

disaffected troops in the Italian army. After a short but very destructive bombardment of the Italian possessions, the attack was carried out on a front of nineteen miles and the Italians were forced to retire precipitately across the Isonzo with a loss of 10,000 prisoners. The pursuit was pressed with great energy and success, and the new Italian position was outflanked and threatened with envelopment. Gorizia was retaken on October 28. The Italian armies were constantly outflanked, and they were forced out of successive strong positions in which they attempted to retard the enemy's advance. The frontier was crossed and the invaders occupied Udine on October 29, while the disorganized Italian armies retired behind the Tagliamento. This position was held for five days when their bridge-heads were destroyed by a fierce bombardment and the Austro-German troops crossed the river. The Italians fell back behind the Livenza, another parallel stream, and thence to the line of the Piave. The capture of one hundred and eighty thousand prisoners and fifteen hundred guns was announced from Berlin in these operations which became known as the battle of Caporetto.

On November 21 the Austrians gained another considerable success on the upper Piave in the vicinity of Belluno, where they cut off and captured a body of fourteen thousand Italians. General Cadorna was replaced as commander in chief by General Diaz, and a war board, composed of Generals Cadorna, Foch and Sir H. H. Wilson, was established. British and French troops speedily arrived from France bringing with them a great force of artillery, and a strong line of defence was organized behind the Piave. Repeated efforts to cross that river were repelled and some troops who had succeeded in getting over were driven back with severe loss. British gunboats destroyed bridges on the Austrian line of communication in the Piave Delta. On December 5 the German troops resumed their efforts to turn the Italian line from the north and carried several strong positions taking a considerable number of prisoners. Repeated Austrian attacks between the Brenta and Piave failed with heavy loss and although they made considerable advances on other fronts they were unable to reach the Italian plain and turn the line of the Piave.

OPERATIONS ON THE RUSSIAN AND RUMANIAN FRONTS, 1917.

General von Mackensen continued his advance driving the Russian and Rumanian forces over the Sereth and Danube with heavy losses, and captured Focsani on January 8. Other fortified positions in that vicinity were taken by his army a few days later. The Rumanian army had been practically destroyed and the country conquered.

Desultory fighting continued along the river Aa and the marshy country near Riga, during the entire month of January, and the Austro-German forces displayed considerable activity in Galicia and Volhynia.

On March 15 a despatch from Petrograd announced the fall of the Imperial Government and the substitution of a provisional revolutionary authority. A German attack on the bridge-head of