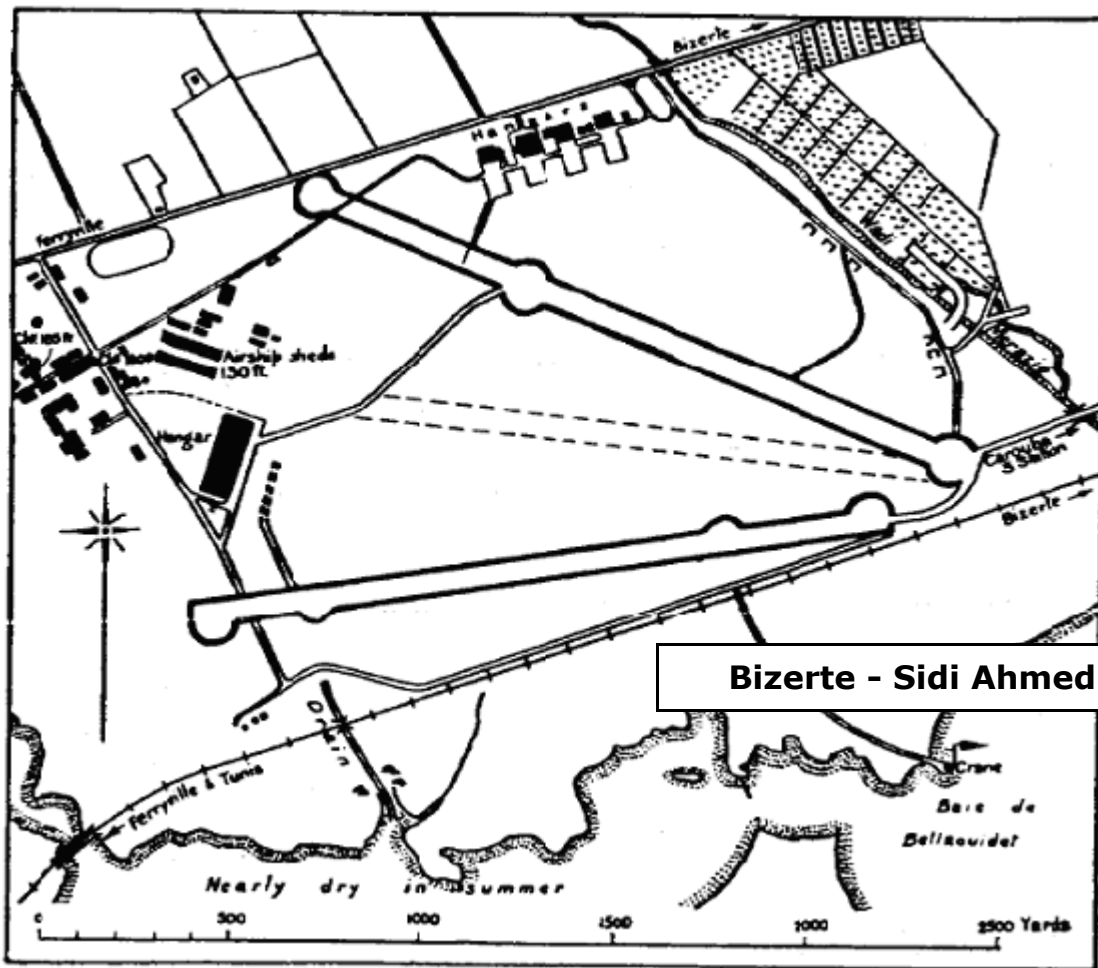


# Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45 Tunisia

By Henry L. deZeng IV



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## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

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# **Airfields**

## **Tunisia**

### **Introduction**

#### Conventions

1. For the purpose of this reference work, "Tunisia" means the borders that existed on 8 November 1942, the date of the Operation *Torch* landings by the Allies in Morocco and Algeria.
2. All place name spellings are as they appear in wartime German, French and Allied documents with the addition of alternate spellings where known, these mainly being transliterated spellings from Arabic. Although considerable care has been taken to avoid duplication due to different names for the same landing ground, a few duplicates may still exist.
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. It should be noted that there are two abbreviations used more extensively in this monograph than in the others in this series, namely LG for landing ground and ELG for emergency landing ground.

#### Preface

Tunisia was a French colony when the Allies began advancing toward its western borders from Algeria in mid-November 1942. The French had a small number of airfields and landing grounds in country but none were developed with the exception of Tunis – El Aouina, Bizerte – Sidi Ahmed and perhaps one or two others. The rest were primitive landing grounds without runways and infrastructure of any sort along with emergency landing grounds that were little more than open terrain that were marked on maps. Accordingly, most of the Allied air attacks during November and December

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1942 were focused on shipping, the docks at Bizerte and Tunis and the coastal railway line from Sousse south to Gabes. The only Axis airfields in Tunisia that received much attention were the two mentioned above, Sidi Ahmed and El Aouina.

By the beginning of 1943, both sides had transported enough personnel, equipment and supplies into the theater to address the need for additional airfields. The 6 months of fighting in Tunisia ended with the Axis surrender on 12 May 1943 which left this small country with several hundred emergency landing grounds, landing grounds, airfields, field airstrips, auxiliary airstrips, satellites and dispersal fields that had been built and used by French, German, Italian, British and American air forces, all in an incredibly short period of time. Accordingly, this monograph lists all but a few of them for the purpose of providing a more thorough coverage and avoiding confusion as they changed hands or came into existence.

Describing airfields in Tunisia is problematic because of the nature of much of the terrain, at least that part without mountains. The ground was generally level and hard-packed so often aircraft could land and take off from any place that looked suitable. Of the 282 airfields, landing grounds and airstrips identified in Tunisia by 28 November 1943, those few not listed here were too insignificant and void of activity to merit mention.

Basically, the Luftwaffe only based units at a few of the available airfields and landing grounds in Tunisia due mainly to the logistical constraints of having to bring in aviation fuel, munitions and other supplies from Italy which exposed them to constant air and naval attack with heavy losses. The assets were just not available to stock more than a few air bases. Some others were used as advanced LGs by small contingents of aircraft while a few others were used during the day with the aircraft flying back to home base at dusk.

By 20 April, in an effort to hide and disperse its dwindling force, the Luftwaffe was shuffling its aircraft among 25+ landing grounds it had built in a 90° arc with a 40 to 60 km radius between due W of Tunis and due N of Tunis that included Bizerte. Rarely did an aircraft spend more than 12 to 15 hours at any one landing ground.

On 7 May, Generalmajor Karl Köchy, the commander of Regional Airfield Command 5/XIII (trop) that was responsible for all airfields in northern Tunisia, ordered them abandoned and all staff to flee at their discretion.

On the Allied side, apart from the Souk el Arba, Souk el Khemis, Thelepte, Sbeitla and Gafsa complexes and landing grounds, there were no Allied

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airfields in Tunisia until after 5 March 1943 when the construction of 13 forward landing grounds for North African Tactical Air Force (NATAF) was ordered with completion set for 13 March with many more being built after that date. North African Strategic Air Force (NASAF), on the other hand, was concentrated on 15 airfields in the Constantine area in NE Algeria and did not move its bomber groups into Tunisia until after the end of hostilities.

It should be noted that the descriptions of the many airfield bombing and strafing attacks given below under each airfield come mainly from the Duty Group Captain's "Daily Resume of Air Operations" in AFHRA decimal 512.6061A, reels 6368, 6369, 6370 (these cover 6 Mar 42 to 12 May 45 in c. 5,000 pages with 4 to 5 pages per daily summary). Luftwaffe aircraft losses come from Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv Freiburg, Signatur RL 2 III *Meldungen über Flugzeugunfälle*, usw. The Italian Air Force (Regia Aeronautica) losses come from the excellent *A History of the Mediterranean Air War 1940-1945* (see the Bibliography, below).

### Airfields Listed

A total of 6 airfields, 157 landing grounds and satellites (including many with multiple airstrips that have not been counted separately) and 41 emergency landing grounds are listed below along with 4 seaplane stations and seaplane anchorages. The grand total of all listings in this monograph is 208. If the separate airstrips that have not been counted separately were added to the total, the new total would be  $208 + 54 = \underline{262}$ .

### Bibliographic Note:

While the primary source documents and a few secondary works cited after each listing provided 95% or more of the data used in this monograph, it was necessary to rely on six excellent unpublished studies and published books for some of the details, especially the order of battle and losses of the *Regia Aeronautica* (Italian Air Force), and these are:

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1945. Volume Three: Tunisia and the End in Africa November 1942 –  
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## A

**Achichina** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al Hushayshinah) (c. 34 25 N – 10 11 E)  
General: alternate landing ground in Tunisia approx. 64 km SW of Sfax and  
6 to 8 km inland from the coast. Not specifically located but probably 2 km  
SW of the hamlet of Achichina and closed to the main N-S road. History:  
Axis-built but little use apparent prior to late March 1943. Surface and  
Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none  
specific to the landing ground. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.  
Remarks:  
29 Mar 43: repeatedly bombed and strafed mid-day by 3 squadrons of SAAF  
P-40 Kittyhawks – of the 24 fighters spotted on the ground, 5 x MC 202s  
were destroyed and 12 more damaged.  
Operational Units:  
Italian (Regia Aeronautica): 18<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb-Mar 43).  
Luftwaffe: none identified.  
Station Commands: none identified.  
Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]  
**Alem** (TUN) (c. 35 43 00 N – 10 06 00 E)

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General: a forward landing ground just NW of Kairouan/North landing ground and approx. 8 to 10 km NW of Kairouan town center. Consisted of 4 airstrips named Alem/Main, Alem No. 1, Alem No 2 and Alem/North. Rated for fighters. History: believed to have been built by the Allies in spring 1943. No record found of any Axis air units here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Alouet el Gounna** (TUN) (c. 33 09 00 N – 11 28 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in SE Tunisia approx. 150 km SE of Gabes city center and 23.5 km E of Ben Gardane. History: Either French or Allied built. No mention found of any activity here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Amara** (TUN) (35 17 33 N – 09 03 55 E)

General: airstrip complex in W-Central Tunisia 167 km WNW of Sfax, 25 km NE of Kasserine and 9 km NW of Sbeitla (Subaytilah) that was still under construction in early April 1943. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: level grassland surface measuring approx. 2160 x 2000 meters (2360 x 2185 yards) with 3 airstrips - (1) 2000 x 100 meters, (2) 1900 x 90 meters, and (3) 1800 x 90 meters). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: an extensive network of taxiways leading to large dispersal areas at the N and S ends of the landing area.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1560); website ww2.dk]

**Ariana** (TUN) (a.k.a. Ariana I, Djafar, Jaffar) (36 55 35 N – 10 06 15 E)

General: satellite and dispersal airstrip 15 km NW of Tunis city center, 10.75 km NW of Ariana town center, 8 km SSE of Protville and 1 km NNW of La Sebala du Khaiat. History: early history not found but believed to have been built or improved by the Germans in January 1943. Used by transports flying in from Italy and Sicily. Surface and Dimensions: level agricultural land measuring approx. 1400 x 1400 meters (1530 x 1530 yards). Unserviceable in wet weather. Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground. Dispersal: had protective blast bays for accommodating 12 aircraft in Mar 43. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

20 Apr 43: airfields around Protville bombed by NASAF B-17 Fortresses and B-25 Mitchells.

22 Apr 43: 2 landing grounds near Protville bombed by NASAF B-25s.

29 Apr 43: landing ground near Protville bombed by NAAF B-26 Marauders.

3 May 43: NASAF B-25s bombed a landing ground near Protville.

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5 May 43: NASAF B-25s and B-26s bombed a landing ground near Protville.

5/6 May 43: bombed by elements of 35 Bisleys and 7 French LeO.45s – results not observed.

6 May 43: heavy NAAF bombing raids on Protville landing ground.

7 May 43: bombed by Spitfire fighter-bombers.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: III./JG 53 (May 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Fliegerführer 2 (Jan-Apr 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1550); website ww2.dk]

**Ariana II** (TUN) (36 55 35 N – 10 06 15 E)

General: satellite and dispersal landing ground in N Tunisia 15 km N of Tunis city center, 8 km SSE of Protville and 9 km ESE of Ariana I. History: believed to have been laid out by the Luftwaffe as a satellite or alternate landing ground for Ariana I before it was taken over by the Allies in early May 1943. Surface and Dimensions: firm, level salt and clay soil measuring approx. 1400 x 800 meters (1530 x 875 yards) with a 1400 x 90 meter airstrip. The airstrip may have been built by the Allies right after the landing ground was captured in early May 1943. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities when photographed on 27 May 1943.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1554); website ww2.dk]

## B

**Beja** (TUN) (c. 36 44 N – 09 11 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia 96 km W of Tunis city center.

History: believed to have been built by the Allies in Nov-Dec 42. No record found of any Axis air units here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Beja – Sidi Smail** (TUN): see Sidi Smail.

**Ben Arous** (TUN) (c. 36 45 N – 10 14 E)

General: emergency landing ground or auxiliary strip for light courier aircraft in N Tunisia 8 km SE of Tunis city center. History: no information found.



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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ben Gardane** (TUN) (today Bin Qirdän) (33 09 20 N – 11 12 29 E)

General: landing ground in SE Tunisia 415 km SSE of Tripoli, 70 km ESE of Medinine and 2 km NNW of Ben Gardane. Eventually had 2 satellites - Ben Gardane/Southeast and Ben Gardane/North. Rated for fighters and bombers. History: built pre-war by the French. After the Allies seized it on 15 March 1943, it was enlarged and improved by elements of the 3 U.S. Army Engineer Aviation battalions that operated in Tunisia. Surface and Dimensions: sand surface that was level and firm and measured approx. 1220 x 1100 meters (1335 x 1200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: a 10,000 liter fuel tank was located next to the flight operations building.

Infrastructure: had a small flight operations building but no hangars or workshops. Dispersal: there were 3 aircraft shelters. Defenses: none mentioned.

Remarks:

1934: listed as a secondary military airfield measuring 850 x 800 meters (930 x 875 yards) with 3 aircraft shelters and no other infrastructure.

20 Jan 43: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from I./JG 77 destroyed on the ground. Additionally, a Bf 109 F-4 belonging to 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 and a Ju 52 from Kurierstaffel Afrika were destroyed on the ground by the Germans, probably because they were unrepairable or could not be removed for repair.

24 Jan 43: bombed and strafed by 43 P-40 Kittyhawks – of the 15 enemy planes seen, 4 x Bf 109 G-2s from I./JG 77 damaged on the ground.

15 Feb 43: town and landing ground taken by Allied troops.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 77 (Jan 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 23/VII (Jan 43); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Feb 43).

Station Units (on various dates): Fliegerführer Afrika (Jan 43); elements of schw.Feldwerft-Abt. IV/20 (Dec 42 – Jan 43); gem.Flak-Abt. 354 (Jan 43); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 914 (Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1578); website ww2.dk]

**Ben Hagen** (TUN) (36 42 26 N – 10 26 58 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 26.25 km ESE of Tunis city center.

History: no information found. No evidence of any Axis air activity here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Beni Khalled** (TUN) (c. 36 38 N – 10 35 E)

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General: landing ground in N Tunisia 40.5 km ESE of Tunis city center.  
History: no information found. No evidence of any Axis air activity here.  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir bou Rekba** (TUN) (c. 36 25 N – 10 34 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 56 km SE of Tunis city center.  
History: no information found. No evidence of any Axis air activity here.  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir el Hadjar** (TUN) (c. 35 52 N – 10 29 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 12 km NW of Sousse city center.  
History: no information found. No evidence of any Axis air activity here.  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir Gueniche** (TUN) (c. 37 03 N – 10 01 E)

General: alternate landing ground in N Tunisia approx. 27.5 km SE of Bizerte near the village of Zana. History: no information found.

#### Remarks:

20 Apr 43: bombed by 12 B-25 Mitchells – claimed 1 aircraft destroyed on the ground.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir Messauda** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bir Messaouda) (c. 36 41 N – 10 51 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 62.5 km ESE of Tunis city center.  
History: no information found. No evidence of any Axis air activity here.  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bir Soltane** (TUN) (c. 33 17 N – 09 43 E)

General: emergency landing ground in S Central Tunisia approx. 170 km SSW of Tunis city center, 78 km SSW of Gabes and 75 km W of Medinine in open, barren desert country at a junction of several desert tracks. History: built by U.S. Engineer Aviation troops and the first tenant arrived on 21 Mar 43 and departed on 4 April. It was abandoned after that.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bizerte-Karouba** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bizerte-Kharrouba) (37 14 50 N – 09 49 45 E)

General: seaplane station in N Tunisia 5 km SW of Bizerte and 2.5 km E of Bizerte – Sidi Ahmed airfield. History: a major French naval base and logistics depot since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the seaplane station came into existence between World War I and 1939. Although used by Axis seaplanes, no record has been found of any Luftwaffe or Italian seaplane units being based here.

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Anchorage: sitting along a relatively narrow inlet running from the Mediterranean to Bizerte Lake, there was plenty of room for take-offs and landings. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was stocked and available.

Ammunition and bombs were made available as needed. Infrastructure: had 7 hangars, large repair shops, admin buildings and barracks. A SE quay and a SW quay ran along the waterfront and were connected by a taxi track. Each quay had its own slipway. Additionally, the SE quay had 3 cranes and the SW quay had 2 cranes. The station was served by railway sidings along the main line to and from Bizerte. Defenses: protected by the Flak defenses around Bizerte and Sidi Ahmed airfield.

### Remarks:

1934: listed as a French military seaplane station with hangars and repair workshops.

23 Jan 43: seaplane station bombed by 12 B-17 Fortresses – claimed hits on hangars, workshops and oil storage tanks.

31 Mar/1 Apr 43: seaplane station bombed by 14 Wellingtons – heavy cloud cover prevented the observation of results.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.278 (Tunisia 10 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Bizerte – Sidi Ahmed** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bizerte) (37 14 50 N – 09 47 50 E)

General: airfield on the outskirts of Bizerte in N Tunisia and 7.75 km WSW of Bizerte city center. Rated for bombers. There was an adjacent alternate landing strip at Karouba.

History: built pre-war by the French. In German hands, it became one of the 2 or 3 most important airfields in Tunisia from November 1942 to May 1943. Many of the Luftwaffe fighter units that defended northern Tunisia were based here and it also served as an air transport hub for passenger and cargo flights coming from Italy and Sicily. The Italian Regia Aeronautica did not base any units here.

Dimensions: 2285 x 1190 meters (2500 x 1300 yards).

Surface and Runways: natural dirt surface with patches of grass and weeds. There were 2 runways while in Axis hands – (1) 1190 meters (1300 yards) in length and paved, probably with concrete; (2) the second runway was reportedly also paved but no information found on its length. Both runways had turning circles in October 1943 but it is unclear if these existed when the airfield was in the hands of the Axis.

Fuel and Ammunition: there were underground fuel tanks E of the 4 hangars at the NE end and in the center of the N boundary with a refueling point in the NE corner. Additionally, there were 8 small fuel storage tanks protected by blast walls 400 meters WSW of the airship hangars. The airfield ammunition dump was to the W of the airship hangars.

Infrastructure: had 1 extra-large triple-span hangar on the W boundary and 4 medium hangars on the N boundary, all with paved aprons. On the NW

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side of the airfield were 2 airship hangars, workshops, garages and a power generator plant. Admin buildings and barracks were in the NW corner. There were railway sidings at the NW corner, too.

Dispersal: aircraft parked around the perimeter and along a concrete taxiway that connected the airfield to the seaplane station. Initially, Sidi Ahmed had no aircraft shelters, but the Germans improvised and built some out of bales of hay. How many of these eventually existed could not be determined.

Defenses: protected by the Flak belt around Bizerte, the harbor and the airfield.

### Remarks:

1934: listed as a French military airfield for both aircraft and airships with hangars and repair workshops.

10 Nov 42: occupied by 26 French fighters (Dewoitine 520s?), according to aerial photos.

16 Nov 42: bombed at relatively low altitude by 6 B-17s from XII Bomber Command.

17 Nov 42: attacked by approx. 10 RAF Beaufighters – 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 600 destroyed and 1 x Bf 109 G-2 (trop.) from 11./JG 2 damaged on the ground. A later report from Genst.d.Lw. gives 2 x Ju 52s burned and 2 more damaged.

18 Nov 42: low-level attack – 1 x Bf 110 F-2 (trop) from III./ZG 26 damaged on the ground.

20/21 Nov 42: night raid by 12-20 bombers – 1 x Ju 52, 1 x Bf 110 and 1 x Fw 190 destroyed, plus 9 x Fw 190s damaged.

21 Nov 42: bombed by B-17 Fortresses – claimed 5 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground and 3 large fires started.

23 Nov 42: bombed – 1 x Me 323 from I./KG z.b.V. 323 destroyed on the ground.

28 Nov 42: bombed – 1 x Me 323 from I./KG z.b.V. 323 and 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 600 destroyed on the ground.

29 Nov 42: bombed by 17 RAF Bisleys (Blenheim V) – 1 x Fw 190 A-2 from III./ZG 2 damaged on the ground. A hangar was set alight and fires started among other infrastructure.

4 Dec 42: bombed by 19 RAF Bisleys (Blenheim V) – claimed buildings and searchlight positions hit.

5 Dec 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 52 from Transportstaffel II. Fliegerkorps destroyed on the ground.

5 Apr 43: bombed by 18 B-17s.

19/20 Apr 43: bombed by Bristol Bisleys (Blenheim V) – claimed bursts in the target area.

20 Apr 43: bombed by elements of 69 A-20 Havocs and 12 B-25 Mitchells - 10 x Fw 190s from III./SKG 10 destroyed on ground and 1 x Ju 52 from

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KGr.z.b.V. 800 slightly damaged. The Fw 190s may have been unserviceable and awaiting repairs.

26/27 Apr 43: bombed at night by 19 Bristol Bisleys (Blenheim V) – a hangar containing French aircraft was hit and a number of the planes damaged.

4 May 43: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 G-4 from II./JG 53 damaged on the ground.

7 May 43: Bizerte captured by Allied forces.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: II./JG 51 (Nov 42); Erg.Gr. (S) 2 (Nov 42); elements of NAGr. 13 (Nov-Dec 42); III./ZG 2 (Nov-Dec 42); II./JG 2 (Nov 42 – Jan 43); 11. (Hoh.)/JG 2 (Nov 42 – Jan 43); II./JG 53 (Nov 42 – Jan 43); I./JG 53 (Nov 42 – Apr 43); II./St.G. 3 (Dec 42); III./SKG 10 (Dec 42 – Feb 43); Stab/Schl.G. 2 (Apr-May 43); II./Schl.G. 2 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 9/III (trop) (Dec 42 – May 1943).

Station Units (on various dates including those in the city of Bizerte – not complete): schw.Feldwerftverband IV/20 (Jan-Apr 43); elements of II./Flak-Rgt. 52 (Nov-Dec 42); gem.Flak-Abt. 211 (Nov-Dec 42); schw.Flak-Abt. 354 (Dec 42); elements of schw.Flak-Abt. 503 (Dec 42 – Apr 43); elements of gem.Flak-Abt. 511 (Dec 42, Jan 43); elements of schw.Flak-Abt. 644 (Dec 42); 15.(Flum.Mess)/Ln.-Rgt. 200 (Apr-May 43); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. 3/VII "Dostler" (Mar 43); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. 4/VII (Mar 43); Feldlufttanklager 1/VII (trop) (Mar 43); Feldlufttanklager z.b.V. (trop) 2/VII (Mar 43); Feld-Luftmunitionslager 5/VI (Mar 43); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 14/IV (Mar 43), Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 14/XI (trop) (Dec 42 – Apr 43); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 1/XII (1/XIII?) (Mar 43); Nachschub-Zug d.Lw. 4/VII (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 85/XI (Dec 42, Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 33/XII (Mar 43); 2./Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. II (Nov 42 – Apr 43); Ldssch.Zug d.Lw. 97/VII (Apr 43); Verwaltungslager d.Lw. 7/VII (Mar 43); Verwaltungslager d.Lw. 9/VII (Mar 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.279-81 (Tunisia, 11 Apr 43 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bordj Toual** (TUN) (a.k.a. Matmata) (c. 33 39 N – 10 00 E)

General: desert landing ground in E-Central Tunisia 26 km SSW of Gabes and near the village of Matmata Nouvelle. Rated for fighters. History: Axis built but no details found. No record found of any Axis air units being based here aside from detachments and elements.

### Remarks:

24 Feb 43: low level attack by 24 P-40 Kittyhawks escorted by an additional 12 Kittyhawks – claimed 7 x Bf 109s in blast shelters were bombed but no hits were claimed.

26 Feb 43: low level attack by 133 P-40 Kittyhawks and 24 P-40F Warhawks escorted by an additional 48 Kittyhawks – claimed 1 large aircraft

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destroyed, 1 x Ju 88 damaged and near misses among other aircraft in 8 passes.

27 Feb 43: low level attack by 70 Kittyhawks – claimed a direct hit on a blast shelter containing aircraft and a number of fires started.

Operational Units: none identified.

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

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bou Arada** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bu Aradah) (c. 36 21 N – 09 37 E)

General: landing grounds in N-Central Tunisia approx. 72 km SW of Tunis city center. There were 3 - Bou Arada Nos. 1, 2 and 3. History: Allied built. The area was in British hands in mid-January 1943. No record found of any Axis air units being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bou Chemma** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bouchamma) (c. 33 54 N – 10 03 E)

General: landing ground c. 6.5 km NW of Gabes. Rated for medium bombers. History: early history not found. Occasionally used by small numbers of Axis aircraft but no record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface or unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

3 Mar 43: attacked by B-26 Marauders escorted by 20 P-38 Lightnings – claimed bursts among 8 aircraft on the ground.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bou Ficha** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bouficha, Bü Fishah) (36 20 15 N – 10 30 00 E)

General: landing ground on flat terrain 62.5 km SE of Tunis, 13 km SW of Hammamet and 5 km NE of Bouficha. The landing ground was on the west side of the main road running between Bouficha and Tunis. Rated for fighters but not bombers. History: existed as a French military airfield in the 1930's. Surface and Dimensions: firm sand and clay surface when dry measuring approx. 800 x 600 meters (875 x 655 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: there was a fuel storage tank with a small dump next to it for ammunition storage. Infrastructure: had 2 medium hangars with servicing hardstands and several other buildings that were nearby, including a kitchen and a pavilion. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none mentioned.

Remarks:

1934: listed as a secondary French military airfield measuring 800 x 400 meters (875 x 435 yards) with hangars and a shop for minor repairs.

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11/12 Apr 43: bombed by elements of 14 Wellingtons – results not stated.  
28 Nov 43: after capture by the Allies, 2 prepared airstrips measuring 1500 x 200 yards aligned N/S and 1500 x 50 yards aligned NNE x SSW and a small dispersal area were built.

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-A p.282 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1564 Feb 43); website ww2.dk]

**Bou Grara** (TUN) (a.k.a. Boughrara) (c. 33 32 N – 10 40 E)

General: landing ground in SE Tunisia approx. 64 km SE of Gabes.

History: Allied built - no record found of Axis use.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Bourdjine** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bourjine) (c. 35 39 48 N – 10 34 34 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 18 km SSW of Sousse. History: no information found but this ELG most likely built by the French. No evidence of any Axis air activity here. Surface and

Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Bourdjine – South-Southeast I** (TUN) (35 35 10 N – 10 34 00 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 27 km S of Sousse that was still under construction in late April 1943. History: Allied built. Surface

and Dimensions: dirt surface with 2 graded airstrips measuring approx. 1050 x 100 meters (1150 x 110 yards) and 970 x 185 meters (1060 x 200 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had numerous taxiways and 9 aircraft blast bays when photographed on 20 April 1943.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1545); website ww2.dk]

**Bourdjine – South-Southeast II** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bourdjine No. 1, Goubrine No. 1, Goubrine/Base, Goubrine/Main) (35 34 05 N – 10 36 20 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 28 km S of Sousse and 10.5 km SSE of Bourdjine village. Still under construction in late April 1943.

Adjacent to Bourdjine-SSE I on the S side. History: initial construction was by the Germans then mostly Allied built after the incomplete Axis landing ground was captured in mid-April. Surface and Dimensions: dirt surface

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with 2 graded Allied-built airstrips each measuring approx. 1200 x 180 meters (1310 x 195 yards) and 900 x 180 meters (985 x 195 yards).  
Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had numerous taxiways and 6 aircraft blast bays when photographed by the Germans on 20 April 1943.

### Remarks:

28 Nov 43: after being rebuilt to Allied standards, it included 2 prepared airstrips measuring 2000 x 200 yards, one aligned NNW/SSE and the other NE/SW, and a dispersal area with aircraft shelters off the S boundary.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Apr 43); I./Schl.G. 2 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.294 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1546); website ww2.dk]

### **Bourdjine No. 2** (TUN) (35 41 20 N – 10 17 50 E)

General: landing ground built by the Allies in NE Tunisia 31 km WNW of Goubrine No. 1 and 18 km E of Kairouan. Surface and Dimensions: artificially drained flat, rolled dirt with a single prepared airstrip measuring 2000 x 50 yards and aligned NW/SE. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.295 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Bou Thadi** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bou Thadi/North, Bü Thady) (c 35 06 N – 10 15 E)

General: emergency landing ground in C Tunisia 60 km NW of Sfax.

History: no information found. One of the few landing grounds used by the Axis in Tunisia that does not appear to have been found and attacked by the Allies. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none reported. Dispersal: no details found.

Remarks: none.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 77 (Mar-Apr 43); III./JG 77 (Mar-Apr 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## C

**Carthage** (TUN): see Tunis-Carthage.



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### **Causeway** (TUN) (c. 33 39 N – 10 55 E)

General: landing strip in SE Tunisia located on a causeway that connected the mainland with Djerba Island. History: almost certainly Allied built. Seems to have been used in late March 1943 for refueling fighters. No record found of any Axis air units being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Creteville** (TUN) (a.k.a. Crétéville) (c. 36 40 N – 10 19 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 21.5 km SE of Tunis. Had an adjacent satellite called Creteville/Southwest which was also known as Mohamedia/Southeast. Rated for bombers. History: early history not found. No record found of any Axis air units being based here but transport aircraft inbound from Italy and Sicily are known to have used it.

#### Remarks:

18/19 Apr 43: Creteville and a satellite airstrip bombed by 17 Wellingtons and 4 Halifaxes – claimed bursts in the target area and fires started.

19/20 Apr 43: landing ground bombed by elements of 19 Wellingtons – claimed bursts in the target area and fires started.

20 Apr 43: attacked by B-25 Mitchells escorted by 16 Spitfires – results not given.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## D

### **Dehibat** (TUN) (32 01 00 N – 10 32 50 E)

General: emergency landing ground 211 km SSE of Gabes, 102 km S of Tataouine and 1.2 km NE of the hamlet of Dehibat. The border with Libya was just 10 km to the SE. History: no information found, but probably built by the French. Surface and Dimensions: fairly level rough surface measuring approx. 595 x 595 meters (650 x 650 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.330 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Depienne** (TUN) (a.k.a. Saminjah, Sminja) (36 26 10 N – 10 01 50 E)

General: operational airfield in N Tunisia 42 km SSW of Tunis and 1.8 km SSW of the Depienne train station. The surrounding terrain was covered with scrub. History: built by the French, reportedly in 1941. It was too close to the front from Nov 42 to Apr 43 for either side to based air units here. Surface and Dimensions: porous, quick drying soil on flat terrain measuring approx. 1400 x 900 meters (1530 x 985 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no local storage – brought in if and when needed.

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Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

29 Nov 42: seized by British paratroops but retaken by German troops shortly thereafter.

28 Nov 43: major improvements were added by the Allies - 1 paved runway of 2000 x 33 yards aligned NNW/SSE, 1 prepared airstrip measuring 2000 x 50 yards aligned NNW/SSE and taxiways to dispersal areas with 63 aircraft parking hardstands.

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-A p.284 (Tunisia 17 Jan 43 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1565 Dec 41); website ww2.dk]

**Dernaia/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Thelepte No. 2) (35 05 18 N - 08 31 37 E)

General: field airstrip in W-Central Tunisia 208 km WNW of Sfax, 29.25 km WSW of Kasserine and 13.5 km NW of Thelepte. Rated for fighters.

History: Allied built - no record found of Axis use. Surface and

Dimensions: lightly graded dirt surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: a taxiway connected in to Dernaia/South, less than 1 km from it.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1400 series); website ww2.dk]

**Dernaia/South** (TUN) (a.k.a. Thelepte No. 2) (35 04 15 N - 08 31 45 E)

General: field airstrip in W-Central Tunisia 208 km WNW of Sfax, 30 km WSW of Kasserine and 12 km NW of Thelepte. Rated for fighters. History:

Allied built - no record found of Axis use. Surface and Dimensions: lightly graded dirt surface measuring approx. 1200 x 1100 meters (1310 x 1205 yards).

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: a taxiway connected in to Dernaia/North, less than 1 km from it.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1483); website ww2.dk]

**Diar el Hajjej** (TUN): see Korba/South.

**Djafar** (TUN): see Ariana.

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**Djebel Tebaga/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Fatnassa, Oudref Fatnassa) (c. 33 59 N – 09 55 E)

[Interestingly, the location for "Fatnassa" is misidentified in nearly all published sources. For example, Dr. Jochen Prien in his *JG 77* history, Teil (Part) 3, pp. 1430 and 1505, shows it to be c. 70 km NW of Sfax, some 160 km to the NNW of its actual location. Dunning in *Courage Alone – The Italian Air Force 1940-1943* does not show or mention it at all, nor do the A.I.2(b) maps. Even Google/Earth gets it wrong and shows it to be at 33 48 30 N – 08 44 13 E, which is along a highway 128 km due W of Gabes. The identify and location given here, as an a.k.a. for Djebel Tebaga, is from the wartime directories and maps distributed by A.I.2.(b)/British Air Ministry.]

General: landing ground in E-Central Tunisia in the vicinity of Oudref, Zagrata and Al-Matwiyah. Exact location of the landing ground not determined although "Djebel Tebaga" is the geographical name used by the Allies for a gap in a range of mountains 30 to 40 km NW of Gabes. Wartime Allied sources state that Fatnassa is an a.k.a. for the Djebel Tebaga landing grounds. History: believed to have been laid out by the Axis in early 1943 and first used by Axis aircraft in late February. Surface and Dimensions: unfortunately, no details found. Infrastructure: none reported – tents used. Dispersal: had dispersals and blast shelters.

Satellites and Decoys:

The two Italian Air Force (Regia Aeronautica) landing grounds, K. 34 and K. 41, and believed to have been satellites of Djebel Tebaga. These are listed separately under the letter "K".

Remarks:

3 Mar 43: Oudref Fatnassa bombed – 3 x Bf 109 G-2s from I./JG 77 destroyed (1) or heavily damaged (2) on the ground.

15/16 Mar 43: Djebel Tebaga LG bombed by 8 Bristol Bisleys (Blenheim V).

20/21 Mar 43: bombed by 23 Bristol Bisleys (Blenheim V) – reported bursts straddling the landing ground.

21 Mar 43: 18 x A-20 Havocs (B-25 Mitchells?) escorted by 38 U.S. Spitfires bombed the North Landing Ground – claimed 2 grounded aircraft set on fire.

24/25 Mar 43: bombed by 12 Bristol Bisleys (Blenheim V) – reported hits on a new dispersal area at the North Landing Ground.

25 Mar 43: North Landing Ground attacked by 12 Bostons (A-20s), 23 Baltimores (A-30s) and 29 Spitfire escorts – claimed hits on the main runways, blast shelters and in the dispersal area. German reports stated 2 x Bf 109 G-2s from 2./JG 77 damaged on the ground.

26 Mar 43: North LG attacked by 18 B-25 Mitchells, 36 P-40 F Warhawks and 12 Spitfire escorts – claimed 1 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground and started 4 large fires. According to German reports, 4 x Bf 109 G-2s from I./JG 77 destroyed (1) or damaged (3) on the ground.

27 Mar 43: evacuated by the Luftwaffe.

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### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 77 (Feb-Mar 43).

Station Units: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 9/III (Jan-Feb 1943); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Mar 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): elements of Res.Flak-Abt. 354 (Jan-Mar 43); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Mar 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Djebel Tebaga/South** (TUN) (c. 33 59 N – 09 55 E)

General: landing ground in E-Central Tunisia in the vicinity of Oudref, Zagrata and Al-Matwiyah. Exact location not determined. History: believed to have been laid out by the Axis in early 1943 and first used by Axis aircraft in mid-March. No evidence found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: no details found. Infrastructure: none reported.

Remarks: see above under Djebel Tebaga/North.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Djedeida** (TUN) (a.k.a. Djedeida/Northwest, Djedeida No 1, Jedeida) (c. 36 52 05 N – 09 55 45 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 24 km WNW of Tunis and 1.5 km NW of the present day town of Al Judayyidah. There were two strips: Djedeida/Northwest and Djedeida/Southeast. Both rated for medium bombers. History: Djedeida/Northwest was built by the French as an emergency landing ground and was one of the first airfields taken over by the Luftwaffe in N Tunisia. Surface and Dimensions: grass and dirt surface of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: both stored on site. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: no details found.

### Remarks:

10 Nov 42: occupied by 10 x Bloch 174/175 bomber reconnaissance planes, according to aerial photos.

25 Nov 42: advancing American tanks from the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division briefly overran the airfield and destroyed 4 of II./St.G. 3's Ju 87s and shot up or crushed 21 others, putting them out of action. The losses were quickly replaced and there was almost no break from operations. The American tank crews claimed 30-36 aircraft in all.

30 Nov 42: strafed by 4 P-38 Lightnings.

7 Dec 42: bombed by 12 RAF Bisleys with fighter escort – claimed 1 enemy aircraft destroyed and another probably destroyed.

4 Mar 43: bombed by 12 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 24 Spitfires – claimed hits on the landing ground and dispersal area.

29 Apr 43: still in use by Luftwaffe fighter bombers (III./SKG 10).

8 May 43: captured by U.S. forces.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

28 Nov 43: major additions and improvements were added after it was captured by the Allies - these included 2 paved runways, 3 prepared airstrips, taxiways dispersals and at least 23 blast bays for aircraft.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe:* III./JG 53 (Nov 42); Stab/St.G. 3 (Nov-Dec 42); II./St.G. 3 (Nov-Dec 42); III./SKG 10 (daytime only, Mar-May 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.286-87 (Tunisia 17 Dec 42 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Djedeida/Southeast** (TUN) (a.k.a. Djedeida/No. 2, Jedeida) (c. 36 50 N - 09 57 E)

General: satellite landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 22 km W of Tunis city center. History: believed to have been built by the Allies in mid-1943. No record found of any Axis air units here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Djedeida/Northeast** (TUN) (c. 36 53 N - 09 57 E)

General: satellite landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 22 km WNW of Tunis city center. History: believed to have been built by the Allies in mid-1943. No record found of any Axis air units here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Djerba** (TUN): see Houmt Souk.

**Djilma** (TUN): see Ronnat.

**Djorf** (TUN) (a.k.a. Jorf, Jurf) (33 41 45 N - 10 44 03 E)

General: landing ground in SE Tunisia approx. 61 km ESE of Gabes on the channel or strait across from Djerba Island. The landing ground may actually have been located 13 to 14 km WSW of the town of Djorf. History: Allied built. No record found of any Axis aircraft being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Dougga** (TUN) (a.k.a. Thugga, Nouvelle Dougga) (c. 36 25 N - 09 13 E)

General: landing ground 96 km SW of Tunis and 5 km SW of Teboursouk. A former Roman city with spectacular ruins. History: Allied built landing ground. No record found of any Axis air activity here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## E

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

**Ebba Ksour** (TUN) (a.k.a. Ebba Ksoui) (c. 35 56 N – 08 49 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 156 km SW of Tunis city center. Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built using pierced steel planking for the runways, parking and dispersal areas, and wood and tents for billeting infrastructure. No record found of any Axis aircraft being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Agareb** (TUN): see Sfax – El Maou.

**El Aouadi** (TUN) (c. 32 01 N – 10 39 E)

General: emergency landing ground in S Tunisia 215 km SSE of Gabes, 105 km SSE of Tataouine, 9 km From the border with Libya and 3.5 km NW of Dehiba. History: no details found but most likely built by the French. No evidence found of any Axis air activity here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Aouina** (TUN): see Tunis – El Aouina.

**El Aroussa** (TUN) (36 23 N – 09 29 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 77 km SW of Tunis, 31 km SSW of Medjez el Bab and 2 km ENE of El Aroussa. Rated for fighters. History: early history not found but probably built by the Allies as a forward fighter strip right after they took the area on 25 Nov 42. No record found of any air units being based here prior to May 43, probably because it was too close to the front lines. Surface and Dimensions: level pastureland on porous soil measuring approx. 1500 x 1250 meters (1640 x 1365 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no local storage of either. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series, Mar 43); website ww2.dk]

**El Bahira** (TUN) (c. 33 46 N – 09 20 E)

General: emergency landing ground or landing ground in C Tunisia approx. 74 km WSW of Gabes and about halfway between Al-Hammah and Fatnassa. History: early history not found. No record of use by either the Axis or the Allies found.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Bathan** (TUN) (36 47 45 N – 09 53 30 E)

General: landing ground built by the Allies 25 km W of Tunis during June and July 1943.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.290 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**El Djem** (TUN) (a.k.a. El Djem/Main, El Jem, Al Jamm) (35 19 10 N – 10 41 05 E)

General: landing ground in E Tunisia 61.5 km N of Sfax and 3 km NW of the town of El Djem. Rated for bombers. History: no information found concerning the early history of this landing ground, i.e., whether it was built by the French or by the Germans. After the Allies seized it in the second half of April 1943, it was enlarged and improved by elements of the 3 U.S. Army Engineer Aviation battalions that operated in Tunisia and used mainly by USAAF troop carrier groups. According to Allied sources, there were 4 landing grounds here by fall 1943 – El Djem/Main (Base), El Djem No. 1, El Djem No. 2 and El Djem/North. Surface and Dimensions: grass-covered clay soil of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: stores of both available. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground but there were 3 small buildings on the E boundary that belonged to the locals.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: no details found.

Remarks:

1 Apr 43: El Djem LG bombed by NAAF Douglas A-20 Havocs.

3 Apr 43: El Djem LG bombed by 18 B-25 Mitchells – claimed 2 enemy aircraft exploded on the ground, 2 more were left burning and 4 others were hit and damaged. Also, 2 fires were started, a Flak positioned was silenced and a direct hit destroyed a truck.

4 Apr 43: El Djem LG bombed by NAAF B-25 Mitchells.

5 Apr 43: bombed again by A-20s.

6 Apr 43: hit by both A-20s and B-25s.

8 Apr 43: II./LG 1 Ju 88s hauled fuel from Catania/Sicily to El Djem.

17 Apr 43: by this date a satellite existed roughly 4 km N of the main landing ground with 2 airstrips of 1200 meters and 1000 meters.

28 Nov 43: major additions and improvements were added after it was captured by the Allies - these included 2 prepared (hard rolled) airstrips measuring 2000 x 316 yards aligned N/S and 2583 x 260 yards aligned WNW/ESE, a perimeter road and dispersal areas with 66 aircraft parking hardstands.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Mar-Apr 43); III./St.G. 3 (Mar-Apr 43); III./JG 77 (Apr 43);

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 23/VII (Jan-Feb 43); Flugplatzkdo. El Djem (Mar 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Sanitätsbereitschaft d.Lw. 2/IV (mot) (Mar 43).

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.291 (Tunisia 13 Mar 43 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1544); website ww2.dk]

**El Hamma** (TUN) (a.k.a. Chennchou, El Hamma – Chenchou, Al Hamma, Al Hämmah, El Hammam) (33 53 N – 09 53 E)

General: landing ground in E Tunisia 325 km S of Tunis, 21 km W of Gabes, 8.5 km E of El Hamma and adjacent to an oasis. Rated for fighters.

History: built by the French and in December 1941 it was classified as an emergency landing ground. Served mainly as a landing ground for Italian fighter units from Jan to Mar 43.

Surface and Dimensions: natural dry sand surface measuring approx. 500 x 500 meters (545 x 545 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was stored here and available, according to reports.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

27 Feb 43: 4 low level attacks by 31 P-40 Kittyhawks and 20 P-40F Warhawks with an escort of 32 Kittyhawks on the packed landing ground – claimed 1 x Bf 109 and 1 x glider destroyed, bursts among the crowded blast shelters and a Flak gun overturned and the crew killed. According to Axis reports, 4 x MC 202 fighters were destroyed on the ground during and 5 more slightly damaged these raids.

28-29 Mar 43: El Hamma captured by Allied forces.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (Mar 43); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb 43); 18<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan-Feb 43); 23<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb-Mar 43).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Jan 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**El Haouaria** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al Hüwäriyah) (c. 37 03 N – 11 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground/landing ground in NE Tunisia at the tip of the Cape Bon Peninsula 80 km NE of Tunis. Rated for bombers.

History: built by the Axis in spring 1943. After the Allies seized it in May 1943, it was enlarged and improved by elements of the 3 U.S. Army Engineer Aviation battalions that operated in Tunisia.

Surface and Dimensions: no details found. Infrastructure: none that was specific to the landing ground. Dispersal: no details, but very doubtful.

Remarks:

18 Apr 43: being used as an ELG by Ju 52s shot up over the Strait of Sicily during transport runs between Sicily and Tunisia.



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10 May 43: attacked by 11 A-20 Havocs and 9 B-25 Mitchells – 17+ tons of bombs dropped and claimed 1 x Ju 52 destroyed on the ground.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Henncha** (TUN) (a.k.a. El Hencha, La Henncha) (c. 35 06 N – 10 44 E)

General: emergency landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 42 km N of Sfax and 26 km inland from the coast. History: origin not found. No evidence of use by Axis air units or aircraft.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**El Maou** (TUN): see Sfax – El Maou.

**El Meridj I** (ALG) (35 52 30 N – 08 15 35 E)

General: Allied airstrip in Algeria adjacent to the border with Tunisia. Rated for bombers. Included here for reference purposes only.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1484); website ww2.dk]

**El Meridj II** (ALG) (35 52 30 N – 08 18 00 E)

General: Allied airstrip in Algeria adjacent to the border with Tunisia. Rated for bombers. Included here for reference purposes only.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1484); website ww2.dk]

**Enfidaville** (TUN) (a.k.a. Enfidaville-Mejine, Enfidha, An Nafidah, Konndar, Ferdjani) (36 04 10 N – 10 21 40 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia 77.5 km SSE of Tunis, 43 km NW of Sousse and 2 km W of Enfidaville. Rated for single-engine aircraft but not for bombers. History: built by either the French or the Axis, but most likely the former. Surface and Dimensions: dry, sandy poor quality soil measuring approx. 450 x 450 meters (490 x 490 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no local storage. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

5 Apr 43: low-level attack by 12 Hurricane fighter-bombers escorted by 25 Spitfires – claimed hits among dispersed aircraft on the landing ground. The Italians lost 3 x C.202 fighters on the ground.

10 Apr 43: bombed by 18 B-25 Mitchells – results not stated.

11/12 Apr 43: bombed by 14 Wellingtons – results not stated.

19/20 Apr 43: Enfidaville captured by British Eighth Army but the front stalled just a few kilometers N of the town until early May.

28 Nov 43: after the Axis forces in Tunisia surrendered on 12 May, a completely new airfield complex was built between May and July 1943

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approx 7 to 8 km S of the ELG that included 3 prepared (hard rolled) airstrips measuring 2366 x 50 yards aligned NE/SW, 2050 x 50 yards aligned N/S and 1200 x 230 yards aligned ENE/WSW, a perimeter road, taxiways and dispersal areas with 64 aircraft parking hardstands. Upon completion in July, there were 6 landing ground listings for Enfidaville: Enfidaville/Main (or Base), Enfidaville No. 1, Enfidaville No. 2, Enfidaville/North, Enfidaville/West (a.k.a. Enfidaville/South) and Enfidaville/Northeast.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (Apr 43).

*Luftwaffe:* none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.292 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1639); website ww2.dk]

**Euston** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis.

## F

**Fardjouna** (TUN) (c. 37 02 N – 10 59 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 77 km NE of Tunis city center and 7 km inland from the tip of the Cap Bon peninsula. History: no details found but believed to have been built by the Germans in early 1943 to serve as an emergency landing ground along the flyway between Sicily and northern Tunisia.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Farik** (TUN) (a.k.a. Borj el Farik) (c. 35 41 N – 10 02 E)

General: emergency landing ground in N Tunisia a few km NW of Kairouan and just E of a regional road junction. There were eventually 3 airstrips: Farik/Main (or Base), Farik No. 1 and Farik No. 2. History: no details found but believed to have been built by the Allies. No evidence of use by Axis air units found.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Fatnassa** (TUN): see Djebel Tebaga.

**Fatnassia** (TUN) (c. 32 30 N – 10 28 E)

General: emergency landing ground in SE Tunisia approx. 485 km S of Tunis, 160 km SSE of Gabes, 48 km S of Foum Tatahouine and .5 km NNW of Bordj Fatnassia. Not rated for bombers. History: early history not found. Often confused with Fatnassa landing ground to the NW of Gabes.

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Surface and Dimensions: natural desert surface measuring approx. 500 x 500 meters (545 x 545 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: not stored locally. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

[Sources: chronologies; AFHRA, BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1640); web site ww2.dk]

**Ferdjani** (TUN): see Enfidaville No. 1.

**Feriana** (TUN): see Thelepte.

**Ferryville** (TUN) (a.k.a. Tindja, Tinjah, Dawwär Tinjah) (c. 37 10 N – 09 45 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 14-15 km SSW of Bizerta. Rated for fighters. History: early history not found but believed to have been built by the Germans as an alternate landing ground for Bizerte – Sidi Ahmed. The Allies attacked port and rail targets at Ferryville but there is no mention of the landing ground.

Remarks:

11 Feb 43: first mentioned and now operational under Axis control.

4 May 43: small scale demolitions were undertaken by the Germans at Tindja but the blast bays could not be blown up as they were built into the ground.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: II./JG 2 (Feb 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ferryville/North** (TUN): see Tunis-Fochville.

**Fondouk Djedid** (TUN): see Soliman/Southwest.

**Fort Saint** (TUN) (30 14 29 N – 09 33 14 E)

General: field airstrip and emergency landing ground in SW Tunisia 735 km S of Tunis where the borders of Tunisia, Algeria and Libya meet, and 1 km S of remote desert hamlet of Borj el Khadra. History: built by the French and existed in the 1930's. No evidence found of any Axis air units being based here.

Surface and Dimensions: sand surface covered with pebbles measuring approx. 800 x 650 meters (875 x 710 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: there was a small dump of fuel in drums or barrels in Jan 43.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal area.

Remarks:

1934: listed as a secondary French military airfield measuring 800 x 600 meters (875 x 655 yards) with no infrastructure or facilities.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Foum Tatahouine** (TUN) (a.k.a. Foum Tataouin, Tataouine) (32 58 00 N – 10 28 00 E)

General: landing grounds in S Tunisia 435 km S of Tunis, 110 SSE of Gabes and 4 km N of the town of Foum Tatahouine. Eventually consisted of 3 airstrips: Foum Tatahouine/North, Foum Tatahouine/North-Northeast and Foum Tatahouine/Northwest. Rated for fighters and emergencies. History: early history not found but no Axis air units are believed to have been based here although it was certainly used by Axis aircraft, especially Italian fighters. Surface and Dimensions: compressed sand surface measuring approx. 1080 x 640 meters (1180 x 700 yards) in January 1943. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none aside from a small house or hut with a telephone. Dispersal: no organized dispersal area.

Remarks:

19-20 Feb 43: taken by British forces.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

## G

**Gabes** (TUN) (a.k.a. Gabes/East, Qäbis) (33 52 50 N – 10 06 31 E)

General: airfield in E-Central Tunisia 320 km S of Tunis, 113 SW of Sfax, 1.2 km inland from the coast and adjacent to this city and port on the SE side. Rated for bombers.

History: built by the French - listed as a secondary French military airfield in June 1934 with 1 hangar and minor repairs available.

Dimensions: in Jun 34 – 700 x 550 meters (765 x 600 yards); in Jan 43 - 1600 x 1000 meters (1750 x 1095 yards).

Surface and Runways: grass on soil with a clay content that softened in rainy weather. No paved runway.

Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was stored in tanks that were partially underground and there was an ammunition dump off the airfield perimeter.

Infrastructure: eventually, the airfield had 1 medium hangar of metal construction with a concrete apron in the NE corner along with several workshop buildings that served civil aviation and the military plus a control tower. Several more hangars were along the SE boundary together with several barracks that were being built in December 1941 and almost certainly completed by the beginning of 1943. Other barracks were available in Sfax. The rail line north to Sfax and Tunis ran along one side of the airfield.

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Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in Dec 41.

Defenses: protected by 2 x heavy Flak guns and 2 x AA machine guns in Dec 41.

Satellites and Decoys:

**Gabes/West** (a.k.a. today Gabes-Matmata Airport?) (c. 33 53 01 N – 10 01 59E) - satellite or alternate landing ground 7 to 8 km W of Gabes airfield that was built or upgraded in late 1942. Gabes/West became the main landing ground at Gabes from the beginning of 1943 forward. No details found regarding its dimensions, surface, infrastructure and dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

Dec 41: a Vichy French twin-engine fighter squadron with 8 Potez 631s was based at Gabes (i.e., Gabes/East).

18 Nov 42: Ju 52s attempting to land at Gabes were chased away by French AA fire. But the transports returned the next day with German paratroops and took control of the airfield when the French garrison fled.

30 Nov 42: Gabes airfield bombed by 9 B-26 Marauders from XII Bomber Command.

7 Dec 42: Gabes airfield strafed by fighters – claimed 3 x Ju 52s destroyed on the ground.

30 Dec 42: bombed by 6 B-26s from XII Bomber Command.

7 Jan 43: Gabes airfield bombed by 20 B-26s escorted by 14 P-38

Lightnings – claimed many fires started on the landing ground.

31 Jan 43: Gabes/West airfield bombed by 10 B-26 Marauders escorted by 12 P-38 Lightnings – claimed many bursts seen among 30 to 40 aircraft, including 6 large transports, with many of these being set on fire. Post-raid damage assessment photos showed 10 parked aircraft destroyed, but the Italians reported just 1 x C.200 fighter and 1 x S.M.79 bomber destroyed while 1 x C.200 and 1 x c/202 were damaged.

3 Feb 43: Gabes/West airfield hit by B-26s escorted by P-38s - post-raid damage assessment photos showed another 10 parked aircraft destroyed.

4 Feb 43: Gabes/West airfield bombed by 18 Fortresses escorted by 12 P-38 Lightnings – claimed numerous fragmentation bomb bursts in the target area and 6 fires were started. On same day, 24 Fortresses with 10 Lightnings bombed Gabes/West LG with 31 tons of fragmentation bombs and claimed many hits in the target area and large columns of smoke.

8 Feb 43: Gabes/West airfield bombed by 15 B-26 Marauders and 18 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 14 P-38s – claimed many fires were started but heavy air action with swarms of German fighters prevented an accurate assessment of ground results.

23/24 Feb 43: Gabes/West bombed by 23(18) Wellingtons and 6 Halifaxes – claimed bursts observed among dispersed aircraft that resulted in an explosion and several fires.

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25/26 Feb 43: Gabes/West bombed by 14 Wellingtons and 4 Halifaxes – claimed 2 aircraft on the ground set on fire. In effect, 1 x Bf 109 F-4 from I./Schl.G. 2 was destroyed.

26 Feb 43: late afternoon raid on Gabes/West by 17 RAAF Kittyhawks – claimed hits on 5 out of the 8 aircraft seen on the ground.

26/27 Feb 43: Gabes/West bombed by 10 Wellingtons and 5 Halifaxes – claimed 10 aircraft on the ground set on fire and others damaged.

27 Feb 43: 2 low level attack on Gabes/West by 47 P-40F Warhawks – claimed 1 x Ju 88 strafed and damaged, a fuel truck and 9 other vehicles blown up and bomb bursts among buildings and a light Flak position.

2 Mar 43: Gabes airfield bombed – 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 800 destroyed on the ground.

24-25 Mar 43: evacuated by the Luftwaffe.

28-29 Mar 43: Gabes captured by Allied forces.

Apr-Aug 43: improvements added by the Allies that included aircraft blast shelters on the NE, SE, NW and SW sides.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Mar 43); 13<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan 43); 18<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Mar 43).

*Luftwaffe*: detachment of I./JG 77 (Dec 42); 5./JG 53 (Dec 42 – Jan 43); Verbindungsstaffel Fliegerführer Afrika (Gabes/West, Jan 43); II./JG 51 (Jan-Feb 43); III./St.G. 3 (Gabes/West, Jan-Feb 43); 1.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Gabes/West, Jan-Mar 43); part of Verbindungsstaffel Tunis (Jan-Mar 43); 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Gabes/West, Jan-Mar/Apr 43); II./St.G. 3 (Gabes/West, Feb 43)?; half of 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Gabes/West, Feb 43); I./Schl.G. 2 (Gabes/West, Feb 43); Flugbereitschaft Gen. Kdo. Fliegerkorps Tunis (Feb-Mar 43); III./SKG 10 (Gabes/West, Feb-Mar 43).

Station Commands: Flugplatzkdo. C 1/VII (Nov 42 – Mar 43); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 9/III (Dec 42); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (trop) (Gabes/East and Gabes/West, Jan-Mar 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerkorps Tunis (Feb-Mar 43); Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jan-Feb 43); Stab Fliegerführer Gabes/Fliegerführer 3 (Nov 42 – Mar 43); Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Gabes/West, Jan 43); Koflug 10/III (trop) (Jan-Mar 43); elements of le.I/Feldwerftverband 30 (Dec 42 - Feb 43); gem.Flak-Abt. 114 (Feb-Mar 43); 5./schw.Flak-Abt. 192 (Dec 42); elements of Res.Flak-Abt. 354 (Feb/Mar 43); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 841 (mot) (Feb 43); elements of le.Flak-Abt. 914 (Jan-Mar 43); Flak-Geräteausgabestelle 3/III (Feb 43); Flak-Geräteausgabestelle 5/VI (Jan-Feb 43); Flak-Instandsetzungswerkstatt 7/XII (Mar 43); Flak-Sondergerätwerkstatt 7/III (Mar 43); Stab I./Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Jan-Mar 43); Stab II./Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Jan-Mar 43); Ln.-Betr.Zug z.b.V. 16 (Jan-Mar 43); Flieger-Geräteausgabestelle Gabes (Mar 43); elements of Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 2/XI (Mar 43); Munitionsausgabestelle d.Lw. 1/IV (Mar 43); Flugbetriebsstoffausgabestelle 4/VI (Mar 43);

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Nachschub-Kol.Abt.Stab 5/VI (mot) (Dec 42, Mar 43); Flug-Betr.St.Kol. 506/VII (Mar 43); Flug-Betr.St.Kol. 502/XII (Mar 43); Flug-Betr.St.Kol. 15/XII (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 5/XI (Flug-Betr.St.) (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 89/XI (Flug-Betr.St.) (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 15/XII (Mar 43); Kfz.Werkstattzug d.Lw. 106/VII (Dec 42, Jan 43); Kw.-Werkstattzug d.Lw. 3/XI (mot) (Mar 43)3./Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. II (Nov 42 – c.Apr 43).  
[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.293 (Tunisia 21 Nov 42 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Gafsa** (TUN) (a.k.a. Gafsa/North) (34 25 N – 08 49 E)

General: landing ground in W-Central Tunisia 293 km SSW of Tunis, 135 km NW of Gabes and 2 to 3 km E of Gafsa town center. History: this location replaced an earlier pre-war landing ground at Gafsa which had been abandoned by 1941. The old landing ground, later designated Gafsa/Southeast, was located about 2 km S of the new site and in June 1934 was listed as a secondary French military field with dimension of 800 x 700 meters and shelters for 2 aircraft. The landing ground was in German hands from mid-February to mid-March 1943. Surface and Dimensions: packed sand surface measuring approx. 1300 x 1200 meters (1420 x 1310 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: there was a relatively small fuel dump consisting of 8 large tanks holding 2,500 liters plus a war reserve dump with 1,000 or so liters more. No ammunition storage reported. Infrastructure: had 2 small areas on the S boundary that were marked for planned construction of metal hangars and other infrastructure in Dec 41, but whether or not this work had been completed by the beginning of 1943 is not known. The nearest rail connection was in Gafsa. Dispersal: there were no organized dispersal areas in Dec 41. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

18 Nov 42: occupied by a small party of U.S. paratroops sent to guard a dump containing 47,000 gallons of aviation fuel.

9 Jan 43: being worked on by USAAF aviation engineers for use as a forward landing ground.

14 Feb 43: abandoned by the Allies due to rapidly escalating German pressure in the vicinity and occupied by a German column the next day.

17 Mar 43: reoccupied by Allied forces.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.330 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1562); website ww2.dk]

**Galaat et Andeless** (TUN): see Protville No. 3.

**Gamart Beach** (TUN): see La Marsa.

**Garaa Mekhilif** (TUN) (33 33 40 N – 09 39 00 E)

General: field airstrip in C Tunisia approx. 56 km SW of Gabes. History: still under construction on 24 March 1943 and may not have been completed

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in time for use by the Axis. Surface and Dimensions: firm sand surface measuring approx. 960 x 90 meters (1050 x 100 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1559); website ww2.dk]

**Garat el Atech** (TUN): see Sbeitla-Kasserine.

**Gerrards Cross** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis - Gerrards Cross.

**Ghardimaou** (TUN) c. 36 27 N – 08 25 E)

General: fighter airstrip then emergency landing ground in NW Tunisia 162 km WSW of Tunis city center and just 4 km from the border with Algeria.

Exact location in vicinity to this town not determined. History: no information found but appears to have been designated as an ELG by the French before the war. No Axis air units were ever based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Goubrine** (TUN): see Bourdjine.

**Gounot** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Thibar.

**Gourguiba** (TUN): see Monastir.

**Gourine** (TUN) (33 36 55 N – 10 33 28 E)

General: emergency landing ground in SE Tunisia 360 km S of Tunis, 53 km SE of Gabes, 3.75 km inland from the coast and 3 km SSE of Bordj Gourine.

History: built by the French. No evidence of use by Axis air units found.

Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring 500 x 400 meters (545 x 435 yards) in Dec 42. Fuel and Ammunition: no information.

Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Grombalia** (TUN) (36 35 52 N – 10 31 20 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia 39 km SE of Tunis city center and 1 km SE of the town of Grombalia. The local railway line was 1.2 km to the W.

History: no information found but appears to have been little used by the Axis if at all. Surface and Dimensions: natural sand and clay surface with some grass measuring approx. 500 x 500 meters (545 x 545 yards) in Feb 43. Fuel and Ammunition: none stored, but just SW of the ELG was a huge underground fuel depot with tanks holding some 1 million liters. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:



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28 Nov 43: major additions and improvements were added after it was captured by the Allies - these included a prepared (hard rolled) airstrip measuring 2950 x 185 yards aligned NNW/SSE and a dispersal area with 36 aircraft hard-packed dirt parking hardstands for the aircraft.

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-A p.296 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

## H

**Hammamet** (TUN) (36 22 10 N – 10 32 00 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 57.5 km SE of Tunis city center and 8.25 km WSW of the town of Hammamet between the coastal road and the sea.

History: almost certainly Allied built. No information found to connect it to the Axis.

Surface and Dimensions: packed sand surface with 2 prepared airstrips measuring 1100 x 50 yards aligned N/S and 1333 x 80 yards aligned NE/SW.

Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p. 297 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Hammam Lif** (TUN): see Soliman/North.

**Hani/Main** (TUN): (35 41 40 N – 10 12 45 E)

General: airfield in NE Tunisia 124 km S of Tunis city center, 38.5 km WSW of Sousse city center and 11 km ENE of Kairouan (Al-Qayrawan) town center. Also see Kairouan.

History: Allied built. No Axis connection found.

Surface and Dimensions: natural terrain surface with 1 asphalt seal coated runway measuring 2000 x 33 yards aligned NW/SE and 1 hard-packed prepared airstrip measuring 1230 x 200 yards aligned NE/SW.

Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: all-weather taxiways led to 65 dry-weather-only aircraft hardstands.

Satellites and Decoys:

**Hani/West** a satellite of Hani/Main. No details available.

Remarks:

21 Apr 43: became operational with the arrival of a USAAF P-40F Warhawk group.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.298 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Hazbub** (TUN) (a.k.a. Hazbub Middle, Harboub, Medenine/South) (c. 33 17 N – 10 27 E)

General: landing grounds in SE Tunisia approx. 6 km SSW of Medenine town center. There were 2 airstrips: Hazbub and Hazbub/Northeast.

History: Allied built.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Hergla/Main** (TUN) (a.k.a. Hergla No. 1) (36 02 20 N – 10 28 08 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 89 km SSE of Tunis city center, 12.5 km SE of Enfidaville (Enfidha) and 3.75 km NW of Hergla village. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no information found.

Remarks:

28 Nov 43: abandoned by this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.299-300 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Hergla/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Hergla No. 3) (36 04 30 N – 10 26 00 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 86 km SSE of Tunis city center, 9.75 km SE of Enfidaville (Enfidha) and 7 km NW of Hergla village. Rated for fighters only. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: salt pan surface with a single prepared airstrip measuring approx. 2000 x 215 yards and aligned NNW/SSE. Fuel and Ammunition: no information found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had dispersal areas with taxiways leading to them.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.300 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Hergla/South** (TUN) (a.k.a. Hergla No. 2) (36 03 00 N – 10 28 00 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 88 km SSE of Tunis city center, 11.25 km SE of Enfidaville (Enfidha) and 5 km NW of Hergla village.

History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface with 2 prepared airstrips measuring 2000 x 300 yards aligned NW/SE and 1666 x 166 yards aligned NNE/SSW. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

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

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.299 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Houmt Souk** (TUN) (a.k.a. Djerda) (c. 33 52 N – 10 46 E)

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General: emergency landing ground in SE Tunisia approx. 61 km E of Gabes. History: believed to have been built by the French before the war. No record found of any Axis air units being based here. [Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## J

**Jaffar** (TUN): see Ariana.

## K

**K. 34** (TUN) (not located)

General: landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 40 km NW (WNW?) of Gabes and near El Hamma or Djebel Tegaba, most likely the latter. Exact location not determined. History: built at the beginning of 1943 for use by the Italian Air Force (Regia Aeronautica). Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no details found.

Remarks:

21 Mar 43: bombed – 1 x MC 202 destroyed and 10 more damaged at K. 34 and K. 41.

27 Mar 43: evacuated by the Italians with the fighters moving to Sfax.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb-Mar 43).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

[Sources: Shores, Massimello et al, *Med. Air War Vol. II* pp. 518, 527, 545, 546.]

**K. 41** (TUN) (not located)

General: landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 40 km NW (W? WNW? NW?) of Gabes and near El Hamma or Djebel Tegaba, most likely the latter. Exact location not determined. History: built at the beginning of 1943 for use by the Italian Air Force (Regia Aeronautica). Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no details found.

Remarks:

3 Mar 43: air attack – 2 x MC 200 fighters destroyed, 11 x MC 200s damaged and 2 x MC 202 fighters damaged.

20 Mar 43: bombed during afternoon – 2 x MC 202 fighters slightly damaged.

21 Mar 43: bombed – 1 x MC 202 destroyed and 10 more damaged at K. 34 and K. 41.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

24 Mar 43: mid-morning raid by 18 Allied bombers – 1 x MC 202 destroyed and 5 more damaged.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Feb-Mar 43).

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

[Sources: Shores, Massimello et al, *Med. Air War Vol. II* pp. 518, 527, 541, 543, 545, 546, 550.]

**Kairouan/Main** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al Qayrawän) (35 41 N – 10 05 E)

General: landing ground on the edge of this town in NE Tunisia 125 km S of Tunis and 1 to 2 km WNW of Kairouan. Rated for fighters. History:

built pre-war by the French and in June 1934 it was listed as a secondary military field with dimensions of 640 x 620 meters with 1 hangar but no repair facilities. Kairouan/Main was considered a field airstrip by the

Luftwaffe in January/February 1943. Surface and Dimensions: firm, clay-based soil that softened in wet weather but dried quickly. Measured 1100 x 1000 meters (1205 x 1095 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was stocked and available. A munitions dump was located 3.5 km ESE of the landing

ground. Infrastructure: had 1 medium hangar, an operations building and a tiny 8- or 10-man accommodations building. A military barracks

compound was 3 km ESE of Kairouan/Main. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities reported but blast bays were under construction in early Jan 43. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

28 Nov 42: unoccupied.

5 Jan 43: bombed by 13 B-26 Marauders escorted by 11 P-38 Lightnings – claimed large fires started in the target area.

6 Jan 43: movement of II./JG 2 postponed until blast bays ready.

7 Jan 43: bombed by B-26 Marauders escorted by 12 P-38 Lightnings – claimed fires started on the landing ground.

13 Jan 43: 4./JG 2 now at Kairouan.

9 Feb 43: bombed by 24 B-17 Fortresses escorted by P-38 Lightnings – 1 x Fw 190 A-4 from II./JG 2 destroyed on the ground and hits scored on the runway that was under construction.

15 Feb 43: bombed by 13 B-26 and 9 B-25 medium bombers escorted by P-38 Lightnings making 2 runs on the landing ground claiming many bursts among aircraft - 4 x Fw 190As from III./SKG 10 destroyed (2) or damaged (2) on the ground. According to German sources, 3 x Fw 190s were burnt out, 1 x Bf 109 reconnaissance version completely destroyed by bomb splinters, 5 x Fw 190 fighter-bombers and 1 x Fw 190 fighter damaged by splinters. Additionally, a direct hit was scored on II./JG 2's battle HQ (Gefeschtstand), the result of which the whole fighter control installation was destroyed.

8 Mar 43: attacked – 2 x Fw 190 A-4s from II./JG 2 destroyed or damaged on the ground.

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26 Mar 43: measures underway to evacuate aircraft from the landing ground.

11 Apr 43: captured by Allied forces.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: II./JG 2 (Jan-Mar 43); III./SKG 10 (Feb 43).

Station Commands: Flugplatzkdo. Kairouan (prior to Apr 43); Fl.Pl.Kdo. C 23/VII (Apr 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): elements of schw.Flak-Abt. 243 (Feb 43); Feldwerftverband-Erg.Zug "Afrika" (Mar 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.301-02 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1510 or 1570 Feb 43); website ww2.dk]

**Kairouan/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Kairouan-Temmar) (35 43 00 N – 10 06 00 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 121.25 km S of Tunis city center and 4.5 km N of Kairouan town center. Rated for bombers. History: Luftwaffe documents through Jan 43 make no mention of Kairouan/North so this field was undoubtedly built by the Allies after they captured Kairouan in April 1943. However, Allied documents obliquely refer to an old Axis satellite strip or emergency landing ground called Kairouan/Nord that was 3.25 km farther north. Surface and Dimensions: natural mud pan surface with 2 prepared airstrips measuring approx. 2000 x 200 yards and aligned NNW/SSE and E/W, respectively. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had Allied-built taxiways leading to 60 aircraft parking hardstands.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.302 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Kairouan/South** (TUN): see Sidi Amor el Kenani.

**Kairouan/West** (TUN) (a.k.a. Kairouan-Allani) (35 39 30 N – 10 02 45 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 129 km S of Tunis city center and 4.5 km SW of Kairouan town center. Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: natural mud pan surface with 2 prepared airstrips measuring approx. 2300 x 180 yards aligned ENE/WSW and 1800 x 180 yards aligned NNW/SSE. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had taxiways leading to 68 aircraft parking hardstands.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.301 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Kalaa Djerda** (TUN) (a.k.a. Kalaat Khasba) (c. 35 39 N – 08 35 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 194 km SW of Tunis city center and 57 km NNW of Kasserine. History: built pre-war by the French

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and used as a bomber base. Abandoned in Nov 42 and then taken by U.S. forces in Feb 43, subsequently used as a fighter base and then as a support base. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Infrastructure: no details. Dispersal: had organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Karouba** (TUN): see Bizerta – Sidi Ahmed.

**Kassar Said** (TUN) (c. 37 00 N – 10 02 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia approx. 26.25 km NW of Tunis city center and 3.5 km NW of Protville. Rated for medium bombers. History: no information found but probably developed by the Allies from a former Axis satellite field.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Kelibia** (TUN) (c. 36 50 N – 11 05 E)

General: landing ground on the Cap Bon Peninsula in NE Tunisia 82 km E of Tunis and 2 to 3 km SW of Kalibia town center. Rated for fighters.

History: possibly one of the emergency landing grounds built by the Luftwaffe in spring 1943 for use by transports inbound from Italy and Sicily. If not, then it was built by the Allies in preparation for the July invasion of Sicily.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Khereddine** (TUN) (c. 36 49 N – 10 18 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 8.25 km ESE of Tunis – El Aouina airfield. History: believed to have been built by the Axis in winter 1942-43 as a satellite or alternate landing ground for Tunis – El Aouina airfield. No record found of any Axis air units being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**King's Cross** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – King's Cross.

**Konndar** (TUN): see Enfidaville.

**Korba/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Qurbah, Korbous, Kourba) (36 35 00 N – 10 51 00 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 67 km ESE of Tunis and 1 km WNW of Korba town center. Rated for fighters. History: Axis built. After the Allies seized it in May 1943, it was enlarged and improved by elements of the 3 U.S. Army Engineer Aviation battalions that operated in Tunisia and then used by USAAF fighters and light bombers. Surface and Dimensions: natural sand surface of unstated dimensions. Unserviceable in wet weather. Fuel and Ammunition: both made available when needed. Infrastructure:

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none specific to the landing ground. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

12/13 Apr 43: Korba LG bombed by elements of 61 Wellingtons, 29 A-20 Baltimores and 23 A-20 Bostons – claimed several fires set and a hangar was left alight.

13/14 Apr 43: Korba/South bombed by elements of 52 Wellingtons, 31 A-30 Baltimores, 25 A-20 Bostons, 18 B-25 Mitchells and 3 naval aircraft – claimed 2 grounded aircraft and nearby buildings hit.

14/15 Apr 43: Korba/South bombed by 32 Wellingtons – results not stated.

17/18 Apr 43: Korba LG bombed by elements of 21 Wellingtons – results not stated.

19 Apr 43: attacked by 26 B-30 Baltimores and 36 B-25 Mitchells with fighter escort – claimed 2 direct hits and caused a violent explosion and started 7 fires.

8 May 43: along with Menzel Temime, one of the last two landing grounds still in Axis hands in Tunisia. Day-long strafing attacks by Allied fighters – mainly Spitfires – cost the Italians 9 x C.202 fighters, a C.200 fighter and an S.M.82 transport destroyed on the ground.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (May 43); 16<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Assalto (May 43).

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 77 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.303 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Korba/South** (TUN) (36 38 35 N – 10 53 30 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 66 km ESE of Tunis city center and 7.5 km NNE of Korba town center. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface with 2 prepared airstrips measuring 2000 x 95 yards aligned WNW/ESE and 2000 x 60 yards aligned NE/SW.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had taxiways led to 64 aircraft parking hardstands.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.303 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

### **Korbous-Marisa** (TUN) (a.k.a. Korbous-Mraissa) (36 46 10 N – 10 34 50 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia 5.5 km SSE of Korbous (Qurbus) and 2.75 km NE of Marisa. History: marked off (designated by markers) in early 1943 and used by small Luftwaffe aircraft during April and

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May 1943. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring 365 x 230 meters (400 x 250 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.330 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Korbous – Sidi Er Reis** (TUN) (36 46 10 N – 10 33 25 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia 5.25 km S of Korbous and 1.5 km N of Marisa. History: marked off (designated by markers) in early 1943 and used by Luftwaffe aircraft during April and May 1943. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring 395 x 330 meters (430 x 360 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.331 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ksar el Baroud** (TUN) (35 11 13 N – 09 22 49 E)

General: field airstrip in N-Central Tunisia 136.5 km WNW of Sfax and 24 km E of Sbeitla. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: sand and pebbly surface measuring approx. 1700 x 1500 meters (1860 x 1640 yards) with a graded airstrip 1400 x 350 meters (1530 x 385 yards).

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had taxiways at the NNE and SSW ends of the airstrip leading to dispersal areas when photographed on 6 April 1943.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1535); website ww2.dk]

## L

**La Faid** (TUN) (a.k.a. Fä'id) (35 04 N – 09 38 E)

General: emergency landing ground in C Tunisia 107 km WNW of Sfax.

History: no trace of its history has been found nor mention of its use. Does not appear in any of the airfield listings or maps consulted.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**La Fauconnerie I** (TUN) (a.k.a. La Gerboise?) (34 59 05 N – 10 10 55 E)

General: field airstrip in E-Central Tunisia 60 km WNW of Sfax and 3.5 km SSW of La Fauconnerie plantation. Rated for fighters. History: built by the Germans in early 1943 and the first Luftwaffe air units arrived here in February. Surface and Dimensions: 1100 x 950 meters (1200 x 1040 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: none stored locally. Infrastructure: none. Tents were used for operations and billeting. Dispersal: there were 4 aircraft shelters in mid-April 1943. Defenses: none noted.



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### Satellites and Decoys:

**La Fauconnerie II** (34 58 00 N – 10 11 30 E) - satellite or alternate landing ground 2 km SE of the main airstrip, La Fauconnerie I. History built by the Germans. Surface and Dimensions: graded soil eventually with 2 airstrips measuring 1300 x 220 meters and 1000 x 200 meters. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had 10 blast bays for parking aircraft.

### Remarks:

1 Apr 43: La Fauconnerie LG bombed by 18 A-20 Havocs escorted by 36 Spitfires – claimed 2 x Bf 109s destroyed on the ground while attempting to take off.

5 Apr 43: La Fauconnerie LG bombed by a total of 54 A-20 Havocs escorted by 72 to 116 Spitfires and 40 P-40F Warhawks in two separate attacks – while claims were made for 2 x Bf 109s destroyed and 5 more damaged from numerous bursts in the center of the landing ground, the Germans only reported 1 x Bf 109 G-6 from 6./JG 77 destroyed on the ground.

6 Apr 43: La Fauconnerie LG struck 7 times by a total of 76 A-20 Havocs, 9 B-25 Mitchells with 148 Spitfires and 108 P-40F Warhawks flying escort – claimed 4 x Bf 109s and 3 x Fw 190s destroyed or damaged by many hits in the dispersal areas. Actual losses were 6 x Bf 109s and 4 x Fw 190s severely damaged, all at La Fauconnerie II, which was unserviceable due to bomb craters.

7 Apr 43: evacuated by the Luftwaffe.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (Apr 43).

*Luftwaffe*: 1. Wüstennotstaffel (Feb-Mar 43); Stab/JG 77 (Feb-Apr 43); I./JG 77 (Mar 43); II./JG 77 (Feb-Apr 43); I./Schl.G. 2 (Feb-Apr 43); 8. (Pz.)/Schl.G. 2 (Mar 43); Flugbereitschaft Fliegerkorps Tunis (Mar-Apr 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 23/VII (trop) (Mar 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerkorps Tunis (late Mar 43); Stab/Fliegerführer 1 (c.Jan-Mar 43); Stab/Fliegerführer 3 (Mar-Apr 43); 2.Zug of Feldwerftverband Ie.I/30 (Mar 43); elements of Ie.Flak-Abt. 914 (Mar 43); 2.and 3.Kp. Lw.-Bau-Btl. 21/XI (Mar 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1548 and 1549); website ww2.dk]

**La Goulette** (TUN): see Tunis-Carthage.

**La Marsa** (TUN) (a.k.a. Gamart Beach, Al Marsá) (36 53 20 N – 10 17 35 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 16 km NE of Tunis and 3.25 km WNW of La Marsa town center. The coast or “beach” was 2.5 km E of the landing ground. Rated for fighters. History: built by the Germans during winter 1942/43 and the first Luftwaffe air units arrived around 10 February.

Surface and Dimensions: dirt surface with a clay and lime content measuring approx. 1400 x 490 meters (1530 x 535 yards). Unserviceable

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in wet weather. Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed from Tunis – El Aouina airfield located 6 km to the SW. Infrastructure: none built specifically for the landing ground but it was a populated area with plenty of nearby buildings. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

10 Mar 43: hit by elements of 71 B-17 Fortresses dropping fragmentation bombs with many fires ignited among the buildings.

17 Apr 43: bombed – 2 x Bf 109 G-4s from 5./JG 53 damaged on the ground.

18/19 Apr 43: bombed by 18 RAF Bisleys and 11 French LeO 45s – results not given.

20 Apr 43: bombed by 25 B-17 Fortresses – 12 x Bf 109 G-4/G-6s from II./JG 53 destroyed (3) and damaged (9) on the ground.

7 May 43: 2 x Bf 109 G-6s from II./JG 53 demolished to prevent capture.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Feb-Apr 43); II./JG 53 (Feb-May 43); III./JG 53 (May 43).

Station Commands: Fl.Pl.Kdo. E 7? (Feb-May 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): schw.Flak-Abt. 523 (Feb 43); 9.(Funkh.)/Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Feb 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1540); website ww2.dk]

**La Sebala/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. La Sebala No. 1) (36 57 35 N – 10 03 45 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 20 km NW of Tunis city center, 3.5 km S of Protville on the E side of the Tunis-Protville road and 6 km NW of La Sebala. Other seemingly reliable sources place it 1 km N of present-day Cebalat. Rated for fighters. History: 2 airstrips that crossed each other were planned, but it is unclear whether this was a German intention or an Allied intention. Surface and Dimensions: flat clay dirt surface with patches of grass and weeds measuring approx. 1300 x 1100 meters (1420 x 1205 yards). Unserviceable when wet. Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed from the Tunis airfields. Infrastructure: none - tents were used. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities but there were some aircraft shelters. Defenses: had 2 light Flak positions on the E and W sides of the landing ground.

### Remarks:

2 Dec 42: low-level sweep by 12 P-38 Lightnings – claimed 1 x Ju 88 and 1 x Bf 109 destroyed on the ground.

16 Apr 43: bombed – 1 x Bf 109G from Stab/JG 53 destroyed on the ground.

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19 Apr 43: bombed in 2 separate attacks by a total of 24 B-25 Mitchells and 48 A-20 Havocs escorted by 57 Spitfires – 1 x Bf 109G from Stab/JG 53 destroyed on the ground.

5/6 May 43: bombed by elements of 35 Bisleys – results not observed.

7 May 43: bombed by Spitfire fighter-bombers – 1 x Ju 52 from III./TG 2 destroyed on the ground.

28 Nov 43: after capture by the Allies, 2 prepared airstrips measuring 2000 x 400 yards aligned NE/SW and 2000 x 300 yards aligned N/S and large dispersal areas surrounding the landing ground were built. The old Axis aircraft shelters were utilized as well as many new ones built. Closed and dismantled after the last USAAF tenant departed on 30 Jul 43.

### Operational Units:

*Italian:* none identified.

*Luftwaffe:* II./St.G. 3 (Dec 42 – Jan 43); Stab/JG 53 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.304 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1557); website ww2.dk]

**La Sebala No. 2** (TUN) (a.k.a. La Sebala/South) (36 57 30 N – 10 04 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 20 km NW of Tunis city center, 3.5 km S of Protville on the W side of the Tunis-Protville road and approx. 1 km SE of La Sebala/North landing ground. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: flat natural surface with some grass and weeds that had 2 prepared airstrips measuring 1760 x 200 yards aligned NE/SW and 1780 x 200 yards aligned NW/SE. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: dumbbell-type circular dispersals were to be built at the ends of the 2 airstrips but it is not know if these were completed.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.305 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**La Skira** (TUN) (a.k.a. La Skhirra, Chekhira) (c. 34 18 N – 10 04 E)

General: emergency landing ground in E-Central Tunisia along the coast 46 km N of Gabes. History: probably set up by the French before the war. No record found of Axis use. After the Allies seized it, it was enlarged and improved by elements of the 3 U.S. Army Engineer Aviation battalions that operated in Tunisia.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**La Smala-des-Souassi** (TUN) (a.k.a. As-Sawasi, Zamälat as Sawäsi?) (35 21 15 N – 10 34 00 E)

General: landing ground/emergency landing ground in E Tunisia 72 km NNW of Sfax, 14.5 km WNW of El Djem and 1.2 km NNE of La Smala-des-

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Souassi (As-Sawasi). There were eventually 2 airstrips: La Smala-des-Souassi/North and La Smala-des-Souassi/Northeast. Rated for fighters. History: early history not found but possibly built by the French in 1942. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring 400 x 400 meters (437 x 437 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: 1. Wüstennotstaffel (Apr 43).

Station Commands: Teilkdtr. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 23/VII (Jan-Feb 43); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV (trop) (Mar 43).

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.331 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**La Soukra** (TUN) (36 53 00 N – 10 15 00 E)

General: a satellite, dispersal field or alternative landing ground in N Tunisia approx. 10.5 km NNE of Tunis city center, 5.25 km NE of Ariana and 4 km NNE of Tunis – El Aouina airfield. History: almost certainly built by the French or Germans. No mention found of its use.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Lebna** (TUN) (36 40 50 N – 10 53 40 E)

General: landing ground with 2 additional airstrips in NE Tunisia 65.5 km ESE of Tunis city center and 5.5 km SW of the village of Lebna. A second airstrip was 2 km SE of it and called Lebna/South and a third 2 km to the NE of it called Lebna/North. Each had a ring road, taxiways and aircraft shelters and/or hardstands by 1 June 1943. History: believed to be Allied LGs that were quickly built in May 1943. No evidence found of any Axis presence here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1538, 1555); website ww2.dk]

**Le Kef** (TUN) (a.k.a. El Kef) (c. 36 09 N – 08 42 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 151 km SW of Tunis city center and 33.5 km E of the border with Algeria. Rated for fighters.

History: possibly built by the French in 1942 but more likely built by the Allies as a forward fighter field in November 1942. It was never in Axis hands.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Le Krib** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al Karib) (36 17 17 N – 09 11 18 E)

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General: landing ground in N-Central Tunisia 106 km SW of Tunis city center and 6.5 km SE of the village of Le Krib (Al Karib). History: built by the French as a "secret military airfield" according to German sources. No information found concerning its use (if any) during the Nov 42 – May 43 fighting in Tunisia. Surface and Dimensions: leveled grass surface measuring approx. 1200 x 1100 meters (1310 x 1205 yards) in October 1941. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none. Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA; chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Le Sers No. 1** (TUN) (a.k.a. As Sars) (c. 36 04 N – 09 01 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 133 km SW of Tunis city center. Exact location in respect to the town not determined but one source states that it was about 3 km distance from the town. There were 4 landing grounds surrounding Le Sers. Rated for medium bombers. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Le Sers No. 2** (TUN) (a.k.a. Le Sers – Hamir, As Sars) (c. 36 04 N – 09 01 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 133 km SW of Tunis city center. Exact location in respect to the town not determined. There were 4 landing grounds surrounding Le Sers. Rated for medium bombers. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Le Sers No. 3** (TUN) (a.k.a. Le Sers – Gedimi, As Sars) (c. 36 04 N – 09 01 E)

General: landing ground in NW Tunisia approx. 133 km SW of Tunis city center. Exact location in respect to the town not determined. There were 4 landing grounds surrounding Le Sers. Rated for fighters. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## M

**Mabtouha No. 1** (TUN): see Protville No. 1.

**Mabtouha No. 2** (TUN): see Protville No. 2.

**Madjene Bel Abbes** (TUN) (a.k.a. Mabjene Bel Abbes, Maajen Bel Abbes, Majel Bel Abbes) (c. 34 44 N – 08 31 E)

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

General: emergency landing ground in W Central Tunisia approx. 27 km SSW of Thelepte and 43.5 km NW of Gafsa. History: no information found on early history and no record found of any Axis air units being based here. [Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mahares** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al-Maharas) (c. 34 31 N – 10 29 E)

General: emergency landing ground in E-Central Tunisia approx. 33 km SW of Sfax. History: no information found.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Maisonette** (TUN) (c. 34 27 N – 09 01 E)

General: emergency landing ground in C Tunisia approx. 23 km ENE of Gafsa and 3 km W of Zannouch. History: no information found on early history but most likely Axis-built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Maknassy** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al-Miknassi, Al Miknäsi) (34 35 N – 09 35 E)

General: landing ground in C Tunisia 252 km SSW of Tunis, 107 km W of Sfax and 2 km SW of the village of Al-Miknassi. Rated for medium

bombers. History: no information found on early history but most likely Axis-built since it appears in German airfield directories for Tunisia. Surface and Dimensions: level agricultural land with loose soil measuring 1400 x 800 meters (1530 x 875 yards) and roughly diamond shaped. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was stored in a dump 250 meters off the SW corner. No mention of ammunition storage. Infrastructure: had a small flight operations building in the NW corner. The nearest rail connection was in Maknassy (Al-Miknassi). Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

1-14 Feb 43: in Axis hands and the village and surrounding area the target of Allied air attacks; no mention of the landing ground.

22 Mar 43: taken by Allied forces.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): schw.Flak-Abt. 357 (Mar 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Manouba** (TUN) (c. 36 48 N – 10 05 E)

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

General: airstrip for single-engine courier aircraft on the western outskirts of Tunis? Manouba is a municipal district on the W side of Tunis. No further information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mareth** (TUN) (a.k.a. Märith) (c. 33 38 N – 10 17 E)

General: emergency landing ground in E Tunisia 34 km SE of Gabes.

Rated for use by fighters. History: almost certainly Axis built although no mention found of any Axis units or aircraft being here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Marylebone** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Marylebone.

**Massicault** (TUN) (36 43 00 N – 09 56 45 E)

General: airfield in N Tunisia 22.75 km SW of Tunis city center and 2.5 km ESE of the village of Burj al Hafsiyah. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface with 1 asphalt runway measuring 2000 x 33 yards and aligned NW/SE, a prepared airstrip 2000 x 50 yards aligned NE/SW and a second prepared airstrip measuring 2000 x 50 yards aligned NW/SE. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had taxiways leading to 60 all-weather parking hardstands for aircraft.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.306 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mateur** (TUN) (a.k.a. Mateur – Bel Aid, Mätir) (37 03 45 N – 09 42 05 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 52 km NW of Tunis city center, 27 km SW of Bizerte and 4.25 km NE of Mateur town center. History: built by the French as an emergency landing ground but little used until the Germans took it over in November 1942. Surface and Dimensions: graded dirt surface measuring approx. 1600 x 110 meters (1750 x 120 yards).

Unserviceable during rainy weather. Fuel and Ammunition: local storage doubtful. Infrastructure: none. The nearest rail connection was in Mateur.

Dispersal: had 7 blast bays (5 twin and 2 single) for parking 12 aircraft.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

28 Nov 43: after being rebuilt to Allied standards, it included 2 prepared airstrips measuring 2000 x 50 yards and 2000 x 330 yards, both aligned NNE/SSW. No organized dispersals were built and the Allies continued to use the Axis-built aircraft shelters.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 53 (Dec 42); II./JG 53 (Dec 42); 11.(Höh.)/JG 2 (Dec 42).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 39/IV (Apr 43).

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): elements of II./Flak-Rgt. 52 (Nov-Dec 42).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.307 (Tunisia 11 Dec 42 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1551); website ww2.dk]

**Mateur No. 2** (TUN) (a.k.a. Ras el Aine, Djebel Ichkeul) (37 04 50 N – 09 38 15 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 57.5 km NW of Tunis city center, 29 km SW of Bizerte and 5 km NW of Mateur town center. History: Allied built. About 1.5 km to the E was the site of an old ELG known as Ras el Aine. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface with a single prepared airstrip measuring approx. 1666 x 100 yards and aligned NNW/SSE.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

Oct/Nov 43: returned to cultivation.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.308 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mateur-Kroljane** (TUN) (c. 37 05 43 N – 09 41 27 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 6.75 km NNE of Mateur town center off the SE end of Lake Ichkeul. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Matmata** (TUN) see Bordj Toul.

**Medenine** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al Matämîr?) (c. 33 22 00 N – 10 25 00 E)

General: two landing grounds in SE Tunisia 66 km SE of Gabes, one rated for medium bombers and designated Medenine/West, the other an emergency landing ground (33 20 00 N – 10 31 00 E) and designated Medenine/Southeast. History: the French military ELG was listed in June 1934 with dimensions of 1000 x 700 meters, no infrastructure and no facilities. Surface and Dimensions: no information found. Infrastructure: none specifically associated with the landing ground. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none mentioned.

Remarks:

21 Nov 42: low-level attack - 1 x Ju 52 belonging to Kurierstaffel Afrika destroyed on the ground.

22 Jan 43: 40+ Axis aircraft spotted on the ground here.

24 Jan 43: Medenine/South targeted by 18 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 12 P-38s but the LG was found to be deserted. Medenine/West was bombed instead and 25 to 30 of the 50-60 aircraft seen there were claimed destroyed. A second raid of the same size was mounted later the same day with numerous hits and fires observed but no claims made. In reality, the Italians lost 3 x MC 202 fighters destroyed and 2 x MC 202s damaged on the ground by bombs.



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25 Jan 43: 36 P-40 Kittyhawks bombed 20 enemy aircraft seen on Medenine/West landing ground – results could not be observed.  
3 Feb 43: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from 5./JG 77 damaged on the ground.  
15 Feb 43: airfield destroyed by plowing and abandoned by the Luftwaffe this date then captured by British forces the next day. Immediately repaired and improved by the Royal Engineers.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 16° Gruppo Assalto (Feb-May 43); 18° Gruppo CT (Jan 43); 23° Gruppo CT (Jan 43).

*Luftwaffe*: I./Schl.G. 2 (Nov-Dec 42, Feb 43); Kurierstaffel Afrika (Jan 43); II./JG 77 (Jan-Feb 43); detachment of Wüstennotstaffel 1 (Feb 43)?

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Dec 42 – Feb 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Stab/Fliegerführer Afrika (Jan 43).

[Sources: chronologies; AFHRA, BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

**Medjez el Bab** (TUN) (36 37 45 N – 09 35 45 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 56 km WSW of Tunis city center and 2.5 km SW of Medjez el Bab town center. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: graded, scraped and rolled clay soil with a single prepared airstrip measuring 1666 x 200 yards and aligned NE/SW. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had 2 cleared dispersal areas to the N and 2 more to the S.

### Remarks:

26 Apr 43: in Allied hands and described as an “unfinished frontline airstrip”. Became one of the busiest Allied landing grounds in Tunisia during the final 2 weeks of the fighting.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.309 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Megdoudeche** (TUN): see Thelepte III.

**Megrine** (TUN): see Tunis-Fochville.

**Menakrer** (TUN) (35 11 24 N – 09 15 48 E)

General: field airstrip in W-Central Tunisia 147 km WNW of Sfax and 13 km ESE of Sbeitla. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: grassland surface measuring 1900 x 200 meters (2080 x 220 yards) with a single airstrip measuring approx. 1200 x 50 meters. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had a taxiway that aircraft could part off both sides of.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1536); website ww2.dk]

**Menzel Bourguiba** (TUN): see Ferryville.

**Menzel Heurr** (TUN): see Menzel Temime/South.

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**Menzel Temime/Northeast** (TUN) (a.k.a. Menzel Termime I, Manzil Tamīn) (36 47 20 N – 10 59 40 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 73 km E of Tunis city center and 1 km NE of Menzel Termime town center. Rated for medium bombers.

History: Axis built but no details found regarding the early history of this landing ground. Surface and Dimensions: agricultural land with sandy soil measuring approx. 1000 x 500 meters (1095 x 545 yards). Unserviceable when wet. Fuel and Ammunition: not believed to have been stocked locally but made available when needed. Infrastructure: none. Building space and accommodations were available in Menzel Termime. Dispersal: had 11 aircraft blast bays in Feb 43 plus numerous aircraft parking places along an adjacent road with trees offering some concealment. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

8 May 43: low-level attack – 3 x Bf 109Gs from I./JG 77 destroyed on the ground.

9 May 43: bombed and strafed – of the 9 x Ju 52s on the landing ground, claimed 1 direct hit and others damaged by machine gun fire.

28 Nov 43: captured by the Allies in May 1943 and rebuilt to include 2 prepared airstrips measuring 1660 x 100 yards with a WNW/ESE alignment and 1300 by 66 yards aligned NW/SE. Dispersal areas were built on the NE and NW sides of the LG with a total of 110 aircraft parking hardstands, most of which were concealed among olive trees. Closed and dismantled in Dec 43.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: II./JG 51 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Apr 43).

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.310 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1573); website ww2.dk]

**Menzel Temime/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Menzil Termime II, Manzil Tamim) (36 50 00 N – 10 57 30 E)

General: satellite landing ground in NE Tunisia 69.5 km E of Tunis city center and 6 km NNW of the town of Menzel Temime. Rated for fighters.

History: probably Axis built - used as a satellite of Menzel Temime landing ground. Surface and Dimensions: graded surface of a former salt sea measuring approx. 1400 x 500 meters (1530 x 545 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: made available as needed. Infrastructure: none specific to the LG, but houses and other buildings were nearby. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.0256-0334 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Menzel Temime/South** (TUN) (a.k.a. Menzil Termime III, Menzel Heurr) (36 45 39 N – 10 56 46 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 73 km E of Tunis city center and 4 km SW of Menzel Temime town center. Rated for medium bombers.

History: built by the Axis and improved and completed by the Allies. No information found that would distinguish it from the other two landing grounds around Menzel Temime other than it being a single airstrip aligned NW/SE.

Remarks:

10/11 Apr 43: Menzel Termine/South bombed by 35 Wellingtons – claimed fires started and aircraft left alight.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Messadine** (TUN) (c. 35 45 N – 10 35 E)

General: emergency landing ground or landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 7.25 km SSW of Sousse city center. History: no information found concerning the origin or use of this LG.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Methouia** (TUN) (a.k.a. Métouia, Al-Matwiyah) (c. 33 57 N – 10 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 13.5 km NW of Gabes city center and 5 km SE of the village of Oudref. History: no information found concerning the origin or use of this LG.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Metlaoui** (TUN) (a.k.a. Al-Mitlawi) (c. 34 20 N – 08 23 E)

General: emergency landing ground in the middle of the desert in W-Central Tunisia approx. 36.5 km WSW of Gafsa. History: probably built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Mezzouna** (TUN) (a.k.a. Mezzouna/North, Al Mazzūnah) (34 35 00 N – 09 50 46 E)

General: two landing grounds in E Tunisia 252 km S of Tunis, 87 km WSW of Sfax, 22 km ESE of Maknassy and 500 meters N of the hamlet of Mezzouna. The other landing ground, Mezzouna/Southeast, is not listed in German documents dated February 1943 so it may have been built by the Allies after that date. Rated for bombers. History: built winter 1942-43 by the Germans. Surface and Dimensions: had a firm and level natural surface measuring approx. 1000 x 850 meters (1095 x 930 yards). Fuel

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and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had a dispersal area with blast bays by the second half of Mar 43. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

15 Mar 43: attacked by 12-15 B-25 Mitchells, 12 B-26 Marauders, 40 P-40Fs, 33 P-38s with a Spitfire escort – claimed 12 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground. The Germans only reported a single Ju 87 D-1 from III./St.G. 3 moderately damaged on the ground by bombs.

22 Mar 43: low-level attack by B-25 Mitchells – claimed 5 x Bf 109s and 2 x Ju 88s destroyed, 2 x Bf 109s probably destroyed and 3 x Bf 109s damaged. German loss records admit to 3 x Fw 190 A-4s from III./SKG 10 shot up and damaged on the ground along with 4 x Ju 87Ds from III./St.G. 3 damaged and 2 x DFS 230 gliders damaged.

24-25 Mar 43: evacuated by the Luftwaffe and finally taken by British forces two weeks later.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: III./JG 77 (Feb 43); III./St.G. 3 (Feb-Mar 43).

Station Commands: Flugplatzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (Jan 43);

Flugplatzkdo. C 1/VII (c. Feb-Mar 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): 5./gem.Flak-Abt. 192 (Mar 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Mohamedia/Southeast** (TUN): see Creteville.

**Monastir** (TUN) (a.k.a. Monastir No. 1, Gourguiba) (35 43 20 N – 10 47 23 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 17.5 km SE of Sousse. History: not mentioned in connection of Axis air activity. Presumably built by the Allies in April-May 1943 as it was operational as an Allied base by 26 May. The last Allied unit departed on 10 Aug 43.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1553); website ww2.dk]

**Msaken** (TUN) (c. 35 43 N – 10 34 E)

General: emergency landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 12 km SSW of Sousse city center. Exact location not determined. History: no information on early history but presumably laid out by the Allies. No record found of any Axis air units having been here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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### N

**Nassen** (TUN) (a.k.a. Naassen) (c. 36 41 N – 10 14 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 13.25 km SSE of Tunis city center. Exact location not determined. History: no information on early history. No record found of use by Axis air units or aircraft.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Neffatia** (TUN) (a.k.a. Nefatia, Nefattia, An Naffätīyah) (c. 33 14 N – 10 51 E)

General: landing ground in SE Tunisia 101 km SE of Gabes. Eventually had a satellite called Neffatia/West. Rated for fighters. History: almost certainly Allied built in February 1043.

Remarks:

22 Feb 43: first mentioned with the arrival of South African Air Force (SAAF) air units here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Nefsa** (TUN) (a.k.a. Naftah) (c. 33 52 N – 07 52 E)

General: emergency landing ground in W Central Tunisia approx. 103 km SW of Gafsa. History: no information on early history. No record found of use by Axis air units or aircraft.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Nouali** (TUN) (c. 36 33 46 N – 10 16 43 E)

General: emergency landing ground or landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 28.5 km SSE of Tunis city center. History: no information on early history. No record found of use by Axis air units or aircraft. Almost certainly built by the Allies in May – November 1943.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### O

**Oglet Nefatia** (TUN) (a.k.a. Uqlat an Naffatiyah) (c. 33 13 N – 10 51 E)

General: (emergency?) landing ground in SE Tunisia approx. 34 km WNW of Ben Gardane. History: early history not found. No evidence found of use by either Axis or Allied air units.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Oudna** (TUN) (a.k.a. Oudna No. 1, Oudhna, Uthina) (36 37 00 N – 10 09 00 E)

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General: landing ground in N Tunisia 19 km SSW of Tunis city center and 750 meters N of the hamlet of Oudna, a site of ancient Roman ruins. Rated for bombers. History: built pre-war by the French. Surface and Dimensions: graded grass surface measuring approx. 1600 x 1500 meters (1750 x 1640 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details but probably brought in as needed. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had hardstands for parking aircraft. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Jul 40: a French fighter squadron was based here.

29 Nov 42: captured by British paratroops and held for 5 days before German counterattacks drove them out. Remained in Axis hands through 20 Apr 43.

9 Apr 43: attacked by 6 Spitfire fighter-bombers with an escort of another 24 Spitfires – results not given.

11 Apr 43: air attack – 1 x Ju 87 D-3 from II./St.G. 3 destroyed on the ground.

12 Apr 43: bombed by 12 A-20 Havocs escorted by 36 Spitfires – claimed hits on the N and E sides of the landing ground. A second strike the same day was flown by 18 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 20 Spitfires – claimed hits across the landing ground and among parked aircraft.

13 Apr 43: attacked by 36 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 49 Spitfires – results not given.

20 Apr 43: evacuated by the Luftwaffe. Subsequently repaired and improved by the U.S. Army Engineer Aviation battalions that operated in Tunisia and turned into a B-17 heavy bomber base, with the last unit departing on 11 Dec 43.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: III./St.G. 3 (Mar-Apr 43); II./St.G. 3 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: Fl.Pl.Kdo. C 1/VII (Apr 43).

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.312 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Oudna No. 2** (TUN) (36 38 05 N – 10 01 15 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 23.5 km SW of Tunis city center and 6.5 km W of Oudna No. 1. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface with 2 parallel prepared airstrips each measuring 2000 x 50 yards and aligned N/S. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.312 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Oued Laya** (TUN) (a.k.a. Kalaa Kebira) (35 52 N – 10 31 E)

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General: (emergency?) landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 8.25 km NW of Sousse city center. History: no information. No record found of use by either Axis or Allied air units.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Oudref** (TUN): see Fatnassa.

**Ousseltia** (TUN) (c. 35 50 N – 09 35 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 120 km SW of Tunis. Exact location not determined. History: no information found, but possibly a former French ELG that was taken over by the Allies in November-December 1942. No record found of use by either Axis or Allied air units.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## P

**Paddington** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Paddington.

**Pavillier** (TUN) (a.k.a. Pavillier No. 1, Menzil M’Hiri) (35 25 00 N – 09 52 00 E)

General: landing ground in N-Central Tunisia approx. 160 km SSW of Tunis, 84 km WSW of Sousse, 36 km SW of Kairouan and 2 km SE of the Pavillier railway station. History: established by the French specifically for bombers. No evidence of German or Italian use found. Surface and Dimensions: leveled pastureland measuring approx. 2620 x 1190 meters (2865 x 1300 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Pavillier No. 2** (TUN) (a.k.a. Menzil M’Hiri) (c. 35 25 N – 09 52 E)

General: satellite or alternate landing ground in N-Central Tunisia approx. 160 km SSW of Tunis, 84 km WSW of Sousse, 36 km SW of Kairouan and 2 km SE of the Pavillier railway station. History: this additional airstrip was almost certainly built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Pont du Fahs** (TUN) (a.k.a. El Fahs) (36 21 00 N – 09 52 00 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 54 km SSW of Tunis and 5 km SW of Pont du Fahs. Rated for bombers. History: built by either the French or Germans in 1942. No record found of any Axis air units being based here

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but it was used occasionally by small numbers of Axis aircraft. Surface and Dimensions: firm natural surface graded level and measuring approx. 1500 x 900 meters (1640 x 985 yards) in February 1943. Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground but a few Arab huts were nearby off the NE corner. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

29 Nov 42: temporarily captured by British paratroops.

9 Jan 43: low-level attack – 1 x Bf 109 G-4 (trop) from 4./JG 53 destroyed on the ground.

May – Aug 43: repaired and improved by Engineer Aviation troops and became a B-17 heavy bomber based for the air campaign against Sicily, then abandoned during the second half of August.

### 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-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Pont du Fahs/Southeast** (TUN) (c. 36 20 N – 09 55 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 54 km SSW of Tunis and 4.5 km SSE of Pont du Fahs. History: this additional airstrip was almost certainly built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Protville/West** (TUN) (Protville-Mabtusah No. 1, Protville-Mabtouha No. 1, Protville No. 1, Sidi Athmann?) (36 59 15 N – 09 59 25 E)

General: landing ground complex of 3 airstrips in N Tunisia with the main landing ground located 27 km NW of Tunis and 6.75 km W of Protville. Two of the airstrips were rated for bombers (No. 1 and 2) and one for fighters (No. 3). History: Axis built. Surface and Dimensions: flat, sandy, graded clay dirt surface measuring 1250 x 1150 meters (1365 x 1260 yards) with an L-shape in Mar 43. Unserviceable in rainy weather. Fuel and Ammunition: brought in when needed. Infrastructure: none specific to the landing ground but there were farm buildings off the S and E boundaries. Dispersal: had 14 blast bays on the S boundary that were built by the Axis. Defenses: there were Flak positions to accommodate 4 heavy, 3 medium and 5 light Flak guns.

### Remarks:

20 Apr 43: airfields around Protville bombed by NASAF B-17 Fortresses and B-25 Mitchells.



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22 Apr 43: the 2 landing grounds, Protville No. 1 and No. 2, bombed by 12 of 15 NASAF B-25s – claimed bomb bursts among the aircraft parked on the ground.

29 Apr 43: landing ground near Protville bombed by NAAF B-26 Marauders.

3 May 43: 18 NASAF B-25s escorted by 24 P-40F Warhawks bombed Protville No. 1 and/or No. 2 landing grounds – claimed direct hits on 4 out of the 12 aircraft observed on the ground.

5 May 43: 18 NASAF B-25s and B-26s, 12 Hurricanes, 12 Spitfires with 22 P-40F Warhawk escort fighters bombed a landing ground near Protville claiming the destruction of 25 aircraft on the ground.

6 May 43: heavy NAAF bombing raids on Protville landing ground.

15 Aug 43: the Allies subsequently built a very large landing ground with 2 long airstrips of 2000 x 50 yards each and tent accommodations for 1,500 men and named it Sidi Athmann. No organized dispersal areas were built.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe:* II./St.G. 3 (Dec 42); I./JG 53 (Apr 43); II./Schl.G. 2 (daylight only, Apr 43); 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Apr-May 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.313 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1558); website ww2.dk]

**Protville No. 2** (TUN) (a.k.a. Protville-Mabtusah No. 2, Protville-Mabtouha No. 2) (36 57 20 N – 09 58 15 E)

General: satellite landing ground in N Tunisia 25 km NW of Tunis city center, 9.25 km WSW of Protville and 4 km SSW of Protville/West landing ground. Rated for bombers. History: French or Axis built. Greatly improved by the Allies after it was captured in May 1943. Surface and Dimensions: flat clay-based soil surface with a light scattering of weeds.

There were 2 prepared airstrips measuring approx. 2000 x 300 aligned NW/SE and 2000 x 200 yards aligned NE/SW in Nov 43. Dusty in dry weather and unserviceable in wet weather. Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: had dumbbell-type dispersals at the ends of each airstrip.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.314 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1558); website ww2.dk]

**Protville No. 3** (TUN) (a.k.a. Protville-Utique, Protville/North, Galaat et Andeless) (37 02 40 N – 10 04 05 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 28.25 km NNW of Tunis city center, 6 km N of Protville and 800 meters SE of the village of Utique. History: French or Axis built auxiliary strip for fighters. Renovated and improved by the Allies after it was captured in May 1943. Surface and Dimensions:

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rough natural surface with a single prepared airstrip measuring approx. 1266 x 240 yards aligned NE/SW in Nov 43. Infrastructure: none.  
Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

### Remarks:

22 Apr 43: bombed by 12 B-25 Mitchells – results not reported.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.315 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

## R

**Remada** (TUN) (a.k.a. Rimadah) (32 18 00 N – 10 23 30 E)

General: landing ground in S Tunisia 177 km S of Gabes and 1 km SSW of Remada town center. It was just 44 km from the Tunisia-Libya border.

History: listed as a secondary French military field in June 1934 with dimensions of 800 x 800 meters and shelter for 2 aircraft. Relatively unchanged nearly a decade later. Surface and Dimensions: hard, pebbly all-weather surface measuring approx. 800 x 800 meters (875 x 875 yards).

Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: had a small operations building and a maintenance shelter for 2 aircraft in the NE corner.

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

### Remarks:

21 Nov 42: unoccupied.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): elements of schw.Flak-Abt. 354 (Feb 43).

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1577); website ww2.dk]

**Remtsa** (TUN) (32 44 10 N – 10 26 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in SE Tunisia 131 km SSE of Gabes 22 km S of Tataouine and 800 meters SW of Fort Remtsa. History: no information found but most likely built by the French. Surface and

Dimensions: natural surface measuring 400 x 200 meters (437 x 218 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.331 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Réville** (TUN) (a.k.a. Salloum) (c. 36 17 02 N – 19 28 33 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 52.5 km NNW of Sousse city center and 2.5 km SE of Bou Ficha (Bouficha). Rated for medium bombers.

History: built by the Allies. No record found of any Axis air units being based here.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Ronnat** (TUN) (a.k.a. Djilma, Jilmah) (c. 35 16 N – 09 25 E)

General: landing ground in N-Central Tunisia approx. 135 km WNW of Sfax and 28 km ENE of Sbeitla. History: built by the Allies. No record found of any Axis air units being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43);  
chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

## S

**Sainte Marie du Zit/East** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sainte Marie du Zit No. 1, Oued Ez Zit) (c. 36 24 41 N – 10 19 51 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia 45.5 km SSE of Tunis and 2.5 km E of Sainte Marie du Zit (Oued Ez Zit). Rated for fighters. History: German built and by February 1943 it had become a major Luftwaffe ground support base S of Tunis. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: a large fuel dump was nearby but no details found regarding storage on the landing ground, if any.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: no details noted.

Remarks:

3 Apr 43: bombed by 16 NAAF B-25 Mitchells – claimed direct hits on the runways, buildings and on 1 aircraft.

4 Apr 43: bombed again by NAAF B-25 Mitchells.

11 Apr 43: and yet again by NAAF B-25 Mitchells.

12 Apr 43: Ste. Marie du Zit LG attacked by 36 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 60 Spitfires – claimed the target was well covered with bomb bursts - 1 x Bf 109 G-2 from 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 destroyed on the ground.

12/13 Apr 43: Ste. Marie du Zit LG bombed by elements of 61 Wellingtons, 29 A-20 Baltimores and 23 A-20 Bostons – claimed 3 violent explosions and a small fire.

13/14 Apr 43: Ste. Marie du Zit/East and West bombed by elements of 52 Wellingtons, 31 A-30 Baltimores, 25 A-20 Bostons, 18 B-25 Mitchells and 3 naval aircraft – claimed targets hit and fires started.

14 Apr 43: bombed by WDAF medium bombers.

15 Apr 43: Ste. Marie du Zit/West bombed by 10 9<sup>th</sup> AAF B-25s.

15/16 Apr 43: Ste. Marie du Zit LG bombed by 27 Wellingtons – claimed hits on the runway and in the dispersals where some 5 fires were started.

17/18 Apr 43: Ste. Marie du Zit/West bombed by elements of 21 Wellingtons – results not stated.

28 Nov 43: after being rebuilt to Allied standards following its capture, it included 2 prepared airstrips each measuring 2000 x 50 yards and aligned

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NW/SE and NNW/SSE, plus dispersal areas with aircraft shelters. The first USAAF unit arrived on 25 July and the last departed on 12 December, after which the landing ground was dismantled and abandoned.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): none identified.

*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 3 (Feb-Apr 43); Stab/St.G. 3 (Mar-Apr 43)?; Stab/JG 77 (Apr 43); II./JG 77 (Apr 43); III./JG 77 (Apr 43); elements of 4. (H)/Aufkl.Gr. 12 (Apr 43); I./Schl.G. 2 (Apr 43).

Station Commands: Flugplatzkdo. Marie du Zit (Jan/Feb 43); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 1/III (Feb-May 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): detachment of Feldwerft-Abt. d.Lw. Tropic I (Apr 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.316 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sainte Marie du Zit/West** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sainte Marie du Zit No. 2) (36 23 15 N – 10 17 40 E)

General: satellite or alternate landing ground in NE Tunisia 47.5 km SSE of Tunis and 3.5 km SSW of Sainte Marie du Zit (Oued Ez Zit). Rated for fighters. History: German built and operational by early April 1943.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sbeitla** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sbeitla-Kasserine, Sbeitla/Main, Garat el Atech, Subaytilah) (35 10 00 N – 08 47 00 E)

General: landing ground complex in NW Tunisia c. 184 km WNW of Sfax near Kasserine. There were 4 landing grounds and airstrips: Sbeitla/Main, II, III and IV. Rated for fighters. History: Sbeitla-Kasserine was the first of the four and was built by the Americans in January-February 1943.

Surface and Dimensions: graded, rolled surface with a prepared runway of unstated length. Fuel and Ammunition: both stored and available.

Infrastructure: no information found but probably none in common with nearly all airfields in Tunisia where tents served as buildings. Dispersal: existed, but details lacking. Defenses: no details.

### Remarks:

9 Jan 43: being worked on by USAAF aviation engineers for use as a forward landing ground.

14-15 Feb 43: evacuated as German spearheads approached.

10 Mar 43: reoccupied by U.S. forces and air operations resumed this date.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sbeitla II** (TUN) (c. 35 16 N – 09 05 E)

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General: operational landing ground in W-Central Tunisia 165 km WNW of Sfax, 5.5 km NW of Sbeitla and NE of Sbeitla-Kasserine. Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sbeitla III** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sbeitla/South-Southeast) (35 11 15 N – 09 08 15 E)

General: operational landing ground in W-Central Tunisia 157 km WNW of Sfax and 5 km SSE of Sbeitla. Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: sand surface measuring approx. 2200 x 1000 meters (2405 x 1095 yards) with 2 parallel airstrips of 1900 x 130 meters and 1800 x 65 meters. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had 2 graded taxiways off of which aircraft could park.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1537); website ww2.dk]

**Sbeitla IV** (TUN) (c. 35 11 N – 09 12 E)

General: operational landing ground in W-Central Tunisia approx. 152 km WNW of Sfax, 6.5 km SE of Sbeitla and 3.5 km E of Sbeitla III landing ground. Rated for fighters. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sebkhet Mecheguige** (TUN) (34 57 00 N – 10 02 00 E)

General: landing ground in E Tunisia approx. 60 km NW (72 km WNW?) of Sfax near La Fauconnerie landing ground and believed to be a little-used name for one of the several satellites around La Fauconnerie LG. Exact location not determined, but it was a salt flat measuring 11.25 x 2.75 km nears the villages of Sidi Dhaher and Ouled Sidi Khelifa. Rated for fighters. History: no details found.

[Sources: chronologies; AFHRA, BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

**Sedjenane** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sajanän) (c. 37 03 42 N – 09 13 52 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 87.5 km WNW of Tunis. Rated for fighters. History: Allied built. No evidence found of use by Axis air units.

[Sources: chronologies; AFHRA, BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

**Settah** (TUN): see Thelepte.

**Sfax** (TUN) (34 44 00 N – 10 46 00 E)

Remarks:

10 Apr 43: Sfax captured by Allied forces.

Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 6<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Jan-Mar 43).

*Luftwaffe*: detachment of 4./MSGr. 1 (Jan 43 - ?); Sanitäts-Flugbereitschaft 2 (Feb-Mar 43).

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Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 20/VI (trop) (? - Mar 43).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Koflug 18/XI (trop) (Jan-Mar 43); Flugh.Betr.Kp. 5 z.b.V. (one Zug); 3.Zug of Feldwerftverband le.I/30 (Sfax/West, Mar-Apr 43); Flieger-Bodengeräteinstandsetzungszug 3/VII (Mar 43); part of schw.Flak-Abt. 114 (Mar-Apr 43); schw.Flak-Abt. 403 (Jan-Feb 43); Stab Lw.-Bau-Btl. 21/XI (Mar 43); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. "Sfax" (Mar 43); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 1/XI (trop) and elements of 2/XI (Mar 43); Flieger-Geräteausgabestelle 1/VII (trop) (Jan-Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 89/XI (Feb 43); Kw.-Werkstattzug 4/IV (mot) (trop) (Mar 43); 3. and 4.Kp./Kw.Trsp.Rgt. 4 (Speer) d.Lw. (Mar 43); Feldlaboratorium (mot) d.Lw. 1 (Mar 43); Radiosondenstation IV (Feb 43).

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.0256-0334 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sfax - City** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sfax – Race Course, Safāqis) (34 45 00 N – 10 45 00 E)

General: landing ground in E-Central Tunisia 237 km SSE of Tunis and 2 km N of Sfax harbor bordering the beach. Rated for fighters. History: listed as a French military ELG in June 1934 with dimensions of 1000 x 550 meters, no infrastructure and no facilities. French information from November 1941 and a 1:100,000 scale map state that it was located on a race track a little over 1 km N of the harbor. At that time there still was no infrastructure. The race track was built sometime prior to 1930. During the war in Tunisia, this LG was only used occasionally by small Axis aircraft and in Jun 43 it was judged to be in poor condition. Surface and Dimensions: hard-packed sand measuring approx. 970 x 600 meters (1060 x 655 yards). Dried quickly after rain. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was readily available in Sfax. Infrastructure: had a medium-size operations building and barracks at the landing ground with a great deal of additional billeting space in Sfax. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: protected by the Sfax city Flak defenses.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.0256-0334 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sfax – El Maou** (Tun) (a.k.a. Sfax/West, Sfax – El Agareb, Sfax-Thyna) (34 43 05 N – 10 41 23 E)

General: landing ground in E-Central Tunisia 7.25 km W of Sfax city center and Sfax harbor. History: details of this landing ground were not found, but almost all Axis air activity designated "Sfax" was at this LG. This is the site of present day Sfax airport. It was the main Axis staging field in C Tunisia for Ju 88s and Me 210s based in Italy. Surface and Dimensions: no information, but on 1 May 43, after being worked on for two weeks by Allied airfield engineers, its dimensions were given as 1440 x 185 meters (1575 x 200 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: none

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specific to the landing ground. Dispersal: no organized dispersal areas.

Defenses: no details found.

Remarks:

6 Dec 42: Sfax landing ground strafed by 2 Hurricanes – claimed 1 Me 210 badly damaged.

2 Feb 43: Sfax landing ground bombed by 14 B-26 Marauders and 18 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 12 P-38 Lightnings – claimed a number of aircraft destroyed amid the bursts and fires in the target area. Post-raid damage assessment photos showed 3 aircraft destroyed on the ground. In reality, it appears that just 1 x S.M.79 was destroyed.

25 Mar 43: Sfax – El Maou attacked by 12 Bostons (A-20s), 23 Baltimores (A-30s) and 29 Spitfire escorts – claimed hits on civilian buildings near the landing ground.

27 Mar 43: an Fw 190 A-4 belonging to III./SKG 10 intentionally destroyed by the Germans at Sfax/West.

29 Mar 43: bombed by approx. 108 IX Bomber Command B-25 Mitchells – 7 x Me 210 A-1s from III./ZG 1 destroyed or damaged on the ground.

30 Mar 43: Sfax – El Maou attacked twice mid-day by 18 B-25 Mitchells and 18 A-30 Baltimores with an escort of 30 Spitfires and 27 P-40F Warhawks – claimed 2 Me 210s on fire and another probably on fire.

30 Mar 43: Sfax – El Maou bombed by approx. 88 IX Bomber Command B-25 Mitchells escorted by some 50 fighters – destroyed all Italian aircraft on the field, according to Italian sources, which mention 1 x MC 202, 1 x MC 200 and 1 x Fiat G.50bis destroyed, and 3 x G.50bis and 1 x MC 200 badly damaged. Other sources state 5 x MC 200/202 fighters destroyed on the ground and 12 more damaged.

30/31 Mar 43: Sfax – El Maou bombed by 35 Wellingtons – claimed hits on the target and a number of fires started.

1 Apr 43: Sfax – El Maou hit by 54 A-30 Baltimores, 18 A-20 Bostons and 14 B-25 Mitchells escorted by 12 P-40 Kittyhawks, 20 Spitfires and 48 P-40F Warhawks in attack on parked aircraft and Flak positions – bursts were observed across the landing area and the dispersals where some 25 aircraft were parked. Bomb explosions were also seen near the aircraft and buildings, and 3 fires were started.

2 Apr 43 (or 1 Apr? or 3 Apr?): airfield heavily bombed – 1 x M.C.200 and 1 x M.C.202 destroyed on the ground and another M.C.202 damaged.

3 Apr 43: struck by IX Bomber Command B-25s – results not observed.

6-7 Apr 43: Sfax – El Maou evacuated by the Luftwaffe.

15 Apr 43: occupied by two USAAF B-25 groups until they departed on 2 June.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.0256-0334 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sfax (See)** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sfax-Harbour (34 43 40 N – 10 46 50 E)

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General: seaplane anchorage in Sfax harbor in E-Central Tunisia 239 km SSE of Tunis and 115 km NNE of Gabes. History: existed pre-war when Tunisia was in French hands. Anchorage: the well-sheltered harbor and shallow coastal waters provided ample room for take-offs and landings. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel available. Infrastructure: consisted of 2 hangars along a mole, a slipway, 2 piers, jetties with cranes and 4 buoys. Defenses: protected by the Sfax Flak defenses.

Remarks:

19 Nov 42: both hangars had been completely bombed out by this date. [Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.317 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Ahmed** (TUN): see Bizerta – Sidi Ahmed.

**Sidi Amor** (TUN) (36 56 45 N – 10 11 50 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 15.5 km N of Tunis city center, 3 km inland from the coast and 1 km SE of the village of Raoued. History: built by the Allies during September-October 1943 and in service by November. Surface and Dimensions: pierced steel plank runway measuring approx. 2000 x 50 yards and aligned NW/SE. There was an assembly and warm-up apron at the N end of the runway. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: a taxiway led to a dispersal area on the W side that had 16 hardstands for parking aircraft.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.318 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Amor el Kenani** (TUN) (a.k.a. Kairouan/South) (c. 35 34 N – 10 08 E)

General: landing ground in N Central Tunisia approx. 50 km SW of Sousse city center, 7 to 8 km S of Kairouan and just E of the village of Reggada. Exact location not determined but it was alongside the rail line running from Pavillier to Sousse. Rated for fighters. History: built by the Allies. [Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi bou Choucha** (TUN) (36 29 15 N – 08 55 10 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 118.5 km WSW of Tunis city center, 15 km SSW of Bou Salem and 12.25 km E of Jendouba. Still under construction in March 1943. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: farmland surface of unstated dimensions with a prepared airstrip measuring 1050 x 95 meters (1150 x 105 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: storage sites under construction in Mar 43. Infrastructure: operations buildings and billets under construction on the N and NE sides of



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the landing ground. Dispersal: taxiways and numerous aircraft parking hardstands were under construction in Mar 43.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1534); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi bou Said** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sidī Abī Saʿīd) (36 52 N – 10 20 E)

General: emergency landing ground or landing ground in N Tunisia 17 km NE of Tunis. Rated for fighters. History: most likely Axis built as it is listed in German airfield directories for Tunisia. No record found of any Luftwaffe units being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi bou Zid** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sidī Bū Zayd) (35 02 N – 09 29 E)

General: landing ground in C Tunisia 120 km WNW of Sfax. Rated for fighters. History: Axis built but no details found. No record found of any Luftwaffe units being based here.

Remarks:

14 Feb 43: now in Allied hands.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi el Hani** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sidi Al-Hani) (c. 35 40 N – 10 19 E)

General: landing ground in NE Tunisia approx. 31 km SW of Sousse city center and 20.5 km E of Kairouan. Exact location not found. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi el Itayem** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sidi Litayem) (c. 34 57 N – 10 30 E)

General: landing ground in E Central Tunisia approx. 33.5 km NW of Sfax. Exact location not determined. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Nasr Allah/East** (TUN) (a.k.a. Nasr Allah) (c. 35 21 N – 09 49 E)

General: landing ground in N Central Tunisia approx. 44 km SW of Kairouan. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Nasr Allah/North** (TUN) (a.k.a. Nasr Allah) (c. 35 21 N – 09 49 E)

General: landing ground in N Central Tunisia approx. 44 km SW of Kairouan. History: built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

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**Sidi Smail** (TUN) (a.k.a. Beja – Sidi Smail) (36 36 00 N – 09 06 55 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 98 km WSW of Tunis city center, 16 km SSW of Beja and 300 meters ENE of Sidi Smail town center. Still under construction in March 1943. History: Allied built. Surface and Dimensions: farmland surface of unstated dimensions with a prepared airstrip measuring 960 x 40 meters (1050 x 45 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no information found.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1541); website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Tabet** (TUN) (a.k.a. Sidi Thabet, Sidi Thäbit) (c. 36 55 N – 10 02 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 16 to 18 km NW of Tunis. Exact location not determined. Rated for fighters. History: no information regarding its construction found. Possibly a satellite of nearby La Sebala and Protville landing grounds. No record found of any Axis air units having been based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sidi Toui** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bordj Sidi Toui) (32 43 55 N – 11 22 30 E)

General: emergency landing ground in SE Tunisia 173 km SE of Gabes, 48 km SSE of Ben Gardane and 800 meters NNW of the fort located at Sidi Toui. History: believed to have been laid out by the French in 1942. No record found of any Luftwaffe units being based here.

Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions.

Infrastructure: none at the ELG but the nearby fort had offices and accommodations. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.331 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Siliana** (TUN) (c. 36 04 N – 09 22 E)

General: emergency landing ground in N Central Tunisia approx. 110 km SW of Tunis city center, 79.5 km NW of Kairouan and 34 km SE of Al Karib. Exact location not determined. History: either laid out by the French in 1942 or built by the Allies. No evidence found of Axis air units ever being present here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sloane Square** (TUN): see Souk el Arba – Sloane Square.

**Soliman** (TUN) (a.k.a. Soliman/North, Suliman, Suliman/North, Ben Hacen, Hammam Lif, Fondouk Djedid, Sulaymän) (36 42 20 N – 10 27 20 E)

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General: landing ground complex with 2 satellite landing grounds in NE Tunisia 31.5 km ESE of Tunis, 3.75 km WNW of Soliman town center and 800 meters inland from the shore of the Gulf of Tunis. The 2 satellites, for which details are lacking, were: Soliman/South and Soliman/Southwest (a.k.a. Fondouk Djedid, 4.5 km SW of Soliman town). History: no information found on the early history and development of this landing ground, but circumstantial evidence suggests it was built by the Axis in early 1943. Surface and Dimensions: hard-baked clay soil with scattered clumps of grass of unstated dimensions. Fuel and Ammunition: both made available as needed. Infrastructure: none. Accommodations available in the populated surroundings. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: no details found.

### Remarks:

17/18 Apr 43: Soliman/North bombed by elements of 21 Wellingtons – results not stated.

18/19 Apr 43: Soliman/South bombed by 17 Wellingtons and 4 Halifaxes – claimed bursts in the target area and fires started.

19/20 Apr 43: Soliman landing ground bombed by elements of 19 Wellingtons – claimed bursts in the target area and fires started.

23 Apr 43: Soliman/South bombed by 36 B-25 Mitchells with escort fighters – claimed hit among aircraft on the landing ground.

24 Apr 43: Soliman/South bombed by 33 A-30 Baltimore bombers – claimed 10 fires were observed on the landing ground.

26 Apr 43: Soliman/South bombed by 36 A-30 Baltimore and 34 B-25 Mitchell light and medium bombers escorted by Spitfires and P-40F Warhawks – 4 x Bf 109 G-4/G-6s from I./JG 77 destroyed on the ground and many fires ignited.

28 Nov 43: major improvements were added after it was captured by the Allies including 1 runway of 2000 x 50 yards with an asphalt seal coating, 2 prepared airstrips measuring 2000 x 150 yards aligned NE/SW and NW/SE respectively, and graded and rolled taxiways leading to dispersal areas with 70 aircraft parking hardstands. The taxiways and the hardstands were coated with an asphalt sealer. The first USAAF tenant arrived on 1 July and the last departed on 11 December, after which the landing ground was dismantled and abandoned.

### Operational Units:

*Italian Regia Aeronautica*): 7<sup>o</sup> Gruppo Comb (May 43).

*Luftwaffe*: I./JG 77 (Apr-May 43); II./JG 53 (May 43).

Station Commands: none identified.

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.319-20 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Soltane** (TUN): see Bir Soltane.

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### **Souk el Arba** (TUN) (c. 36 30 N – 08 46 E)

General: landing ground in the vicinity of the town of Souk el Arba that was immediately adjacent to the larger town of Jendouba in hilly terrain of NW Tunisia. Exact location in respect to the town not determined but one seemingly reliable source states that it was on the SE side of the town. Initially rated for fighters but later expanded and improved to meet the requirements for medium bombers. History: built by the French and became a key RAF airfield in NW Tunisia since the beginning of the campaign in November 1942. No record found of Axis possession or use. Surface and Dimensions: a cultivated field on a treeless, level plateau in mid-November 1942 that was soon transformed into a large RAF fighter airfield. Infrastructure: none initially. Dispersal: none initially.

#### Remarks:

10 Nov 42: occupied by 16 French LeO 45 medium bombers, according to aerial photos.

16 Nov 42: captured by the British 1<sup>st</sup> Parachute Brigade. A few days later, work began to build new dispersals, fuel dumps and ammunition dumps.

6 Dec 42: occupied by 45 RAF fighters.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Arba – Sloane Square** (TUN) (c. 36 30 N – 08 46 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Arba town and just S of Souk el Arba landing ground. Exact location in respect to the town not determined. History: built by the Allies in 1943. No record found of Axis use.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis/Main** (TUN) (a.k.a. Bou Salem) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: Souk el Khemis was a large landing ground complex in hilly terrain of NW Tunisia approx. 111 km WSW of Tunis city center and 20.75 km NE of Souk el Arba (Jendouba). History: Allied built beginning in November 1942 as the first Allied airfield complex along the western approaches to Tunis and Bizerte; later changed hands briefly, and then expanded and improved by the Allies. Initially consisted of Souk el Khemis/Main plus the two satellites Euston and Waterloo, all three of which were fighter fields. All of the landing grounds that belonged to this complex were occupied almost exclusively by RAF units. Surface and Dimensions: leveled grass surface. There were 2 adjacent areas. The North Area measured approx. 2500 x 1200 meters (2735 x 1310 yards) and the South Area 1100 x 1000 meters (1205 x 1095 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: had a repair workshop for all types of weapons in the NW corner, operations buildings and other buildings for accommodations, all

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built by the Allies. Dispersal: Allied-built taxiways and a ring road surrounded the landing ground and led to aircraft parking hardstands.

### Remarks:

2 Feb 43: Hurricanes based here – dive-bombed by Fw 190s with 8 Hurricanes destroyed or damaged.

1 Mar 43: strafed by Spitfires – claimed 1 x Bf 109 destroyed, probably destroyed another and damaged 3 more.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis - Euston** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for fighters. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Gerrard’s Cross** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Souk el Khemis – Gounot** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Thibar.

### **Souk el Khemis – King’s Cross** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E) or (c. 36 44 N – 09 10 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built. May not have become operational until around 15 Apr 43 when it was to be used as an advanced LG for B-25s based in Algeria.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Marylebone** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Paddington** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem), possibly 3 km SE of Bou Salem and close to a rail line. Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built. The last tenant departed on 19 June 1943 and the LG reportedly was then dismantled and abandoned.

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[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Thibar** (TUN) (c. 36 31 N – 09 06 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for fighters. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Victoria** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for medium bombers. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Waterloo** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). Rated for fighters. History: Allied built.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis – Zaouen** (TUN) (c. 36 36 N – 08 58 E)

General: satellite landing ground in the vicinity of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem) and near the village of Zaouen. Possibly the same as Souk ek Khemis/South. History: Allied built - no details found.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk el Khemis/South** (TUN) (36 32 50 N – 08 58 00 E)

General: field airstrip in N Tunisia 112.25 km WSW of Tunis city center and 7 km S of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem). It was supposedly 5 km ENE of the Souk ek Khemis landing ground complex but that needs to be verified.

Possibly the same as Souk ek Khemis – Zaouen. History: Allied built.

Surface and Dimensions: leveled farmland with the airstrip measuring 1500 x 120 meters (1640 x 130 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found.

Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had taxiways and parking hardstands for some 40 aircraft on 14 May 43.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1552); website ww2.dk]

### **Souk es Sebt** (TUN) (36 29 20 N – 08 52 32 E)

General: field airstrip in N Tunisia 122 km WSW of Tunis city center, 16.25 km SSW of Souk el Khemis (Bou Salem) and 8.5 km E of Souk el Arba

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(Jendouba). History: Allied built. Quite likely an a.k.a. for one of the Souk el Arba or Souk el Khemis landing grounds listed above, but which one is unknown. Surface and Dimensions: leveled farmland measuring approx. 1800 x 400 meters (1970 x 435 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: details lacking. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had numerous hardstands off the SE side for parking aircraft in May 1943.

### Remarks:

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1547); website ww2.dk]

**Sousse (City)** (TUN) (a.k.a. Süsah) (35 49 N – 10 36 E)

General: city and port on the Gulf of Hammamet 117 km SSE of Tunis city center.

### Remarks:

Dec 42 – Apr 43: Sousse, especially the harbor area, heavily bombed (at least 38 times by the USAAF alone plus numerous times by the RAF).

12 Apr 43: Sousse captured by Allied forces.

Station Units (in and around Sousse on various dates – not complete): Luftgaustab z.b.V. Afrika (Feb-Mar 43); Stab/Luftgaukdo. Tunis (Mar 43)?; Stab of le.Feldwerftverband I/30 (Mar 43); elements of gem.Flak-Abt. 114 (Feb-Mar 43); elements of Res.Flak-Abt. 211 (c.Feb-Mar 43); Luftgau-Nachr.Kp. (Mar 43); Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. 1/VII (trop) (Mar 43); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 7/III (trop) (Mar 43); Munitionsausgabestelle d.Lw. (trop) 19/VII (Mar 43); Kw.-Geräteausgabestelle "Sousse" (Mar 43); Kw.-Werkstattzug 2/III (trop) (Mar 43), and Kw.-Werkstattzug Rgt. 4 (Speer) d.Lw.; 5 (Mar 43) and 6.Kp./Kw.Trsp.Rgt. 4 (Speer) d.Lw. (Mar 43).

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Sousse** (TUN) (a.k.a. Süsah) (35 48 10 N – 10 38 05 E)

General: emergency landing ground in NE Tunisia 116 km SSE of Tunis and 2.5 km SSW of Sousse harbor. Rated for fighters. History: early history not found. Had some use by Axis transport aircraft between Nov 42 and Apr 43. Enlarged and improved by engineers and then used by a USAAF fighter group from 9 to 19 June; subsequently abandoned. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface measuring approx. 340 x 185 meters (370 x 200 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.331 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Sousse (See)** (TUN) (35 49 20 N – 10 39 15 E)

General: seaplane anchorage in NE Tunisia in Sousse harbor, specifically in the SW corner of the harbor basin. History: built pre-war by the French.

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Used frequently by Axis seaplanes but no evidence found of any Luftwaffe or Italian seaplane units being based here. Anchorage: the harbor basin was well-protected from the elements but rather small. Seaplanes generally taxied from the basin through the breakwater entrance to open waters for take-offs. Landings were usually in the open water, too. There were 3 buoys in the basin for tying up seaplanes. Fuel and Ammunition: a number of fuel storage tanks were located in the harbor area. Infrastructure: had 2 medium hangars, a workshop, jetties, cranes, billeting accommodations and a radio station. Defenses: protected by Sousse city and harbor Flak. Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.322-23 (Tunisia 30 Nov 42 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500); website ww2.dk]

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**Takelsa** (TUN) (a.k.a. Taklisah) (c. 36 47 N – 10 37 E)

General: emergency landing ground on the Cap Bon Peninsula in NE Tunisia approx. 40 km due E of Tunis city center. History: early history unclear but probably laid out by the Germans in early 1943. No record found of any Luftwaffe or Italian units being based here.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Teboursouk** (TUN) (36 26 00 N – 09 18 00 E)

General: emergency landing ground in N Tunisia 89 km SW of Tunis city center and 5 km SE of the village of Teboursouk. Intended for bombers. History: no information found on its early history but probably of Allied origin since it does not appear in German airfield directories for Tunisia. Surface and Dimensions: firm, level cultivated surface measuring approx. 1400 x 1300 meters (1530 x 1420 yards). Infrastructure: none.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in February 1943.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Thelepte I** (TUN) (a.k.a. Thélepte, Thelepte-Settah I, Feriana) (34 59 57N – 08 35 31E)

General: landing ground in W-Central Tunisia 245 km SW of Tunis, 200 km W of Sfax and 2 km N of the village of Thelepte. Rated for bombers. History: French built. Except for the second half of February to mid-March 1943, when it had to be evacuated due to the proximity of the enemy, the landing ground was occupied by USAAF units. No record found of any Luftwaffe units being based here.



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Surface and Dimensions: firm, level natural dirt and pebble surface measuring approx. 1900 x 1400 meters (2080 x 1530 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: locally stored fuel was available. Infrastructure: had 2 hangars in 1940 and there was at least 1 local hotel for accommodations as well as a nearby Foreign Legion post. The nearest rail connection was in Thelepte. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in Oct 41 nor in Feb 43. Defenses: none noted.

### Remarks:

Jul 40: 2 French bomber groups were based here.

Dec 42: taken over by the USAAF in early December.

26 Dec 42, 11 Jan 43: occupied by USAAF P-40F Warhawk fighters.

17 Feb 43: Thelepte I and II evacuated as German spearheads approached with everything blown up or burned including 18 unserviceable Allied aircraft.

12 Mar 43: evacuated air units returned and again operational after the removal of mines planted by the Germans.

1943: while occupied by the USAAF, a prepared airstrip was built that measured 2000 x 133 yards with a NW/SE alignment.

13 Apr 43: the last USAAF tenant departed.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.324 (Tunisia 5 Feb 43 updated to 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Thelepte II** (TUN): see Dernaia.

**Thelepte-Settah II** (TUN) (35 04 00 N - 08 41 06 E)

General: airstrip in W-Central Tunisia 239 km SW of Tunis, 18.5 km SW of Kasserine, 10 km NE of the village of Thelepte and 6 km NE of Thelepte-Settah I landing ground that was still under construction in April 1943.

History: built by the Allies beginning in Jan 43. Surface and Dimensions: leveled and graded clay-based soil measuring approx. 2100 x 70 meters (2295 x 75 yards). Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: had 3 taxiways and 2 dispersal areas with aircraft blast bays still under construction in Apr 43.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1542); website ww2.dk]

**Thelepte III** (TUN) (a.k.a. Megdoudeche) (c. 35 03 N - 08 41 E)

landing ground in W-Central Tunisia along the rail line approx. 13 km NE of Thelepte. History: built by the Allies in early 1943.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Thibar** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis - Thibar.

**Tindja** (TUN): see Ferryville.

**Tozeur** (TUN) (33 55 17 N - 08 09 25 E)

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General: landing ground in W-Central Tunisia 180 km W of Gabes and 2 km ENE of the town of Tozeur. History: listed as a French military ELG in June 1934 with dimensions of 800 x 800 meters and shelters for 2 aircraft. No record found of any Axis air units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: level salt-crusted sand surface with patches of grass and volcanic rocks measuring approx. 850 x 750 meters (930 x 820 yards) in 1941. By January 1943, overall dimensions reportedly 1800 x 1200 meters (1970 x 1310 yards). The identity of the side that extended the landing area not found. Fuel and Ammunition: there was a small fuel dump in Oct 41. Infrastructure: had a roof-less hangar with space for 5 aircraft. All other support and services were in Tozeur as well as the nearest rail connection. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in Oct 41. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks: none.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Tunis (City)** (TUN) (city center, 36 48 23 N – 10 10 53)

Luftwaffe Garrison or Station Units (on various dates including the airfield, seaplane station, the city of Tunis and its immediate suburbs – not complete):

*Commands* (Kommandobehörden, Stäbe): Stab/Fliegerkorps Tunis (Apr-May 43); Stab/Luftgaukdo. Tunis (15 Mar – 15 Apr 43)?; Fliegerführer 2 (Dec 42 – Apr 43); Stab/20. Flak-Div. (Nov 42 – Apr 43); Koflug 5/XIII (trop) (Dec 42 – May 43).

*Servicing, Repair* (Wartungs, Instandsetzungs): elements of Feldwerft-Abt. I/30 (Dec 42, Mar 43); elements of Flugh.Betr.Kp. 5 z.b.V. (Mar 43).

*Antiaircraft* (Flak): elements of I./Flak-Rgt. 54 (Dec 42); elements of schw.Flak-Abt. 372 (Dec 42 – Apr 43); elements of schw.Flak-Abt. 403 (Dec 42); schw.Flak-Abt. 644 (Dec 42 – May 43).

*Air Force Signals* (Luftnachrichten): 16.(Flum.Mess)/Ln.-Rgt. 200 (Apr-May 43); 18.(Flum.Mess)/Ln.-Rgt. 200 (Apr-May 43); Stab/Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Carthage, Apr 43); I.(Ln.Betr.)/Ln.-Rgt. Afrika (Carthage, Apr 43); Ln.-Abt. 62 (Mar-Apr 43); Ln.-Abt. 63 (Mar-Apr 43); Ln.-Abt. 140 (Nov 42 – Apr 43); Ln.-Abt. Tunis (c.Dec 42 – Feb 43); Ln.-Betr.Kp. 139 (Apr 43); Flugmelde-Funk-Kp. z.b.V. 35 (1943); Flugh.Ber.Ln.-Kp. z.b.V. 5/XIII (Mar 43); Ln.-Fernspr.-u.Fernschr.Kp. (Mar 43).

*Construction* (Bau): none identified.

*Supply Services* (Nachschubdienste): Nachschubleitstelle d.Lw. 2/VII (trop) (Mar 43); Feldluft-Zweigpark "Afrika" (Mar 43); Feld-Lufttanklager z.b.V. 1/VIII (Mar 43); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 18/IV (Mar 43); Nachschub-Kp. d.Lw. 13/VI (trop) (Mar 43); Nachschub-Zug d.Lw. 5/VII (Mar 43); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 4/I (Mar 43); Flieger-Geräteausgabestelle 103/IV (mot) (Mar 43); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 7/XII (Jan-May 43); Munitionsausgabestelle d.Lw. 6/VII (Mar 43).

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*Ground Transport* (Transportkolonnen): Nachschub-Kol.Abt.Stab d.Lw. 3/VI (mot) (Mar 43); Kw.-Geräteausgabestelle d.Lw. 9/VII (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 17/IV (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 22/IV (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 56/IV (trop) (Mar 43); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 31/XVII (trop) z.b.V. (Mar 43); Stab, 1., 7. and 8.Kp./Kw.Trsp.Rgt. 4 (Speer) d.Lw. (Mar 43); Kw.Werkstattzug d.Lw. 106/VII (Mar 43); Kw.Werkstattzug d.Lw. z.b.V. (Mar 43).

*Ground Defense and Security, etc.* (Landeschützen, usw.): Stab and 1./Wach-Btl. d.Lw. O.B.S. II (Nov 42 – May 43); Ldssch.Zug d.Lw. 98/VII (Apr 43); Ldssch.Zug d.Lw. 101/VII (Apr 43 – guarded radar site *Tulpe* (tulip)).

*Medical Services* (Sanitätsdienste): Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 1/VIII (trop) (Nov 42 – May 43); Lw.-Sanitäts-Zweigpark (mot) 21 (Mar 43).

*Other* (sonstige, verschiedene): Luftzeugstab 108 (with 8 Flugzeug-Bergungstrupps) (Mar 43); Verwaltungslager d.Lw. 6/VII (1943).

[Sources: chronologies; AFHRA, BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

**Tunis – Carthage** (TUN) (a.k.a. La Goulette, Kheireddine) (36 49 57 N – 10 17 30 E)

General: seaplane station in NE Tunisia 10.25 km ENE of Tunis city center and 2 km NW of Tunis – La Goulette. Filled in after the war and location no longer recognizable.

History: built pre-war by the French and began operations in 1920. Listed as a seaplane station in June 1934 with a take-off and landing area of 1200 x 1000 meters, 2 large and 1 medium hangar, a customs office and a limited capability for repairs.

Dimensions: at least 2000 x 1200 meters (2185 x 1310 yards) available for take-offs and landings.

Anchorage: dredged to a depth of at least 3.5 meters (11.5 feet) by 1941.

Fuel and Ammunition: there was a fuel storage area with tanks and pumps for fueling flying boats and seaplanes as well as smaller fuel tanks by the hangars and at the waterfront. A bomb dump was located to the rear and W of the hangars.

Infrastructure: in Dec 42, had 2 large hangars for seaplanes and 1 medium hangar, the latter being used for repairs. At least 3 admin and accommodations buildings were nearby as well as the station garage. An approx. 60 meter (66 yards) landing/docking pier was directly in front of the hangars and this had an electric 10-ton crane at the end of it. About 100 meters E of the pier was a short jetty mounting a 20-ton crane. Four buoys were available for tying up flying boats. The station also had its own air raid shelter.

Defenses: protected by the Tunis Flak defenses.

Remarks: see below under Tunis – El Aouina.

Operational Units: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

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

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.325-26 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1566); website ww2.dk]

**Tunis - El Aouina** (TUN) (a.k.a. El Aouina, Tunis-Carthage) (36 51 00 N – 10 13 37 E)

General: airfield or aerodrome in N Tunisia 7 km NE of Tunis city center, 8 km NW of Tunis – La Goulette and 9.5 km W of the Mediterranean coast at La Marsa. The Tunis – Carthage seaplane station was 6.25 km ESE of the airfield. Rated for bombers.

History: built pre-war by the French and in June 1934 was listed as a joint military-civil airfield/airport with dimensions of 950 x 900 meters, 1 civilian/commercial hangar, several military hangars, a civil/commercial workshop and a military workshop. Although the number of air units based here from November 1942 to May 1943 were relatively few, El Aouina was the most important airfield in Tunisia during that period and was the principal destination for the many transport passenger and cargo flights from Italy and Sicily that flew in and out daily.

Dimensions: approx. 1200 x 950 meters (1310 x 1040 yards) in Dec 41.

Surface and Runways: firm, level sandy surface that had soft spots on the S and W sides during heavy rain. A short paved runway (approx. 400 – 500 meters) ran from the civil aviation hangar in the SW corner of the airfield to the center of the landing area. The landing area was illuminated by 2 searchlights for night landings.

Fuel and Ammunition: there were small fuel and ammunition storage dumps on the W boundary in Dec 41.

Infrastructure: the military side of the airfield in the SE corner had 6 hangars with paved servicing hardstands in front, operations buildings and ground services buildings. On both sides and behind the military airfield hangars and buildings were those of a large French airpark that served all of Tunisia. These consisted of extensive repair shops, components and parts storage buildings, admin buildings, 2 motor vehicle garages and a number of smaller buildings. Not counting the hangars, there were about 41 buildings in all. The civil side in the SW corner had 2 medium hangars, a club house, a large admin building and 2 small buildings.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal areas in Dec 41.

Defenses: 3 Flak positions with a total of one heavy battery of 7.5 cm guns were on the S boundary near the military hangars and the air park and 10 heavy AA machine guns were set up on the W, S and E sides of the airfield in Dec 41. German defenses amounted to all or elements of at least 4 Flak-Abteilungen (AA-battalions) and the Italians had some batteries in and around Tunis also. Tunis airfields and its port, rail and fuel storage facilities were without question the principal air targets in Tunisia.

Satellites and Decoys: none in Dec 41.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

### Remarks:

1939: plans called for the construction of a 2000 meter paved runway at Tunis – El Aouina, but this had not yet been started in Dec 41.

9 Nov 42: El Aouina airfield secured by German Fallschirmjäger (paratroops) and the Luftwaffe begins operations from here, the day after Allied troops began landing in Morocco and Algeria (Operation *Torch*).

10 Nov 42 (morning?): occupied by 37 x Ju 87s, 23 x Bf 109s, 25 x Ju 52s and 3 x gliders.

10 Nov 42: low-level attack by RAF Beaufighters – 1 x Me 323 from I./KG z.b.V. 323 shot up and burned on the ground, plus 2 x SM 82s belonging to the Savoia-Staffel, one of which was destroyed and the other moderately damaged.

11/12 Nov 42: bombed – 1 x SM 82 from the Savoia-Staffel destroyed on the ground. In addition, the Regia Aeronautica lost 3 x Macchi C.202 fighters destroyed on the ground plus 7 more damaged.

12/13 Nov 42: 12 Wellington sorties over the airfield – claimed bombs hitting the infrastructure along the perimeter and the dispersal area set fire to a large garage or workshop, hangars, buildings, aircraft and possibly 2 fuel dumps. A Flak position was also knocked out. The Germans, on the other hand, reported 6 x Bf 109s and 1 x Ju 52 slightly damaged, 9 killed, approx. 10 wounded. An Italian S.M.82 transport was also destroyed on the ground.

14 Nov 42: low-level dusk attack by 7 RAF Beaufighters – claimed 3 x Ju 87s and 3 x Ju 88s destroyed, damaged 2 more aircraft and destroyed a Flak position. The Germans only reported the loss of 2 x Ju 87 D-3s (Trop) from II./St.G. 3 and 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. S-11 destroyed on the ground. The attack cost the Italians 1 x C.202 destroyed and another damaged.

14/15 Nov 42: bombed by 7 Wellingtons – claimed hangars on the NE boundary severely damaged and 5 large fires started.

15 Nov 42: bombed – 4 x Bf 109 G-2s from Stab and 6./JG 53 destroyed on the ground and 1 more damaged. Italian losses amounted to 1 x C.202 damaged.

17 Nov 42: aerial photo runs over the airfield showed 19 x Ju 87s, 1 x Ju 88, 1 x He 111, 1 x Fw 200, 2 x S.M. 82s, 1 x Ju 52, 4 x DFS 230 gliders, 1 x Me 210 and 48 BF 109s.

17/18 Nov 42: bombed by 7 Wellingtons dropping 99 x 500- and 250-lb. bombs – claimed bursts and explosions in the target area and fires started.

18 Nov 42: bombed during the day – 5 Macchi C.202 fighters damaged on the ground.

19 Nov 42: bombed by XII Bomber Command B-17s – 3 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. 102, 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. Frankfurt and 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. S-7 destroyed. A later report from Genst.d.Lw. states that 3 x Bf 109s were also destroyed in this attack. The attack also cost the Italians 1 x S.M.81 transport destroyed and another damaged.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

- 21 Nov 42: bombed by B-17 Fortresses escorted by P-38 Lightnings – claimed 5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 more probably destroyed and a further 20 damaged on the ground.
- 28 Nov 42: bombed – 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. Wittstock destroyed on the ground. Additionally, an Italian S.M.81 was badly damaged and a C.202 fighter was lightly damaged.
- 1 Dec 42: bombed by 13 B-17 Fortresses – claimed bursts along the hangar line, in the nearby building area and among transport aircraft.
- 1/2 Dec 42: bombed by 6 out of a force of 18 RAF Bisleys (Blenheim V) – claimed bursts on the landing ground and a few small fires started.
- 2 Dec 42: low-level air attack by 9 A-20s and 12 B-26s escorted by 6 P-38 Lightnings – of the 50+ Axis aircraft counted on the ground, at least 3 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. Wittstock, 2 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. S-7 and 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. S-11 were destroyed. The attackers, claimed 15+ e/a hit, 1 hangar destroyed and fires started among the other hangars and buildings.
- 3 Dec 42: bombed by 9 D.B. 7 (A-20) light bombers escorted by 15 P-38 Lightnings – results were not observed.
- 4/5 Dec 42: bombed – 1 x Me 210 A-1 from III./ZG 1 destroyed on the ground as well as an Italian S.M.81.
- 15 Dec 42: airfield strafed – 2 x Macchi C.202 fighters damaged.
- 28/29 Dec 42: bombed – 2 x S.M.81 transports destroyed on the ground.
- 29/30 Dec 42: 1 x C.202 fighter destroyed on the ground.
- 12 Jan 43: bombed - 2 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. Wittstock very badly damaged on the ground.
- 22 Jan 43: bombed 4 times during the day by B-17s, B-25s and B-26s – 6 x Bf 109 G-4 (trop) from II./JG 53, 7 x Bf 109 F-4s from 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14, 8 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. Wittstock, 4 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. 800, 4 x Ju 52s from KGr.z.b.V. Frankfurt, 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. S-7, 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 600 and 1 x Ju 52 from IV./KG z.b.V. 1 destroyed or badly damaged on the ground along with a large number (600+) of military KIA and WIA as a result of direct hits on a large ammunition dump. The Italians lost 1 x C.202 fighter damaged, 1 x S.M.81 transport destroyed and 4 more damaged, 1 x S.M.82 transport destroyed and 9 more damaged, plus 1 x Fiat G.12 transport destroyed.
- 23 Jan 43: bombed – 1 x Bf 109 E-7 from Verbindungsstaffel Tunis damaged on the ground.
- 29 Jan 43: bombed by 11 B-26 Marauders with fighter escort – claimed buildings on the E side of the field destroyed and bursts scored among 30 single-engine aircraft parked nearby. The Italians reported 1 x S.M.82 transport damaged on the ground.
- 13 Feb 43: bombed by 13 B-26 Marauders with escort – claimed bursts among aircraft but results could not be observed due to clouds.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

24 Feb 43: bombed by 13 B-26 Marauders escorted by 21 Spitfires - 2 x Ju 52s from IV./KG z.b.V. 1 destroyed on the ground; 6 more Ju 52s and 1 x Bf 110 damaged; 14 German personnel WIA.

3 Mar 43: bombed in the afternoon by 19 B-17 Fortresses escorted by 24 P-38 Lightnings and 22 Spitfires - claimed bursts were observed in the target area. The Italians reported 1 x Fiat G.12 transport destroyed and 6 x S.M.82 transports damaged to one degree or another.

5 Mar 43: bombed by B-24s - 1 x S.M.82 transport destroyed on the ground.

10 Mar 43: hit by elements of 71 B-17 Fortresses dropping fragmentation bombs with many fires ignited among the aircraft and buildings - 2 x Me 323s from I./KG z.b.V. 323, 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 600, 1 x Ju 52 from KGr.z.b.V. 800, 1 x Ju 52 from Flieger-Kp./Ln.-Rgt. 2, plus 1 x Ju 52 from Flieger-Kp./Ln.-Abt. Afrika destroyed on the ground. Italian losses were limited to 2 x S.M.82 transports destroyed.

18 Mar 43: bombed - 1 x S.M.82 transport severely damaged on the ground.

5 Apr 43: bombed by 23 B-17s - 1 x Me 323 from I./KG z.b.V. 323, 2 x Hs 129s from 8.(Pz)/Schl.G. 2 and 1 x Ju 52 from 4./Minensuchgruppe 1 moderately to badly damaged on the ground. Italian losses in this attack were 2 x S.M.82 transports and 3 x Fiat G.12 transports destroyed and 1 x C.200 fighter damaged.

14 Apr 43: bombed - 1 x Italian G.12 transport destroyed on the ground.

26 Apr 43: bombed by approx. 66 medium bombers - 2 x Bf 109s destroyed, 3 x Bf 110s damaged, runway cratered and fuel stores destroyed.

5/6 May 43: bombed by elements of 35 Bisleys and 7 French LeO.45s - results not observed.

7 May 43: bombed and strafed by 48 P-40F Warhawks - 3 x Ju 52s from IV./TG 3 destroyed on the ground. An Me 323 from II./TG 5 was also blown up to prevent it from falling into enemy hands. City captured this date by Allied forces. Most of the airfield infrastructure was found to be damaged and much of it had to be rebuilt. A pierced steel plank runway was constructed as well as 2 prepared airstrips that were graded and rolled.

The work was completed by Oct 43.

### Operational Units:

*Italian* (Regia Aeronautica): 155<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Nov-Dec 42); 161<sup>o</sup> Gruppo CT (Apr-May 43); 384<sup>a</sup> Squadriglia Assalto (Jan-Mar 43).

*Luftwaffe*: II./St.G. 3 (Nov 42); half of III./ZG 2 (Nov 42);

Verbindungsstaffel Tunis (Nov 42 - Apr 43); 2.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 14 (Nov 42 - Feb 43); II./JG 51 (Dec 42); 5./Schl.G. 1 (Dec 42); 8.(Pz)/Schl.G. 2 (Dec 42 - May 43); Flugbereitschaft Fliegerkorps Tunis (Apr 43); detachment of 4./Minensuchgruppe 1 (Feb-Apr 43).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 25/IV (c. Nov 42 - May 43).

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): see above under Tunis.

## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.327-28 (Tunisia 9 Apr 43 and updated 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1563); website ww2.dk]

**Tunis-Fochville** (TUN) (a.k.a. Ferryville/North, Megrine) (36 45 15 N – 10 14 10 E)

General: landing ground in N Tunisia 7.25 km SE of Tunis city center and 1.4 km SSE of the Tunis district or suburb of Mégrine. History: built during the war by the Axis to serve as a satellite and alternate landing ground for Tunis – El Aouina. Surface and Dimensions: natural surface of unstated dimensions. Infrastructure: none. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Remarks:

8 Apr 43: Fochville landing ground in use by Me 323 6-engine *Gigant* transports from I./KG z.b.V. 323, which was based at Pomigliano near Naples.

9 Apr 43: 8 x Fw 190s being transferred here.

12/13 Apr 43: bombed by 20 Wellingtons – results not stated.

28 Nov 43: improvements built by the Allies after May 1943 included 2 parallel prepared airstrips measuring 1666 x 50 yards and 1110 x 50 yards, both aligned NW/SE.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A p.329 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1720); website ww2.dk]

**Tunis-Kheireddine** (TUN): see Tunis-Carthage.

## U

**Utique** (TUN): see Protville No. 3.

## V

**Victoria** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Victoria.

## W

**Waterloo** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Waterloo.

## Z

**Zaghouan** (TUN) (a.k.a. Zaghwän) (c. 36 24 N – 10 08 E)



## Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45

General: emergency landing ground or landing ground in N Tunisia 45 km S of Tunis. Exact location in respect to the town of Zaghouan not determined. History: no Axis connection found so presumably built by the Allies.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Zannouch** (TUN) (c. 34 28 N – 09 02 E)

General: landing ground in C Tunisia approx. 160 km WSW of Sfax and 25 km ENE of Gafsa. Exact location around Zannouch not determined. Rated for medium bombers. History: no Axis aviation connection found, except that he was in Axis hands from mid-February to mid-March 1943, so presumably built by the Allies in spring 1943.

Remarks:

17 Mar 43: Zannouch retaken by CCA U.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Zaouen** (TUN): see Souk el Khemis – Zaouen.

**Zarzis** (TUN) (33 30 00 N – 11 07 00 E)

General: landing ground in SE Tunisia 375 km SSE of Tunis, 102 km ESE of Gabes and just SE of Zarzis town center. The Zarzis lighthouse was at the E corner of the landing ground. Rated for bombers during the dry summer months only. History: listed in June 1934 as a French military ELG with dimensions of 700 x 600 meters with no infrastructure or facilities. Not listed in German airfield directories for Tunisia so probably not used by the Axis. Surface and Dimensions: graded beach sand surface measuring approx. 1240 x 465 meters (1355 x 510 yards). Fuel and Ammunition: no details found but probably had some limited fuel storage. Infrastructure: had 1 medium hangar and an operations building. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in Jan 43. Defenses: none noted.

Remarks:

22 Mar 43: unoccupied.

31 Mar 43: a shot-up USAAF B-25 crash landed here.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website wwii-photos-maps (OKL 1500 series); website ww2.dk]

**Zina** (TUN) (a.k.a. Dai Zina) (c. 36 24 N – 10 28 E)

General: 3 landing grounds in Tunisia, Zina/Main, Zina No. 1 and Zina No. 2 located approx. 12 km W of Hammamet in NE Tunisia. These were Allied landing grounds and no connection to Axis air units or aircraft has been found.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]

**Zitouna** (TUN) (not found)

## **Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45**

General: landing ground in Tunisia that could not be located. Zitouna is the name of an Islamic university in Tunis but no locality by this name could be found. This was an Allied landing ground and no connection to Axis air units or aircraft has been found.

[Sources: AFHRA A5263-A pp.256-61, 271-77 (Tunisia 28 Nov 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; website ww2.dk]