Remembering Territory families

World War II – frontline

During the Second World War, between 1942 and 1943, Japanese aircraft made a number of bombing raids over Darwin and the Top End. Some people moved from Darwin to Katherine believing they would be safe there. Ernest Fong remembered.

Of course all the civilians were evacuated by ship, and some of them left by plane but my wife and her mother and family didn’t want to go away, you see and I thought they’d be all right in Katherine. We went down to Katherine and my brother had an old building there. We stayed there for, oh – I didn’t. I was still working in Darwin – but my wife and mother and sister-in-law and that went down to Katherine to – they thought they’d be all right, you see. I went down to visit them the weekend that the place got bombed. I just missed the bombing.

[Northern Territory Archives Service NTRS 226, TS 634 and NTRS 219, TP 450, Ernest Fong]