

A.A. GUNNERS GO INTO TRAINING FOR CITIZENSHIP

Anti-aircraft gunners defending Southampton are devoting their spare time to the job of becoming better citizens.

As a result of a request made through their regiment, lecturers from Southampton's University College will tour their camps to explain the intricacies of local and national government and economics.

Special precautions have been taken to ensure that the lectures shall be "blitz-proof" and proof, too, against any interruption likely to be caused by the movement of men or units.

The programme is so designed that no matter what difficulties arise, the continuity of the lectures will be maintained and no man need miss one.

The regiment's Warrant Officer in charge of education, who has handled the arrangements, said:

"The lectures are really the men's own idea. The war has taught them something which I am afraid most of us overlook in peace-time - the importance of knowing how our country is run.

"Now when they go home on leave, they see things with different eyes. It may be some action of their town council which they don't understand or with which they don't agree.

"It may be a question of housing conditions, the welfare of their families, the education of their children which they want put right, if not now at least after the war.

"They find that because in the past they have never bothered much about the business of citizenship they don't know how to go about it.

"I received so many questions and problems in such a short time that I decided that we ought to tackle the subject of citizenship thoroughly. The lectures are the result."