

5,000 TROOPS ON PARADE

Lord Gowrie Visits Puckapunyal

Hardened by a series of route marches and bivouacs, 5,000 perfectly fit troops of the Seventh Division and Corps units, A.I.F., paraded before the Governor-General at Puckapunyal yesterday.

Afterward the troops marched past Lord Gowrie, who took the salute at a base in Blamey avenue.

The troops who paraded have been in camp for about three months. Earlier parades showed them first as raw recruits, and later as having accomplished a considerable portion of their training. Yesterday they paraded and marched with the precision of veterans.

Lord Gowrie and his staff arrived shortly before noon. He inspected the guard, which was drawn from the 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion.

Relatives and friends of the troops travelled to the camp by car or by special train, and by about 1.30 p.m., when the troops began to march from their parade grounds to the training ground on the east side of Blamey avenue, the visitors numbered about 1,000. They took up positions in the shade of big gum trees along the roadside, wattle blossom from smaller trees adding a touch of vivid colour to the scene.

Brigadier J. E. S. Stevens, C.O., 21st Infantry Brigade, and Camp Commandant, accompanied by Brigade-Major R. F. Monaghan and Staff-Captain F. A. Woods, a bugler and lance-bearer, preceded Lord Gowrie to the review area.

A few minutes later Lord Gowrie rode from Brigade Headquarters, and then, accompanied by Brigadier Stevens, reviewed the battalions.

Bands from the 2nd/14th Battalion and 2nd/2nd Pioneer Battalion played as the troops marched past the saluting base.

Among those who witnessed the parade were Major-General J. D. Lavarack, G.O.C., Seventh Division, and acting G.O.C., A.I.F. in Australia; Lieut.-General J. I. Whitham, G.O.C., Southern Command; Major-General T. R. Williams, Master-General of Ordnance; Major-General J. L. Hardie, Major-General G. J. Rankin, M.H.R., G.O.C., Second Cavalry Division, A.M.F.; Major-General E. A. Drake-Brockman, G.O.C., Third Division, A.M.F.; Brigadiers E. F. Lind (Eighth Division), R. W. Tovell (Seventh Division), C. S. Steele, D. D. Paine, D. V. J. Blake, W. H. St. Clair, C. A. Clowes, E. J. Milford, A. H. Ramsay, and A. J. Christensen; Commander A. J. Loudoun-Shand (whose son is attached to the 21st Anti-tank Company), and Sir Keith Murdoch, Director-General of Information.

After the march past the visitors were permitted to meet their relatives and friends in the camp lines and to remain till 5 p.m.

An at home was held in the hut of the Returned Soldiers' League, at which officers of the battalions taking part in

Returned Soldiers' League, at which officers of the battalions taking part in the review and march past, and visiting officers were presented to Lord Gowrie.