

GERMANS NERVOUS OR PREPARING OFFENSIVE.

Series of "Feelers" Thrown out by Hindenburg at Various Points.

Grand Headquarters of the French Army in France, June 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—There are signs on many parts of the French front that the Germans are either nervous concerning the French intentions or are preparing an offensive. A series of "feelers" have been thrown out by Field Marshal von Hindenburg at various points, principally around the Loos plateau. One of the chief of these was an effort to cut a breach in the French line at Vauxillon, where the German "shock" units temporarily ousted the French from a short trench system on the slopes of Monkey Mountain, on which it was important that both armies should possess observatories.

French counter-attacks immediately regained all the ground lost except a salient measuring a few yards, in which the German position is most precarious. On this occasion the German shock troops advanced in their shirt sleeves without packs, after a terrific bombardment in which every yard of the adjacent ground was searched by shells.

The German "shocks" as soon as they succeeded in their determined and courageous effort, turned over the trenches they had gained to the 78th German infantry division who, however, failed to hold them when called upon for a defensive effort. The correspondent visited the entire position in this sector today and found the French firmly established while the Germans on the other side of the hill were deprived of observatories and thus their artillery was blind.

Another lively affair occurred in the vicinity of Mont Carnillet, where the Germans and French attacked almost simultaneously, the former with the object of removing prominent points they had lost some weeks ago and the latter with the intention of getting freer elbow room.

As it happened a unit, consisting of only 62 French grenadiers and portable machine gunners, occupied the position coveted by the Germans and not only drove off their attacking forces but pursued them and captured a considerable length of German trenches and in doing so killed more than 200 Germans.

On the Chemin-des-Dames also the Germans launched yesterday a number of attacks, some of which resulted in most desperate engagements. In the neighborhood of La Royere farm the ground was covered with German bodies while the only success the Germans achieved was to gain possession of a short section of a front French trench.

OPPORTUNITY OFFERED FOR SERVICE IN FRANCE

Men Who Respond to President's Call For Volunteers May Feel Sure of Being Sent Overseas First.

Washington, June 23.—Recruiting week for the regular army, fixed by presidential proclamation, opened today throughout the country with the army recruiting service organized for a great drive at war volunteers.

The president's proclamation calls for 70,000 men to come forward during the week for war service. Already a division of regulars has been designated for service in France under General Pershing and the men who respond to the president's call may feel assured, officially point out, that they will be little delayed in reaching the front when the movement of troops overseas begins.

When the proclamation was prepared, the army was short 45,000 infantrymen and field artillerymen and 26,000 reserves for all arms. The cavalry, signal corps, engineers and other branches had been filled up. Since then 10,000 men have been accepted, but the recruiting rush will go ahead to secure as many more than 70,000 as may offer themselves and be acceptable.

HAIG'S FORCES HEMMING IN THE TOWN OF LENS.

Five German Aeroplanes Destroyed and British Lost Similar Number.

Gradually the forces of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig are hemming in the town of Lens, the center of the great coal deposits in the department of Pas de Calais and from which prior to the war more than 5,000,000 tons of coal were annually exported.

Successful raids carried out Sunday night by the British gave them 400 yards of trenches in the woods at the western outskirts of the city while Monday's operations brought them further progress along both banks of the Souchez river on a front of about a mile and a half southwest of the town.

The British troops are harassing the Germans at various points along the front held by them in Belgium and France with nightly raiding parties which have been successful in killing numerous Germans and taking others prisoners.

The British and German airmen continue to strive for mastery in France and Belgium. Sunday witnessed the destruction of five German aeroplanes in battles in the air and another by anti-aircraft guns, while five others were sent to earth out of control. The British, however, lost five machines during the operations.

Night artillery duels between the French and Germans are still in progress on several sectors of the front between Soissons and Rheims. Apparently the Germans after their experience of last week when they suffered heavy casualties in attacks and gained only slight advantages have ceased, for the moment at least, their infantry operations, as the latest French official communication makes no mention of fresh thrusts by the crown prince. The sadly battered city of Rheims continues to be a target for German shells, 1,200 of them having been dropped there during Monday.

The fighting activity along the Russian front has again extended into the Carpathians around Kirlibaba, on the Bukovina frontier. In Galicia between the Zlota Lipa and Narayuvka rivers and along the upper Stripa the fighting between the Austro-Germans and Russians is described by Berlin as "lively."

The operations in the Austro-Italian theatre have again lost their intensity. The artillery duels have died down to almost nothing, while the infantry encounters are merely reconnaissances.

A similar condition prevails in Macedonia, although the artillery duels are somewhat violent in the region of Monastir.

By the narrow margin of less than 20 feet an American liner proceeding from an American port to an English port escaped being torpedoed by a torpedo aimed at her by a German submarine. American gunners on board the liner sighted and fired upon the U-boat but whether their shells reached the target could not be ascertained. Only the quick and skillful maneuvering of the liner saved her from destruction.

Another South American neutral steamer has been sent to the bottom by a Teutonic allied submarine. The steamer, the Toro, was torpedoed off Gibraltar while bound for Genoa with a cargo of Argentine products.

Machine for Enrolling the Draft Army is Complete.

Washington, June 21.—Machinery for enrolling an army of 625,000 men by selective draft will be complete in every detail by July 1st, two months before the tentative date considered for calling the first of the troops to the colors. Regulations for the exemption boards will be made public shortly.

Officials have not disclosed the plan to be followed, but the machinery for the exemption boards, both local and review, can be put into operation on July 1st, it is stated.

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SLANDER CASE IS TRIED IN COURT AT ALBEMARLE

Defendant Said Plaintiff "Got His Goat" and the Latter Sued For Damage in the Sum of \$50.

Albemarle, June 23.—A civil action was tried here this afternoon which created quite a lot of excitement, interest and amusement. The case was heard before J. Ed Hartsell and J. E. Klutza, justices of the peace. The case was brought by Ed. W. Simpson, of the Rocky River Springs section, and was prosecuted by him against J. T. Curlee of the same community. Both are white men. The plaintiff alleged that about two weeks ago the defendant, Curlee, maliciously and wantonly slandered his good name and character by stating in the presence of divers persons that the said Simpson "got his goat." He said that by reason of this alleged unlawful slander in that the defendant had accused the plaintiff of stealing his goat that his character, which was good, had been damaged to the extent of \$50, and he asked for judgment for that amount. Curlee did not dispute that he had made the remark

that he believed that Simpson got his goat, and to establish this contention he proved by Brooks Cooper, a witness, that he met the plaintiff some time during the month of April coming towards Albemarle with a goat in his wagon comfortably wrapped, all but a part of its head being hidden.

Simpson contended that it was not a goat that he had in his wagon, but a cow which he was bring to town. After a thorough consideration of the evidence in the case and the argument of counsel for both plaintiff and defendant the court decided that the plaintiff was not entitled to any com-

ensation for the damage of his character by reason of the statement of the defendant that he took and carried away the "goat" of the said defendant. The plaintiff gave notice of an appeal from the judgement to the Superior court.

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