


NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE CLUB B14 AMERICAN RED CROSS 380 FLINDERS STREET WEST, TOWNSVILLE, QLD DURING WW2

 visits since 16 January 2003

The North American Service Club B14 for African American soldiers opened at 380 Flinders Street in [Townsville](#) in October 1942. The Club was operated out of two adjoining shops. The Special Services were not keen on the establishment of this Service Club as they preferred to discourage blacks from going into the city area.

The [Supply Section of US Base Section 2 Engineers](#) set themselves up in two small shops at 380 and 381 Flinders Street West on 22 April 1942. Perhaps these were the same two shops used by the North American Service Club.

S.L. George Rees was in charge of the club. Jack Bond then arrived in [Townsville](#) from Cairns in July 1943. Grace Outlaw and Clara Wells also worked at the North American Services Club assisting Jack Bond. They were among the first black women the American Red Cross had sent outside of the United States during WW2. In May 1944 the Club Director was Samuel B. Taylor. The club was not allowed to recruit any "colored" girls from [Townsville](#). They later recruited 3 Aboriginal women to work at the club.



Eleanor Roosevelt
visiting the North
American Service Club
in [Townsville](#).

Photo from Gordon
Heup of the [48th
Quartermaster Truck
Regiment](#) who camped
near the Cluden Race
Track and then at
Railway Estate

On 21 July 1943 [Bishop John Gregg and Chaplain DeVeaux](#) visited the Townsville Red Cross Center (North American Service Club) where they had lunch with Mr. Bond at midday. They spoke with a white worker called Miss Frazier, who was from Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.

Bishop Gregg indicated that the Townsville Red Cross Center (North American Service Club) was not as nice as the ones he had seen in Brisbane and Sydney. Apparently Mr. Bond advised that he was looking for a new location.

The North American Service Club closed on 31 August 1944. This left the black troops with no recreational facilities.

Does anyone remember the North American Service Club?

Could someone send me a photograph of 380 Flinders Street?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank Faith DeVeaux for her assistance with this home page. Faith's grandfather, [Chaplain De Veaux accompanied Bishop John Gregg on an inspection tour of black troops](#) in Australia in 1943.

REFERENCE BOOKS







"Yanks Down Under 1941-45"
by Daniel and Annette Potts (pages 110-112)



Heaps of WW2 books available at Amazon.com

"Australia @ War"



<p>Copyright</p> <p>© Peter Dunn 2004</p> <p>Disclaimer</p>	<p></p> <p>Click here to E-Mail me any information or photographs</p>	<p></p> <p>Australia @ War Available on CD-Rom</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Peter Dunn's</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> AUSTRALIA @ WAR </p> <p style="text-align: center;">WWW.OZATWAR.COM</p>		
<p></p> <p>Do you need a holiday! Sun, surf, beautiful beaches and lots more!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Genealogy Software 190 Mbytes of Genealogy Indexes & Programs</p>	

This page first produced 16 January 2003

This page last updated 24 April 2004