

By the night of October 27th a large bridge-head had been gained and firmly held, and Stabiuzzo, S. Polo di Piave, Borgo Zanetti, Tezze, Borgo Malonotte, C. Tonon were all in our hands.

16. The bridging of the Piave was proceeding rapidly, though much interfered with by hostile airmen. The strength of the current was such that if a break occurred there was a great danger of the whole structure being washed away. Both bridges were frequently broken.

17. On the front of the Eighth Italian Army, but at an interval of ten kilometres to our left, a landing had also been effected, but difficulties in throwing bridges had been encountered, especially at the point of junction with my Army. Comando Supremo therefore allotted me the XVIIIth Corps, under the Command of General Basso, with a view to passing it across by our bridges and attacking northwards and so clearing the front of the Eighth Army.

18. During the night of October 27th/28th portions of the 56th Italian Division, under the Command of General Vigliani, and the 33rd Italian Division under the command of General Sanna, both of the XVIIIth Corps, crossed the Piave by various bridges in the XIVth Corps Area and took over the front from Borgo Malonotte to C. Tonon.

19. At 9 a.m. on 28th October the attack was renewed. During the night of 27th/28th October many of the bridges had been broken, and as a result the XVIIIth Italian Corps had been unable to deploy all the troops required. General Basso, with soldierly instinct, did not hesitate to continue the advance, which was resumed with splendid dash. By dark the Tenth Army had reached the line Roncadelle-Ormele-Tempio-Rai-C. Bonotto-C. Milanese-S. Lucia di Piave-Ponte-Priula. Patrols had been pushed in advance of this line towards and up to the River Monticano.

20. The success of these operations at once brought about the desired effect. The enemy's hold of the high ground about Susegana weakened, and the passage of the right of the Eighth Army about Nervesa was accomplished during the night 28th/29th October.

Having accomplished the rôle assigned to it, the XVIIIth Italian Corps reverted to the Eighth Army on the morning of 29th October.

21. On the morning of 29th October the attack was again renewed, and during the day the advance was carried up to the River Monticano from the neighbourhood of Fontanelle to Ramiera. The XIVth Corps Mounted Troops, under Lieutenant-Colonel Sir C. B. Lowther, D.S.O., Bart., acting vigorously in advance of the infantry, secured the bridge over the Monticano between Vazzola and Cimetta intact, although it had been prepared for demolition. This resolute action undoubtedly saved us many hours of delay in the pursuit.

By this date the enemy's defence showed manifest signs of weakening, and numerous fires in rear of his lines suggested that a far-reaching withdrawal was contemplated.

22. On 29th October the 23rd Bersagliere Division passed to the Third Army, with a view to clearing the front of that army by an attack southwards. Its place in the XIth Italian Corps was taken by the 10th Italian Division

under General Gagliani. The 31st Italian Division, which included the 332nd American Regiment, under General de Angelis, had meanwhile joined the XIVth British Corps.

The enemy had rapidly occupied the line of the River Monticano, and on this line he offered his last serious resistance. During the evening of 29th October and the morning of 30th October passages were forced, and the enemy skilfully manœuvred out of the remainder of his defences, chiefly by very gallant work on the part of the 8th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment.

From this moment the defeat became a rout.

23. By the evening of 30th October the Livenza was reached, at Francénigo and Sacile. On 31st October this river was reached, and crossed between Motta di Livenza and Sacile.

On this date the XVIIIth Italian Corps was again placed under the command of the Tenth Army.

The advance had, on the 30th, already caused the enemy to weaken on the front of the Third Army, and crossings of the Lower Piave were effected at a number of points on this date. On the 31st the Third Army was advancing rapidly to the Livenza.

24. 1st November was mainly devoted to bridging the Livenza, the pursuit of the enemy being entrusted to the Italian Cavalry Corps.

25. On 2nd November the advance was resumed, and on that date the Tenth Army reached the line Villotta-Praturlone-River Meduna (east of Pordenone)-S. Quirino-Aviano.

26. On 3rd November the Tagliamento was reached from S. Vito to the north of Spilimbergo, a little opposition being met with. On 4th November the 332nd American Regiment had their baptism of fire when forcing the passage of the Tagliamento. They took over 100 prisoners and suffered a few casualties when attacking the enemy rearguards, an operation which they carried out with the same dash as has always been shown by American troops.

27. At 3 p.m. on 4th November, when the armistice came into effect, the line of the Tenth Army was Basagliapenta-Meretto di Tomba-Coseano-S. Daniele-Pinzano.

28. It is difficult to say with certainty the number of prisoners captured by the Tenth Army, as, after 1st November, the cavalry passed back many prisoners through our cages, which had already proved inadequate to hold such vast numbers.

The share of the XIVth British Corps amounted to over 28,000 prisoners and 219 guns.

29. I should like to specially bring to your Lordship's notice the work of the following officers in connection with these operations:— Brigadier-General W. W. Pitt-Taylor, C.M.G., D.S.O., Brigadier-General, General Staff, XIVth Corps, and Brigadier-General C. Ogston, C.M.G., D.S.O., D.A. and Q.M.G., XIVth Corps, to whose untiring efforts the regular supply of food and ammunition was largely due; Brigadier-General R. C. Hudson, Commanding Heavy Artillery; Brigadier-General J. McC. Steele, C.B., C.M.G., Commanding 22nd Infantry Brigade; and Brigadier-General C. D. V. Cary-Barnard, D.S.O., Commanding 68th Infantry Brigade.

30. Meanwhile, as stated above, the 48th Division, under Major-General Sir H. B.