



A warning to looters outside a Darwin shop.

The strangest story of theft, however, has the Navy as aiding and abetting the supposed theft of a souvenir of the cyclone from the people of Darwin.

Resident Dee Slater, who later published her story in a book, on the morning following the cyclone, saw a twisted mass of metal about the size of a “commercial chest freezer”. Several Darwin residents were looking at it and saying it should be preserved as a sculpture to show the strength of the cyclone, but then:

... amongst all of the heated discussions as to who actually owned it, two plain-clothed Navy officers then stepped forward. On behalf of the “powers that be” this time they flashed their ID’s, then quickly informed us that the sculpture was never going to be for sale. Not at any price. All offers would be refused. Inexplicably, that “monument” has not been seen or heard of since.

The reason for this is that:

I’m sure that anyone who saw that sculpture today, would have no doubt in their mind (absolutely no doubt whatsoever), that the true facts about the destructive power of Tracy have never been fully revealed to the public. Quite the opposite!⁴

However, and the author speaks as a retired navy officer himself, there would seem to be little reason for two such people to be on any duty connected with such an incident in the days following Tracy. Nor do such officers have any legal powers in such a situation, and commissioned personnel in the ADF know full-well what their powers are. The purpose behind their reported intervention is incomprehensible.

Indeed, there *are* two memorials of twisted girders to Tracy. The website *Monument Australia* explains:

The memorial constructed with twisted girders from the home of Sergeant Kevin Malley which was destroyed in the cyclone in 1974, commemorates those who died in Cyclone Tracy.

4 Slater, Dee. *Tracy's Fury*. Self-published: Warwick, Qld; 2018. (p. 63)