

TOWN'S WELCOME TO MARCHERS

Rest for Pioneers

SHEPPARTON, Friday. — Amid cheers from 3,000 people lining the streets, the 2 14th Pioneer Battalion to-day marched into Shepparton, half-way mark in their 140-mile trek.

Led by the regimental mascot, a bulldog, and the regimental band, the troops marched past the town hall, where their C.O., Lieut.-Colonel N. F. Wellington, took the salute.

A guard of honour, provided by the Shepparton R.S.L. Volunteer Defence Unit, under Captain F. O. Cameron, was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Wellington, who complimented the men on their efficiency.

At a civic reception Cr. Riordan (Mayor) warmly welcomed the Pioneers.

Lieut.-Colonel Wellington said the march had been arranged as an educative test, and the men had emerged with flying colours. One thing they had discovered was that in Wednesday's heat the men had experienced conditions similar to those in the Egyptian desert, and several had lost vital salt content through excessive perspiration. The remedy had been to place half a teaspoon of salt in the men's water bottles—a lesson learnt from the last war.

He paid a warm tribute to the wonderful stamina of the men, who might be required, he said, to combine the work of offensive and engineering units. They were admirably fitted and trained for the task.

After passing through the beflagged town of Mooroopna earlier in the day, the troops were halted outside the town, where tobacco and cigarettes were distributed to each soldier by nurses of Mooroopna Base Hospital.

The troops will relax to-morrow, and will be entertained by citizens. On Sunday afternoon a military tattoo will be staged by the battalion at the Shepparton camp, and on Sunday night a promenade concert will be broadcast by 3SR and "The Argus" network.