

Warm Welcome to More P.O.W.'s

Those warm handshakes which greeted the first men to arrive back from P.O.W. camps in the early part of this year, are still largely in evidence, for Benalla district soldiers who have arrived back during the last week have been given a cheery welcome by those Benalla friends and others who anxiously awaited their arrival back to our beautiful land of Australia.

Amongst the recent arrivals was Pte. Frank Phillips, who looks exceptionally fit and feels well. Frank was with Lieut. Col. ('Weary') Dunlop, who made history, and among the "Dunlop Thousand" who were the first troops to enter Thailand in January, 1943. Those men of the 2/2nd Pioneers, worked on the Burma railway, after which they went to Japan to work in the copper mines on the Island of Jikoku, the small island between the south and the mainland. It was there, said Frank, that the casualties were very heavy, owing to the long hours with very little food. He said he would never forget the trip from Singapore to Japan, which was 70 days of "hell." Frank's friends were overjoyed at his safe arrival in the town where he was so well known.

P.O.W. WITH M.C.

Although not a Benallite, the handshakes and warm welcomes which Lieut Clive Nason received in Benalla

which Lieut Clive Nason received in Benalla, truly demonstrated the very high esteem in which he was held by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Clive, who received the M.C. in Syria, was captured in Java in March, 1942, and was among those who worked on the Burma railway. He was closely in touch with Lieut. Norman Tranter (who was expected to arrive in Swanpool last night), in the early stages of their captivity.

Clive, who lives at South Wangaratta, joined his wife, formerly Miss Betty Calder, at Benalla. Prior to the war, Clive was captain of the 8th Light Horse, with headquarters at Benalla.

LOOKS BETTER THAN WHEN HE LEFT.

At the welcome home at Samar on Saturday night last to Pte. Jack Williams, was Ptes. Bob Evans, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Evans, of Lima South. Bob, who was also with the 2/2nd Pioneers, was captured in Java with the late Pte. Alf Hornburgh, and later sent to Burma. Although 2½ years a prisoner, his mother considers he looks better than when he went away. If anyone should know, it should be his mother. His sister, Molly, showed how pleased she was to have her brother home again.

Pte. A.K. Essenhig, of Lima, also arrived home this week, and in next issue our readers will read more about this youthful soldier.