

# The Aboriginal History Project Newspaper Archive

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## AUSTRALIAN BLACK IN ENGLISH COURT

### Judge Gives Him Chance

(Herald Special Representative)

LONDON January 31. — Anthony Martin Fernando, 65, toyhawker, an aborigine born near Sydney, was remanded for a month at the Old Bailey, today, to ascertain what could be done for him.

The Recorder of London (Sir Ernest Wild) after having heard evidence from barristers about Fernando's good character, declined to imprison him.

The charge against Fernando was that he had presented a revolver at Philip Limber with intent to do him bodily harm.



Sir Ernest Wild

It was alleged that Fernando, who pleaded guilty to a charge of assault, had threatened Limber, who had taunted him about being black.

Fernando after having worked for English barristers, became involved with the Fascist Government in 1923 because of the distribution of pamphlets in Italy alleging that the British Government was systematically exterminating the Australian aborigine. He was imprisoned for several months without trial, then deported to England, where he became a barrister's servant.

#### "CRIMES OF WHITES"

Fernando declared that he had seen whites murder and ill-treat aborigines without being punished. For this reason he hated the British.

He paraded London with a banner, accusing them of these methods.

Addressing the court in fluent English he said: "I am boycotted everywhere. Look at my rags. I cannot make ends meet. All you hear is, 'Go away Black man.' It is all tommyrot to say we are savages. The whites have shot and slowly starved or hanged us. We have pleaded the aborigines' cause since 1837."

Sir Ernest Wild said it was most provoking for anyone to call attention to Fernando's color. He asked two barristers, who had employed Fernando, and to whom he had given satisfactory service, to arrange to assist him.

Fernando said to the judge: "The prejudice against the blacks was almost beyond belief, though there was no race in the world equal to the Australian natives. They were the most cultured people and would have been Britain's pride if they had been treated properly."