Remembering Territory families

After the War

The Second World War, with the civilian evacuation and widescale military presence in Darwin, but also improvements in water supply, roads and infrastructure, changed the ‘Old Darwin’ forever.

Long term residents returning to Darwin were shocked by the damage and as the federal government stalled over a plan to reconstruct the town, the economy was in stagnation:

We were all very disappointed, very disillusioned about the looting. Not very pleased about the condition we found our houses in. When you consider Mike, that the area is not occupied by foreign forces, but by our own Australian servicemen. But I think there were other problems that overtook these. There wasn’t a lot of work around. There was a little bit of work around. Things had not really begun to fire. They were rolling along very, very slowly with just enough work to keep a few tradesmen going in minor repairs. And when my brothers did go into building, the jobs they were getting were really small work. The government hadn’t had a chance to put in their estimates and start all their major works. And it was a few years before things started to move there...

[Northern Territory Archives Service NTRS 226, TS 81 and NTRS 219 Item 206, Les Liveris]