

Bobby Secretary (1929-1985) Larrakia Traditional Owner of Darwin

In Douglas Lockwood's book, *The Front Door: Darwin, 1869-1969*, there is a paragraph about Bob Secretary :
"If finders were keepers, Darwin would belong to Gwila-marinya, known as Bob Secretary, of the Larakia tribe of Australian Aborigines. His tribesman, George Mungalo, says: 'Bob Secretary is the big boss of all Darwin. This is his country. It belonged to his father before, and that one's father before him ... before the white man came.'" (Lockwood 1968:102).

In "Australia's Pearl Harbour: the bombing of Darwin" (Lockwood 1966:179) George Mungalu says: "That night all Larakia people come together. Tommy Imabul there. Peter Edwards there. Billy Shepherd there, Chook Chook too. Bob Secretary there, Bob Secretary he owns Darwin, he the big boss of all this land, it belong to his father before, and that one's father before, before the white man come. We go to Lameroo Beach, that where I born, for council meeting. 'Don't move. We stay here,' I say." [Note: there is a new illustrated edition of Lockwood's book called "Australia Under Attack"]