil (May 41 - ?); 376<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Assalto (May-Aug 41); 600<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia T (Sep 41 – Aug 42).

*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 2 (Feb 41); elements of I./St.G. 1 (Feb-May 41); 7./ZG 26 (Mar-May 41); 1. Wüstennotstaffel (Apr/May 41); part of 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Mar 41); Erprobungsstelle d.Lw. (Tropen) (Jul/Aug 41, Dec 41 - ?); 9./KG z.b.V. 1 (Aug 41); KGr. z.b.V. 500 (Dec 41); KGr. z.b.V. 102 (Jan 42); KGr. z.b.V. 400 (Jan 42); Erprobungskdo. 19 (Jul 42); elements of IV./KG 54 (Oct 42); II./JG 77 (Dec 42 – Jan 43); 4.(Pz)/Schl.G. 2 (Dec 42 – Jan 43); Stab, I. and III./JG 77 (Jan 43); elements of 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Jan 43); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Jan 43).

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Station Commands: (airfield under Italian AF control much of the time); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV (Jan 42); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Dec 42 – Jan 43); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 9/III (Nov 42 – 1943?).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Koflug Afrika (Mar 41, Dec 41); Aussenstelle/Erprobungsstelle d.Lw. (Tropen) (c. Jul-Dec 41); 2. Flugh.Betr.Kp. St.G. 1 (Mar 41, Jul 41); part of Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. LE 9 (Mar-Apr 41); 1. Res.Flugh.Betr.Kp. Luftgau XII (May/Jun 41); elements of Feldwerft-Abt. LE 2 (Apr, May, Jun 41); Feldwerft-Abt. Castel Benito (Jul, Sep 41); all or part of 1. Flugh.Betr.Kp. z.b.V. (May 42); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Jan 43). Also see Tripoli – Garrison and Station Units. [Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 051-52 (29 Oct 42); BNA AIR 40/1990 and 1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1694); website ww2.dk]

**Tripoli-Mellaha** (LIB) (a.k.a. Malacha?) (32 53 50 N – 13 16 45 E)

General: landing ground and later airfield in Tripolitania in NW Libya 8.5 km E of Tripoli and 1.2 km inland from the coast. There were some large salt pans (expanses of evaporated saltwater) immediately NE of the landing area that presented a hazard for pilots not familiar with this airfield.

History: constructed by the Italians in 1923 adjacent to Mellaha salt lake (home of the Tripoli Grand Prix since 1925). Used as both an active operational airfield and as a transit field during the war years. At times, aircraft movements through Mellaha were heavy, such as in April 1941. Captured by the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Jan 43 and used by the Allies until the end of the war. Renamed Wheelus Army Air Field in May 1945 and then Wheelus Air Base in June 1948.

Dimensions: approx. 1465 x 1465 meters (1600 x 1600 yards).

Surface and Runways: level, firm, sandy, clay soil with a salt content and grass that rapidly became soft and dangerous for aircraft in rainy weather. No paved runway.

Fuel and Ammunition: there were probable underground fuel tanks near the hangar area, above ground fuel tanks off the N boundary, a fuel dump concealed in palm trees 2.5 km SE of the airfield and a suspected fuel dump 5 km E of the landing area. Ammunition was probably stored in a probably but unconfirmed very large dump 13 km SSE of the airfield.

Infrastructure: had 6 hangars, 2 workshops, control tower and admin buildings along the W boundary with a long paved apron in front of the hangars. At least 12 barrack huts were just W of the row of hangars. A narrow gauge railway connected the airfield with downtown Tripoli.

Dispersal: there was just 1 large blast shelter in Oct 41; aircraft parked along and off the N, E and SE sides of the landing area.

Defenses: Mellaha was protected by 7 Flak positions surrounding the airfield with a total of 17 guns in Sep 41.

Remarks:

Also see under Tripoli – Castel Benito.

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1941 – Jan 43: Mellaha had extensive repair facilities and Axis aircraft were brought here for this purpose.

13 Nov 41: airfield attacked by the RAF – many personnel KIA and WIA. (Axis report)

Nov-Dec 42: fighter detachments to remain here for protection of the harbor and for convoy escort.

19 Jan 43: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from III./JG 77 destroyed on the ground.

22 Jan 43: 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from I./Schl.G. 2 and 2 x Bf 109 E-7s from III./Schl.G. 2 demolished to prevent capture and Mellaha declared unserviceable and evacuated.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 1<sup>o</sup> Gruppo APC (Jun 40 – Jan 43); 9<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May 42); 10<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (May 42); 18<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 41); 64<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Jun 40); 67<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Jul 40, Oct 40, Mar 41); 149<sup>o</sup> Gruppo T (Apr-Dec 41).

*Luftwaffe*: 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Mar 41); rear detachment Kurierstaffel Afrika (Jun 41); San.Flugbereitschaft 2 (Mar/Apr 42); III./St.G. 3 (Jan 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Koflug 10/III (May 42); Koflug 5/XIII (May 42). Also see Tripoli – Garrison and Station Units.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 079-80 (2 Nov 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1693); website ww2.dk]

**Turbiya** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Sanyet Turbiya, Turbija, Turbiyah?) (31 04 00 N – 28 19 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Egypt 13-14 km WNW of El Daba and 500 meters S of the Mediterranean coast. History: early history not found. Occupied by the Luftwaffe from July to early November 1942 and used as a forward fighter field. Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 1460 x 960 meters (1595 x 1050 yards).

Infrastructure: had 1 barracks and 1 tent when photographed on 16 Jun 41.

Dispersal: there was ample aircraft parking space on and around the landing ground.

### Remarks:

21 Jul 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 1./JG 27 damaged on the ground.

25 Jul 42: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 3./JG 27 destroyed on the ground.

9 Aug 42: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 F-4 (trop) from 1./JG 27 damaged on the ground.

3 Nov 42: III./JG 27 began evacuating.

6-7 Nov 42: unserviceable aircraft demolished and landing ground evacuated.



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### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Jul 42); I./JG 27 (Jul-Aug 42); III./JG 27 (Sep-Nov 42).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 1008 - 1036 (c. 31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

## U

### **Uadi el Merdum** (LIB) (31 43 00 N – 14 29 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 93 km SW of Misrata and 48 km

E of Bani Waled. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Uadi Saaba** (LIB) (31 41 30 N – 14 10 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 115 km SW of Misrata and 20 km ESE of the town of Bani Waled. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Uau el Chebir** (LIB) a.k.a. Uau el Kebir) (25 20 00 N – 16 41 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 901 km SE of Tripoli.

History: used by transport aircraft in April 1942. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 860 x 295 meters (940 x 320 yards).

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Uau en-Namus** (LIB) (24 56 00 N – 17 47 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 982 km SE of Tripoli, 600 km S of the Gulf of Sirte (Gulf of Sidra) and on the NE edge of the Namus volcanic crater. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions:

firm sand and lava surface of unstated measurements. Infrastructure:

none.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Uazzen** (LIB) (31 52 00 N – 10 40 00 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania 264 km SW of Tripoli, 8.25 km S of Wazin and 3.25 km E of the border between Libya and Tunisia. There was a guarded, fortified border post 9 km N of the landing ground. History: no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: level surface of packed sand measuring approx. 800 x 430 meters (875 x 470 yards) with a very irregular shape. Infrastructure: none in Nov 42. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5264 pp. 0991-1036 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1683); website ww2.dk]

**Ubari** (LIB) (a.k.a. Awbari) (26 37 00 N – 12 46 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 696 km S of Tripoli and adjacent to the town of Ubari. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks:

Oct 41: landing ground reportedly stocked up with aviation fuel.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Uenzerich** (LIB) (27 30 00 N – 13 28 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 598 km S of Tripoli and 108 km NW of Sabhā. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface with unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none - uninhabited open desert.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Umm el Abid** (LIB) (Oum el Abid) (27 31 00 N – 15 02 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 615 km SSE of Tripoli. History: mentioned as being in existence in 1934. No other information found. Surface and Dimensions: packed sand. Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Umm el Araneb** (LIB) (a.k.a. Umm el Aranib) (26 10 00 N – 14 47 00)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania approx. 760 km S of Tripoli. History: used by Italian fighters in 1942. Surface and

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Dimensions: natural desert surface but no information found regarding dimensions. Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks:

7 Mar 42: bombed and strafed by a French Lysander – 1 x C.R.42 destroyed and another damaged.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Umm el Hatian** (LIB): see Adem No. 1.

## W

**Wadi el Natrun** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Wadi Natrun, LG 100) (30 26 00 N – 30 20 30 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. Not used by the Axis.

## Z

**Zanzur** (LIB) (a.k.a. Sidi Bilal, Janzour) (32 49 00 N – 13 00 40 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania near the town of Janzour 18.5 km WSW of Tripoli city center. The exact location of the landing ground not determined, but possibly 4 or 5 km W of Janzour near Sidi Bilal. History: no details found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

Oct 41: used by transport aircraft.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 081 (25 Oct 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Zarzur** (LIB): see Bir el Churgia.

**Zauia** (LIB) (a.k.a. Ez- Zauia, Az-Zāwiyah) (32 45 36 N – 12 44 16 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania near the town of this name 44 km WSW of Tripoli. Location was on the E outskirts of the town. History: early history not found, but it served as a large equipment and supply depot with at least 40 permanent storage buildings. Italian C.R.42 fighters used the landing ground during the war. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions but reportedly small. Fuel and Ammunition: available but details lacking. Infrastructure: no hangars as such, but had well equipped aircraft workshops on the S boundary. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

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Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 082 (24 Oct 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1742); website ww2.dk]

**Zella** (LIB) (a.k.a. Zillah) (28 32 30 N – 17 25 00 E) or (28 33 00 N – 17 31 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 303 km SSE of Sirte and just W of the town of Zillah. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface measuring approx. 435 x 260 meters (475 x 285 yards). Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ziden** (LIB): see Bir el Ziden.

**Zighen Serir** (LIB) (a.k.a. Serir Zighen?) (25 29 00 N – 21 48 00 E)

General: landing ground in Cyrenaica 750 km SSE of Benghazi and 212 km NW of Kufra landing ground at Kufra Oasis. It was on a featureless plain with no nearby points of reference. Accordingly, the landing area was outlined using empty fuel drums. History: known to have existed but no historical details found. No Axis air units are believed to have been based here. Surface and Dimensions: had a natural gravel surface measuring approx. 915 x 915 meters (1000 x 1000 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: none reported. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none. Defenses: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p.163 (22 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Zimlet el Thalaba** (EGYPT) (a.k.a. Sidi Haneish/South, LG 013) (31 06 30 N – 27 30 30 E) and (31 07 05 N – 27 31 00 E)

General: landing ground in NW Egypt. Not believed to have been used by the Axis.

**Zliten** (LIB) (32 25 40 N – 14 41 40 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 38 km W of Misrata and 12.75 km ESE of Zliten town center. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: rough natural surface measuring approx. 775 x 695 meters (850 x 760 yards). Infrastructure: none reported - populated area.

Remarks:

12 Dec 42: occupied by an Italian Squadriglia (squadron).

23 Dec 42: unoccupied.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; BNA AIR 40/1991; website ww2.dk]

**Zuara** (LIB) (a.k.a. Zuwara, Zuwārah) (32 55 12 N – 12 05 55 E)

General: landing ground in Tripolitania in NW Libya 103 km W of Tripoli city center and 2.5 km SE of the town of Zuara. History: early history lacking

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but a very active base for Italian reconnaissance aircraft that were also used for convoy escort, and at times for Luftwaffe transport aircraft. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural sandy surface measuring approx. 850 x 850 meters (930 x 930 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both available but no details found. Infrastructure: none at the landing ground but there were several small colonial forts off the E and NE boundaries which may have been used in conjunction with the landing ground. Barrack accommodations were available for landing ground personnel. Dispersal: aircraft parked on and off the perimeter where a great deal of space was available. Defenses: reportedly defended by 3 or 4 AA machine gun positions with 2 guns each.

### Remarks:

3 Jul 41: strafed by RAF Maryland – 1 x S.M.81 shot up and damaged on the ground.

31 Jul 41: strafed by RAF Maryland – 1 x S.M.79 shot up and damaged on the ground.

Jan 43: plowed up and mined by the retreating Axis forces.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 1<sup>o</sup> Gruppo APC (Jan 43); 12<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Feb 41); 64<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Nov 42 – Jan 43); 66<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Jul-Aug 42, Nov 42); 68<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Mar 42, Nov 42); 69<sup>o</sup> Gruppo OA (Dec 41); 159<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (Jan 43); 600<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia T (Jan 43).

*Luftwaffe*: Stab and 2./KGr. z.b.V. 400 (Mar 42); Stab/JG 77 (Jan-Feb 43); elements of II./JG 77 (Jan 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (trop) (Jan 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): I./Flak-Rgt. 6 (Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 p. 083 (25 Oct 42); BNA AIR 40/1991; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1677); website ww2.dk]

**Zuila No. 1** (LIB) (a.k.a. Zawilah) (26 09 30 N – 15 10 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 772 km SSE of Tripoli and just E of the village of Zuila. History: no information found. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Zuila No. 2** (LIB) (a.k.a. Zawilah) (26 12 30 N – 14 58 29 E)

General: emergency landing ground in Tripolitania 761 km SSE of Tripoli and 15 km WNW of the village of Zuila. History: no information found.

Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none specific to the ELG.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263 pp. 004-175 (31 Dec 42); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]