

Film looks for extras in bid to shoot locally

By ISIS SYMES

A FILM made for Townsville will have to be supported financially in order for it to be shot in Townsville.

With shooting expected to start in less than six months, producers of the WWI film *Beneath Hill 60* need to have 20 units of \$275,000 in order for the feature to go ahead.

Producer Bill Leimbach is in Townsville this week and said that although six investors had been secured, 14 were still needed if the movie was to be shot here.

"The film industry has been notoriously good in recession and depression and in this time of financial uncertainty, this is a good option for investors," Mr Leimbach said. "I have got a full schedule for Townsville this time where I will be seeing at least a dozen people who are interested in getting on board," he said.

Mr Leimbach said that finance was the only thing that would determine if the epic would be shot in the North or at Fox Studios in Sydney.

"I've always said that this is going to be a film for Townsville, by Townsville but if that dream doesn't come true, we might have to fulfil it in Sydney," he said.

"Personally I'm a locations man and like making films in the area where you're working with the people but if it's all talk and no walk it's not going to be worth it.

"By shooting the film in Townsville it's going to cost us an extra \$600,000 and there's going to have to be a good reason to do that and first we need the full financial backing."

Mr Leimbach said he hoped to have all the investors for the \$5.5 million picture secured by Christmas.

"Investors already have a guaranteed 40 per cent return because of the Government rebate and we're trying to create a must-have for people as the project and the cast grows. By doing that we hope to guarantee the investors a bit more in return for them," he said.

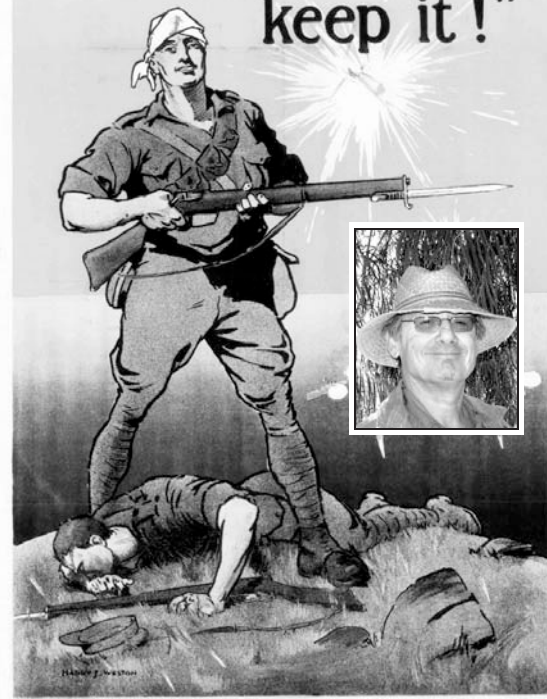
Mr Leimbach said local investor Tony Fraser was one of the six to have signed the *Beneath Hill 60* dotted line.

Mr Fraser said he was excited to be on board the project.

"I remember all the excitement last year in Bowen for the film *Australia* and I think this will be good for Townsville in the same way," Mr Fraser said.

"This is a war movie with a lot of relative things to Townsville and by going in as an investor with property here as well, I hope that the film is not only successful but also brings more people to this city because of it," he said. "There's a way to go yet and they still need the people of the North to put their hands in their pockets."

"We took the Hill,
come and help us
keep it!"



HELP . . . *Beneath Hill 60* is looking for backers and (inset) producer Bill Leimbach