FILMS ON CAMPUS

RMC Board Begins Student Film Series

By MARK MONTGOMERY

With new projector and sound hook-up, the Student Center Board launches its film series at the RMC Sunday night with "The Young Lions," an adaptation of Irwin Shaw's novel about World War II. "And the sword shall devour thy young lions — the Prophet Nahum" was perhaps a lofty epigraph for an over-inflated best-seller, but producer Lichtman, director Dmytryle, and scriptwriter Anhalt (Shaw's scenario was too gory) have created a near epic and yet intensely personal study of men enmeshed in world war.

The story cavorts throughout the western theater, with much of the actual filming done in Paris. Marlon Brando, as a golden-haired Prussian, the key figure, gives an enigmatic performance that ranks with his best. First encountered on the eve of war as a ski instructor in Austria, we follow him with the Wehrmacht into Paris, then into North Africa for a five-minute desert ambush that ranks as a classic.

ON THE ALLIED side, we intermittently flash to New York, where Montgomery Cliff, a clerk, and Dean Martin, entertainer and draft dodger, are embarking for the continent. Hope Lange is there to see Cliff off, while Brando enjoys leave with Swedish actress May Britt in Berlin before defending the crumbling fatherland. Maximilian Schell ("Judgment at Nuremberg") makes a fine American debut as a Nazi officer.

Our heroes, whose separate stories have been woven coherently through skillful direction and cutting, finally meet on a deserted road in Germany; and the violent climax is rendered even more moving because the film has concentrated not on the endless battle scenes of the sterotyped war film but on painfully real personalities.