By: Emily D’Arcy, Isaac Romero, Joe Spaniac, Mariana Salazar
- All 12 battles primarily occurred along the Isonzo River (Italy)
- Between Northern Italy and Slovenia (Italy)
- The river is based between Italy and Austria, causing the river to be a prime battle location for the opposing sides (Carlisle)
Tactics

- Austro-Hungarians = surround Italians
  - Trentino mountains
- "Since 1915, the major line between the Austro-Hungarian forces and the Italians had ranged between the Italian northeastern frontier and Gorizia on the Isonzo River, a line about 100 miles long but only about 10 to 20 miles into Austrian Slovenia" (Carlisle)
- Together, German and Austro-Hungarian forces defeated the Italians for good at the top of the Isonzo river (Carlisle)
- Rest of Italy’s army moved back west, to Venice (Carlisle)
- Britain and France sent troops to Italy to hold off Austria’s conquest (Carlisle)
Summary (Battles 1-4)

- The first battle took place on the Isonzo river. Even though Cardona wanted the battles to be mobile, the river became a “hardened battle zone”.

- The battles of Isonzo were meant to avoid “stalemate”. The Italians had more troops than Austria-Hungary, however they made little progress against the Austrian defenses. The first few battles made no progress for Italy. 3rd and 4th battles: 117000 Italian deaths, 72000 austrian deaths.

(STA, T.M)
Summary (Battles 5-12)

- The Italians capture the city Gorizia.

- In these battles, the Italians made some significant progress, however it was at the expense of even more men. However, Capello outran the rest of the army and had to wait for them, providing the Austrians time to call on the Germans for help.

(Shea)
Leaders (Italy)

- Luigi Cadorna (1850-1928)
  - Lacked experience (Axelrod).
  - Excellent Organizer (Fredriksen).
  - Wanted to avoid stalemate like Western Front (Axelrod).
    - No trench warfare
  - Relying on majority in numbers (Axelrod).
  - Pledged to never give up at Isonzo (Axelrod).
  - Eventually replaced (Capello) (Axelrod).
Leaders (Austria-Hungary)

- Conrad von Hötzendorf (1852-1925)
  - “Personal hatred of Italy and Italians” (Axelrod).
  - Wanted to deliver blow that would knock Italy out of the war (Axelrod).
  - Formulated Asiago Offensive (Axelrod).
  - Occupy plains of N. Italy (trap Italians) (Axelrod).
  - Cadorna noticed and warned, was ignored, Italians = unprepared (Axelrod).
  - Reinforcements Stopped advance (Axelrod).
Impacts

- The Battles of the Isonzo cost Italy over 300,000 casualties (Duffy).
- Austro-Hungarian losses were at around 200,000 (Duffy).
- The Italian offensives forced Austria to divert divisions from fighting against Serbia and Russia (Watts).
- Trench warfare in eastern front
Sources Cited


Sources Cited (2)

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