

**IDRIESS, ION LLEWELLYN**

Ion Llewellyn Idriess (1889-1979), author, was born on 20 September 1889 at Waverley, Sydney, son of Walter Owen Idriess, sheriff's officer from Wales, and his native-born wife Juliette Windeyer, née Edmunds. Registered as Ion Windeyer at birth, he liked to be known as 'Jack'.

In 1928 he settled in Sydney as a freelance writer. He had written short pieces for the Bulletin while at Lightning Ridge and published the first of forty-seven books, *Madman's Island*, in 1927. In 1931 he had some success with a fossickers' guide *Prospecting for Gold* and the same year wrote his first best-seller, *Lasseter's Last Ride*. From then on he published at least a book a year (apart from 1943) until 1964. His last book appeared in 1969. Works like *The Cattle King* (1936) and *Flynn of the Inland* (1932) were to go through forty to fifty reprintings.

Source: <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/idriess-ion-llewellyn-6786>

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date acquired	CIU file	Notes
3425	10468A	15 cm	28 May 2021	BA/OM/18/0046	
	10947A	17 cm	24 June 2025		
SUMMARY OF CLASSES					
CORRESPONDENCE DIARIES FILES MANUSCRIPTS			NOTES REPORT  PHOTOGRAPHS (separate table, pages 4-7)		

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		CORRESPONDENCE
ACC 10947A/1	29 July 1932	Letter from Inspector John R. Johns. Regarding the provision of text and images for <i>Man Tracks</i> (1935).
ACC 10947A/2	31 August 1932	Letter from Inspector John R. Johns. Accompanied with typed copies of news cuttings relating to murders in the Northern Territory
ACC 10947A/3	24 September 1932	Letter from Inspector John R. Johns.
ACC 10947A/4	18 September 1932	Letter to Idriess from Inspector George Murray, written from the Police Station at Arlunga in the central desert. Inspector Murray was the instigator of the Coniston Massacre in 1928, an officially sanctioned mass-murder of indigenous people in the Central Desert region of the Northern Territory (NT). Murray gives his views on indigenous people of Central Australia. He also describes finding the bodies of Lieutenants Anderson and Hitchcock whose light aeroplane crashed in the Tanami desert.
ACC 10947A/5	22 September 1932	Letter to Idriess from Inspector George Murray, written from the Police Station at Arlunga in the central desert. Agreeing to supply material on his adventures for Idriess's books

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 10947A/6	24 March 1934	Letter to Idriess from Constable B. McGeary at Nullagine Police Station. Providing stories of his work in the bush, including searching for missing stockman 'Tom', aviators Charles Kingsford Smith and CP Ulm; a tribal murder by 'Barney'; and the Rawlinson Range murderers in 1931. (see ACC 10947A/20, 21) Hand written letter and typed copy
		DIARY
ACC 10947A/7	December 1933-1934	West Australian travel diary. Hand written diary, detailing a trip encompassing remote WA through to the Kimberley, and then from Broome to Thursday Island. Including Wiluna, Ethel Creek Station, Nullagine (Pilbara), Port Hedland, Strelly Station, Shaw River, Broome, and finally Thursday Island. Content on WA gold mining, indigenous life; and also on frictions between the Timorese and Malaysian labourers working on the pearling fleet.
		FILES
ACC 10947A/8	December 1915-January 1916	Search for the body of missing prospector James White in 1915 (relating to ACC 10947A/10). Typed diary notes, 4 pages.
ACC 10947A/9	1916	Search for the body of missing prospector James White in 1915 (relating to ACC 10947A/10). Typed police report, 8 pages
ACC 10947A/10	25 August 1932	Letter to Idriess from Police Inspector A. Hunter in Perth, describing his search for the body of missing prospector James White in 1915. James White was a prospector who set out east from Laverton during a dry season in 1915. After searching with Aboriginal trackers, the body of James White was found in a cave with his bible, and provisions exhausted.
		MANUSCRIPTS
ACC 10468A/1	ca. 1930s	Unpublished manuscript, detailing a trip from Perth to the Kimberleys. Describes the inland coastal track, Port Hedland, Broome, Derby across the West Kimberley, then up along the East to Wyndham. 34 typed chapters, two handwritten notes
ACC 10468A/2	ca. 1950	<i>Across the Nullarbor</i> , 53 chapter manuscript with minor handwritten corrections
ACC 10468A/3	ca.1935	Handwritten manuscript (22 pages) with typewritten final version, allegedly for a radio talk. Subject is the Indigenous people of the North Kimberley region, published in the Adelaide Advertiser as "Stone Age Men in Far North Wilds" on 6 April 1935
ACC 10947A/11	1935	<i>While the south knows not.</i> Article on the opening up of the Kimberley by graziers and agriculturalists. Idriess outlines the potential of the Kimberley for grazing and farming, and laments the passing of the Aborigines. Draft manuscript, 24 pages
		<i>Four articles by Idriess under the banner 'Our North', the articles appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald during January 1937. On Japanese incursions into northern Australian waters.</i>
ACC 10947A/12	January 1937	<i>Our north. We wake up</i>

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
ACC 10947A/13	January 1937	<i>Our north. What are we up against</i>
ACC 10947A/14	January 1937	<i>Our north. We are not boss in our own house</i>
ACC 10947A/15	January 1937	<i>Our north. The future</i>
ACC 10947A/16	4 January 1937	Letter to the editor, Sydney Morning Herald re articles; List of other newspapers approached for publication
		NOTES
ACC 10947A/17	1932	Marshall – Wyndham – chase after Joa Notes by Idriess on the pursuit of Aboriginal man Joa [or Joah] in the Kimberley by mounted police, suspected of murdering a woman named Nimalangoo. Notes are based on a report by Constable W. G. Marshall. Newspaper article from West Australian, 22 December 1932
ACC 10947A/18	Notes typed in 1934 of an event in 1920	Japanese riots. Broome riots of December 1920. Conflict between locals and Japanese pearlers. Typed file copies of police notes forwarded to Idriess by Inspector Cecil Treadgold of the Commissioner's office in Perth in 1934.
ACC 10947A/19	1964	Notes, probably used in writing up <i>Our Stone Age Mystery</i> (1964). Indigenous customs. Mixture of working notes and draft chapters. Hand written.
		REPORTS
ACC 10947A/20	1932	Re police expedition to Rawlinson Range. Report by Sergeant H.C. Bake of WA Mounted Police concerning a patrol, in August 1931, of Sergt. Bake, Constables Clark, McGeary & Austin to investigate the supposed murders of two white men by native men. Includes mention of first use of a wireless radio unit by the patrol. Sent to Idriess by Inspector Cecil Treadgold, Commissioners Office in Perth. Includes Sergeant Bake's diary, and concludes with his summary of findings.
ACC 10947A/21	8 December 1933	Field notes by S. C. Austin, Wireless Operator for the 1931 patrol to the central desert region of Western Australia (see ACC 10947A/20). In 1933 the report was sent to Idriess by Cecil Treadgold of the Commissioners Office in Perth, and includes a signed cover letter to this effect. The first patrol to use a wireless radio unit, able to communicate with radio posts at Perth, Geraldton and Broome.
ACC 10947A/22	11 June 1933	Police journal by Constable Laurence O'Neill of Derby, WA. Details of search and rescue of missing drover John Rodgers from Kimberley Downs Station.
ACC 10947A/23	20 June 1933	Police report by Constable Laurence O'Neill of Derby, WA. Details of search and rescue of missing drover John Rodgers from Kimberley Downs Station.

PHOTOGRAPHS

ACC NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CAPTION ON REVERSE	CAPTION in book "Over the range", 1937
Photographs taken by Idriess and his immediate associates during the Kimberley patrol with the Mounted Police in 1934. Idriess travelled overland for 1,200 miles (over 1,900 kilometres), gathering information for two books titled Man Tracks (1935) and Over the Range (1937). 27 Photographs			
ACC 10947A/24	Man seated on the ground, showing his scarred back.	The leper's back.	
ACC 10947A/25	Back profile of man standing		
ACC 10947A/26	Front profile of man	Dungart @ Long Paddy (Sam's murder).	
ACC 10947A/27	Side profile of man		2. Marmadu (Donkey) Opposite p.134
ACC 10947A/28	Man with tribal scarring on chest	[Jerry or Jemy?]	4. Marmadu's mate Opposite p.134
ACC 10947A/29	Horses and riders in bush	The patrol travelling up the dry bed of a creek, Nor-West Kimberley. Printed in Melb[ourne] Herald 23 April 1956	On patrol. Opposite p.4
ACC 10947A/30	Tall narrow rock. Man in distance on rock outcrop		
ACC 10947A/31	Two young women	5. Weeda and Bolva, untamed sisters of the bush.	Weeda and Bolva, wild girls of the hills. Opposite p.38
ACC 10947A/32	Looking past a large rock to a homestead in the distance	4. From the wild man's lookout, spying down on Mount Hart homestead	Mount Hart homestead: from the wild man's lookout. Opposite p.5
ACC 10947A/33	Men seated on ground, and a boy standing on a log. Children in background		
ACC 10947A/34	People in tree lined river	A quiet pool. Nor-West Kimberleys	
ACC 10947A/35	River	Where nature is beautiful – Nor-West Kimberley. Leper	
ACC 10947A/36	Side profile of man. No fingers on left hand	8. A stone age man. Leper	
ACC 10947A/37	Large group of men posed for photograph		Wonambun men, who make life interesting for Bob Thompson. Opposite p.198
ACC 10947A/38	Side profile of man		Toolwanor, alias Nipper. Opposite p.39 [reversed image]
ACC 10947A/39	Man standing beside skeletal remains on the ground.		The silent witness Opposite p.135
ACC 10947A/40	Large group of people	Narinjin warriors. Nor-West Kimberley.	

ACC NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CAPTION ON REVERSE	<b>CAPTION in book “Over the range”, 1937</b>
ACC 10947A/41	Back of man on horse, riding through tall reeds		
ACC 10947A/42	Group of indigenous people riding in back of flatbed truck		
ACC 10947A/43	People sitting, standing with horses nearby	12. The patrol calls a halt for the midday meal.	
ACC 10947A/44	Cluster of small buildings		
ACC 10947A/45	River or pool		
ACC 10947A/46	Man on horseback approaching river. Image fixed to layout board		The patrol travels towards Port George. Opposite p.183
ACC 10947A/47	Horses grazing. Men in distance. Image fixed to layout board		The "packs" keep plugging along. Opposite p.183
ACC 10947A/48	Side profile of man. On layout page for publication		1. Ardgat (George). Opposite p.134
ACC 10947A/49	Side profile of man	Lepers	
ACC 10947A/50	Side profile of man	Lepers	

ACC NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CAPTION ON REVERSE	<b>CAPTION in book “The Nor’-Westers”, 1954</b>
Photographs used in “Nor’ Westers” book. Images include indigenous persons, pearling boats, Malay fishermen, camel trains, homesteads and corrugated iron architecture of the remote stations, dry blowing for gold, campsites. 30 unique photographs, 8 duplicate photographs			
ACC 10947A/51	Man using dryblowing equipment.	Chapter 8. Dryblowing.	The old dryblower extracts alluvial gold from earth, utilizing the forces of gravitation and air currents. Frontispiece
ACC 10947A/52	Rear end of <i>Bambra</i> at low tide. Two copies	The rudder of the <i>Bambra</i> to which the three escapees clung.	The rudder of the <i>Bambra</i> to which the three escapees clung. Opposite p.2
ACC 10947A/53	River	Isdell River near Grace’s Knob. King Leopolds	The Isdell River near Grace’s Knob. Opposite p.3
ACC 10947A/54	Light on stand in bush area	Broome? (ghost lamp)	The ghost light. Opposite p.3
ACC 10947A/55	Gorge	In an Isdell gorge	An Isdell gorge. Opposite p.3
ACC 10947A/56	Tidal flat with light on small hill. Two copies	Buccaneer Rock (after Dampier) Broome	Buccaneer Rock (after Dampier). Opposite p.3
ACC 10947A/57	Grazing cattle with hills in background. Two copies	Dampier Downs, 1938. Back-o-Broome	The grazing grounds are “fenced” by a circle of hills. Opposite p.52
ACC 10947A/58	Schooner with sails	Schooner <i>Ena</i> , Broome. Chapter 9	The schooner “ <i>End</i> ”. Opposite p.52
ACC 10947A/59	Homestead. Two copies	Dampier Downs. Back-o-Broome. Chapter 9	Dampier Downs homestead. Opposite p.52

ACC NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CAPTION ON REVERSE	<b>CAPTION in book “The Nor’-Westers”, 1954</b>
ACC 10947A/60	Man and dog resting on wooden bed with wheels. Two copies	“Wheel-about” bunk, Margaret Downs station. Chapter 11. Opposite p.53	A “wheel-about” bunk, Margaret Downs station. Opposite p.53
ACC 10947A/61	Elevated building and water tanks. Two copies	“Crows nest” otherwise the “dove cot”. Port Hedland. Chapter 11	A “dove-cot”, defying sleep-destroying mosquitos, Port Hedland. Opposite p.53
ACC 10947A/62	Simple wooden shelter	Mosquito shelter, used by several tribes of Arnhem Land. Chapter 11	A similar idea of Arnhem Land aborigines. Opposite p.53
ACC 10947A/63	Camel train	Marble Bar Nullagine mail. Chapter 22.	The Nullagine-Marble Bar mail of but a few years ago. Opposite p.68
ACC 10947A/64	Small truck in bush area	Gorge between Bonnie Downs and Nullagine W.A. Chapter 22	Today’s mail ploughing along a gorge between Bonnie Downs station and the Nullagine. Opposite p.68
ACC 10947A/65	Buildings in distance	Marble Bar	Marble Bar. Opposite p.69
ACC 10947A/66	Rocky hill	Marble Bar, Nor-West Australia	A “forest” of such hills surrounds Marble Bar
ACC 10947A/67	Buildings in distance. Two copies	Coongan or Poondina pub	The Poondina Hotel at the Coongan. Opposite p.116
ACC 10947A/68	Flat topped hills	Kimberleys. Age old hills between Pt. Hedland and Marble Bar. Chapter 24	Age-old hills between Port Hedland and Marble Bar. Opposite p.116
ACC 10947A/69	Four women	Chapter 25.	Station maids in good condition. Opposite p.117
ACC 10947A/70	Windmill and man near fence. Two copies	Chapter 25.	Water from below the earth. Opposite p.117
ACC 10947A/71	Small boats with sails up	Drying sails after a “blow”. Broome. Chapter 29	Drying sails after a blow. Opposite p.132
ACC 10947A/72	Boats at beach, some submerged	After the willy-willy, 1926. Chapter 29	After the willy-willy, 1926. Opposite p.132
ACC 10947A/73	Wagon with camel team	Chapter 25	A nor’-west camel team. Opposite p.133
ACC 10947A/74	Buildings	Chapter 25. Fitzroy Crossing hotel store	Fitzroy Crossing hotel-store. Opposite p.132
ACC 10947A/75	Three men resting in shade of building	Chapter 33. Desert sheikh. Mounted police Sholl & Hamilton with Padre Bell of the Methodist Inland Mission	Cooling off at Hall’s Creek Police Station. Opposite p.180
ACC 10947A/76	Car approaching rising bend on unsealed road	Cartridge jump up. East Kimberley. Chapter 38.	Cartridge jump-up. Opposite p.181
ACC 10947A/77	Malay or Chinese man beside small truck. Two copies	Old Ah Kim. Chapter 39.	Old Ah Kim. Opposite p.196

ACC NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CAPTION ON REVERSE	<b>CAPTION in book “The Nor’-Westers”, 1954</b>
ACC 10947A/78	Building	Post office Turkey Creek. Chapter 38	Post office, Turkey Creek. Opposite p.197
ACC 10947A/79	Boab tree	Chapter 38	The old bottle tree. Opposite p.197

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