

GDK: This is field tape 24, still recording at Tara Community with Peter, and we're talking about early stories. This is the 5th of July, 1990.

FIELD TAPE 24 5/7/90 Peter Horsetailer at Tara Community
(continuation of telegraph line story on previous tape)

Stolen axe story, cont.

HP: Yeah. That oldfella bin go back. He go back that *Arnerre* with that- with that axe. And he show 'em round for people. For his people longa *Arnerre* country. And he show 'em, 'Hey, this good tommyhawk, this one! Where you bin find it?'

'Oh, I bin grab it from that- I don't know what his- might be *arentye*.'

He tell 'em, 'Ah yeah. They different, they look proper really white.'

'Ah, well where they come from?'

'I don't know,' that old fella bin tell 'em.

Camel story

They bin keep goin', you know, big mob from *Arnerre*, you know, they bin come back to, longa *Elkertele*. They bin sittin' down 'bout there, big mob. *Elkertele*. Yeah, that way, that rockhole. Soakage. Yeah, they bin sittin' down 'bout there. And they can hear 'em this bell, you know. Camel him bin have 'em longa neck. And that where he bin eat 'em bout all the tree, you know, what's name- bean tree. Yeah. Walk along. Because that camel, he's poor bugger- he bin have 'em with the strap and with the chain, you know. Walk along because him get loose, that camel. But he still there, that bone. I see 'em.

GDK: Oh yeah.

HP: Mmm. And this old fella say, 'That see 'em that one now.' he bin tell 'em. That's it. I seen 'em him longa *Thanku* first. Might be him turning into different way now. There again. Might be *arrentye*. All right. And they bin goin'. They bin send 'em two young fellas to go and see and make sure. This one go longa that camel, you know? Get 'em 'bout tucker, you- *styweretye* you know?

HJK: Ah hah. Bean tree.

HP: And see 'em. And they went there two young fella come up and see 'em, "Ah, yeah, something there." And go back and tell 'em, "Oh, he's proper long neck. Might be something devil, right? Might be *arrentye*, right? Yeah. Well they bin go. "Well we go back. All you- all you woman- youfella gotta go top of that big hill there. With the little baby. But we'll try all the men gotta try for him." And they had to get 'em all the boomerangs, and lotta spears- everything. And they bin get

round bout that camel now. They bin get round for that camel. And they can look, "Ah yeah." Poor bugger, that camel bin start feedin' bout, you know. He don't know nothing about it. Because he had a chain and a strap. When they bin yard 'em, they bin start 'em with a spear. They bin- oh, a lotta spear bin come longa that camel, oh now, yeah, and boomerang. They bin kill 'em right round that camel, right round til they bin get 'em near that soakage. And they went back- they bin tell 'em all the kid and wife belonga allabout, 'Ah, we bin kill 'em right that *arentye*. Youfella be right. We'll be right. Everyone can make fire. We can sleep longa fire.'

White conflict

And after that, they bin- oh, somewhere. They bin come along that soakage, that way. They bin show me about that soakage, just west from that- from what's name- ah, from Barrow Creek. They call 'em *Tharlewane*. *Tharlewane*. *Tharlewane*. Mmm. *Tharlewane*. Yeah, *Tharlewane*. Soakage, yeah. Old woman bin come out with the nulla nulla. One bloke bin standin' right that top of the hill. That same man bin keep tell 'em all the way. But he bin lay the cable. This other one fella bin go from Barrow Creek. He bin go that way. I think after him bin goin' thataway. This () man go back there and then this old man, this whitefella, they bin keep askin' these fellas to go shoot 'em. You know, they bin havin' that gun, little bit weak one, you gotta put 'em like that all the time. (shows loading powder in musket with brush) Early days. Yeah.

GDK: Yeah, put the powder in with that

HJK:Musket. Not a rifle.

()

HP:No, they bin only put 'em on- through long barrel. And fire 'em then. And they bin keep goin' and he bin see 'em big mob there. Already they bin waitin'. They had a big fight there. That's what that old fella bin tell 'em me. White and black they bin fight there. Longa that *Tharlewane* now. And this whitefella- white man, they never try to kill 'em him. They bin only just frighten 'em him. And they bin keep goin' again that way, goin' south, all them old aboriginals but they bin go more than 40 hundred- might be 1000 people. When they bin alive. More than, might be 2000. And all the man bin go from there them white people. They bin changin' all the horses and gettin' all the guns and go for allabout- follow 'em down that creek. Lookin' for them.

And this one- I think aborigine they bin teach 'em. For work. One young fella. And this young fella bin tell 'em, 'Right, we think we gotta count 'em. Might be too many people. How many people we can count 'em.'

And they () they bin count 'em. They bin- another one bin top of the tree. And see 'em bout. 'Ah, they can see us that's comin'- all the horses. Just from west from Stirling Station. Ah, well, all right, we can have a try one another. We can kill one another, it's all right.'

And they bin tell 'em, 'Ah, he's all right. This all right we can get killed. Because along our country.' Yeah.

And they bin lookin' out. Well this all the whitefella. They bin count 'em now. This side from that- I think- this side from that (). They bin count 'em them people. Oh, they bin tell 'em, 'Oh what. This too much people.' They bin tell 'em. They was only 20 people. white fella. But they bin more. 1000 people. 1000. When they was alive, you know? Well they bin forget about now everything and they bin all comin' back.

Kaytetye boy and whites

And that one young fella where they bin grow him up there again, right from little fella, and him bin () all right. That young fella bin go longa all the family, now, look around, see 'em. And he can tell him 'bout all the story. 'Ah, he be eat all right. Good tucker, sugar, tea, everything close. Youfella be all right.' And they bin () whitefella.

'Ah yeah. He like wefellas.'

Tell'em belong allabout now like old people. And they bin all understand what they bin tell'em bout (). 'You fella come a little bit close. Wefella- we might give youfellas a little bit - youfella eat 'em tucker. And meat.'

And then soon they bin come around Barrow Creek. Around there. Sittin' down 'bout old people. That what that old fella bin tell 'em but that where he bin steal 'em that tommyhawk now. That's the one bin tellin' me bout that story.

All right. They bin comin' around and they bin say 'em, 'Hello.' Yeah, that young fella bin still come again. With his sugar and tea. And a bit of flour.'

Well they reckon, 'Oh, that's *aripe*. Ashes.' *Aripe. Aripe*, this one. Well, they couldn't trust him. They couldn't trust him, reckon. And one shoulder, I think, they bin bring 'em up. Sheep, I think. Nannygoat. He can gibit for them old people. And they bin say 'em, 'Hello. Might be something. Might be *eyterrye* [person].'

Because they bin see 'em'bout, because he's white, that white fella. Might be he's *arrenytye* because he might been kill 'em some one aboriginal. Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

And this young fella, he bin still learning about allabout. Well, () tell 'em that young fella, he get him bin talk, 'All right. Youfella gotta come.'

Him bin bring more clothes for them. Shirt and trousers. And tryin' to make 'em understand. And he bin tell 'em, 'Right, you fella wear 'em round trousers. That button, he bin go behind. On the back side. And that shirt- on back again.'

And he bin take 'em all longa for ration, that Barrow Creek. And they bin get 'em longa that (), sugar, and () they bin gett'embout flour. And that young fella bin go keep go all longabout again. Show'em'bout, you know? Make it- how to make a damper. And him bin show'embout. Well, they couldn't believe him. Anyway, they bin just watch him bout all right. But, ah this way they bin think about old people and thinkin' about like what fruit what they bin make 'em *nterrenge* now a little bit. Well they bin just get 'em like that. And put 'em along fire like that. Make 'em a little bit like that and fill 'em up all the way along, make 'em like that, long one. And keep puttin' 'em like that, long one. And keep puttin' im like that. Like cover 'em along fire now. They never time to make 'em with hand, like, you know?

HJK:() seed.

HP:And they bin know 'em that early days tucker. Like *nterrenge*. () Seed where they bin grind 'em with a stone. Yeah. That's the way they bin do 'em. Well they bin keep learnin' that old fella. They bin- that old fella where he bin steal 'em that tommyhawk, he bin still with these fellas. Yeah, that's the fella bin walk around there. What's him ()? Well a lotta people bin learn 'em from there now. That story now.

Whites and Aboriginal women

They bin workin'- they never really learn it. And something bin goin' wrong with this girl () now, because they bin all bring 'em and 'Hey,

something good tucker there.' They got 'em. And they bin go get 'em longa bush, all the girl now, like come in there. Tryin' to live round there. Well something wrong because, you know, because whitefella bin thinkin' bout because they had to no wife belonga allabout, and that's why that thing bin go a little bit wrong longa allabout, you know. If they bin see'em young woman bin walkin' round there longa spring, you know.

Because ah, well ah, they bin keep learnin' all the way. Keep learnin'. That's why they bin find that trouble, you know. They bin worry'bout for his wife, you know. Yeah. And they bin tell 'em all the like this. They never bin tell 'em woman. Not tell 'em. No, that's lately, this one. But they bin tell 'em about lubra. Lubra.

GDK:Lubra. Yes.

HP:You send me that lubra. Yeah. Well this lady or this woman- people don't know. But this in English, they bin talkin' bout this lubra. Yeah. Well that's why they bin understand again. And him bin trick 'em too, you know. 'You send that lubra. He gotta wash my clothes.'

Yeah. But () him bin go there right, and wash 'em there and he not send 'em back, that, for his husband. He camp there altogether. Go next morning, might be afternoon. He's go gibit tucker longa him. Go back, go back camp there again. That's why everything bin goin' wrong, all the time. Mmm.

Old men of Kaytetye

See. But that's why that old fella bin keep tellin' me, all them fellas now, Tropery and all them. And Jimmy and that old fella where him get shot longa Bottom Bore? *Thangku* side. This is one bin come round all way about that story. Tellin' all this big story, you know? And him bin show 'em that tommyhawk too longa allabout. He come on right round. That old fella. That old fella bin still livin' longa Singleton. That's why him bin keep tellin' me that story. Couple of fellas. One from *Lewteye* [New Barrow] Apenengke, old fella again. He keep tellin' me what story, what bin goin' on. And they see that buggy. They don't know. Reckon that's a might be big snake. Might be *arentye*. Yeah, they bin (). They never try'in to touch him all them meat what they bin kill 'em bout there. Nannygoat, or anything. Well they bin reckon, 'Oh no, we can't touch it.'

They might eatin' people. Yeah. That's what they bin reckon, you know? Yeah, that's why they bin reckon, you know, that's why they bin lookin', you know? Too white, you know. And they bin reckon, 'Oh, that must be *arentye*.'

Yeah. They might be eatin' people. Yeah. That's what they bin tellin' me, make me laugh, all them old people, what they bin tellin' bout long me. You know. I bin keep thinkin', you know, () I don't know nothing, you know. Old fellas, yeah. But they bin keep learnin' all the way along. Till they bin come. And teach them all to 'workin' now. They bin workin' a little bit this time, you know.

Kaytetye boy and whites, cont.

They bin only have one fella they bin grow me they bin tellin' me? Only one Kaytetye they bin grow 'em up there. One young fella. From little fella. Half grown kid, they bin take 'em way from mother, I think. And they bin grow 'im up- whitefella bin bin grow 'im up now. And that- when that young fella bin grow up there and him bin go back but he not forget about Kaytetye language. And him go back and tell all these old people, make 'em understand. And show 'em all these thing- they use 'em, you know. Jam, might be. Tobacco- him bin show 'em tobacco. And him bin tell 'em, 'That's tobacco.' Same like () pitcheri *tyangwenge atherrke*. Him bin tell 'em- they make 'em different way. Bin tell 'em bout. Yeah, one fella they bin grow 'em up. That's why they bin tellin' me, but only one Kaytetye they bin grow 'em up again. Him bin livin' there longa house all the time. Him bin keep 'em bout longa him. That's why him bin- but him bin little kid, like they bin make 'em him understand talkin' English to him, you know. Tell him what's thing.

And this young fella him go down- bin man now, like could tell 'em all this old people. And they bin sendin' him that horse, walk around every soakage. Tell 'em bout, you know. 'Oh they all right. They like usfellas. They only look white, right. They same like usfellas.'

Yeah, make 'em proper really, they bin quiet 'em down all them aboriginal people. They bin go longa *aynerre* country, *alkalperre* country, talk about. He that young fella now walk around. They bin give him 2 horses. One got swag. They got him his swag, and for himself. Go along *Warlukurlangu*, longa *errene*, go that way longa Hanson River. Keep tellin' all these people. That's all the Kaytetye mob, he bin tell 'em about. Go this way- at the creek, this way. Tell 'em about all the people. *Aynerre* people and all them people- tell 'em bout. 'Ah, they

like usfellas. They all right. But they got good everything. They got tucker. They got tobacco and they bin give listen. And they got blanket- () got blanket (). That's why him bin tell 'em bout longa allabout. They bin understand for that fella now.

Early work for whites

When they bin know everything and they bin start work for them- for the people. They had a big mob of horses and big mob of cattle bin come in there. Not station- they bin have 'em government bin have them cattle. They bin workin' there at big stock yard right alonga that pub. Big- big () yard goin'. And all of the aborigine bin learn break 'em in horses. And quieten 'em down horses and start learning to do anything, branding, and all that. That's why the old aborigines bin start learn from telegraph station. Not from anywhere. Same like Tennant Creek, Powell Creek, and all them country. Like Alice Springs. That's where they bin learn. From all telegraph station. And they bin know, they bin get job when all the Afghan bin come now, the camel and buggy, wagon. No car. You gotta have 'em- when they have 'em that wagon- big wagon- they had to use the 12 horses. Put 'em on that one. And buggy- you gotta use 'em 2 horses. On the side. Like that. That pole there long middle. And that buggy this way. Yeah, that 12 horses, you gotta have 'em put like that long way. Standin' () when they bin cart 'em tank. They might bin cartin' that telegraph they bin puttin' 'em up. And they bin have 'em camel. They bin have 'em other things to cart.

HJK:When they have those 12 horses- they have 3 long side? Or 4 long side? How many?

HP:Yeah. Yeah. No, that's 3 this side, 'nother 3 this side. Like that. But with buggy they bin only have 'em 2 horses. That only for the bosses. Bin usin' that buggy.

Early white celebrations

And when they bin want a Christmas time, well they go, white people. They didn't have any pub. They bin only have 'em- have 'em beer or something. Rum or whiskey in the bush longa telegraph station. That's all. Everyone, like, from cattle station, they bin only go have 'em beer there. They didn't have anywhere. They had to go got 'em horses or buggy. That's all. And camel bin cartin' all them grogs. Nothing. Not car. Yeah. This grog bin- today they got 'em alonga truck, you know? But long time they bin cart 'em with the camel from Oodnadatta. From people Alice Springs. That loading they bin comin' might be 3-4 tin for the camel. Come longa Alice Spring telegraph station. And they bin only

have 'em police station now that- through that Gap. On the west side. That railway goin' through here. Near that hill. That big hill this way. HJK: Yeah. Heavitree Gap.

HP: Yeah. This one. That creek goin'. Another hill here and that railway come like that. They bin havin' police station right there, where the bean tree is. Yeah. That's all.

Early memories

That's was the early day. No any policeman bin around all over the place. They bin only policeman they bin sittin' down here. A couple of fellas bin sittin' down there. () bin longa- () he's whitefella. Bin sittin' down bout longa what's name. Longa- that old bricks- you can see 'em. In Ryan's Well. Nothing- he not be a policeman but he might be an operator. Yeah, telegraph. Stamlick(?). He was bin still alive, that man. Might be they bin kill 'em people too longa Coniston way? Him bin still up that- him bin livin' there longa Ryan's Well. Mmm. He was a telegraph man, anyway. Bin workin' there from near Ryan's Well.

Kaytetye boy and whites, cont.

HJK: Do you know what the skin of that boy that they grow 'em up in.

HP: Pwerle, I think. Pwerle, yeah, Pwerle. From *Aynerre* again they bin take 'em a little kid from allabout. You know, because, ah, that little- they bin grow him up there. And they bin keep teachin' 'em him for language. For English. Tell him tobacco, this sort of thing. Like, woman. Not woman, this lubra and anything tucker- flour, tea, nannygoat, *eyepe-eyepe-* not sheep- *eyepe eyepe*. Nando. Horses. Donkey, mule. Yeah, they bin teachin' 'em him all the way, like leavin' he can go round and tell all these people in the bush. And they bin give him- when he bin little bit grow up now him bin get man, a little bit, you know. Well, they bin send 'em him then. You can go this two horses. We give his another horses. You can use 'em for tucker, have a backpack, and this one horses we give you, you can ride this one. We give you saddle and packsaddle. Bin have 'em- you can go round and see your people and tell 'em what we are. Stay longa this place. And you can tell 'em- you can tell 'em they want tucker they can come up live longa this place. We can feed 'em bout longa ration, you know? Like that.

Situation of Aborigines after whites came

Well they bin came- all bin come there when they bin know. They bin live round longa that creek too. And, well they bin do other way around

now. They bin dancin' corroboree, you know? That's the time that bin killing one another. From *kwiabi* now they bin fight. Yeah. But that way they bin fight from that *kwiabi*, but they bin still doin' that. Like what I bin tell you about that George Hayes bin takin' away that old lady. (refers to Peter's father's first wife being taken by George Hayes when Peter's father was working with guiding camel trains north from Oodnadatta) Yeah. They bin still doin' that. But that's why- but you can see a lot of coloured people livin' all over the place now, today. From aborigine now. Aboriginal woman. Yeah. () longa Sydney. You can see 'em longa Canberra- you can see 'em longa New South Wales. Everywhere. They're all family belong melabat somewhere- belonga to Warlpiri people, Anmatyerre people, Kaytetye people. But they don't know us because welfare bin takin' all the little fellas from mother. Oh well. Because () fraid him bin grow up here, land () him. They bin grow up here. And that - one of his sister, he there longa Alice Springs.

Yeah, but that's where- they bin go and make a big corroboree there and dancin' round everything and they bin still dancin' corroboree. That's why, you know, they bin havin' big, good corroboree, you know. Dance about- dance for in () time-in () time to people() to go back to camp. Go to sleep. And that is just same story they bin tell 'em bout. Like they bin tell 'em about white people to look after himself and where he can go hunting and all that, you know? And look out he might run into snake. He's right., they bin teach 'im. proper way. But they was all right. Whitefella bin tell- show 'em everything to do- makin' head rope and makin' strap horses. That was all right. Everything.

Guns and explosives

And they bin show 'em bout how to fire 'em, you know? Rifle? Before this new law bin come. They bin show 'em bout. Teach 'em bout. All right, you can have a try shoot that tree there. What () you can shoot 'em straight. For the aboriginal people, you know. And sometimes they bin put 'em tin. Oh, sometime bottle. Right. Him bin havin' chair? like that. And () there. And put 'em rifle there. And take- sing out with the aborigine. All right, he bin try that one- what he bin hit 'em straight. Yeah. Well they bin teachin' everything. It's all right. And for yard and everything. And this new law bin come because people bin know that - gun how to use'em now. Yeah. Because that day was no allowed, aborigines gettin' have that gun. But some good man, like a whitefella bin teachin', he might be longa station. Might be anywhere white people bin workin' people. Bin tell 'em, right here, take this my rifle to kill kangaroo. Don't let 'em policeman see you but you gotta be careful. You

might put me into trouble. Yeah. This sort of thing- they bin keep learnin' them. And I think this new law bin come few year- already aboriginal bin know everything, how to use him? For the- for the shotgun. For the 22. And for that pistol. Aborigine already know them. Yeah. They have them gun.

They bin show 'em for dynamite- how to use 'em- blow 'em out that rock. They bin teachin' us. How many link you can cut 'em fuse, you know? Yeah, but you gotta be careful, you gotta measure 'em, you know. And you gotta be learn 'em when to run away. Then him blow 'em out that rock. But he's dangerous. We bin usin' them sort of thing. But the old people- my father and them fellas first before me, they bin teachin' all them old people, you know. They bin teach 'em. Well that one new law they bin make 'em with this rifle and all that sort of thing. We can- aborigine didn't know but all we people bin know 'em. Some good men we bin have 'em- some white people, you know, bin teachin' us. In the use of everything.

That's why old Billy Croker and all of them- but old Alf not- him bin a little bit funny man- he can't let anybody. But old Billy () and old Dick Turner, all of them. They bin show everything how to use 'em. That's a big job, you know. And they bin keep learnin' all the way till they bin come to work with them people. In Barrow Creek. *Kalperre* people bin work, *Ereyne* people bin work, everyone bin work now. Allasame again longa Stirling.. That's old station, that one. Belonga to old Gettman(?). He's bin boss for that place. Yeah.
GDK:Yeah. About finished.