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lives in military service during World War II

Baseball in Wartime Newsletter Vol. 14 No. 59 June 2022

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I've spent the last quarter of a century looking into baseball players who died in military service in World War II. I started with around 20 names. A list that had been available for some years and, until then, had been recognized as the complete record of players from Organized baseball who made the supreme sacrifice. But the numbers didn't add up for me. With over 4,000 active minor leaguers seeing military service during the war along with countless others who had previously played, I felt pretty sure a lot more than 20 had died.

I wasn't wrong. Trawling through newspaper archives I began to find more. The list was growing. By 2005, I had around 100 names and in 2009, McFarland published *Baseball's Dead of World War II: A Roster of Professional Players Who Died in Service*, my biographical work on 127 players.

But the list continues to grow. Today, it stands at 172. Interestingly, this newsletter, while in production, was called 171. Then another name was added, one of the most intriguing of all. Harold "Butch" Ball had played two seasons for the Milford Giants before the war. Nothing exciting about that. But Harold's father was African-American, which means the young catcher broke the color line ahead of Jackie Robinson!

I have no doubt I'll continue to add more names to this list over the coming years. It's a work in progress that will probably never see completion. But I'm honored to be able to preserve the memories of these men and to ensure their sacrifice is never forgotten.



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June 2022

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The 172 professional baseball players who lost their lives in military service in World War II

Complete biographies for each player is available at https://www.baseballsgreatest sacrifice.com/world_war_ii.html

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| <p>Richard T. "Dick" Aldworth <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1916)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Died from non-Hodgkin lymphoma on Sep 18, 1943</i></p> <p>Aldworth pitched for New Haven in 1916 and served as a fighter pilot in World War I. Prior to his death he helped recruit pilots for the Flying Tigers for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit.</p> | <p>Fred W. Beal <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1941 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Died from bleeding ulcers on January 23, 1943</i></p> <p>Beal had pitched a couple of seasons for Mooresville before being inducted in the Army. Despite having an ulcerated stomach, he was accepted for service and this led to his death.</p> |
| <p>Lee V. "L.V." Allen <i>Shortstop</i> <i>Minors (1938)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Shot down off the coast of France on Dec 31, 1944</i></p> <p>Allen played for Brownsville and Wink, and entered military service in 1942. He was the pilot of a B-24 Liberator of which all 10 crew members were lost when returning from a mission.</p> | <p>Constantine G. "Gus" Bebas <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1939)</i> <i>US Navy</i> <i>Killed in plane crash off Hawaii on July 19, 1942</i></p> <p>Bebas pitched just a handful of games for Hickory. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his involvement in the Battle of Midway and died on a training flight.</p> |
| <p>Jerry M. Angelich <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (spring training 1935 and 1936)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in action on December 7, 1941</i></p> <p>Angelich had trials with the Pacific Coast League's Sacramento Senators and pitched against the legendary Japanese hurler, Eiji Sawamura. He was killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.</p> | <p>Hugh P. Bedient, Jr. <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1938)</i> <i>US Army Air Corps</i> <i>Killed in plane crash in New York on June 17, 1940</i></p> <p>The son of a former Red Sox pitcher, Bedient pitched for Evansville in 1938 and enlisted with the Army Air Corps the following year. He was killed when two planes collided over Queens.</p> |
| <p>Harold J. "Butch" Ball <i>Catcher</i> <i>Minors (1939 to 1940)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Germany on April 12, 1945</i></p> <p>Ball, despite having an African-American father, played two seasons with Milford, batting .259 in 17 games in 1939. He served with the 7th Armored Division and was awarded the Bronze Star.</p> | <p>Leonard E. "Link" Berry <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1937 to 1941)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action on December 24, 1944</i></p> <p>Berry won a career-high 18 games with New Bern and entered service with the Army in April 1942. He was killed when the SS Leopoldville was torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel.</p> |
| <p>Herman A. Bauer <i>Catcher</i> <i>Minors (1939 to 1941)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in France on July 12, 1944</i></p> <p>The older brother of Hank Bauer, Herm was in the White Sox organization before entering service with the Army in late 1941. He was killed a month after D-Day.</p> | <p>Keith F. Bissonnette <i>Infield/Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1940 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Shot down in Burma on March 28, 1945</i></p> <p>Bissonnette was with St. Paul in 1942 and entered military service at the end of the season. He was a P-47 Thunderbolt pilot and was killed while attacking Japanese troops and supplies.</p> |

In May 1943, the 1,400-ton destroyer escort USS Bebas (DE-10) was christened in honor of Gus Bebas. She served in the Pacific during World War II and received three battle stars.

Warren D. "Buddy" Blewster*Pitcher**Minors (1939 to 1941)**US Marine Corps**Killed in action at Guadalcanal on Oct 22, 1942*

Blewster was with Oneonta before joining the Marine Corps in December 1941. He was killed during Japanese attacks in the defense of Henderson Field.

George E. "Bogey" Bogovich*Pitcher**Minors (1935 to 1938)**US Army**Killed in action at Okinawa on April 26, 1945*

Bogovich showed brief glimpses of brilliance during his time in the minors. He was killed in action on Okinawa and his brother was killed on the same island three weeks later.

Joseph S. Boren*Pitcher**Minors (1935 and 1936)**US Navy**Killed in a plane crash on July 12, 1942*

Boren had pitched for Bloomington, Winnipeg and Monett before enlisting in the Navy in 1941. He co-piloted a PB5Y-5A Catalina flying boat that crashed on landing in the West Indies.

Charles W. "Chuck" Bowers*Second Base**Minors (1942)**US Army**Killed in action in Germany on April 15, 1945*

Bowers played 67 games with Johnson City in 1942 and received honorable mention on the 1942 Appalachian League all-star team. He was killed when he drove his truck into a German ambush.

Richard H. "Dick" Brang*Third Base**Minors (1942)**US Marine Corps**Died of peritonitis at sea on January 15, 1944*

Brang played 26 games with LaCrosse in 1942 and entered service with the Marine Corps the following year. He died of peritonitis while aboard the destroyer USS La Vallette.

Forrest V. "Lefty" Brewer*Pitcher**Minors (1938 to 1940)**US Army**Killed in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944*

Brewer won an incredible 25 games his rookie year with St. Augustine and was at spring training with the Senators. He served as a paratrooper and was killed in action at La Fièrre manor in Normandy.

Edward A. Brock*Second Base**Minors (1940)**US Navy**Killed in action off Okinawa on February 26, 1945*

Brock was signed by the Cardinals and played for Albany, Duluth and Fostoria. He served with the Navy and was killed in action aboard the USS Nestor during the Okinawa campaign.

Murill J. Brown*Pitcher/Outfield**Minors (1942)**US Navy**Killed in plane crash in September 1944*

Brown helped Pocatello to the Pioneer League title in 1942, before joining the Navy to train as a pilot. He was killed during a training flight at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Florida.

Sheldon G. Brunner*Pitcher**Minors (1934 to 1936)**US Army**Killed in action in France on September 8, 1944*

Brunner pitched for Davenport, Brainerd, Jonesboro and Osceola before taking a job as a shipping clerk in Chicago. He was killed in action during the battle to liberate Reims.

Charles W. "Kelly" Buddhu*Shortstop**Minors (1935)**US Army**Killed in action in North Africa on April 2, 1943*

Buddhu was signed by the Orioles in 1935 and played for Thomasville. In 1936, he played for the American Baseball Congress all-star team. Buddhu was killed in action in Tunisia.

Lefty Brewer was 25-11 with a 1.88 ERA for the St. Augustine Saints of the Florida State League in 1938. He threw a no-hitter against Orlando on June 6, and died on the same day six years later.

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| <p>Eldred H. "Whitey" Burch <i>Infield</i> <i>Minors (1939 to 1940)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in accident in N. Carolina on Nov 29, 1941</i></p> <p>Burch played for Thomasville, Lexington and Kannapolis before military service. He was killed when the Army truck he was driving overturned near Albemarle, North Carolina.</p> | <p>Clarence W. Clayton <i>Second Base</i> <i>Minors (1944)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Czechoslovakia on May 1, 1945</i></p> <p>Clayton was signed by the Red Sox and played 101 games with Middletown in 1944, playing for the Ohio State League all-star team. He was killed just one week before the end of the war in Europe.</p> |
| <p>George W. Chandler, Jr. <i>Shortstop/Catcher</i> <i>Minors (1938 to 1940)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in a plane crash on September 20, 1942</i></p> <p>Chandler batted .251 with 63 RBIs his rookie year with Refugio. He was a crew member of a B-26 Marauder that exploded and crashed near Plain Dealing, Louisiana.</p> | <p>Lester O. Clotiaux <i>Catcher</i> <i>Minors (spring training 1941)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in a plane crash in Texas on August 9, 1945</i></p> <p>Clotiaux was with Port Arthur for spring training and played against the Dodgers. He played for the Foster Field in military service and was killed in a plane crash near Smiley, returning from a game.</p> |
| <p>Floyd E. Christiansen <i>Infield</i> <i>Minors (1939 to 1942)</i> <i>US Marine Corps</i> <i>Killed in a plane crash on May 1, 1945</i></p> <p>Christiansen played 131 games with Springfield in 1942 and joined the Marine Corps the following January. He became a primary flight instructor and was killed during a training flight at Norman, OK.</p> | <p>Olan Dabbs <i>Outfield/Third Base</i> <i>Minors (1939 to 1940)</i> <i>Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Germany on April 6, 1945</i></p> <p>Dabbs played for Tyler, Carthage and Topeka before entering service with the Army. He was killed during a counterattack at Neckartgartach. Posthumously awarded Silver Star.</p> |
| <p>Frank J. Ciaffone <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1942 – signed but did not play)</i> <i>US Marine Corps</i> <i>Killed in action at Iwo Jima on March 3, 1945</i></p> <p>Ciaffone, brother of major leaguer, Larry Ciaffone, was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1942, but chose to enlist with the Marines instead. He was 19 years old when he died in action at Iwo Jima.</p> | <p>Eugene L. Dellinger, Jr. <i>Outfield/First Base</i> <i>Minors (1943 to 1944)</i> <i>Army</i> <i>Died from injuries sustained in Belgium</i></p> <p>Dellinger batted .304 for Newport News in 1944. He played baseball in the Army and was in the back of a truck with his team when it was hit by a train. He died in a hospital in January 1946.</p> |
| <p>Ordway H. "Hal" Cisgen <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1940 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in France on July 11, 1944</i></p> <p>Cisgen was signed by the Yankees in 1940. He entered military service with the Army after the 1942 season and attained the rank of first lieutenant. He was killed near Periers, France.</p> | <p>Howard W. DeMartini <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1937 to 1942)</i> <i>Army</i> <i>Killed in action on December 24, 1944</i></p> <p>DeMartini won 17 games with Salisbury in 1941 and 16 the year before with Milford. He was killed when the SS Leopoldville was torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel.</p> |

Olan Dabbs was awarded the Silver Star "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy...his gallant actions and selfless devotion to duty without regard for his own safety, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service."

Harold B. "Hal" Dobson*Pitcher**Minors (1939 to 1941)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in California on May 23, 1943*

Dobson was signed by the Cardinals and won 14 games with Pocatello in 1940. He played baseball for Victorville Army Air Base and was killed on the way to a game when two planes collided.

James J. Donovan, Jr.*Second Base**Minors (1938)**US Army**Killed during training in Georgia on June 23, 1943*

Donovan played briefly with Rome in 1938 and also played pro football. He attained the rank of second lieutenant was killed in a parachute training jump at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Norman J. Duncan*Shortstop**Minors (1941)**US Navy**Killed in action on April 12, 1945 off Okinawa*

Duncan played baseball at Michigan State. He was signed by the Browns and played 66 games for St. Joseph. He was killed during a kamikaze attack on the USS Whitehurst.

Franklin K. Edginton*First Base**Minors (1941)**US Navy**Killed in action on June 1, 1944 in the Pacific*

Edginton played for Federalsburg in 1941. He enlisted in the Navy the following year and was killed when the submarine USS Herring was sunk by enemy action off Matua Island.

Louis E. Elko*Shortstop/Pitcher**Minors (1942 – signed but did not play)**US Marine Corps**Died from ruptured appendix on April 2, 1944*

Elko was a star at Streator High School, Illinois, before signing with the Cubs in 1942. He played Marine Corps but was medically discharged after falling ill in November 1943.

Charles "Chatty" Etherton, Jr.*Pitcher**Minors (1936 to 1942)**US Army**Committed suicide on December 27, 1945*

Etherton made a career-high 22 appearances with Zanesville in 1941. He served in the Pacific and was on a train bound for discharge at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, when he took his own life.

Charles H. "Herb" Fash*First Base**Minors**US Navy (1936 to 1941)**Killed in action in the Pacific on January 21, 1945*

Fash, who was signed by the Cardinals, batted .408 with 81 RBIs in 66 games for Olean in 1940. He was one of 52 sailors killed in an explosion on the aircraft carrier USS Hancock.

Frank Faudem*Outfield**Minors (1941 to 1942)**US Army**Killed in action at Leyte on January 12, 1945*

Faudem signed with the Tigers and batted .321 his rookie season with Fulton. He entered military service in January 1943 and was killed by a Japanese sniper while on patrol in Leyte.

John H. Fessler*Shortstop**Minors (1938 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action in France on June 10, 1944*

Fessler led the Coastal Plain League with 37 stolen bases in 1941. He entered military service the following year and was a paratrooper in Normandy on D-Day. Died in action four days later.

Ernest B. Ford, Jr.*Pitcher**Minors (1942)**US Marine Corps**Killed in a plane crash in Texas on May 4, 1945*

Ford played for Holy Cross and signed with the Red Sox, pitching for Greensboro. He fought with the Marines in the Marshall Islands before training to be a pilot. He was killed at NAS Corpus Christi.

Franklin Edginton is the only minor league player to lose his life in World War II serving on a submarine. The USS Herring was sunk by Japanese shore batteries off Matua Island with the loss of all on board.

Samuel W. Freeny

*First Base
Minors (1915 to 1916, 1926)
US Marine Corps
Executed by the Japanese on December 23, 1944*

Freeny played in the Blue Ridge and Potomac Leagues before enlisting in the Marines in 1917. He was a lieutenant-colonel when captured in the Philippines. Freeny was beheaded while a POW.

Charlie A. Frye

*Pitcher
Majors (1940)
US Army
Died from illness at Hickory, NC on May 25, 1945*

Frye hurled 15 games for the Phillies in 1940 and served with the Army a little over a year before being discharged. He died five months later from a ruptured gastric ulcer.

Troy L. Furr

*Second Base
Minors (1943 signed but did not play)
US Army
Killed in action in France on January 3, 1945*

Furr was signed by Atlanta in late 1943 in the hope he could play in 1944, but military service intervened. He killed during the battle for the town of Philippsbourg in north-eastern France.

Eugene J. Gabrych

*Shortstop
Minors (1940 to 1941)
US Army
Killed in action in France on July 5, 1944*

Gabrych played for La Crosse and batted .255 with 82 RBIs in 111 games in 1941. He was killed in action in Normandy. Gabrych Park in Winona, Minnesota, was named in his honor.

George E. Gamble, Jr.

*Outfield
Minors (1937 to 1938)
US Army Air Force
Killed in action in French Indo-China on Dec 4, 1944*

Gamble played in 46 of the 48 scheduled games with the Sydney Mines in 1937 and batted .305. His P-51 Mustang was destroyed while attacking a Japanese troop train.

Robert W. "Bob" Gary, Jr.

*Infield
Minors (1941)
US Army Air Force
Killed in a plane crash in Texas on February 4, 1944*

Gary played ball at Washington and Lee University before signing with the Senators. He batted .305 in 35 games with Mayodan. He was the navigator on a B-24 Liberator that crashed at McNary.

Elmer J. Gedeon

*Outfield
Majors (1939)
US Army Air Force
Shot down over France on April 20, 1944*

Gedeon was a three-sport star at the University of Michigan and played five games with the Senators in 1939. He served as a bomber pilot and was shot down while piloting a B-26 Marauder.

Conrad W. "Connie" Graff

*First Base/Outfield
Minors (1939 to 1941)
US Army
Killed in action at Normandy on July 8, 1944*

Graff appeared in all 101 regular-season games for Cooleemee in 1941 and batted .308. He was killed at La Haye du Puits in France. A VFW post was named in his honor in New Orleans.

Alan S. Grant

*Pitcher
Minors (1941)
US Army Air Force
Plane crash in Wales on December 29, 1943*

Grant pitched for the University of Illinois and was signed by the Cubs, making 9 appearances for Macon. He trained as a bombardier and died in a B-17 Flying Fortress that crashed into a mountain.

James M. Grilk

*Catcher/First Base
Minors (1935 to 1941)
Civilian Instructor
Died from injuries in car crash on July 16, 1942*

Grilk played four seasons with Sacramento in the PCL and was working as a civilian athletic director at Sacramento Army Air Depot when he was in a car crash near Woodland, California.

Elmer Gedeon had been involved in a plane crash in at Raleigh Airport, North Carolina in August 1942. He was awarded the Soldiers' Medal for pulling a crewmate from the wreckage despite himself suffering broken ribs and severe burns to his back, face, hands and legs, some of which needed skin grafts.

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| <p>Robert J. "Bob" Gruss <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1943)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in a plane crash in Nevada on August 19, 1944</i></p> <p>Gruss signed with the Indians after graduating from high school in 1943 and batted .329 in 20 games with Batavia. He was aboard a B-24 Liberator that crashed in the Nevada wilderness.</p> | <p>Robert K. "Bob" Hershey <i>First Base</i> <i>Minors (1938 to 1941)</i> <i>US Navy</i> <i>Died from wounds in the Caribbean on July 31, 1943</i></p> <p>Hershey batted over .300 in all four seasons in the minors. He was seriously wounded aboard a PBM Mariner flying boat that was damaged when attacking a Japanese submarine.</p> |
| <p>Frank C. Haggerty <i>Shortstop</i> <i>Minors (1940)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in plane crash in N. Carolina on Sep 23, 1942</i></p> <p>Haggerty graduated from St. John's University and played 95 games with Selma. He trained as a fighter pilot and was killed when his P-40 Warhawk crashed into the Catawba River.</p> | <p>Roswell G. Higginbotham <i>Infield</i> <i>Minors (1921 to 1922, 1928)</i> <i>US Navy</i> <i>Died after abdominal operation on May 23, 1943</i></p> <p>Higginbotham played baseball and football at Texas A&M and batted .315 with Paris in 1922. He never recovered from surgery at Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island.</p> |
| <p>William F. "Bill" Hansen <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1941 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Died from wounds in Belgium on Dec 17, 1944</i></p> <p>Hansen batted .310 in 88 games with Green Bay before entering military service. He died of wounds received in combat in Belgium during the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest.</p> | <p>Frank D. Hines <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1924 to 1928)</i> <i>USAAF</i> <i>Killed in a plane crash in Virginia on Sep 4, 1943</i></p> <p>Hines batted .315 in 91 games and stole a league-leading 24 stolen bases his rookie year with Enid. He was killed when his BT-13 Valiant basic trainer crashed near Afton.</p> |
| <p>William J. "Billy" Hebert <i>Second Base</i> <i>Minors (1939 to 1941)</i> <i>US Navy</i> <i>Died from wounds at Guadalcanal on Oct 21, 1942</i></p> <p>Hebert batted .328 with 68 RBIs and 12 home runs with Merced in 1941. He served with the Navy and was wounded at Henderson Field on Guadalcanal around October 12/13.</p> | <p>Ernest J. Holbrook <i>First Base</i> <i>Minors (1935 to 1936)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Luxembourg on Dec 16, 1944</i></p> <p>Holbrook played baseball and basketball at the University of Southern California, and batted .284 with Charlotte in 1935. He was killed during the opening salvos of the Battle of the Bulge.</p> |
| <p>Manuel P. "Nay" Hernandez <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1944)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Germany on March 24, 1945</i></p> <p>Hernandez was an outstanding member of the San Diego High School team played 30 games for the Padres before being drafted for military service. He was killed in action at Ludwigshafen.</p> | <p>Robert D. "Bob" Holmes <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1942 to 1943)</i> <i>US Marine Corps</i> <i>Died from wounds at Iwo Jima on Feb 22, 1945</i></p> <p>Holmes, who played baseball, football and basketball at Central Methodist College, won eight games for Joplin in 1942. He died while being evacuated from the beach at Iwo Jima.</p> |

Nay Hernandez was able to play for the Padres in 1944 because he hadn't been drafted for military service due to a heart murmur. The local draft board decided if he could play baseball he could also carry a rifle. Within months he was dead.

Gordon E. Houston*Outfield**Minors (1937 to 1940)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in Washington on Feb 10, 1942*

Houston batted .384 with 70 RBIs and 18 homers with Texarkana in 1938 and made the East Texas League all-star team. He died when his P-43 Lancer fighter plane crashed on landing at McChord Field.

Ernest Hrovatic (born Ernest Hrovatic)*Outfield**Minors (1942 to 1943)**US Army**Killed in action in Belgium on January 14, 1945*

Hrovatic was signed by the Cardinals and batted .336 with 96 RBIs for Jamestown in 1943, making the PONY League all-star team. He was killed in action near Ottre, Belgium.

Harry N. Imhoff, Jr.*Catcher**Minors (1944)**US Marine Corps**Killed in action at Okinawa in April 1945*

Imhoff played just one game with Baltimore before enlisting in the Marine Corps. He died at Okinawa in the early days of the campaign, but his body was not recovered until June 3, 1945.

Frank D. Janik*Catcher/Outfield**Minors (1937 to 1940)**US Army**Killed in action at Okinawa on April 29, 1945*

Janik batted a team-leading .313 in 110 games with 21 homers and 78 RBIs for Rome in 1938. He saw combat at Saipan and was awarded a Bronze Star before being killed in action at Okinawa.

Edward J. Jelen*Second Base**Minors (1933)**US Navy**Died from illness in Virginia on April 8, 1945*

Jelen played football at Creighton University and played baseball with Omaha in 1933. He later served in the Nebraska Legislature. Jelen died of a kidney ailment at the Norfolk Naval Hospital.

Ardys B. "Art" Keller*Catcher**Minors (1936 to 1943)**US Army**Killed in action in France on September 29, 1944*

A former House of David player, Keller spent three years with Springfield and two with Toledo. He was killed near Biffontaine, having been in the service less than a year.

Stanley P. Klores*First Base/Outfield**Minors (1935 to 1938)**US Navy**Killed in action at Ormoc Bay on December 3, 1944*

Klores was signed by the Cubs and batted .283 with Peoria his rookie year. In the Navy he attained the rank of Lieutenant (JG) and was killed when the destroyer USS Cooper was torpedoed.

Carlyle J. "Curly" Kopp*Outfield**Minors (1940 to 1941)**US Navy**Plane crash in Minnesota on July 21, 1943*

As a lead-off hitter, Kopp batted .263 in 85 games his rookie year with Worthington, stealing 17 bases. He was piloting a N2S Kaydet biplane that crashed after takeoff from USNAS Minneapolis.

Harry B. Ladner, Jr.*Umpire**Minors (1938 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action at Ie Shima on April 18, 1945*

Ladner, a former pro hockey player, began his umpiring career in the Arkansas-Missouri League in 1938 after graduating from the George Barr Umpire School. He was killed near Okinawa.

Walter E. Lake*Catcher**Minors (1938 to 1940)**US Army**Died from wounds at Normandy on July 26, 1944*

Lake was signed by the Indians and batted .313 with Oswego his rookie year. He entered military service in January 1941 and attained the rank of first lieutenant. He died near Les Haies, France.

Frank Janik was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service with the 27th Infantry Division at Saipan in 1944. In January 1945, after 33 months overseas, he was granted 30-day leave and returned home to Buffalo. The following month he was back in the Pacific and died in April.

Harlan D. Larsen*Catcher**Minors (1944 Signed but did not play)**US Marine Corps**Died at sea in Pacific Ocean on July 30, 1945*

Larsen signed with Lockport in 1944, but enlisted with the Marines before he could play. He was aboard the cruiser USS Indianapolis when it was sunk by the Japanese in the Philippine Sea.

Felix A. Little*Pitcher**Minors (1939 to 1940)**US Navy**Killed in plane crash in Brazil on Dec 18, 1944*

Little played baseball, basketball and football at Lenoir-Rhyne College before playing for Hickory and Newton-Conover in the minors. He died when a PV-1 Ventura twin-engine bomber crashed.

Walter G. "Whitey" Loos, Jr.*Catcher**Minors (1939 to 1941)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in South America on Jan 16, 1944*

Loos played baseball, football and basketball at Carnegie Institute of Technology and was signed by the Dodgers. He was the navigator on a B-24 Liberator that crashed in British Guyana.

Andrew J. "Jack" Lummus*Outfield**Minors (1941)**US Marine Corps**Died from wounds at Iwo Jima on March 9, 1945*

Lummus played baseball and football at Baylor University and went on to play both professionally. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for attacking Japanese positions.

Theodore C. "Ted" Maillet*Pitcher**Minors (1939 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action in Germany on April 7, 1945*

Maillet was signed by the Reds and won 12 games with Tyler in 1940 and 11 with Erie in 1941. He died during a German counterattack near the Sieg River.

Dom P. Malchiodi*Catcher**Minors (1941 to 1942)**US Army Air Force**Died in plane crash in Holland on May 31, 1945*

Malchiodi was signed by the Yankees and played for Leaksville-Draper-Spray and Trois-Rivieres. He was the bombardier on a B-26 Marauder that crashed three weeks after VE Day.

William A. "Bill" Marzalek (born Marszalek)*Pitcher**Minors (1941)**US Army**Killed in training accident in Arizona on Oct 6, 1942*

Marzalek pitched for Duquesne University, was signed by the Pirates, and won seven games for Oil City. He served as a second lieutenant at Fort Huachuca, where he died in an accident.

Henry "Marty" Martinez*Infield**Minors (1937 to 1942)**US Navy**Died from wounds at sea on January 5, 1945*

Martinez played for Oakland, Seattle and Portland in the Pacific Coast League. He was wounded during a kamikaze attack on the escort carrier USS Ommaney Bay and died the following day.

Arthur R. "Lefty" McKay*Pitcher**Minors (1927 to 1933)**US Army**Died from gunshot wound on June 5, 1943*

McKay pitched a career-high 26 games for Wilmington in 1928 with an 8-13 record. The circumstances surrounding his death at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina are unknown.

John W. "Duck" McKee*Outfield**Minors (1932 to 1934)**US Army**Died from wounds in Belgium on March 6, 1945*

McKee played baseball and football at Georgia Tech and signed with Atlanta. He batted over .300 in three seasons with the Crackers. Seriously wounded in Germany and died the next day.

Jack Lummus was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for "his outstanding valor, skilled tactics, and tenacious perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds." The cargo ship USNS 1st Lt. Jack Lummus (T-AK-3011) is still on active duty.

William M. "Bill" McNulty

*Third Base
Minors (1937 to 1938)
US Army
Killed by friendly fire New Guinea on May 29, 1944*

McNulty played for Tacoma and Spokane. In the Army he played for the 41st Infantry Division in the NBC Semi-Pro World Series. Killed by friendly fire during a Japanese attack at Toem.

Paul V.A. Mellblom

*Pitcher
Minors (1938 to 1939)
US Army
Killed in action in Belgium on January 14, 1945*

Mellblom was signed by the Athletics and played briefly for Federalsburg and Milford. He died during the final phase of the fighting in the Ardennes at Houffalize.

George A. Meyer

*Outfield/Shortstop
Minors (1942)
US Army
Killed in action in Belgium on January 15, 1945*

Meyer was signed by St. Paul and played 68 games with Grand Forks in 1942. He served as a paratrooper and was killed during a German mortar attack near Coulee.

Louis I. Miller

*Third Base
Minors (1939 to 1940)
US Army Air Force
Plane crash in Bismarck Sea on Mar 3, 1943*

Miller was signed by the Browns and played two seasons at Paragould. He was co-pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress that was attacked by fighters. Miller was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Joseph T. Moceri

*Pitcher
Minors (1941 to 1942)
US Army
Killed in action in Normandy on June 30, 1944*

Moceri was signed by the Tigers and was 9-5 with Muskegon in 1941, then 5-13 with Winston-Salem in 1942. He hit Omaha Beach the day after D-Day and died near the town of Saint-Lô, France.

John T. "Jack" Moller

*Pitcher/Outfield
Minors (1939 to 1941)
US Army Air Force
Killed in plane crash in New Guinea on Aug 8, 1943*

Moller attended Columbia and was signed by the Dodgers. In 1941, he was 11-10 as a pitcher and batted .350 in 57 games in the outfield. He was piloting a B-24 Liberator that crashed.

Walter J. Navie (born Nawiesniak)

*Pitcher
Minors (1935 to 1941)
US Army
Committed suicide in Texas on October 5, 1945*

Navie played seven seasons in the minors and was 20-11 with Rayne in 1939, with a league-leading 223 strikeouts. Navie served at Guadalcanal. He shot himself in a hotel in El Paso.

Jack A. Nealy

*First Base
Minors (1943)
US Marine Corps
Killed in action at Iwo Jima on March 2, 1945*

Nealy minor league career consisted of just one game with Birmingham in 1943, failing to get a hit in his only at-bat. The following year he was with the Marines and killed in action.

Edward S. Neusel

*Outfield
Minors (1920 to 1922)
US Navy
Died of heart disease in Missouri on July 31, 1944*

Neusel batted .327 in 92 games with Coffeyville in 1921. He later became secretary of the Bartenders Union and died at his sister's home in St. Louis while serving in the Navy.

Robert F. "Bob" Nieman

*Shortstop
Minors (1941 signed but did not play)
US Army Air Force
Killed in plane crash in California on Aug 23, 1944*

Nieman signed with Akron but entered military service before he could play. Served in England with the Medical Corps before training as a gunner on a B-24 Liberator that exploded in mid-air.

Lou Miller was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. "My proudest day," recalled his widow, Florence, "was the day I went out to Bolling Field Army Air Base, Washington, D.C., to receive for him the Silver Star."

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| <p>William F. "Bill" Niemeyer <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1940 to 1944)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Germany on March 4, 1945</i></p> <p>Despite his 7-17 record his rookie season with Erwin, Niemeyer led the team in wins. He was married with two daughters and died trying to capture the town of Erdorf in Germany.</p> |
| <p>Henry S. "Hank" Nowak <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1937 to 1941)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Belgium on January 1, 1945</i></p> <p>Nowak was signed by the Cardinals and won 20 games with Albany in 1938. He pitched at Camp Lee, Virginia before going overseas and died on New Year's Day 1945.</p> |
| <p>Harry M. O'Neill <i>Catcher</i> <i>Majors (1939)</i> <i>US Marine Corps</i> <i>Killed in action at Iwo Jima on March 6, 1945</i></p> <p>O'Neill made just one appearance for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1939. He entered service with the Marines in 1942 and was killed by a Japanese sniper on Iwo Jima.</p> |
| <p>William L. "Bill" Padar <i>Second Base</i> <i>Minors (1940)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Tunisia on December 2, 1942</i></p> <p>Padar was from Detroit, Michigan and played a handful of games for Mansfield in 1940. He died in a blazing tank in North Africa in action against German forces.</p> |
| <p>Louis A. Paganello <i>Second Base</i> <i>Minors (1942)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Germany on March 5, 1945</i></p> <p>Paganello, who played high school baseball against Warren Spahn, played briefly for Bradford before injuring his knee. He served with the 3rd Armored Division and died near Sinnersdorf in Germany.</p> |

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| <p>Joseph M. Palatas <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1942)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Died from wounds in Germany on April 11, 1944</i></p> <p>Palatas signed with the Cardinals and batted .278 his rookie year. He was a bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress that was shot down over Germany. Palatas died from his wounds in a prison camp.</p> |
| <p>Jack H. Patterson <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1936 to 1941)</i> <i>US Marine Corps</i> <i>Killed in accident at Guadalcanal on Nov 2, 1944</i></p> <p>Patterson won 18 games with Huntington in 1939. While working on the construction of an athletic field on Guadalcanal he was accidentally killed by a bulldozer. The field was later named in his honor.</p> |
| <p>Metro Persoskie <i>Pitcher/Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1940 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in plane crash in England on Feb 22, 1944</i></p> <p>Persoskie was signed by the Dodgers and won nine games with Valdosta in 1941. He was a gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress that collided with another bomber shortly after take-off.</p> |
| <p>Charles R. Pescod <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1937 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in France on December 2, 1944</i></p> <p>Pescod was born in Ecuador and grew up in Panama. Persuaded to play in the USA by Paul Richards of the Crackers. Won 17 games with Hot Springs in 1941. He died near Eckartswiller.</p> |
| <p>Clarence Peters, Jr. <i>Infield</i> <i>Minors (1938 to 1941)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Died from wounds in France on July 8, 1944</i></p> <p>Peters, aged 18, signed with Marshall in 1938. He went into combat in Normandy just 13 days after D-Day. Peters died from wounds sustained at La Haye du Puits the day before.</p> |

Harry O'Neill played just one game in the major leagues as a late-inning defensive replacement for Frankie Hayes as the Athletics were trounced by the Detroit Tigers, 16-3.

John J. "Joe" Pinder, Jr.*Pitcher**Minors (1935 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944*

Pinder played seven years in the minors and won 17 games with Sanford in 1939. He was killed while recovering vital radio equipment from the sea. Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Jack E. Pinion*Catcher**Minors (1936 to 1940)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in North Africa on December 7, 1942*

Pinion batted .312 in 106 games with Greeneville in 1939. He was on a B-24 Liberator that flew from England to Oran in Algeria, and crashed into a mountain while attempting to land.

Henry R. "Bob" Price*Outfield**Minors (1938 to 1941)**US Navy**Lost at sea in the Pacific on December 31, 1944*

Price was signed by the Seals in 1938 and batted .346 with Salt Lake City in 1939. He played 14 games with the Seals in 1940. Price was lost at sea while serving in the Pacific Theater.

Luster Pruett*Outfield**Minors (1941)**US Army**Killed in action in Germany on January 11, 1945*

Pruett was signed by the Cardinals and batted .340 with Fostoria his rookie year. Played for the 14th Armored Division team before going overseas. He was killed by machine gun fire at Rittershoffen.

Ernest R. Raimondi*Third Base**Minors (1936 to 1941)**US Army**Died from wounds in France on January 26, 1945*

Raimondi was one of four brothers who played for Oakland. He was fatally wounded at Sarreguemines. Ernie Raimondi Park in Oakland is named in his honor.

John J. Regan*Pitcher**Minors (1942)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in India on May 25, 1944*

Regan was signed by the Cubs and played briefly for Janesville. He was a radio operator on a B-24 Liberator that went missing. It was discovered 64 years later near the village of Milang.

Charles J. "Pete" Rehkamp*Pitcher**Minors (1938 to 1941)**US Army Air Force**Killed in car crash in Michigan on Sep 9, 1942*

Rehkamp signed with Toronto in 1938 and won 10 games with Lenoir the following year. He was driving a vehicle that collided with an 80-car Grand Trunk Railroad freight train at Mount Clemens.

James G. Robertson*Catcher**Minors (1942)**US Marine Corps**Plane crash in the Pacific on April 20, 1944*

Robertson played baseball at Willamette University and joined Salem for 21 games in 1942. He died aboard a PBJ twin-engined Navy bomber that overran the runway at Green Island.

Joseph W. Rodgers*Infield**Minors (1942)**US Navy**Killed when destroyer sank on October 10, 1943*

Rodgers only experience in the minors was a handful of games with Hornell. He joined the Navy in June 1943 and died when the USS Buck was torpedoed off the coast of Salerno, Italy.

Chester J. Romanowski*Outfield**Minors (1941)**US Army**Killed by friendly fire in France on July 10, 1944*

Romanowski was 17 years old when he played for Paragould, appearing in 56 games and batting .217. Shot by a guard for not responding to calls to identify himself at regiment camp near Mercey.

Joe Pinder was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for rescuing vital radio equipment on Omaha Beach. "The indomitable courage and personal bravery of T/5 Pinder," claimed his citation, "was a magnificent inspiration to the men with whom he served."

Milton "Rosey" Rosenstein*Pitcher**Minors (1941)**US Army**Died from wounds at Leyte on November 28, 1944*

Rosenstein won 20 games and led the league with 238 strike outs his only year in the minors with Miami Beach. He died at Leyte in the Philippines and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Walter L. Rougeux*Third Base**Minors (1942)**US Navy**Killed in action near Okinawa on May 12, 1945*

Rougeux played 14 games with Bradford in 1942. He served on the battleship USS New Mexico and died during a kamikaze attack. Rougeux was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.

Herman P. Rush*Catcher**Minors (1938 to 1939)**US Army**Died from wounds in California on Dec 7, 1945*

Rush was signed by Hollywood and played two seasons with Bellingham. He was wounded in Germany on Feb 28 and died at a hospital in Modesto.

Michael L. Sambolich*Outfield**Minors (1941 to 1942)**US Army**Killed in accident in Belgium on November 5, 1944*

Sambolich was signed by the Pirates and batted .312 in 110 games his rookie year with Oil City. He was killed when the jeep he was driving collided with a taxiing airplane.

Glenn F. Sanford*Pitcher**Minors (1940 to 1942)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in California on Nov 6, 1943*

Sanford pitched for Hillsdale College and was 14-9 with Fulton in 1940. He trained as a fighter pilot and died when his P-39 Airacobra crashed into Suisun Bay.

William A. "Bill" Sarver*Outfield**Minors (1937 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action in Germany on April 6, 1945*

Sarver was signed by the Yankees and batted .284 in 123 games with Neosho in 1939. He was a forward observer and died near Halle. Sarver was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Walter J. Schmisser, Jr.*Catcher**Minors (1942)**US Navy**Lost at sea in the Pacific on February 19, 1945*

Schmisser played at Milliken University and was signed by the Dodgers. He batted .278 in 77 games with Olean. Presumed drowned after bailing out of his F6F-5 Hellcat fighter plane near Iwo Jima.

Robert C. "Bob" Schmukal*Outfield**Minors (1942)**US Army**Killed in action in France on October 3, 1944*

Schmukal was signed by the Braves and batted .230 in 89 games with Evansville. He served with the 4142nd Quartermaster Service Company and was killed when his jeep hit a landmine.

Edward N. "Bud" Schohl*Shortstop**Minors (1933 to 1940)**US Army**Died from wounds in Italy on November 1, 1943*

Schohl played eight seasons in the minors and more than 600 games. He batted a career high .289 in 121 games with Eau Claire in 1935. Mortally wounded near Caserta in late October.

Franklin C. Schulz*Pitcher**Minors (1940 to 1942)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in Philippines on June 17, 1945*

Schulz was 17-4 with a 3.19 ERA with Flint in 1941. He became a B-24 Liberator pilot and after his plane left Samar on June 17, it was never seen again.

Rosey Rosenstein, who was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, wrote in his last letter home that he had just gotten out of sick bay and, "They wanted to send me home, but, I can't leave my buddies. We're so short-handed. Please forgive me. I volunteered to stay."

Carl H. "Kappy" Scott*Pitcher**Minors (1934 to 1936)**US Army**Killed in action in France on July 26, 1944*

Scott was from Transfer, western Pennsylvania, and played for Monessen and Canton in the minor leagues as well as for various semi-pro teams. He died near Marchesieux, Normandy, aged 32.

Marcello L. "Major" Serventi*Pitcher**Minors (1935 to 1940)**US Army**Died from injuries in California, July 5, 1941*

Serventi was signed by Oakland and played three seasons. In 1939, he was 17-13 with Spokane. Serventi suffered severe injuries in a car crash on July 4 and died the following day.

Donald R. Shelton*Pitcher**Minors (1940)**US Army**Killed in action in Italy on September 15, 1944*

Shelton of Webster City, Iowa, pitched briefly in the minors with St. Joseph and Hopkinsville. Shelton, who was awarded a Bronze Star, died near Terenza with the 34th Infantry Division.

Harold H. Sherman*Pitcher**Minors (1940 to 1941)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in China on July 7, 1945*

Sherman was 2-11 with last-placed Paragould in 1941. He served as a pilot of a B-24 Liberator ferrying fuel over "the Hump" from India to China. He died in a plane crash near Mowkung.

Jack C. Siens*Outfield**Minors (1939 to 1940)**US Navy**Plane crash off English coast on Sep 10, 1943*

Siens played for Marshall College then batted .315 with 15 homers and 91 RBIs for Huntington his rookie season. He was co-pilot of a PB4Y Liberator that lost control during a simulated fighter attack.

Arthur H. "Art" Sinclair*Pitcher**Minors (1938)**US Army**Lost at sea on January 26, 1944*

Sinclair was signed by the Giants and was 8-4 with a 3.46 ERA for Fort Smith. He was aboard an LST landing ship that hit a mine and exploded off the coast of Anzio, Italy, killing 483 men,

John M. "Mason" Smith*Pitcher**Minors (1942)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in France on November 4, 1944*

Smith was signed by the Cardinals and was 14-8 with a 3.05 ERA in 28 games with Albany. He flew photographic reconnaissance missions and died in an F-3 Havoc crash at Metzeresche.

Norman K. Smith*Pitcher**Minors (1936 to 1941)**US Navy**Killed in action at sea on August 9, 1942*

Smith played baseball at Mercer University and signed with Macon in 1936. He was 14-10 with Americus his last year before military service. Died when the cruiser USS Quincy sank in the Pacific.

Marshall M. Sneed*Outfield**Minors (1939 to 1940)**US Army Air Force**Shot down in Tunisia on February 22, 1943*

Sneed played baseball at the University of Missouri and signed with the Browns, playing at Topeka and Paragould. A P-40 Warhawk fighter pilot, Sneed earned a DFC before being shot down.

Daniel W. Snell*Infield**Minors (1936 to 1941)**US Army**Died of wounds in Germany on March 11, 1945*

Snell attended Howard College and was signed by Troy, batting .295 in 93 games. He also played pro football with Buffalo. He was mortally wounded near Bad Neunahr.

Marshall Sneed, who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star and Air Medal, shot down an enemy fighter plane on January 20, 1943.

Rodney L. Sooter*Pitcher**Minors (1943)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in Germany on Feb 1, 1946*

Sooter was signed by Seattle but released at the start of the season. He died in an L-4 Grasshopper liaison plane crash nine months after the war in Europe had ended.

William H. "Billy" Southworth, Jr.*Outfield**Minors (1936 to 1940)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in New York on February 15, 1945*

The son of Cardinals manager, Billy Southworth, he batted .342 with Rome in 1939. Southworth flew bomber missions in Europe before losing his life in a B-29 Superfortress crash LaGuardia.

Earl V. "Lefty" Springer*Pitcher**Minors (1940 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action in Germany on January 25, 1945*

Springer attended the University of Maryland and signed with Baltimore. He was 1-2 in 18 appearances his rookie year. Springer died in an M3 armor-plated half-track vehicle at Nennig.

Gene Stack (born Eugene F. Stachowiak)*Pitcher**Minors (1940)**US Army**Died of pneumonia in Indiana on June 26, 1942*

Stack was signed by the White Sox and was 19-11 with Lubbock. In the Army he pitched for Fort Custer. Stack collapsed and died near Michigan City on the way back from a ballgame.

Donald A. Stewart*Umpire**Minors (1938 to 1940)**Canadian Army**Killed in air raid in Scotland on March 13, 1941*

After a brief trial as a player with Seattle in 1938, Stewart umpired in the Western International League. He was killed during a German air raid on Glasgow.

James E. Stewart*Pitcher**Minors**US Marine Corps**Killed in action at Iwo Jima on March 22, 1945*

Stewart signed with Atlanta during the winter of 1943, but enlisted in the Marine Corps before playing. He was among 4,500 Marines killed at Iwo Jima.

Alvin "Bus" Stiewe*Shortstop**Minors (1936 to 1938)**US Army**Killed in action in Italy on February 15, 1945*

Stiewe batted .303 in 97 games his rookie year with Sandusky and had the same batting average with Findlay in 1938. He died during a patrol in Mezzano.

Errol J. Stoner*Pitcher**Minors (1933 to 1937)**US Army**Died of wounds in Philippines on Dec 12, 1941*

Stoner, who served with the Army in the Philippines in the late 1920s, was signed by Pittsburgh in 1933 and played for Tulsa. He died during a Japanese aerial attack on Clark Field.

Sylvester H. "Syl" Sturges*Outfield**Minors (1939 to 1941)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in France on June 7, 1944*

Sturges was signed by the Dodgers and played for Americus, Shelby and Goldsboro. He was the co-pilot of a C-47 transport plane that crashed near Sebeville the day after D-Day.

Fredric W. Swift*Pitcher**Minors (1940 to 1941)**US Army Air Force**Killed in plane crash in Texas on April 23, 1944*

Swift attended Ursinus College and signed with the Phillies. He played for Moultrie, Martinsville and Allenstown. He died when a twin-engined AT-7 Navigator crashed near Blanco.

Billy Southworth, Jr., who became popular for wearing a Cardinals baseball cap, flew 25 missions against enemy targets in France and Germany in 1943. "I was just another Joe, occupying a lucky seat with a fine crew," he later said. "I tried to manage 'em like Dad manages his Cardinals."

Johnny P. Taylor

*Third Base
Minors (1938 to 1941)
US Marine Corps
Killed in action at Guam on July 26, 1944*

Taylor signed with Lubbock and batted .312 his rookie year. He then batted .308 with 12 home runs and 114 RBIs in 1939. He died five days after landing on Guam with the Marines.

Steve L. Tonsick

*First Base
Minors (1937)
US Army
Killed in action in Tunisia on March 28, 1943*

Tonsick signed with the Cardinals and played just one season with Monett, batting .232 in 106 games. He served with the Engineers and his brother, Rudolph, also died in WWII.

James Trimble III

*Pitcher
Minors
US Marine Corps
Killed in action at Iwo Jima on March 1, 1945*

Trimble was signed out of high school by the Athletics and given a four-year scholarship to Duke University. He died during a Japanese suicide attack on his reconnaissance team.

George E. "Emmett" Tully

*Pitcher/First Base
Minors (1927 to 1929)
US Army Air Force
Stabbed to death in Georgia on Jan 13, 1943*

Tully attended the University of Georgia and signed with Savannah upon graduation. He died on the way to hospital after being stabbed in a street fight in Savannah.

Edgar W. Tuttle

*Pitcher/Outfield
Minors (1939 to 1940)
US Navy
Killed in plane crash in Florida on June 11, 1942*

Tuttle attended Lenoir-Rhyne College and signed with Hickory. He was a high school teacher before joining the Navy. Tuttle died when two planes collided near Jacksonville.

Wirt B. "Beecher" Twitchell, Jr.

*Pitcher/First Base
Minors (1938 to 1940)
US Army
Killed in action at Saipan on July 7, 1944*

Twitchell attended the University of Southern California and signed with Detroit. He was 6-9 with Hobbs. He died during a Japanese suicidal attack two days before Saipan was secured.

Lou Vann (born Luigi G. Varanese)

*Infield
Minors (1932 to 1938)
US Marine Corps
Killed in accident in California on May 21, 1943*

Vann signed with New Haven and batted .260 his rookie year. He played for many years with the House of David team. Vann possibly died in a knife fight at Camp Pendleton.

Joseph Vecchio

*Outfield
Minors (1939)
US Army
Killed in action in France on November 16, 1944*

Vecchio signed with Opelousas and also played for Abbeville. He served as a medic and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry. He died near town of Dieuze.

Armando J. "Pete" Viselli

*Shortstop
Minors (1939)
US Army Air Force
Plane crash in Philippines on Dec 12, 1941*

Viselli was in the military in the late 30s before signing with Palestine. After one season he returned to the military. He was aboard a B-18 Bolo bomber that disappeared after take-off.

Arthur C. Vivian, Jr.

*Pitcher
Minors (1942)
US Marine Corps
Killed in action at Guam on August 1, 1944*

Vivian attended Wake Forest College and signed with the Yankees. He was 3-1 in four appearances with Amsterdam. Vivian was killed when his jeep hit a Japanese mine.

Joe Vecchio was a medic and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry. In a letter home, he wrote that at one time he was only 25 yards from a German machine-gunner, who warned the medic to advance no further.

Elmer J. Wachtler*Pitcher**Minors (1942 to 1943)**US Army**Killed in action in Luxembourg on Jan 5, 1945*

Wachtler and his brother, Billy, signed with the Cardinals. He was 8-7 with Decatur his rookie year. Wachtler died during the breakout at Bastogn, near Lutrebois.

Leo M. H. Walker*Outfield**Minors (1936)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in California on November 2, 1941*

Walker, younger brother of "Gee" and "Hub" Walker, signed with the Reds and played with Andalusia. Walker was piloting a B-17 Flying Fortress that crashed near Lake Tahoe.

Carson "Kit Carson" Walsky*Pitcher**Minors (1939)**US Army**Killed in action in Germany on Feb 26, 1945*

Walsky, born in Czechoslovakia, attended Mount St. Mary's College and signed with Hazelton. He was 4-6 in 12 games. He died near Ferschweiler in only his third day of combat.

Roman E. "Chipper" Wantuck*Pitcher/Outfield**Minors (1941 to 1942)**US Army**Killed in action in New Guinea on June 16, 1944*

Wantuck was signed by Sheboygan and was 15-7 his rookie year. The following season he was 19-6 and batted .291. He served as a medic and was killed while helping a wounded soldier.

Jack W. Weiler*Shortstop**Minors (1939)**US Navy**Plane crash in Washington, DC on Mar 24, 1943*

Weiler attended Milligan College and was signed by Johnson City. He joined the Navy in 1940 and died aboard a twin-engined R5C Commando that crashed on takeoff.

Millard M. "Mernie" White*Shortstop**Minors (1940)**US Army Air Force**Plane crash in New Mexico on July 3, 1945*

White, the son of a minor leaguer, signed with Fremont and batted .228 in 85 games. He died while taxiing a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane that exploded near Montoya.

James J. "Jim" Whitfield*Outfield**Minors (1941)**US Army**Killed in action at Palau on September 22, 1944*

Whitfield accepted a \$5,000 bonus to sign with the Cardinals and batted .238 with Albany. He died during a Japanese mortar attack on the island of Angaur.

Richard L. "Dick" Williams*Pitcher**Minors (1940 and 1941)**US Army**Killed in action in Philippines on Feb 21, 1945*

Williams, born in Canada, was 14-11 with a 3.89 ERA with Sheboygan in 1941. He died near the Marikina River and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Robert J. "Bob" Williams*First Base**Minors (1939 to 1941)**US Army**Died from illness in Texas on January 14, 1943*

Williams attended Texas A&M and signed with the White Sox. He batted .337 with 19 homers for Elizabethton in 1940. He died from an unidentified illness at Fort Bliss.

Lester R. Wirkkala*Pitcher**Minors (1935 to 1941)**US Army**Killed in action in France on September 7, 1944*

Wirkkala was an Ohio State League all-star in 1939 after winning 14 games with Fremont and went on to pitch for Toledo in the Browns organization. He died near Gravelotte, France.

Dick Williams was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for actions during the battle for Manila.

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| <p>Stanford G. Wolfson <i>Outfield/Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1941 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Murdered by German police on Nov 5, 1944</i></p> <p>Wolfson signed with the Cardinals and batted .303 with Johnson City. He was co-pilot of a B-17 shot down over Germany and was murdered near Kaiserslautern because he was Jewish.</p> | <p>Frederick J. Yeske <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1941 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Italy on December 21, 1943</i></p> <p>Yeske was signed by Hartford and was 9-8 with Goldsboro in 28 games his rookie year, then 7-5 with Welch in 1942. He died near San Pietro, attacking an enemy position.</p> |
| <p>Thomas J. Woodruff <i>Shortstop</i> <i>Minors (1938 to 1941)</i> <i>US Navy</i> <i>Shot down over Luzon on November 14, 1944</i></p> <p>Signed with the Browns and led the Texas Valley League in stolen bases his rookie year. An F6F Hellcat fighter pilot, he was awarded the DFC twice before being shot down.</p> | <p>Marion P. "Spud" Young <i>Infield</i> <i>Minors (1941 to 1942)</i> <i>US Marine Corps</i> <i>Killed in kamikaze attack on December 13, 1944</i></p> <p>Young batted .242 with Utica in 1942 and was on the Can-Am League all-star team. He was among 133 killed on the cruiser USS Nashville during a kamikaze attack off Negros Island.</p> |
| <p>Alan Wray (born Alan Wray Lightner) <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1939)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Germany on January 12, 1945</i></p> <p>Wray played semi-pro baseball in California, attended Modesto Junior College and was signed by Bellingham in 1939, playing 14 games. He died near Saarbrücken.</p> | <p>Veito R. Zande <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1941)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in France on August 10, 1944</i></p> <p>Zande was one of three brothers to play in minors, he attended St. Lawrence College and played for Newport and Lansing. Zande died near Saint-Lô, Normandy.</p> |
| <p>Elmere P. "Elmer" Wright <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1937 to 1940)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in France on June 6, 1944</i></p> <p>Wright was signed by the Browns. He was 6-14 with Johnstown in 1938 with two victories coming on the same day. He died in the first wave of troops to hit Omaha Beach on D-Day.</p> | <p>Peter J. Zarrilla <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1940 to 1942)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Killed in plane crash in Texas on August 9, 1945</i></p> <p>Zarrilla batted .287 in 36 games in the Appalachian League in 1942. He was on the Foster Field baseball team and died in a twin-engined AT-7 returning from a ballgame.</p> |
| <p>William H. "Bill" Yarewick <i>Pitcher</i> <i>Minors (1936 to 1941)</i> <i>US Army Air Force</i> <i>Drowned off coast of Japan on May 23, 1945</i></p> <p>Yarewick was signed by the Giants and won 16 games with Decatur in 1940. He was an engineer on a B-29 Superfortress and bailed out off the coast of Japan, but never seen again.</p> | <p>Lamar A. "Dutch" Zimmerman <i>Outfield</i> <i>Minors (1940 to 1941)</i> <i>US Army</i> <i>Killed in action in Luxembourg on Jan 24, 1945</i></p> <p>Zimmerman signed with Syracuse and batted .326 with 102 RBIs for Bristol in 1941. In service, he played with Cecil Travis on the Camp Wheeler team. He died near Wilwerwiltz.</p> |

Tom Woodruff was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross. "With complete disregard for his own personal safety," the citation read, "and in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire he attacked and obtained a direct bomb hit on a light cruiser inflicting severe damage."

John J. Zulberti*Infield**Minors (1937 to 1940)**US Army**Killed in action in Italy on January 21, 1944*

Zulberti batted .320 with 14 home runs and 104 RBIs for Ogdensburg in 1938. He died while trying to establish a bridgehead across the Gari River, near Cassino.

George C. Zwilling*Shortstop**Minors (Signed but did not play)**US Army**Killed in action in Tunisia on March 31, 1943*

Zwilling signed with Cincinnati in the fall of 1941, but entered military service before he had a chance to play. He died during the 34th Infantry Division's first North African offensive.

Harold J. "Butch" Ball

Butch Ball was an outstanding young athlete, playing baseball and basketball with topflight teams around Brooklyn. He had attended New Utrecht High School and was signed by the Milford Giants in 1939. But the young catcher had a secret. One that he had to keep if he wanted to play Organized baseball.

In December 1896, Susan McConnell, a white woman from New Jersey, married Moses Ball, an African-American from Virginia. Moses worked as a dining car waiter and they lived in Manhattan before moving to Brooklyn in the 1900s. Butch, their seventh and youngest child, was born on March 16, 1917, and the family was identified in the census as "Mulatto," an outdated term referring to people of mixed African and European ancestry. In 1929, when Butch was 11 years old, his father, Moses, died aged 61. In the 1930 census a year later, the family were listed as "White," and again in the 1940 census when Butch and his older brothers Kenneth and Edmond were living with their mother, Susan.

When Butch joined the Milford Giants at their home in Delaware in July 1939, three years had been shaved off his age (he was listed as 19 but was actually 22). In his first game in the minors, Butch was behind the plate for Bill Syring's four-hitter against Centreville. He got his first hit the following day against Salisbury, going 2-for-4 with two RBIs and even played four games at second base in early August before sitting out the rest of the month (possibly through injury). Butch was back in the line-up as a pinch hitter on August 31, then went 4-for-5 with two RBIs the following day against Easton. He finished the season catching a pitching gem, just as he had in his first game, handling Frank Fasse's five-inning rain-shortened no-hitter over Federalsburg. Butch finished the season with a .259 batting average (14-for-54) over 17 games.

Butch spent the early part of 1940 with Milford, but was soon back in Brooklyn playing for St. Rose in the Brooklyn Amateur League and the Rheingold Brewers of the Queens Alliance League. He was back with Rheingold in 1941 and entered military service in May 1942.

Having listed his race as white on his Draft Registration card, Butch served as a Technician Fifth Grade with the 489th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Armored Division. He was killed in action in Germany on April 12, 1945. Harold "Butch" Ball, who was awarded the Bronze Star, rests at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

One who didn't make the list

Research uncovers fascinating stories related to baseball, but it can also uncover the darker side of things connected to the game. My friend, Gary Cieradkowski, recently discovered a story about about a former minor league player who, like the 172, died in military service, but in very different circumstances. Ernest L. Clark of Clifton Forge, Virginia, had led the Huntington Aces with 12 wins in 1941. The following year he played for Huntington, Staunton and Ashland before entering military service. Stationed in England with the Army Air Force, Clark and another soldier raped and murdered a 15-year-old English girl on August 22, 1944. Both soldiers were hanged at Shepton Mallet Prison on January 8, 1945, and are buried - along with 94 other American soldiers who were executed for desertion, murder and rape - in unnamed graves at an American military cemetery in France.



Dick Aldworth



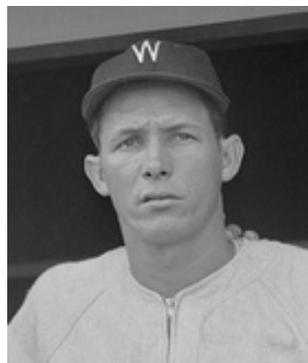
Joe Boren



Chuck Bowers



Lefty Brewer



Elmer Gedeon



Jim Grilk



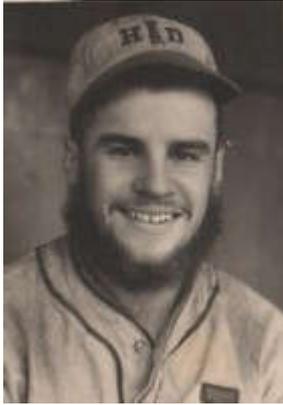
Bob Gruss



Bob Hershey



Frank Janik



Art Keller



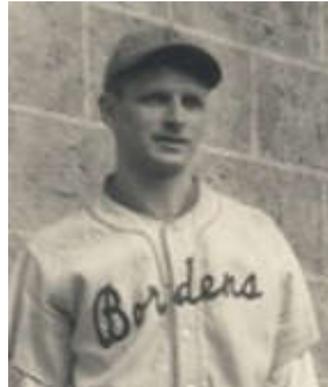
Stan Klores



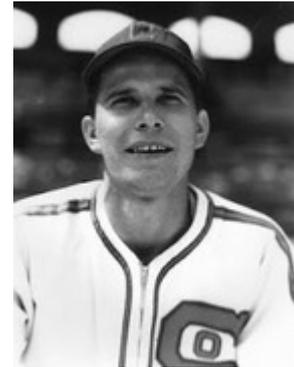
Whitey Loos



Jack Lummus



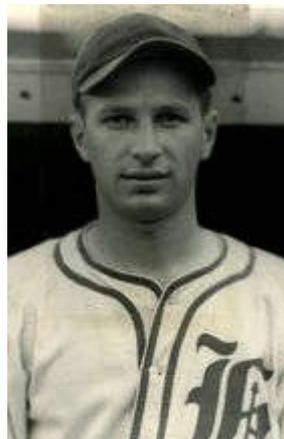
Dom Malchiodi



Walt Navie



Bill Niemeyer



Hank Nowak



Harry O'Neill



Joe Pinder



Ernie Raimondi



Milt Rosenstein



Herm Rush



Glenn Sanford



Marshall Sneed



Billy Southworth, Jr.



Fred Swift



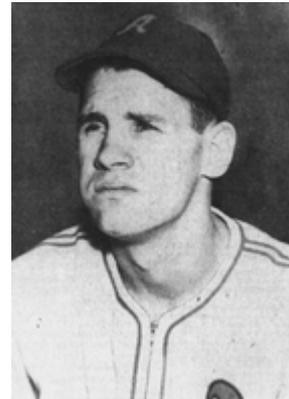
Jimmy Trimble



Elmer Wachtler



Mernie White



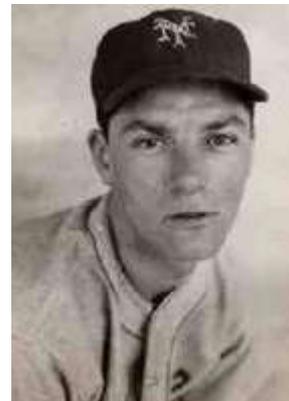
Dick Williams



Al Wray

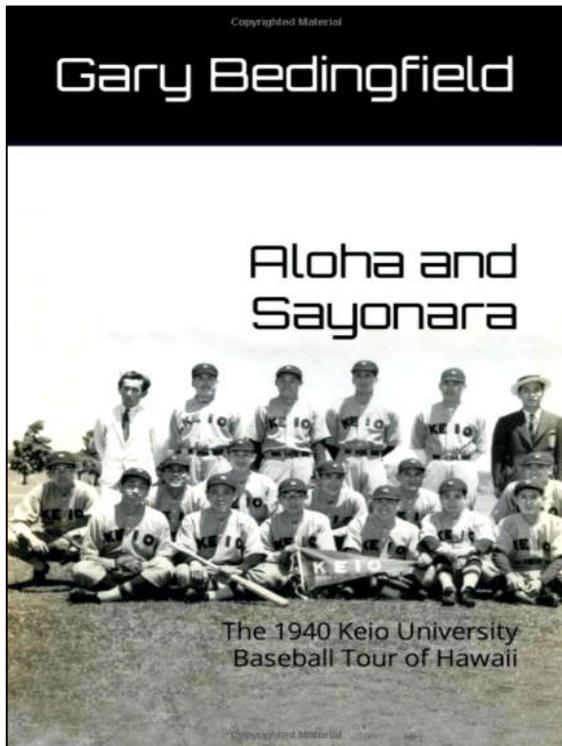


Elmer Wright



Bill Yarewick

Aloha and Sayonara: Baseball and the battlefields of the Pacific



During the summer of 1940, in contrast to the downwardly spiraling political relationship between Japan and the United States, the Keio University baseball team traveled from Tokyo to the Hawaiian Islands. Aloha and Sayonara tells the story of the last Japanese baseball team to visit the Hawaiian Islands – a tradition that dated back to 1908 - before the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. With game-by-game, and almost day-by-day coverage, this is a never-before-told insight into the lives of 15 young Japanese college students who came to play baseball, the game they loved, and were soon to be in deadly conflict with their new-found friends. Aloha and Sayonara explores their early years, their time in Hawaii and then follows the young players' journey back to Japan. For some, the journey continues to post-war professional baseball. For others it ends on the battlefields of the Pacific islands.

Amazon USA \$6.00

Amazon Canada \$7.00

Amazon Japan ¥935

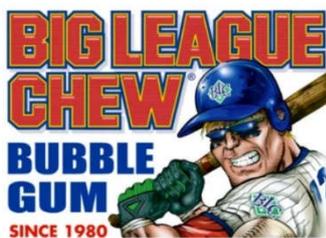
Amazon UK £5.00

Year Published: 2022

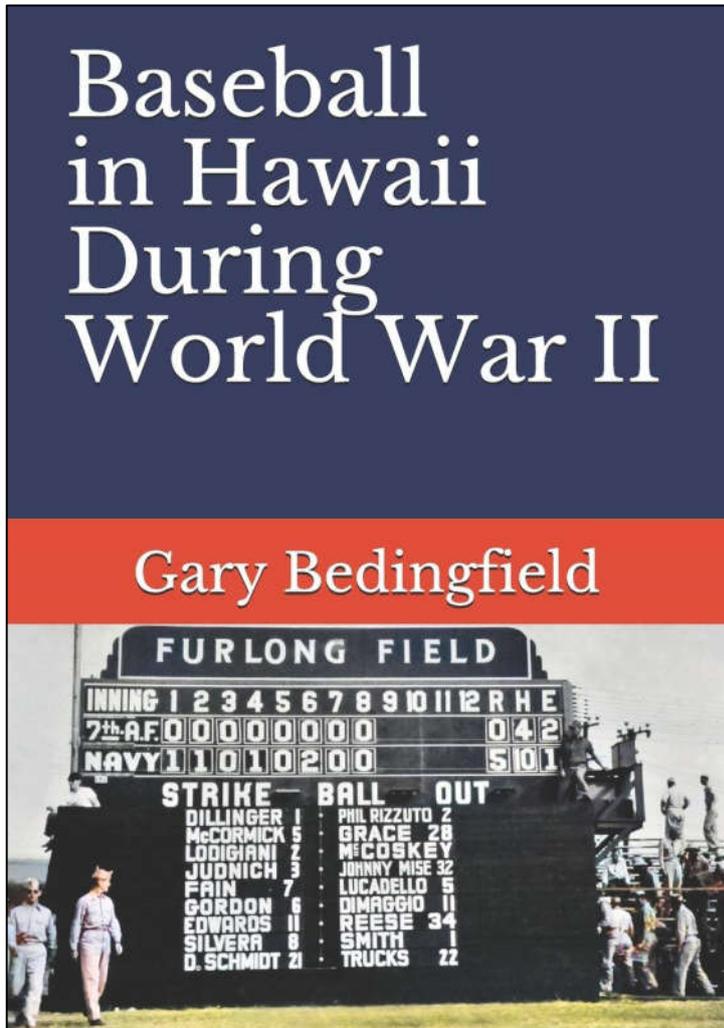
Format: softcover (6 x 9)

Pages: 47

Photos: 25



Baseball in Hawaii During World War II



Baseball in Hawaii During World War II is the first in-depth look at the wartime exploits of over 150 major leaguers and countless minor league players who found themselves stationed in the Hawaiian Islands between 1941 and 1945. With the inclusion of 150 biographies and over 80 photographs the book details every victory and every tragedy of wartime baseball in the paradise of the Pacific. Produced in a chronological order, the book first delves into the history of baseball in the Islands and how varied ethnicities shaped the structure and development of the game. Starting with 1941, the book then takes a year-by-year in-depth look at the war, Hawaii and baseball as played by civilians and servicemen.

Year Published: 2021

Format: softcover (7 x 10)

Pages: 343

Photos: 80

Amazon USA \$19.99

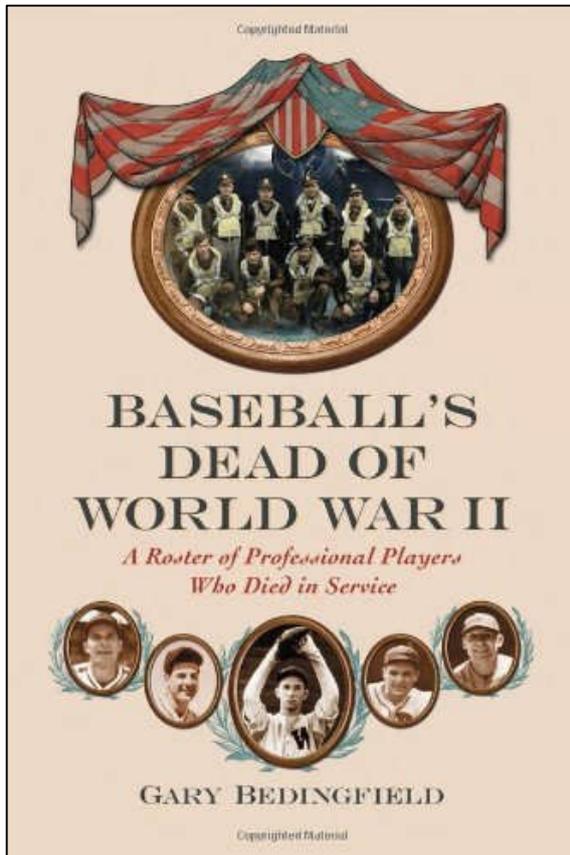
Amazon Canada \$25.00

Amazon UK £14.99



**EBBETS FIELD
FLANNELS** EST. 1988

Baseball's Dead of World War II: A Roster of Professional Players Who Died in Service



Amazon USA \$39.95

Amazon UK £36.95

While most fans know that baseball stars Ted Williams, Hank Greenberg, and Bob Feller served in the military during World War II, few can name the two major leaguers who died in action. (They were catcher Harry O'Neill and outfielder Elmer Gedeon.) Far fewer still are aware that at least another 125 minor league players also lost their lives during the war. This book draws on extensive research and interviews to bring their personal lives, baseball careers, and wartime service to light.

Year Published: 2009

Format: softcover (7 x 10)

Pages: 272

Photos: 34

[Chevrons and Diamonds](#)

Spotlighting the U.S. Armed Forces' Inseparable Bond with America's Pastime

The **Baseball in Wartime Newsletter** is produced by Gary Bedingfield
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