

soldier, so it was a personal triumph for its Commander, Lieutenant-General (now Field-Marshal) Sir William Slim. Throughout the campaign he led his Army magnificently. His is the credit for the planning and execution of the battle in Central Burma which finally defeated the Japanese armies. Having early secured the initiative, he forced General Kimura to conform to his strategy until he was driven out of Rangoon. He made an excellent plan, and pushed it resolutely through.

464. Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Christison commanded 15 Indian Corps in Arakan in an independent rôle, directly under H.Q., Allied Land Forces. His planning, in conjunction with Rear-Admiral Martin and Air Vice-Marshal the Earl of Bandon, of a series of intricate combined operations, worked smoothly and well, and were a model of inter-Service co-

operation. His personality and drive were an inspiration to his troops and played an important part in the success of his command.

465. Finally, I would like to place on record the splendid work done by my own staff officers, NCOs, and men at H.Q., Allied Land Forces. In particular I bring to notice the work of Major-General G. P. Walsh, my Chief of General Staff and of Major-General E. M. Bastyan, my Major-General-in-Charge, Administration. During the period on which I am reporting, they carried out a great measure of reorganization of their respective divisions of the staff and carried very heavy responsibilities. I cannot speak too highly of the work of these officers and their staffs, and I consider that the success achieved by my forces was to a great extent made possible by the work and ability of these two officers.