

Walker, K.C.B., D.S.O., has remained on the Asiago Plateau, forming part of the Sixth Italian Army.

Successful raids were carried out on 4th, 11th and 23rd October, which resulted in the capture of 445 prisoners and twelve machine guns.

A further raid carried out on the night of 29th/30th October found the trenches facing Ave unoccupied.

This pointed to a withdrawal in the mountains, and on 30th October patrols pushed beyond Asiago found the enemy rearguards in position on the line M. Catz-Bosco-Camporovere.

At 5.45 a.m. on 1st November an attack was launched against this line. M. Catz was captured by the Royal Berkshire Regiment by 6.30 a.m., but no progress could be made on M. Interrotto.

On the morning of 2nd November the success gained on M. Catz by the 145th Infantry Brigade was wisely exploited. M. Mosciagh was in the hands of the 48th Division by 7.30 a.m., and the Interrotto position thus out-flanked. The advance then became more rapid, and by dark the advanced guards had reached Vezzena, and thus set foot on Austrian soil. This division was therefore the first British division to enter enemy territory on the Western Front.

On the morning of 3rd November the advance was again resumed, and by dark both Caldonazzo and Levico had been occupied.

At 3 p.m. on 4th November, when the Armistice came into force, the leading troops were on the line Miola-eastern outskirts of Trent.

The captures in prisoners and guns made by the 48th Division cannot be accurately ascertained; they amounted to at least 20,000 prisoners and 500 guns. Included amongst the prisoners were the Commander of the 3rd Corps and three Divisional Commanders.

It must be remembered that this division was attacking very formidable mountain positions with only a fifth part of the artillery that would have been at its disposal had the initial attack started on the Altipiano. Its performance therefore in driving in the enemy's rearguards so resolutely, while climbing up to heights of 5,000 feet, is all the more praiseworthy.

During these operations the leadership of Brigadier-General G. C. Sladen, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., Commanding the 143rd Infantry Brigade, was particularly noticeable.

31. The infantry had been waiting for an opportunity to show that they could worthily emulate the performances of their comrades in France. When the opportunity came they fulfilled my highest anticipations.

32. The work of the Royal Artillery throughout was based on the valuable "Notes on Recent Fighting" sent to us from France, and the rapid advances in close support of the infantry were worthy of their great traditions.

33. The Royal Engineers were incessantly at work in bridging not only the Piave, but the Monticano, the Livenza, and later on the Meduna and the Tagliamento. Without their highly skilled and efficient work vigorous pursuit would have been impossible.

34. The Royal Air Force, under the command of Colonel P. B. Joubert de la Ferte,

D.S.O., took a very prominent part in the battle, harassing the enemy's retreat so effectively that many batteries and thousands of prisoners fell into our hands that would have otherwise escaped.

35. The Machine Gun Corps had frequent opportunities, which were fully taken advantage of, and their training and skill in moving warfare was well exemplified.

36. Under circumstances of the greatest difficulty the Signal Service kept me in communication with the various units under my command.

37. During the battle, I was in constant touch with His Excellency, General Cavaglia, under whose general direction my Army was operating. He was always most kind and prompt in assistance and advice and I owe him very warm thanks for his generous encouragement.

The action of the XIth and XVIIIth Italian Corps has been only briefly referred to, but they bore a very noble and conspicuous part in the victory. My cordial thanks are due to their commanders for their most loyal co-operation.

My thanks are also due to His Royal Highness The Duke of Aosta and the Staff of the Third Army. The XIth Italian Corps had previously formed part of the Third Army. Careful and detailed arrangements for an attack had long been made and owing to the advanced state of these preparations little in this direction remained for me to do.

38. The fresh influenza epidemic, which broke out shortly before the commencement of the operations, threw a heavy and additional strain on the medical services. Despite this the evacuation and care of both the sick and wounded was rapidly and satisfactorily carried out. All the arrangements were most ably organised by my Director of Medical Services, Major-General F. R. Newland, C.B., C.M.G.

39. The demands made upon the Transportation Services in consequence of the rapid move of troops and material from the Altipiano to the Piave were successfully met by my Deputy Director-General of Transportation, Brigadier-General G. L. Colvin, C.M.G., D.S.O.

40. The Chaplains of all Denominations with my Force have invariably rendered the most devoted service, showing at all times the utmost solicitude for the welfare and comfort of the men.

41. Brigadier-General T. W. Hale, C.B., C.M.G., my Director of Ordnance Services, has promptly and efficiently met every demand that has been made on him.

42. The rapid advance during the operations entailed great strain on the Supply and Transport Services.

My thanks are due to Brigadier-General W. S. Swabey, C.B., C.M.G., and all ranks of these Services who maintained the supply of both ammunition and rations in spite of bad roads, hastily constructed bridges and long distances from railheads.

43. Brigadier-General C. Delme-Radcliffe, C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O., and the Staff of the British Mission, as well as the Liaison Officers, both Italian and British, rendered much valuable service. The translation of orders and the carrying of important messages threw a heavy