

attack was blamed on the Daly River people and resulted in severe reprisals and massacres with an estimated 150 Aboriginal people shot dead.

Some of the earliest non-Aboriginal occupants of the area were Chinese who started a market garden on the Peron Islands at the mouth of the Daly. As with all agricultural ventures in the early days of the area the market garden was short lived as there were difficulties with the climate, the soils and marketing (Powell 1966:95). Other small scale farming along the Daly River included sugar growing in the 1880s, a government experimental farm that tried pig farming and peanut growing. These ventures were often carried out by settlers who were given free blocks from 1911 onwards (Pye n.d., Forrest 1994).

Aboriginal people were displaced from the Daly region by European settlement and they either moved into other areas south of the Daly River or onto the European settlements (Stanner, 1979, 1933a, 1933b and Gleeson and Richards 1985). Their numbers were decreased by an epidemic of influenza and whooping cough in 1888 (Forrest 1994) and their traditional way of life was weakened by their dependence on European or Chinese goods especially opium, alcohol and tobacco.

Permanent European occupation of the Port Keats (Wadeye) region did not begin until 1935 with the establishment of a Catholic Mission on the coast at Port Keats (Pye n.d.). Cattle were brought in to the Port Keats area from Tipperary Station in 1938. In 1939 an airstrip was constructed at the mission and the first vehicle to arrive was not until 1950 when the drivers followed the foot track used by Aborigines to reach the Daly River region approximately 150 kilometres to the north.

In the Port Keats region the 39 Radar Station was constructed on the top of Mount Goodwin, now known as Air Force Hill. (Fenton 1996). The station was part of a radar chain across the western approaches to the Darwin area. The camp was situated on the lower southern slopes of the hill on either side of the track to Port Keats (Wadeye). The structures included a power house, cook house, latrines, showers, mess hut and accommodation for the staff that consisted of tents with floors made of packed termite mound material then covered in malthoid. The station and camp were dismantled in 1945.

#### **4.3. The distribution of historic sites.**

The potential for unidentified historic sites within or adjacent to the pipeline alignment will be greater in the eastern section of the alignment where the area has been extensively mined since 1870 and where there are numerous World War II camps and facilities. While the larger historic sites in the region have been recorded and mapped there is a high potential for the presence of unrecorded smaller sites in the area. The remainder of the pipeline alignment crosses either pastoral or Aboriginal lands where the presence of Europeans was either infrequent or non-existent. Consequently any historic remains will be associated with the pastoral industry and consist of cattle yards or old campsites.

The most common historic objects associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century mining sites in the area are broken bottle glass, porcelain, metal fragments and implements and to a lesser extent earthenware (Mitchell 1995). These objects are associated with mine workings, pits, adits and shafts. Structural features are less common although all goldfields had at least one stamp battery.

The World War II camps generally consist of concrete slab floors, and rubbish dumps of broken beer bottles, tin food containers and 44-gallon drums. In the area of airstrips there are the remains of light artillery anti-aircraft gun emplacements that were used to protect the airstrips. Generally there are not as many isolated objects scattered around the camps as are found in the gold mining settlements as the majority of the camps were dismantled and cleared after the end of the war.