

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
***Subject:- WALKING OUT DRESS FOR A.R.A. & C.M.F.***

Secretary,  
MILITARY BOARD

Further to my minute of yesterday's date, the Minister rang again this morning and stated that he is being drastically criticised in this morning's press that he is "dithering around" with the uniform question and unable to come to any decision on it.

2. The Minister, in very trenchant terms, advised me that he was not going to accept criticism for anything he was not responsible for, and if any accusation of dithering is based on sound grounds, it is applicable to the Military Board and to those responsible for determining this question.

3. The Minister reiterated that it was nearly 12 months since he had given his views as to the type of "walking out" uniform that should be adopted, and that he had not changed his mind since. He therefore refused to take criticism in relation to something for which he was not responsible.

4. The Military Board and the Army authorities, in his view, were running around in circles on this question and were treating it as if it were one of tremendous importance, of greater moment than the type of fighting equipment or tanks that should be adopted for the Australian Army.

5. The Minister directed me to state that, unless the Military Board itself could come to a definite decision as to the type of "walking out" uniform it wished to have by Thursday next, 4th March, 1948, then the suggestion by the Minister 12 months ago, which he still thought was a suitable and satisfactory design of "walking out" uniform, should be adopted immediately.

6. The action that had been taken in sending out to Japan, Rabaul and over the whole of Australia to ascertain the views of various troops was, to his mind, farcical. It would be possible to obtain hundreds of different ideas leaving those concerned still in a position to make the final decision which, if it had been taken in the first place, would have been just as satisfactory to those concerned.

(Sgd.) R.F. Sinclair  
Secretary.  
27/2/18

Action copy to A.G. 27/2

Copies to other Members of the Board,  
Chairman, Committee on Post War Dress.