

'I Came Through; I Shall Return'

"I came through and I shall return," General MacArthur declared when he spoke at Terowie of the beleaguered Philippines. This remarkable soldier looked an impressive figure as he walked easily out of the train. Much to his surprise, and that of those who hoped his arrival at Terowie would be a profound secret, there was a burst of cheering and cries of "Welcome to Australia," from people partly hidden by a line of railway carriages.

Turning swiftly General MacArthur strode towards an opening and saluted the Terowie people and passengers on a nearby train. His flashing smile was a tonic for those around, and there was another round of cheers and cries of "Good-bye and good luck" when he joined his wife and son, who had been watching admiringly from a few yards off the world's most famous and dashing general.

After having asked whether his message would reach the United States, General MacArthur said —

"The President of the United States ordered me to break through the Japanese lines and proceed from Corregidor to Australia for the purpose, as I understand it, of organising an American offensive against Japan, the primary purpose of which is the relief of the Philippines. I came through and I shall return."

Although General MacArthur had been in Australia for several days this was his first interview with the press. He intimated that his original intention was to make a statement, if he considered it desirable when he reached Melbourne.

He said that to avoid discrimination he would make a very brief statement to the pressmen he saw yesterday. It had always been his general policy during actual operations to limit himself completely to the briefest publicity and to confine such statements to general releases from his headquarters.

Also in the party were the Chief of Staff (Major-General Richard H. Sutherland), Lieutenant-Colonel Hobbs and another officer. Two nurses, one an Australian and the other a Filipinoamah, and two Australian army sergeants, were with General MacArthur when the party reached Terowie.

The general, a tall and lean figure, was dressed in a loose hang-

ing jacket and slacks, and wore no decorations or insignia, except a laurel wreathed peak on his cap and another emblem. He looked fit.

He inspected a guard of honor of Australian soldiers under the command of Major G. A. S. Rogers, who saw service in the last war.

Mrs. MacArthur's appearance in public was extremely brief, lasting very few minutes. She spoke to Major Rogers and with her son entered the coach ahead of General MacArthur. She was simply dressed and was hatless. At Adelaide the general introduced his wife to American and Australian officers, describing her as "the best soldier I have."