

A.I.F. Java Force Praised

Our War Correspondent,
H. MISHAEL.

CHUNGKING, Aug. 31.—A warm tribute to the Australians who fought in Java was paid by Major-General H. D. W. Sitwell, G.O.C. of the British troops in Java in 1942. He has just arrived from the Mukden P.O.W. Camp.

"Under the most trying conditions—possibly the worst any soldiers anywhere ever fought under—the Aussies in Java performed magnificently," he said.

"Of course, it is all ancient history now, but I feel I should, at the first available opportunity, pay the warmest possible tribute to those brave boys from Australia for the way they behaved in those grim, grave days, now happily but a memory."

General Sitwell placed on record his deep appreciation for the services rendered by Brigadier A. S. Blackburn, V.C., who has been released from a prison camp at Kunming. Brigadier Blackburn, he said, showed himself to be a great-hearted gentleman under the most adverse circumstances.