

4. Russia

Although the Russians have been using 150,000 men and - according to German accounts - 170 tanks and a large concentration of aircraft in its assaults on the German bridgehead in the Kuban area in the past week, this latest attempt to drive the Germans back across the Kerch Strait has not yet succeeded. The Russian offensive, begun on May 27, has broken up into a series of local engagements. The port of Novorossiisk is still in enemy hands, although Russian air strength has prevented the reinforcement of its garrison by sea.



May 28, 1943
Berlin reported that ten Russian divisions supported by tanks had opened a large-scale drive on a front of several miles northwest of Krymsk (arrow) and had broken through for a gain of a mile and a half, but then were repulsed. The Russians, striving to eliminate the small German bridgehead in this region, were reported striking northwest toward Temryuk, presumably to divide the enemy. The broken lines indicate the approximate battlefront.

A heavy German offensive has been expected in the Kharkov sector for some time past, but has not yet developed. The greatest part of German strength has been massed in this region and before Orel and Bryansk, possibly in preparation for eliminating the Russian salient in the Kursk region, or perhaps