

# POLICE CORDON BROKEN

## Black Killer Still Free

From Our Special Representative

DARWIN, Wednesday. — Namarluck, the Fitzmaurice River killer, and the most notorious aboriginal in the Northern Territory, who narrowly escaped capture yesterday, in a fierce fight with blacktracker Smiler, has slipped through the police cordons on Dellisaville Island, and made a clean get-away.

Namarluck, who was ringleader in the murder of three Japanese at Port Keats in 1930, and who sensationally escaped from Fanny Gaol Gaol on September 23, had been hiding in the island, and the police traced his camp early yesterday.

Smiler and another police boy were nearly on the notorious savage when he sighted them, and, after a desperate struggle, rolled over a 50ft. cliff to the sand below. He was last seen half crawling, half limping to the shelter of some mangroves, and the police cordons were quickly thrown around the area.

Constable Don returned late last night without having found another trace of the runaway savage.

Police now admit that any further search in the jungle is hopeless, and they do not intend to continue it until they receive word again that Namarluck has settled down.

They consider that if Namarluck was badly wounded by the last shot Smiler fired at him with his .45 police revolver, his only chance of life lies in the possibility that the Fitzmaurice River boys with whom he was camped will find him.

If he was merely stunned by the fall, the masterly cunning which enabled him to elude the best bushman in the police force for 2½ years after the massacre of the three Japanese at Port Keats would make him a match against anything other than a surprise attack.

He would be a grave menace to any policeman who came 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

The police force at Darwin, already four below strength, was further weakened by the posting of four constables at Groote Island, and with two constables escorting McGrath, the New Zealand escapee, back to Darwin, only Constable Don was available for the raid when word was received on Monday of Namarluck's whereabouts—a piece of bad luck that probably lost the police the capture of the aborigine.

Constable Don is full of praise for Smiler's plucky attempt to hold his powerful and ferocious adversary. Such courage in tackling a man whose name is feared all along the north-west coast is almost unprecedented in an aboriginal, he said.