

Basic Detail Report

Photograph of a WW1 aerial battle map for the area of Sixth Battle of the Isonzo

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The Sixth Battle of the Isonzo also known as the Battle of Gorizia was the most successful Italian offensive along the Soa (Isonzo) River during World War I. On 6 August the offensive was launched against Gorizia. The offensive was concentrated in two zones: the hilly area west of the Soa (Isonzo) river near Gorizia and the westernmost edge of the Kras plateau near Doberdò del Lago. In the Battle of Doberdò, the Italians managed to conquer the main transport road leading from the coast town of Duino to Gorizia, thus securing their advance to Gorizia from the south. The Austro-Hungarian forces had to retreat on the line east of Gorizia (Mount kabrijel), leaving the heavily damaged town to the Italians. The attack on Gorizia was the most successful Italian offensive along the Isonzo lines and greatly boosted Italian morale - especially since Gorizia, whatever its actual value, had been promoted as a desirable objective, unattainable in earlier battles. In the wake of the battle Italy finally declared war against Germany, on 28 August. In later years, historians maintained that that battle (with 21,000 dead on the Italian side) was a useless and limited conquest, perhaps Cadorna's only victory. In reality, the Austrians, who were short on troops (having to fight on two fronts), retreated to Slovene territory where Cadorna sacrificed thousands of soldiers in futile attempts to advance toward Ljubljana and Trieste. The Austrians, who were better equipped, preferred to preserve their forces.

The Italian generals, in an attempt to make up for their poor equipment, committed the Italians to frontal assaults, resulting in massive casualties.

Dimensions

Overall: 24.9 x 24.2 cm (9 7/8 x 9 4/8 in.)