



NSW Police Force

LOCAL HERO SHOT IN PURSUIT OF PUBLIC ENEMY No. 1

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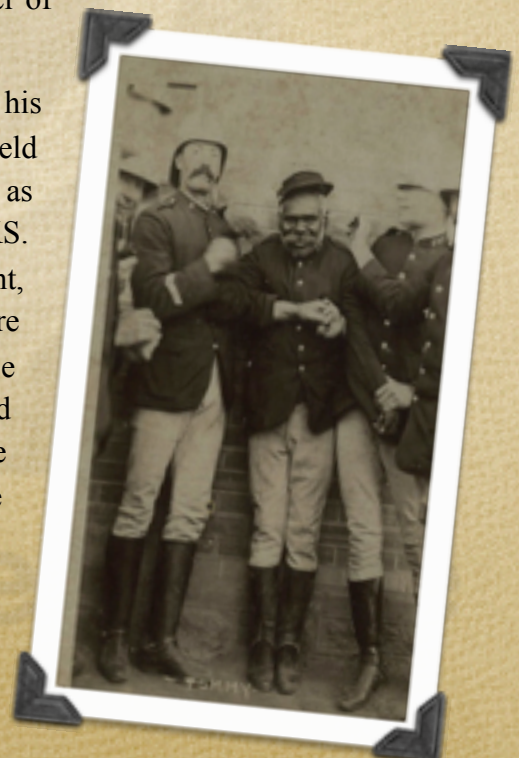
Article 1

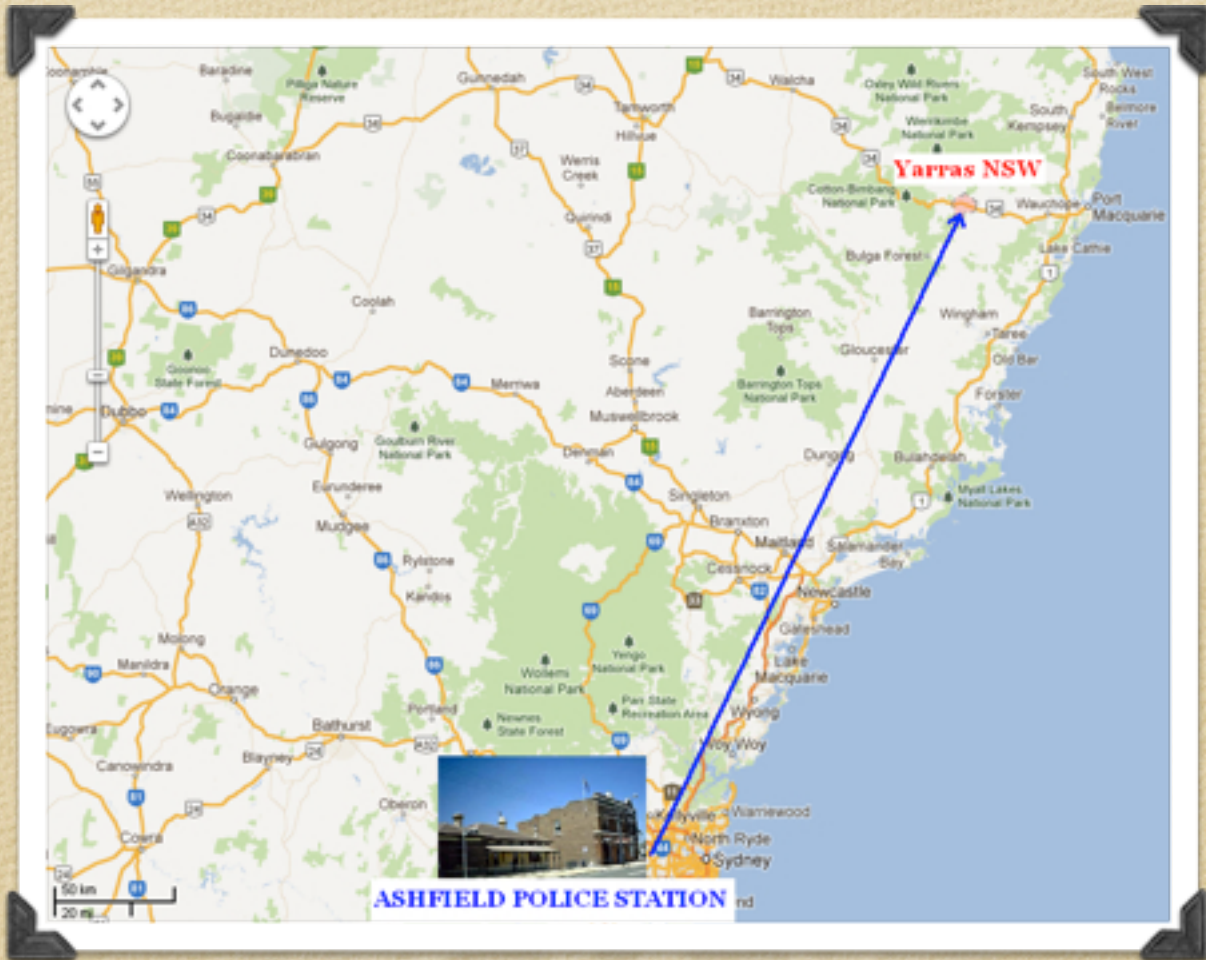
It's amazing how history repeats itself in so many ways. Recently, we saw the pursuit and capture of New South Wales' Public Enemy No.1 Malcolm NADEN who was wanted on alleged charges of murder and sexual assault. The suspect was finally cornered and captured during a protracted manhunt of several years. One of the police officers being shot and wounded prior to NADEN's final arrest, with a number of homes being raided by NADEN for supplies such as food and weapons and the houses used as temporary shelters. NADEN was captured on the 22nd March 2012 after being on the run for many years. He has subsequently been charged with;

- The murder of 24-year-old Kristy SCHOLES, who was found dead in the bedroom of a house in Dubbo in June 2005;
- Two counts of aggravated indecent assault on a 15-year-old girl at Dubbo in 2004;
- Shoot with intent to murder a police officer at Nowendoc on December 7 2011.
- He is also helping police with their investigation into the disappearance of another female.

If we wind the clock back to the year 1900, we come across the story of Jimmy Governor and his gang. Jimmy was an indigenous worker who, with his brothers and wife, was involved in the murder and rape of numerous person's prior to federation and with a multitude of thefts. They were at large and pursued by Police all over the colony. Their crimes affected New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. They were declared by the Premier of NSW as being outlawed.

In early September 1900 Constable Richard HARRIS and his friend Tracker Jimmy LANDBOROUGH, both of Ashfield Police, volunteered to set out after the notorious gang know as the GOVERNOR BROTHERS or the BREELONG BLACKS. The gang composed of 4 males and a female. Yes, that's right, just the two of them went out in search of the gang. There were other search parties but this one comprised of only these two men from Ashfield Police Station. Truly, a bold and gutsy decision to make. The journey on horseback alone would put most people off the venture. Off went both the Constable and the Tracker leaving their families behind in Ashfield for the good of the colony. They covered a distance of 300kms as the crow flies. HARRIS just a foot patrol Policeman and LANDBOROUGH his tracker were now on horseback and heading into dense forest and bushland.





Soon this game pair were on the heels of the gang and the pursuit commenced in earnest over the ensuing month. Jimmy GOVERNOR and his brothers were experienced bushmen, which made it extremely difficult for the two Ashfield men to gain ground on them. It was certainly a credit to Tracker Jimmy LANDSBOROUGH who's tracking skills kept the Ashfield pair in contact with the Governor Gang. It was at this time that Constable HARRIS and Tracker LANDSBOROUGH made a bold move and decided to intercept the gang by setting themselves up in a hut at YARRAS on the Hastings River where they believed the gang may pass by. Yarras today is still a mountainous and thick forest area and is situated some 35kms directly west of Port Macquarie.

At approximately 4.00pm on 14th October 1900 Constable HARRIS and Tracker Jimmy LANDSBOROUGH were positioned inside the hut on their stake-out, when they heard a disturbance at the door. It was Jimmy Governor and the gang who were foraging for supplies to help them on their quest to avoid apprehension by the Police. The gang was well armed and this had become their routine, breaking into unattended huts and stealing flour, sugar, coffee, firearms and ammunition or confronting the occupants and either assaulting or shooting them if they resisted. Does this sound familiar? When we go back to our recent public enemy No.1 it certainly does.

Jimmy had now positioned his rifle through a gap in the slats of the hut door and levelled it at the head of Constable HARRIS who was lying on a bed on the ground. On hearing a noise outside, both



Constable HARRIS and Tracker LANDSBOROUGH sprang to their feet as Jimmy GOVERNOR discharged his rifle at Constable HARRIS. Constable HARRIS was struck in the fleshy part of the thigh by

Jimmy GOVERNOR and severely wounded with the shot passing about an inch below the ball joint of the leg without hitting bone.

Shots began to be exchanged between the 4 male members of the Governor Gang and the two Ashfield comrades who were still in the hut. HARRIS got off 2 shots from the window in the hut and then, while wounded, went out of the hut and discharged another 12 shots while leaning on a post to take aim. Tracker LANDSBOROUGH joining him outside also delivered a number of shots at the gang. A fierce gunfight had erupted between the fugitives and the Lawmen with dozens of shots being fired by the gang at the 2 Ashfield boys. The Governor Brothers began moving from tree to tree to avoid the shots from HARRIS and LANDSBOROUGH and it is at this time that it is believed that Constable HARRIS hit Jimmy Governor and wounded him while the gang was withdrawing from the fire-fight. Constable HARRIS now wounded and Tracker LANDSBOROUGH engaged in a short foot pursuit of the brothers through the scrub. The brothers by now had mounted their horses and disappeared quickly into the dense bush. Due to his injuries, HARRIS was unable to continue the pursuit and was assisted by LANDSBOROUGH who field dressed his wound. LANDSBOROUGH took HARRIS back to Port Macquarie where HARRIS was cared for until he was able to be transported back to Sydney.

Though the gang escaped this encounter, it was not a wasted effort by the two Ashfield Boys changing the gang's luck for-the-worse. They had unsettled the gang, putting them to route, slowing their progress and giving others a chance to move in closer. On the following day Jimmy GOVERNOR and his gang were again cornered at another hut by civilians with one of the Gang being severely wounded. Within the next few weeks they were arrested and found themselves appearing in Sydney District Court.

When Constable Richard HARRIS had recovered from his injuries both he and Tracker Jimmy LANDSBOROUGH eventually returned to Ashfield. Once more back home, in Ashfield, just doing business as usual.



ON PATROL IN LACKEY STREET, SUMMER HILL