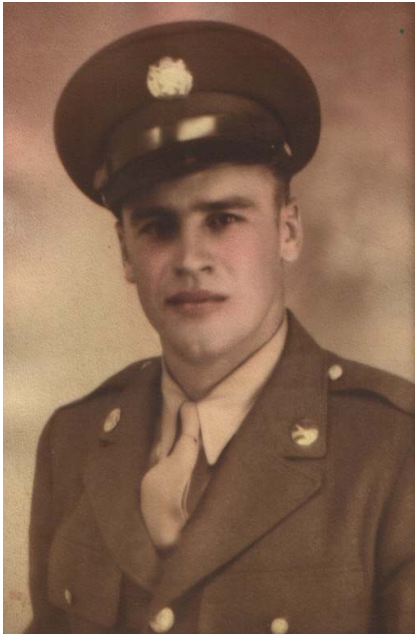


## Professional Baseball Players Who Died in World War II



**Cpl. Ardys Keller.**  
Catcher, St. Louis Browns organization.  
Killed in action, France, Sept. 29, 1944

**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Baseball in Wartime e-Newsletter. With the growth of the Baseball in Wartime Blog—which features daily updates and now has in excess of 180 entries—I have decided to produce the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. This issue focuses on the 133 former professional players who lost their lives during WWII. Hopefully, one day, baseball will do something to collectively remember the sacrifice they made. In the meantime, here is some information on them and

details on the book I have recently written—*Baseball's Dead of World War II*.

I can clearly trace the origin of this book to a standing ovation in New Orleans, Louisiana, in November 2007. As the founder and editor of [baseballinwartime.com](http://baseballinwartime.com), I was invited to give a keynote speech at the “When Baseball Went to War” conference held at the National World War II Museum. It was a huge honor for me to be in the company of former major league players like Bob Feller, Johnny Pesky, Jerry Coleman, Lou Brissie and Morrie Martin, all of whom were World War II veterans and heroes of mine.

My speech focused on ballplayers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war - a subject I was passionate about and felt was not only poignant but also shamefully overlooked for many years. I am the first to admit I am not a gifted public speaker. I did my best to tell the story of four players, and just hoped I would do them justice. Towards the end of the speech, I asked the audience to participate in a round of applause as a way of honoring and remembering all the ballplayers who lost their lives in military service more than 60 years ago. It was intended as a mark of respect, a way to say thank you, and I hoped the crowd would be willing to participate. What followed left me speechless.

I had anticipated a polite round of applause but what occurred was a thunderous standing ovation. Not for me, of course, but for the ballplayers. The moment left me without words and full of emotion. I had no idea the crowd would respond in such a positive and enthusiastic way. For many years, I had been an ardent admirer of players like Harry O'Neill and Billy Hebert, young men who had given everything in the service of their beloved country, but were virtually unknown by the baseball community. At that moment, I knew the stories of these four men had touched at the heartstrings of America, but that was just the tip of the iceberg. In all, a staggering 133 former professional players died during World War II and their stories needed to be told. The foundations of this book had been laid.

The next task was to discover as much as possible about these men - no easy task considering they all died more than 60 years ago. Memories of some have been kept alive by surviving family members (to whom I am hugely indebted), while others had few or no relatives to keep the flame burning. I spent many long hours tracking down family members, friends and former teammates. I contacted libraries, local historical societies and small town newspapers, making countless transatlantic telephone calls in my quest to discover who these men were.

This project has been immensely challenging, often emotionally troubling but always highly rewarding. Have I included every professional baseball player who died during World War II? Probably not. There is no definitive list to go by. Organized baseball appears to have been unable to keep track of their alumni that died during the war, and every list you find varies drastically depending on the source. The deaths of many were reported in *The Sporting News* and that was a good starting point (although *The Sporting News* also reported the deaths of some, who, in fact, did not die). But the deaths of others were never reported in the weekly sports tabloid and I had to search local newspapers for more names. Therefore, what you will find in this book are the biographies of 127 former professional baseball players who died serving their country between 1940 and 1946.

I hope you will enjoy reading *Baseball's Dead of World War II* as much as I enjoyed writing it. If you get to experience even a tiny part of the emotional journey I took, then it has been worthwhile.

Gary Bedingfield—Glasgow, Scotland  
Founder and editor of *Baseball in Wartime*  
[gary@baseballinwartime.com](mailto:gary@baseballinwartime.com)

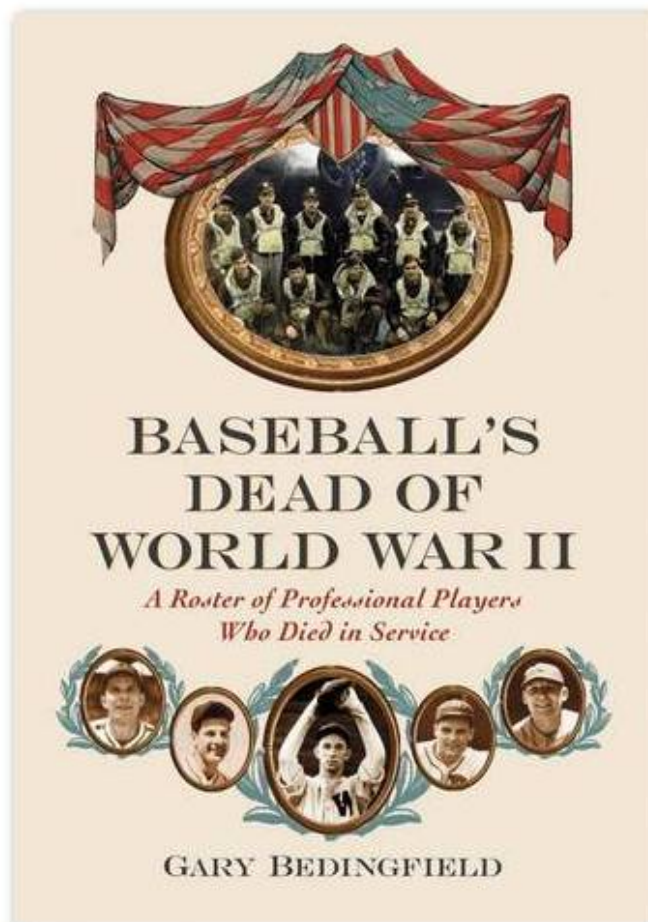


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# Baseball's Dead of World War II



## Review by Drew Ames in *America in WWII* (April 2010)

Americans take professional sports very seriously. Only major events or national tragedies interrupt the sports seasons' normal flow. For example, the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, prompted Major League Baseball to postpone games immediately afterward. A greater though somewhat less-remembered impact was felt by the minor leagues, as various member leagues cancelled their playoffs that year for the first time since World War II. Gary Bedingfield's *Baseball's Dead of World War II* is a compact but comprehensive book that revisits the last time a national crisis had a profound impact on professional baseball.

In the early '40s, major-league teams filled their ballparks on a daily basis, and nearly 5,000 minor-league players in 287 teams spread over 43 leagues competed to make it to the big leagues. By the end of the war, more than 500 major-leaguers and 4,000 minor-

leaguers would serve in the military. These players-turned-warriors' stories were diverse, but they all shared a love of baseball and, very often, an unironic patriotism. Many players were just out of high school when they started playing professional baseball, and not much older when they joined the military. A few major-leaguers who were famous before the war are well remembered for their wartime service to this day. But this book's focus is on preserving the memory of the 125 minor-league and two major-league players who died during the war and are all but forgotten today.

The first 25 pages of Bedingfield's book are a well-written introduction to baseball's cultural importance in the late

'30s and during the war, and a description of the war's impact on professional baseball. The introduction touches on the baseball careers and military service of pre-war baseball stars like Bob Feller, Hank Greenberg, and Ted Williams, as well as players who would become famous after the war, like Yogi Berra, who as a navy gunner's mate took part in the Normandy Invasion. But true to the book's theme, the intro then focuses on the progression of the war and the resulting wartime deaths of ballplayers.

The first deaths were from stateside car and airplane accidents, but as the war progressed, more players died in combat. Not surprisingly, many died in the big battles such as the Normandy Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Battle of Okinawa. Two died along with nearly 800 other soldiers of the 66th Infantry Division on the troopship *Leopoldville*, which was torpedoed barely five miles from its destination in France. (The military classified the details of the *Leopoldville's* loss until 1996.) The introduction concludes with an acknowledgment of the devastating

effects of the war on many of the surviving players and their baseball careers.

Constituting the heart of the book are the 127 mini-biographies of the players who lost their lives in the war. Whenever possible, Bedingfield provides personal details that give a sense of the players' personalities. He did a lot of research and draws quotes from the players themselves, their loved ones, news reports, and comrades.

Some of the stories give insight into life as a baseball player. Paul Mellblom, for example, wrote a letter to his mother during spring training about the sunburn he suffered after his cap was stolen; since his team did not have enough money to replace his cap, he had to do without one. Other stories are touching and tragic, with sons or younger siblings describing the last time they saw their loved ones alive.

Sprinkled throughout are wonderful nuggets about baseball in the '30s and '40s, especially minor-league baseball. Two players in the book played for the House of David religious, barnstorming club. The team would warm up with a game of pepper, an exercise in which a batter hits the ball toward a group of fielders gathered close around him and the fielder who catches it throws it back quickly to be batted again. The barnstormers gradually turned their pepper into a crowd-pleasing juggling act.

Bedingfield succeeds by combining clear writing, interesting baseball history, and combat narratives to make *Baseball's Dead of World War II* one of the most compelling, memorable, and enjoyable World War II histories I have read in a while. The diversity of the players' stories and the rich historical detail make this a pleasurable read both for baseball fans and history buffs.



Billy Southworth, Jr.



# Baseball's Dead of World War II

## A review by baseball historian Bill Swank

There has never been a baseball book like *Baseball's Dead of World War II*. The title is as subtle as a fastball in the ribs. Trot to first base, because reading this book is painful as hell. Try to act like it doesn't hurt, but it's hard not to cry.

Much has been written about major league stars who served in the military and lost productive years during the war, but nothing has ever been chronicled about the unknown minor league players who lost their lives. *Baseball's Dead of World War II* will forever change perceptions of baseball's sacrifice during the Second World War. This is an emotional and inspirational tribute to these forgotten men.

In 2007, I heard Gary Bedingfield's keynote address for the "When Baseball Went to War" conference and exhibition at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Instead of asking for a traditional moment of silence for the players who died during the war, Bedingfield proposed a round of applause. Initially the audience responded politely, but the applause grew into a standing ovation. The scene is permanently etched in my memory.

The pioneering research in this book is groundbreaking. Whether your interest is baseball or World War II, *Baseball's Dead of World War II* would be a significant addition to your library.

Major league players rarely served in combat, but those who did - including four Hall of Famers - are acknowledged by Bedingfield. There are also inspiring stories of minor league players who overcame serious wartime injuries to fulfill their dreams to play in the major leagues. Further, many wounded players were unable to return to baseball, but the focus of this book is on the 127 players who lost their lives in military service during the war. They fought and died in all theaters including the following major battles.

Technician Fifth Grade Joe Pinder was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during the D-Day landings on Omaha Beach. Ironically, June 6, 1944 was the sixth anniversary of Private Forrest "Lefty" Brewer's 1938 no-hitter in the Florida International League. Brewer, a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, parachuted into

Normandy and died attacking German positions near Sainte-Mère-Église. A third minor league player, Elmer Wright, also lost his life that day.

Nine former minor league players were killed during the Battle of the Bulge: Ernie Holbrook, Bill Hansen, Hank Nowak, Elmer Wachtler, Alan Lightner (Alan Wray), Ernie Hrovatic, Paul Mellblom, George Meyer and Lamar Zimmerman.

Six former ballplayers were among the 6,821 marine fatalities suffered on Iwo Jima. First Lieutenant Jack Lummus posthumously received the Medal of Honor for single-handedly taking out three enemy pillboxes. First Lieutenant Harry O'Neill, who appeared in one game for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1939, was among the Iwo Jima casualties.

The only other former major leaguer to die in WWII was Army Air Force pilot Captain Elmer Gedeon whose B-26B Marauder bomber crashed in France. Gedeon played briefly with the Washington Senators in 1939.

Five former ballplayers received the Silver Star, three received the Bronze Star, five the Distinguished Flying Cross and one the Navy Cross. Ten players received air medals. Most of these decorations were awarded posthumously.

It is a little known fact that there were over 15,000 flight training and air transport deaths during World War II. Consistent with those numbers, sixteen former ballplayers serving in the Army Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps lost their lives in flight training and transport accidents.

Perhaps the most recognizable name, minor league prospect Billy Southworth, Jr., son of Hall of Fame manager Billy Southworth, was among the first ballplayers to volunteer for military service in 1940. As a B-17 pilot, young Southworth completed his required number of combat missions in 1943 and returned stateside to become a training instructor. In 1945, during a routine flight, Major Southworth's B-29 crashed during an emergency landing at LaGuardia Field in New York.

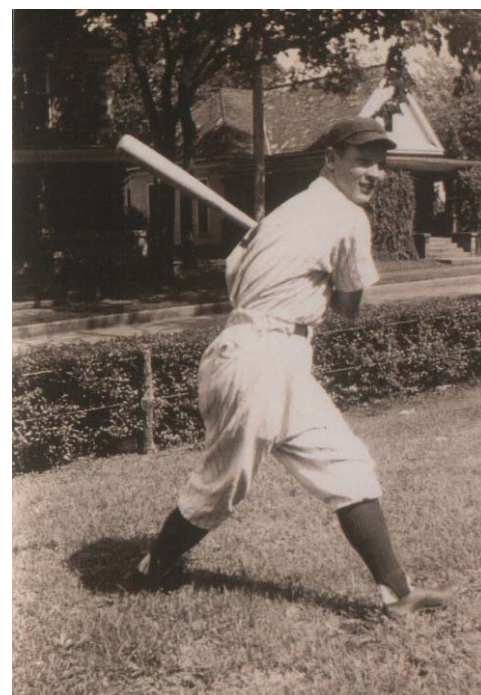
Hall of Fame pitcher and WWII combat veteran Bob Feller noted poignantly, "I'm no hero. Heroes don't come back."

On January 25, 1945, Sgt. Earl "Lefty" Springer was killed in Nennig, Germany. He is buried in the Luxembourg American Cemetery. Every year since then, in appreciation for the American soldiers who gave their lives to liberate his country, local resident Jean Folschette has placed flowers on Springer's grave. Folschette did not know the former minor league pitcher.

Gary Bedingfield tracked down the stories of these mostly unknown former ballplayers so their service and sacrifice would not be forgotten. *Baseball's Dead of World War II* is his memorial wreath for each of their graves.



**Pvt. Jim Trimble**  
Pitcher, Washington Senators organization  
Killed in action, March 1, 1945



**2/Lt. Bill Sarver**  
Outfielder, New York Yankees organization  
Killed in action, April 6, 1945

# Padres to Honor Nay Hernandez



The reason is because he was the only member of the San Diego Padres to be killed in action during WWII. Receiving his draft call in August 1944, Hernandez served with the 94th Infantry Division in Europe. Less than a year after playing his first game for the Padres he was dead.

Now, 65 years after his death, Hernandez is to be honored by the Padres. In

Baseball historian Bill Swank is a guy who doesn't give up easily. In fact, he's the kind of person who never lets go once he's got his claws into something. In this case, it's Bill's long fought dream to have Manuel P. "Nay" Hernandez recognized by the San Diego Padres baseball club.

I'm guessing the name Hernandez doesn't ring any bells for you. A quick look through the Baseball Encyclopedia will show that he never played major league baseball, but an online search will reveal his stats as a minor leaguer with the Pacific Coast Padres in 1944. And his stats are not very impressive I have to say. Hernandez, an outfielder, batted just .207 in 30 games in his only year in professional baseball. You would think that the Padres would have sent the youngster to a lower classification for some seasoning but Nay Hernandez never appears in a minor league game after 1944.



June, the team will hang a plaque in Hernandez's memory in the "military zone" beneath the right field stands at Petco Park. The memorial will be unveiled June 14 during pregame ceremonies.

Bill, you can release those claws, thanks to your efforts another war hero is being remembered.



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# 133 Professional Players Who Died in WWII

Name	Pos	Years	Rank	Service	Death	Date	Location
Jerry M. Angelich*	P	Did Not Play	Pvt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	December 7, 1941	Hickam Field, Hawaii
Herman A. Bauer	C	1939-1941	S/Sgt.	US Army	Died from Wounds	July 12, 1944	Les Haut Vents, France
Fred W. Beal	P	1941-1942	Pvt.	US Army	Died in Hospital	February 11, 1944	79th General Hospital, Camp White, OR
Constantine G. "Gus" Bebas	P	1939	Ensign	US Navy	Plane Crash	July 19, 1942	off Barber's Point, Hawaii
Hugh P. Bedient, Jr.	P	1938	2/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	June 17, 1940	Queens, NY
Leonard E. "Link" Berry	P	1937-1941	Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	December 24, 1944	SS Leopoldville, English Channel
Keith F. Bissonnette	OF/IF	1940-1942	1/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	March 28, 1945	Keng Tung, Burma
W. Davis "Buddy" Blewster	P	1939-1941	Pfc.	USMC	Killed in Action	October 22, 1942	Henderson Field, Guadalcanal
Joseph S. Boren	P	1935-1936	Ensign	US Navy	Plane Crash	July 12, 1942	Carenage Bay, Trinidad, West Indies
Charles W. "Chuck" Bowers	2B	1942	T/5	US Army	Died from Wounds	April 15, 1945	Aschersleben, Germany
Forrest V. "Lefty" Brewer	P	1938-1940	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	June 6, 1944	La Fièrè, France
Edward A. Brock	2B	1940	MM/3c	US Navy	Killed in Action	February 26, 1945	Pacific Ocean
Murrill J. Brown	P/OF	1940	Ensign	US Navy	Plane Crash	Sep-44	Jacksonville, FL
Eldred "Whitey" Burch	SS/2B	1939-1940	Pvt.	USAAF	Military accident	November 29, 1941	Albermarle, NC
George W. Chandler, Jr.	SS/C	1938-1940	S/Sgt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	September 20, 1942	nr. Plain Dealing, LA
Floyd E. Christiansen	IF	1939-1942	2/Lt.	USMC	Plane Crash	May 1, 1945	Moore, OK
Frank J. Ciaffone	P	Did Not Play	Pfc.	USMC	Killed in Action	March 3, 1945	Iwo Jima
Ordway H. "Hal" Cisgen	P	1940-1942	1/Lt.	US Army	Killed in Action	July 11, 1944	Périers, France
Clarence Clayton	2B	1944	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	May 1, 1945	Czechoslovakia
Howard W. DeMartini	P	1937-1942	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	December 24, 1944	SS Leopoldville, English Channel
Harold B. "Hal" Dobson	P	1939-1941	2/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	May 23, 1943	Silver Lake, CA
Norman J. Duncan	SS	1941	Lt(jg)	US Navy	Kamikaze Attack	April 12, 1945	off coast of Okinawa
Louis E. Eiko	SS	Did Not Play	Pvt.	USMC	Military Accident	April 2, 1944	United States
Charles "Chatty" Etherton, Jr.	P	1936-1942	Cpl.	US Army	Suicide	December 27, 1945	Jefferson City, MO
Charles H. "Herb" Fash	1B	1936-1941	Lt(jg)	US Navy	Explosion	February 21, 1945	Pacific Ocean
Frank Faudem	OF	1941-1942	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 12, 1945	Leyte, Philippines
John H. Fessler*	IF	1938-1941	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	June 10, 1944	Normandy, France
Ernest B. Ford, Jr.	P	1942	1/Lt.	USMC	Military Accident	May 4, 1945	Corpus Christi, TX
Gene Gabrych*	SS	1940-1941	Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	July 5, 1944	Foret de Mont Castre, France
George Gamble	OF	1937-1938	2/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	December 4, 1944	Lang Son, Frech Indo-China (Vietnam)
Robert W. Gary, Jr.	IF	1941	2/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	February 4, 1944	McNary, TX
Elmer J. Gedeon	OF	1939-1940	Cptn.	USAAF	Killed in Action	April 20, 1944	St. Pol, France
Conrad W. "Connie" Graff	1B/OF	1940-1941	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	July 8, 1944	Saint-Lô, France
Alan S. Grant	P	1941	1/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	December 29, 1943	Cwm Dyserth Mountain, Wales
James M. Grilk	C	1935-1941	Civilian	USAAF	Auto accident	July 16, 1942	Sacramento, CA
Robert J. Gruss*	OF	1943	Cpl.	USAAF	Plane Crash	August 19, 1944	Tonopah, NV



# 133 Professional Players Who Died in WWII

Name	Pos	Years	Rank	Service	Death	Date	Location
William F. "Bill" Hansen	OF	1941-1942	Sgt.	US Army	Died from Wounds	Jan-45	Belgium
William J. "Billy" Hebert	2B	1939, 1941	AM/3c	US Navy	Killed in Action	October 21, 1942	Henderson Field, Guadalcanal
Manuel P. "Nay" Hernandez	OF	1944	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	March 22, 1945	Ludwigshafen, Germany
Robert K. Hershey	1B	1938-1941	Lt(jg)	US Navy	Killed in Action	July 31, 1943	Pacific Ocean
Roswell G. Higginbotham	IF/OF	21-22, 28	Lt(jg)	US Navy	Died after Surgery	May 23, 1943	Quonset Point NAS, RI
Ernest J. Holbrook	1B	1935-1936	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	December 16, 1944	Luxembourg
Robert D. Holmes	P	1942-1943	2/Lt.	USMC	Died from Wounds	February 22, 1945	Iwo Jima
Gordon E. Houston	OF	1937-1940	2/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	February 10, 1942	McChord Field, Tacoma, WA
Ernest Hrovatic (Hrovatic)	OF	1942-1943	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 14, 1945	Ottre, Belgium
Harry N. Imhoff, Jr.	C	1944	Pvt.	USMC	Killed in Action	Apr-45	Okinawa
Frank D. Janik	OF	1937-1940	T/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	April 29, 1945	Okinawa
Ardys B. "Art" Keller	C	36, 39-43	Cpl.	US Army	Killed in Action	September 29, 1944	Biffontaine, France
Stanley P. Klores	1B	1935-1938	Lt.	US Navy	Killed in Action	December 3, 1944	Ormoc Bay, Leyte
Carlyle J. "Curly" Kopp	OF	1940-1941	Ensign	US Navy	Plane Crash	July 21, 1943	Mississippi River, nr. St. Paul Park, MN
Harry B. Ladner, Jr.	UMPIRE	1938-1941	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	April 18, 1945	Ie Shima, Okinawa
Walter E. Lake	C	1938-1940	1/Lt.	US Army	Died from Wounds	July 26, 1944	Les Haies, France
Harlan D. Larsen	C	Did Not Play	Pfc.	USMC	Killed in Action	July 30, 1945	Philippine Sea, Pacific Ocean
Felix A. Little	P	1939-1940	Lt.	US Navy	Plane Crash	December 18, 1944	Pici Field, Fortaleza, Brazil
Walter G. "Whitey" Loos, Jr.	C	1939-1941	1/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	January 16, 1944	Suriname, South America
Andrew J. "Jack" Lummus, Jr.	OF	1941	1/Lt.	USMC	Died from Wounds	March 9, 1945	Iwo Jima
Theodore C. "Ted" Maillet	P	1939-1941	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	April 7, 1945	Siegburg, Germany
Dom P. Malchiodi	C	1941-1942	2/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	May 31, 1945	Oostburg, Holland
William A. Marzalek	P	1941	2/Lt.	US Army	Accident	October 6, 1942	Fort Huachuca, AZ
Henry Martinez	IF	1937-1942	AMM/2c	US Navy	Lost at Sea	January 5, 1945	Pacific Ocean
John W. "Duck" McKee	OF	1932-1934	1/Lt.	US Army	Died of Wounds	March 6, 1945	Belgium
Paul V. A. Meilblom	P	1938-1939	T/5	US Army	Killed in Action	January 14, 1945	Houffalize, Belgium
George A. Meyer	OF/SS	1942	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 15, 1945	Coulee, Belgium
Louis I. Miller	3B	1939-1940	2/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	March 3, 1943	Bismarck Sea, nr. Lae, New Guinea
Joseph T. Mocerì	P	1941-1942	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	June 30, 1944	Normandy, France
John T. "Jack" Moller	P/OF	1939, 1941	1/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	August 8, 1943	nr. Gaile, New Guinea
Walt Navie (Walter J. Nawiesniak)	P	1935-1941	Pfc.	US Army	Suicide	October 9, 1945	El Paso, TX
Jack A. Nealy	1B	1943	Pvt.	USMC	Killed in Action	March 2, 1945	Iwo Jima
Edward S. Neusel	OF	1920-1922	Seaman	US Navy	Heart Disease	July 31, 1944	St. Louis, MO
William F. "Bill" Niemeyer	P	40-42, 44	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	March 4, 1945	Erdorf, Germany
Henry S. "Hank" Nowak	P	1937-1941	Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 1, 1945	Belgium
Harry M. O'Neill	C	1939-1940	1/Lt.	USMC	Killed in Action	March 6, 1945	Iwo Jima
Joseph M. Palatas	OF	1942	F/O	USAAF	Died from Wounds	April 11, 1944	Altengrabow, Germany

# 133 Professional Players Who Died in WWII

Name	Pos	Years	Rank	Service	Death	Date	Location
Metro Persoskie	P/OF	1940-1942	S/Sgt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	February 22, 1944	Irthlingborough, England
Charles R. Pescod	P	1937-1942	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	December 2, 1944	Eckartswiller, France
John J. "Joe" Pinder, Jr.	P	35-36, 38-41	T/5	US Army	Killed in Action	June 6, 1944	Omaha Beach, Normandy, France
Henry R. "Bob" Price	OF	1938-1941	AMM/1c	US Navy	Lost at Sea	Dec-44	Pacific Ocean
Luster Pruett*	OF	1941	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 11, 1945	Rittershoffen, Germany
Ernest R. Raimondi	3B	1936-1941	Pvt.	US Army	Died from Wounds	January 26, 1945	Sarreguemines, France
John J. Regan	P	1942	T/Sgt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	May 25, 1944	nr. Milang, India
Charles J. "Pete" Rehkamp	P	1938-1941	Pvt.	USAAF	Auto Accident	September 9, 1942	Mount Clemens, MI
Joseph W. Rodgers	IF	1942	Seaman/2c	US Navy	Killed in Action	October 10, 1943	off Salerno, Italy
Milton "Rosey" Rosenstein	P	1941	S/Sgt.	US Army	Died from Wounds	November 28, 1944	Leyte, Philippines
Michael L. Sambolich	OF	1941-1942	T/4	USAAF	Plane Crash	November 4, 1944	Belgium
Glenn F. Sanford	P	1940, 1942	2/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	November 6, 1943	Suisun Bay, CA
William A. "Bill" Sarver	OF	1938-1941	2/Lt.	US Army	Killed in Action	April 6, 1945	nr. Halle, Germany
Walter J. Schmisseeur, Jr.	C	1942	Ensign	US Navy	Killed in Action	February 20, 1945	nr. Chichi Jima, Bonin Islands
Robert C. "Bob" Schmukal	OF	1942	Cpl.	US Army	Killed in Action	October 3, 1944	France
Edward N. Schohl	SS	1933-1940	Pfc.	US Army	Died from Wounds	November 1, 1943	nr. Caserta, Italy
Franklin C. Schulz	P	1940-1942	2/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	June 17, 1945	Samar, Philippines
Carl H. "Kappy" Scott	P	1934, 1936	Pvt.	US Army	Killed in Action	July 26, 1944	nr. Saint-Lô, France
Marcel L. "Major" Serventi	P	1935-1940	Pfc.	US Army	Auto Accident	July 5, 1941	Oakland, CA
Donald R. Shelton	P	1940	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	September 15, 1944	nr. Terenza, Italy
Harold H. Sherman	P	1940-1941	F/O	USAAF	Plane Crash	July 7, 1945	nr. Mowkung, China
Jack C. Siens	P	1939-1940	Lt(jg)	US Navy	Plane Crash	September 10, 1943	off St. Eval, England
Arthur H. "Art" Sinclair	P	1938	T/5	US Army	Killed in Action	January 26, 1944	off Anzio, Italy
John M. "Mason" Smith	P	1942	S/Sgt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	November 4, 1944	Saint-Dizier, France
Norman K. Smith	P	1936-1941	Ensign	US Navy	Killed in Action	August 9, 1942	off Savo Island, Pacific Ocean
Marshall M. Sneed	OF	1939-1940	Cptrn.	USAAF	Killed in Action	February 22, 1943	Bay of Gabes, Tunisia
Rodney L. Sooter	P	Did Not Play	Sgt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	February 1, 1946	Klingbach, Germany
William B. "Billy" Southworth Jr.	OF	1936-1940	Major	USAAF	Plane Crash	February 15, 1945	Flushing Bay, NY
Earl V. "Lefty" Springer	P	1940-1941	Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 25, 1945	Nennig, Germany
Gene Stack (Eugene F. Stachowiak)	P	1940	Cpl.	US Army	Pneumonia	June 26, 1942	Michigan City, IN
Donald A. Stewart	UMPIRE	1939-1940	Pvt.	Can Army	Killed in Air Raid	March 13, 1941	Glasgow, Scotland
Alvin "Bus" Stiewe	SS	1936-1938	Cpl.	US Army	Killed in Action	February 15, 1945	Mezzano, Italy
Sylvester H. "Syl" Sturges	OF	1939-1941	2/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	June 7, 1944	Sebeville, France
Fredric W. Swift	P	1940-1941	Av. Cadet	USAAF	Plane Crash	April 23, 1944	nr. Blanco, TX
Johnny P. Taylor	3B	1938-1941	Cpl.	USMC	Killed in Action	July 26, 1944	Guam
Steve L. Tonsick	1B	1937	Cpl.	US Army	Killed in Action	March 28, 1943	Kasserine Pass, Tunisia
James Trimble III	P	Did Not Play	Pvt.	USMC	Killed in Action	March 1, 1945	Iwo Jima

# 133 Professional Players Who Died in WWII

Name	Pos	Years	Rank	Service	Death	Date	Location
Wirt B. "Beecher" Twitchell, Jr.	1B/P	1938-1940	1/Lt.	US Army	Killed in Action	July 7, 1944	Saipan
Lou Vann (Luigi G. Varanese)	IF	32-33, 38	Pfc.	USMC	Accident	May 18, 1943	Camp Pendleton, San Diego, CA
Joseph Vecchio*	OF	1939	T/3	US Army	Killed in Action	November 16, 1944	Dieuze, France
Armando J. "Pete" Viselli	SS	1939	S/Sgt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	December 12, 1941	Lamon Bay, Philippines
Arthur C. Vivian, Jr.	P	1942	1/Lt.	USMC	Killed in Action	August 1, 1944	Guam
Elmer J. Wachtler	P	1942-1943	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 5, 1945	Luttrebois, Luxembourg
Leo M.H. Walker	OF	1936	1/Lt.	USAAF	Plane Crash	November 2, 1941	nr. Georgetown, CA
Roman E. "Chipper" Wantuck	P/OF	1941-1942	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	June 16, 1944	Biak Island, New Guinea
James J. Whitfield	OF	1941	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	September 22, 1944	Angaur, Palau Islands
Richard L. "Dick" Williams	P	1940-1941	T/5	US Army	Killed in Action	February 21, 1945	Philippines
Lester R. Wirkkala	P	1935-1941	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	September 7, 1944	nr. Gravelotte, France
Stanford G. Wolfson	OF/IF/P	1941-1942	2/Lt.	USAAF	Killed in Action	November 5, 1944	Kaiserslautern, Germany
Thomas J. Woodruff	SS	1938-1941	Lt(jg)	US Navy	Lost at Sea	November 14, 1944	Pacific Ocean
Alan Wray (Alan W. Lightner)	OF	1939	Cpl.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 12, 1945	Saarbrücken, Germany
Elmere P. "Elmer" Wright	P	1937-1940	S/Sgt.	US Army	Killed in Action	June 6, 1944	Omaha Beach, Normandy, France
Frederick J. Yeske	P	1941-1942	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	December 21, 1943	San Pietro, Italy
Marion P. "Spud" Young	IF	1941-1942	Pfc.	USMC	Kamikaze Attack	December 13, 1944	off Negros Island, Philippines
Peter J. Zarrilla	OF	1940-1942	Cpl.	USAAF	Plane Crash	August 9, 1945	nr. Smiley, TX
Lamar A. "Dutch" Zimmerman	OF	1940-1941	T/5	US Army	Killed in Action	January 24, 1945	nr. Wilwerwiltz, Luxembourg
John J. Zurberti	IF	1937-1940	2/Lt.	US Army	Killed in Action	January 21, 1944	Rapido River, Italy
George C. Zwilling	SS	Did Not Play	Pfc.	US Army	Killed in Action	March 31, 1943	Fondouk, Tunisia

\* denotes players whose biographies do not appear in Baseball's Dead of World War II



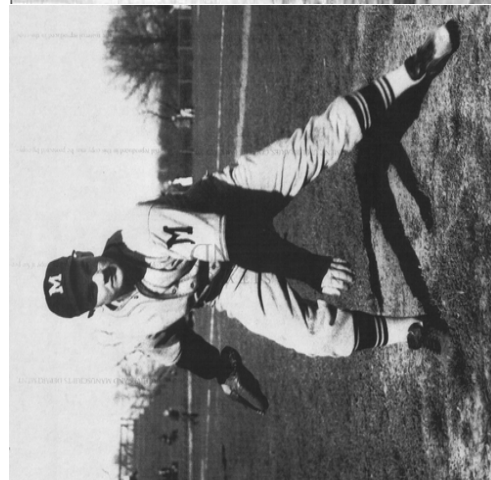
Bob Gruss



Roman Wantuck



Bill Neimeyer



Earl Springer



Joe Mocerri



## Overseas Resting Places of Minor Leaguers Killed in WWII

Name	Service	Country	Cemetery
Alan Wray	US Army	Belgium	Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre
Theodore C. Maillet	US Army	Belgium	Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre
Ernest J. Holbrook	US Army	Belgium	Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Ernest Hrovatic	US Army	Belgium	Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Michael L. Sambolich	USAAF	Belgium	Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Elmer J. Wachtler	US Army	Belgium	Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
Alan S. Grant	USAAF	England	Cambridge Military Cemetery
Luster Pruett	US Army	France	Epinal American Cemetery
John M. "Mason" Smith	USAAF	France	Lorraine American Cemetery, Saint-Avoid
Rodney L. Sooter	USAAF	France	Lorraine American Cemetery, Saint-Avoid
Herman A. Bauer	US Army	France	Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer
Carl H. "Kappy" Scott	US Army	France	Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer
Robert C. Schumkal	US Army	France	Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer
Elmere P. "Elmer" Wright	US Army	France	Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer
Walter E. Lake	US Army	France	United States Military Cemetery, St. Laurent
Jerry Angelich	USAAF	Hawaii	National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu
Edward A. Brock	US Navy	Hawaii	National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu
John T. "Jack" Moller	USAAF	Hawaii	National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu
Harold H. Sherman	USAAF	Hawaii	National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu
Johnny P. Taylor	USMC	Hawaii	National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu
Alvin "Bus" Stiewe	US Army	Italy	Florence American Cemetery, Via Cassia
Paul V. A. Mellblom	US Army	Luxembourg	Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg City
Earl V. "Lefty" Springer	US Army	Luxembourg	Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg City
Charles W. "Chuck" Bowers	US Army	Netherlands	Netherlands American Cemetery, Maargraten
William A. Sarver	US Army	Netherlands	Netherlands American Cemetery, Maargraten
James J. Whitfield	US Army	Philippines	Manila American Cemetery, Fort Bonifacio, Manila
Richard L. Williams	US Army	Philippines	Manila American Cemetery, Fort Bonifacio, Manila
Donald A. Stewart	Can Army	Scotland	Glasgow Western Necropolis
George C. Zwilling	US Army	Tunisia	North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage



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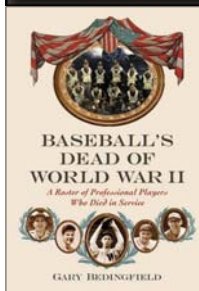
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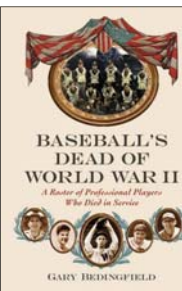
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