

WAR INJURED COLONEL RETIRES

BRISBANE.—When the French Foreign Legion broke through the Scots Greys in Syria in 1941, the Australian 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion, gallantly led by Colonel Nelson Frederick Wellington, of Victoria, charged into the breach, hurled the Legion back, and turned the Axis drive aimed at Palestine and the Suez.

Brisbane saw the sequel on Saturday when, before a distinguished gathering, the much-decorated and war-battered colonel was handed his well-won D.S.O. of Syria by the Duke of Gloucester and "marched out" from the Army!

In a most colorful and highly successful Army career this colonel—dashing, fiery and chivalrous—deservedly earned a reputation for his fighting qualities. His bold example communicated itself completely to the famous 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion, and the unit has gone on from glory to glory, its memorable fight against the Foreign Legion at Merdjayoung, in Syria, in June, 1941, earning the praise of every front-line fighting soldier of the AIF.

In nine years and a half fighting in

the 1st and 2nd AIF Colonel Wellington suffered serious wounds, and but for hospital "backwater" would have retired as a brigadier or major-general. Among his numerous war escapades he

Grounded the torpedoed Southland at Mudros in 1915, when adjutant in charge.

Won the M.C. at Ypres.

Received a machine gun burst across the chest in France.

Won an immediate D.S.O.

Was blown up by a French .75, Syria, and badly wounded.

Jumped from planes, and started first paratroops.

Joined Gen. MacArthur as Chief Military Liaison Officer; and

Crashed in a burning American bomber, escaping with severe burns to the face, hand, spine and legs.

Now badly war-maimed and walking with the aid of a stick, he has been sent to Queensland to try to recuperate. He leaves a host of friends in Victoria, and with him goes the best wishes of these and all the fighting men of the 2nd/2nd Pioneers.