

RECORDS

TERRITORY

Northern Territory Archives Service Newsletter

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2002.

A challenging year lies ahead for the NT Archives Service (NTAS) with further developmental work planned by our government recordkeeping unit and a continuous effort to improve our range of research services to the community.

One such service is the provision of the NT History Grants, and applications for this year's Grants have recently been invited in the press. The closing date for applications is 3 May. Last year the total grants pool was increased and we are pleased that it will remain at \$50,000 for this year. Please see feature on this page for details.

In February we commemorated the anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. The anniversary is always a significant time in the Top End's calendar but as this year was the 60th anniversary, it was considered appropriate to focus our "spotlight" for this issue on archival material relating to World War 11 in the Territory.

The newsletter includes a range of reports and information about projects and services which we hope will be of interest to both our Government and community customers. Happy reading.


Greg Coleman
Director NTAS

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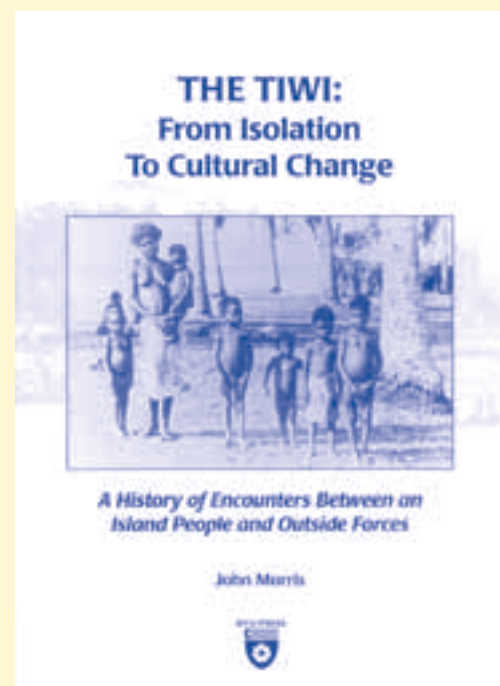
NT History Grants for 2002

The Northern Territory History Grants, previously known as Northern Territory History Awards, are advertised in national and local newspapers in mid-March of each year. The grants scheme provides an annual series of financial grants to encourage and support the work of researchers recording and writing about Northern Territory history.

These grants are intended to assist with expenses incurred whilst carrying out research projects. Such expenses may include costs for travel, secretarial assistance, stationery, research fees and copying charges. Funding for the purchase of equipment and assets is not considered appropriate.

As from last year the allocation for the grants increased from \$30 000 to \$50 000. Application forms are available on the NTAS website or by contacting Cathy Flint at NTAS (contact details are on the back of the newsletter) Applications close this year on Friday 3 May.

We congratulate John Morris on the publication of his book *The Tiwi: from isolation to cultural change (a history of encounters between an island people and outside forces)* John received an NT History Award to assist him in the research of this work.



NEW ACCESSIONS - GARDENING IN THE TROPICS

The records of the Darwin Garden Club were recently processed into our collection. The records cover the activities of the club from its inception in 1958, until it wound up in 1998. The inaugural meeting was on 13 August 1958: 12 ladies attended with the aim of providing ideas for creating beautiful tropical gardens.

The records of the club include: a virtually complete set of meeting minutes for the 40 year history of the club (NTRS 1967); newsletters 1982-1993 (NTRS 1969); scrapbooks 1960-1983 (NTRS 1973); Photographs 1958-1998 (NTRS 1974) and Correspondence 1976-1998 (NTRS 1968). For those interested in the achievements of the club, there is a year-by-year description from 1958 - 1998 including all of the major events that the club held and participated in (NTRS 1971). One interesting fact is that there were no male committee members until 1992. The club's metal badge and the original design work, which features a red hibiscus, is also included in the collection (NTRS 1971).

Amongst the records are photographs of the late George Brown (NTRS 1974 Album 4 No 30, 32, 83 & 115) who was the patron of the Garden Club from 1982. There are also photographs of members of the Garden Club at events such as the 30th and 40th anniversaries. A copy of the Darwin Gardeners Gourmet Guide (produced by the Garden Club in 1978) (NTRS 1974 Album 1 No 52) contains many interesting recipes and was a major money-raiser for the club, going through three prints to keep up with demand. Magazine and newspaper clippings relating to gardening topics from various sources, including the old "Darwin Star" and copies of the regular column in the "NT News" by the club's first president, May Fitzpatrick (under the name Alice May) (NTRS 1973) are also included.

This collection gives a valuable insight into the passion and dedication of Darwin's gardeners and their botanical contributions over the last 40 years.



NTRS 1974, Darwin Garden Club, Album No 4, Item No 67, 35th birthday at the Trailer Boat Club, 1993, Ester Deans (guest), George Brown (Patron), Joyce Cunningham (vice president)

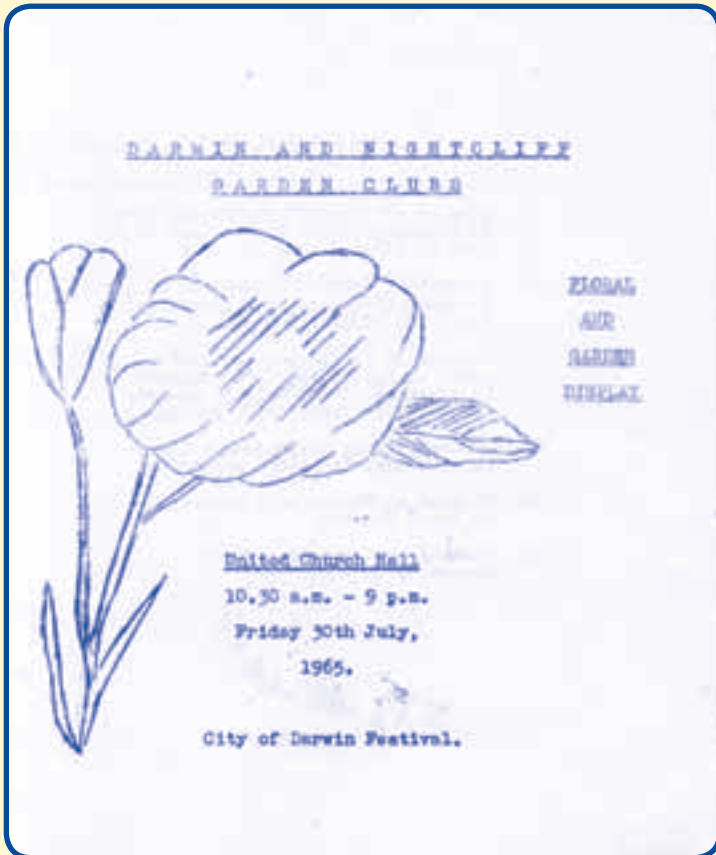


NTRS 1974, Darwin Garden Club, Album No1, Item No 1, Minutes 1st Meeting 1st 13 August 1958



NTRS 1974, Darwin Garden Club, Album No1, Item No 1, Minutes 2nd Meeting 10 September 1958

NEW ACCESSIONS - GARDENING IN THE TROPICS



NTRS 1974, Darwin Garden Club, Album No1, Item No 19, Darwin & Nightcliff Garden Clubs floral and garden display pamphlet, 1965



NTRS 1974, Darwin Garden Club, Album No 2, Item No 12, Darwin Garden Club 25th birthday, 12 August 1983, President Gayle Mc Quinn on left and 3 life members, from left - Nancy Eddy, Vera Graham, Margaret Widdup

FROM SCANDINAVIA TO DARWIN

In January the NTAS and other Archives around the country experienced a visit of a different kind when 27 archivists from Denmark, Sweden and Norway came to our shores.

Staff found themselves not only advising about the NTAS, but also giving an introduction to Australia as the visitors arrived in steamy Darwin direct from the deep winter of Scandinavia. We were most impressed with the enthusiasm and resilience of the group considering it had just stepped off the plane into oppressive "build-up" weather at the time.

We understand that the study tour, led by Birgitte Dedenroth-Schou and Jorgen Dieckmann Rasmussen, continued a very successful journey to Alice Springs, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne where they experienced more of the joys of Australian archivy.



Greg Coleman, Director NTAS, with the archivists from Scandinavia in the NTAS search room

Records Management Training for 2002

New records management manuals

A "first release" of new records management training manuals has been issued to all NTG Records Managers. The content focuses on good records management practices, and incorporates procedures for the use of the NT Government Records Management System – TRIM/Content Manager.

The new modular format is designed to enable the compilation of a variety of courses to meet specific user needs. Modules currently available include: What is a record?; Starting in TRIM; TRIM screen features; Registering records in TRIM; Searching for records in TRIM; Records Maintenance in TRIM; Printing Lists and Reports; Using Barcodes; and Records Retention and Disposal. A separate manual on Electronic Records

Management, using TRIM/Content manager, is also available. Further modules, including Understanding the thesaurus, Thesaurus management and development, and a variety of modules for advanced TRIM users, are planned for development this year.

And some training courses...!

A redesigned "Records management basics – Using TRIM" course was "road tested" in Alice Springs in November 2001. This is a half-day course for NT government employees new to records management and TRIM. This course will be offered sector wide twice per month from March 2002.

A short course on "Using the NT Government Thesaurus" was offered in Darwin and Alice Springs

late 2001, and proved very popular! This one-hour course is designed for anyone who needs to classify or title records, including operational business employees, personal assistants, records managers....almost everyone! This course will also be offered sector wide twice per month from March 2002. Alternatively, arrangements can be made with the Records Policy & Training Coordinator for development and delivery of customised thesaurus courses to suit a group (10 or more) from a single agency.

A course program for 2002, and individual course details will be advertised widely from late February 2002.

For further information, please contact the Records Policy & Training Coordinator, Beth Moloney.

Human Resource Management Records

How long do we have to keep Joe Bloggs' personal file? Check the Disposal Schedule for Human Resource Management Records which was re-issued on 12 December 2001.

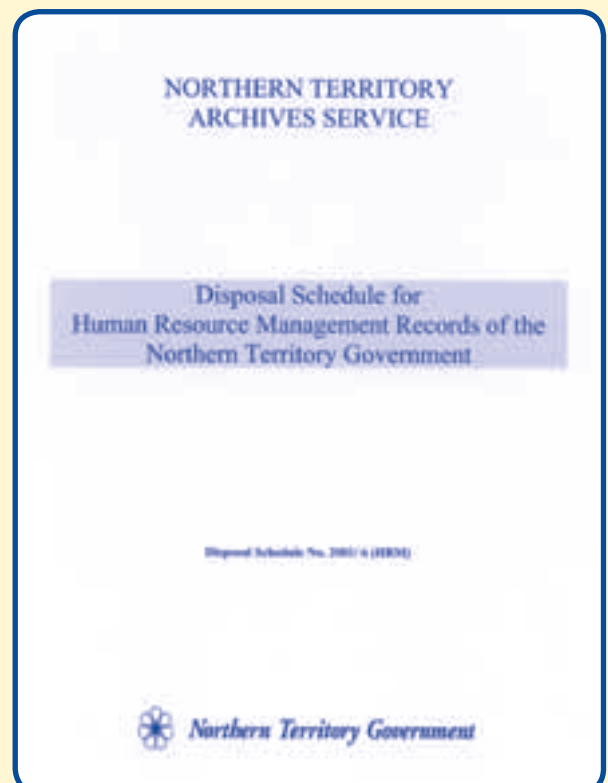
The Schedule outlines policy and procedures for the retention and disposal of Human Resource Management records in Northern Territory government agencies. This revised version includes a range of additional record classes and some existing record classes have been reassessed for their continuing value.

The functional structure of the Schedule is based on the business classification scheme of the NT Government Corporate Thesaurus and covers the following functions:

- Compensation
- Establishment
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Personnel
- Staff Development

In the not- too-distant future, we hope to combine this schedule with the Disposal Schedule for Financial Management Records and the Disposal Schedule for Administrative Records to form a single Disposal Schedule for Corporate Records of the Northern Territory Government.

The Schedule can be accessed on the NTAS internet/intranet site.



Oral History

In late November 2001, a well-attended one-day workshop on oral history methods and issues was held at the Darwin office of the NTAS, presented by Francis Good. The majority of participants were staff of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) in Darwin or Alice Springs. A group of interviewers soon to commence on a project with retired NT police officers also attended, together with several individual researchers who practise oral history.

The day began with an overview of definitions for oral history, and contrasts in some theoretical and practical considerations that arise in the practice of oral history for different and sometimes quite varied outcomes. Dr David Ritchie of AAPA, and Dr Bill Wilson (who is steering the retired police project) both spoke about these issues from their particular perspectives. Then, a brief look at the oral history operations at the NTAS was followed by sessions on planning and preparation, the dynamics of the interview situation, and questioning technique (with brief extracts of interview recordings as examples).

The afternoon began with a session on recording equipment and discussion of differences between analog and digital technology. It concluded by looking at ways that interview recordings are documented, and some issues around access to the material, including clearance with interviewees and legal release forms for deposit and use.

In October 2001, an enthusiastic group of students from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) attended a half-day orientation and learning session on oral history at the NTAS, where they were introduced to the formalities of this kind of interviewing and recording, and the oral history work of the NTAS. The session concluded with a much-appreciated visit to the Search Room. Here,



Cathy Flint in the NTAS search room with BIITE students, October 2001



Some of the attendees at the oral history workshop, November 2001

Cathy Flint explained the range of material available to researchers, and how oral history material is searched and accessed, both through the catalogue of interviews and the computer-based searching of interview summaries and content listings. The NTAS uses ISYS software to provide the search facility to researchers.

News from the USA

"Almost before the dust had settled following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., oral historians were making plans to document the events many observers were calling a turning point in American history". (Newsletter of the Oral History Association, Winter 2001) The Columbia University Oral History Research Office and Columbia's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy have received a grant of \$US50 000 from the National Science Foundation to begin a wide-scale interview project, called the September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project. Further details can be found in the OHA's Newsletter, held at the NTAS.

The NTAS also holds a copy of the OHA's *Oral History Review*. The latest issue (for Summer/Fall 2001) includes an article from Australia by Joseph Pugliese: " 'Fighting with Our Tongues': The Politics of Genre in Aboriginal Oral Histories". In addition, there are reviews of 16 new publications. In a brief article, "Oral Histories Online" (P. 139), Susan Levine writes about cutting-edge developments at the University of California Berkeley, Regional Oral History Office. These can be sampled at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/BANC/ROHO/online>. Levine describes content and ancillary information available, and raises "some interesting questions about the usefulness of online archives".

Tales From The South Pacific

The NTAS customer base spread beyond Territory shores in September when the NT government was called on for assistance and advice in establishing the National Archives of Samoa.

The NTAS Director, Greg Coleman, took up the challenge and spent three weeks working with staff of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture at Apia. Greg found that Samoa and the Territory shared much in common when considering the establishment of an archives service including similar climate, geography and population/customer base.

Greg worked with Museums and Archives Officer, Ulrike Hertel, on preparing draft legislation and a design brief for a National Archives building. Time was also spent processing archives collections and discussing storage arrangements, coordination of agency records management and community access arrangements.

While the Samoan government is enthusiastic about the establishment of a National Archives service, funding is the key issue for the future of the Archives, and it is hoped that resources can be allocated soon. For more details on the consultancy, please refer to the PARBICA journal "Panorama" 4/2001.



Left: *Temokarassi Ama & Luimauna Faatonu*



Right: *Delphina Lee*



The government building in Apia, capital of Samoa



Farewell lunch for Greg Coleman - Maiava Viiga, Magele L. Isaako, Mose Fulu, Ulrike Hertel

GEORGE BROWN

Our condolences go to the family and friends of George Brown who passed away 8 January, aged 72, after suffering a stroke six days earlier.

George was born in Sydney in 1929 and came to Darwin in 1968 to work in the Botanic Gardens. He was one of Darwin's longest-serving mayors (1992-2002) and one of its great characters.

George's memory will be upheld through several collections at NTAS, including an oral history interview recorded in 1990.



NTRS 1974, Darwin Garden Club, Album No 4, Item No 128, George Brown, 35th Birthday lunch, 11 August 1993

Trim System Management

Restructure of the Northern Territory Public Service and implications for records management

On the 13th November 2001, Chief Minister Claire Martin announced the restructure of the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) from 35 to 18 agencies. The Northern Territory Archives Service (NTAS), as the area of government responsible for the whole of government records management framework, has played a key role in informing and providing guidance to agencies on how to deal with the changes in line with the Northern Territory Government's Records Management Policies and Guidelines.

The NTPS restructure saw the formation of 5 super agencies. Functions from agencies have moved / combined, new functions have been defined and one agency has been renamed to reflect the change to their business. To accommodate the agency's restructure 5 new TRIM databases have been defined specifically to manage the records created by the new super departments. This approach was endorsed at a meeting held between the Agency TRIM System Administrators and the NTAS Administration and Records Policy staff. Significant work has been done in setting up the super agency's TRIM databases giving consideration to the record types required, thesaurus terms, security setup, locations etc. The movement of critical records from pre-restructure agency TRIM databases into the new structure will also be required, as well as move records between agency databases that have not changed but where functions have transferred. Where the NTAS provides advice and guidance to agencies and assists in the setup of the databases and the transfer of records, the agency TRIM System administrators and records managers are required to identify and document the TRIM database setup and records requirements.

IT Outsourcing and TRIM/Content Manager

The transition of NT government agency desktop and help desk services to the new service provider CSC (Computer Science Corporation) will continue until 1 March 2002. There have been some initial teething problems in this transition, but the majority of issues have been resolved. The ongoing support of the application servers (Content Manager servers) for the agencies that have embarked on Electronic Document and Records Management is still waiting on a resolution.

Records Systems Projects Update

Webdrawer – this provides agencies with a web interface to TRIM for enquiry users. The NT Power and Water Authority is successfully using Webdrawer and the Department of Corporate and Information Services is well advanced in its implementation planning. Other agencies that were considering the implementation of Webdrawer have such plans on hold as the agency structure has changed or has been merged into one of the new super departments.

Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM)

The Department of Transport and Works, EDRM Pilot, has been successful however the department is now part of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment. The business unit involved with the Pilot has been moved to the Department of the Chief Minister. Further implementation will depend on the strategic direction of both agencies.

The Department of Corporate and Information Services, Territory Health Services Human Resource (HR) Records EDRM Project - The TRIM/Content Manager database for managing the Territory Health Services (now Department of Health and Community Services) HR records in imaged format is now fully operational. Due to budgetary constraints, the conversion of the records from the "old" system was not possible at this stage. However the effort to do this conversion has been quantified. Overall the Project Team was extremely satisfied that the implementation of the solution has proved successful and addressed immediate and emergent issues in HR services.

Both projects utilise the governments recordkeeping solution – TOWER's TRIM and IBM's Content Manager (as the electronic object store).

For further information, please contact the System Manager, Jeanette Collins or the TRIM System Support Officer, Celina Hodge.



Spotlight on.....World War 11 in the Northern Territory

With the Commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin activities happening in February this year, it seems an appropriate time to highlight the records we have in our collection relating to the 2nd World War in the Northern Territory.

The build-up of a defence presence in the Northern Territory began slowly with the construction of the Stokes Hill oil tanks in 1926 and the gradual establishment of bases for the navy, army and air force in the 1930s. Although this defence build-up increased with the outbreak of war in Europe, the general historic view is however that these efforts fell short of what was really needed.

The first 2 air raids in Darwin by the Japanese were on 19 February 1942 when at least 240 people were killed and between 300 and 400 wounded. This was the first attack by a foreign power on the

mainland of Australia. There were 47 vessels in the harbour when the first raid began and considerable damage was sustained. By November 1943 there had been a total of 64 air raids on Darwin.

Holdings at the Northern Territory Archives Service relating to World War 11 and the bombing of Darwin are personal records consisting of oral histories, photos and personal papers.

For government records on this topic consult National Archives of Australia (http://www.naa.gov.au/the_collection/defence.html) and the Australian War Memorial (http://www.awm.gov.au/index_flash.asp)

Our list of holdings is available on our website and in our search room. Examples of some of these records are given below.



NTRS 284, Caudle Collection, copy of sketch book by Captain Harold Bright, No 8 *Casualties* - the wards of the hospital train, in which some of our sisters battled along, day after day, month after month



NTRS 284, Caudle Collection, copy of sketch book by Captain Harold Bright, No 16 *Madame Le Colonel* - the principal matron of the nursing service was neatly housed in this cool bark structure

ORAL HISTORY - LETTY CUDDIHY

Letty CUDDIHY (nee Doughty) was born in Melbourne in 1916. She trained as a nurse, and enlisted with the Army in 1941. After a year at Puckapunyal, her unit, the 107 A.G.H., was posted to Adelaide River in April 1943. She was there for just over a year.

In this interview Letty talks about the overland trip to Adelaide River, the nurses' quarters, the hospital, her duties, the patients, the American Liberator squadron stationed nearby, occasional trips to Darwin, the hospital train, Dr Clyde Fenton and visits to Batchelor, recreation and getting around, the need for leave passes, and a Japanese bombing raid which narrowly missed the hospital.

The one-tape interview, of approximately forty-five minutes, was recorded in 1992 by Heather Chandler for the Frontline Oral History Project.

In the following extract of the interview Letty talks about some of her experiences at the Adelaide River camp and hospital.

When you arrived in Adelaide River what did you think of your new camp?

We were quite pleased with it. It was well established by this time. The 119th A.G.H. had been there for about twelve months so it was well established.

You were in 107 A.G.H.?

Hundred and seven, yes. The 119th moved out gradually and we took over from them. Our quarters were a long hut divided into little small rooms with the proverbial camp stretcher, which were iron beds really. We did have a proper mattress on that and mosquito nets and just a small amount of hanging space. The Army provided us with a hanging wardrobe and we had a trunk provided by the Army - no we bought that - and you know nothing [much], just the bare essentials, but comfortable.

The showers and the latrines were down the track. If it was wet you put your ground sheet on, and your rubber boots and all your bath towels and what-have-you underneath that, and took off down to the shower, which was down towards the river. We had our own mess and we had a, what we call, recreation hut, which, if somebody came and

we wanted to entertain them or wanted to write letters or do something like that, our mess was separate from that. They were all tin-roofed, but the mess and the rec hut was sort of more open on the sides for coolness.

Tell me a little bit about the hospital itself. What kind of cases were you treating?

Well, we were treating every type of case - surgical, skins, medical - anything - breaks, fractures - anything at all. Our hospital stretched along a long area, so we had a bus - when I say a bus, it was a truck with seats on the back of it, long benches on the back - which took us from our quarters to the wards. At our appointed starting time it dropped us off at each ward and then took the other staff back. And then they'd take us down in groups and bring us back for lunch and everything.

We had one big hut and then the rest were tents. Each ward was formed in the shape of a cross, and we had the big red cross on the roof of the hut painted. I had the surgical ward so I had the most acute cases in the hut and I migrated out around the tents. We had cement floor in the hut and earth floors in the tents. If it blew you'd rush out and fix the guy ropes, and if it rained and it was too tight you'd rush out and fix the guy ropes too.

Spotlight on.....World War 11 in the Northern Territory



NTRS 1733, Duke Collection, Inspection of members of the Red Cross Society by Lord Gowrie and Administrator Abbott



NTRS 1663, Fowler Collection, Hospital ship "Oranje" with the first load of returning POWs from Singapore, Darwin 1945



NTRS 284, Caudle Collection, No 115, Somewhere out bush from Darwin - medical teams performing in one of the semi underground operating theatres

ORAL HISTORY - JACK LILLY

NTRS 226, TS 679

Jack Lilly was born in New South Wales in 1922. He worked as a public servant before putting his age up and joining the Army in 1940. After training, he volunteered for the tropics and was posted with an artillery unit at East Point in Darwin. He arrived in November 1941, and talks about his first impressions of Darwin.

Mr Lilly was at East Point for the first raids, and several subsequent ones. He was also in Berrimah hospital with tropical ear when other raids occurred. He was later transferred to other units when his clerical background was discovered. He worked in a labour platoon too, near Adelaide River, with Aboriginal workers. He left the Territory in October 1943.

Mr Lilly returned to Darwin for commemorations of the bombing of Darwin. He felt defence personnel stationed in the city had never been properly recognised for their role in Australia's defence until 1992.

The one hour ten minute, two-tape interview was recorded by Heather Chandler for the Frontline Oral History Project in February 1992.

In the following extract of the interview Jack talks about some of his time at the Katherine hospital.

When did it start getting good?

I had a couple of spells in hospital, not long after the first raid. I had Singapore ear, they called it, it was otitis externa, I think they call it. I went down to Berrimah Hospital, it was 107 A.G.H.. That had been strafed in the first raid. I was in bed number thirteen, and there were bullet holes in the ceiling - so I wasn't really happy there. But, they fixed me up for a while.

Later on I had my tonsils out down at Katherine. Apparently they used to do the operations down at Katherine. But that took three weeks to heal, because in this atmosphere, in tent wards, it was a bit rough trying to get it to heal. You know, you didn't have air-conditioning, and fans and things to try and cool you down. But at least they had lemonade. We could drink lemonade and a bit of ice-cream, that's all you could eat.

But the blackfellows used to come in and get treated down there too. You know, if they broke a leg or got a spear wound or a burn, they'd come into that hospital. And they were funny - they'd bring everybody with them. They'd bring the whole family, [laughs] and they'd be camped right outside at the end of the ward. Yeah, but generally speaking they were pretty good. These fellows down at Adelaide River

with us, in headquarters, they used to go out every now and again and they'd net a small creek, and then they'd go upstream and they'd beat the barramundi down into the net.

Are these the Aboriginal people?

Aborigine boys, yeah. By gee they were good.

Did they give you a feed of it?

They'd bring back loads of it. Yeah, enough to feed the mess sometimes. They'd always keep a few big ones, and what they'd do with them, they'd fillet them and cut them up into chunks, about oh, a bit bigger than a walnut. And somehow they got hold of a lot of white vinegar, and they used to marinade it in white vinegar overnight.

They'd always do this just before the beer ration day, and then we'd go down and we'd light a fire down the back of camp, have a bit of a log fire going. We'd take our beer down that we'd been cooling in the creek, and you'd get a green stick and poke a bit of fish onto it and just sizzle it over the fire. And oh gee, that was lovely - gee it tasted good. Beautiful.

That was when our beer ration was started up again, because when General Herring came up here he cut the beer ration out completely. We weren't allowed to have any. He made it dry.

Spotlight on.....World War 11 in the Northern Territory

ORAL HISTORY - BILL DEDMAN

NTRS 226, TS 694

Bill Dedman was born in Kalgoorlie, WA, in 1920, joined the permanent army in 1938, and came to Darwin with the Darwin Mobile Force on the Montoro in 1939. He stayed until September 1942.

In this interview he recalls: the small, friendly town, and the welcome of the townspeople, enjoyable social life and excursions to Dripstone and Rapid Creek; the use of the DMF to unload the Tulagi during a wharfies' strike; quarters at Vestey's, and the wildlife there; the disbandment of the DMF, and the subsequent difficulties of permanent army men in a conscript army; poor equipment and supplies; the drastic and unhappy changes in the town with troop buildups and civilian evacuations.

During the first Japanese air-raids on Darwin he was stationed in the wharf and fuel tank area, and vividly recalls: the carnage of that day, when he worked at the wharf area rescuing men from the sea and recovering bodies; later the same day recovering bodies and burying them at Mindil beach; seeing Chinese setting fires in Cavanagh Street the day after the first raids.

He was knocked over by a bomb blast at the oil tanks in April 1942, and then seriously injured in the raid of June which destroyed the tanks. He was hospitalised at Bagot and Alice Springs, before being sent to Perth, where his medical records did not catch up with him. Problems with treatment have persisted to this day, and he is on a T.P.I. pension. He was also mis-diagnosed with dengue fever eleven times, which later turned out to be malaria contracted in Darwin. He remembers the early days in Darwin with fondness, but also recalls the fatigue of the later period of privation and constant alert.

The one hour interview was recorded by Francis Good in February 1992 for the Frontline Oral History Project.

The following extract of the interview describes Bill's experience of the first bombing raid on Darwin on 19th February 1942 and the bombing of the fuel tanks on 16th June 1942.

Right, we are now talking about February the nineteenth, 1942, aren't we?

That's right. When the nineteenth of February came, at actually about nine-fifty-eight, I was getting ready to change the guard system of the entrance to

the oil tanks on both ends, plus on the wharf, where we had control of the people going on the wharf in those particular days, because the evacuation of a lot of people had been going on for a month or two before of them leaving, and the tightening of the security became [strict].

... At nine-fifty-eight [on the 19th of February, at the] the changing of the guard, ... and the next thing the bombs started dropping. We all turned around and ran, more or less. But they didn't actually hit the oil tanks, but they went right along the wharf and destroyed most of [the wharf area and shipping].

My first action, like many of others, we went to the edge of the water and we could hear nothing but screaming and [cries for help]. Some of the people were jumping off their ships. We knew that most of the people on the jetty had been killed, because it hit right in where the train was, and the actual wharfies at that time were having morning tea, and they had a direct hit on that particular section, which was a sort of an 'L' shaped area, where the wharf went up that way, and then faced [out to sea]. The little train that was there got hit, and that went in [the sea], and it completely destroyed the whole of the jetty, plus the *Neptuna*, which was alongside, and after a while that blew up and caused [a sound like an earthquake].

I went down [in front of the oil tanks and] all the sea was on fire with oil coming from the ships. I was helping people out [of the sea]. Others were burnt, and some of them were dead. I tried to pick them up to bring them ashore, but when you're burnt with oil the body swells up, and also the body becomes limp. And you try to grab them by the body or the arm, and it would come away. They were just boiled in oil. It's a thing that I'll always remember. A shocking thing to happen.

There was one chap was off the *Neptuna*, and he dived over. I brought him ashore, and he was crying his eyes out, and he said: 'I was down in the engine room when that noise of the bombs was striking'. Because the *Neptuna* never got hit till about five or ten minutes after the raid had started. He said to his mates: 'Come on, let's get off this ship'.

Now there was fifty-nine of them all told, that were working on the *Neptuna* at the

same time. He went and dived overboard [with others]. Forty-nine of his mates went and dived under the dining room tables. And of course the rest of them couldn't get up from the engine room ... Well, they went up with it too.

So he was the only man that I knew - I didn't know what his name was ... And he cried his eyes out. He said: 'I've lost [many] of my mates that just got killed on the *Neptuna*'.

Throughout the day we were just carrying, and putting bodies up on the shore. Of course, then, at eleven o'clock the second raid started. But the wharf wasn't touched at that particular time. It was mainly concentrated on the RAAF [base], which they pattern-bombed, and completely destroyed the RAAF [aerodrome].

Many stories were told as we went along of people deserting their post, but they were given [orders] by their officers to go into places called Berrimah, Winnellie, and take cover.

Now, you were on duty at the fuel tanks in, I think it was July, when they were bombed?

[The 16th of June, 1942.]

Could you just, first of all, clarify that date, because you've told me that you've seen it reported incorrectly on occasion.

Yes. Actually they did come over on the fourth of April and drop bombs, and then they also [did] on the sixth of April. One bomb did actually drop near the entrance to the oil tanks, and which actually caused a vacuum of concussion that threw a lot of people - including me - to the ground - but did no damage.

But on June the sixteenth 1942, there was about twenty-seven bombers came over, mainly to destroy the oil tanks - which they blew one sky-high. I went sky-high with it, and I landed on my back and my shoulders, which today, its been accepted as war caused disabilities of a crushed spine on the left hand side, and the vertebrae of my cervical [of the neck] is damaged in the fifth, sixth and seventh areas.

So, what happened then? How soon was it - ?

... continued on page 11

Spotlight on.....World War 11 in the Northern Territory

I bled from the nose, and I bled from the ears, and I was taken in then [to navy headquarters]. We had a lot of Navy personnel also in the oil tanks who used to attend the writers off the ships [with records]. They carried me inside, and then the next thing I was taken away and I went down to - they put me into hospital first at Bagot, which was a little hospital there. Then after

that, they sent me down to [Adelaide River hospital]. I never ever went back to the oil tanks after that.

I went back to the 19th Infantry Battalion, which was then stationed at the Twenty-Eight Mile peg, and that was around about July. They went through a lot of training then. Then in September we got relieved and were sent down to Sydney

via Birdum, across to Mt Isa, to Townsville, down to Brisbane, down to Narellan in New South Wales. And after stopping there for about a week, we were given leave and sent home to our different states, [mine being Western Australia].



NTRS 284, Caudle Collection, No 88, Donkey pack trains operating out from Darwin in the Wet season to get supplies to outlying battalions



NTRS 1643, Gilbert Collection, Sleeping quarters, Larrakeyah barracks



NTRS 1418, Rigby Collection, No 13, Combined Services march in Darwin, July 1941



NTRS 284, Caudle Collection, No 89, Donkey pack trains operating out from Darwin in the Wet season to get supplies to outlying battalions

STAFF NOTES



Helen Barnes

In December, we farewelled Barry Garside who had been Acting Director for several months. Barry's substantive position for the previous couple of years had been that of Records Retention and Standards

Coordinator.

After half a lifetime in Darwin, Barry and his family moved to Canberra where Barry reckons his pommy background has prepared him for the change of climate.

We welcome Liam Phillips who recently took up the position of Archives Retrieval Officer. Liam's interest in the 'gems' in our collections, particularly the photos, keeps him more than amused as he retrieves archives requested by our researchers and Government clients during his working day. Liam is responsible also for processing photo orders received from our search room clients.

Helen Barnes has been helping out in the records management system support area. Helen has been assisting agencies to reconfigure their TRIM system databases

to accommodate the agency restructures that were implemented by the Government late last year.

We also welcome Margaret Quan to the team. Margaret has taken up the position

of Records Retention and Standards Coordinator, the chief responsibilities being to coordinate records disposal standards, schedules and contracts.



Liam Phillips

WHO'S WHO

Greg Coleman 8924 7677
Director
greg.coleman@nt.gov.au

Cheryl Phillips 8924 7677
Administration Officer
cheryl.phillips@nt.gov.au

Linda Bell 8924 7649
Archivist (Records Services)
linda.bell@nt.gov.au

Craig Lush 8924 7653
Archives Officer
(Records Services)
craig.lush@nt.gov.au

Liam Phillips 8924 7654
Archives Retrieval Officer
liam.phillips@nt.gov.au

Cathy Flint 8924 7347
Archivist (Information Services)
cathy.flint@nt.gov.au

Françoise Barr 8924 7652
Archivist (Information Access)
francoise.barr@nt.gov.au

Francis Good 8924 7651
Archivist (Oral Records)
francis.good@nt.gov.au

Hank Hofman 8924 7655
Audio Technician (Oral Records)
hank.hofman@nt.gov.au

Gillian Drewes 8924 7670
Administration Officer (Oral Records)
gillian.drewes@nt.gov.au

Margaret Quan 8924 7494
Records Retention & Standards
Coordinator
margaret.quan@nt.gov.au

Beth Moloney 8924 7485
Records Policy & Training Coordinator
beth.moloney@nt.gov.au

Jeanette Collins 8924 7641
System Manager
jeanette.collins@nt.gov.au

Celina Hodge 8924 7149
System Support Officer
celina.hodge@nt.gov.au

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

As usual, the range of research projects undertaken by researchers using the NT Archive's collections is marvellously varied and the projects listed below are just a few examples of some that have been undertaken over the last few months.

- RMIT University, Master's Degree in Architecture by research: Development of Housing in Tropical Australia - *David Bridgman*
- Northern Territory University, Bachelor of Arts, History: Social activities and condition in Darwin 1946-1959 - *Nina Cameron*
- Research on the History of Darwin during the South Australian administration. Working title: "Evolution of Darwin in South Australia's Northern Territory, 1869-1911 - *Kathy De La Rue*.
- Paper for the Australian National University on insight into attitudes and values of missionaries at Arnhem Land settlements - *Mickey Dewar, Curator Territory History Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory*
- Research to provenance a document found at the Fannie Bay Goal and a research paper for the Museums

Australia Conference in March 2002 - *Mickey Dewar, Curator Territory History Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory*

- Joint project with Suzanne Parry and Julie Wells on the Northern Territory in the 1950s with special focus on the social history and interaction in that period - *Mickey Dewar, Curator Territory History Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory*
- On behalf of Dr Pam Oliver from the School of Historical Studies at Monash University, and funded by the NT History Awards: a research project concerning the Japanese presence in the Northern Territory between the two world wars - *Steven Farram, Northern Territory University*.
- Research on the Aboriginal involvement in mining in the Hatches Creek area - *Dr Nicholas Gill, School of Geosciences, University of Wollongong*
- Research on the Myilly Point Precinct and the former Supreme Court building for the National Trust - *Barbara James*
- Research on sites and histories relating to women for the re-edition of "No Man's Land" later in the year - *Barbara James*

Collaboration between the NTAS and the NT Writers' Centre

The NTAS recently contributed to a one-day workshop coordinated by the NT Writers' Centre entitled *Researching and writing real life stories* and presented by Barbara James. Cathy Flint, Archivist, Information Services, spoke about the processes involved in using archives generally, the difference between archives and libraries and the different types of archives available at the NTAS by providing a range of examples which proved to be of great interest to the participants as most of them had not used archives before. Cathy also discussed the NT History Grants

program which is administered by the NTAS. The purpose of this program is to encourage the work of researchers who are recording and/or writing about Northern Territory history.

The level of interest in this one-day workshop was such that it will be held again in late March this year, and the NTAS will once again participate. Another successful collaboration between the NTAS and the NT Writers' Centre was the Indigenous anthology *Under the Mango Tree*. For details please see *Records Territory*, No 23, February 2001.



NT Archives Service:

Street Address: 2nd Floor, 25 Cavenagh St Darwin NT 0800

Postal Address: GPO Box 874, Darwin NT 0801

Website: <http://www.nt.gov.au/nta>

Telephone: (08) 8924 7677

Fax: (08) 8924 7660

Email: nt.archives@nt.gov.au