

IMPERIAL SERVICEMEN KILLED BY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ON THE AUSTRALIAN FRONTIER

Working schedule, 1814-1870 - names, units, locations and circumstances

Research caution: This is a working identified schedule, not an assertion that no further isolated cases can be found. The 11 deaths presently identified all occurred between 1814 and 1837, although British regular forces remained in the Australian colonies until 1870. None of the 11 is presently established as having been killed in an organised battle.

Date	Serviceman / unit	Location	Circumstances of death
7 May 1814	Private Isaac Eustace - Veteran Company	Appin district, NSW	Eustace and two other veterans confronted Aboriginal people taking maize. The soldiers fired, killing a boy; while attempting to reload they were rushed and Eustace was killed.
24 Apr 1817	Private Peter Connachton - 46th Regiment	Near Newcastle, NSW	Away kangaroo hunting with a convict when he was speared and killed. A surviving deposition records the incident; it was private activity rather than a military operation.
6 Feb 1821	Private James King - 48th Regiment	Bathurst district, NSW	Recorded as killed by Aboriginal people. The precise circumstances remain uncertain in the material presently located.
1825-26	Corporal Gwillam - Royal Marines	Fort Dundas, Melville Island, NT	Killed during a period of repeated violent encounters between the Fort Dundas settlement and Tiwi people. The exact circumstances of his death are not clearly established as a battle.
Sep 1830	Unnamed private - 63rd Regiment	Boomer Creek area, Tasmania	Stationed in the district during the Black War period. A later historical account says he was sitting among wattles making a bird cage when Aboriginal men approached unseen and killed him with waddies.
17 Oct 1830	Captain Patrick Logan - 57th Regiment	Moreton Bay hinterland, Qld	Killed while travelling alone on an exploratory journey in the Moreton Bay hinterland. He was not commanding troops in an engagement at the time.
30 Apr 1831	Captain Collet Barker - 39th Regiment	Murray Mouth / Encounter Bay, SA	Undertaking government exploration. After crossing the Murray mouth alone, Barker was speared and killed; the death occurred during exploration, not military combat.
6 Aug 1832	Private George Budge - 63rd Regiment	Murray district, WA	Reported killed while on sentry duty in an Aboriginal ambush. The death occurred on military duty, but the evidence describes an ambush rather than an organised battle.
4 May 1834	Private Denis Larkin - 21st Regiment	Upper Swan, WA	Speared near the military barracks. The surviving evidence presently located does not establish an organised engagement.
16 Jul 1834	Private Hugh Nesbit - 21st Regiment	Murray district, WA	Accompanied another man searching for a missing horse, was led into an ambush and killed. He was not conducting a military operation.
27 May 1837	Private Isaac Green - 21st Regiment	York / Beverley district, WA	Left a settler's house to check an outdoor oven and was speared. He survived long enough to give an account of the attack; this was an isolated killing rather than combat.

Working interpretation: The circumstances are as important as the number. The identified deaths include hunting, exploration, searching for a horse, checking an oven, sentry duty, isolated ambushes and individual confrontations. On the present evidence, none is clearly a death in an organised battle between opposing military forces.

Suggested graphic wording: "11 Imperial servicemen presently identified as killed by Aboriginal people, 1814-1837; none presently shown to have died in an organised battle."

Source note: Working schedule compiled from the Australian History Institute research table "Imperial Servicemen Killed by Aboriginal People on the Australian Frontier" and its underlying historical sources. Individual cases should be primary-source audited before publication as a definitive national roll.