BOMBING OF BROOME - WORLD WAR II

Broome, Western Australia was bombed by the Japanese air force on 3 March 1942, with the loss of about 70 lives and 24 aircraft, mainly flying boats.

The Papers
These papers are copies of documents obtained from the Defence Department by Frank Wise while Premier of Western Australia. Mr Wise allowed the library to have copies in 1981 whilst an oral history interview was being conducted with him by library staff (see OH495). (Acc. 5123A)

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Summary of Classes

CORRESPONDENCE
HISTORIES
MEMORANDA
NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS
REPORTS
TELEGRAMS

CORRESPONDENCE
5123A/1
17 April 1942
Copy
To Captain Johnston regarding supplies in Western Australia.

HISTORIES
n.d.
Copy
History of Civil Defence in Western Australia from inception in 1936 until 31 May 1944.
MEMORANDA

5123A/62  11 March 1942
To Department of Air from Director of Civil Aviation. Relating to telegram sent to Broome.

/63  11 March 1942
To Director General of Works from Director of Civil Aviation. Relating to telegram sent to Broome.

/3  9 April 1942
From Department of Air to Director General of Civil Aviation relating to airports being classified as Advanced Operational Bases.

/4  4 November 1943
From Department of Trade and Customs to Department of Civil Aviation relating to the withdrawal of Customs Staff from Broome.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

5123A/5  n.d.
Daily News copy regarding the air raid on 3 March 1942.

REPORTS

/6  7 March 1942
Report from Naval Officer In Charge, Broome to ACNB regarding arrival at Port Hedland of various allied aircraft. Attached are comments from Dept of Navy.

/7  9 March 1942
Report from Naval Officer In Charge, Broome to ACNB regarding the preparations at Broome. Attached are comments from the Dept of the Navy.

/8  5 April 1942
Report from Naval Officer In Charge, Port Hedland to Commodore in Charge, Fremantle regarding evacuation of small luggers and boats to the south.

TELEGRAMS

5123A/9  3 February 1942
to Aviat, Melbourne advising of Broome air raid.

/10  3 February 1942
to Aviat, Melbourne, advising of one Qantas flying boat destroyed.
5123A/11  3 February 1942
To Aviat, Melbourne, advising temporary post
office set up outside town.

/12  4 February 1942
From Milcommand Perth, to US HQ Broome,
regarding demolition of all N.W Australian
airports.

/13  28 February 1942
From Fanning to Dept of Civil Aviation, offering his
resignation

/14  2 March 1942
From Fanning to Aviat, advising Broome
aerodrome in possession of U.S. Army.

/15  3 March 1942
From "Brain" advising of loss of fifteen flying boats

5123A/16  3 March 1942
From Aviat Perth to Aviat, Melbourne, advising of
air raid.

/17  3 March 1942
From Fanning to Aviat, Melbourne, advising town
being evacuated.

/18  3 March 1942
From Aviat, Melbourne to Fanning refusing his
resignation.

/19  3 March 1942
From Aviat to Fanning, advising "Nichol Bay" no
longer required by Civil Aviation.

/20  3 March 1942
From Fanning. Broome to be destroyed by U.S.
Army on the 5th.

/21  4 March 1942
To Fanning from Aviat, Keys or Drew to be sent to
Port Hedland as acting Civil Aviation Officer.

5123A/22  4 March 1942
To Aviat. Perth. Curedale to move to Hedland.

/23  4 March 1942
From Fanning to Aviat. Confirming personnel
movements and demolition charges on runways.

/24  4 March 1942
From Fanning to Aviat. Confirming personnel
movements and demolition charges on runways.
Handwritten.

/25  4 March 1942
To Aviat, Melbourne from Anderson, Perth.
Broome evacuated. Typed

/26  4 March 1942
To Aviat, Melbourne from Anderson, Perth.
Broome evacuated. Handwritten
5123A/27  4 March 1942
From Brain, Broome to Aviat, Melbourne. Sending stretcher cases to Perth

/28  4 March 1942
From Anderson, Broome to Aviat, Melbourne. Requesting information on evacuation of staff. Typed

/29  4 March 1942
From Anderson, Broome to Aviat, Melbourne. Requesting information on evacuation of staff. Handwritten

/30  4 March 1942
From Aviat, Melbourne to Anderson, Broome. All staff to remain in Broome.

/31  4 March 1942
From Richardson, Broome to Aviat, Melbourne. Requesting instructions regarding staff.

5123A/32  5 March 1942
From Comworks, Perth to Director General of Works, Melbourne. Regarding flying boat moorings in Broome.

/33  5 March 1942
From Liaison to Comworks, Perth. Regarding location of moorings.

/34  5 March 1942
To Fanning, Broome from Aviat, Melbourne. Instructions relating to staff and maintenance of airfields.

/35  5 March 1942
From Aviat, Perth to Qantas, Sydney. Flying boat arrived with casualties. Typed

5123A/36  5 March 1942

/37  5 March 1942
From Fanning to Aviat, Melbourne. Relating to his request for release.

/38  5 March 1942
From Aviat, Melbourne to Fanning, Broome. Visit to HQ not approved.

/39  6 March 1942
From Anderson, Broome to Aviat. Staff advised contents of telegram of 5 March.

/40  6 March 1942
From Fanning to Aviat, Melbourne. Advising of condition of runways and moorings.

/41  6 March 1942
From Aviat to Fanning, Broome. Advising of urgent need for at least one mooring.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5123A/42</td>
<td>7 March 1942</td>
<td>From Fanning to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>From Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Advising acute labour shortage in Broome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/43</td>
<td>7 March 1942</td>
<td>From Perth to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>To Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Advising Wyndham launch no longer available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/44</td>
<td>7 March 1942</td>
<td>From Perth to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>To Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Aircraft leaving to assist at Port Hedland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>/46</td>
<td>8 March 1942</td>
<td>From Aviat, Perth to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>From Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Broome runways unsafe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5123A/47</td>
<td>8 March 1942</td>
<td>To Townsville Aerodrome, advising Broome runway unsafe.</td>
<td>To Townsville Aerodrome, advising Broome runway unsafe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/50</td>
<td>11 March 1942</td>
<td>To Fanning from Aviat.</td>
<td>To Aviat.</td>
<td>Regarding repairs to Broome aerodrome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/51</td>
<td>11 March 1942</td>
<td>To Fanning from Aviat.</td>
<td>To Aviat.</td>
<td>New construction work for RAAF at Broome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/52</td>
<td>12 March 1942</td>
<td>From Broome to Aviat.</td>
<td>To Aviat.</td>
<td>Two temporary moorings laid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/53</td>
<td>12 March 1942</td>
<td>From Broome to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>From Broome to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Update on repairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5123A/54</td>
<td>21 March 1942</td>
<td>To Collins, Port Hedland from Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>To Collins, Port Hedland from Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Relating to salvage operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/55</td>
<td>21 March 1942</td>
<td>From Collins, Port Hedland to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>From Collins, Port Hedland to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Broome attacked by seven aircraft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/56</td>
<td>25 March 1942</td>
<td>From Port Hedland to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>From Port Hedland to Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Advising of cyclone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/57</td>
<td>26 March 1942</td>
<td>To Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>To Aviat, Melbourne.</td>
<td>Cyclone stopping crew of Koolama and evacuees leaving Port Hedland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5123A/58  28 March 1942  Copy
From Perth to Aviat, Melbourne. Advising of plane leaving for Broome and Wyndham.

/59  30 March 1942  Copy
From Katherine to Perth. Advising plane arrived.

/60  30 March 1942  Copy
From Marble Bar to Perth. Advising that landing strips are ready.

/61  1 April 1942  Copy
To Aviat Melbourne from Perth. Advising that Fanning, with salvaged equipment, has abandoned car about seventy miles from Port Hedland.

12 June 2001