The Escorted U. S. Film WAR MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

Territorial C.O. Hoaxed.

The Secretary for War (Sir Laming Worthington-Evans) replied to questions in Parliament recently regarding the astonishing spectacle in London last Wednesday, when British Territorial troops, with band, escorted a newly arrived American film from Waterloo Station to Wardour Street, in the West End, where the march developed into an advertising display. The War Secretary's reply, reported fully below, was to the effect that the officer commanding the unit concerned (the Hampshire Heavy Brigade, Royal Artillery) acted without authority and contrary to regulations in agreeing to the film company's prosal, and was made the victim of "a and humiliating hoax."

Public resentment was voiced in the nestions put to the Minister. It is daily becoming clearer that there is g growing body of opinion in the country which believes that, in view of this unwarrantable exploitation of our national forces, immediate steps should be taken by the British Board of Film Censors (of which Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., is president) to prevent the escorted film from being exhibited in Britain.

This, it is contended, would teach a salutary lesson to those over-enterprising people who, in seeking to "boost" foreign productions, have not even scrupled to attempt to ridicule our Army.

The hoax is the culminating point of many other lamentable episodes in which British public personages have been exploited to further the interests of United States films, the unceasing flood of which has already crippled our own kinema industry.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.

Humiliating and Clever Hoax on Of-

In the House of Commons recently Sir Laming Worthington-Evans (Secretary for War), replying to several questions about the recent use of British troops to advertise an American film, said that the explanation of the Hampshire Heavy Brigade Royal Artillery (the unit concerned) was that they were approached by the agent of an American film company to assist in a film which, they were given to understand, was of a military character, representing Territorial soldiers entraining, detaining, and on the march.

They consented to take part, n the belief that a film of this kind would encourage recruiting. No mention was made, added the Minister, of an American film to be met and escorted, and nothing was said to them to make them suspect the real purpose for which they were required.

The officer commanding was the ore easily persuaded to fall the proposal because he was engaged in a recruiting campaign in Southampton, where the first part of the film was to be taken, and he was informed that London Territorials would take part in the march in London.

Troops Return Money.

The film company paid the travelling expenses of the Hampshire Artillery and 10s, and 15s, to each man and £25 to the band, which had been return-The officer in charge of the detach-

ment, said Sir Laming, had reported: Nothing whatever was seen of the film that we were presumed to have been escorting, and we had no knowledge that any film was on the parade. At Waterloo, I was told by the police that the armoured car had received instructions to return to its depot. We proceeded along the route the police had instructed us to follow, by Westminister Bridge, Whitehall, and Trafalgar, Square to Wardour Street, as the representative of the company said the film could only be completed

in the studio. (Laughter.) It was not until we entered Wardbur Street that the real purpose for which the troops were needed became apparent, owing to a banner being infurled in front of the band and handbills being distributed. I, therefore, had the banner immediately removed and refused to take any further part in the proceedings, and, with as little delay as possible, the troops were marched up a quiet street (laughter)—and then marched back

The Officer Responsible.

"Fortunately," added Sir Laming. the armoured car company were warned in time of the real object of the march and did not take part. As the agent of the film company had previously applied to the War Office for soldiers to appear in scenes or the arrival of the first and had been told that permission could not be givon, he should not have applied to Teritorial units independently, and, in any case, should not have concealed

"In agreeing to the company's proposal the officer commanding the unit acted without proper authority and contrary to the precise instructions ntained in the regulations."

This officer had had long service and ad worked hard in the interests of the t, but his judgment on this occaion was at fault, and he was made mg hoax,

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ion having been given tor. se used for advertising an ffice and would not be pro

Film Censors' Board Capt. A. Evans (C., Cardi the right hon, gentleman to bring this matter to the Film Censors and ask them any action in connection with n question they deem advi the circumstances.

Sir L. Worthington-Evans that there was no need for tion, as they had got the film not intend to have it publi Commander Kenworthy (La

snow what is the agent's na Major Hore-Belisha (Lib. port): Has the Governmen to prevent the escorted eing shown in this count No answer was returned. -Daily Mail, M

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