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BRITISH AND U.S. TROOPS IN FLA. DEMONSTRATION

British gunners of the crack A.A. battery, now in U.S.A., combined with American Army A.A. troops last week in one of the biggest fire power demonstrations ever held.

Their stage was Camp Irwin - a tented "city" in a Californian desert valley where two firing ranges, each six miles wide, are in action by day and night with practising A.A. units.

While the British battery fired Defors and heavies at one end of the arena, the Americans threw flak up from their own guns at the other. At night firing thundered through the valley, echoed and re-echoing from the surrounding mountains in a spectacular display against a star studded sky.

Here, nearly forty miles away from the nearest town, the anti-aircraftsmen of two nations rehearsed for the time when they may be fighting side by side against the enemy in real engagements.

The A.A. Command battery, numbering 350 officers and men from all parts of Britain, has recently been sent a secret mechanical device to increase the rate of fire of their 3.7 in. guns. It was flown out to the U.S. from this country and will be shown to A.A. gunnery officers and scientists at all U.S. camps in the battery's coast to coast tour. This equipment, new to the Americans, is already in operation with the Command's A.A. batteries in Britain.

The demonstration battery last week also met the man who invited them to visit America - War Secretary Henry L. Stimson. After their visit to West Point and Boston, Mass., they received the U.S. War Department's stamp of approval from Mr. Stimson in a speech he made to the men. It was at his personal invitation that the battery was formed and sent to America, he told them, adding that he was pleased at the results of the trip and with the spirit of good comradeship that had developed during the exchange of ideas.

This month the battery - Defors, 3.7s. and searchlights - splits into three units, each visiting a different camp in the nation wide tour of the States. One group travels more than 3,000 miles across America to the Pacific coast to give demonstrations to the U.S. Western Defence Command.

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