

PM

Monday, April 26, 1943

Soviets Attack In Kuban Area

'Red Star' Praises Allied Air Offensive in the West

By KEN CLARK

The Eastern front is relatively calm, but it's a terrific calm. Moscow dispatches report both Germans and Russians regrouping forces and intensifying air activity in preparation for the Spring struggle.

Reports indicate that Spring in Russia is earlier by a full month this year. Operations on a grand scale may get underway during May.

Having won the first round in the fighting in the Kuban Valley during the past weeks, with a probable loss to the enemy of 10,000 men, the Russians thrust into the German lines in that area Sunday and opened a heavy bombardment against enemy airdromes.

The Russians shot down 18 enemy planes over the Kuban on Sunday. Moscow estimated German plane losses on all fronts for the week ending Saturday at 381 against 134 Russian planes.

Commenting on the air situation *Red Star* said:

"In the West the Allies have gained undisputed supremacy. Fascist Germany is compelled to keep its main air forces on the Soviet-German front. Operations of Anglo-American air forces are disrupting Germany's industry and transport, sapping her strength and weakening her war machine.

"Blows from the air alone cannot bring decisive victories but the more intense these blows the easier it will be for the Red Army and air forces of the Allies to achieve a final common victory."