

ORANJE HERE TOMORROW WITH POW's

No Admittance To Princes Pier

The hospital ship *Oranje* is expected to arrive at Princes Pier at 8am tomorrow (Sunday). She will be carrying 302 ex-POW's from Singapore, of whom 52 are stretcher cases. Those disembarking at Melbourne include 211 Victorians, 22 South Australians, and 18 Tasmanians.

The men will be transported in RACV cars to Heidelberg Military Hospital, the route being: Via Bay st, Crockford st, City rd, St Kilda rd, Swanston st, Bourke st, Exhibition st, Rathdown st, Barkly st, Nicholson st, Queen's par, and Heidelberg rd.

Provision has been made for next-of-kin to meet the men at Heidelberg Hospital. In view of the number of men returning, the military authorities ask that the number of next-of-kin meeting each man be limited to three, as the hospital has not the room to accommodate more.

The Melbourne Harbour Trust will exclude the general public from Prince's Pier tomorrow morning until after all troops have disembarked from *Oranje* and have been removed from the pier. Mr Cook, Harbour Trust secretary, said yesterday that this action was necessary so that berthing of the vessel and removing of the sick personnel should not be impeded. It was considered that the arrival of *Oranje* on Sunday morning would attract many people to the pier, and consequently it would be necessary for control to be exercised.

ARRIVAL AT SYDNEY

When the *Oranje* arrived at Sydney yesterday 335 ex-POW's—25 stretcher cases and 310 walking sick, from NSW—were disembarked. Some had wooden legs and several limped badly as they carried their heavy kitbags down the gangway.

Mr Forde, Army Minister, and Major-General Plant, GOC Lines of

Major-General Plant, GOC Lines of Communications, NSW, boarded the *Oranje* after it came through the Heads, and one of the first to board the ship when it moored was Lieut-General Gordon Bennett, who was GOC of the 8th Division.

On their way to 113 AGH the men were driven through the city in more than 50 Army ambulance waggons and a few double-decker buses, and were given a rousing welcome home by cheering crowds.