

*Bet you didn't know . . .*

## The Battle of Brisbane spilled into the PX

On April 5, 1942, the first PX in Australia opened in Brisbane as hundreds of American Soldiers arrived. Tensions between Australian and American Soldiers began simmering almost immediately, boiling over on Nov. 26-27 with the "Battle of Brisbane." When the violence ended, one Australian Soldier was killed and dozens of Soldiers on both sides were injured.



The fracas began near the PX when an American MP, like the ones at left, ordered a drunken U.S. Soldier to show his leave pass. Aussie onlookers began cursing the MP, who smacked one of them with his baton. The enraged mob attacked the MP team.

The MPs retreated into the PX, which the crowd attacked with rocks, bottles and street signs.

A mob also attacked the American Red Cross Service Club, above. About 5,000 Aussies and Americans brawled throughout the city.



Workmen repair windows at the PX, left, shattered the night before by the mob of Australian Soldiers and civilians.

The American Red Cross Service Club is picture at right.



Curious about Exchange history, contact Steve Smith at [smithstev@aafes.com](mailto:smithstev@aafes.com).