

A CLARION CALL TO AUSTRALIAN MANHOOD

THE A.I.F. NEEDS EVERY AVAILABLE MAN *NOW!*

As Director-General of Recruiting, I feel the time has arrived when we must throw aside all empty phrases, prattling, and the use of idle words. We must cease condemning, accusing, and complaining, and face certain grim facts. I do not deprecate for one moment the psychological effect or the moral uplift of the slogan "V for Victory" or any other appropriate slogan, but slogans are entirely useless, in fact, they are even dangerous, unless they awaken in the minds of the people a realisation of the grim dangers that confront Australia to-day.

We are at war; every aspect of our national and domestic life must be subordinated to this all-important factor. As a component part of the British Empire, together with all other members that form the great British Commonwealth of Nations, we must turn slogans into facts, by providing and maintaining a fully trained and equipped fighting force in the field, a force that will relentlessly throw back the hordes of the invading huns until men and steel have grappled with one another in gigantic combat and final victory has been achieved. By comparison, nothing else is of importance.

The manhood of Australia have made possible the raising of four Divisions, Corps, and ancillary troops. They have provided a marvellous Air Force who, with the A.I.F., have covered themselves with glory by their achievements. They have enabled the Royal Australian Navy to uphold and even glorify the tradition of the British Navy, but this is not enough.

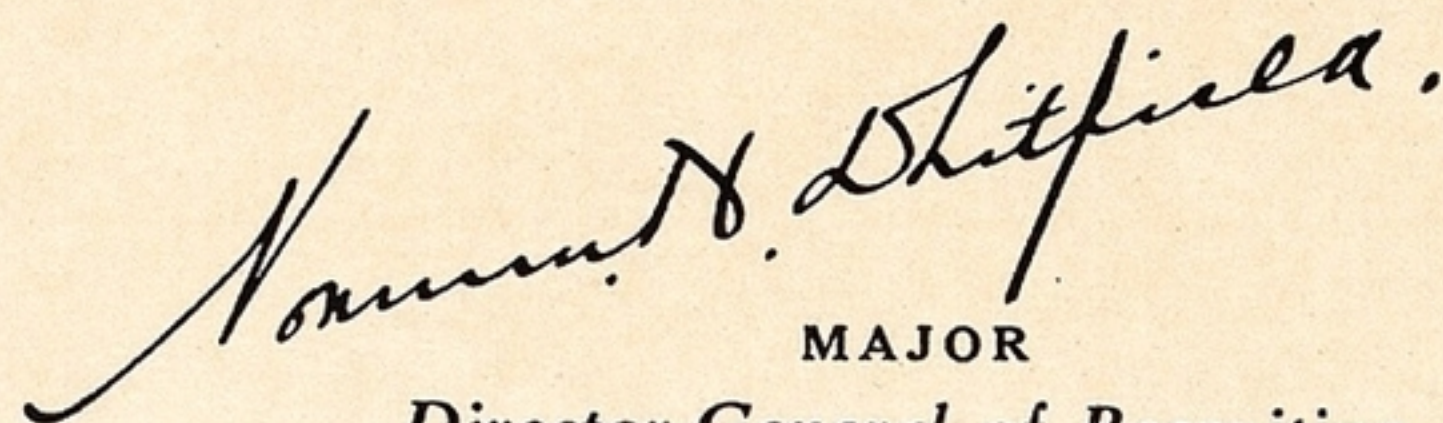
I appreciate to the fullest possible extent the work that has been done by the Australian Comforts' Fund in New South Wales and kindred bodies throughout Australia. These bodies function daily in a voluntary capacity

and are supported in a marvellous way by the people in the provision of comforts and benefits which do so much to uplift and maintain the morale of our wonderful fighting forces. Similarly, I know of the marvellous organisation and the almost spiritually inspired efforts of the people who make the work of the Red Cross possible. These things are a necessary contribution by the community and essential for the maintenance of the fighting forces in the field, but their every comfort will be of no avail unless we fill the gaps in the ranks of the A.I.F.

Things are moving so rapidly that the day is fast approaching when battles on a major scale must inevitably take place between the forces of the British Empire and of our allies and those of our enemy. When this day arrives every eligible and physically fit man must be a trained soldier, ready to take his part in these operations.

To young, eligible men to-day I earnestly say that this recruiting campaign has no other purpose than to present to them the stark realities that confront us. The gloves must be taken off, complacency must give way to realisation. Talking is not enough; we must fill the ranks of the A.I.F., and to this end every obstacle must be overcome.

I conclude by appealing to all men and women capable of thinking and reasoning for themselves to resolve as from this day that everything will be subordinated and made subsidiary to this one all-important factor. We must maintain the A.I.F. at its maximum fighting strength, to take its part in the overthrow of our enemies and the achievement of final victory. We must have men NOW!


MAJOR

Director-General of Recruiting.

A.I.F.31