

The Aboriginal History Project

Newspaper Archive

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CLEAN AWAY

Abo. Killer In Territory

DARWIN, Wednesday.

NEMARLUCK, the Fitzmaurice River aboriginal killer, who yesterday figured in a sensational fight with police boys, has beaten the police again, slipping through their cordon at Delissaville and making a clean getaway.

Constable Don returned late last night from the raid on Nemarluck's hiding place, having made a thorough search in vain. The police do not intend to continue the search in the jungle until they receive word again that Nemarluck has reached another hide out.

They consider that if Nemarluck was badly wounded by the last shot which Smiler fired at him his only chance of life lies in the possibility that the Fitzmaurice River boys, with whom he was camped, will find him.

If well, his masterly cunning would enable him to escape his while pursuers with the same ease as shown in eluding the best bushmen in the police force for 2½ years since the massacre of the three Japanese at Port Keats.

On his own battleground he would be a grave menace to any policeman who wandered within range of his deadly spears, because he told the Fitzmaurice River boys that he would never be taken alive again, and would kill any policeman who tried to catch him.

Shortage of Police

Police, who realise that this is no idle threat, and as their prestige has been very badly damaged by the killing of Constable McColl, consider that the only possibility of taking him without serious risk is by surprise.

Another factor which has led the Superintendent (Mr. A. V. Stretton) temporarily to abandon the search is the serious shortage of police in Darwin.

The force, already four below strength, was further weakened by the posting of four police at Groote Island. With two constables escorting McGrath back to Darwin, this left only one man, Constable Don, available for the raid.