

PRISONERS IN JAVA

Japanese List of A.I.F. Men

MELBOURNE, Monday.—The names of 25 Australian officers who, according to Japanese claims, are prisoners of war, were released to-day by the Minister for the Army, Mr. Forde.

Included in the list are the officer commanding the A.I.F. in Java, Brigadier A. S. Blackburn, V.C., and five New South Wales officers, Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Williams, Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Black, Major G. A. C. Kiernan, Major E. A. Daly, and Major L. J. Robertson.

The 25 officers named are known to have been in Java when the Japanese invasion began, but Mr. Forde described the report that they were prisoners as unofficial. The next of kin had been notified, he said, but the names would not appear in casualty lists until official confirmation had been received.

Mr. Forde added that the Government was doing everything possible to secure from the Japanese Government official information concerning Australians who were prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

The other prisoners claimed are:—
Med. Lieut.-Colonel N. M. Eadie (Vic.)

Major E. R. Meagher (Vic.)
Captain C. H. C. Nason (Vic.)
Captain A. H. Ross (Vic.)
Captain I. D. Nicholson (Vic.)
Captain A. H. Bishop (Vic.)
Captain S. J. Handasyde (Vic.)
Captain R. S. H. Winning (Vic.)
Captain J. Kennedy (Tas.)
Captain E. Campbell (Vic.)
Captain J. Head (Q.)
Captain J. D. C. Hammon (Vic.)
Captain J. J. Edwards (S.A.)
Captain I. A. Campbell (Vic.)
Captain C. Howith (Vic.)
Captain Alan Polson (Vic.)
Captain D. A. M. Duff (Q.)
Captain E. J. I. Watt (Tas.)
Lieut. R. H. A. Grabham (W.A.)

(Casualty List, Page 7.)