

WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are warned that this record contains graphic content and may cause distress.

It may include descriptions of violence, racist and offensive language, sexual assault and references to people who have died.

This transcript is the result of a community-supported project.
If you would like to provide feedback, please contact Queensland State Archives.

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Tommy, an aboriginal
Dugandan Scrub, Mount Flinders
24 Dec 1860 [?]
Gun shot wound
1860/71 JUS/N2

2

Extract from the Proceedings of the Executive Council on the 11th January 1861 with reference to the death of an Aboriginal named "Tommy" at Normandy Station.

The Report is read and the Council request the Honorable The Colonial Secretary to express to Mr Wheeler the general approval of the Government.

(Signed)

John Bramston
Clerk of Council

3

Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of the Executive Council on the 9th January 1861 with reference to the death of an Aboriginal named "Tommy" at Normandy Station.

The Council after some deliberation advise that The Honorable the Colonial Secretary should call upon Mr Wheeler, the Lieutenant in Command of the detachment of the Native Police by whom the Aboriginal was shot, for a report of the circumstances under which the man was killed.

(Signed) John Bramston

Clerk of Council

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61/62
Colonial Secretarys Office
Brisbane 24th January 1861

Sir,

His Excellency the Governor having brought under the notice of this Executive Council, your letter of the 28th Ultimo upon the subject of the shooting of Aborigines at Dugandan, as reported to you by the Council of Ipswich, I have the honor to inform you that Lieutenant Wheeler was called on to report the circumstances

The Honbl. The Attorney General

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circumstances connected with the occurrence, this report has been received and placed before the Council, and I now beg to enclose you a Minute of the Proceedings upon this occasion.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt. Servant

Robert G. W. Herbert

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Copy

Native Police Camp

Sandgate January 1st 1861.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you a report relative to my late patrol.

1 stly

I received a letter from Mr Compigne, mentioning that his sheep had been taken by the Blacks, and the Shepherds lives threatened on the upper Albert, and his out stations, in such a disturbed state, that he was forced to bring his sheep into the head station.

2 ly

A communication from Mr A Collins of Tellemon, stating that the Blacks had plundered his hut, on Christmas Creek, and driven his Stock keepers in.

3 rdly

A letter from Mr Hardie of Fassifern, stating that a large mob of Blacks were killing his cattle

4 thly

A communication from Mr Henderson Albert River, purporting that the Blacks had again robbed two of his huts, this being the 2d attack within the month (December) having on a previous occasion stolen

To

The Honorable

Colonial Secretary

Brisbane

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stolen forty pounds of Tobacco from the head station.

On these informations, I went to the Sea Coast, from Mr Compigne, as the Blacks generally, make for the Salt Water Swamps, for protection, after committing their depredations, or else, to the large Scrubs, which extend from Fasisfern, Dugandan to the Peak Mountain. I found no tracks there, crossed over the Dividing Range, on to the Albert, and thence, on to Christmas Creek, (one of the heads of the Logan River) went round the Scrubs, under Mount Lindsay and, McPhersons Range, and discovered their tracks heading towards the large Dugandan Scrub, they passed between the 12 and 15 mile Stations belonging to that run.

I came upon them about sun down and dispersed them. There were 200 Blacks of different tribes, assembled for a fight, it being their custom, to approach the towns about Xmas.

I beg leave to mention, that these large mobs of Blacks, always lead to cattle

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cattle spearing, sheep stealing, threatening the lives of Shepherds, and Stock Keepers, and in cases of resistance, to their murder, people living in the Bush, are well aware of this, although, persons residing in, or near, a town have nothing to fear.

Messrs Compigne, Henderson, Collins and Hardie, can testify to my statements, made in this report, as they, are the gentlemen, who have suffered, and have called on me by letter, and personally, to discharge my duty.

Many people are perhaps not aware that the Clarence River Blacks (Bundocks) and those from the Richmond (Glennies) cross over the Dividing Range, into Queensland, and openly commit depredations on the Telemon, Mason, and Coochin Runs. I have dispersed them several times.

In conclusion I most humbly remark, that as the duties appertaining to the Native Police, appear to have given such umbrage to a certain class of individuals, that the division under my command, be withdrawn.

I have etc.,

(Signed) Fred Wheeler

2d Lieut N. Police

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Copy 61/87

Colonial Secretary's Office

Brisbane

11th January 1861

Sir,

I have received and have submitted to His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Report furnished by you at my request of your recent patrol and dispersion of the Blacks at Dugandan Scrub.

2. The Government are satisfied from your statement, that the circumstances under which you were called upon to act on that occasion were such as to demand promptitude and decision, and are of opinion that you did rightly in taking immediate steps to relieve the stations that were being molested.

3. On grounds of humanity, and for the credit of the Force, it is of course desirable that you should use every endeavour to prevent unnecessary bloodshed; but it is evident that the presence of your force in the district continues necessary for the protection of life and property, and the Government rely upon your using your best judgement in the performance of your duty.

I have &c.

(Signed) R. G. W. Herbert

[left margin]

F Wheeler Esqre

Lieut N. Police

Sandgate

10

Coroner's Report held on the body of an Aboriginal

by [Dr Challinor](#article-32041532 " Dr Challinor")

also copy of the correspondence which took between Lt. Wheeler of the Native Police and the Government.

60/71

Upside down on left hand side

The Body of a Black Aboriginal

11

QUEENSLAND

TO WIT.

An Inquisition indented, taken for Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, at Normanby head Station in the Colony of Queensland The Twenty fourth day of December in the Twenty third year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, before Henry Challinor, Gentleman, one of the Coroners of our said Lady the Queen for the said Colony, on view of the body of one "Tommy" an Aboriginal, then and there lying dead in the Dugandan Scrub - on the Mount Flinders Run, upon the oath of

George Thorne Jr foreman

Charles Smith

Henry Hooper

Herbert Byron Way

John Elligett

good and lawful men of the said Colony, duly chosen, and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to inquire, for Our said Lady the Queen, when, how, and by what means the said Tommy an Aboriginal came to his death, do upon their oath say, That the said "Tommy" came to his death by a gun shot wound but by whom inflicted and known except from the Statements of the Aboriginals at present camped at the head station Normanby—

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And so the Jurors aforesaid, upon their other aforesaid, do say, that the said "Tommy" came to his death in manner and means aforesaid, and not otherwise to the knowledge of the said Jurors.

In witness whereof, as well the said Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition set their hands and seals on the day and year, and at the place above-mentioned.

Henry Challinor Coroner (seal)
George Thorne Junior (seal) Foreman
Charles Smith (seal)
Henry Hooper (seal)
Herbert B. Way (seal)
John Elligett (seal)

13

Informations of witnessess severally taken and acknowledged on the behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of an aboriginal called Tommy where at Normanby Station in the parish of Normanby in the County of Churchill on the Twenty fourth day of December in the Twenty third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the grace of God and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith before Henry Challinor Gentleman, one of the Coroners for the said County on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said Tommy an Aboriginal then and there lying dead in the scrub known as the Dugandan Scrub on Mount Flinders ~~as followed to wit~~ H.C. Run as follows to wit.

Francis Norman Lucas M.D. Surgeon being duly sworn states I am a duly qualified Medical Practitioner of Queensland practising in Ipswich. I have this day examined the body of an aboriginal named "Tommy". I found three bullet wounds in the body - one bullet entered the right ham and made its exit about three inches above the right knee - the other entered the right nates and made its exit about two inches below the right groin - the third entered at the base of the nose shattering the ethmoid and nasal bones and the left superior maxillary - it separated the two frontal bones shattering the left one, and made its exit at the parietal suture, the last wound must have been instantaneously fatal. There was no evidence to show ~~whether~~ the kind of weapon from which the bullets were fired.

By a Juror. I do not think the man could have made the wounds by firing at himself.

By the Coroner. I should think the body must have been dead about four days.

Francis N Lucas MD

Taken and acknowledged the day year and place first before mentioned before Henry Challinor Coroner.

Left margin ~~Ipswich~~ re. Normanby County of Churchill Queensland to wit

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Statement of Tommy an Aboriginal. ~~This~~ he says he was on this side of the Scrub going to Dugandan close after sun down last friday. I saw Jemmy Murphy a Dugandan blackfellow there. Toby was there from Dugandan. Both of them had guns. he saw five Black Police there - they had all guns. They lent Jemmy Murphy a gun and Toby a pistol. he did not see them lend the gun and pistol. One of the black police shot him. he does not know the name of the Black Police that shot him. he was shot first in the left fore finger ~~afterwards~~. then a ball struck the point of the shoulder of a I canning he had in his arms which ball then entered his left breast and passed out at the left shoulder blade. All black fellows were asleep. did not hear anything until they heard the firing. All Black fellows ran into the Scrub then, The black Police [?] him into the scrub, one chased ~~in~~] him in and another met him in the scrub and shot him.

Statement of Diodty an Aboriginal. Black Police shot ~~me~~ him the same day Black Police shot Tommy, he shot him while he was running into the scrub but before he got into it, he did not see Wheeler there, he saw Jemmy Murphy but not Toby, he saw them take away two or three black gins, his arm ~~his~~was broken by the ~~shot~~ bullet.

Statement of Tommys gin - named Maggie, monday Tommy was shot saw black police come to camp, saw Black Police shoot at a black fellow but he missed him. Saw Mr Wheeler near the black police, he was on his horse and he had a pistol in his hand, did not hear him speak to any one, did not hear Black Police say anything. BlackPolice took away my sister and a black gin called Nancy.

Statement of dolly Maggies Sister. She says the night Black Police came to camp close to the road near scrub going to Dugandan, Black Police a long men took her with them to Dugandan. Saw Black Police shoot a black gin. She says she did not see Black Police shoot the gin but they told her so - and said they thought he was a black fellow, there were seven there altogether - Jemmy was there - he followed the Black police, he had no gun - I did not see any other black fellow there. I saw Mr Wheeler

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3

he went with her and the black Police to Dugandan - Nancy a black gin was taken away with her to Dugandan. Nancy sister was with them but she ran away into the scrub as they were going to Dugandan. When her mother got to Dugandan to get her back the Black Police was going to shoot her mother but she told them she was her mother - she said "that is my mother dont shoot her" - she was running away into the scrub when the black police caught her. She

had got into the scrub when she was taken. She did not hear the black police say anything when they came to the camp that night. did not hear Mr Wheeler say anything - when she was in the Dugandan camp the Black Police told her Black fellow kill him Bullock a long time ago.

Statement of Ellen Dollys mother - She was at the camp when the black Police came and shot "Tommy". he was her brother [crossed out sentence] She saw a black Police shoot him in the leg - he shot twice close together - She says the gun had two barrels Tommy said when [crossed out words]] run fast I am shot I am lame She did not see him after that - She did not see Mr Wheeler there

Verdict. "That the deceased "Tommy" an Aboriginal found dead in the Dugandan Scrub on the Mount Flinders Run died from a gun shot wound in the head, but by whom he was killed there is no evidence to shew beyond the statements of the Aboriginals at present camped at the head station Normandy."

signed Henry Challinor

Coroner.