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'Most wanted' man accused of car bungle

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One of NSW's most wanted men has been caught while allegedly trying to **steal a car** in Sydney's north.

Danny Brian Thomas Rowe, 39, had been on the run from police since February 2002, when he allegedly took part in a violent armed robbery at Eastern Creek Raceway, in Sydney's west.

Rowe was allegedly one of three men who ambushed raceway security guards, stealing their weapons and shooting at police during a dramatic getaway.

The 39-year-old was listed on the Most Wanted section of the NSW Police Force website along with a motley crew of alleged murders, rapists and escaped prisoners - but he now has been removed from the site.

Police allege Rowe was arrested in the early hours of Monday morning after a resident reported him breaking into a ute at an industrial complex on Herbert Street in St Leonards.

Subsequent inquiries revealed he was wanted on a District Court bench warrant for armed robbery and shooting to avoid apprehension.

Rowe was charged with taking and using a conveyance and possessing implements, as well as the outstanding warrant.

He did not apply for bail when he faced Hornsby Local Court on Monday and was remanded in custody to appear at Parramatta Local Court on November 29.

Police at the time of the raceway robbery described the perpetrators as "exceptionally dangerous".

The robbers are alleged to have pistol whipped one security guard before firing at his companion, who wasn't injured in the shooting.

It is alleged they made off with guards' weapons and \$42,000 cash in a stolen car.

Police said two of them threatened the guards, holding weapons to their necks, while a third bandit drove the getaway car.

Two police officers were already on-scene as part of a Random Breath Test operation and had eight bullets fired at them during the ensuing car chase.

The robbers dumped the car at a dead-end street in Prospect, also in Sydney's west, before firing more bullets at police and disappearing into dense bushland.

A Prospect man told police he was approached by at least one robber and offered money to hide the fugitives in his home.