

ADDRESS BY  
HIS HONOUR MR TOM PAULING QC  
**ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
**BOMBING OF DARWIN COMMEMORATION OPEN DAY**  
East Point Military Museum, Darwin  
17 February 2008

As the Administrator of the Northern Territory, it gives me great pleasure to be here today.

The significance of this occasion should not be lost on any of us. There have been devastating natural occurrences, such as cyclones, that have affected East Point over the decades, but it is the history of warfare that really resounds in this area.

Here is the bunker where the army planned Top End defence strategy during World War II. Here is Darwin's first museum, The East Point Military Museum, established forty years ago next year by the Royal Australian Artillery Association to exhibit photographs and artefacts from Darwin's wartime history. Here we remember the sixty-four bombing raids conducted on Darwin by the Japanese that lasted for almost two years and killed over three hundred people.

Philip Street, Fannie Bay, has been my home for thirty years. Like many of the Fannie Bay crescents, our street was one of the original taxiways from the Ross Smith airstrip. Our block was the officers' briefing mess and our steel-framed house was built out of torpedo packing cases! Next door was a bituminised dispersal bay for fighter aircraft.

The Bombing of Darwin needs to be known and remembered. Every visitor today, whatever their age, should take a minute amidst the many activities to reflect and to respect this place and our history.

My thanks to all who work diligently to increase our awareness and thank you to the Lions, Rotary and Salvation Army volunteers supporting this event.

It now gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Bombing of Darwin Commemoration Open Day.

Thank you.