

# 70th Anniversary of the 1945 ETO World Series

SPORTS

THE STARS AND STRIPES

SPORTS

Monday, Sept. 10, 1945

## Oise Nine Captures ETO Baseball Crown



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# Baseball in Wartime Newsletter No. 39 Sep/Oct 2015

On the 70th anniversary of the ETO World Series, I wanted to produce the most detailed account of this significant event. Significant because it was the biggest baseball event in Europe during the war years, but also because it was an opportunity for white and African-American players to play alongside, and against, each other. Two years before Jackie Robinson graced the major league diamonds of National League teams in the United States, Negro Leaguers Willard Brown and Leon Day played alongside major leaguers in France and Germany. Furthermore, this integrated team went on to play another integrated team in Italy, as if that were the way baseball was always played. These teams were pioneers of the way baseball is played today, and in trying to produce a highly detailed account, I soon found I couldn't do it before the month of September had been and gone. Therefore, this combined September-October issue is the result of many weeks of detailed research. I hope you enjoy!

## Play Ball!

In September 1945, just four months after the end of the war in Europe and days after the defeat of Japan in the Pacific, the American armed forces staged a spectacular contest to see who would be crowned baseball champions of the European Theater.

During the summer months of 1945, baseball was used by the United States military to occupy the spare time of troops who were eager to get home to their loved ones or otherwise awaiting redeployment to the Pacific. By August, over 200,000 troops were playing the game in France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Britain. Among them were Warren Spahn with the 115th Engineers Group, who'd earned a battlefield commission at Remagen Bridge; Cecil Travis, who suffered frostbite at the Battle of the Bulge with the 76th Infantry Division; Murry Dickson, who'd spent time in a foxhole with General Patton while serving with the 35th Infantry Division; Harry Walker, who'd earned a Bronze Star with the 65th Infantry Division; Ken Trinkle, who'd earned a Bronze Star with the 9th Armored Division during the Battle of the Bulge; Bob Savage, who'd fought through Italy and France with the 3rd Infantry Division; and Earl "Lefty" Johnson, who was awarded a Silver Star and a battlefield commission with the 30th Infantry Division.



Image found at <http://lostimagesofww2.com/>

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## The Road to the Semi-Finals

**A**fter months of competition, began an elimination phase. The first team to qualify for the three-team semi-finals was the 71st Infantry Division Red Circlers. Having won the XX Corps league title at their home in Augsburg, Germany, they defeated the 65th Infantry Division in a Third Army playoff round at Linz, Austria, before clinching the Third Army championship title in a five game series with the 76th Infantry Division Ornavays at Augsburg, including a no-hitter from Ewell Blackwell in the second game. The Red Circlers then had to secure the US Army Ground Forces title by overcoming the 29th Infantry Division in a best-of-five contest. In the first game they beat the 29th Infantry Division, 2-1, at Mannheim, Germany on August 21. Persistent rain following that day meant the series was moved to Soldiers' Field in Nuremberg, Germany, on August 25, where the 71st again defeated the 29th, this time by a score of 3 to 1. The following day the 71st clinched their semi final place with a 6-

3 win.

The 66th Infantry Division Black Panthers, representing the XVI Corps, beat the USAFE champion 9th Air Division Bombers, by a score of 14-2 on August 26 in Marseilles, France. The following day saw a pitching duel between Tom Pullig of the Black Panthers and Rod Sooter of the Bombers, both pitchers yielded five hits and allowed a single run over eight frames, but Pullig carried off the decision when the Black Panthers scored in the ninth, beating the Bombers, 2-1, to earn a semi final place.

The Oise (pronounced "waz") All-Stars, representing the Communications Zone, had finished their regular season with a record of 17 wins and one defeat, overcoming stiff competition from teams like the Seine Base Clowns and the AAC All-Stars before traveling to Exeter, England to play the Navy All-Stars for a semi final place. They won that game 10-0, then beat the Navy, 6-5, on August 27, at their home field in Reims, France to advance to the semi finals. Bobby Keane took the win over Navy pitcher Bill Armour.

### 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Quarter Final Games

| Date         | Location           | Result | Winning Team                      | Losing Team          | Highlights                             |
|--------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Aug 21, 1945 | Mannheim, Germany  | 2-1    | 71 <sup>st</sup> Div Red Circlers | 29 <sup>th</sup> Div | Blackwell allowed 4 hits, struck out 9 |
| Aug 25, 1945 | Nuremberg, Germany | 3-1    | 71 <sup>st</sup> Div Red Circlers | 29 <sup>th</sup> Div | Ayres 2-hitter                         |
| Aug 26, 1945 | Nuremberg, Germany | 6-3    | 71 <sup>st</sup> Div Red Circlers | 29 <sup>th</sup> Div | Olsen struck out 10                    |

### 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Quarter Final Games

| Date         | Location           | Result | Winning Team                       | Losing Team      |
|--------------|--------------------|--------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Aug 26, 1945 | Marseilles, France | 14-2   | 66 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division | 9th Air Division |
| Aug 27, 1945 | Marseilles, France | 1-0    | 66 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division | 9th Air Division |

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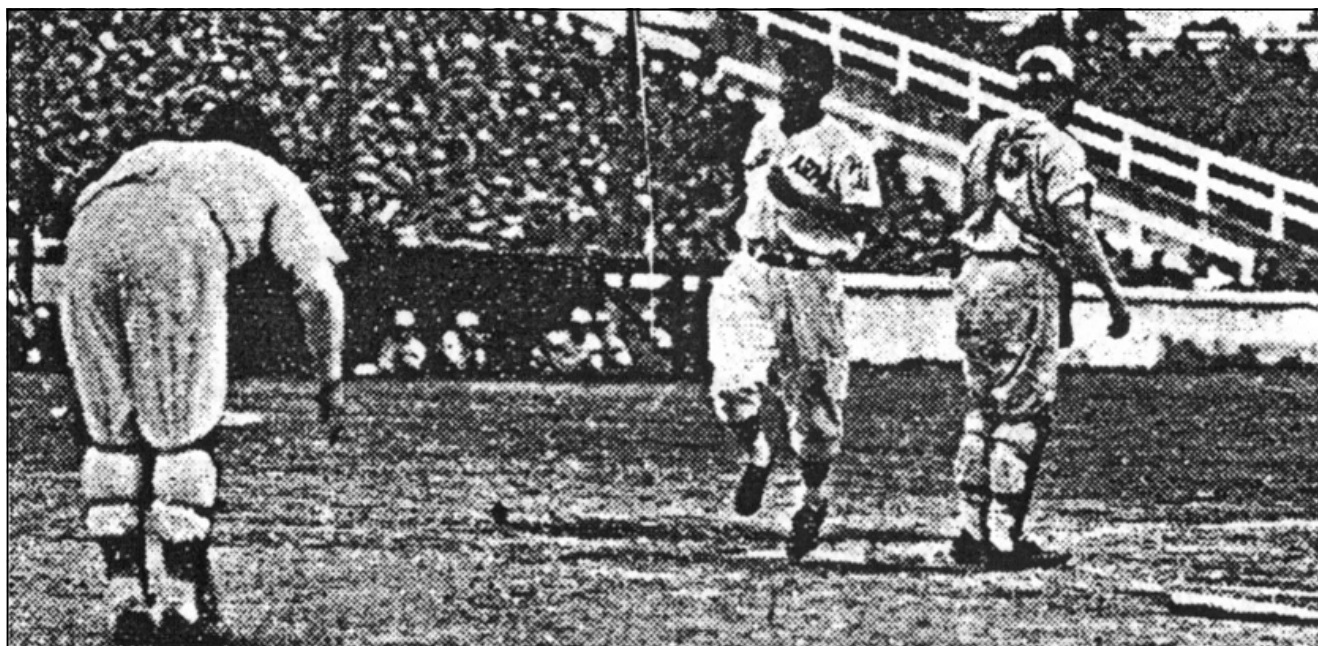
## Oise All-Stars Quarter Final Games

| Date         | Location        | Result | Winning Team   | Losing Team    | Highlights            |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Unknown      | Exeter, England | 10-0   | Oise All-Stars | Navy All-Stars | Nahem shutout         |
| Aug 27, 1945 | Reims, France   | 6-5    | Oise All-Stars | Navy All-Stars | Keane winning pitcher |

## The Semi-Final Games

The semi-final round of the 1945 ETO World Series was a double elimination contest held at Soldiers' Field in Nuremberg, Germany, between the 66th Infantry Division, the 71st Infantry Division and the Oise All-Stars. On August 30, the 71st Infantry Division defeated the Oise All-Stars, 10-6. August 31 was a rainout, so two games were played on September 1. In the first game of the day, the 71st Division defeated the 66th, 8-1. With both the 66th and Oise having been defeated, they faced each other in the second game of the day to decide which team would advance to the World Series. Oise won, 5-4, in 11 innings.

| Date         | Location                            | Result           | Winning Team           | Losing Team            |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Aug 30, 1945 | Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany | 10-6             | 71st Infantry Division | Oise All-Stars         |
| Sep 1, 1945  | Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany | 8-1              | 71st Infantry Division | 66th Infantry Division |
| Sep 1, 1945  | Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany | 5-4 (11 innings) | Oise All-Stars         | 66th infantry Division |



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## The ETO World Series Teams

### 71st Infantry Division Red Circlers



The 71st Infantry Division - known as the Red Circlers for their distinctive shoulder patch - had arrived in France in February 1945, but the origins of the baseball team goes back to the summer of 1944 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Captain Joe Costa, a standout ballplayer at New York Military Academy before the war, was attending officer training at Fort Benning and was the coach of the 5th Infantry Regiment baseball team. By 1944, a vast number of well-known baseball players were stationed at Fort Benning and many played for Costa's club. When overseas deployment came around in 1945, Captain Costa and his players stuck together. By March 1945, they were in combat against the Nazis. After battling German forces through France, the 71st Infantry Division crossed the Rhine river at the end of the month, then the Naab and Danube in April. By May 1945, the division was in Austria where it liberated the Gunkirchen Lager concentration camp. On May 8, 1945, the division had gone further east than any other U.S. Army unit and met up with Russian forces east of Linz.

With the war over, the regimental baseball teams were back in action with a new home field in Augsburg, Germany, previously occupied by the Schwaben-Augsburg soccer team. Captain Costa soon rose from managing the 5th Infantry Regiment team to the 71st Infantry Division squad. The original players were Reds second baseman Benny Zientara, Reds pitcher Ewell Blackwell, Pirates outfielder Johnny Wyrostek, Cardinals catcher Herb Bremer, Texas League outfielder Anse Moore, Piedmont League infielder Bob Ramazzotti and Southern Association outfielder Garland Lawing. By the time the Red Circlers reached the ETO World Series, their line-up had been bolstered with the addition of further players with big league experience. Added to the line-up from the 65th Infantry Division were Cardinals pitcher Al Brazle, Pirates pitcher Ken Heintzleman, Cardinals outfielder Harry Walker and Southern Association pitcher Bill Ayers. The 76th Infantry Division team contributed Giants pitcher Ken Trinkle, while the 1st Infantry Division added Pirates outfielder Maurice Van Robays.

### Oise All-Stars



The Oise All-Stars (remember, it's pronounced "waz") represented the Communications Zone (Com Z), an area that controlled logistical efforts and the flow of supplies and replacements to the combat forces at the front. The team was formed in April 1945, by Captain Robert H. Wormhoudt of San Francisco, California, and Sam Nahem, a bespectacled right-hander who'd pitched 35 games for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1942, prior to entering military service. Starting out with three baseballs and a patch of grass to play on, Wormhoudt and Nahem created a highly respected team that drew crowds of up to 10,000 fans to their games. Furthermore, the team was racially integrated, with two former Negro League stars playing alongside 12 white players. Willard Brown, a power-hitting outfielder with the Kansas City Monarchs provided plenty of offensive punch, while Leon Day, a crafty veteran with the Newark Eagles added depth the team's pitching. The All-Stars also featured Russ Bauers, who, in 1937, was 13-6 with a 2.88 ERA for the Pittsburgh Pirates, winning another 13 games the following year.

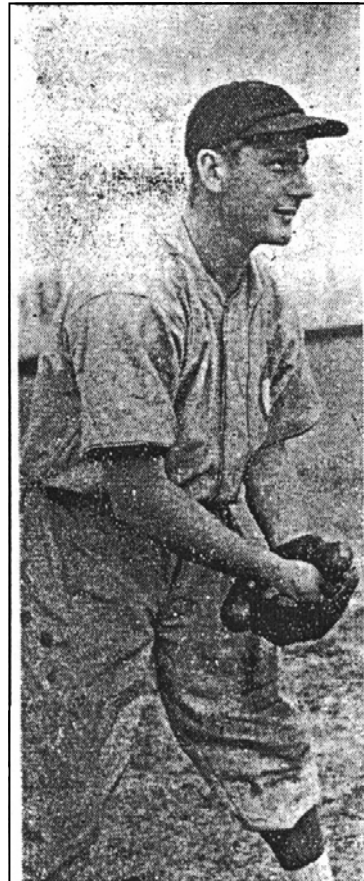
## Meet the 71st Infantry Division Red Circlers

| Name                        | Position | Experience   |
|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| William O. "Bill" Ayers     | RHP      | Played in the Class A1 Southern Association in 1943        |
| Charles F. Bamberger        | 3B       | Played in the Class D PONY League in 1940                  |
| Ewell Blackwell             | RHP      | With the Reds in 1942                                      |
| Alpha E. Brazle             | LHP      | With the Cardinals in 1943                                 |
| Herbert F. Bremer           | C        | With the Cardinals from 1937 to 1939                       |
| Benjamin H. Capp            |          |  |
| Captain Joseph L. Costa     | MGR      | New York Military Academy                                  |
| Ettore P. Giammarco         | OF       | Played in the Class C Western Association in 1942          |
| James W. Gladd              | C        | Played in the Class AA International League in 1942        |
| John R. Haley               | RHP      | Played in the Class AA American Association in 1941        |
| Kenneth A. Heintzelman      | LHP      | With the Pirates from 1937 to 1942                         |
| Daniel L. Kauzlarich        | C/1B     | Played in the Class D West Texas-New Mexico League in 1941 |
| Russell F. Kerns            | SS       | Played in the Class D Northeast Arkansas League in 1941    |
| Garland F. Lawing           | OF       | Played in the Class A1 Southern Association in 1943        |
| Earl W. Lindamood           | LHP/OF   | Played in the Class B Interstate League in 1941            |
| Anselm W. Moore             | 3B       | Played in the Class A1 Texas League in 1942                |
| Andy Moroff                 |          |  |
| Marshall B. Nesmith, Jr.    | OF       | Mississippi State University                               |
| Walter K. "Ole" Olsen       | RHP      | Played in the Class C Middle Atlantic League in 1942       |
| Jackson Powell              | P        |  |
| Robert L. "Bob" Ramazzotti  | SS       | Played in the Class B Piedmont League in 1941              |
| Rudy R. Rundus              | RHP      | Played in the Class B Interstate League in 1942            |
| Walter H. Smith             | C        | Played in the Class C Canadian-American League in 1941     |
| Milton M. Ticco             | 1B       | University of Kentucky. Signed by Reds                     |
| Kenneth W. Trinkle          | P        | With the Giants in 1943                                    |
| Maurice R. Van Robays       | OF       | With the Pirates from 1939 to 1943                         |
| Harry W. Walker             | OF       | With the Cardinals from 1940 to 1943                       |
| John B. "Johnny" Wyrostek   | OF       | With the Pirates in 1942 and 1943                          |
| Benedict J "Benny" Zientara | 2B       | With the Reds in 1941                                      |

# *Red Circle Team Captures Third Army Championship*



Ewell Blackwell, San Dimas, Cal. and former Cincinnati Red hurler and Herb Bremer, Columbus, Ga., St. Louis Cardinal product, perform in the hurling and receiving positions for the 71st Red Circle Team in today's game opening the Southern Germany Series.



Smooth-working Benny Zientara, regular second-baseman, has now fully recovered from the injuries that kept him out of the last two games of the Third Army finals and will be ready to go today.

## Meet the Oise All-Stars

| Name                        | Position       | Experience   |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Emmett J. Altenburg         | OF             | Played in the Class C Virginia League in 1942                                  |
| Russell L. Bauers           | P              | With the Pirates from 1936 to 1941   |
| Willard J. Brown            | OF             | With Negro League Kansas City Monarchs from 1935 to 1944                       |
| Leon Day                    | P              | With the Negro League Newark Eagles  |
| Marvin Gluckson             | P              | Pitched for DeWitt High School in New York and the semi-pro Brooklyn Bushwicks |
| Joe R. Herman               | OF             | Played in the Class D Wisconsin State League in 1940                           |
| Harold G. High              | 2B             | Pottstown High School, Pennsylvania  |
| Anthony J. "Tony" Jaros     | 1B             | University of Minnesota  |
| Robert T. Keane             | RHP            |  |
| Nicholas J. "Nick" Macone   | OF             | Played in the Class C Cape Breton Colliery League in 1939                      |
| Roy T. Marion               | 3B             | Played in the Class A1 Southern Association in 1942                            |
| Samuel R. Nahem             | MGR/<br>RHP/1B | With the Phillies in 1942  |
| Lewis H. "Shine" Richardson | C              | Played in the Class D Kitty League in 1941                                     |
| Frank M. Smayda             | SS             | From Homestead, PA   |





## The Venues

### Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany

Soldiers' Field, renamed by the Americans in 1945, was located at what was originally known as Zeppelin Field, part of the vast Nazi party rally grounds, covering over four square miles in southeast Nuremberg. Positioned in the center of Germany, Nuremberg played a significant role during the rise of the Nazis. It was the sight of the Nuremberg rallies between 1927 and 1938, and a significant military location throughout the war. More than 90 per cent of the city's center was destroyed by Allied strategic bombing and Nuremberg was captured by U.S. forces in April 1945, following house-to-house fighting against determined German resistance.

Soldiers' Field was a vast arena with a 1,200-foot long grandstand and a playing surface that could accommodate a baseball diamond, a soccer field and football field at the same time. "It was beautiful," Harry Walker recalled of the baseball field in a 1994 interview. "The infield was red brick, crushed real fine like sand. And green, green grass. Out beyond center field they had a huge concrete layout where Hitler had all those equipment parades in front of him.



**Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany**



**Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany**



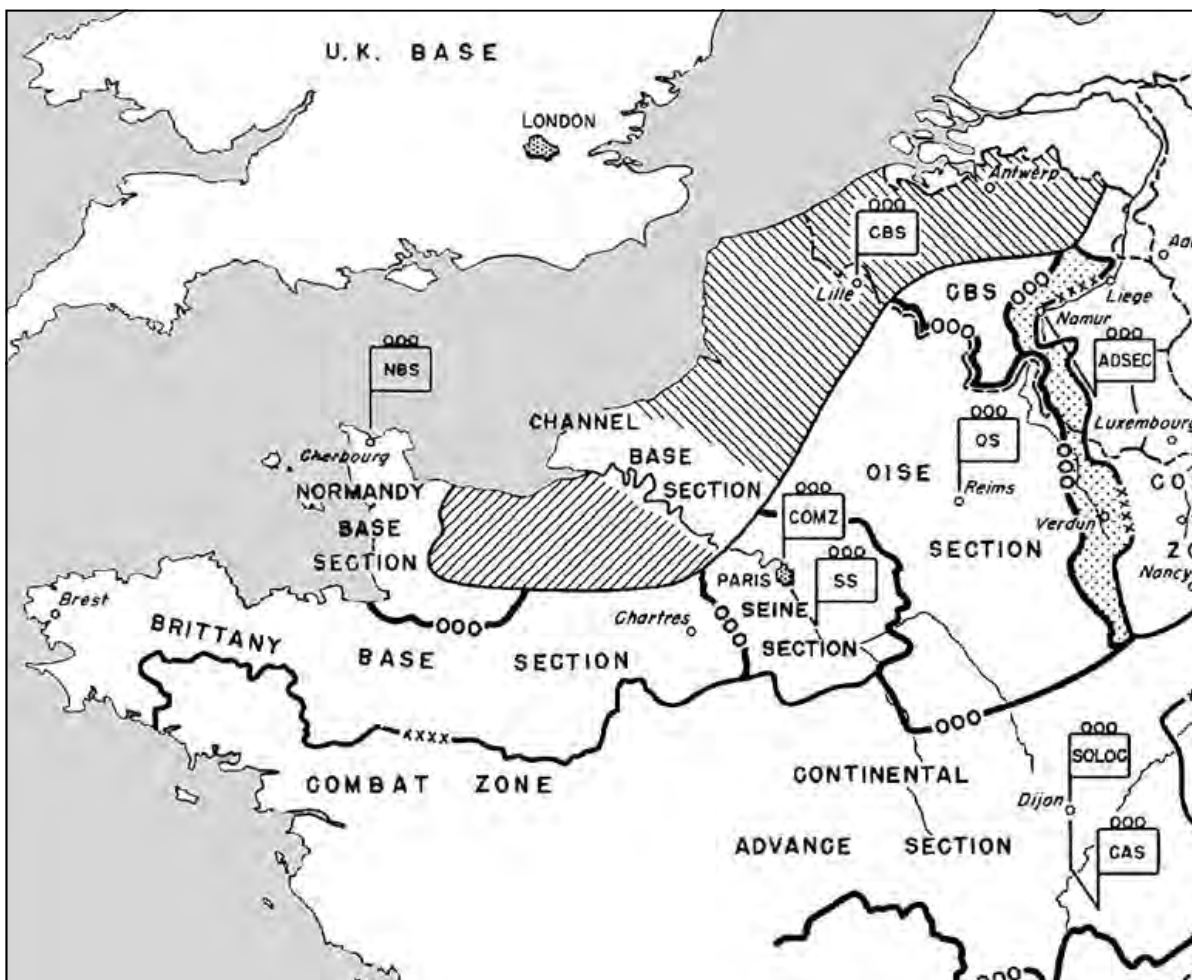
## The Venues

### Headquarters Command Athletic Field, Reims, France

Reims is a city in the Champagne-Ardennes region of France, about 80 miles northeast of Paris. Reims fell to Patton's Third Army on August 29, 1944 and Eisenhower later established his headquarters there. On May 7, 1945, the Allies received the unconditional surrender of the German forces at Reims.

Reims became the sight of the U.S. Army's redeployment camps, all of which were named after American cities. There were 18 of these "tented cities" scattered throughout the Reims area. This area was designated the Oise (pronounced "waz") Intermediate Section by the U.S. Army, named after the local river and the Oise département, a French administrative division that covered much of the area. A strange myth has appeared over the years - that I, myself, have used at one time or another - that Oise stood for Overseas Invasion Service Expedition. I can find absolutely no evidence to support this and maintain that the Oise All-Stars were named for the Oise Intermediate Section. Other Sections in France included the Loire Base Section and the Seine Base Section, home of the formidable Seine Base Clowns, a ball team operated by Pacific Coast Leaguer pitcher Chuck Eisenmann.

The exact location of the Special Services' Headquarters Command Athletic Field at Reims is unknown. We do know it included dugouts, bleachers and a backstop.



## **The 1945 ETO World Series Games**

### **Game 1 - Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany - September 2, 1945**

**Oise All-Stars 2**

**71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division 9**

With 50,000 in attendance, the 1945 ETO World Series got underway in Germany, with Ewell Blackwell on the mound for the Red Circlers, facing Bobby Keane of the Oise All-Stars. Blackwell had been suffering from strep throat the week prior to the game but was well enough to play.

The 71<sup>st</sup> scored a couple of runs off Keane in the first inning but there was no further score until the fifth when Benny Zientara and Harry Walker got on base and were driven home on a single by Johnny Wyrostek, who came home on a couple of errors to make the scoreline 5-0.

Oise scored in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning when Nick Macone doubled and Lew Richardson drove him in with a single. Emmett Altenberg added another run for Oise in the top of the ninth, but the Red Circlers responded in the bottom of the inning when Blackwell singled off Marv Gluckson who had replaced Keane. Bob Ramazzotti advanced him on a sacrifice, Zientara walked and Wyrostek singled to score Blackwell. Wyrostek stole second and Garland Lawing's double scored him and Ramazzotti. Lawing came home on a wild throw to make the final score, 9-2.

Blackwell went the distance, allowed five hits and struck out nine.

### **Game 2 - Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany - September 3, 1945**

**Oise All-Stars 2**

**71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division 1**

In front of 45,000 fans, Leon Day handcuffed the Red Circlers to tie the series at one game apiece. With the game scoreless after five innings, Joe Herman singled for Oise and Roy Marion drew a walk. Willard Brown then singled to score Herman. In the seventh, Emmett Altenburg tripled to right-center and Sam Nahem scored him with a double to the same spot. The only Red Circler run came in the eighth when Harry Walker doubled, scoring Benny Zientara. With the tying run at second, Day struck out Wyrostek to end the inning.

Day struck out 10, allowed four hits and walked two. Tony Jaros had three doubles on the day, while Nahem, playing first base hit a pair of doubles.

Immediately after the game, both teams left by plane for Reims.

## **The 1945 ETO World Series Games**

**Game 3 - Headquarters Command Athletic Field, Reims, France - September 6, 1945**

**71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division 1**

**Oise All-Stars 2**

Game 3 produced a thrilling pitching duel between the Red Circlers' Ewell Blackwell and the All-Stars Sam Nahem. The scoreless tie was broken in the bottom of the fourth when a grounder by Willard Brown was booted by Red Circlers' shortstop Russ Kerns. Tony Jaros then singled Brown to second and both runners scored on a double to deep left field by Nick Macone. The Red Circlers' managed to score a run off Nahem in the sixth when Kerns doubled and scored on a single by Johnny Wyrostek, but Nahem struck out Garland Lawing to end the inning and fought off further threats to secure the victory. Blackwell, who suffered the loss, had allowed just three hits over the nine innings, while walking one and striking out eight. Nahem allowed four hits, struck out six and walked three.

**Game 4 - Headquarters Command Athletic Field, Reims, France - September 7, 1945**

**71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division 5**

**Oise All-Stars 0**

The Red Circlers tied the series at two game each when Bill Ayers shutout Oise, 5-0. The Red Circlers opened the scoring in the third with a home run from Harry Walker with Bob Ramazzotti aboard. They scored a further two in the fourth when Johnny Wyrostek and Garland Lawing doubled, followed by a Jim Gladd single. Leon Day was replaced by Russ Bauers in the fourth, allowing the Red Circlers fifth run in the sixth Gladd walked and Ayers and Ramazzotti singled.

Ayers allowed just five hits and not an Oise runner got passed second base. The Red Circlers victory meant the series would return to Nuremberg for the fifth and deciding game.

Johnny Wyrostek singled to centerfield but was thrown out trying to stretch it to a double. In the bottom of the last frame, Macone singled and Smayda bunted to Blackwell who made a poor throw to second allowing both runners to reach. On the next pitch, Gladd threw wildly to second and Macone advanced to third, but was thrown out at the plate, Harry Walker to Blackwell to Gladd. Richardson then drove the next pitch to deep center to score Smayda and win the game.

## The 1945 ETO World Series Games

### Game 5 - Soldiers' Field, Nuremberg, Germany - September 8, 1945

71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division 1

Oise All-Stars 2

With 50,000 fans in the stands at Soldiers' Field, the underdog Oise All-Stars clinched the 1945 ETO World Series championship as Lew Richardson drove in Frank Smayda with the winning run in the bottom of the ninth.

Oise opened the scoring in the fourth when Tony Jaros, with two out, singled off Ewell Blackwell. Nick Macone doubled and Jaros scored when catcher Jim Gladd let the ball get away from him. The Red Circlers tied the game in the sixth when Anselm Moore double to left and advanced to third on Benny Zientara's sacrifice, scoring on Blackwell's single. In the top of the ninth, with two out, Johnny Wyrostek singled to centerfield but was thrown out trying to stretch it to a double. In the bottom of the last frame, Macone singled and Smayda bunted to Blackwell who made a poor throw to second allowing both runners to reach. On the next pitch, Gladd threw wildly to second and Macone advanced to third, but was thrown out at the plate, Harry Walker to Blackwell to Gladd. Richardson then drove the next pitch to deep center to score Smayda and win the game.



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# The 1945 ETO World Series Games

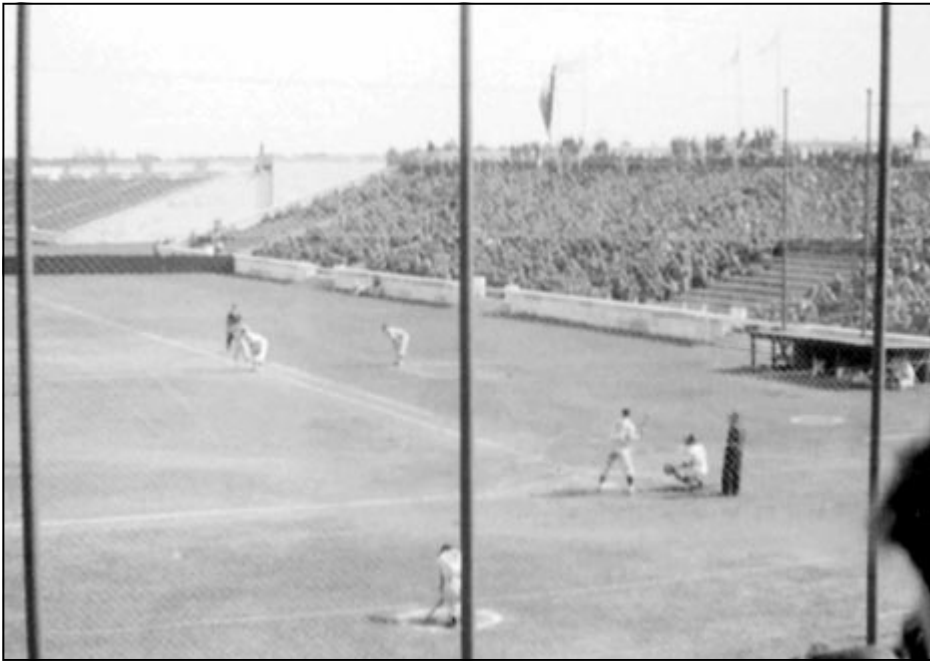
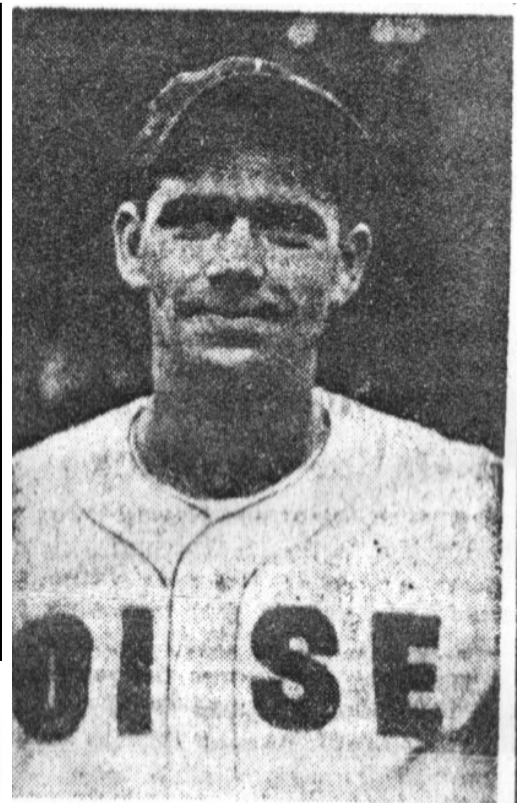
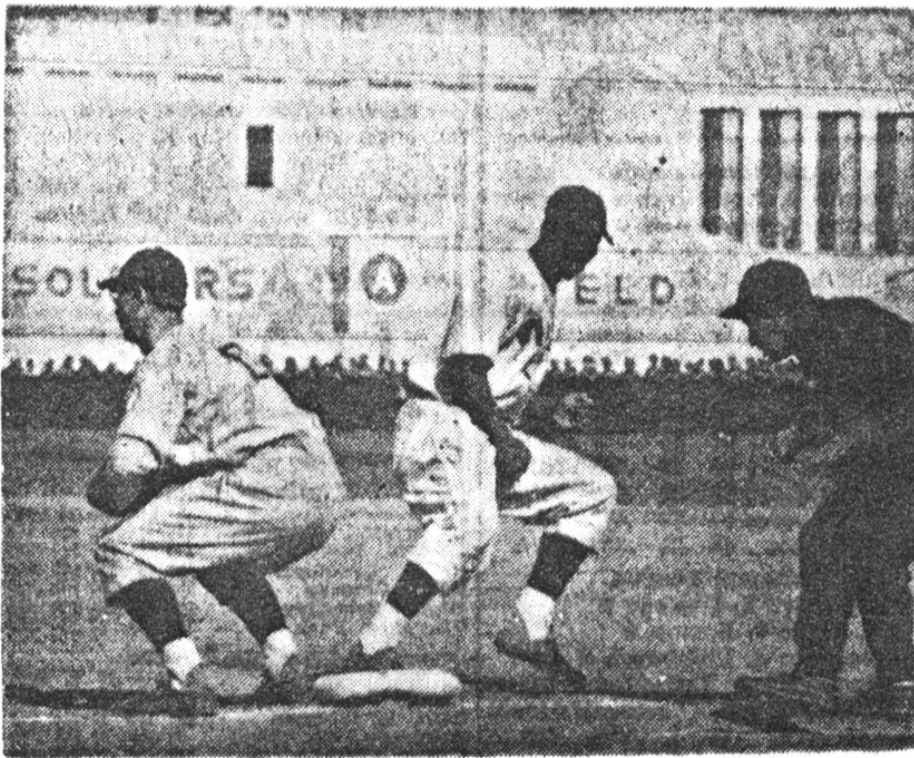


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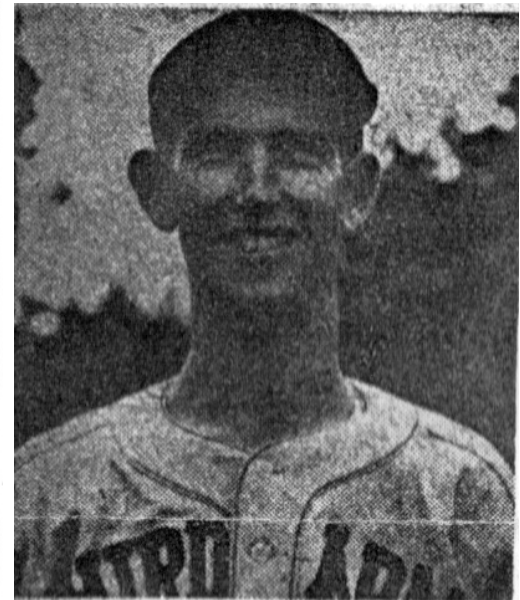


**Bobby Keane**



—Photo by Dick Crampton

**Willie Brown, short stop for the Oise team, is shown as he beat out a throw from Ewell Blackwell to first baseman Maurice Van Robays in the first inning of the Oise-3rd Army ball game at Soldiers Field, Nurnberg. Oise won the game and the ET title by the score of 2-1.**



*Ewell Blackwell*

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# Taking on the Mediterranean Champs

By winning the ETO World Series, the Oise All-Stars earned an opportunity to travel to Italy to play the Mediterranean Theater champions, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division Buffaloes, an all-black division. Ewell Blackwell, Ken Heintzelman, Garland Lawing, Maurice Van Robays, Harry Walker and Bennie Zientara of the Red Circlers also made the trip with the Oise team.

## 92nd Infantry Division Buffaloes

| Name                       | Position | Experience                    |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| R.S. Pritchett             | P        | born Alabama 1922             |
| Bob Branson                | P        | semi-pro Spartanburg Sluggers |
| Willis "Red" Applegate     | P        | Newark Eagles                 |
| Johnny L. Hundley          | 2B       | Cleveland Buckeyes            |
| J. Quincy "Bud" Barbee     | 1B       | Baltimore Elite Giants        |
| James E. "Joe" Greene      | C        | Kansas City Monarchs          |
| Gonsalvo C. Collins        | LF       | Born South Carolina 1922      |
| Joseph J. Siddle           | 1B       | Kansas City Monarchs          |
| Robert A. "Bobby" Givehand |          | Born Missouri 1918            |
| Isaac L. Wheeler           |          | Born Louisiana 1913           |
| Tom Davis                  | P        |                               |
| Cecil Walker               | MGR      |                               |
|                            |          |                               |

Following players joined the 92nd Infantry Division team when they played the ETO champions in September 1945

|                         |    |   |
|-------------------------|----|---|
| Leon I. McCaskill       | 3B | Played at University of North Carolina (62nd TCG) |
| Henry Olshewsky         | P  |   |
| Daniel J. Perlmutter    | 1B | Post-war minor leaguer                            |
| Chuck Frank             | P  | Played for the Peninsular Base Section            |
| Paul Lang(e)            | P  | Minor leaguer                                     |
| Frank Fot               |    |   |
| Jake Yentis             | SS | Played for the 3141st Signal Service Group        |
| Milburn J. Ponder       | 2B | Played for the 3141st Signal Service Group        |
| Rufus C. "R.C." Parsons | OF | Played for the 2nd Bomb Group                     |
| Roger Moore             | C  | Played for the 62nd TCG                           |

# Taking on the Mediterranean Champs

## **Game 1 - Yankee Stadium, Leghorn, Italy- September 24, 1945**

**Oise All-Stars 19**

**92nd Infantry Division 6**

In front of a crowd of 20,000, R.S. Pritchett, Buffalo hurler, faced just five batters before giving way to Bob Branson in the opening frame. After walking the first two batters, Tony Jaros homered, followed by singles from Johnny Wrostek and Maurice Van Robays. Leon Day went seven innings for Oise, striking out nine and giving up six hits.

## **Game 2 - Yankee Stadium, Leghorn, Italy- September 25, 1945**

**Oise All-Stars 20**

**92nd Infantry Division 5**

In another lopsided game, played in windy condition before an ever-decreasing crowd, Oise scored two in the first inning and four in the second, followed by 10 runs in the third on nine hits, three walks and an error, Van Robays starting the inning off with a home run into the right field stands. Chuck Frank lasted three innings for the Buffaloes, allowing 16 runs, 14 hits and six walks. Bobby Keane went the distance for Oise, allowing nine hits and walking four. Harry Walker had a perfect day at the plate with two homers, a single and two walks.

## **Game 3 - Yankee Stadium, Leghorn, Italy- September 26, 1945**

**Oise All-Stars 13**

**92nd Infantry Division 3**

Oise clinched the series in three straight games with a 13-3 win before 4,000 fans. Buffalo starter Willis Applegate lasted just four batters, allowing the first to reach base on an error then walking the next three. Henry Olschewsky came in to pitch and a further four runs scored before the inning was over. A further six runs were scored in the fourth. Ewell Blackwell allowed eight hits, struck out six and walked none.

Colonel Roger Whitman presented the victors with a cup, along with wrist watches and gold medals for each player. The Buffaloes received fountain pens and silver medals. A return series was played in France the following month.

## **Post-WWII ETO World Series Games**

The GI World Series in Europe continued after the war at least to the mid-1950s. The 60th Infantry Division Go-Devils were 1946 champions. For the following three years it was the 28th TT Battalion Tornados who held the crown. The 2nd Armored Division Artillery were victors in 1951, the Heidelberg Hawks in 1952 and the 39th Infantry Regiment Falcons in 1955 and 1956.

## Post-War Lives of the 1945 ETO World Series Players

### 71st Infantry Division Red Circlers

#### William O. "Bill" Ayers

Ayers rejoined the Atlanta Crackers in 1946 and won 21 games. He made 13 appearances for the New York Giants in 1947 for an 0-3 record and continued to pitch in the minors until 1953. He later worked as a route mail clerk for the U.S. Postal Service and was posthumously inducted in the Coweta [County] Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, having suffered a fatal heart attack while playing golf in Newnan, Georgia in September 1980, aged 60.

#### Charles F. Bamberger

Bamberger, who had played just a single season of minor league baseball in the PONY League before military service, did not return to professional baseball after the war. He worked as a dock builder in Staten Island and retired in 1977. Charles passed away, aged 94, at the Ocean Medical Center in Brick, New Jersey in January 2015. His younger brother, George, had a brief major league career as a pitcher and later spent ten seasons as the Orioles' pitching coach and managed the Milwaukee Brewers and New York Mets.

#### Ewell Blackwell

Blackwell was back with the Reds in 1946. He won 22 games the following year and pitched back-to-back no-hitters. A six-time all-star, Blackwell continued to pitch in the majors until 1955. Blackwell settled in Tampa, the Reds' spring training home, after his playing days, where he owned a liquor store. He later joined a distillery company as a salesman, moving to South Carolina. Blackwell, who was elected to the Reds Hall of Fame in 1960, died of cancer, aged 74, in Hendersonville, North Carolina

in October 1996.

#### Alpha E. Brazle

Brazle was back with the Cardinals in 1946 and won 10 games or more for five consecutive seasons. He remained with the Cardinals until 1954. He was 60 when he died of a heart attack in Grand Junction, Colorado in October 1973.

#### Herbert F. Bremer

Bremer, aged 32, was back with Little Rock in 1946, appearing in 87 games and batting .295. It was his only post-war season in professional baseball. Bremer was 66 when he passed away in Columbus, Georgia in November 1979.

#### Joseph L. Costa

Captain Costa, a graduate of Notre Dame, returned home to Metuchen, New Jersey, after the war, and rejoined his brother in running the family business, Costa's Ice Cream. He also served on the Board of Trustees for the New York Military Academy and as mayor of Metuchen in the 1950s. He retired to North Palm Beach Florida.

#### Ettore P. Giammarco

Giammarco returned to the minor leagues in 1946, spending most of the season with Jacksonville in the South Atlantic League but also playing three games with the International League's Jersey City Giants. He continued to play in the minors until 1955. Giammarco passed away in Newburgh, New York, in July 2009, aged 87.

#### James W. Gladd

Gladd was back with Jersey City in 1946 and made his big league debut with the New York Giants in September. It was to be his only taste of the major leagues but he continued to play in the Pacific Coast

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League until 1955, missing the entire 1951 season when called back to military service and serving in Korea. Gladd was 55 when he passed away in Long Beach, California in November 1977.

## **John R. Haley**

Haley returned to professional baseball, albeit briefly, in 1946, appearing in 13 games for the International League's Newark Bears. Haley was just 37 when he passed away in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in July 1952.

## **Kenneth A. Heintzelman**

Heintzelman was back with the Pirates in 1946, posting an 8-12 record in 32 appearances. He continued to pitch in the majors until 1952, with his best season coming with the Phillies in 1949, when he was 17-10 with a 3.02 ERA. Recalling his ETO baseball playing days in an interview in the 1990s, Heintzelman said, "We weren't in as good shape as we'd been when we were playing back in the states. We had to do our own jobs, and we did all that marching around, then when everyone else had time off, we had to go out and practice and then play ball. And reflecting on the ballparks in Europe, he said, "Except for Nuremberg, they were small fields. We sort of had to build most of the places we played in from scratch. Like Augsburg. But that was part of our job. See, baseball was our duty. We had to play over there. So we played and made the most of it. I'm not saying it wasn't fun, but it was a job, too." Heintzelman whose son, Tom, was a major league infielder in the 1970s, passed away in St. Peters, Missouri in August 2000, aged 84.

## **Russell F. Kerns**

Kerns - not to be confused with Russ Kerns, who had one pinch hit appearance for the Detroit Tigers in 1945 - returned to the minors in 1946 with the Shelby Cubs of the Tri-State League. Kerns joined the International

League's Baltimore Orioles in 1950, where he remained for four seasons. He finished his playing days in 1955 with the Richmond Virginians. Kerns worked as an inspector for Boeing Vertol and retired in 1989, moving from Philadelphia to Largo, Florida. He passed away, aged 79, at the Largo Medical Center in August 2001.

## **Garland F. Lawing**

Lawing was back in professional baseball in 1946 and played two games for the Cincinnati Reds before being traded to the New York Giants in June, playing a further eight games before the season was over. Lawing spent the rest of his career in the minors, retiring after the 1954 season. He was 78 when he passed away in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina in September 1996.

## **Earl W. Lindamood**

Lindamood was back pitching for Wilmington in 1946, winning 12 games that year and the following. He retired from baseball after the 1948 season and was 86 when he passed away in Harrisonburg, Virginia in January 2006.

## **Anselm W. Moore**

Moore made his big league debut with the Detroit Tigers in April 1946 and played 51 games that year. The remainder of his playing career was played in the minors, retiring after the 1953 season. Moore was 76 when he passed away in Pearl, Mississippi in October 1993.

## **Marshall B. Nesmith, Jr.**

Nesmith, a former Mississippi State player, began a brief minor league career in 1946, playing for the Leavenworth Braves of the Western Association. Nesmith was a teacher at Hazlehurst High School in Mississippi until 1976, and then Union Academy until 1992. He was 91 when he passed away in Jackson, Mississippi in

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August 2011.

## Walter K. "Ole" Olsen

Olsen returned to the Brooklyn Dodgers organization in 1946. He won 17 games with Santa Barbara in the California League in 1948 and retired after the 1951 season. Olsen was 87 when he passed away in Santa Barbara, California in May 2011.

## Robert L. "Bob" Ramazzotti

Ramazzotti made his big league debut upon his return from military service in 1946, appearing in 62 games for the Brooklyn Dodgers. "It was kind of strange, going from being a soldier of occupation to a baseball player and back again," Ramazzotti recalled in a 1994 interview, "But like anything else you do, it becomes a job and you make do." He continued to play in the major leagues until 1953, but his career was hampered by bad fortune and a string of serious injuries. Ramazzotti worked most of his post-baseball life as an inspector at a ball bearing manufacturer in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He passed away in Altoona, aged 83, in February 2000.

## Rudy R. Rundus

Rundus returned to the minors in 1946 and won 16 games for St. Joseph in the Western Association, but the following year was to be his last. His older brother, Joe, who had pitched four years in the minors before the war, had been stationed in England and played with the Eighth Air Force All-Stars in 1943. Rudy Rundus was 80 when he passed away in Belleville, Kansas in May 2002.

## Milton M. Ticco

Ticco, a University of Kentucky first baseman and All-American basketball player, had been signed by the Cincinnati Reds before military service, and began a minor league career in 1946 with Columbia in the South Atlantic League. He continued to play in the minors until breaking his wrist in 1952. He also played pro basketball in the American

Basketball League. Ticco was 79 when he passed away in Greenville, South Carolina in January 2002.

## Kenneth W. Trinkle

Trinkle was back with the Giants in 1946 and appeared in a National League high 48 games that year and a league high 62 games in 1947. He continued to pitch in the majors until 1949 and in the AAA minors until 1951. Trinkle was 56 when he passed away in Paoli, Indiana in May 1976.

## Maurice R. Van Robays

Van Robays, a five season veteran before military service, returned for one more year in the big leagues in 1946, playing 59 games for the Pirates. He continued to play in the Pacific Coast league until 1950, and passed away in Detroit, Michigan, aged 50, in March 1965.

## Harry W. Walker

Walker rejoined the Cardinals in 1946. "When I came back, it was as though I'd never left," Walker later recalled in an interview. "I wouldn't want to do it again, but I feel like it was one of the best things I ever did."

Despite winning the National League batting title in 1947, he is best remembered for an at-bat that came against the Boston Red Sox at Sportsman's Park in St. Louis in Game 7 of the 1946 World Series. With the score tied, 3-3, with two out in the eighth inning and Enos Slaughter on first base, Walker hit a drive to left-center field that appeared to be a single. But center fielder Leon Culberson, replacing the injured Dom DiMaggio, made a weak relay throw to shortstop Johnny Pesky, who hesitated before throwing home. Slaughter's "mad dash" scored the Series-winning run as Walker, who hit .412 in the Series, wound up with a double.

Walker briefly managed the Cardinals in

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1955, then the Pirates from 1965 to 1967, and the Astros from 1968 to 1972. From 1979 to 1986, Walker was head coach at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, leading the Blazers to the Sun Belt Conference's North Division championship in 1981 and 1982. Walker passed away in August 1999 in Birmingham, Alabama, aged 82.

## **John B. "Johnny" Wyrostek**

Wyrostek returned to the Phillies in 1946 and continued to play in the big leagues until 1954, making the National League all-star team in 1950 and 1951. Wyrostek worked as a carpenter after his baseball career and served as mayor of Fairmont City, Illinois for 19 years. He died of cancer in December 1986 in St. Louis, Missouri, aged 67.

## **Benedict J "Benny" Zientara**

Zientara was back with the Reds in 1946 and played a career-high 117 games in 1947. His last season in the majors was in 1948 and he went on to play for Syracuse in the International League until 1955. After managing in the minors for a few years, Zientara scouted for the Indians and Cubs. He passed away in Lake Elsinore, California in April 1985, aged 67.

## **Oise All-Stars**

### **Emmett J. Altenburg**

Altenburg, who had played three seasons in the minors before military service, did not return to professional baseball after the war. He set up the Altenburg & Son Cement Construction Company in Barrington, Illinois and coached Little League teams during the 1950s and 1960s. Altenburg was 77 when he passed away in Barrington in November 1990.

### **Russell L. Bauers**

Bauers, who had pitched six seasons for the Pirates before military service, was released

by the club in March 1946. He signed with the Cubs in July and made 15 appearances before the end of the season. Bauers spent 1947 and 1948 with Los Angeles in the Pacific Coast League and the next two years with Baltimore in the International League, making a return to the big leagues for one final appearance with the Browns in May 1950. Bauers continued to pitch in the minors until 1954, when he was aged 40. Bauers died of heart failure in Hines, Illinois in January 1995, aged 80.

### **Willard J. Brown**

Brown was back with the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs in 1946 and signed with the St. Louis Browns in July 1947. He appeared in 21 games and on August 13, he hit the first home run by a black player in the American League. Brown never really got on track in the big leagues and was back with the Monarchs in 1948. After playing in Mexico in 1951, he played in the minors, mostly in the Texas League, until 1956, by which time he was 41 years old. After baseball, Brown worked in the steel industry in Houston, Texas. He passed away in August 1996 in Houston, aged 81. In February 2006, Willard Brown was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

### **Leon Day**

Day returned to the Negro League's Newark Eagles after military service, pitching a no-hitter in his first game against the Philadelphia Stars. He played in Mexico the following two years and in the minor leagues from 1951 to 1953, winning 13 games with Scranton in 1952. Day later worked as a bartender in Newark, New Jersey and a security guard in Baltimore, Maryland. He was 78 when he passed away in Baltimore on March 14, 1995, six days after being elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

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## Marvin Gluckson

Gluckson was 47 when he passed away in September 1967. He is buried at Mount Ararat Cemetery in East Farmingdale, New York.

## Joe R. Herman

Herman, who had played three seasons in the minors before military service, did not return to organized baseball after the war.

## Harold G. High

A pre-war standout baseball, basketball and football star at Pottstown High School in Pennsylvania, High had been attending Penn State University before military service. He returned to Penn State after the war and attained his degree in commerce and finance in 1947. High was inducted in the Pottstown Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.

## Anthony J. "Tony" Jaros

Jaros played varsity baseball and basketball at the University of Minnesota before military service and began a minor league career in 1946 in the New York Giants organization. He was 26 years old his rookie year and batted .319 with the Northern League's St. Cloud Rox. Jaros also played professional basketball from 1946 to 1951 with the Chicago Stags and Minneapolis Lakers, winning two championships with the Lakers. He later owned a well-known bar in northern Minneapolis. Jaros was 75 when he passed away in Minneapolis in April 1995. Tony Jaros' River Garden bar still bears his name.

## Robert T. Keane

Keane, who had moved from Ireland to the United States in 1929, aged 7, began a minor league career after military service in 1946. He was 23-4 for a league-best performance with the Clinton Blues of the Tobacco State League his rookie year, but, due to a sore arm, pitched only 10 games for the Sanford Spinners of the same league

the following season. Keane's minor league career ended with Sanford in 1948, but he remained in Clinton, North Carolina to play and manage amateur teams. Keane was 79 when he passed away in Clinton in February 2002.

## Nicholas J. "Nick" Macone

Macone, who played two seasons in the minors before military service, signed with the St. Louis Browns in 1946, but was released by the club before the season began. Returning home to Concord, Massachusetts, he played semi-pro baseball with the Lincoln Mohawks, helping them to four consecutive league titles between 1947 and 1950. After 20 years of service, Macone retired from the Polaroid Corporation as a mechanical supervisor in 1982 and tended his 40-acre farm in Concord. He was 89 when he passed away in December 2007.

## Roy T. Marion

Marion, who had four years of minor league baseball under his belt before military service, returned to Nashville Vols in 1946 and batted .314 in 85 games. He continued to play in the minors until 1949. Marion was 91 when he passed away in Kirkwood, Missouri in January 2011.

## Samuel R. Nahem

When Nahem returned from military service at the beginning of 1946, he was 30 years old and released by the Phillies. He began practicing law in New York, while pitching for the semi-pro Brooklyn Bushwicks at the weekend. In November 1946, the Bushwicks represented the United States in the Inter-American Tournament held in Caracas, Venezuela. Against teams representing Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba, Nahem won three and lost one. He clinched the tournament title for the Bushwicks with a 7-6 win over Cuba. Nahem was again with the Bushwicks in 1947, and on October 12, he

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pitched them to a 3-0 victory over the World Series All-Stars before a capacity crowd at Dexter Park. Against a line-up that included Eddie Stanky, Ralph Branca and Phil Rizzuto, Nahem allowed just one hit, an infield roller by Larry Miggins. It was his seventeenth win of the season.

In two seasons with the Bushwicks, Nahem was 33 and 6 with an 11-inning no-hitter. And on April 25, 1948 he hurled his last game for the semi-pro team and returned to the Philadelphia Phillies. He pitched 28 games for a 3-3 record and 7.02 ERA, receiving his release from the club on September 20.

On October 17, 1948, Nahem appeared for the second time in a game between the Brooklyn Bushwicks and the World Series All-Stars, but this time he was on the All-Stars team along with Eddie Stanky, Larry Doby and Tommy Holmes. The All-Stars were beaten by the Bushwicks, 1-0, in a marathon extra-inning game, with Nahem going the distance and yielding the unearned winning run in the bottom of the 14th.

Nahem was back with the Bushwicks in 1949 with a 10-7 record. Nahem and his wife, Elsie Hanson, moved to Berkeley, California in 1964. For 25 years, he worked for Chevron Chemical, where he became a head operator and was also a union leader of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers of America. In his latter years, Nahem volunteered at the University Art Museum in Berkeley. He was 88 when he passed away at his home in Berkeley in April 2004.

## Lewis H. "Shine" Richardson

Richardson was 29 when he returned to the minors in 1946. He played five seasons with Youngstown in the Mid-Atlantic League and finished his professional career as a player-manager with Cordele in 1953. He

returned to his home in Lewisburg, Kentucky and organized the first Little League and Babe Ruth teams in Logan County. He later operated Shines Signs in nearby Russellville. Richardson was 87 when he passed away at the Auburn Health Care facility in Auburn, Kentucky in January 2004.

## Frank M. Smayda

Smayda began a brief career in the minors in 1946, playing three seasons with the Oil City Refiners of the Mid-Atlantic League. Smayda, who worked at the Oil City Gas Plant from 1949 to 1982, was 83 when he passed away in Franklin, Pennsylvania in June 2004.



Harry "The Hat" Walker



**STEPHEN AMBROSE**



**HISTORICAL TOURS**

# **BASEBALL GOES TO WAR**

## **JULY 2016**

As you know, baseball was an integral part of the war effort both on the Home Front and on the battlefield. Over 400 Major Leaguers and nearly 4,500 Minor Leaguers served in the US military in WWII. While books have been written, panels conducted, and a few specials on TV mention this service, many baseball fans have yet to experience exactly where these actions of sacrifice took place. Now there is an opportunity to see first-hand where players fought, served, and died on the fields of Europe with both military historians and baseball historians. The famed Stephen Ambrose Tours is conducting a one time "Baseball at War" tour which combines both the military history and the "National Pastime" from London to Hitler's Eagle's Nest. As you know, Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose was the exceptional author who made WWII and the regular GIs come alive in his many books, and the shows he advised for such as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Band of Brothers."

If you wish to learn more about this July 2016 adventure visit:

<http://stephenambrosetours.com/tour/wwii-baseball-tour/>

Sincerely,

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