

# The Aboriginal History Project Newspaper Archive

Herald 23rd October 1933

Melbourne Herald 23rd October 1933

## MAY STIR UP TRIBE

### Police Fears Of Nemarluck

#### EPIC ESCAPE TO BUSH

From Our Special Representative.  
DARWIN, Monday.—Nemarluck, the escaped aboriginal murderer, who figured in a savage fight for liberty with Blacktracker Smiler last week, was sorely wounded in that encounter, but is desperately striving to reach his own country, 150 miles south-west of Darwin, according to half a dozen natives with whom he had encamped.

If he succeeds, it is feared that he would become a serious menace to any police sent after him. Further he might unsettle his countrymen. He would be the greatest hero in their folk history, and as such would be capable of exerting great power over the already dangerous and recalcitrant tribesmen in that vast territory between the Victoria and Daly Rivers.

The situation is nearly as grave from a police point of view as that at Caledon Bay.

#### His Injuries

Unless he falls in with friendly natives, however, even his superlative strength and stamina can hardly win him freedom, because he is dragging one leg, has one arm out of action through a bullet wound, and has a long, gaping sore in his left side where a bullet tore its way along a rib. Despite these injuries, together with a cut forehead from a blow with Smiler's revolver butt and the severe shaking he sustained when Smiler threw him over a cliff, Nemarluck pushed his way seven miles through mangroves and jungle before he allowed himself a spell.

This information was gleaned by Constable E. McNab when he raided Nemarluck's old camp at Talc Head, near Delissaville, and rounded up the six Fitzmaurice River tribesmen who had been sheltering their overlord for nearly a fortnight.

#### How Nemarluck Got Away

Taking with him four trackers and a week's supply of food, Constable McNab surrounded the native camp. Although the blacks were sullen at first, he loosened their tongues with promises of tobacco.

They said that when Nemarluck picked himself up after his fall over the cliff, he dragged himself through the mangroves, doubled back behind the police cordon, waded across the tidal creek that separates Talc Head from Delissaville, and pushed through the jungle. He was bleeding from his wounds, but none appeared to be mortal.

From Delissaville he decided to make for the Finnis River, 20 miles away, where he might meet some of the Daly River blacks, whose territory borders that of the Fitzmaurice tribes, and who are at present friendly with him. If he succeeded in this, he would have a chance to recover his strength before pushing on into his own country.

#### The Pursuit

Constable McNab quickly took up the pursuit, but heavy rains proved a great handicap, and he had to return empty handed.

Nemarluck, on his flight, told Delissaville natives that he was not going to wait around Darwin any longer for a chance to rescue his two lubras who are being held as witnesses at the Darwin aboriginal compound, as the police chase was getting too hot.

Police efforts to recapture Nemarluck will now be confined to the aboriginal's own country, where Constables Fitzler and Langdon, of Timber Creek, are on patrol. Constable Langdon was in Darwin when Nemarluck escaped.