

# The Aboriginal History Project

## Newspaper Archive

Herald 26th March 1934

Melbourne Herald 26th March 1934

### NEMARLUCK IN GAOL AGAIN

#### Trapped By Love Of Tobacco

#### STILL SMILING

From Our Special Representative  
DARWIN, Monday. — The police surmise of a fortnight ago that Nemarluck, the Fitzmaurice River killer and gaol-breaker, was re-taken through walking into a police trap at Legune Station, on the border of Western Australia, has proved to be correct.

He told the police today that Buln Buln, his black tracker captor, had outwitted him by lying in wait at Legune for weeks until he walked into the station to beg tobacco. Before he had time to fight or run away, Buln Buln and two black boys, Lippy Jack and Larry, from Auvergne Station, 60 miles away, pinioned his arms and handcuffed him.

"Now," he said, "finish. No more fight. No more walk about, only gaol."

#### IMPOSING RECEPTION

Nemarluck had almost an imposing reception at the 2½ mile railway siding on Saturday afternoon. Three police constables, McNab, Heathcock and Langdon, and about 30 people, curious to see the notorious aborigine, met the train. He stepped off, securely manacled to Constable Heathcock, posed and smiled obligingly while his photograph was taken, and was driven by Constable Langdon to Fanny Bay gaol.

On the way he chatted affably with Langdon, telling him how he narrowly escaped capture by Langdon three months ago when Langdon was returning from the Fitzmaurice River country after capturing his brother, Tiger, and seven of his fellow tribesmen, wanted for the killing of the prospectors, Kock and Arinski.

#### WAITED FOR LUBRAS

He escaped on that occasion because he was away from the tribe searching for wild bees' honey at the time Langdon raided his camp, he said. He also told Langdon that, after his escape from gaol nearly seven months ago, he hid in the mangroves for several days until the search for him was abandoned, and then made his way to Delissaville and waited several weeks there for a chance to take away two lubras, who were being held at the Darwin compound.

After his fight with the black tracker Smiler, and his fall over the cliff, he made his way back to his own country, resting a while at the Finnis River.

Now the gaol gates have clanged behind the most troublesome aboriginal the Northern Territory police have had to handle for many years. Nemarluck's return had a sobering effect on the five fellow tribesmen serving life sentences for the murder of three Japanese at Port Keats in 1930, and which Nemarluck is alleged to have instigated.