
Nowendoc Tragedy

MAN SHOT BY POLICE.

ATTACK ON CONSTABLE.

An attempt to resist arrest and a savage assault on a constable resulted in the death of a man near Nowendoc, Walcha district, about 8 o'clock last Saturday morning.

It appears that First-class Constable James Ernest Gilroy, police officer in charge at Nowendoc, came upon a man whose name the police believe to be Alexander Harast, and for whom they have been searching for the past fortnight, about a mile from Nowendoc township. When arrest was attempted violent resistance was made, and the officer was attacked with a heavy billet of wood.

Desperate Struggle.

Constable Gilroy said: "I am Constable Gilroy, and I am arresting you for committing several robber-

you for committing several robberies in this district." Immediately the man aimed a blow at the constable, and a desperate struggle took place. Constable Gilroy then said, "If you continue to attack me I will fire." The attack was continued, however, and in self-defence the constable fired his revolver, the bullet striking the man in the breast, and he fell dead.

The police state that the dead man is identical with a criminal who has had previous encounters with them, and one who had a long list of convictions and several aliases. In endeavoring to escape arrest some years ago in Kiandra police district, they state, he deliberately shot at Inspector Roberts, now stationed at Parramatta.

Previous Threat.

It is stated that when apprehended some days ago by a resident of Nowendoc, Harast, who was armed at the time, said, "If you attempt to arrest me I will kill you."

Harast, who is believed to be a Russian, or of Russian descent, is said to have been an educated and

said to have been an educated and cultured man, about 50 years old.

Some time ago the police received complaints of numerous thefts around Nowendoc, and Constable Gilroy was on the trail of the suspected man for about three weeks, returning home only occasionally.

Learning that the wanted man was living in the ranges, additional police were brought to the scene, and an extensive search was made for Harast, who was known to be carrying a long sheath knife and firearms.

Inquest Opened.

After the tragedy Constable Gilroy communicated with his comrades, and the Walcha District Coroner, with the Government Medical officer, visited the scene and viewed the body, which was then removed to Nowendoc Court House, where an inquest was opened, during which it was revealed that a revolver containing three bullets was found in Harast's pocket, and that when the constable had approached him Harast said, "I will shoot you if you come a yard towards me." He then

come a yard towards me." He then made to put his hand in his pocket, and rushed at the constable, who was forced to fire.

It is further stated that the value of the goods said to have been stolen by Harast is £100. Portion of these have been recovered, but the firearms have not yet been found.

Residents Relieved.

Residents of the district were greatly relieved when informed of the occurrence, as Harast had terrorised the neighborhood.

It is alleged that he had stolen more than a dozen firearms and hidden them in different spots in the district. He first came under the notice of the authorities in Victoria when 24 years of age. He was then given a sentence of three years for house-breaking, and had been arrested on several occasions since, mostly in the country.

On the motion of Crs. Henderson and Knight the report relative to the Newey Creek R.S. Road was adopted.

**Cr. Henderson invited attention
to dangerous position of railway
gates across the State Highway at
Nambucca Heads.**