



# A selection of Frontier Wars records at Queensland State Archives

Compiled by Dr Jonathan Richards

**A chronological listing from 1849-1902 that highlights the kinds of incidents that occurred across Queensland involving the Native Police and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**

## Warning:

This annotated list of records contains graphic content and may cause distress. The records include descriptions of violence and sexual assault, and they include racist and offensive language.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are warned that the records may include the names of people who have passed away.

Item 1. Letter from Commandant of the Native Police Frederick Walker (26/5/1849) to the Colonial Secretary at Sydney about 'outrages' on the Condamine River; 'I will proceed to that part of the colony as soon as I have dispersed and subdued the tribes that are now disoluting ['ending'] this district'

[QSA ID ITM3681973](#)

Item 2. Deposition by Dugald Williams at Callandoon (9/11/1850), forwarded to Sydney; noted by Attorney General John Plunkett and Solicitor-General William Manning; 'In the future it will be proper that the officers of the Native Police should be strictly enjoined to cause enquiries to be made touching the death of every Aboriginal native who may be killed by themselves or any of the men under their orders, as soon as circumstances will permit'; 'The Reports should enter into details, so that e.g., in place of a mere statement of resistance by the Blacks, such as we find in Mr Walker's and Mr Marshall's letters, the Government should be informed of the acts done or demonstrations of forcible resistance made by them'

[QSA ID ITM3681974](#)



**Queensland  
Government**

Item 3. Petition from C.R. Haly & 27 residents and landholders at Gayndah (27/1/1851) to the Colonial Secretary at Sydney about the Native Police: 'it gives us the deepest concern to think that certain restrictions placed upon the conduct of Commandant Walker and his officers the efficiency of that fine body of men is likely the impairment to an extent that must inevitably be most detrimental to our interests in this district and unsettled and lawless parts of the country'; 'it is unnecessary to recapitulate the great number of murders committed and the amount of property carried off and destroyed in this part of the Colony by the Aboriginal natives'; 'a full discretionary power of action should be placed in the hands of Commandant Walker and his officers'

QSA ID ITM3681975

Item 4. Letter from Native Police Lieutenant John Murray at Degilbo, Wide Bay, (12/12/1852) to the Colonial Secretary at Sydney; 'three Blacks were shot by the police in endeavouring to capture them. I remained on the spot until they dispersed as I had every reason to believe from the large number of Blacks and extraordinary number of weapons in their possession that they meditated another attack. The police as usual behaved well'

QSA ID ITM3681976

Item 5. Letter from Crown Lands Commissioner A.E. Halloran at Tinana near Maryborough (7/2/1854), to the Chief Crown Lands Commissioner at Sydney; 'the Fraser Island Blacks have mustered in large numbers round Maryborough ... all armed with Spears and Nulla Nullas'; 'As the numbers of white inhabitants decreases the daring of the Blacks increases and if they know their own strength, this place would very soon be abandoned'

QSA ID ITM3681977 and ITM3681978

Item 6. Letter from Crown Lands Commissioner Wiseman at Rannes near Rockhampton (28/8/1855) to the Chief Crown Lands Commissioner at Sydney; 'no tribes will allow of the peaceable occupation of their country'; 'They will not submit

quietly till they feel subdued'; 'the savages are by nature greedy and prone to steal'; 'A shepherd's life is in much greater danger than that of his master'

QSA ID ITM3699918

Item 7. Letter from J. Landsborough at Monduran, Gayndah (31/12/1856), to the Inspector General of Police at Sydney; 'the blacks have killed three men and speared Mr Tolson at Messrs. Chaval [Chauvel] & Tolston's [Tolson's] station ... My brother and I intend starting tomorrow in pursuit of the murderers. It is absolutely necessary that a strong body of Native Police should as soon as possible be despatched'

QSA ID ITM3681979

Item 8. Letter from the Colonial Secretary at Sydney (16/1/1857) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay about the murder of a German Shepherd and 'a consequent collision with the Aborigines, resulting in the death of eight of them'; 'a Magisterial enquiry, in the nature of an Inquest, should as customary be held touching the death of these Aboriginal Natives and the depositions forwarded to the Attorney General'

QSA ID ITM3681980

Item 9. Letter from the Colonial Secretary at Sydney (18/5/1857) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay, advising that the Executive Council have approved the appointment of Frederick W. Carr 'to be Second Lieutenant in the Native Police'

QSA ID ITM3681981

Item 10. Letter from Charles Duncan and others at Bald Hills (7/10/1857) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay; 'on account of the well-known treacherous character of the blacks on that part of the coast, we feel timid lest they should attack us'; requested 'a patrol of mounted police to keep the blacks in the neighbourhood of Cabbage-tree Creek and the Pine River in check'; asked 'should any intrusion on the part of the blacks take place, we shall be held harmless should any loss of life be sustained by them from our fire-arms'

QSA ID ITM3681982

Item 11. Letter from the Commandant of the Native Police (15/10/1857) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay; 'discontent ... exists amongst the old Troopers'; 'discharge them here' ... 'must be avoided' ... 'there is every possibility of their joining the Blacks and becoming mischievous'

QSA ID ITM3681983

Item 12. Letter from the Commandant of the Native Police (15/10/1857) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay recommending the appointment of Frederick Wheeler as Second Lieutenant

QSA ID ITM3681984

Item 13. Deposition from Silvester Fraser at Ipswich (7/11/1857) forwarded to Sydney; 'On Tuesday 27 October I was residing at my brother's station on the Upper Dawson called Hornet Bank' ... 'After the Blacks had gone, I found the body of my younger brother ... also the bodies of my mother and four sisters ... the body of my brother John lying naked in the verandah, and the body of my brother David lying also naked outside the verandah'

QSA ID ITM3681985

Item 14. Letter from the Government Resident at Moreton Bay (11/11/1857) to the Colonial Secretary at Sydney; 'a most atrocious murder has been reported to me to have been committed on the Upper Dawson by the Aborigines on a family of the name of Fraser consisting of eleven individuals'; 'I have however ordered Lieutenants Murray and Nicol ... to take such steps as they may consider necessary'; 'the most vigorous measures may be adopted by the Native Police force to put a stop to these outrages'

QSA ID ITM3681986

Item 15. Letter from the Colonial Secretary at Sydney (15/3/1858) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay; 'the object should be in all such cases to avoid as much as possible the destruction of human life and not to give reasonable grounds for the savages with whom they have to deal, to believe that anything is assured at beyond

a just retribution for their own barbarity'; 'there is something abhorrent to the feeling of humanity to read, even in that case, of three gins being shot dead as they were running away ... make enquiry at once into the matter in order to check the feeling that the lives even of the most ignorant savages may be unnecessarily taken from them'

QSA ID ITM3681987

Item 16. Letter from the Colonial Secretary at Sydney (22/10/1858) to the Government Resident at Moreton Bay; 'that in the case of collisions between the Native Police and the Aborigines attended with death, enquiry should be held by the Officer in command of the Police, touching such death as soon as circumstances will permit; and the report forwarded to the Attorney General as in the case of Coroners' Inquests'

QSA ID ITM3681988

Item 17. Letter from Second Lieutenant F.W. Carr at the Fitzroy Native Mounted Police Camp (15/11/1859) to Lieutenant John Murray; 'I followed on the tracks which led in the direction of "Coonooma" till I came to where the Blacks camped in the bed of the River the night after the murder'; 'I came up with the Blacks, encamped in very dense Scrub'; 'On my approach the Blacks rushed from the Camp, and were pursued by the Troopers. Two Blacks were killed and sixteen prisoners taken, including women and children, three of whom I brought back with me'; 'I think the officers and troopers deserve the thanks of the Government for their zeal and activity'

QSA ID ITM3681989

Item 18. Inquest held at Maryborough (8/2/1860) into the death of Darcy killed by Lieutenant John Bligh's Native Police troopers; 'I had given orders to my men to shoot Darcy or any other blacks against whom there warrants provided they could not take them' QSA ID ITM2720136

Item 19. Letter from Native Police Lieutenant F.W. Carr at Bendemere (8/3/1860) to the Inspector General of Police; 'I came on the Blacks (a mob of upwards of 100) ... gathered in a body ... commenced a most determined assault on the Police. I myself

received a wound from a Nulla Nulla, and several troopers were struck with weapons of one kind or another. I directed the troopers to fire on the Blacks, but although they did so, and with great effect still the Blacks for more than an hour showed no symptoms of giving in. Fortunately they did so at last, just as my ammunition was nearly all expended. During the affray fifteen Blacks were shot'; noted 'I consider much credit is due to Mr. Carr, for his promptitude and determination' and 'It appears to me that Lieutenant Carr has discharged his duty in a very efficient manner'

QSA ID ITM3681990

Item 20. Despatch from the Governor (10/4/1860) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'I set myself forthwith to work to organise a constabulary on the Irish model, and considerable progress has been made, with the assistance of Captain Morisset, whom I appointed Inspector General. This officer had acquired much experience, and had shown great energy and resolution as commandant of the Native Mounted Police, a corps of 100 black troopers stationed in detachments in the remote pastoral districts of the interior, for the protection of the outlying settlers from the attacks of the aborigines'; 'The first sight of the horse and his rider appears to strike a tribe of blacks, as yet ignorant of the white man's existence, with supernatural terror, similar to the awe with which the American Indians contemplated the comrades of Columbus and of Cortez. But superstitious fear is soon succeeded by bitter hostility. Mutual provocations between the races lead to mutual reprisals. The fiercer spirits among the native warriors fall before the superior arms and skill of the European, or are driven still further backwards into the unexplored wilderness'; 'military strength and disciplined organisation are essential preservatives to the settlers'

QSA ID ITM3681991

Item 21. Letter from the Commandant of the Native Police (17/9/1860) to the Colonial Secretary at Brisbane about the Wide Bay and Fitzroy districts; 'every case of aggression on their part has been promptly followed by punishment'

QSA ID ITM3681992

Item 22. Executive Council minute (23/10/1860) about an investigation into the destruction of an Aboriginal camp near Eagle Farm by police; 'They regret that violent measures were resorted to for the purpose of abating what had very probably become a nuisance in the neighbourhood, and ... the removal of the Blacks might have been affected without such harshness as appears to have been exhibited by the Police on this occasion. Such acts tend only to foster a feeling of hatred and a desire for revenge on the part of the Blacks – many instances occurring in which the aggression of the natives may be traced to ill-advised and unnecessary severity on the part of the white population of the Colony generally'

QSA ID ITM3681993

Item 23. Inquest held at Rockhampton (12/11/1860) into the death of Fanny Briggs; 'the blacks saw the White Mary on horseback ... they gammoned her with some story that they would show her the short way to Mr Archer's'; 'as soon as White Mary had got into the scrub, a blackfellow took hold of the bridle and led the horse in further' ... 'she was stockyarded and some feller pull her off horse and hit her with tomahawk'

QSA ID ITM2720186

Item 24. Inquest held at Mt. Flinders by the Police Magistrate at Ipswich, Henry Challinor, (24/12/1860) into the death of Tommy, shot by Frederick Wheeler's Native Police detachment; Wheeler testified that 'large mobs of blacks' were terrorising settlers

QSA ID ITM2720196

Item 25. Inquest held at Fassifern by Henry Challinor (3/1/1861) into the deaths of three old men, shot by Frederick Wheeler's Native Police detachment; station-owners Arthur Weinholt, John Hardie and his wife Ellen Hardie hindered the inquest; 'the Native Police were seen firing on the blacks'

QSA ID ITM2720202

Item 26. Executive Council minute (7/1/1861) to the Secretary of State for Colonies regarding Imperial defence provided by 'local forces composed mainly of Natives of

the various dependencies, as reasons of climate and economy, or other special circumstances, may render desirable. To the latter class belong such local forces as the Sepoy Regiments in India, the Hottentot Corps at the Cape, the Malay Regiment at Ceylon and the Native Police Corps of Queensland – a Border Force which this Government maintains for the protection of the frontier settlers. This Force costs this Colony about £17,000 annually; and may fairly be said to be (like the Frontier Police at the Cape) a contribution towards the general defence of the Empire, since the inland boundary of Queensland is the boundary also of the Empire, which it is necessary to protect from the numerous and hostile savages of this portion of Australia' [p.7-8]

QSA ID ITM3681994

Item 27. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (11/1/1861) to Native Police Lieutenant Wheeler: 'The Government are fully satisfied from your statement, that the circumstances under which you were called upon to act as to demand promptitude and decision, and are of opinion that you did rightly in taking immediate steps to relieve those stations that were being molested. On ground 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'

QSA ID ITM3681995

Item 28. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (14/1/1861) to the Commandant of the Native Mounted Police, about troopers Toby and Alma accused of the murder of Fanny Briggs; the Executive Council directed that 'these two troopers should be at once dismissed' and 'it would be desirable to remove these men first of all to a distance from Rockhampton and that especial care should be taken to prevent them revisiting the district'

QSA ID ITM3681996 and ITM3681997



Item 29. Letter from the Attorney General (14/2/1861) to the Colonial Secretary about the Fassifern inquests; 'the evidence does not in my opinion sufficiently involve Lieutenant Wheeler or his Native Troopers in any criminal charge'

QSA ID ITM3681998 and ITM3681999

Item 30. Letter from Henry Challinor (16/2/1861) to the Attorney General about the Fassifern inquests; 'Now that you have officially stated that "it appears to you that any further investigation into the matter will be unnecessary"' he has supplied the local press with 'a copy of the proceedings' as the Public is 'very anxious to obtain authentic information upon this exciting subject'

QSA ID ITM3690429

Item 31. Letter from Lieutenant Frederick Wheeler (25/3/1861) to the Colonial Secretary, regarding his patrol; 'I went to Fassifern ... and dispersed them. In doing this I have simply performed my duty, the complaints that I received from different squatters warranted me in the discharge thereof'

QSA ID ITM3682000

Item 32. Letter from Lieutenant Rudolph Morisset (April 1861) to the Commandant of the Native Police, about his patrol of the 'Bunya Bunya' district; 'I found the blacks collected in several places in very large numbers and also that they had been killing cattle at nearly all the stations in the district, and on two or three occasions I found it necessary to fire upon them before they would disperse'

QSA ID ITM3682001

Item 33. Letter from the Crown Lands Commissioner at Port Denison (~~26/5/1861~~ 20 May 1861) to the Colonial Secretary; 'The Aboriginal inhabitants of the "Kennedy" are very numerous and the feeling of power and security which the mere consciousness of their numbers alone engenders when viewed in comparison to the handful of whitemen who venture amongst them, of itself induces hostility by the existence of an apparent impunity in the commission of crime. While an almost necessity impels the whiteman to adopt hostile measures for the preservation of his life from a numerical preponderance capable equally of wearing him out or

overwhelming him with numbers'; 'in thick scrubby country undoubtedly the Blackfellow is the best chastiser of his brother Black but in this new District, where it is possible to commence a new system of treatment of the Aboriginal Population and in which the country is open and without much scrub ... a properly organised White Mounted Police force officered by good men and with two black trackers to every six Troopers would be the most efficient'

QSA ID ITM3682002

Item 34. Letter from Frederick Walker (8/8/1861) to the Attorney General about a speech he (the Attorney General) made; 'at the Juandah massacre, the blacks who had been proven to the satisfaction of five magistrates to be innocent of any participation in crime, were subsequently murdered some in the Verandah, some in the kitchen of a magistrate who in vain remonstrated. Two blacks who had by some whim been spared were then made to bury the victims, and one Ruffian said to the other, "What shall we do with the Sextons?" The answer was "Shoot them". One was accordingly shot, why the other was spared I know not, possibly the supply of cartridges was running short'

QSA ID ITM3682003

Item 35. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (4/9/1861) to Native Police Lieutenant Frederick Wheeler about his request for appointment as a postal inspector; 'your desire for other employment' originates 'in the attacks made upon you as a Native Police officer'. The Government is satisfied 'the manner in which you have discharged your duties' and 'the zeal consistently displayed' and 'it would be with regret they would lose your services'

QSA ID ITM3682004

Item 36. Despatch from the Governor (5/9/1861) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'Queensland is the only Colony on the Australian Continent where the Aboriginal natives are so numerous and hostile as to afford any serious ground for apprehension, and that the Colonial Government maintains at a very heavy expense, borne entirely by Colonial Funds, a Border Force for the protection of the settlers, somewhat resembling the Cape Mounted Rifles, the Officers being Englishmen and

the Troopers Natives. In fact, Queensland protects at its own risk and charge that large portion of the settled boundary of the Empire which lies within its territory; a protection which is afforded at the Cape and in New Zealand by the Imperial funds'; 'These young offshoots of the older colonies in Australia often spring up with a speed wholly inconsistent with the delay which would be caused by a reference to England. Without a regular Government, and a regular armed force, settlements of this nature would become, like the first settlements in New Zealand before the Queen's authority was established there, the resort of lawless adventurers of many nations, who would wage an internecine struggle with the aboriginal tribes in their neighbourhood; in a word they would prove a reproach instead of an honor to English Colonization'

QSA ID ITM3682005

Item 37. Letter from the Police Magistrate at 'Bowen, Port Denison' (10/10/1861) to the Colonial Secretary, about the inquest into the deaths of Messrs. Irving and Miller, and steps taken to 'chastise aborigines for the murder'; 'This melancholy event is only what may be expected to be the result of the Whiteman putting himself in the power of savages who have proved by an overwhelming mass of evidence to be bloodthirsty, treacherous and unworthy of trust. So long as they think the whiteman is master they are cringing and servile but watching for the unguarded moment which shall give them an easy prey. It is in vain that I have lifted up my voice in warning on this subject and pointed to the blood which already dies the hands of the Aborigines of this coast'

QSA ID ITM3682006

Item 38. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (23/10/1861) to the Commandant of the Native Police, about 'the conduct of Lieutenant Wheeler upon a recent occasion'. The Government feel that he 'has proved himself to be a valuable and zealous officer; and they further believe the local knowledge he has acquired enables him to render more efficient service in the district in which he is at present stationed than he would be able to do in any other to which he might be removed'. Wheeler was to be informed that he had 'acted upon one or two recent occasions with indiscretion and that he should be reprimanded' but the Government thought that he would 'for the future use every exertion to perform his duty with circumspection and humanity'

QSA ID ITM3682007

Item 39. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (11/11/1861) to Messrs. Gregson, McIntosh and others regarding the Cullin-la-Ringo massacre; 'The very painful circumstances under which you address me render it imperative that every effort should be made to prevent the recurrence of similar atrocities in your neighbourhood, and the thanks of the Government are due in the first instance to yourselves for so promptly coming forward to avenge the killed and protect those whose lives and property have been endangered'; the Native Police Force 'is short of its proper complement by some 30 or 40 troopers'

QSA ID ITM3682008

Item 40. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (29/11/1861) to Lieutenant Frederick Wheeler approving his request that the Native Police under his command should attend the execution of Georgie sentenced to death for rape; 'a salutary effect will possibly be the

result of the witnessing of the extreme penalty of the law for an offence of such a nature'

QSA ID ITM3682009

Item 41. Letter from Lieutenant Frederick Wheeler (2/12/1861) to the Colonial Secretary; said that he destroyed an Aboriginal camp at Bulimba and burned their 'implements of warfare'; on arriving at Waldeck's station at Cleveland he found that the Aborigines had been dispersed by the Brisbane police; recommended that 'the Native Police be sent by the government to disperse large assemblages of blacks, prior to the white mounted police of Brisbane'; 'Every discretionary power would be used on my side and no useless effusion of blood would ensue in case of collision with aborigines'

QSA ID ITM3682010

Item 42. Despatch from the Governor (9/12/1861) to the Secretary of State for Colonies, reporting on Cape York; said that the new station would 'speedily exercise a beneficial influence over the natives of the islands in Torres Straits and the

neighbouring mainland, and would cause them to refrain from the outrages which they have frequently committed on Europeans'; 'Now the boundary of the settled districts in Queensland, which is also the boundary of the Empire, is protected against the hostile tribes of Aborigines by a Mounted Corps, maintained entirely at the expense of the Colony. In other words, the Queenslanders do for themselves what the Imperial Government does for the two other British Colonies where the Aboriginal Natives are a source of serious difficulty, viz: the Cape, and New Zealand'

QSA ID ITM3682011

Item 43. Despatch from the Governor (16/12/1861) to the Secretary of State for Colonies about 'the cruel, treacherous, and unprovoked massacre by the Blacks' at Cullin-la-Ringo; Mr. Wills 'was often warned that he should be constantly on his guard against their treacherous hostility; and that he would find them friendly and useful provided he went forth, like the other pioneers of the wilderness, almost literally with the pastoral crook in one hand, and the rifle or revolver in the other'; neighbouring squatters felt 'an uncontrollable desire for vengeance' and 'about thirty of the tribe of murderers are said to have fallen in the deadly struggle which ensued when the eleven English avengers stormed their camp'; the remainder retreated to the top of a high hill; 'their loss was heavy and I consider that many were killed from falling over the cliffs'

QSA ID ITM3682012

Item 44. Letter from Lieutenant Moorhead (20/12/1861) to the Commandant of the Native Police; 'I found the Blacks ... eastwards of Expedition Range. Upon seeing the Police they (the Blacks) at once evinced every disposition to fight, brandishing their Tomahawks and throwing several Nulla Nullas at the men and seeing that I could not disperse by quiet means I was forced to order the Police under my command to fire upon them' ... 'I made the Police dismount and follow the Blacks for some hours thro' the scrub. Before leaving I found that nine of their number were shot by the Police'; he then went to Mr Dutton's station where Blacks had recently arrived at the station from the westward 'to whom he had promised protection and would not permit me to see them unless I produced a warrant. At the same time

stating that as I had some time previously driven away the Blacks from his station that he meant to protect any Blacks that would come there'

QSA ID ITM3682013

Item 45. Letter from Native Police Cadet R.C.G. Johnson (22/12/1861) to Lieutenant Murray; 'On 5/12/1861 I visited Roxburgh and was informed that a very large mob of Blacks had been gathering for some time in a large scrub near that Station; for the purpose of holding a "Boora". On 6/12/1861 I proceeded to the scrub to disperse them. As soon as they saw me coming up the Blacks numbering about 300 attacked me, and I was compelled to fire upon them. They then retreated and I followed to be certain that they dispersed. On 7/12/1861 I again came up with the Blacks, when they at once made off in two mobs. I followed the party that made up Rannes Creek, and on 8/12/1861 came up with, and effectually dispersed them. I then followed on the tracks of the other party towards the Comet. On 10/12/1861 came up with them on Mimosa Creek'

QSA ID ITM3682014

Item 46. Letter from Thomas W. Wills (6/1/1862) to the Colonial Secretary; 'I know for a fact that several of the late murderers of my father and party are at this moment in at Mr Dutton's station'; 'If murderers are thus to be protected I cannot see how a man is to be sure of his life for a minute in a country like this – for these men come in for protection and then again in a little while sally out and commit some foul deed and then return to where they know they are safe'

QSA ID ITM3682015 and ITM3682016

Item 47. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (20/1/1862) to Thomas W. Wills replying to his letter stating 'that several of the natives implicated in the late lamentable massacre of your father and his party are harboured at the station of Mr Dutton, who persists in affording his protection contrary to the repeated remonstrances of the Native Police officers and others who are equally cognizant of the fact' ... this 'is not the first occasion on which Mr Dutton's conduct in this respect has been brought under notice, but while the Government are keenly alive to the great impropriety of such a proceeding, they are powerless to prevent its repetition; trusting solely to the

vigilance and determination of the Native Police to drive back as far as possible the treacherous and vengeful savage'

QSA ID ITM3682017

Item 48. Despatch from the Secretary of State for Colonies (2/2/1862) to the Governor; 'I have read with very great and painful interest the accounts of the Colonists dealing with the Aborigines ... I have also observed, from the public papers, that a shocking murder of white people has very lately been perpetrated, and avenged by the destruction of the natives supposed to have committed or abetted the crime

QSA ID ITM3682018

Item 49. Despatch from Secretary of State for the Colonies (8/3/1862) to the Governor about his Despatch 'informing me of the massacre of Mr. Wills with his servants and their families, and in part of the measures of retaliation which were immediately adopted. I need hardly say that I deeply lament the unhappy fate of these Europeans, nor can I venture to blame those who in the existing state of Queensland back country at once avenged this terrible outrage by such means as were at hand. Yet in reading the account of these occurrences I cannot dismiss from my mind the impression produced by the Report on the Native Police Force which you have recently forwarded to me recording that in not very distant times these Natives were in some parts destroyed indiscriminately by strychnine, and that even now common destruction of men and women is by no means unknown. While such things or anything like them occur, it is impossible to hope that any efforts for elevating the character of the natives will be successful, or to doubt that the mutual animosity of white and blacks will continue to deepened by a succession of alternate massacres. The first lesson of importance which a savage ought to learn from a civilized Government is the difference between discriminating justice and indiscriminate vengeance' ... 'I do not know why the Australians should be incapable of learning this lesson and I hope the Government of Queensland is not incapable of teaching it. When this is done and not till then I shall entertain some hope that the Colony under your Government may be an exception to that unhappy law which

seems to prohibit the occupation of the same country by the Anglo-Saxon and the Aboriginal'

QSA ID ITM3682019

Item 50. Letter from William Cowper (10/4/1862) to the Colonial Secretary, forwarding comments made by Mr. Wood about the Aborigines; 'On my coming into Queensland I made enquiry concerning the Hornet Bank massacre' ... 'Several of the working class said that the Frazers were famous for the young gins'; 'some said it was not their business and others wanted to know if I was a "trap" who wished to swear the life of a man away for a cannibal, intimating that they were fit for nothing else, but to be shot like "native dogs". The general impression is that there is no harm to shoot them for the most trivial offence'

QSA ID ITM3682020

Item 51. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (27/6/1862) to the Commandant of the Native Mounted Police; 'The Government deeply regrets that such atrocities should have been committed, and are convinced that to such acts may be traced much of the bloodshed that unfortunately too often occurs. Still, in the present case, there is no possible ground for action on the part of the Government. The charges against Chambers are incapable of legal proof, and it would probably be worse than useless to demand his explanation. It is feared that he may himself someday be made to feel the vengeance of those he has abused, but the Government are powerless to punish. The activity of the Police is the only reliable guarantee for the safety of others in the neighbourhood of Mr. Chambers'

QSA ID ITM3682021

Item 52. Letter from Lieutenant Frederick Wheeler (31/7/1862) to the Colonial Secretary: 'A large assemblage of aborigines have been collected nearly all the winter on Noble's run and at Leatherland's, driving and killing their cattle and threatening the huts. They consisted of Ubi Ubi, Durundur [Wide Bay in margin] and Brisbane blacks. We came upon them exactly as they were fighting, about 300; I called upon them to disperse, and go back to their own country, but they surrounded us and would not move away, at last I was obliged to fire upon them in self defence'



QSA ID ITM3682022

Item 53. Letter from J. Wilson (1/8/1862) to the Secretary of Lands and Works asking if the owners of adjoining runs can 'congregate on one run. 'For the purpose of mutual protection, the saving of the effusion of blood, and the expense of increasing the Native Police Force as much as possible'

QSA ID ITM3682023

Item 54. Executive Council minute (6/8/1862); the Commandant of the Native Police, who reported 'very great dissatisfaction among the troopers' as a result of pay reductions from 5d to 3d per day and feared that desertions would increase unless the former rate of pay was resumed; Executive Council thought that desertions would not only harm the force, but also 'will eventually prove a serious evil to the community, as it is a well-ascertained fact that discharged or absconding troopers by their knowledge of firearms and acquaintance with the movements of the force can do much mischief when associated with the wild blacks'

QSA ID ITM3682024

Item 55. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (30/9/1862) to Edward W. Lamb about 'the want of police protection' at Peak Downs; 'I may inform you that such arrangements are in progress as will probably ensure to the Peak Downs district the presence of a full Division of Native Police. This force has been much weakened by the desertion of troopers, as well as by the loss, from various causes of many of its officers; but the Corps is being rapidly recruited both with officers & men, and, it is hoped, will soon obtain a state of full efficiency'

QSA ID ITM3682025

Item 56. Despatch from the Governor (5/11/1862) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'Already, after the lapse of less than two years, the wave of pastoral settlement has overflowed the entire Kennedy District, and has even surmounted the dividing range or watershed of the York Peninsula' ... 'In other words, during the short space of eighteen months, our pastoral settlers have practically added to the

British Empire and pushed on the margin of Christianity and civilisation over a territory as extensive as Great Britain itself

QSA ID ITM3682026

Item 57. Inquest held at Tieryboo station, Darling Downs (21/1/1863) into the death of Tallboy shot by Frederick Carr's Native Police troopers; 'I have no doubt but that he was shot in the camp. There was no mark of a struggle on the trail. When I heard the shots the overseer said "They are shooting Charley" meaning the Police'

QSA ID ITM2720431

Item 58. Petition from squatters and residents in the Kennedy district (March 1863) to the Colonial Secretary protesting that 'in unsettled country especially in this district the aboriginal population of which is very large, and the Native Police numerically small, great risk to human life and property is incurred'

QSA ID ITM3682027

Item 59. Inquest held at Gayndah (20/4/1863) into the death of Jemmy shot by Lieutenant Harris' Native Police detachment

QSA ID ITM2720467

Item 60. Petition from Georgy (6/5/1863) to the Colonial Secretary stating that he will give himself up if he is protected from the Native Police

QSA ID ITM3682028

Item 61. Executive Council minute (16/5/1863); the case of Lieutenant Harris was discussed; Jemmy was described as 'inoffensive' and 'the act was barbarous, and showed extreme neglect of duty on the part of Harris, who allowed his armed troopers to leave his immediate control'; Harris was 'unfit for a position of command' and dismissed

QSA ID ITM3682029

Item 62. Letter from Mr. Charles Tom (15/5/1864) to the Colonial Secretary; 'I understand that the officers and the Native Police are directed by their superiors to

disperse all large assemblages of the aborigines and a regard for security renders it also necessary that the blacks should be kept out altogether from new stations as the massacre of whites have generally, if not invariably, resulted from too closer contact and intimacy between the races'; 'In effecting these two objects the Native Police are frequently obliged to commit murder'

QSA ID ITM3682619

Item 63. Despatch from the Secretary of State for Colonies (15/7/1864) to the Governor; 'I learn with regret that hostility on the part of a numerous and powerful race of natives has already led in one instance to the loss of life. I cannot too strongly impress upon you the wisdom and the duty of so treating them that they may view the arrival of a white population as a source of advantage to themselves. Experience sufficiently shows that a comparatively small outlay judiciously made by the settlers at the outset, and a generous spirit of forbearance accompanied of course by firmness and vigilance may avert much of that loss of life and property and consequent public expenditure which too frequently result from an opposite course of conduct'

QSA ID ITM3682030

Item 64. Despatch from the Governor (4/8/1864) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'Some years ago these Blacks were very troublesome, having murdered many white men and committed numerous depredations on the cattle of settlers. But since the establishment of the Mounted Police Corps (with English Officers and Native Troopers) which can track them to their fastnesses amid the 'scrubs' and mangrove 'swamps', they have become peaceable and well disposed'

QSA ID ITM3682031

Item 65. Inquest held at Eureka station, Wide Bay (24/9/1864) into the deaths of Governor and Lazy Billy shot by Sergeant Charles Brown's Native Police detachment

QSA ID ITM2720716 and ITM2720717

Item 66. Letter from W.H. Wilson (2/12/1864) at Somerset to the Surveyor-General; said that up to 13 September no attacks by the Aborigines took place, but 'on that

morning they attacked the camp and speared two of the marines. It is not in my province and therefore I refrain from alluding to the cause of the attack'; one was 'shot since' and 'I accompanied the officer of marines on an expedition to a neighbouring island when six more were killed since which we have been at peace'

QSA ID ITM3682032

Item 67. Despatch from Secretary of State for the Colonies (27/3/1865) to the Governor about the settlement at Somerset; 'I regret to learn from one of these reports that collisions with the Native Inhabitants leading to a serious loss of life on their part have already taken place and the more so as the quarrel appears to have originated from what is called an indiscretion on the part of one of the Colonists. I trust that great care will be taken to prevent the recurrence of such proceedings

QSA ID ITM3682033

Item 68. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Somerset (1/5/1865) to the Colonial Secretary; described his overland journey; said the Aborigines were 'annoying them on every favourable opportunity and on one occasion, the crossing of the Mitchell River, opposing so obstinately that a considerable number were shot'

QSA ID ITM3682034

Item 69. Executive Council minute (10/5/1865); noted that the Imperial Government had sent 10,000 troops to New Zealand while 'refusing to allow a detachment of fifty soldiers to assist in the defence of the capital against foreign attack'; 'it will be recollected that the hostile Aborigines in the interior of Queensland are more numerous in most points in proportion to the few scattered settlers than are the Maoris in proportion to the British population of New Zealand; and that they have massacred whole families as in 1858, and 1861 (see the despatch of the Governor of Queensland to the Secretary of State No 74, 16 December 1861). Some years back, it was calculated that even at that date, four hundred British subjects had been murdered by the natives of this colony. The entire cost of the Mounted Native Police Corps (a force somewhat resembling the Cape Mounted Rifles) and of the internal defence of Queensland generally, is borne by the colonists, who do for themselves

what has always been done chiefly by the Mother Country in the two other colonies (the Cape and New Zealand) where the Aborigines are numerous and hostile'

QSA ID ITM3682035

Item 70. Despatch from the Governor (18/5/1865) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'Queensland has from the beginning provided at its own cost for its own internal protection; which protection has been afforded chiefly at the cost of the mother country in the two other colonies (viz: the Cape and New Zealand) where the Aborigines are numerous and hostile'

QSA ID ITM3682036

Item 71. Executive Council minute (4/7/1865); 'as every man practically acquainted with Australian colonization will testify, nothing has occurred with regard to the natives at Cape York but what has occurred, is occurring and will continue to occur, on the foundation of every new settlement, and on the formation of every new pastoral station throughout this continent'; 'Australian Aborigines cannot be said to claim any proprietary right over the soil' but any trespass is 'invariably punished with death' unless 'the new comers are found to be the strongest'; 'the natives of every part of Australia almost always attempt to murder any white men who may settle permanently among them', 'until they have learned by experience the superiority of European arms and discipline'; New Zealand was an example of 'the danger of divided authority in dealing with native tribes'; 'the entire cost of the Native Police Corps is borne by the people of this colony, who pay per head for protection more than the people of the UK pay for the same object'; 'Queensland will continue to pursue exactly the same course with regard to the Aborigines which they have pursued hitherto. In other words, they will continue to deal out impartial justice to both races'; 'at almost every Assizes in Queensland, natives are indicted for murders of Englishmen, or rapes committed on Englishwomen'

QSA ID ITM3682037

Item 72. Despatch from Secretary of State for Colonies (27/11/1865) to the Governor about the Jardine expedition to Somerset 'which appears very creditable to their energy. I regret to observe that the exploration has not been accomplished without

bloodshed. I trust you will endeavour to impress upon all those who may be about to settle in any newly discovered territory under your Government the duty and the wisdom of avoiding whatever may tend to cause feelings of alienation towards us on the part of the aboriginal inhabitants, or to increase those suspicions which are natural to the untutored occupiers of a district, when it is first explored by civilized man. It is of the highest importance that new settlers should by their first acts give a character to the intercourse which is hereafter to subsist; and lead the natives to look forward to substantial advantages as likely to result to themselves from the extension of such intercourse'

QSA ID ITM3682038

Item 73. Inquest held at Banana (22/5/1866) into the death of an unknown Aboriginal woman killed by Native Police Acting Sub Inspector E.B. Seymour

QSA ID ITM2721051

Item 74. Memorandum from the late Colonial Secretary, R.G.W. Herbert (20/6/1866), Enclosure No.2 in a Despatch from the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding his observations on the Government's policing and management of Aboriginal people, including his views on the role and activities of the Native Police.

Re. Native Police Sub Inspector Otto Paschen; 'the most experienced and trustworthy officers available should be despatched with their detachments to the scene, with orders to apprehend, alive if possible, the perpetrators of the crime, to disperse the unruly assemblages of hostile savages, and, avoiding as far as possible all collisions that might lead to bloodshed, by a regular system of patrols to establish confidence and security among the European settlers'; 'Every method of dealing with these very dangerous savages has been tried, and I believe no more satisfactory system can be devised (unless perhaps by a very large expenditure of Imperial funds) than that under which the people of Queensland endeavour humanely and conscientiously to deal with a difficulty which (it is feared) can never terminate except with the gradual disappearance of the unimprovable race'; 'The only way to deter them from attacks upon life and property is to convince them of the superior power of the white man by the frequent and unexpected presence of an organized patrol in

every part of the thinly populated districts, and by the prompt punishment of crime. At the same time it has been the constant study of the Government to prevent in every practicable way anything approaching to cruelty or persecution. Officers in the Native Police Force are frequently reminded that they must use every endeavour to apprehend uninjured even the most desperate criminal before resorting to more extreme measures; that they will on no account be screened from the consequences of any wanton or unjustifiable exercise of force; that in the pursuit of offenders they must satisfy themselves fully (as they are enabled to do by the faculties of the native trackers) that they are not mistaking the innocent for the guilty; and in short that they will be held as responsible for all their proceedings against the aborigines as if they were their own fellow colonists'

QSA ID ITM3682039

Item 75. Executive Council minute (7/11/1866); 'the protection of the settlers may be provided for in colonies as are Queensland, New Zealand and the Cape of Good Hope, i.e. with a numerous and hostile Aboriginal population' by one of three means: (A) Imperial troops, (B) local forces and (C) the settlers may be left to protect themselves'; 'it is true that the Australian Blacks are not nearly as formidable or so well armed as the Maoris' but the 'hostile natives' were 'chiefly found in the Northern half of Queensland', where 'mortality among English troops' would 'nearly equal what it is in India'. 'English soldiers could not pursue the Aborigines with effect when they retire into the almost impenetrable 'scrubs' and jungles'. If settlers defended themselves, 'this method leads practically to great bloodshed and cruelty on both sides. Frequent massacres of the colonists take place; after which the colonists assemble and exact a terrible retribution from the Aborigines'. The Native Police of Queensland 'is intended to be chiefly a preventive force. By patrolling the disturbed districts, it prevents large assemblages of the Blacks'; 600 Englishmen 'have been killed by the Blacks in North-Eastern Australia'; 'blacks were shot down' in Tasmania, and 'almost exterminated in the settled districts of New South Wales and Victoria – often by wholesale massacres'; the Commissioner had been instructed that 'great care is now taken to impress on the officers of the Native Police the duty of confining themselves strictly to the law, and of pursuing no course inconsistent with the principles of justice and humanity'

QSA ID ITM3682040

Item 76. Despatch from the Governor (12/11/1866) to the Secretary of State for Colonies about the Native Mounted Police; noted difficulties of 'properly superintending a Police Force' due to the 'enormous distances'; said the Native Police was 'established by the Government of New South Wales for the protection of the settlers' and 'The Government of Queensland is not responsible for its first establishment, but the Queensland Parliament legalized its existence for the first time'; 'I found that the Native Police Corps was not recognized by any Statute, and that its officers acted very much as each thought fit'; introduced Rules and 'these Regulations were carefully revised by the Attorney General of the Colony'; 'in every case the same law applies to Blacks as to Whites, and if the Officers go beyond the law they do so at their own risk'

QSA ID ITM3682041

Item 77. Despatch from the Secretary of State for Colonies (6/2/1867) to the Governor about 'various documents bearing upon the condition of the Queensland Native Police Force and the treatment by your Government of the Aboriginal population of the Colony. I earnestly wish that the statements contained in these papers furnished more ground for anticipating that the natives of Queensland would escape the unhappy lot of other aboriginal tribes who have been brought into contact with Anglo Saxon settlers. I have very little hope however that any observations of mine on this very painful subject can lead to any practical result'

QSA ID ITM3682042

Item 78. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (26/2/1867) to the Commissioner of Police; 'Representations having on more than one occasion been made to the Government that the Native Police when dispersing assemblages of blacks, are in the habit of indiscriminately shooting down and otherwise maltreating those against whom they are acting, I am directed to inform you that under an Order in Council it is your duty to issue such explicit instructions to the officers of the Force under your control as will put an immediate and effectual stop to all unnecessary harshness or cruelty and I am to inform you that under the same Order in Council it has been



directed that when in future any instance of this kind is proved the Government will make severe examples of all persons concerned'

QSA ID ITM3682043

Item 79. Memo from the Commissioner of Police (14/5/1867) to Chief Inspector Murray, Chief Inspector Browne, Inspector Marlow, and Inspector John Murray; 'When forwarding monthly duty reports, officers in command of Native Police are instructed to carefully insert on the back of each report the date of all outrages reported to have been committed by the Blacks, on whom, by whom reported, with particulars of outrages and supposed cause thereof, also date and full particulars of every 'collision'. Officers of Native Mounted Police are cautioned to be careful when acting without Warrants'

QSA ID ITM3682580

Item 80. Letter from Chief Inspector GPM Murray (13/7/1867) to the Commissioner of Police, about his enquiry into the conduct of Acting Sub Inspector Aubin 'respecting the late collision' at Morinish; 'There is nothing in the evidence to show whether Mr Aubin was justified or not in firing on the blacks but from his own report and taking into consideration the whole of the circumstances, I cannot see that that officer could have acted otherwise [as] had he not fired at the time he did the Blacks would have killed some if not all of his party. It was clearly Mr Aubin's duty to disperse that mob of Blacks and it is very much to be regretted that they did not do so quietly. I have always considered Mr Aubin to be an active, steady, energetic officer & with regard to duty I have hitherto found him very correct'

QSA ID ITM3682581

Item 81. Letter from the Legislative Assembly (4/10/1867) to the Colonial Secretary, requesting all correspondence concerning the massacre of blacks at the Morinish Diggings near Rockhampton

QSA ID ITM3682582

Item 82. Letter from T.H. (Henry) Fitzgerald and fifteen selectors and squatters of the Mackay district (17/4/1868) to the Colonial Secretary, requesting that a Native Police

Station be established at Bloomsbury; said 'the sea coast tribes being numerous and mischievous, provided with secure refuge in impenetrable scrubs and rendered unusually bold by their present immunity from punishment'; 'Regret that for want of money the Colonial Secretary is utterly unable to comply with requests of this description, which are coming in daily from all directions'

QSA ID ITM3682583

Item 83. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Burketown (8/6/1868) to the Colonial Secretary, asking for urgent Native Police protection in the district; 'the blacks have become quite unbearable to the settlers in the different parts of the district and I am satisfied for such a large district as this more Native Police are required to keep the savages in check'

QSA ID ITM3682584 and ITM3682585

Item 84. Letter from Rev. James Black (7/9/1868) to the Colonial Secretary requesting government co-operation in 'procuring aboriginal children'; said 'the number of orphans was greatly on the increase through the war of extermination carried on by the settlers to say nothing of the necessary punishment inflicted by the Native Police'

QSA ID ITM3682586

Item 85. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (17/12/1868) to the Police Magistrate at Burketown about 'the forcible abduction by certain persons whose names you have not given, of three aboriginal children from Bentinck Island and their detention for a length of time at Sweer's Island'; 'This is a matter which is viewed by the Government in the light of a very serious crime and without adverting to the evil consequences which might possibly result therefrom, use your utmost endeavours to put a stop to it'; 'if evidence of the forcible abduction of these children can be adduced, the persons who have so offended ought to be committed for trial, if it can be shown that any of these children were detained for labor or improper purposes'; 'The same course ought to be pursued with regard to persons having forcibly keeping in their possession any aboriginal for whom they cannot lawfully account upon notice of this'

QSA ID ITM3682587

Item 86. Annual Report from the Commissioner of Police (2/2/1869); the Native Police was 'far below the strength necessary to perform the duty required of them. Continual complaints are made of the non-compliance of the officers in charge, with the requisitions for assistance. I can only repeat what I stated in my last yearly report, the detachments are too small and too far apart to patrol properly, the extensive area of country that requires protection'

QSA ID ITM3682588

Item 87. Inquest held at Nebo (19/1/1869) into death of James Collins, 'killed by blacks'; Native Police Acting Sub Inspector R Johnstone testified 'we came up with the blacks', and surrounded them. They 'confessed the murder'

QSA ID ITM2721837

Item 88. Letter from F.R. Bode (13/2/1869) to the Colonial Secretary, applying for Government support in civilizing the Blacks; said they promised to be quiet if he would 'not let the Native Police touch them'

QSA ID ITM3682589

Item 89. Letter from W.D. Uhr (15/11/1869) to the Colonial Secretary; said Mr. Scarr, the Commissioner for Crown Lands, refused to issue a warrant to Sub-Inspector Thomas Coward for the suspected murder of Aborigines, and said that he gave a number of reasons for this decision including 'that in a new district like this it is necessary the blacks should occasionally be dispersed, and that in doing so, it is well known some of them do incidentally get shot'

QSA ID ITM3682590

Item 90. Letter from Sub Inspector Coward at Norman River (20/1/1870) to the Commissioner of Police; 'there is not a trooper in this district at present if they could get away would desert, it being so unhealthy'

QSA ID ITM3682591

Item 91. Letter from the Commissioner of Police (16/2/1870) to the Colonial Secretary about the use of former prisoners in the Native Police; 'Supply the black force from men not imprisoned for murder, rape or any infamous crime'

QSA ID ITM3682592

Item 92. Executive Council minute (9/3/1870), approving the granting of free pardons to Aboriginal prisoners Bobby, Blue Jacket, Dickabasket, Billy Borang & Johnny, taken from Brisbane Gaol to Somerset as Native Police Troopers for three years

QSA ID ITM3682593

Item 93. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Somerset (14/4/1870) to the Colonial Secretary about the unsuccessful search at Prince of Wales Island for Mrs. Gascoyne and her son from the cutter "Sperwer"; 'Three of the principal men were pointed out by the Gudangs and being handed over to me by the officer in command were shot by the troopers'; 'Thus, though late, retributive justice had overtaken them on the very scene of their treacherous massacre twelve months before. Every care was taken to explain the reason of their punishment

QSA ID ITM3682594

Item 94. Letter from the Police Office at Melbourne (1/6/1870) to the Colonial Secretary; 'In reply to your telegram of 28 May respecting Mrs Gascoigne, I have the honour to inform you that Mrs Harriet Gascoigne, who states that she was married to Capt. James Gascoigne on 31 January 1867, is now living in Chard Street, Prahran, near Melbourne'

QSA ID ITM3682595

Item 95. Letter from Michael Bird Hall (10/10/1870) to the Colonial Secretary about W.D. Uhr's involvement in the kidnap of Aboriginal boys from Bentinck Island

QSA ID ITM3682596

Item 96. Letter from M. Hetzer (25/11/1870) to Frank Scarr; 'I have known Uhr ever since he has been in the Burke district, and have had a most favourable opinion of

him as an energetic police officer, but since his dismissal from the Native Police force he has forfeited the good opinion of every right-minded person in the district'

QSA ID ITM3682597

Item 97. Inquest held at Gilberton (4/6/1871) into the death of John Corbett, 'killed by blacks'; Native Police Acting Sub Inspector McCarthy and three troopers went in pursuit of the blacks; 'I have every reason to believe that he was fortunate enough to overtake the guilty parties and inflict upon them a well merited chastisement'

QSA ID ITM2722209

Item 98. Inquest held at Strathalbyn station near Leichhardt Downs (18/6/1871) into the deaths of George Stanley Lambton and George A. Longfield; witness testified 'I was over at the stockyard and saw the two blackboys belonging to the station coming home driving two horses with saddles and bridles in before them. The boys were crying and told me that Mr Lambton and Mr Longfield had been killed by the blacks at the camp'

QSA ID ITM2722211

Item 99. Inquest held at Cardwell (17/1/1872) into the deaths of Henry Smith and Charles Clements, found on Gould Island near Cardwell; Cardwell pilot Edward Brittain testified 'this outrage was perpetrated by the blacks'; Alfred Mackenzie said that he concluded 'from what I saw, that the men were murdered by the aborigines'. John Fitzgerald stated 'I have no doubt in my mind that these murders were committed by the blacks'

QSA ID ITM2722335

Item 100. Official report (4/4/1872) on the "Maria" shipwreck search expedition, north of Cardwell, and subsequent killing of Aboriginal people

QSA ID ITM3682598

Item 101. Letter from C. Lumley Hill (6/5/1872) to the Colonial Secretary about the murder of Mr. Welford on the Lower Barcoo River; 'I can now only attribute his death to the inefficiency of the patrolling officer of Native Police in this district'

QSA ID ITM3682599

Item 102. Letter from Sidney Yeates (18/5/1872) to the Colonial Secretary; 'When the Native Mounted Troopers arrive in Bowen the Natives take their departure and return when the former have left'

QSA ID ITM3682600

Item 103. Letter from Secretary of State for Colonies to the Colonial Secretary (29/7/1872) about the wreck of the "Maria" near Cardwell, the murder of part of the crew, and 'the landing of a party from "H.M.S. Basilisk" to punish the murderers'

QSA ID ITM3682601

Item 104. Inquest held by the Police Magistrate at Gilberton (2/8/1872) into the death of Daniel Ryan; William Collinson testified that he had seen 'three native blacks', who made 'threatening gestures' towards him; Ryan 'had the reputation of being very careless about blacks'

QSA ID ITM2722474

Item 105. Letter from the Acting Commissioner of Police (19/8/1872) to the Colonial Secretary about Richard Bird Hall's allegations about the kidnapping of children and recent murders committed at Wyandotte Station near the Valley of Lagoons by police

QSA ID ITM3682602

Item 106. Inquest held at Aramac (28/8/1872) into the death of Frederick Maier; an Aboriginal named Tambo was suspected. Sub Inspector Dunne testified that he and five Native Police troopers searched the vicinity, but found no tracks; they followed Tambo's tracks and 'came up' with him next morning, and tried to arrest Tambo, but he 'was so violent' that they were 'unable to do so'. Dunne testified that he was 'obliged to shoot him to prevent his escape'

QSA ID ITM2722496

Item 107. Inquest held at Cloncurry (27/9/1872) into the death of John Cook; witness Robert Gome said that the deceased calling out "Oh God I am speared!" woke him at

1AM. Gome said that he saw three blackfellows close to deceased and 'two spears standing up and sticking on the deceased'. Native Police Acting Sub Inspector Alexander Salmond went to the 'scene of the outrage' with five troopers, followed the tracks and 'came up' with the blacks and 'dispersed them', but 'found nothing with them' that would connect them with 'the outrage'. He was confident that he had 'followed the same tracks'

QSA ID ITM2722577

Item 108. Inquest held at Gairlock (12/10/1872) into the death of an Aboriginal woman named Kassey or Cassie, shot dead by Sub Inspector Shairp's Native Police troopers at Palm Tree Gully, near the Herbert River

QSA ID ITM2722527

Item 109. Letter from Inspector Frederick Wheeler (18/10/1872) to the Colonial Secretary; 'I apprehended Fowler for the murder of the man Andrews, and in taking him down to Rockhampton, travelling by the Fitzroy, the man threw himself from the horse heavily chained and handcuffed as he was, into the river, with the intention of swimming to the other side and escaping. After a few ineffectual struggles, he sank and was drowned'

QSA ID ITM3682603

Item 110. Inquest held at Tambo (30/10/1872) into the deaths of Billy and Chow Chow shot 'in their bed' at daybreak by Acting Sub Inspector Williams' Native Police troopers

QSA ID ITM2722639

Item 111. Inquest held at Milton station (15/11/1872) into death of Harry shot by Acting Sub Inspector Alexander Douglas' Native Police troopers; Douglas stated that he had warrants for the arrest of Harry and others for robbery

QSA ID ITM2722532

Item 112. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Gladstone (19/11/1872) to the Attorney General forwarding 'evidence taken at an enquiry held by me at Milton Station

relative to the deaths of three Aboriginals who were shot by the Native Mounted Police under the command of Acting Sub Inspector Douglas'

QSA ID ITM3682604

Item 113. Inquests held at Gilbert River (19/11/1872) into deaths of five Chinese miners (Cow Nug or Ung Cow, Cum Ty, Ah Cook and two others), all 'killed by blacks'

QSA ID ITM2722538, ITM2722546, ITM2722549 and ITM2722550

Item 114. Inquest held at Sweer's Island (25/1/1873) into deaths of 'a number of blacks' shot by John Farrell, Robert Christison and James Ah Foo from the Customs station

QSA ID ITM3682605

Item 115. Letter from Acting Sub Inspector Robert Johnstone (31/3/1873) to the Commissioner of Police; said that he 'dispersed a large mob' on 14 February 'under Mt Leech'; On 21 February 'I succeeded in dispersing three mobs on the Seaview Range' with the assistance of Dumaresq's troopers and dispersed a large mob at the Lower Herbert on 27 February; 'Mr Armit and his troopers were of very great assistance to me and it is owing to their able co-operation that the patrol on this occasion has been so effective, the Blacks having been driven over on to the Burdekin River where we left them'

QSA ID ITM3682606

Item 116. Petition from Henry Stone and other employees of the Scott Bros. at the Vale of Herbert near Cardwell (24/6/1873) to the Colonial Secretary; drawing attention to 'the great depredations committed by the blacks on this station' and 'the inefficiency of the Native Police as at present constituted'; said that Sub Inspector Armit and his six troopers were absent on other duties

QSA ID ITM3682607

Item 117. Letter from the Commissioner of Police (26/6/1873) to the Colonial Secretary about 'depredations by Blacks' at Vale of Herbert station; 'a greater



amount of police assistance has been afforded to this station than to any other in the Colony' [underlining in original]

QSA ID ITM3682608

Item 118. Inquest held at Townsville (28/7/1873) into the deaths of four men (John Finlay, James Mercer, Charles Reeves and a South Sea Islander man named Towie), all 'killed by blacks' at Green Island

QSA ID ITM2722754

Item 119. Letter from Walter Scott (5/8/1873) to the Colonial Secretary about the inefficiency of the Native Police at the Vale of Herbert; 'The assistance given by the police in keeping the Blacks in order has been hitherto very slight'

QSA ID ITM3682609

Item 120. Inquest held at Walshtown in the Etheridge district (18/8/1873) into the deaths of Henry Williams and Samuel Blackall, both 'killed by blacks'; a party of miners went to 'see a mob of blacks on a hill'. Suddenly one of the whites sang out "Run!" and "Come on boys the blacks are following us", as he had seen 'the blacks coming with their spears'

QSA ID ITM2722762 and ITM2722763

Item 121. Telegram from Gold Commissioner at Georgetown (13/9/1873) to the Colonial Secretary, about the Palmer River gold-rush; 'Recommend that a Commissioner and an officer be at once sent out with a strong force of police and an officer of Native Police with at least six troopers as I feel certain there will be great danger of serious disturbances'

QSA ID ITM3682610

Item 122. Telegram from Sergeant Buckley at St Lawrence (15/9/1873) to the Commissioner of Police; 'Body of black boy found in waterhole near Waverley tied to a log with piece of rein. Bullet found in skull. Sub Inspector Douglas spoken of as having shot him'; noted 'I consider the finding of the black correct & that the black was shot by the Native Police but there is nothing in these papers to show under

what circumstances and unless the police are in possession of or can obtain further information nothing can be done. Is there any report from Mr Douglas?’

QSA ID ITM3682611

Item 123. Inquest held at St Lawrence (16/9/1873) into the death of Dickey; Native Police troopers under Acting Sub Inspector Douglas were seen leading him into bush; his body was found near Waverley station

QSA ID ITM2722770

Item 124. Letter from Frederick Wheeler (29/9/1873) to the Commissioner of Police, ‘Acting Sub Inspector Douglas seems as yet not to have learnt circumspection’

QSA ID ITM3682612

Item 125. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Somerset (11/11/1873) to the Colonial Secretary, ‘the natives have been committing murder and depredations ... a pearl-sheller’s camp eight miles from the settlement was attacked and a man named James Atkins brutally murdered [and] all the native Missionaries from New Guinea and Saibai Island came into the settlement having been driven away by the natives’; while the Native Police were searching for those responsible for the murder they encountered the natives gathered in a large force 30 miles from the settlement but that the Native Troopers dispersed them despite determined resistance

QSA ID ITM3682620

Item 126. Telegram from the Gold Commissioner at Palmerstown (16/11/1873) to the Colonial Secretary; ‘Arrived here all well. Blacks on road very numerous and hostile. Detachment Native Police required to protect road from Cookstown to Palmerstown. Another detachment urgently required to protect diggers here. Blacks here very numerous and as bad as they can be’

QSA ID ITM3682621 and ITM3690446

Item 127. Letter from the Gold Commissioner at Palmerstown (24/11/1873) to the Secretary for Works and Mines; ‘I fear many lives will be lost. The blacks appear to be about the worst and most determined I have come upon’

QSA ID ITM3682622

Item 128. Telegram from A.C. MacMillan (24/12/1873) to the Secretary for Works and Mines; 'Natives extremely hostile, two men speared near Endeavour but not fatally, four men missing, Native Police urgently required'

QSA ID ITM3682623

Item 129. Letter from Alfred Davidson (23/1/1874) to the Colonial Secretary; 'I consider it my duty to direct your attention to the published admission of a writer in the Telegraph paper (copy enclosed) that he and others have "shot a lot" (that is committed murder) of Her Majesty's subjects, who the Aborigines are as much under the protection of British law as we are ourselves'

QSA ID ITM3682624

Item 130. Inquest held at Palmerstown (19/3/1874) into the death of Adolph Doblitz (or Dobitz); Constable Edward Kilkenny said that he and native trooper Tommy went 'up the River' after hearing that a man was missing and found the deceased with 'seven spear wounds in the body'

QSA ID ITM2722969

Item 131. Executive Council minute (12/3/1874); increases in the numbers of ordinary Police and the Native Police were necessary due to the 'reoccupation of stations in the Northern Districts and the sudden influx of population caused by gold discoveries on the Palmer River'

QSA ID ITM3682625

Item 132. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Cooktown (28/3/1874) to the Colonial Secretary; 'Report re indiscriminate slaughter of Blacks per first official expedition Cooktown'; 'the members of the expedition did nothing more than they would require to do again in similar circumstances. To imagine for a moment that an expedition of the kind could pass through such a country amongst tribes of hostile blacks in close proximity to where at least two white men have been killed'; 'it not infrequently happens that diggers travel with their rifles loaded & ever cocked for fear of sudden

attack'; 'the repressive means used by the members of the expedition were nothing more than necessary to enable it to fight its way through. So unanimous are the statements of my informants on this point that I have not thought it necessary to make further inquiries, but will do so on hearing from you that it is deemed necessary'

QSA ID ITM3682626

Item 133. Despatch from the Secretary of State for Colonies (13/5/1874) to the Governor, 'Re outrages committed on aboriginals by Native Police'; 'I am slow to believe that the facts are as they have been represented, but I must request your Lordship to inquire into the truth of these statements and furnish me with a Report upon the subject. I am confident that you are fully alive to the necessity of taking stringent measures for checking any abuses on the part of the Native Police, a force which from its constitution requires the constant and close supervision of the Government'

QSA ID ITM3682627

Item 134. Inquest held at the Palmer River (30/7/1874) into the death of Cornelius Hurford; a group of miners at Granite Creek said they saw 'blacks in great numbers' who appeared 'very hostile'. The miners were 'all armed' but the blacks 'surrounded them' and threw spears at them. The miners fired shots, which 'kept them off for a little' but they were attacked again soon after. Witness Charles White said that he told Hurford "Go on with the horses and I shall remain here and try to keep them back". As Hurford turned to go 'he was speared in the side', said "Oh!" and pulled the spear out before he 'fell dead instantly'; Native Police Sub Inspector Edward Dumaresq testified that 'the greater part of his detachment' had deserted so he 'was able to take only one boy with him'; 'I am certain that the blacks had removed the body and it is my opinion from my experience of the habits of the blacks in this part of Queensland that they eat it'

QSA ID ITM2723094

Item 135. Telegram from the Police Magistrate at Normanton (29/9/1874) to the Colonial Secretary; 'The Blacks have twice lately been in town at night and on one

occasion robbed nearly every house in the town. They are now assembled in great numbers at The Crossing place of the River 12 miles from here, in consequence of which the carriers are unable to cross. Complaints are made to me by carriers that the Chinamen at the Public House near the crossing have taken a gin and forcibly detained her, in consequence of which the Blacks hang about the Place and molest the carriers. These Chinamen have two boys that I have reason to believe they stole from the blacks some time ago, a black child was brought into Town yesterday that I believe to have been kidnapped from what I heard I think this case could be proved if in intelligent hands. I have no hesitation in saying that the stealing of gins and children from the blacks is a matter of frequent occurrence here, the consequence is roads are not safe. No action has been taken by the Police'

QSA ID ITM3682628

Item 136. Inquest held at Cooktown (21/10/1874) into the deaths of the Straher family (John, Bridget and Annie) 'killed by blacks'; witness Martin Greene said that he had met the Straher family on the previous day and warned them not to camp at the lagoon because 'I thought there were blacks about there'

QSA ID ITM2723142

Item 137. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Normanton (28/10/1874) to the Colonial Secretary; 'the 'stealing of Aboriginal women and children was a matter of frequent occurrence' and 'a recognised custom' at Normanton, and that this could account for some of the recent 'outrages' committed by the local Aborigines; 'The Police have been instructed to take action in any case that they can get proof to support. The mere fact of having a black boy or gin as a servant is no offence. The 'forcible detention' or 'running down' is a very difficult thing to prove'

QSA ID ITM3682629

Item 138. Telegram from the Acting Crown Lands Commissioner at Normanton (17/12/1874) to the Minister for Lands; 'Please move proper authorities for better police protection at Normanton. The blacks come into town nightly & commit thefts of all kinds. Cattle have been speared within a mile of town. It is positively unsafe to be out of doors after nightfall unless provided with firearms'; 'These alarms occur nightly

& with impunity although they have been brought under the notice of the Officer in Command of the Native Police. The Crown Lands Office is isolated from the town & peculiarly exposed to attacks. Fortunately the blacks have made no organised attack on this place [or it] would share the fate of the Gilbert township. I feel much anxiety lest the blacks should attempt to fire the building as they have been known to do in several instances'; 'The blacks are quite wild, never come into town in the day & are not in any way encouraged by the townspeople'

QSA ID ITM3682630

Item 139. Letter from F.W. Chesson (29/12/1874) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'the official statements are so utterly irreconcilable with the original charges preferred against the Native Mounted Police by Mr. McDougall, Mr. Heydon and others, that they earnestly hope that the reappointed Royal Commission will be instructed to investigate the whole question'; 'To expose an abuse is good, but to fully protect these men we must give them a Government, and get them by proper inducement to work, and then, labour being valuable, there will be less work to have them shot down'

QSA ID ITM3682631

Item 140. Annual Report for 1874 from the Commissioner of Police (26/2/1875); 'The applications for additional Native Police protection are incessant'

QSA ID ITM3682632

Item 141. Inquest held at Cooktown (21/1/1875) into the death of John Blair, 'killed by blacks' at the Laura River; a witness said that one spear 'went through my left thigh' and another 'went through the sleeve of my shirt'. He ran to his tent to get firearms, and sang out "Murder, murder, come on boys". Blair ran into the tent with 'a spear stuck into his back' and dropped on the ground

QSA ID ITM2723273

Item 142. Inquest held at Cooktown (20/2/1875) into the death of Alexander Mann, 'killed by blacks' at the Laura River. Mann and William Nunn were camped at the Laura River while en route to the Palmer, sitting in their tent, eating supper, when

Nunn said he 'felt a spear at the back of his ear'. As he turned, a spear went 'through both my cheeks knocking out all my upper teeth'. Mann ran outside the tent and a spear 'went through his buttock'

QSA ID ITM2723301

Item 143. Minute from the Governor (5/4/1875) to the Colonial Secretary about the Native Mounted Police Force being 'under imputation of the gravest character' and 'accused of maltreating in the most brutal and barbarous manner, shooting down the males and only sparing the females to submit them to outrage'; 'reprisals, of the nature of taking the law in one's own hands, ought to be the exception and not the rule'; the Royal Commission would do the colony an 'immense service' if it could 'deal exhaustively with the questions of the conduct of the Native Police towards the Aborigines'

QSA ID ITM3682633, ITM3682634 and ITM3682635

Item 144. Inquest held at Cardwell (9/4/1875) into the deaths of William and Elizabeth Conn, 'killed by blacks'; Native Police Sub Inspector Robert Johnstone testified 'I was only hampering the boys rapid movements' and 'as everything depended on the speed in overtaking the blacks', decided to 'send the troopers on by themselves'

QSA ID ITM2723477 and ITM2723479

Item 145. Letter from the Commissioner of Police (1/5/1875) to the Colonial Secretary; 'The charges of barbarous treatment ... are similar to those previously made by the opponents of the Native Police system who have however failed to offer any evidence in support of them'. He added: 'If there was any truth in the tenth or even the one hundredth of what is charged against the Native Police, surely at least one instance could have been given that might be brought home to the perpetrators, but this has never been done; and it is but fair to presume that the cases existed but in imagination'. He concluded: 'If any such atrocities as those alleged to have been committed had been brought under my notice officially, it would have been my duty to have taken cognizance of the matter and no efforts would have been spared on my part to have brought the perpetrators to justice and any officer who permitted his

men to behave in the manner described would at any rate be dismissed and if sufficient evidence could be procured would be proceeded against criminally'.

QSA ID ITM3690319

Item 146. Letter from the Governor (14/5/1875) to the Colonial Secretary; 'it would be desirable' to give the Aboriginal Commissioners 'the powers necessary for holding an enquiry, of a complete and exhaustive nature, into the alleged malpractices of the Native Police'

QSA ID ITM3682636

Item 147. Letter from George Waite (27/7/1875) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'Crystal Brook was last year attacked by 300 Indians. By shooting the leaders the rest retired and two days afterwards the police assisted in following them when many were shot'

QSA ID ITM3682637

Item 148. Despatch from the Governor (30/8/1875) to the Secretary of State for Colonies about the Native Police and 'their alleged inhuman treatment of their fellow countrymen the Aborigines of Queensland'; 'that in the total absence of any specific case of outrage being charged against them, the condition or status of the Native Police does not appear to require that an investigation into their discipline and general habits and proceedings should be instituted at the present time; for that having regard to the lawless and savage acts which, often under most difficult and urgent circumstances, they are called upon to repress, there is no reason to believe that their Officers overlook inhumanity towards the wild tribes or that such inhumanity is at all of frequent occurrence'

QSA ID ITM3682638

Item 149. Inquest held at Cooktown (28/9/1875) into the death of 'a man named Ned', 'killed by blacks' at Hell's Gates on the Palmer road. Dennis Fitzpatrick testified that he and 'Ned' were travelling from the Palmer when 'spears were thrown' at the pair. Ned called out he 'was speared in the side', and fired a shot at the blacks but they 'closed upon us'. Fitzpatrick said that he saw the blacks 'tomahawking him'



QSA ID ITM2723588

Item 150. Inquest held at Uhrstown (22/10/1875) into the death of Daniel Collins, 'killed by blacks' on the Right Hand Branch of the Palmer River. William Sharp stated that heard cries; he 'rushed to the spot', and found Collins being 'brought to the camp'. Collins had 'spear wounds on his body'. Witness Timm Tanson testified that he saw Collins with 'a lot of spears in him' and the spears were 'all in his back'

QSA ID ITM2723653

Item 151. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Clermont (21/3/1876) to the Attorney General about the inquest into the death of Jemmy; 'The depositions disclose that Jemmy died a few days after he had been flogged by Sub Inspector Frederick Wheeler at the Belyando Native Police Camp, but as the medical testimony does not directly connect the cause of death with the injuries inflicted, I deem it advisable to refer the matter to you before taking further steps and await your instructions'; noted by Attorney General Samuel Griffith 'I direct that Mr Wheeler be prosecuted for the wilful murder of Jemmy. Inform the Colonial Secretary accordingly'

QSA ID ITM3690316

Item 152. Committal hearing held at Clermont (10/4/1876); Sub Inspector Frederick Wheeler charged with wilful murder; Constable Thomas Baker testified: 'I saw a strange black boy in the camp. He had handcuffs on his legs and no clothing on. I saw Mr Wheeler assist the native troopers in removing him. They got him down to the barracks and put another pair of handcuffs on his hands. They (the troopers) fastened a strap on to the handcuffs that was on his hands and from thence to the rafter that was at the end of the verandah of the barracks'; 'Mr Wheeler kicked him 2 or 3 times'; 'one of the boys were told to flog him ... The trooper flogged him with a horsewhip and gave him 8 or 9 blows on the back ... Another trooper was told to flog deceased afterwards by Mr Wheeler. He flogged him. He gave Jemmy about a dozen blows when the whip broke. I then saw Mr Wheeler flog the boy with a leather girth tied together'; 'Mr Wheeler struck the boy with that half a dozen or a dozen times with the strand ends. Mr Wheeler then called on a native trooper named Toby and he flogged him 10 or a dozen strokes'; 'I told Mr Wheeler "That will do Sir, I think

the boy has had sufficient". Mr Wheeler replied "That hasn't hurt him" or words to that effect. After that he told another trooper to flog him again. The trooper did so. That trooper gave a dozen or a few more blows. I again said to Mr Wheeler "That will do Sir, this boy has had enough"; Frederick Wheeler stands charged that he did on the 15th of March 1876 at Mistake Creek wilfully kill and murder Jemmy an aboriginal. Prisoner has nothing to say'

QSA ID ITM3690232

Item 153. Despatch from the Governor (18/4/1876) to the Secretary of State for Colonies; 'it never entered my mind that a few weeks later two of the Officers would be found guilty of such atrocious inhumanity towards the Native Blacks as to render it incumbent on the Executive Government to require of one his immediate resignation, and in dismissing the other, to direct his prosecution for wilful murder'; 'These disheartening events have occurred in quarters where they might reasonably have been least expected, both Fitzgerald and Wheeler being old and tried members of the Force, and I am by no means sure that the result may not be to discredit the organization of the Native Police with many leading Colonists, including some of the more prominent public men'; 'so long as protection from Native depredations is called for, as it is increasingly called for, in the Unsettled Districts, we must mainly rely upon the services of Native Troopers acting under European Sub Inspectors – no white man, however good a rider and however practised, being at all fit to track a Black Australian through the pathless bush and scrub'

QSA ID ITM3690233

Item 154. Letter from the Police Magistrate at Somerset (4/7/1876) to the Colonial Secretary; all the Native Police Troopers stationed at Somerset deserted on the night of 13 June 1876 taking their wives with them

QSA ID ITM3690234

Item 155. Letter from the Colonial Secretary (7/10/1876) to the Commissioner of Police; Hervey Fitzgerald 'has proved himself to be utterly unfit to be employed in the Native Mounted Police but in consideration of his previous good conduct and length of service, the Government have no objection to Fitzgerald being permitted to enter

some other branch of the Public Service, where his duties will not necessarily bring him into contact with the Aborigines'

QSA ID ITM3690235

Item 156. Circular Memo from the Commissioner of Police (28/10/1876); 'It having come to the knowledge of the Government that the Police have, in some instances, used whips to expel the aborigines from certain towns, it is hereby notified for general information that such practice must be discontinued; and it is to be distinctly understood that any member of the Force who flogs, or authorizes the flogging, of an aboriginal will be instantly dismissed the service'

QSA ID ITM3690236

Item 157. Despatch from the Secretary of State for Colonies (23/12/1876) to the Governor; 'I very much regret that Wheeler should have escaped trial in the manner reported in your despatch, and I do not perceive that the transfer of Fitzgerald from one branch of the Service to another is shown to have involved any serious punishment, if even any at all; though no doubt it is an advantage, as you state, that he is prohibited from reentering the Native Mounted Police Force'

QSA ID ITM3690237

Item 158. Telegram from Native Police Sub Inspector Day at Cardwell (5/2/1877) to the Commissioner of Police; 'Arrived here yesterday morning from Tam O'Shanter Point. Found three men had been murdered by blacks in a boat & thrown overboard. Punished murderers & friends. In their camp part of a sail with quantity of blood on it. Information as to murder derived from captured gins who stated the murder was instigated by a civilized blackfellow'

QSA ID ITM3690238

Item 159. Telegram from Sub Inspector Moore at Cooktown (14/2/1877) to the Commissioner of Police; 'Police just returned from making inquiry and search for the two Macquarie Brothers supposed killed by blacks near Hell's Gate and reports finding three horses killed and further out came on spot where men were murdered and roasted'. Noted by the Commissioner of Police 'This is the consequence of

carelessness on the part of the travellers. I have drawn attention in my annual report of last year to the want of ordinary precautions on the part of the diggers and packers in this district. No amount of police protection can prevent murder by the blacks unless ordinary precautions are taken by travellers'

QSA ID ITM3690239

Item 160. Inquest held at Cooktown (22/2/1877) into the deaths of Hugh McQuarrie and Donald McQuarrie 'killed by blacks' at Hell's Gate on the Palmer road. Inspector Clohesy said that he had sent out 'two separate detachments' of police in search of the missing men, but they returned without finding them. Senior Constable Walter Pickering stated that Hells Gate was 'a reported place for blacks'

QSA ID ITM2724065

Item 161. Telegram from the Police Magistrate at Byerstown (5/5/1877) to the Colonial Secretary; 'Unless the rush of Chinamen is checked to the Palmer, European lives will be unsafe; brutal murder committed near here yesterday by a party of Chinamen. I have offered 50 Pounds reward on conviction of offender'

QSA ID ITM3690240

Item 162. Letter from Mr. Fanning and other Magistrates of the St Lawrence Bench (15/5/1877) to the Colonial Secretary; requested a detachment of Native Police be permanently stationed in the district; noted by the Commissioner of Police, 'Perused and returned. The blacks are employed by the townspeople and no doubt do a little pilfering occasionally. But they are generally very orderly and have done nothing to warrant the formation of Native Police stations near the town'

QSA ID ITM3690241

Item 163. Letter from the Crown Lands Commissioner at Cairns (24/6/1877) to the Minister for Lands about the new port north of Cairns (Island Point, later renamed Port Douglas); 'the Aborigines are numerous. Six of them have been shot near the Coast and within two miles of the township, which make it very dangerous to travel alone in this part'

QSA ID ITM3690242

Item 164. Inquest held at the Burke district (10/12/1877) into the death of William Batten, 'killed by blacks' at the Nicholson River. Witness John Aitken said that he heard Batten 'cry out' and saw 'about six blacks attacking Batten with clubs'. Aitken 'fired a shot at the blacks' and four of them 'came towards me'. Batten was lying on the ground 'with blood issuing from his mouth, ears and nose'

QSA ID ITM348655

Item 165. Letter from Native Police Sub Inspector Alexander Douglas at Cairns (1/3/1878) to Inspector Isley; 'I have had great experience in the district – knowing all the country and the bulk of the people and consequently must be much better able to decide where and when it is necessary to patrol so as to the proper punishment of the Blacks after committing a depredation; 'I consider the public have to a great extent relieved the Native Police by taking the law into their own hands and it was certainly no good my patrolling where others had only the previous day been dispersing'

QSA ID ITM3690243

Item 166. Inquest held at Georgetown (7/5/1878) into the death of Joseph Manuel (or Joseph Manuel Yous), 'killed by blacks'. Thomas Ward testified 'there were plenty of tracks of blacks all over the camp' and broken spears near the body

QSA ID ITM2724458

Item 167. Telegram from G.F. Sandrock at Bowen (14/8/1878) to the Treasurer: 'Alexander McIver master of the schooner "Louisa Maria" in ballast from Townsville has just landed here states that last Sunday 11 August while at anchor off Whitsunday Island his boat with two men ashore for party, cook & himself left aboard, he was suddenly attacked by a lot of blacks from canoes, thrown overboard then speared & otherwise injured but not seriously. He believes the cook John Morrison was killed & thrown overboard as he never saw him again; the blacks plundered the schooner & set fire to her, she burnt till she sank, the master was picked up by his boat'

QSA ID ITM3690244

Item 168. Inquest held at Cardwell (12/9/1878) into the deaths of two unknown fishermen. Sub Inspector Robert Johnstone's detachment found the bodies of two white men 'which had been buried in the sand'; 'the place I found them in was a native oven'

[QSA ID ITM2724564](#)

Item 169. Letter from Sub Inspector Alexander Douglas at the Baan Bero Native Police camp (15/11/1878) to the Commissioner of Police; said that the Aborigines are forced away from the coast by settlers, ... forced to hunt in scrubs which 'carry very little game ... consequently they are forced I often believe through hunger to kill stock. The Commissioner of Police will see by this what a difficult position a Native Police officer holds up here. There are some people who as the blacks here at present not interfered with their stock have requested me not to interfere with them'

[QSA ID ITM3690245](#)

Item 170. Letter from Supreme Court Judge Sheppard (16/12/1878) to the Governor regarding the death sentences passed on Jacky and Johnny for the murder of James Arthurs at Ravenswood; 'The administration of justice with regard to aboriginal blacks is surrounded with great difficulties and it is particularly so in the north of Queensland where no doubt a prejudice exists against these people. Juries I think involuntarily bear rather hardly against aborigines placed upon their trial'

[QSA ID ITM3690246](#)

Item 171. Annual Report from the Commissioner of Police (4/2/1879); the 'complaints of cattle-killing and hut-robbing by the blacks' from Cairns to Cooktown were 'never ending, and will never cease as long as there are blacks there'

[QSA ID ITM3690317](#) [note: the report is published in Votes and Proceedings, 1879, vol 1. 'Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1878' and can be viewed at the State Library of Queensland.]

Item 172. Letter from Inspector Stuart at Port Douglas (8/2/1879) to the Commissioner of Police; 'Since I came to the district Sub Inspector Douglas has kept up a constant patrol. Notwithstanding this the Blacks have and will be troublesome

for a long time as every attempt to make friends with them by Europeans has up to the present been unsuccessful. The constant complaints made through the press of this district about the Blacks is not a true situation to go by for in most cases they are more or less exaggerated'

QSA ID ITM3690247

Item 173. Executive Council Minute (6/8/1879) proclaiming Queensland's annexation of the Torres Straits islands

QSA ID ITM3690248

Item 174. Letter to the Colonial Secretary (24/9/1879) regarding the abduction of an Aboriginal girl called Torloo (aged 10), abducted from Moreton Island, taken to sea and left at Cooktown where the Native Police seized her. Inspector Isley wrote to the Commissioner of Police, stating that she was found at Sub Inspector Fitzgerald's house. Isley was informed 'No action necessary'.

QSA ID ITM3690320

Item 175. Letter from Inspector Stuart at Port Douglas (26/9/1879) to the Commissioner of Police about the Mulgrave River goldfield near Cairns; said a Native Police detachment was urgently required to 'keep the blacks in check as they are very numerous'

QSA ID ITM3690249

Item 176. Inquest held at Normanton (20/3/1880) into the death of Native Police Trooper Brandy shot by Constable Thomas Hedges, who mistook him for 'one of the wild blacks' attacking the Bynoe Native Police barracks

QSA ID ITM2725078

Item 177. Letter from Pope Cooper and Virgil Power to the Colonial Secretary (26/12/1880) about 'certain very serious charges preferred by Mr John Hamilton M.L.A. against Sub Inspector Alexander Douglas, that "Mr Douglas with his troopers and a white man came across some blacks, and although they were innocent of having committed any outrage that they shot several, and captured a female, quite a

child who after being washed by his troopers in a creek was taken to the camp and ravished by them"; that "Mr Douglas handcuffed a trooper to his gin and when in that position had him shot"; 'We are ... of opinion that the charges which we were requested to investigate are altogether unsubstantiated by the evidence, and we acquit Mr Douglas of the several serious imputations made against him'

QSA ID ITM3690250

Item 178. Inquest held at Georgetown (26/9/1881) into the death of Native Police Sub Inspector Henry Kaye 'killed by blacks'

QSA ID ITM2725539 and ITM3690251

Item 179. Inquest held at Herberton (1/4/1882) into the death of John Skene, 'killed by blacks' at Flaggy Creek. Witness Arthur Allen said Skene turned up at his camp with 'a spear sticking out from his left breast'. Dr Joseph Hodge testified that he removed one spear and noted another spear wound under the armpit, the removal of which 'would have caused immediate death'

QSA ID ITM2725770

Item 180. Inquest held at Cloncurry (28/1/1883) into the death of Native Police Sub Inspector Marcus Beresford, 'killed by blacks' while his detachment was pursuing a group of Aboriginal people near Cloncurry

QSA ID ITM2726165

Item 181. Inquest held at Thornborough (13/3/1883) into the death of Charles Desailly (or de Saily), 'killed by blacks' at a gorge near Mt Mulligan. Police Constable Dennis Carroll testified that tracks of the deceased were found at a blacks' camp, and his body was located close by. A spear was stuck through the body and there was a revolver (with one chamber fired) in one hand

QSA ID ITM2726206

Item 182. Inquest held by at Cloncurry (20/8/1884) into the death of James Powell, 'killed by blacks' at Mistake Creek. Witness Alexander Kennedy testified that he and Native Police Sub Inspector Urquhart with a detachment of troopers went to the



murder scene and identified the body; the police followed the 'tracks of the murderers', and 'came up with them'. Sub Inspector Frederic Urquhart testified that the 'murderers were very numerous' and 'endeavoured to evade and resist arrest', so were 'fired upon and dispersed by my troopers'

QSA ID ITM2727005

Item 183. Inquest held at Irvinebank (23/10/1884) into the deaths of King Billy, Spooendyke, Toby, Kitty and two other Aboriginal people shot or 'otherwise killed' by Sub Inspector Nichols' and Sub Inspector Garraway's Native Police Troopers

QSA ID ITM2727097

Item 184. Letter from Commissioner of Police (24/6/1885) to the Colonial Secretary on 'the best means of substituting white police with trackers for Native Police'; 'I do not consider it it advisable to make this alteration in the newly selected districts in the far north and west, the population there being sparse, the extent of country to be patrolled too great, and the aborigines too numerous to be properly looked after by small detachments'. 'The Native Police are of little use in the suppression of crime other than that committed by blacks'; 'I would take this opportunity of again bringing under the notice of the government, the fact of the aborigines being pushed out of their hunting grounds by the rapid settlement of the land and the impossibility of preventing depredations being committed by them, no matter what force of police is employed. The Blacks are now deprived of their means of existence and naturally enough when in want of food will kill whatever they come across. It would be useless to direct the police to arrest them, for to carry out such orders every black in the colony would have to be made a prisoner and even the most deeply injured settler would hardly expect them to be shot down for killing cattle or stealing food'; 'The question of dealing with the aborigines has now I beg to submit, assumed such importance such an

importance as to require very serious consideration and some legislative action'

QSA ID ITM3690252

Item 185. Despatch from the Governor (13/1/1886) to the Secretary of State for Colonies about New Guinea; said that he objected to the affiliation of New Guinea to Queensland, as 'it would certainly lead to dangerous relations between the Governor and his advisers unless all control on the part of the Government of Great Britain should be definitely abandoned and no attempt made to prevent the oppression of the native black races. There is no public opinion in Australia strong enough to deal with abuses'; 'it is useless to disguise from ourselves the fact that in Australia the black races are regarded much in the same light as the African Negroes were regarded by the Jamaica planters a hundred years ago'

QSA ID ITM3690253

Item 186. Despatch from the Governor (11/3/1886) to the Secretary of State for Colonies about New Guinea; said current administration proposals would place New Guinea under 'Crown Government exercising authority by virtue of the Acts of the Imperial Parliament directly in subjection to the Council of a comparatively uneducated community which has shown itself notably regardless of the commonest rights of humanity in respect of the black native tribes within its own territory'

QSA ID ITM3690504

Item 187. Inquest held at Normanton (24/11/1887) into the death of six Aborigines killed by Native Police Sub Inspector Poingdestre's detachment at the Kimberley Pilot Station

QSA ID ITM3690254

Item 188. Inquest held at Maytown (23/1/1888) into the death of Alfred Wright, 'killed by blacks'. John Carrigan testified that they heard a crash. Wright said "Oh!" and 'jumped straight up'. Carrigan said he saw 'the blacks and spears flying in all directions' before being speared in both arms. Wright's body, which had 'spear wounds all over it' and tomahawk wounds on the neck, was found in the river. Native Police Sub Inspector Brabazon Stafford arrived at the scene a week later. He said that 'there is no doubt in my mind, had Carrigan stood himself and faced the blacks' they could 'easily have fought their way to the tent where their weapons were and so saved both their lives'

QSA ID ITM2729086

Item 189. Court documents relating to the trial of Joker, a young Aboriginal boy (aged about 14), charged with killing his employer Henry R Jones in 1890, and placed on trial at Cooktown. Joker said that he shot Jones in self-defence: 'Me \_\_\_ run away. Mr Jones been too much kill em' and 'Me been shoot 'em that one that one want shoot one morning me been shoot 'em first time'. The Police Magistrate at Cooktown recommended he be sent to New Guinea after the charge was dismissed because 'the feeling being so strong against the prisoner, it would not be advisable to let him go here'

QSA ID ITM3690445

Item 190. Letter from Inspector Alexander Douglas to the Commissioner of Police about charges made against Mr Hann and other squatters in the Burke district; 'it is the practice of many squatters to herd their cattle with Gins and this has been the custom for a great many years. When I first took charge here I made enquiries on the subject and was informed that in the early days of settlement the male aboriginals had been nearly exterminated and that the Gins to prevent them from starving had been utilised as stockmen. I believe there is a great deal of truth in this as I have myself on several occasions come across small camps of blacks comprised entirely of Gins & picaninys'

QSA ID ITM3690255

Item 191. Inquest held at Port Kennedy, Thursday Island (27/12/1893) into the deaths of Charles Bruce and Samuel Rowe, 'killed by blacks' about 20 November 1893. Bruce and Rowe sailed from Thursday Island in the lugger "Wren" with an Aboriginal crew; the boat was found later that month, looted and abandoned. Their bodies were not found and police suspected the crew

QSA ID ITM2732419

Item 192. Letter from John Douglas, the Government Resident at Thursday Island, to the Colonial Secretary (10/1/1896); 'The Government Resident at Thursday Island strongly recommends that further legislative action should be taken to restrict and

regulate the sale of opium as it has been found by experience that the provisions regulating the sale of poisons in the Sale and Use of Poisons Act of 1891 are not sufficiently elastic and definite to admit of the easy conviction of offenders'

QSA ID ITM3690302

Item 193. Letter from Inspector Lamond (9/9/1896) to the Commissioner of Police; 'Since Lakefield station was taken up and stocked the blacks have often given much trouble'; 'About 12 or 15 years ago the late owner was speared right through the chest. The store has been robbed over and over again once the blacks attacked the station with firearms. When robbing the store the blacks always took everything including firearms, ammunition and everything portable'; 'There are very large numbers of blacks in that locality and these blacks will give much trouble for years to come'; 'I have reliable information that owing to repeated robberies by the blacks the late Mr MacKenzie had a bag of flour poisoned with strychnine in his store. After the murder the blacks evidently took this flour, several blacks were seen dead'

QSA ID ITM665854

Item 194. Letter from Inspector Lamond (4/7/1897) to the Commissioner of Police; 'If, as is apparently recommended by Mr Meston, he is appointed Black Protector for the North things are almost certain not to work well, but if everything is worked by the Inspector of the district & the blacks taught as now to look to the Native Police for protection, etc much good will be done for a few years. After that when the blacks begin to know their own strength they may then become a serious trouble again'; 'The 'Black' problem is a most delicate one which may lead to much good or grave results, & all depends on the good or bad management'

QSA ID ITM3690303

Item 195. Letter from the Chief Secretary (8/10/1897) to the Governor, about proposed Aboriginal Protection legislation; 'the Commissioner has been empowered to continue the employment of Native Police in the Division of the colony north of the Tropic of Capricorn'; 'In the southern part of the colony where the conditions are altogether different from those in the North, the protector of the blacks is authorised to apply experimentally a system of a less repressive nature, from which good

results are anticipated. A Bill for the protection and better government of the Aborigines of the colony is now being prepared and will shortly be ready'

QSA ID ITM3690304

Item 196. Letter from Inspector Lamond (7/2/1899) to the Commissioner of Police about Turn Off Lagoon near Burketown; said that he ordered the police 'to keep all Northern Territory blacks on their own side of the borderline, as I am of the opinion if these blacks are allowed to come freely into Queensland that they will commit depredations sooner or later'; 'when these Northern Territory blacks come over the border to participate in the Lawn Hill bullocks trouble may arise at any time'

QSA ID ITM3690305

Item 197. 'Monograph on the Aborigines' by Archibald Meston (13/3/1900); discussed the history of conflict, protection, violence and reserves

QSA ID ITM3690306

Item 198. Report from the Northern Protector of Aborigines (1/1/1901); 'no murder of Europeans has been reported during the past six months' but two prospectors were attacked and speared at the Coleman River in October 1900; 'there were certain facts connected with the circumstances which were never made public'; 'Both the prospectors in question are very bad characters amongst the blacks, as they have been continually interfering with their gins, and no doubt was the reason the blacks attacked them. Hundreds of miners passed over the same track from Normanton and Croydon, and the blacks never interfered with them'

QSA ID ITM3690307

Item 199. Magisterial Enquiry held at Moreton Telegraph Station (16/9/1902) into the murder of four Aboriginal men by Native Police troopers

QSA ID ITM716903, ITM2736531 and ITM3690308

Item 200. Letter from Meston, the Southern Protector of Aborigines (24/9/1902), to the Home Secretary; 'Last week three more northern blacks were sent to my care and I learn that there are two more on the way down. The three are the ex-troopers

supposed to be concerned in some recent trouble in the North and these men were sent down by the Commissioner of Police, doubtless for some special reason'

QSA ID ITM3699919

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians on the land on which I walk, I work, I live and I respect. I acknowledge all of their Elders past and present. Designs adapted from [original artwork by First Nations artists](#) Chern'ee Sutton, Kalkadoon woman, and Laurie Nona, Badhulayg, Maluyligal, Guda Maluyligal and Meriam Nation man.*