

THE NEW RIFLE RANGE

(By Sergeant Ralph P. Bull, 105th Field Hospital Company.)

On the new rifle range at Dark Corners, thirty miles north of Camp Wadsworth, troops of the Twenty-seventh Division will this week begin the target practice course prescribed by the War College in connection with their intensive training here. The first battalion of the 105th Regiment of Infantry, under Major Pateman, will first occupy the trenches from which the shooting will be done, and in the building of which Major Pateman's men have been engaged, Major Daly, Division Ordnance Officer, has announced.

An important feature of the work to be conducted at the new range will be the special course in sniping, which will be supervised by Captain Johnson, of the British service. Captain Johnson, who is already at Camp Wadsworth, has had a varied experience in this work since the beginning of the war, and his program is expected to be an attractive one.

When Lieutenant Roy O'Dell, with 75 members of Company "E," 102nd Engineers, went up to Dark Corners to begin work on the range, after Captain Cornelius W. Wickersham had selected the site, he found himself in wild country. The range was to extend across the lowland at the foot of Glassy Rock and Glassy Rock was to furnish the background for the targets. Since then this work has been accomplished, but in the meantime there have been many changes at Dark Corners.

The name "Dark Corners" is suggestive, and rightly so. For years the little colony up there in the mountains has been known as the capital of the moonshine whiskey district of the Carolinas. And before that, during the Rebellion, the story goes, the lowland at the foot of Glassy Rock was a Confederate muster ground, and hundreds of the gray-clad troops of the South bivouaced on the same spot where soldiers of the Twenty-seventh Division are today preparing themselves to take a hand in history's greatest struggle.

Major Wells, of the Seventy-first Infantry, reputed to be one of the most capable small arms experts in the New York Division, and who during the past spring attended the School of Musketry at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, is the range officer. Co-operating with the Division Ordnance Office, he has supervised much of the work in connection with the building of the range.

There are two brigade ranges—the 53rd and 54th brigades—located between which is the range administration building. Glassy Rock, at the foot of which are the target butts, has an elevation of 2,200 feet. Each range has 111 targets, for firing at 100, 200 and 300 yards; 80 targets at 500 and 600 yards, and 12 targets at 1,000 yards.

In addition to the rifle range there is the machine gun range. This is located on the Phillips bottom lands near Dark Corners. Here the machine gun battalions of the divi-

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