

WWII

Northern Territory Library



Darwin Bombing Collection

30 Photographs; 7 x 11.5 cm and 7 x 10 cm
Northern Territory Library



Bombing of

Darwin

The Darwin Bombing Collection consists mostly of standard issued photographs of bombed buildings and sites in Darwin. These two photographs of Stokes Hill Wharf and a burning oil tank are common images of the destruction caused by the first Japanese air raid.

Stokes Hill Wharf was the first structure to be hit by Japanese bombs on 19 February 1942. A shunting locomotive, six rail trucks and a recreation hut were blown into the water and a section of the wharf was completely destroyed.

MV Neptuna and Barossa both received direct hits and twenty-two waterside workers were killed. Neptuna was carrying 200 tons of depth charges and sunk quickly after a massive explosion. The damaged Barossa was towed clear and later salvaged.

The building of oil storage tanks began in 1924 and by September 1941, eleven had been built for storing over 75,000 tons of oil. Number 6 oil storage tank behind Darwin Wharf was hit by Japanese bombs during the first raid. A further seven tanks were destroyed in subsequent raids.

