



*Key airfields used by bombers in the NWA. At the outbreak of war, the only two military airfields were located at Darwin and Batchelor, with small civilian airstrips in other centres. During 1942-43 a vast construction effort resulted in many airfields being built along the Stuart Highway which was the overland supply route between Darwin and southern Australia. The key airfields used by bombers were Hughes, McDonald, Fenton and Long. The last Japanese attack on Darwin was in November 1943, following which RAAF Darwin became the key operational base during the final year of the war. Milingimbi and Drysdale Mission were two fairly basic airfields to the east and west of Darwin used as forward bases from 1942, while new airfields were built at Gove in Arnhem Land and Truscott and Corunna Downs in Western Australia. Darwin and Grote Eylandt were the home of pre-war flying boat bases, and both locations saw use by RAAF Catalinas during the war.*