Appin Massacre and Governor Macquarie's War 1816

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Appin Massacre and Governor Macquarie's War 1816

Abstract
The Appin Massacre of Aboriginal men, women and children occurred on 17 April 1816. It was the first of the "official" massacres of Aboriginal people to occur in Australia, and took place within the context of the war with the Aboriginal people of the Sydney area declare by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.

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The Appin Massacre & Governor Macquarie’s War

1816

Michael Organ

With Secrecy and Despatch Symposium, 9 April 2016, Campbelltown Arts Centre
Governor Macquarie and his chair

“...to drive them to a distance from the settlements....”
18 March 1816

“...this unavoidable result...” 4 May 1816
17th April [1816]. A little after one o’clock a.m. we marched...... A few of my men who wandered on heard a child cry. I formed line ranks, entered and pushed on through a thick brush towards the precipitous banks of a deep rocky creek. The dogs gave the alarm and the natives fled over the cliffs. A smart firing now ensued. It was moonlight. The grey dawn of the moon appearing so dark as to be able early to discover their figures bounding from rock to rock. Before marching from Quarters I had ordered my men to make as many prisoners as possible, and to be careful in sparing and saving the women and children. My principal efforts were now directed to this purpose. I regret to say some had been shot and others met their fate by rushing in despair over the precipice. I was however partly successful - I led up two women and three children. They were all that remained, to whom death would not be a blessing. ‘Twas a melancholy but necessary duty I was employed upon.

Fourteen dead bodies were counted in different directions. The bodies of Dunell and Kincabygal I had considerable difficulty in getting up the precipice - I regretted the death of an old native Balyin and the unfortunate women and children - from the rocky place they fell in. I found it would be almost impossible to bury these. I detached Lieut. Parker with the bodies of Dunell and Kinnabygal, to be hanged on a conspicuous part of a range of hills near Mr Broughton’s and after to lay in ambush at a ford where it was expected Boodbury was with other natives to pass. In the camp we found abundance of plundered potatoes and corn..... (Captain James Wallis, 46th Regiment)
British attack on the Eureka Stockade 1854
(J.B. Henderson, State Library of New South Wales)

46th Regt. of Foot attack (re-enactment)
Killed (shot and/or driven over cliff) – 14
   Balyin (old man)
Durelle / Dunell – hung from a tree – skull collected
Kinnabygal – shot 5 times - hung from a tree – skull collected
   Unnamed woman – skull collected

Wounded - ?????
   Unknown

Captured - 5
   2 woman and 3 children (Naali, young boy)

Escaped - ?????
D’haramuoy (young man, brother of Naali)
The Government then sent up a detachment of soldiers who ran a portion of them into a drive, shot sixteen of them, and hanged three on McGee's Hill. After the three bodies had been strung up, they...cut off the heads and brought them to Sydney, where the Government paid 30s and a gallon of rum each for them. (William Byrne 1903)
I may observe, that Carnimbeigle was a most determined character, one of the few who were hostile to the settlers, and who annoyed them very much by destroying their cattle. A party of the military were sent out against him and his confederates; but he could not be found, until they procured two native guides. He was then traced to his den, and, being placed at bay, he died manfully, having received five shots before he fell (Patrick Hill, quoted in Sir George Mackenzie, Illustrations on Phrenology, 1820)
......being placed at bay, he died manfully, having received five shots before he fell.
Burragorang people, near Camden, circa 1850

Photographer: Willam Hetzer.

Collection: Macleay Museum, University of Sydney
1816 Appin Massacre, 1824 Bathurst Massacre, 1828 Cape Grim Massacre, 1830 Fremantle Massacre, Convincing Grounds Massacre (of the Kilcarer clan of the Gunditjmara people only two survive), 1834 Pinjarra Massacre, 1838 Slaughterhouse Creek Massacre, 1838 Faithful Massacre, Myall Creek Massacre, Gwydir Massacre, Waterloo Creek Massacre, 1839 Murdering Gully Massacre, Campaspie Plains Massacre, between 1840 and 1850 the Gippsland Massacres, 1840 Konongwootong Massacre, 1841 Rufus River Massacre, Lake Minimup Massacre of men and boys, 1842 Brisbane Valley Massacre, Kilcoy Station Mass Poisoning, Skull Creek and Gippsland Massacres, 1843 Warrigal Creek Massacre, 1846 Cape Otway Massacre, 1848 East Ballina/Evans Head Massacre, 1849 Hospital Creek Massacre, Butchers Tree Massacre, Avenue Range Station Massacre, 1857 Hornet Bank Massacre: extermination of the Yeeman People, 1861 Medway Ranges Massacre, 1865 La Grange Bay Massacre, 1867 Goulbolba Hill Massacre, 1868 Flying Foam Massacre, 1873 Battle Camp Massacre, 1874 Barrow Creek Massacre, 1874-5 Blackfellow’s Creek Massacre, 1879 Cape Bedford Massacre, 1880s Florida Station Massacres, 1884 Battle Mountain Massacre, 1887: the massacres of the Djara, Konejandi and Walmadjari in Western Australia plus a few more up there in the Kimberley, 1890 Speewah Massacre, 1890 to the 1920s the Killing Times in Western Australia, 1906 Canning Stock Route Massacres, 1915 Mistake Creek Massacre, 1918 Bentick Island Massacre, 1926 Forest River Massacre, 1928 Coniston Massacre
Slaughterhouse Creek, northern New South Wales, 1838
My Lai, Vietnam, 16 March 1968
c.500 civilians killed

1st public reports, November 1969
The Government then sent up a detachment of soldiers who ran a portion of them into a drive, shot sixteen of them, and hanged three on McGee’s Hill. After the three bodies had been strung up, they...cut off the heads and brought them to Sydney, where the Government paid 30s and a gallon of rum each for them. (William Byrne 1903)
The Massacre of men, women and children of the Dharawal Nation occurred near here on 17th April, 1816. Fourteen were counted this day, but the real number will never be known. We acknowledge the impact this had and continues to have on the Aboriginal people of this land.

We are deeply sorry. We will remember them.

Wingara Reconciliation Group
Sponsored by Wollondilly Council.
......It appears that the party under Capt. Wallis fell in with a number of the natives on the 17th ultimo, near Mr. Broughton’s farm, in the Airds District, and killed fourteen of them, taking two women and three children prisoners. Amongst the killed were found the bodies of two of the most hostile of the natives, called Durelle and Conibigal.
Governor Macquarie’s report to England, 8 June 1816

The occurrence of most importance which took place was under Captain Wallis’s direction, who, having surprized one of the native encampments and meeting with some resistance, killed 14 of them and made 5 prisoners; amongst the killed there is every reason to believe that Two of the most ferocious and sanguinary of the Natives were included, same few other prisoners were taken in the course of this route and have been lodged in Gaol. This necessary but painful duty was conducted by the Officers in Command of the Detachments perfectly in conformity to the instructions I had furnished them.
“….. civilization of the Aborigines…..”

Governor Lachlan Macquarie 1814
1816

Thullimbah, Wollongong 1858
“Prisoners of war”
In case they make the smallest resistance or attempt to run away after being ordered by the friendly Native Guides to surrender themselves as Prisoners, you are to fire upon them, saving the Women and Children if possible. ..... The Prisoners taken - young and old - are to be brought in with you to Parramatta and delivered over there to the Magistrates, to be secured at that station till they receive my Instructions respecting their future disposal. Being desirous to procure Twelve Boys and Six Girls - from between four and six years of age – for the Native Institution at Parramatta, you will select and secure that number of fine healthy good-looking children from the whole of the Native Prisoners of War taken in the course of your operations, and direct them to be delivered to the Supdt. of the Native Institution at Parramatta immediately on their arrival there. (Governor Macquarie, 9 April 1816)
On any occasion of seeing or falling in with the Natives, either in bodies or singly, they are to be called on, by your friendly Native Guides, to surrender themselves to you as **Prisoners of War**. If they refuse to do so, make the least show of resistance, or attempt to run away from you, you will fire upon and compel them to surrender, breaking and destroying the spears, clubs, and waddies of all those you take Prisoners. Such Natives as happen to be killed on such occasions, if grown up men, are to be hanged up on trees in conspicuous situations, to strike the Survivors with the greater terror..... Such Women and Children as may happen to be killed are to be interred wherever they may happen to fall..... The Native Prisoners are to be hand-cuffed, or tied two and two together with ropes.... *(Governor Macquarie, 8 May 1816)*
“To domesticate and civilise these wild, rude people”

“…secrecy and dispatch….”

“To inflict exemplary and severe punishments”

“To strike them with terror”

“Strike the survivors with greater terror”

Lachlan Macquarie 1816
1816

9 April – secret military orders instigating war

17 April – Appin massacre

4 May – Proclamation on treatment of Aborigines

20 July – Proclamation on treatment of Aborigines

1 November – Proclamation ending the war

1817

April - “the principal chiefs ..... sue for peace”
Governor Arthur’s Proclamation board to the Aborigines 1830
“Get over it, it was 200 years ago”
Kyle Sanderlands, 30 March 2016

“Lest we forget”
Rudyard Kipling, 1897
Botany Bay
1770
“Warra warra wai!”
GO AWAY!
Sydney Harbour - 1788

“Walla walla wah!”

GO AWAY!
Terra nullius = settled land
Conflict = War
Settlement = Dispossession
First Fleet = Invasion
Mission = concentration camp
Native Institute = Stolen children
Sovereignty = Ownership
Natives = Warriors
Hostile = Defence, retribution
Custom = Law
Godless = Spiritual
Peaceful = Opposition
Uncivilised = Civilisation
Undomesticated = Human Beings
The Massacre of men, women and children of the Dharawal Nation occurred near here on 17th April, 1816.

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Winga Murandy Reconciliation Group
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