

'SAMMIES' IN FRANCE PLAY THE WAR GAME

(By N. C. Parke.) American Field Headquarters in France, Sept. 5—(delayed)—The most important artillery and infantry maneuvres since the arrival of the "Sammies" took place today. French ar-

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tillery and French and American in-

fantry participated. The maneuvres were witnessed by General Sibert. Nine French batteries took part in the war game.

Throughout the day there were exhibitions by the "Seventy-fives" trench mortars and "barraging" mechine guns, concluding with a theoretical attack on and capture of "enemy" trenches.

On the march through the early morning mists, filling the valleys over the ribbon-like roads, winding far below distant chateaux and swinging through French villages, the Sammies resembled English Tommies in their new English helmets. Peasants turn-

ng out in thousands all along the way cheered the marchers enthusiasticaly. Several French mounted officers joined the troops en route.

The line of march led through a deep valley alongside a favine, thence across a high plateau from which the forenoon maneuvres were witnessed. In the meantime, beginning early in the morning, concealed French batteries of "Seventy-fives" were sending shells whistling overhead the marching Sammies, across the valley and bursting with dull crasnes on the distant hillside. On the plateau the American troops were joined by a division of French chasseurs.

The Sammies and the chasseurs stacked their rifles and squatted down on the plateau observing the shells bursting across the valley. General Sibert and his staff officers gathered at the forefront of the plateau together with French officers. Following the preliminary firing the artillery laid a rolling barrage on the "Mackensen" and "Ludendorff" trenches, the 'Seventy-fives" deluging the shallow trenches, blowing up the works and tearing up barbed wire entanglements, while the American officers and "Sammies" watched intently the shell explosions followed by the rise of black and white smoke columns.

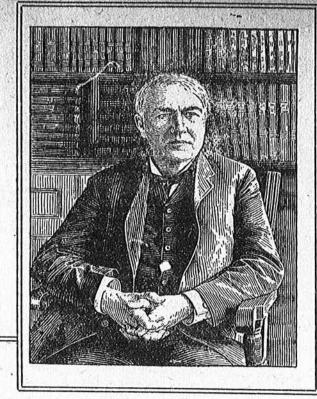
"How would you like to be going over behind that?" asked a Chicago Sammy, contemplating the methodical effectiveness of the French artillery

"Great," came the quick reply, "I uppose they know what they are doing, giving us this play business of raining, but I'd like to go up against he real thing just to see how old Fritz likes us."

This was apparently the universal sentiment among the Sammies. The barrage fire was followed by a bombardment of the "Berlin works," trench mortars at short range droping huge missles that sent great clouds of dirt skywards to the accompaniment of loud thunder claps. The forenoon program ended with a machine gun demonstration, The warm sun that had been beating down upon the Sammies throughout the long morning hike swelled their appetite.

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They consumed their "chow" with were only spectators. They took up rage fire. positions on a distant hillside and watched the attack of the French DRAFTED MEN TO HAVE chasseurs following a theoritical barrage fire upon a theoritical German position lying in the ravine. The chasseurs advanced in four waves, the now mobilizing will be permitted to first rush making 50 meters per min-obtain commissions in the next offiute. A French biplane shot rocket cers' training camp, Secretary of War signals upward. The blue-coated Baker said today. chasseurs moved down acros a clover field and with rifle and hand grenade camps, they will be permitted to join progress to the airplane and, then sions in civil life. halted while the theoritical barrage A wide field for advancement proceeded. Then they swarmed up the thus opened up to the men who go in steep sides of a quarry with astonish- as conscripted privates. The following rapidity capturing the "Coblentz," 'Cologne," "Treves" and "Berlin" Provost Marshal General Crowder: trenches. In the final rush, with grande and bomb they poured into all branches of the service or any German position, which was their maneuvres under the setting sun.

A French officer, who observed the interest, told the International News Service correspondent:

"The Americans have made surprising improvement since their arrival, I think that with a little more practice under artillery they will be ready for the trenches, though perhaps it is advisable to use them as trainers for other American troops."

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It is understood that the next magreat zest. They rested during the neuvres will afford an opportunity to afternoon maneuvres at which they the Sammies to advance under bar-

CHANCE FOR COMMISSIONS

Washington, Sept. 8.-Drafted men Also on their arrival at the draft

occupied the first objectives, the the army of the service for which they 'Macskensen," "von Kluck" and "Rup-consider themselves best fitted, in precht" trenches. They signalled their view of their employments or profes-

> ing ruling was published today by "Men are not drafted for any spec-

the third advance line of the secodn special work. All must report to a mobilization camp with the contingent third objective. They completed their of their local board. When they arrive at camp a careful inquiry will be made into their special qualificamarching Sammies with considerable tions, and, in so far as is compatible with the public interest, each man will be assigned to that duty or to the branch of military service where he can render the greatest benefit." Secretary Baker said:

"The War Department has under contemplation a third reserve officers'

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camp, although it has not been definitely decided upon. If this camp is held, preference will be given to the applications of drafted men who desire to try for commissions."

The movement of the first 5 per cent of the draft army to the mobilization camps was without the slightest hitch, according to reports to General Crowder today from the different states. This work accomplished, the local boards are now turning to the larger labor of getting 40 per cent of their quotas off to camp on Sep-

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