**Bombing Raids (64) on Darwin 1942-43**

**1942**

*19 February* 1st raid started at 09.58am, heavy attacks on shipping, the town and aerodrome by 188 aircraft. Officially 243 killed; Major J Burton estimated 900 killed, other army sources approx. 1100 killed. Extensive damage.

*19 February* 2nd raid by 53 heavy bombers at 11.57am. Altogether, in the two raids, 23 of our aircraft were destroyed. The USA Air Force lost 10 P40 Kittyhawks, one B24 Bomber, 3 Beechcraft. The US Navy lost 23 Catalina amphibians. The RAAF lost 6 Hudsons; 8 ships were sunk, 15 damaged. The Japanese lost 12 aircraft.

*4 March* Two Japanese planes machine-gunned men repairing the line at the 4-mile. 1 Hudson totally destroyed on the runway.

*16 March* 14 planes bombed the RAAF. 5 airmen killed, I injured.

*19 March* Daly Street and Mylilly Point areas bombed. 2 killed.

*22 March* On Sunday two air raids were made on the Civil ‘Drome and Katherine ‘Drome 200 miles inland. No damage. No casualties.

*28 March* RAAF bombed, slight damage to 1 Wirraway.

*30 March* RAAF bombed, no damage.

*31 March* Bombs dropped in the bush. Nil damage.

*31 March* First night raid at 10.30pm. No damage.

*2 April* Oil tanks bombed, 29,500 gallons of fuel destroyed. Harvey and McMinn Streets hit.

*4 April* Raid by 7 bombers with Zero escort. Japanese lost all 7 bombers and their Zero escort. RAAF aerodrome strafed by 3 Zeros, I civilian killed, I injured. Power, water and telephone services cut. 84 bomb strikes counted.

*5 April* RAAF bombed and runways cratered.

*25 April* 25 planes bombed C Company 19 Machine Gun positions at RAAF aerodrome. 1 Bren Carrier, I Anti Tank vehicle and ammunition destroyed, 3 soldiers injured, 1 US airman killed, 1 injured. Power, water and telephone services cut. 84 bomb strikes counted.

*27 April* 27 planes bombed RAAF. 4 airmen killed, 3 injured.

*8 June* Japanese submarine sunk at Boom net.

*13 June* RAAF bombed by 27 planes.

*14 June* Big air battle at 10-mile. One Japanese plane and one Kittyhawk shot down.

*15 June* 27 planes bombed from old hospital to Police Paddock. 4 killed, 15 wounded.

*16 June* Oil tanks, banks, Jolly’s store, and railway yards bombed.

*25 July* Japanese bombed RAAF and civil drome.

*26 July* First raid at 9.15pm. Vesteys damaged. Second raid at 10.50pm

*27 July* Another night raid at 10.30pm. Bombs dropped at 10 Mile near Wireless Station

*28 July* Slight damage to water line and runways.

*29 July* RAAF bombed at 1.25am. Slight damage to Naval repair shop.

*30 July* Civil drome bombed at 4am.

*30 July* Japanese lost 20 planes in a daylight raid. Power, water, telephone cable damaged. 2 fuel dumps destroyed. 1 killed.

*9 August* Two Japanese sunk in Darwin Harbour.

*23 August* 27 Bombers, damaged Hughes Field. 2 aircraft damaged/

*24 August* Night raid. Vestry’s hit. First raid at 9.15pm at 29 Mile.

*24 August* Second raid at midnight. Bombs dropped near Vestey’s Meat Works and near civil aerodrome, damage to radio and power lines. Japanese reconnaissance plane shot down at Koolpinyah.

*25 August* Damage to civil aerodrome and civil radio station.

*28 August* Railway yards hit at 2.15am.

*30 August* Point Charles lighthouse bombed at dawn.

*31 August* Civil aerodrome hit. Slight damage to pipeline.

*31 August* Damage Nil.

*25 September* Raid at 4am at Clark’s Pearling Sheds. Army Petrol destroyed.

*26 September* Camps at 34 Mile bombed at 04.34.

*27 September* Raid at 4am McMinn and Harvey Streets hit.

*27 September* Adelaide River, Batchelor and Winnellie bombed. 5 casualties.

*24 October* Night raids 3.50am at East Point, Fannie Bay and Francis Bay. Japanese came again but were driven off.

*26 October* Lands office, Don Hotel and Railway offices hit.

27 October Don Hotel hit again, also East Point and civil drome. Slight damage to power lines.

*23 November* Night raid 3.50am at South Point.

*26 November* Raid at 4.00am on Navy yards and 28 Mile. Raid at 1.00pm on harbour.

*26 November* Raid at 4.00am on railway yards. Raid at 11.00am on West Point.

*27 November* Japanese attacked but were driven off.

*29 November* Japanese attacked again but were driven off.

*3 December* Japanese attacked but were driven off with heavy losses.

**1943**

*20 January* Raid at midnight. Bombs dropped at Ironstone.

*21 January* Raid at 10pm. Daly Street and Police Paddock bombed.

*2 March* Coomalie Creek airstrip attacked by 16 bombers. Spitfires shot down 2 Zeros and 1 Kate Bomber.

*7 March* Sunday – Reconnaissance Japanese Dinah came over was shot down by 457 Sqn.

*15 March* 21 bombers and 24 Zeros came over at 11.00am. 7 bombers shot down, 3 Spitfires and 1 pilot lost. Set fire to two oil tanks near the wharf.

*2 May*  Raid at 10.30am RAAF bombed. 11 Japanese bombers and 5 Zeros shot down. We lost 14 Spitfires, all but 2 pilots were saved.

*20 June* Winnellie bombed. 25 bombers attacked, Spitfires shot down 12 bombers and 4 fighters for the loss of 2 Spitfires.

*21 June* Japanese came over at 10.30am driven off.

*22 June* Tuesday – Japanese machine-gunned Batchelor Roads.

*28 June* Raid at 11.10am East Point and Vestey’s bombed.

*30 June* Raid at 12.30pm. Fenton attached by 27 bombers escorted by 23 fighters. Japanese lost 6 ‘Bettys’ and 3 Zekes, 1 Spitfire was lost, 3 more were written off with engine failure. 3 Liberators were destroyed on the ground, 7 others damaged.

*18 July* Raid at 3.30am 38-Mile camp, one Japanese plane shot down.

*26 July* Fenton hit by 26 bombers and 21 fighters. Spitfires destroyed 9 for the loss of 8 Spitfires.

*13 August* Low level attacks against Fenton drome and the 29 Mile.

*17 August* 11.15am raid at Batchelor.

*20 August* Raid on Nightcliff (Darwin).

*20 August* Raid on Batchelor.

*29 August* Sunday – Raid at 9.30am at 29 Mile.

*7 September* Tuesday – Raid at 10am at 29 Mile.

*15 September* Midnight raid at Fenton.

*12 November* Last raid, on Power house, 2 ½ mile, Winnellie and Adelaide River at 2.3am.

Note: Japanese reconnaissance flights were not counted at raids.