

Death of Joe Flick.

[FROM OUR EXCHANGES.]

News is to hand of the death of the notorious half-caste Joe Flick, who recently escaped from the Normanton lock-up, and was tracked to a hut at Lawn Hill Station by Constable Wavell. Flick fired and killed Wavell on the spot. Mr. F. H. Hann, owner of the station, then attempted to arrest Flick, and was also shot, but was not dangerously wounded. Flick also shot a blackboy, who is dying. Flick escaped during the night while a heavy storm was raging.

LATER.

Further particulars of the affair show that on Sunday at noon Constable Wavell and two troopers arrived at Lawn Hill Station, in close pursuit of Joe Flick, the half caste desperado, who recently escaped from Normanton lock-up. Flick shot one of the trooper's horses from under him, and made for the dining-room, under fire from the troopers. Wavell followed him to the dining-room on foot, calling upon Flick to surrender, but Flick fired through the window at Wavell, who was about 25 yards away, and shot him dead. A man named Bird was the only person on the station at the time, and he armed himself and sent a message to Messrs. Doyle and Waller, who were in the vicinity at the time. They came, armed themselves, and watched the dining-room, which is a detached hut, in order to prevent the escape of Flick. About sundown Mr. F. H. Hann, owner of the station, with O'Shea and a blackboy, who were out on the run all day, returned to the station, and Mr. Hann immediately went towards the dining-room, and called upon Flick to surrender. Flick came to the window, and Hann pointed to Wavell's corpse in an endeavour to persuade Flick to surrender. Quietly assuring him of safe treatment, Flick said he would surrender if Mr. Hann came to the door. Hann went to the door and opened it, and Flick immediately fired. The bullet entered Mr. Hann's left breast and passed round, coming out under the left arm. Flick fired again, but without effect, as Mr. Hann fell. Hann fired his rifle at Flick, and crawled away. All hands then fired on the hut, in order to wound

then fired on the hut, in order to wound Flick, who barricaded himself in the hut, which was watched all night. About 1 o'clock next morning a heavy storm set in, and it was so dark that it was impossible to see a yard ahead, and it is presumed that Flick escaped at that time. At daybreak the hut was entered, and spots of blood were found, and some pieces of cloth which were saturated with blood. It is, therefore, supposed that Flick was wounded. Under the leadership of Mr. Hann all hands started in pursuit, the station blackboy taking up the tracks, but before a quarter of a mile had been traversed, the tracker was shot through the chest by Flick, who was lying in ambush in heavy timber on the edge of Lawn Hill Creek. Several shots were then fired in the direction in which Flick was supposed to be, but the bush was very dense, so that it is not known whether Flick was disabled or not. O'Shea was then despatched to Burke with the above particulars. When he started the blackboy was dying. Much sorrow is expressed at Wavell's untimely end, as he was a general favourite.

BURKETOWN, November 2.

Further news from Lawn Hill Station this morning states that after the tracker was shot Flick's hiding place was closely watched on Monday night, and on Tuesday he was found to be dead, the body showing numerous bullet wounds. From the heavy traces of blood in the hut, it is supposed he was badly wounded whilst concealed there. This accounts for his only travelling a few hundred yards from the station during the storm of Sunday night; no doubt, he was wounded to death when he fled from the hut to the creek. The tracker died on Tuesday morning. Mr. Frank Hann, is still doing well, and no bad results are anticipated. Can't be Wavell never moved from where he fell, and although not examined for many hours after, it seems to be certain that death was instantaneous.

Constable Wavell, who lost his life while endeavouring to capture Flick, was very highly respected. He was about 35 years old, dark, slim, and about the medium height, possessed great activity. He was of superior address, and when stationed at Corinda on the Nicholson, about 80 miles from Burketown, was a general favourite with squatters and carriers. Over twelve

from Burketown, was a general favourite with squatters and carriers. Over twelve months ago he was removed to Normanton, and was no doubt selected to pursue Flick because of his knowledge of the country at the rear of Burketown. There are several in Townsville who knew Wavell, and all agree in stating that he was a brave and unassuming man.

Joseph Flick was the son of a white father and half-caste mother. He was about 26 years of age, and since his arrival in the Gulf some four years ago from the Warrego with his father, he has been a persistent evil-doer. The quarrel with Cashman, which has led up to all the trouble, took place at the Brook, 20 miles from Burketown. Cashman kept an hotel there, and the hole where the bullet intended for Cashman went through the wall, is still on view.

The formal betrothal of the Princess Margaret of Prussia, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, to the Hereditary Prince of Nassau, took place at Königstein on the 18th September.