Central Australia. He also knew that a route into Central Australia would also take him into arid country, so he would probably be no better off. Almost certainly his party was very short of food and short of ammunition for their guns, and their riding horses or mules may have been weak. Perhaps there had been rain or there were storms about which encouraged them to move forward. Or perhaps Leichhardt himself was dead, and the survivors were not so cautious about water. Whoever it was from the original party, they decided to push on into the desert. How far they were able to penetrate would depend largely on the season. If it was the wet season the party could have followed surface waters a considerable distance into the desert, but such waters are very short-lived and could dry up behind the explorers. Wet season or otherwise, eventually their water gave out, and they and their horses all perished somewhere in one of the largest, harshest, most remote and now seldom visited of all Australia’s deserts.
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Privately-held collections of photographs and/or papers used in this thesis

John Bradshaw, Sydney. John is a descendant of Joe Bradshaw and possesses rare photographs of Joe and Fred Bradshaw, as well as family papers.

Bobbie Buchanan, Macclesfield, S.A. Bobbie is a great granddaughter of Nat Buchanan. She has an extensive collection of photos as well as interesting family papers, and is also the author of several books, including a biography of Nat.

Jan Cruickshank, Port Macquarie. Jan is a granddaughter of Jack Watson, the “Gulf Hero”. She possesses rare photographs of Jack and his brothers, and a number of relevant papers.

Ros Fraser, Nowra, N.S.W. Ros has family connections with the Farquharson brothers, the pioneers of Inverway station, and she has a collection of photos taken by two aunts who made a trip to Inverway in 1935.

Bob Johns, Adelaide. Bob’s father and uncle were Northern Territory mounted police in the period 1905-1910. His father left him an extensive collection of photographs and a memoir which form the basis of my book, “Patrolling the ‘Big Up’”.

*Patsy Garling, Darwin. Patsy’s father was the renowned prospector and cattle duffer, Jimmy Wickham, and she possesses a number of photographs, including one of Jimmy with his wife, Olive.

*John Graham, Brisbane. John’s father was Tom Graham, the manager of VRD from 1919 to 1926. John had a small collection of photos taken on VRD in the period 1910-1920.

*Jack Henry, Gladstone, Qld. Jack worked as the radio operator on Wave Hill station in 1926 and 1927, and while there he took a series of good quality photographs.

Joe Jamieson, Bogabri, N.S.W. In 1961 Joe worked on the survey for the upgrade of the Victoria Highway and he has photos that show the terrible state of the highway at that time.
Gwen Knox, Broome, W.A. Gwen’s father worked as a stockman on VRD from 1933 to 1938 and while there he amassed a collection of interesting photographs.

Maggie Lilly, Kununurra, W.A. Maggie, who is in her late ‘80s, has lived in the East Kimberley region all her life and possesses an extensive collection of photographs from the region.

Ian Littlejohn, Borambola, N.S.W. Ian’s father was a Northern Territory mounted policeman in the 1920s and 1930s and he left Ian a collection of photos.

*Dave Magoffin, Brisbane. Dave was a ringer on VRD in the late 1930s and has photographs from the period. These have since been sent to the Stockman’s Hall of Fame in Longreach.

Marie Mahood (nee Healy), Cattle Camp station via Nebo, Qld. Marie worked the store on VRD 1950 and later married a local stockman. At the time Marie was also a journalist working for Hoofs and Horns magazine and has many photographs of life in the region. She has since written several books on life in the outback.

Brian Manning, Darwin. Brian was a union organiser involved in the Aboriginal strikes of 1966-1972 and has a photographic record of the people involved.

Lesley Millner, Perth. Lesley’s father was a cattle station manager and she grew up on Victoria River district cattle stations in the 1930s-1950s.

*Lorna Moffatt, Melbourne. Lorna had an uncle who was a victim of the ‘Bradshaw massacre’ in 1905, and she possesses a small number of letters and photos.

John Nicolson, Halls Creek. John was a ringer on Coolibah and Bullo River stations in the 1960s, and part-owner of Bullo River in the 1970s. He has an extensive collection of photographs from his time on these stations.

Ernie Rayner, Atherton, Qld. Ernie was a ringer on Coolibah, VRD and Willeroo from the late 1950s, and later a Stock Inspector in the district. He has an extensive collection of photographs from his time in the district.

Pauline Rayner (nee Murray), Atherton, Qld. Her father Peter Murray owned Coolibah and Bradshaw stations from the mid-1950s to the mid 1960s. She has an extensive collection of photos from her time on these stations.

*Charlie Schultz, Yankalilla, S.A. Charlie went to Humbert River station in 1928 and left there in 1971, and during this time he amassed an extensive collection of photographs. He also had a number of early station diaries.

Veronica Schwarz, Indented Head, Victoria. Her grandfather Jack Roden worked on VRD from 1922 to 1949. Jack was an ardent photographer and left a collection of over 700 photographs taken on VRD during this time period. I was able to arrange for this collection to be sent to the Northern Territory Archives.

* signifies that these people have since died.
PLATES 8 to 174
Plate 8: First shooting lesson, c1954.

Plate 9: My father (left) and a fellow gun-collector examining antique firearms (Lewis collection).
Plate 10: An antique Alex-Henry rifle – a fascinating link to the early days (Lewis collection).

Plate 11: Collecting Aboriginal artefacts ploughed up on a local a farm paddock (Lewis collection).
Plate 12: A cow hide after the middle has been cut out to make a greenhide rope. The hide was first pegged out to dry in the sun and then, beginning in the centre, a spiral strip was cut to produce with the long strands necessary for a rope. I photographed this example on Rosewood station in 1971, but since then the technique has all but disappeared, and ropes are now synthetic and bought from stores (Lewis collection).
Plate 13: Remains of a cattle race at Poison Creek yard, VRD (Lewis collection).

Plate 14: Tudor Shadforth’s grave at the old Ord River homestead (Lewis collection).
Plate 15: A tree with a piece of wood removed for the manufacture of a boomerang, VRD (Lewis collection).

Plate 16: Rock painting in the Bilimatjaru sandstone, VRD (Lewis collection).
Plate 17: Rock painting of a bovine, West Baines River, Amanbidji station (Lewis collection).

Plate 18: Rock painting of a bovine with the VRD bullshead brand on the rump. This brand was introduced in 1909, a date which provides a maximum age for the painting (Lewis collection).
Plate 19: The Razorback Mountain on Auvergne station. In local folklore this mountain was the scene of a massacre of Aborigines and their bones are still scattered across its slopes. Police records show that in 1918 when the police were searching for the murderers of Alex McDonald, a number of Aborigines were shot on the range adjacent to this mountain, close to the vantage point of this photo. More were later shot further into the Pinkerton Range – in all, at least seven Aboriginal men were shot dead and more wounded (Lewis collection).
Plate 20: A barite vein being mined on Kirkimbie station in 1971 (Bureau of Mineral Resources collection).
Plate 21: The author with Jimmy Manngayarri, a man whose personal memories went back to about 1910 and who possessed a detailed knowledge of the history, topography and Dreamings of a large portion of the Victoria River country (Lewis collection).

Plate 22: The author with Charlie Schultz who owned and lived on Humbert River station from 1928 to 1971. He possessed a wide knowledge of the people and events of that time period, and also knew a great deal about earlier times (Lewis collection).
Plate 23: Angalarri Creek and the Yambarran range on Bradshaw station (Lewis collection).

Plate 24: Women collecting lily roots, VRD, c1925. Note the wooden coolamons floating near the women. The impact of cattle has made these lilies uncommon (Roden collection).
Plate 25: Aboriginal hunters in Wardaman territory, 1922 (Basedow collection).

Plate 26: A unique photo of a traditional stone fish-trap on the Victoria River at Wave Hill, 1932 (Schultz collection).
Plate 27: Tree at Forrest’s Depot Pool, marked by Alexander Forrest’s expedition on September 11th, 1879. It was at this pool that Forest left most of the expedition members while he made a dash to the telegraph line to secure assistance (Lewis collection).

Plate 28: The inscription on the tree at Forrest’s Depot Pool. The inscribed section is now in the Northern Territory Museum (Lewis collection).
Plate 29: Nathaniel ‘Bluey’ Buchanan (Rouse-Thornton collection).

Plate 30: Captain Francis Cadell (Adelaide Observer, 2-2-1907).
Plate 31: Harry Stockdale (Mitchell Library).

Plate 32: Harry Ricketson (Mitchell Library).
Plate 33: Lindsay Crawford, manager of VRD for the first eleven years (Telecommunications Museum, Adelaide).
Plate 34: The Farquharson brothers and a neighbour. L-R: Archie, Harry, Charlie Young and Hughie. Young had a grazing licence in the Tanami near Hooker Creek and was found dead there in 1939 (Fraser collection).

Plate 35: Bradshaw station. This photo was published in 1906, but is likely to be much older as by this date there was already a substantial corrugated iron homestead. In addition, the location does not appear to be correct for 1906, but looks more like the location of the previous homestead (Pastoralists' Review, 15-2-1906, p. 945).
Plate 36: Wave Hill homestead as it was in 1883. The sketch was made by Charlie Flannigan who was on death row in Fannie Bay goal for the shooting of Sam Croker at Auvergne in 1892 (South Australian Museum).

Plate 37: A flagstone floor at the site of Stockyard Creek homestead, VRD (Lewis collection).
Plate 38: The government boat ‘Leichhardt’ at the Depot landing, c1912. In the background at right is the Depot store (Johns collection).

Plate 40: An East Kimberley bullock team, early 1900s (*Western Australian Pastoralist and Grazier*, 30-11-1925).

Plate 41: The VRD horse team, 1922 (Feast collection).
Plate 42: Camels at the Victoria River Depot, c1912 (Johns collection).

Plate 43: VRD camel team crossing the Wickham River above VRD homestead, c1915 (Townshend collection, Mitchell Library).
Plate 44: Burt Drew’s donkey team outside the Timber Creek police station, c1930 (Littlejohn collection).

Plate 45: Burt Drew’s donkey teams at VRD homestead, c1930 (Bovril collection).
Plate 46: Salt pan near the junction of Negri Creek and Ord River. Salt was gathered here for domestic use (Bovril collection).

Plate 47: Birrindudu homestead, 1934. A collection of 'bough shades and iron huts' (Northern Territory Pastoral Leases Investigation Committee collection).