

Aboriginals 'invade' barracks

THIRTY Aboriginals yesterday successfully "invaded" the Larrakeyah army base in Darwin.

They are members of three tribes which have claimed 8 hectares (20 acres) inside the base as a sacred area.

Their claim was put to the Commissioner on

Aboriginal Land Rights, Mr Justice Woodward, earlier this year.

Yesterday the Aboriginals from the Larrakia, Wagait and Brinkin tribes, marched through the unguarded barracks' gates and headed for their sacred area, Goondal, at the extreme end

of Emery Point, 1½ km (about a mile) inside the gates.

They were intercepted by Major David Couzons in a military police car and ordered to leave.

He said they could ring for permission to enter the barracks and it would be granted.

A few Aboriginals left but the others, who said it had taken five months to get permission for a first visit earlier this year, continued their march.

Major Couzons drove off, but returned a few minutes later to order the European advisers

and a reporter off the barracks.

They left but the remaining Aboriginals continued their march to the point, where they held a half-hour meeting before walking back to their vehicles outside the gates.