

# The Advertiser

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## 'Mob Attack By Natives'

From LINDSAY ELLIS

ALICE SPRINGS, November 10—Two policemen had to flee for their lives when they were attacked by a mob of 40 to 50 aborigines wielding iron bars, steel spears, rocks and wood at the Areyonga Government aboriginal settlement on Friday, Alice Springs Court was told today.

One constable fired shots from a pistol, but even this failed to halt the attack.

Police reinforcements were later rushed to the settlement, 150 miles west of here, and arrested six aborigines.

Today the six, including two women and an elderly man, faced the court on charges arising out of the incident.

The women, Big Jean and Melinda, and the man, Willy Tampagna, were each charged on two counts of having assaulted police, and one each of having hindered police.

Their cases were adjourned until tomorrow.

### Plea Ruling

Three youths were each charged with one count of having assaulted police. They originally pleaded guilty, but the court ruled that pleas of not guilty should be accepted.

The relieving magistrate, Mr. C. K. Ward, SM, said he was not sure that the defendants understood the charges.

The cases were adjourned until tomorrow so that counsel could take charge of their defence.

Constable Brian Richard Daby gave evidence that he and another constable went to Areyonga settlement on Friday morning with an aboriginal prisoner looking for stolen property believed to be hidden there.

Constable Daby said he was removing three suitcases from an aboriginal wurley which he had been told contained stolen property.

### Steel Weapon

He turned from placing one suitcase in the police vehicle and saw Constable K. Charge grappling with an aboriginal woman, Melinda, who was armed with a three-foot steel truck spring leaf.

He said Constable Charge disarmed her and she then grabbed him (Daby) by the arm and threatened to punch him.

Constable Daby said he pulled free, but when he looked around a few seconds later the woman had another length of steel truck spring which she was holding aloft and swinging towards him.