

HOW GRIM DEATH CAME TO ELLIS BANKIN

ALICE SPRINGS, Tuesday. — The full tragedy of Ellis Bankin, the Victorian schoolteacher, who died on an adventurous trip in the great interior of Australia, is revealed with the return to Alice Springs last night of the party led by the Deputy Administrator of the Northern Territory (Mr Carrington) which buried him where he was found.

On two occasions Bankin had circled his tracks, and once he was headed in a direction which would soon have brought him to water, but after a short distance he turned back.

He was found lying beside his bicycle, fully clothed, his head resting on his arms and his knees drawn up. He had died from exhaustion and thirst, there still being food in his tucker box.

His bicycle was erect, with the back wheel deep in sand, and it was apparent that in his last hours he had sought what little shelter it offered.

crawling around from one side to the other as the fierce sun burnt mercilessly down.

A heat wave prevailed at the time, and he could not have lived 24 hours after his water supply gave out.

Mr Carrington observed that tracks he had made last year had been crossed by Bankin, but apparently the dying man was too weak to notice them, and he never reached Ayer's Rock. He left Ernabella on January 13, and died three days later, and Mr Carrington was astounded that he was able to get as far as he did.

Mr Carrington and his party had an arduous ten days' journey, and at one period the leader had only three hours' sleep in sixty.

First they got in touch at Lynda Vale with Mr Victor Dumas, the Northern Territory cattleman, who found Bankin's body last Thursday, 19 miles from Lynda Vale. From there it took them two hours to travel five miles by car, and they walked the rest of the distance to where Bankin was lying.

They had to leave the bicycle, but, after burying Bankin at the spot where he had died, they brought back his personal belongings, to be held till the relatives indicate their wishes.