

MEN OF TWO WARS AT REUNIONS

Meetings Link First And Second AIF

Members of many units of the First and Second AIF's held reunions in the city and inner suburbs last night.

At least 12 more unit reunions will be held in the city after the march today, and others have been organised for tomorrow.

This is the first occasion since 1939 on which reunions have been held on such a large scale.

In some cases the gatherings provided a link between the First and Second AIF's, and efforts were made to co-ordinate the celebrations by ex-servicemen of the 1939-46 war with those of members of the parent units of the first AIF.

10th Machine Gun Co 1st AIF

Messages which he wrote during the attack on Messines in June, 1917, were last night handed to Mr A. J. Fraser, chairman of the Liquid Fuel Control Board, at a reunion of the 10th Machine Gun Company, 1st AIF. The messages have been preserved for 29 years by Mr J. White, who was company sergeant-major.

One of the messages reads: "From Fraser to OC Company—All well, shall not report again until over and settled unless anything special. We will take a lot of wiping out." Mr Fraser earned a Military Cross for his part in the Messines action.

Among the other 50 members of the unit who attended the function was Chris (Snowy) Saunders, father of Lieutenant Reg Saunders, who is the only aborigine to have received a commission in the Australian Army. Snowy Saunders was a driver with the 10th Machine Gun Com-

pany. Snowy Saunders was a driver with the 10th Machine Gun Company in 1914-18.

2/14 Field Regt

More than 100 members of the 2/14 Aust Field Regiment attended a gathering at the Federal Hotel. The unit, which was part of the original 23rd Brigade, 8th Division, was en route for Singapore when the Japanese occupied the base. It remained at Darwin 12 months, and then moved to New Britain, and was in action near Rabaul, where other units of the brigade were wiped out in 1942.

3rd Pioneer Batt

An attendance of 130, including 10 members who had served in both wars, at the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, AIF, reunion last night constituted the biggest reunion held by the association for many years. The association has missed only one reunion since its inception in 1919. Captain G. Horder, a POW in Malaya for two years, addressed the members.

Aust Light Horse Engineers

Forty-five original members of the 1st AIF Australian Light Horse Engineers, who served in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, last night celebrated their 25th annual reunion in the Melbourne Sailors' Home, Sideley st, city.

Welcoming visitors, who included five ex-members of the 2nd AIF, sons of original Light Horse men, Mr A. W. Barnes, retiring president, said: "It's good to see the young men at our functions. They took

men at our functions. They took our place in the second world war and they will have to take our place in Australian life. But they must not let the white ants and rats into this country—they must prevent us ever again being unprepared against our enemies."

Mr Fred Whelan (1st and 2nd AIF), who was a POW in Malaya for three years, was elected president.

28th Field Coy R A E

Nearly 40 members of the 28th Field Company, RAE, taken prisoner by the Germans in Crete, attended the second Anzac reunion of the company at RAOB Hall, Carlton, last night. The association comprises members of the 2nd AIF, although a few served also in World War I.

Special mention was made of two members of the company—Sappers P. Williams and J. Crocker—who are on their way to London to march with the Australian Victory contingent.

2/4 Field Workshops

With an ample supply of refreshment for 100 men, Diggers of the 2/4 Field Workshops had to institute a password at their reunion at Richmond last night. This was the Arab good-day salutation, "Saida George."

This was necessary, as members of a local Buffalo lodge which usually has the hall had not been notified that their own get-together had been changed to the town hall.

Mr Bob Mitchell, secretary, said that this was the unit's first reunion, and he hoped members would always stick together. The 2/4 was in the Middle East and was part of the famous 8th Army.

Army Nurses

A friendly and informal atmosphere prevailed among returned army nurses of this war and the last when about 200 of them gathered for their annual Anzac eve reunion in the Returned Army Nurses' Club rooms, Anzac House, last night. Guests were welcomed by Miss Grace Douglas, president, and Miss W. Temple Smith, the recently appointed secretary. Miss M. Ambler, who was secretary for the last 12 years, was also present. Three well-known nurses from the last war were Miss E. Cornwell, Miss E. Gray, and Miss G. Davies. Miss L. Shaw, who

Miss G. Davies, Miss L. Shaw, who was principal matron of Victoria with the 2nd AIF and is now matron of the Alfred Hospital, also attended.

5th Batt, A I F

More than 200 members of the 5th Battalion AIF Association, under the presidency of Colonel C. McE. Lillie, attended a 24th annual reunion at the Lower Town Hall last night. The association was formed in 1919, and except for a break of four years during the war just finished, has conducted annual reunions since.

Colonel A. P. Derham, an original member of the 5th Battalion, addressed members on his experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese in Malaya.

2/3 Light AA Regiment

POW's and gunners who had not met for years were reunited at the first Anzac reunion last night of the 2/3 Light AA Regiment Association in the North Melbourne Town Hall. Among the 300 who attended were 30 POW's who were taken in Crete and Libya. Six former members of the regiment came from other states. Lieut-Colonel A. G. Margetts, an original member of the regiment, was elected first president of the association. Lieut-Colonel J. W. Rhoden, original CO of the regiment, said arrangements were being finalised to affiliate the association with the Royal Aust Artillery Association.

8 Aust Cav Regt

More than £100 has been subscribed by members of 8 Aust Cav Regiment to erect a memorial for Padre Leslie Cula, who was unit padre until he died of illness in Lae in 1943. Members of the unit were entertained at Prahran Town Hall last night by the auxiliary of which Mrs Cula is president. It was decided that the money would be given to the Children's Hospital for the establishment of a consulting-room where parents of children could interview doctors.

2/14 Battalion

Nearly 600 members of the 2/14th Battalion attended a reunion at

Nearly 500 members of the 2/14th Battalion attended a reunion at Prahran Town Hall. Major-General J. E. S. Stevens, who commanded the 6th Aust Division, was guest of honour. He was the original commander of the 21st Aust Infantry Brigade, of which the 2/14th Battalion is part.

3rd Div Field Artillery

"In 1915 they called us the lost division because we were so long in getting to the war," said ex-Sergeant-Major Norm McLeod at the reunion last night, "but we are not lost now. At the first reunion, in 1919, about 25 turned up. Tonight we have 200. Perhaps it is right that old soldiers, like barmaids, never die." Members present last night were from country districts. Several came from interstate.

General Blamey Supported

Strong exception to the remarks of Mr Chifley about General Sir Thomas Blamey was expressed last night by Major Charles Thompson, president, at a reunion of 7th Aust Division ASC. "Returned men are 100% behind Sir Thomas Blamey," he said. "They were proud to serve under such a leader and have very strong views on advice that Sir Thomas Blamey gave recently regarding the defence of Australia."

Nearly 500 former members of the unit were present. Brigadier P. S. McGrath, Director of Supply and Transport, attended the function.

2/2 Aust Guards Batt

"Active operations" were seriously delayed last night at the reunion of the 2/1st Aust Guards Regiment and 2/2 Aust Guards Battalion in the North Melbourne Football Club pavilion. The reunion of 80 members had a plentiful beer supply but no glasses. "Fighting patrols" were organised and went for—and brought back—glasses. The 2/1st Guards Regiment was formed during August, 1940, in the Middle East, and the 2/2 Aust Guards Battalion was formed in Australia when the main part of the parent battalion was left behind in the Middle East. Members of the regiment and battalion

bers of the regiment and battalion served with all AMP divisions. No speeches were permitted last night, but a message was received from Lieut-Colonel C. D. Horne, MC, CO of the regiment, who is in Albury.

2/3 Machinegun Batt

Nearly half the members of the 2/3 Aust Machinegun Batt at the association's first reunion last night were ex-POW's. The original unit, after serving in Syria, moved to Java, where it was captured in its entirety by the Japanese. A new battalion was then formed. Lieut-Colonel R. Gordon, CO of the unit, and Major Griener, senior company commander, were present at the reunion.

2/4 AGH

At the first reunion of the 2/4 Aust General Hospital about 70 members were present. A new association, including both men and women, was formed.

9th Div Engineers

Ex-servicemen were warned of the necessity for them to take an active part in public life by Major-General Clive Steele, former Engineer-in-Chief, AMP, at last night's reunion of 9th Div Sappers' Association. Nearly 200 former 9th Div Engineers were present.

"We must maintain in peace the spirit of comradeship developed during the war," General Steele said, "but if we don't get some leaders from the services, then Australia, with half the world's population in the near north, will not grow into the kind of country we would wish."

6th Div Cav

Trooper W. J. (Buster) Tope, claimed by his unit to be the first Australian wounded in action in the Second World War, was among those who attended a reunion of 6th Aust Div Cav Recce Regt at Prahran.

Tope was machinegunned while on reconnaissance near Giarabub prior to the 6th Division going into action late in 1940. The unit was one of the first formed in Australia. After serving in the Middle East it returned home and was reorganised into a commando unit, which saw extensive service in New Guinea.

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9th Light Horse Ass

Lieut-Colonel W. S. Kent Hughes and Major F. Cruddas, both former 8th Division prisoners of war, rejoined their 1st AIF comrades last night at the annual reunion of the 9th Light Horse Association. Brig W. H. Scott, former CO of the 9th Light Horse Regmt, and commander of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, presided. He will lead all Light Horse men in today's march.

6th Machinegun Co

Three MC winners attended the 24th reunion of the 6th Machinegun Co. They were Lieut Reg Callister, of Sydney; Lieut Frank Wright, of Ormond; and Lieut Fred Blenkarn, of Kew. About 90 members were present.

2/2 Pioneers

Three hundred former POW's were among the 500 persons who attended a reunion of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion at South Yarra last night. The majority of the POW's were in Japanese hands for three and a half years after they had been captured in Java. Colonel N. Wellington was reappointed president of the association.

13th Light Horse Ass

Record attendance of 250 made the annual reunion of the 13th Light Horse Association at Oddfellows' Hall the most successful in its history. Forty Second World War sons of original members were present. Guest of honour was Major H. H. Edey, of the 2/13th Australian General Hospital, who was a prisoner of war in Japan. Brig-General G. H. Dean, of SA, a former CO, sent a letter of remembrance.

57th Battalion

Plans for today's march were made by 57th Battalion members at their annual reunion last night. Among the 150 who attended were Capt J. B. Lang, MC, of Hawthorn; Capt R. Salmon, MC, of South Yarra; Capt

B. Lang, MC, of Hawthorn; Capt R. Salmon, MC, of South Yarra; Capt W. P. Trainor, Croix de Guerre, of Armadale; Lieut J. Thorburn, DCM; Sgt W. H. Downing, MM, of Toorak, and Sgt W. Gamble.

58th Battalion

About 150 members of the 58th Battalion, of which R. V. Moon, VC, was a member, met for their annual reunion last night. Mr Moon, who is now a Geelong businessman, will attend in service this morning at the drill hall, Pascoevale rd, Moonee Ponds, where the battalion has one of the few battalion memorials in Australia. Mr Justice Sproule is also a member of the battalion.

4th Reserve M T Co

Exactly one year after they had first decided as POW's in Changi camp, Singapore, to form an association, members of the unit again met last night. It was their first peacetime reunion, and office-bearers elected at Changi were returned unopposed. Mr Tom Walter, president, who lost his arm in Malaya, said that the prime duty of members of the association would be to assist widows and children of their mates who died abroad.

14th Battalion

Two hundred members of "Jacka's Mob" attended the reunion in South Melbourne last night. Speakers recalled how Jacka, first AIF VC, won his decoration at Courtney's Post. Among those present were Mr Newton Wanlin, 85, who compiled the history of the 14th Battalion; Major-General Brand, and Mr Allan McDonald, MHR.

7th Battalion

What sons and grandsons had done in the Second World War was the main theme of conversation among members of the 7th Battalion (First AIF) at a get-together at Armadale last night. There was keen competition throughout the night in a debate as to who had the greatest number of grandsons at the war. No finality had been reached in the

number of grandsons at the war. No finality had been reached in the discussion at midnight. Mr G. W. Holland, secretary of the RSL, who was a member of the unit, attended the gathering.
