

Is this one of the guns used to kill more than 70 Walpiri, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye people in the Coniston Massacre led by Constable Murray from 14 August to 18 October 1928? The Walpiri say that more than 100 of their people were shot in raids on camps of men, women and children.

Mick, pictured holding the rifle, says the gun could have belonged either to Constable Murray, William Morton or one of the other members of the revenge party. Murray himself boasted to Constable Vic Hall that he had killed "closer to 70" than the 17 he admitted he had shot.

The attacks began after the death of dingo hunter Frederick Brooks that year at a place known as Yakurru or "Brooks Soak".

My friend Mick told me he had been given the rifle from a person who knew its history. He was trying to research more information and asked me if I could help.

Trouble is, I've lost contact with Mick and I can't find my notes on what he told me, about 6 years ago. Maybe someone on Facebook can solve this mystery?