

He told the Missioner, Pastor F. W. Albrecht of his desire and he offered to help him with the equipment.

When Rex Battarbee returned to Hermannsburg two years later Albert offered to be camel boy for him in return for lessons in painting. They were away for two months, during which time he received the only lessons he ever had. He was then 34, had been married for years, and had several children.

He was already a good craftsman in both iron and wood, a good worker, and ambitious to improve his position. Moreover his adoption of the Christian faith had naturally brought a steadiness into his life which enabled him to pursue a definite aim.

His first exhibition was held in Melbourne in 1938, when Mr. W. H. Gill gave him his first chance to prove his worth to the Art World. The exhibition was a great success, and since that time exhibitions of his paintings have been held in all State capitals, and Alice Springs. Some years he has received as much as £2,000 for his paintings.

Other members of his tribe at Hermannsburg have been inspired by his example, including his own son Ewald, but it was several years before their work was good enough to attract attention. In recent years members of this Hermannsburg Art Group have held exhibitions in several capital cities, often in association with Namatjira.

In 1953 he was awarded the Coronation Medal, and in 1954 was one of the two Northern Territory aborigines flown to Canberra with the official party for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Before returning home he was entertained by friends and well wishers in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and the Tanunda district, where he paid tribute to the first missionaries, who set out from that locality nearly 80 years before to found the mission at Hermannsburg.

From the early days of white settlement the police have had the assistance of black trackers in their work. Many of these trackers have rendered splendid service to the country and some have made it a lifetime job.

Such a one was Frank Williams, who now lives in retirement at Bourke. He was attached to the N.S.W. police force for 45 years. He was born on Tooralle Station on the River Warrego in 1881. Brought up in the bush, he learnt tracking from his father and mother as a child.

He started to work as a police tracker at Drysdale, 23 miles north of Cobar, when he was 19. After Drysdale he served at Gongolon, Cobar, Dubbo, Byrock, and Bourke. He was 25 years at Byrock, and his last 12 years were served at Bourke.

Since his retirement a few years ago, he has several times been called in to lend the police a hand. He reckons his hardest tracking job was to track Mack

McDonald years ago. McDonald, a full-blood aborigine had come down to Brewarrina from Queensland. At Brewarrina he murdered a boy under very savage circumstances, and went bush.

Williams set out on his trail, and tracked him from Brewarrina for 50 miles towards Weilmoringle Station. Much of the tracking was through creeks, where McDonald went to avoid being traced. But Williams caught up with him, found him asleep, and had him arrested.

Frank Williams is proud of several things. One is the gold watch presented to him by his white police colleagues on his retirement. Another is the citation sent to him by the Registrar of the Imperial Service Order, from St. James' Palace, London, when he was awarded that distinction. Another is that November day in 1953, when he went down to Government House, Sydney, and was presented with the medal and ribbon of that Order.

Two of his sons were in the A.I.F. in the Second World War. One was killed in Malaya, and the other spent three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, and as a labourer on the horror railway.

Many aborigines enlisted in the defence of Australia in the two World Wars, and in Korea, and several won decorations. The first promoted to Commissioned rank was Reginald W. Saunders, of Portland, Victoria.

After active service in Libya, Greece, Crete, and New Guinea, he was selected to return to Victoria and attend an Officer's Training School. From this he graduated as a Lieutenant in December, 1944, the first aborigine to receive a Commission.



Captain Reg Saunders.