

Crossing Cultures

An Anglo-Australian Working in Aboriginal Communities

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Massacres in the Victoria River Region

Massacres in the Victoria River Region from 1884 to 1925 ¹					
Year	Location	Lower est. of people killed	Language group	By whom	Notes
1884	Blackgin Creek	20	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Massacre led by Mounted Constable William Willshire.	Reprisal
1890	Mistake Creek	60 men	Malngin and Nyinin	Mounted police	At Mistake Creek, police received a telegraph instructing them to release prisoners because the culprit (who allegedly killed one bullock) had been found elsewhere. Instead they were murdered and their bodies burnt.
1890	Blackfella Creek	25	Ngarinman, Bilinara	Pastoralists	Reprisal
1892	1 st Massacre Willaroo Station	30	Warlpiri	Colonisers / Stockmen, drovers	A double massacre in a reprisal for looting Willaroo Station and the killing of the Willaroo manager Syd Scott
1892	2 nd Massacre Willaroo Station	30	Wardaman	Mounted Police, stockmen, drovers	Reprisal
1893	Collins Creek	53	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Colonisers	Reprisal for the spearing of Constable Collins
1894	Victoria River	10 men, women & children	Ngarinyman, Karrangpurru, Nungali, Malngin, Wardaman, Ngaliwurru, Bilinara	Police operation reprisal led by Constable Willshire	Reprisal
1894	Wickham River	35 men	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Colonisers	Reprisal



1894-1895	Gordon Creek & VRD	60	Bilinara, Wardaman	Mounted Constable E O'Keefe, Jack Watson and colonisers	Police sanctioned massacres
1895	Little Gregory Creek	10	Ngarinyman, Karrangpurru, Nungali, Malngin, Wardaman, Ngaliwurru, Bilinara	Colonisers	Reprisal for attack on Paddy Cahill
1895	Blackfellows Knob	15	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Police, pastoralists	These are known as the "killing times"
1886	Seale Gorge	30 men, women & children	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Stockmen & drovers	After the massacre the bodies were dragged to a pyre and burnt.
1886	Bradshaw Station	15	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Pastoralists	Dispersal operation. Part of a group of massacres
1896-1897	Waterloo Station	100	Ngarinyman	Mounted police & pastoralists	Massacre after the spearing of "Big Johnny Durack". Part of a group of massacres
1905	Delamere Station	15	Wardaman	Colonisers / Pastoralists	Unknown
1910	Humbert River Station	30	Ngarinyman, Karrangpurru, Nungali, Malngin, Wardaman, Ngaliwurru, Bilinara	Colonisers	Reprisal for murder of "Brigalow Bill"
1911-1914	Bull's Head Pocket	30	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Pastoralists	The killing occurred during a corroboree
1911-1914	Kidman Knob	30	Ngarinyman, Bilinara	Pastoralists	People were engaged in ceremony
1918	Auvergne Station	7	Wardaman, Bilinara, Mudburra	Station employees	Reprisal for the spearing of station employee Alexander MacDonald
1920	Coomanderoo Station	30	Manggayarr	Colonisers	Killing in reprisal for a milking cow being killed
1920	Wattie Creek	8 women	Gurindji	Colonisers/stockmen	A group of women refused to submit to gang rape and were shot."
1920-1922	Wave Hill Station	30	Gurindji	Stockmen	Paddy Cahill's assistance was called 'in about 1924 to



					deal with cattle killers. He shot over 30 bush people
1924	Victoria River District	20 men, women & children	Ngarinyman, Karrangpurru, Nungali, Malngin, Wardaman, Ngaliwurru, Bilinara	Pastoralists	This was the last reported massacre on Gurindji country
1925	Sturt Creek	26 men, women & children	Ngarinman, Bilinara	Pastoralists	Reprisal

Source: Crossing Cultures, An Anglo-Australian working in Aboriginal Communities by Barbara Jackson, 2023
 Victoria River Region Colonial Frontier Massacre table is compiled from reference below

¹ Colonial Frontier Massacres in Australia, 1788-1930, The Centre for 21st Century Humanities, University of New Castle, <https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/>