

PIONEERS BEGIN LONG TREK

16 Miles In Heat

(From a Special Correspondent)

NAGAMBIE, Tuesday.—Led by Lieut.-Colonel N. F. Wellington, the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion left Puckapunyal to-day on the longest trek (140 miles) undertaken by an A.I.F. unit in Australia.

The 1,000 members of the battalion are marching with fully loaded kits averaging 60lb. each. During the next fortnight they will camp each night on the roadside, and in the course of their trek they will pass through many Goulburn Valley towns.

The men received gifts from bystanders as they passed through Seymour.

To-day the troops covered 16 miles. It was a hot day, and they were all well tanned to-night when they camped at Hughes Creek. The route of their 22-mile march to-morrow lies across country to the Goulburn Weir and then on to Murchison. The men are scheduled to reach Shepparton on Friday.

The battalion is tackling its strenuous marching schedule with confidence, for many 50 and 70 mile treks in recent months have given the troops a rigorous preparation.