

Living Major League Veterans of WWII

As we begin a New Year, I felt it was time to look back and say, thank you, to the 73 former big league players, managers and coaches who served during World War II and are still with us. In the region of 1,300 players with major league experience (either before, during or after the war) were in the military between 1941 and 1945. Some were in the prime of their career. Others were starting their journey through the bush leagues, while others would not begin that journey until the war ended.

At the beginning of the 1940s, baseball was truly America's pastime. Major league teams drew capacity crowds on a daily basis and nearly 5,000 minor league players were fine-tuning their skills with 287 teams competing in 43 leagues spread across the country. But as Japan began to fulfil its territorial ambitions in the Pacific and German troops swarmed through Europe at an alarming rate, those halcyon days would soon be gone as the United States began preparing to defend itself in the face of inevitable war. More than 400 players in the major leagues, together with 4,000 minor leaguers, gave up their jobs, swapped flannels for military uniforms and went to war.

Of the 73 former big league players, managers and coaches who are still living, the youngest is Don Hasenmayer, who turned 88 last April, and the oldest is Mike Sandlock, who turned 100 last October. What I



find hard to believe, however, is how little information there is available on these heroes of our game. I have a few of their biographies on my website, but the majority appear to have never really had their stories told. As a result, I have decided to produce this edition of the newsletter, featuring brief biographies on them all. So, here are the 73 former major league players, managers and coaches who served in the military during World War II and are, thankfully, still with us. There are three Hall of Famers, four African-Americans, one who made it to the big leagues as a manager and two who got there as coaches. Some served for a few months, while others were gone for as long as four years. They were in the Navy, Army, Army Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. They served in the United States, Europe, the Pacific and the Far East. On land, at sea and in the air. As citizen soldiers, they made sacrifices that are, to our generation, completely unimaginable. Gentlemen, I salute you!

Former Philadelphia Athletics first baseman, Dick Adams, has been a musician all his life and still tickles the ivories with Billy Harper's Band in San Diego. At 95 years of age, Dick had two New Year's Eve gigs at a senior retirement facility near Fallbrook.

The old first baseman maintains a positive outlook on life. "I'm on the up-swing," he recently told baseball historian Bill Swank, with a laugh. "When you reach the top of your swing, that's it. You're out."

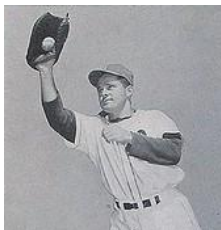
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Dick Adams

Aged 95

Philadelphia Athletics (1947)

Army Air Force



Before the war, Dick Adams was playing minor league baseball during the summer and working as a professional musician during the off-season. He entered military service with the Army Air Force at Santa Ana, California, in 1942, and played in the band as well as first base on the ball team. Staff Sergeant Adams

was discharged from service in December 1945. He played 37 games with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1947, his only year in the big leagues. Adams attended college during the baseball off-season and graduated with a teaching credential. At the end of the 1953 season - his tenth in professional baseball - he began a 26-year career within the Whittier, California, School District where he served as the baseball coach, basketball coach and athletic director at three high schools - Santa Fe, La Serna and Monte Vista. Following retirement from teaching, he moved to Fallbrook, California, and spent 25 years in a popular North San Diego County swing band led by Carl Hoffman, a retired Marine Corps brigadier general. For the past ten years, he has played piano with Billy Harper's Band.

Bob Addis

Aged 90

Boston Braves (1950-1951), Chicago Cubs (1952-1953),

Pittsburgh Pirates (1953)

Marine Corps



Bob Addis was playing minor league baseball when he enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 1944. He went to boot camp in San Diego, then artillery training in Guam, where he played for the Third Marine Division baseball team. He later served with the occupation forces in China and was discharged in 1946. He made his major league debut with the Boston Braves in September 1950, and played four years, returning to the

minors until 1956. Addis was later baseball coach and athletic director at Euclid (Ohio) High School, leading the team to a state championship in 1963. He was inducted into the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1975.

Vic Barnhart

Aged 93

Pittsburgh Pirates (1944 to 1946)

Army



Vic Barnhart had three seasons of minor league ball under his belt when he entered military service in January 1943. A stomach ailment led to his medical discharge later that year and he made his major league debut with the Pirates in October 1944, appearing in the final game of the season. He played 71 games for the Pirates in 1945, and two more in 1946, continuing to play in the

minor leagues until 1951.

Neil Berry

Aged 93

Detroit Tigers (1948-1952), St. Louis Browns (1953), Chicago White Sox (1953), Baltimore Orioles (1954)

Army Air Force



A graduate of the Western College of Education at Kalamazoo, Michigan, Neil Berry had played one season in the Tigers farm system when he entered military service in October 1942. He attended physical training school at Miami Beach, Florida, and served with the 83rd Air Base Squadron at Midland Army Air Field, Texas. In 1945, he was at gunnery school in Fort Myers, Florida, learning to become a Central Fire Control gunner (CFC) on a Boeing B-29 Superfortress. Due to be shipped out to Australia, orders were cancelled when Japan surrendered, and he was discharged as a staff sergeant. Berry made his major league debut in April 1948 and played more than 400 games over seven seasons. After baseball, Berry worked in the sporting goods business, and as a carpenter.

Cloyd Boyer

Aged 88

St. Louis Cardinals (1949-1952), Kansas City Athletics (1955)

Navy



Cloyd Boyer was pitching in the Cardinals system before entering service with the Navy in August 1945. He was sent to Long Beach, California, and assigned to the battleship USS Iowa. Boyer sailed with the Iowa to Japan and played some baseball over there. He was discharged after 11 months and made his major league debut with the Cardinals in April 1949. He later coached and

managed in the minors and was a major league coach with the Yankees, Braves and Royals.



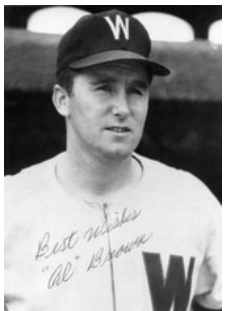
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Alton Brown

Aged 90

Washington Senators (1951)

Army



Alton Brown, who entered military service in January 1944, never played organized baseball before serving in the Army. After he was discharged from service, he pitched in the Norfolk, Virginia, City League, and signed with the Roanoke Rapids of the Coastal Plain League in 1948. In his sophomore year in minor league ball, Brown won 28 games for the Rapids and was voted league MVP. He made his debut with the Senators in April 1951, making seven relief appearances that year. Brown continued to play in the minor leagues until 1956, managing the Piedmont League's Norfolk Tars in 1955. After baseball, Brown worked for 20 years as a crew foreman on the Norfolk waterfront.

Bobby Brown

Aged 91

New York Yankees (1946-1952, 1954)

Navy



Bobby Brown was at Stanford University when he enlisted in July 1943. He was assigned to a naval unit at UCLA for a year and then to San Diego Naval Hospital. In December 1944, he was assigned to Tulane Medical School as a midshipman and was discharged from service in January 1946. Brown made his major league debut with the Yankees in September 1946 and enjoyed eight seasons with the team, including four World Series. After baseball, Brown became a cardiologist and later served as the American League president.

Fred Caligiuri

Aged 97

Philadelphia Athletics (1941-1942)

Army



Fred Caligiuri had pitched briefly for the Athletics in 1941 and 1942, before entering military service in March 1943. He was stationed at New Cumberland Reception Center where he played baseball before being assigned to Army amphibious operations in the English Channel. He later served in the Philippines and other parts of the Pacific Theater, attaining the rank of first sergeant before being discharged in March 1946. Out of shape after missing three seasons, the Athletics released Caligiuri in May 1946. He played a season in the minors then became business manager of the Chapman Motor Company, in Knox, Pennsyl-

vania, later opening his own business - Rimersburg Motor Company - in nearby Rimersburg.

Eddie Carnett

Aged 99

Boston Braves (1941), Chicago White Sox (1944), Cleveland Indians (1945)

Navy



Eddie Carnett got his first look at the majors in April 1941, with the Braves. Originally a pitcher, he played 126 games with the White Sox in 1944 and batted .276 with 60 RBIs, as an outfielder/first baseman. Traded to the Indians in December of that year, he played 30 games with Cleveland before reporting for induction with the Navy in July 1945. Carnett served at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois, where he helped Bob Feller perfect a slider. Returning to the Indians in 1946, he received his unconditional release but remained in the minors until 1955. He took a job running a country club, and later worked for a chemical company, rising to the level of vice-president in charge of sales and marketing.

Dick Cole

Aged 89

St. Louis Cardinals (1951), Pittsburgh Pirates (1951, 1953-1956), Milwaukee Braves (1957)

Army

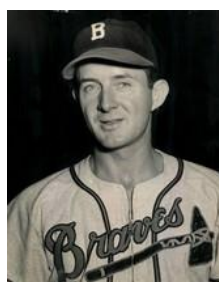


Dick Cole had played two seasons of minor league ball with the Cardinals before he was inducted in the Army in August 1944. He was stationed at Camp Roberts, California, and discharged in early 1946. Cole made his major league debut with the Cardinals in April 1951, and played six years in the National League. After his playing career ended, he managed in the Mets organization and was a coach for the Cubs. Cole scouted for the Pirates in the 1970s and later for the Giants.

Clint Conatser

Aged 94

Boston Braves (1948-1949)
Coast Guard



Clint Conatser was playing baseball at John C. Fremont High School, when he quit to sign with the Cleveland Indians organization. He played three seasons in the minors before entering service with the Coast Guard in 1942, and served aboard the Navy transport ship USS Arthur Middleton. He remained in service until 1945, and, for a time, was stationed in the Philippines. Conatser

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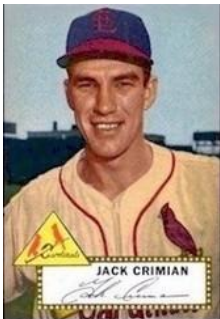
was released by the Indians upon his return from service and he signed with the Tigers in 1946. Drafted by the Boston Braves in November 1947, he made his big league debut in April 1948, and played 90 games that year, batting .277, and appearing in two games of the World Series against the Indians. The following year, he played 53 games with the Braves, then continued to play in the minor leagues until 1952. After baseball, Conatser ran an air conditioning business, fished and golfed, and bred race horses.

Jack Crimian

Aged 89

St. Louis Cardinals (1951-1952), Kansas City Athletics (1956), Detroit Tigers (1957)

Army



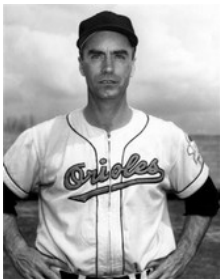
In 1944, Jack Crimian's rookie season, he won 18 games with Athletics' farm teams. He entered military service in April 1945, and spent the remainder of the year with the Army. Crimian made his major league debut with the Cardinals in July 1951, returning for a handful of games in 1952. After playing in the minors for the next three seasons he returned to the majors with the Kansas City Athletics in 1956 and made a career-high 54 appearances for a 4-8 won-loss record and a 5.51 ERA. Crimian's playing days ended in Toronto in 1959 and he worked in the auto body repair business.

Billy DeMars

Aged 90

Philadelphia Athletics (1948), St. Louis Browns (1950-1951)

Navy



Billy DeMars had played a season as a shortstop in the Brooklyn Dodgers system before entering service with the Navy in 1944. He served as a radioman on a Consolidated PBY Catalina search and rescue amphibious airplane, and returned to baseball in 1946. DeMars made his major league debut with the Athletics in May 1948 and played a career-high 61 games for the Browns in 1950. After managing in the minors during the 1950s and 1960s, he was a coach for the Phillies, Expos and Reds during the 1980s.

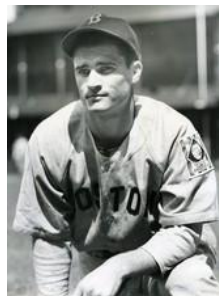
Bobby Doerr

Aged 97

Boston Red Sox (1937-1944, 1946-1951)

Hall of Fame 1986

Army



Bobby Doerr's major league career began with the Red Sox in 1937. The four-time all-star entered military service in September 1944, and reported to Camp Roberts, California, where he served for the duration and regularly played baseball. Sergeant Doerr received his discharge in December 1945, and returned to the Red Sox for a further six years, including five more all-star selections. After his career ended, Doerr retired to his farm in Oregon. He scouted for the Red Sox during the 1950s and 1960s, and joined the team's coaching staff in 1967, holding that job for three seasons. He was later a hitting coach for the Toronto Blue Jays from 1977 to 1981. In 1986, Doerr was elected to the Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee.

Bill Endicott

Aged 97

St. Louis Cardinals (1946)

Army



Bill Endicott Outfielder
1942-1946 St. Louis Cardinals

Bill Endicott's minor league career began in 1937, and by 1941 he was a starting outfielder with the Sacramento Solons in the Pacific Coast League. Endicott entered military service with the Army in October of that year and remained until 1945. He received training at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and was stationed in England, as a technical sergeant with the Signal Corps for 18 months. He returned the United States in

July 1944, to receive officer's training at Fort Monmouth. Despite missing four complete seasons, Endicott made his major league debut with the Cardinals in April 1946. In his only big league season he played 20 games and batted .200.

Carl Erskine

Aged 89

Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers (1948-1959)

Navy



Carl Erskine joined the Navy right out of high school in June 1945, and following boot camp he was stationed at Boston Navy Yard in Massachusetts. He signed with Brooklyn after coming out of the service in 1946, and made his debut with the Dodgers in July 1948. In a career that spanned 12 seasons, Erskine pitched two no-hitters, was an all-star and won 20 games in 1953. Following his playing days, Er-



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skine coached Anderson College, Indiana, for 12 seasons, including four championships, and rose to the presidency of the First National Bank of Anderson.

Dave Ferriss

Aged 94

Boston Red Sox (1945-1950)

Army Air Force



Dave Ferriss played one season in the Red Sox farm system before entering military service with the Army Air Force in January 1943. After initially being stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and Miami, Florida, Ferriss spent 22 months with Eighth Air Force Command at Randolph Field, Texas, as an athletic instructor. He was medically discharged in February 1945, because of a severe asthma condition that caused him to be hospitalized for four months. Ferriss

joined the Red Sox in 1945 for a sensational rookie season, winning 21 games. He won 25 the following year but arm problems meant he was never able to repeat those numbers. After working as a pitching coach for the Red Sox in the 1950s, Ferriss was head coach at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, from 1960 to 1966, and 1970 to 1988.

Ed Fitz Gerald

Aged 91

Pittsburgh Pirates (1948-1953), Washington Senators (1953-1959), Cleveland Indians (1959)

Army



Ed Fitz Gerald was at St. Mary's College, California, when drafted for military service in April 1943. He served with the Army at Camp Roberts, California, then in the Aleutian Islands with the 597th AAA Battalion of the Arkansas National Guard at Dutch Harbor. With the threat to the Aleutians at an end, Fitz Gerald was sent to Europe, and was responsible for single-handedly capturing two German soldiers on the Rhine. He was on guard duty on the Germany-Austria border after the war. In 1946, Fitz Gerald signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization, and after hitting .363 in 144 games for the Pacific Coast League's Sacramento Solons in 1947, he made his major league debut with the Pirates in April 1948. Fitz Gerald spent 12 seasons and played over 800 games in the majors. Following his playing days, he was an Indians coach in 1960, a Kansas City Athletics coach in 1961, and a member of the Minnesota Twins coaching staff from 1962 to 1964. He then managed the California League's Fresno Giants in 1965 and 1966.

Joe Garagiola

Aged 89

St. Louis Cardinals (1946-1951), Pittsburgh Pirates (1951-1953), Chicago Cubs (1953-1954), New York Giants (1954)
Army



Joe Garagiola had spent a couple of seasons in the Cardinals farm system when he was called into military service in April 1944. After taking basic training at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, he was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he played baseball for the Fort Riley Centaurs. Garagiola was sent to the Philippines in 1945, and played for the Manila Dodgers. He was discharged from service in early 1946. He made his big league debut in May of that year with the Cardinals, and had six hits in the World Series as the Cardinals beat the Red Sox in five games. Garagiola's playing career spanned nine years and he began a career in broadcasting immediately afterwards, calling Cardinals' games for KMOX radio. In 1961, he joined NBC – an association that spanned almost 30 years. He announced his retirement from broadcasting in 2013, at the age of 87, having spent 58 years in the booth. In 2014, he was named recipient of the Baseball Hall of Fame's Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement.

Dave Garcia

Aged 95

Manager of the California Angels (1977-1978), Cleveland Indians (1979-1982). Coach for the San Diego Padres (1970-1973), Cleveland Indians (1975-1976), California Angels (1977), Milwaukee Brewers (1983-1984), Colorado Rockies (2000-2002)

Army Air Force



When Dave Garcia entered military service in February 1943, it was on the back of a season in which he had hit .320 for the Northern League's Eau Claire Bears. Garcia served with the Army Air Force throughout the war years and returned to professional baseball in 1946, and was a minor league player-manager from 1948 to 1957. He was a scout for the San Francisco Giants during the 1960s, returned to managing in the minors in the late 1960s, and joined the coaching staff of the San Diego Padres in 1970. He was a coach with the Indians in 1975 and 1976, then managed the California Angels for two years before managing the Cleveland Indians. He ended his baseball career as a member of the Colorado Rockies coaching staff in 2002.

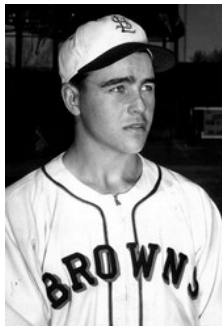
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Ned Garver

Aged 90

St. Louis Browns (1948-1952), Detroit Tigers (1952-1956),
Kansas City Athletics (1957-1960), Los Angeles Angels
(1961)

Navy



At the age of 17, Ned Garver graduated from high school in 1943 and entered military service with the Navy in October of that year. He was discharged in the spring of 1944, due to flat feet and went on to have a sensational rookie season in professional baseball, winning 21 games for the Newark, Ohio, Moundsmen. He made his major league debut with the Browns in April 1948, and is one of a select few pitchers to win 20 games with a last-place team (20-12 for the

1951 Browns). Garver pitched in the major leagues for 14 seasons, spanning three decades and winning 129 games. After his playing days, Garver returned to his home in Ney, Ohio, where he farmed and worked for a local meat packing company for 18 years, retiring in 1980.

Bill Greason

Aged 91

St. Louis Browns (1954)

Marine Corps



Bill Greason served in the Marine Corps at Camp Montford Point, North Carolina, before embarking for the Pacific Theater with the 34th Marine Depot Company, 66th Supply Platoon in 1945. He was at Iwo Jima during the height of the battle. His professional baseball career began in 1947 with the Nashville Black Vols and he joined the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro American League in 1948. He pitched in Mexico in 1950 and 1951,

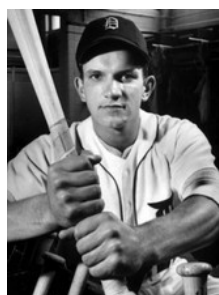
returned to military service with the Marine Corps during 1951 and 1952, and signed with the Texas League Oklahoma City Indians during the 1952 season. Greason made his major league debut with the St. Louis Browns in May 1954, appearing in three games for a 0-1 record. He continued to pitch in the minor leagues until 1959, then studied for the ministry at Birmingham Baptist Bible College and Samford University. He became a member of the 16th Street Baptist Church and a pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

Johnny Groth

Aged 89

Detroit Tigers (1946-1952), St. Louis Browns (1953), Chicago
White Sox (1954-1955), Kansas City Athletics (1956-1957),
Detroit Tigers (1957-1960)

Navy



In February 1945, high school graduate, Johnny Groth, enlisted in the Navy and attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, where he played baseball for Bob Feller as the only member of the Great Lakes team without professional baseball experience. Playing leftfield and centerfield, Groth hit .341 in 31 games and signed with the Detroit Tigers following his discharge in August 1946. Too late for assignment to

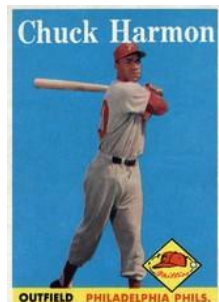
a minor league team, Groth stayed with the Tigers the remainder of the season and appeared in four games going hitless in nine at-bats. After a couple of seasons in the minors, Groth became a regular with the Tigers and batted .306 with 12 home runs and 85 RBIs in his first full season (1950). Groth played over 1,200 games in a career that spanned 15 years, and managed in the minors for a couple of seasons.

Chuck Harmon

Aged 91

Cincinnati Reds (1954-1956), St. Louis Cardinals (1956-
1957), Philadelphia Phillies (1957)

Navy



After his freshman year at the University of Toledo, Chuck Harmon served with the Navy at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, playing on the 1944 Negro Varsity team. Following his discharge in 1945, he returned to the University of Toledo and played baseball and basketball. In 1947, he briefly played for the Negro League Indianapolis Clowns before signing with the St. Louis Browns organization. Harmon

made his major league debut with the Reds in April 1954, the team's first African-American player. He played 289 games in a four-year major league career and continued to play in the minors until 1961. Following his playing career, Harmon worked as a scout with the Cleveland Indians and Atlanta Braves. Later he worked as an administrative assistant for the Hamilton County Court System in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1977, Harmon was inducted as part of the inaugural class of the University of Toledo Athletic Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame in 1995. In 2015, a statue in his likeness was unveiled in front of Major League Baseball's Urban Youth Academy complex in Cincinnati.



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Don Hasenmayer

Aged 88

Philadelphia Phillies (1945-1946)

Navy



Don Hasenmayer's professional career began in 1944, when the 17-year-old infielder played in the Phillies minor league system. He made his major league debut in Philadelphia in May 1945, appearing in five games before entering military service with the Navy in October of that year. Hasenmayer

served aboard the newly commissioned carrier USS Kearsarge. He returned to the Phillies for six games that year and played in the minors until 1951. Hasenmayer returned to his home in Roslyn, Pennsylvania, and joined his father's plastering business. He retired in 1992.

Chris Haughey

Aged 90

Brooklyn Dodgers (1943)

Army



Chris Haughey was pitching in the Queens CYO League when the Dodgers signed him midway through the 1943 season. Without throwing a pitch in the minors, Haughey made his major league debut on October 3, 1943, against the Cincinnati Reds at Crosley Field – the last day of the season and Haughey's 18th birthday. He hurled seven innings in the 6-1 loss but only three of those runs were earned. Before the start of the next season, Haughey entered military

service with the Army. He was assigned to a Cavalry Replacement Company at Fort Riley, Kansas, and for the next three years, Haughey was a communications instructor, training radio operators. Discharged in 1946, he returned to baseball out of shape and toiled in the minors until 1950. He went on to obtain a degree in engineering from Fordham University and worked as an operations manager for a New York oil company. He later spent 20 years as part owner of a men's clothing store in Salinas, California.

Val Heim

Aged 95

Chicago White Sox (1942)

Navy



Val Heim was signed by the White Sox in 1940, and after three strong seasons in the minors he made his debut in Chicago in August 1942, appearing in 13 games and batting .200. Heim entered service with the Navy in 1943, and served at Lambert Field in St. Louis, where he played baseball. He remained in service through 1945, returning to the White Sox organization for the 1946 sea-

son. He never returned to the major leagues and continued to play in the minors until 1948, then semi-pro ball into the 1950s in the Southern Minnesota League and the Nebraska Independent League.

Solly Hemus

Aged 92

St. Louis Cardinals (1949-1956), Philadelphia Phillies (1956-1958), St. Louis Cardinals (1959)

Navy



Solly Hemus attended St. Augustine High School in San Diego, California, and entered service with the Navy, aged 17, in 1941. He served four years in the Navy and regularly played baseball. In 1946, he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers organization but released shortly afterwards, following a disagreement with manager, Ray Hayworth, at Fort Worth. Picked up by the St. Louis Cardinals, Hemus made his major league debut in

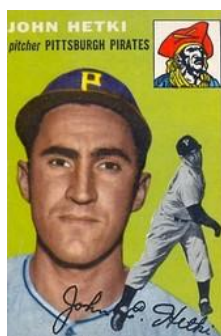
April 1949, and spent 11 years in the big leagues, playing over 900 games. He was player/manager of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1959, and led the club for a season and a half after that. He was a coach for the New York Mets in 1962 and 1963, a member of the Cleveland Indians coaching staff in 1964 and 1965, and managed the Triple-A Jacksonville Suns in 1966. After baseball, Hemus ran a successful oil exploration business, Hemus Ltd., in Bellaire, Texas.

Johnny Hetki

Aged 93

Cincinnati Reds (1945-1948, 1950), St. Louis Browns (1952), Pittsburgh Pirates (1953-1954)

Army



In 1942, Johnny Hetki's rookie year in baseball, he won 17 games in the minors, but his career was put on hold while he served the next two years in the Army. Returning to baseball in early 1945, Hetki made his major league debut with the Reds in September of that year. He played eight seasons in the majors, primarily as a relief pitcher, and played in the minors until 1956. After baseball, Hetki worked for several years as a traffic foreman for Simpkins Industries in Cleveland, Ohio.



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Lee Howard

Aged 92

Pittsburgh Pirates (1946-1947)

Navy



Lee Howard was signed by the Pittsburgh Pirates after a trial at the Pirates spring training camp in San Bernardino, California, in 1942. He won 10 games with the Hutchinson Pirates of the Western Association that season, then entered service with the Navy. In 1944, he was in the Pacific aboard the vehicle landing ship USS Catskill, offloading Marines at Leyte in the Philippines. Howard returned to baseball in 1946, and made his debut with the Pirates in September.

He pitched briefly for the team again in 1947 and ended his career in the minors in 1949.

Monte Irvin

Aged 96

New York Giants (1949-1955), Chicago Cubs (1956)

Hall of Fame 1973

Army



Monte Irvin followed a standout high school athletic career by attending Lincoln University in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and starting his professional baseball career with the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League in 1938. He quickly became an all-star and jumped to the Mexican League in 1942, entering military service with the Army at the end of the year. Irvin spent three

years with the 1313th Battalion, General Service Engineers. The battalion was in France and Belgium, where they built bridges and repaired roads. In late 1944, his unit was deployed in Rheims, France, as a secondary line in case the Germans broke through at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Sergeant Irvin returned to baseball in late 1945, and remained with the Newark Eagles until he signed with the New York Giants organization in 1949. He made his major league debut with the Giants in July of that year. Irvin led the National League in RBIs in 1951, and was an all-star the following year. His playing days ended after 1956 due to a back injury. Irvin was elected to the Salón de la Fama (Mexican Baseball Hall of Fame) in 1971, the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973, and the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997.

Randy Jackson

Aged 89

Chicago Cubs (1950-1955), Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers (1956-1958), Cleveland Indians (1958-1959), Chicago Cubs (1959)

Navy



Between 1944 and 1946, Randy Jackson went through the Navy Officer's Training Program at the University of Arkansas, Texas Christian University at Fort Worth, and the University of Texas. By the time he received his commission the war was over but having played baseball and football throughout his college years he was asked to play professional baseball. Jackson signed with the Cubs organization and made his debut with the Chi-

cago club in May 1950. He was an all-star third baseman in 1954 and 1955, and played 10 seasons in the big leagues. After baseball, Jackson sold life and health insurance.

Howie Judson

Aged 89

Chicago White Sox (1948-1952), Cincinnati Reds (1953-1954)

Navy



Howie Judson was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Station in 1945, and received a medical discharge in November of that year, following a 29-day confinement in Wesley Memorial Hospital in Chicago, due to recurring problems with his left eye. He signed with the White Sox the following year and made his debut with the big league team in April 1948. Judson's career in the majors spanned seven years, primarily as a relief pitcher, and he continued to play in the minors until 1959. After his baseball career, Judson worked for many years as the head of the shipping department of the Stulper Company in Walworth, Wisconsin.

Remember to visit....

Baseball's Greatest Sacrifice

A website dedicated to players who lost their lives in military service. Whether they were killed in action, died from wounds, illness or accident, detailed biographies of these men are included as part of the most comprehensive resource of its type on the Internet. There are currently 500 individual biographies available, dating from the Civil War era of the 1860s to the recent conflicts in Afghanistan.

www.baseballsgreatest sacrifice.com

(Part of Gary Bedingfield's Baseball in Wartime network)



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Bob Kuzava

Aged 92

Cleveland Indians (1946-1947), Chicago White Sox (1949-1950), Washington Senators (1950-1951), New York Yankees (1951-1954), Baltimore Orioles (1954-1955), Philadelphia Phillies (1955), Pittsburgh Pirates (1957), St. Louis Cardinals (1957)

Army



Bob Kuzava signed with the Cleveland Indians organization in 1941, and was a 21-game winner at Charleston, West Virginia, before entering military service in 1943. He served three years with the Army and was stationed in India and Burma as an MP, attaining the rank of sergeant. Kuzava made his major league debut with the Indians in September 1946, and played 10 seasons in

the big leagues. He pitched in three World Series with the Yankees. Kuzava remained in baseball following his retirement as a player in 1960. For 10 years he scouted for the Braves and the Athletics. He was inducted in the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

Turk Lown

Aged 91

Chicago Cubs (1951-1954, 1956-1958), Cincinnati Reds (1958), Chicago White Sox (1958-1962)

Army



In 1942, his rookie year with the Brooklyn Dodgers organization, Turk Lown won 18 games for the Valdosta Trojans, but military service beckoned in February 1943, and he was soon at Camp Lee, Virginia. Sergeant Lown served with the 76th Infantry Division in Europe. On March 14, 1945, as the division advanced through Germany, his right thigh was pierced by shrapnel. He returned home after the war with a Purple Heart and a determination to return to professional baseball. Lown pitched well in the minors but his real break came when he was drafted by the Cubs in November 1950, and made his major league debut in April 1951. He pitched for 11 years in the major leagues, mostly as a relief pitcher, led the American League in saves in 1959, and made three appearances for the White Sox in the 1959 World Series. Lown retired after the 1962 season and worked as a postal carrier in Pueblo, Colorado (where he had played in 1947/48), for 22 years. He was inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame in 1976.



Harry MacPherson

Aged 89

Boston Braves (1944)

Navy



Harry MacPherson was a 17-year-old graduate of Johnson High School in North Andover, Massachusetts, when he made a single appearance for the Boston Braves. In four years at Johnson High, MacPherson had 27 wins against four losses. He won 10 and lost three for the North Andover American Legion team, and was unbeaten during the summer of 1943, pitching for the North Andover A.A. On August 14, 1944, MacPherson pitched the final frame of a 5-0 loss to the Pirates, keeping the opposition scoreless, walking one and striking out one. MacPherson entered service with the Navy after the season ended and missed all of 1945. He returned to baseball in 1946 and continued to pitch in the minor leagues until 1952.

Dick Manville

Aged 89

Boston Braves (1950), Chicago Cubs (1952)

Navy



Dick Manville began his academic career during the war at Harvard and switched to Yale to join their Naval ROTC program, serving on a convoy ship between the United States and Europe. He remained at Yale after the war and pitched in the first College World Series in 1947, signing with the Boston Braves in June of that year. Manville made his big league debut with the Braves on April 30, 1950, hurling two innings against the Phillies – his only appearance that year. He returned to the major leagues with the Chicago Cubs in 1952, and continued to pitch in the minors for one more season. After baseball, Manville became the co-owner of the Forbes-Manville Furniture Showcase, with several retail outlets in the Midwest and Florida.

Windy McCall

Aged 90

Boston Red Sox (1948-1949), Pittsburgh Pirates (1950), New York Giants (1954-1957)

Marine Corps



Windy McCall graduated from Balboa High School, San Francisco in 1943, and signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Assigned to their farm club in Olean, New York, McCall chose instead to enlist with the Marine Corps. Serving as an MP with the Fourth Marine Division, he was part of the floating reserve off Iwo Jima, later spending time in Hawaii, then at Okinawa for clean-up duties until May 1945. McCall returned from service to Califor-

Living WWII Baseball Veterans

nia in 1946, and played semi-pro ball before signing, the following year, with the Red Sox. He made his major league debut with Boston in April 1948, and enjoyed a seven season career in the big leagues. After baseball, McCall was a corporate salesman for Bekins Van and Storage in San Francisco, before moving to Arizona, where he was in real estate and property management.

Sam Mele

Aged 93

Boston Red Sox (1947-1949), Washington Senators (1949-1952), Chicago White Sox (1952-1953), Baltimore Orioles (1954), Boston Red Sox (1954-1955), Cincinnati Reds (1955), Cleveland Indians (1956)

Marine Corps



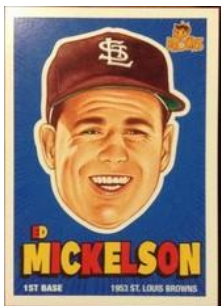
Sam Mele graduated from Bryant High School in Astoria, New York, and attended New York University on a basketball scholarship, where he was also a member of the Marine Corps Reserve. He was named captain of both the basketball and baseball teams at NYU before being called up for service and sent to the Navy V-12 program at Yale University in July 1943. He was with the Marine Corps in San Diego, California, then served in Hawaii, where, in 1944, he won the batting title in Honolulu Baseball League. Mele was discharged in February 1946, and signed with the Boston Red Sox. He made his major league debut in April 1947 and enjoyed a 10-season career, leading the American League in doubles in 1951, with the Senators. His playing days over, Mele became a scout for the Washington Senators in 1959, and a coach the following year. From 1961 to 1967, he managed the Minnesota Twins and led them to the American League pennant in 1965. Mele went on to work in the Red Sox organization for 25 years.

Ed Mickelson

Aged 89

St. Louis Cardinals (1950), St. Louis Browns (1953), Chicago Cubs (1957)

Army Air Force



A basketball and football star in high school, Ed Mickelson attended the University of Missouri on a football scholarship before entering service with the Army Air Force in February 1945. He was stationed at Scott Field, Illinois, and played baseball during the summer of that year. He attended Oklahoma A&M College after the war, signing with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1947. Mickelson made his major league debut in September 1950, but spent the next two years in the minors before resurfacing, this time with the Browns, in 1953. After playing in the Pacific Coast League, Mickelson got his third shot at the big leagues, making six appearances for the Chicago Cubs in 1957.

Ed Mierkowicz

Aged 91

Detroit Tigers (1945, 1947-1948), St. Louis Cardinals (1950)

Army



Ed Mierkowicz graduated from Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte, Michigan, in 1942, and entered military service in 1943. He was stationed at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas, and received a medical discharge seven months later, after contracting rheumatic fever. It took Mierkowicz a full year to recover, after which, he signed with the Detroit Tigers organization.

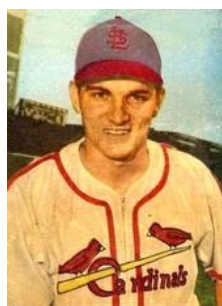
Mierkowicz played for the Hagerstown Owls in 1944, and the Baltimore Orioles in 1945, making his big league debut with the Tigers in August of that year, and making a defensive appearance in place of Hank Greenberg in the seventh game of the World Series. He spent 1946 with Buffalo and returned to the Tigers briefly in 1947 and 1948. His last appearance in the major leagues was in 1950, when he played one game for the St. Louis Cardinals. Mierkowicz continued to play in the minor leagues until 1957, and even played in the Mexican League that year. After baseball, he worked at a waste treatment plant in Wyandotte, until retiring in 1984. He was inducted in the Wyandotte Sports Hall of Fame in 1986.

Larry Miggins

Aged 90

St. Louis Cardinals (1948, 1952)

Merchant Marine



Larry Miggins signed with the New York Giants out of Fordham Prep, New York, in 1944, and played just eight games for the Jersey City Giants before leaving for maritime officers' training school at the New York State Merchant Marine Academy, Fort Schuyler. Earning a Third Assistant Engineer licence, and playing baseball for the academy team along the way, Miggins was discharged from service in April 1946. Back with Jersey City, Miggins was drafted by the Cardinals in November 1947, and made his big league debut with the club on October 3, 1948, the last day of the season. He spent the next three seasons in the minors but returned to the big leagues in 1952, for 42 games with the Cardinals. Miggins retired from baseball after the 1954 season and went on to earn a master's degree. He worked in the U.S. probation and parole office in Houston, Texas and was inducted into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003.



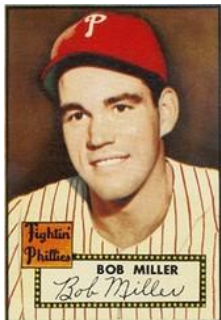
Living WWII Baseball Veterans

Bob Miller

Aged 89

Philadelphia Phillies (1949-1958)

Army



Bob Miller entered military service with the Army after graduating from St. Mary's High School in Detroit, Michigan. He served in the Pacific Theater and saw combat in New Guinea and the Philippines. With the war over, he was stationed in Japan during 1946. Following his discharge, he won three games in the 1947 National Amateur Baseball Tournament. He then enrolled at the University of Detroit and attended for two years before signing with the Phillies.

Miller made his major league debut with the Phillies in September 1949, and spent 10 years with the club, appearing in one game of the 1950 World Series. Miller retired from baseball in 1959, and worked in the insurance business in Detroit. For 38 years, he coached baseball at the University of Detroit, and was inducted in their Sports Hall of Fame in 1979. He was inducted in the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

Fenton Mole

Aged 90

New York Yankees (1949)

Army Air Force



Fenton Mole, a graduate of San Leandro High School, California, entered military service with the Army Air Force in November 1943. In 1945, he was stationed at Kelly Field, Texas, where he regularly played baseball. Mole signed with the Yankees following his discharge and batted .280 in 128

games for the Norfolk Tars in 1946. He made his big league debut with the Yankees in September 1949, and appeared in 10 games before the season ended. Mole never returned to the major leagues. He continued to play in the minors until 1952.

Bobby Morgan

Aged 89

Brooklyn Dodgers (1950, 1952-1953), Philadelphia Phillies (1954-1956), St. Louis Cardinals (1956), Philadelphia Phillies (1957), Chicago Cubs (1957-1958)

Army



Bobby Morgan signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1944, but entered military service after one season. He served with the Army in Europe and played with the 60th Infantry Regiment Go-Devils ball team of the 9th Infantry Division in the 1946 ETO World Series. Morgan was back with the Dodgers organization in 1947, and made his major league debut

in April 1950. He played eight seasons in the majors and continued to play in the minor leagues until 1963. Morgan managed in the minors for three years before working as a scout for the Kansas City Royals. He later became a restaurant manager in his hometown of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Steve Nagy

Aged 96

Pittsburgh Pirates (1947), Washington Senators (1950)

Navy



Steve Nagy - a star pitcher at Seton Hall University, where he posted a 22-1 record, including a streak of 13 straight wins, and was hailed as the finest college pitcher in the east - signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1942. He entered military service in September of that year and was at Naval Training Station Norfolk, Virginia, and Naval Auxiliary Air

Station Mayport, Florida, before being assigned to Headquarters Squadron of Fleet Air Wing 7 at NAF Argentia in New Foundland, Canada. In August 1943, FAW-7 moved to England, firstly RAF St. Davids and then RAF Dunkewsell. Chief Specialist Nagy was discharged in January 1946, and re-joined the Dodgers organization in the spring. Nagy posted an impressive 17-4 record with a 3.01 ERA for Montreal that year and was purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates in October 1946. He made his major league debut the following April, appearing in six regular season games. After a couple of seasons in the Pacific Coast League, Nagy returned to the big leagues with the Washington Senators in 1950. He continued to pitch in the minors until 1958. He was inducted into the Seton Hall Athletics Hall of Fame in 1975.

Al Naples

Aged 89

St. Louis Browns (1949)

Navy

Al Naples graduated from St. Peter's High School, Staten Island, New York, in 1944, and was due to report to the New York Yankees in April, but military service intervened. He served with the Navy and patrolled in the North Atlantic. After the war he attended Georgetown University and was signed by the St. Louis Browns on June 23, 1949. Two days later, he was in the starting line-up against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park, and hit a double off Mel Parnell for his only major league hit. Naples played just one more game in the big leagues and spent the rest of the season with the Springfield, Illinois, Browns. He was given his outright release in October 1949, and went into teaching. He has been inducted into the Georgetown Athletic Hall of Fame.

Living WWII Baseball Veterans

Don Newcombe

Aged 89

Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers (1949-1951, 1954-1958), Cincinnati Reds (1958-1960), Cleveland Indians (1960)

Navy



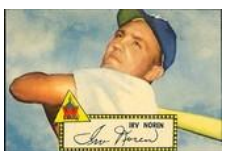
After serving briefly with the Navy in 1943, Don Newcombe played for the Negro National League's Newark Eagles in 1944 and 1945, signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers organization for 1946. He made his major league debut with Brooklyn in 1949, won 17 games and was voted National League Rookie of the Year. He spent 10 seasons in the majors, missing two years (1952-1953) to serve with the Army during the Korean War, physically training recruit Army doctors at Camp Pickett Texas. Newcombe was a four-time all-star, he played in three World Series, and won the Cy Young and National League MVP awards in 1956. After playing in the Pacific Coast League in 1961, Newcombe played as an outfielder/first baseman for the Japanese Central League's Chunichi Dragons. Newcombe re-joined the Dodgers organization in the late 1970s, and served as the team's Director of Community Affairs. In 2009, he was named special adviser to the chairman of the team.

Irv Noren

Aged 91

Washington Senators (1950-1952), New York Yankees (1952-1956), Kansas City Athletics (1957), St. Louis Cardinals (1957-1959), Chicago Cubs (1959-1960), Los Angeles Dodgers (1960)

Army



Irv Noren - who was born in Jamestown, New York, and moved with his parents to California when he was 12 years old - graduated from Pasadena High School and attended Pasadena City College before entering military service with the Army. He spent much of his service time at Fort Ord in California. Noren signed with the Dodgers after being discharged in 1946, and played his rookie year at Santa Barbara, where he hit .363 in 130 games. During the winter of 1946, he played semi-pro basketball with the integrated Los Angeles Red Devils and his teammates included future major leaguers Jackie Robinson and George Crowe. In an exhibition game against the Chicago Gears of the National Basketball League, he so impressed the team's owner, Maurice White, that he was signed to play for the Gears for the remainder of the season. Noren was purchased by the Washington Senators in September 1949, and made his major league debut in April 1950. In a big league career that spanned 11 seasons and more than 1,000 games, Noren appeared in three World Series and was an American League all-star in 1954. He continued to play and manage in the minor leagues until 1963, and scouted for the Washington Senators in 1964. He was a coach for the Oakland Athletics from 1971 to 1974 and with the Chicago Cubs in 1975. Noren was inducted into the Chautauqua, New York,

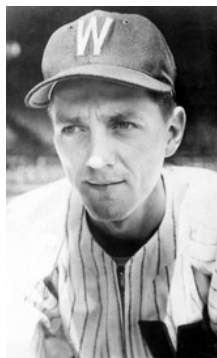
Sports Hall of Fame in 1985, and the Pasadena Sports Hall of Fame in 2010.

Len Okrie

Aged 92

Washington Senators (1948, 1950-1951), Boston Red Sox (1952)

Navy



The son of Frank Okrie, who pitched for the Tigers in 1920, Len Okrie signed with the Chicago White Sox in 1942, and played at Lockport, New York, and Superior, Wisconsin, that season. The following year he was in military service with the Navy and served in Naval Intelligence as a code breaker, intercepting and breaking Japanese radio communications while based at the Naval Intercept Station at Adak Island in the Aleutians. Okrie returned to baseball in 1946, this time with the Cubs organization, and was traded to the Senators in November 1947. He made his major league debut with Washington in June 1948, and spent four seasons in the major leagues. He began managing in the minors in 1954, was a coach with the Boston Red in 1961-1962, and then in 1965-1966, was a coach with the Tigers in 1970, and returned to managing in the minors until 1974.

Jack Paepke

Aged 93

Coach for the Los Angeles/California Angels (1961-1966)

Navy



Jack Paepke signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers organization in 1941, and played two seasons in the minors before entering military service with the Navy. He was assigned to Los Alamitos Naval Air Station, California, where he regularly played baseball for the Long Beach Service Stars in the Long Beach Recreation League and the Southern California Winter League. In 1944, he was assigned to the Naval Training Center San Diego, and was then sent overseas to Hawaii, where he was stationed at Aiea Barracks. Returning to baseball in 1946, Paepke continued to play in the Dodgers organization through 1950. He returned to professional baseball in 1953, managing in the Pirates organization until 1958. He became a major league coach in 1961, joining the California Angels coaching staff through 1966. Paepke later scouted for the Angels and Expos.



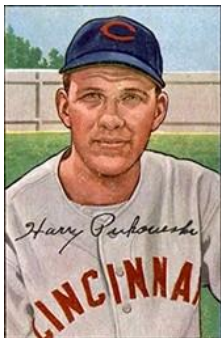
Living WWII Baseball Veterans

Harry Perkowski

Aged 93

Cincinnati Reds (1947, 1949-1954), Chicago Cubs (1955)

Navy



Harry Perkowski was pitching semi-pro ball around his hometown of Dante, Virginia, in the early 1940s and signed with Natchez of the Evangeline League in 1942, making four appearances before the league disbanded in May. Perkowski spent the next three years in the Navy with the amphibious force, helping escort troops and tanks during invasions on Landing Craft Tanks (LCTs). He served 19 months in the Atlantic and 11 months in the Pacific, making four invasions at Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy. He was drafted by the Reds in 1946, and won 23 games with Ogden in the Pioneer League. He made his major league debut with the Reds in September 1947, and continued to pitch in the big leagues until 1955. He pitched in the minors until 1960, then worked in the weight enforcement division of the West Virginia Highway Department.

Marv Rackley

Aged 94

Brooklyn Dodgers (1947-1949), Pittsburgh Pirates (1949),

Cincinnati Reds (1950)

Army Air Force



Marv Rackley – who had been playing for the textile mill teams of South Carolina - signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1941, and played two seasons in the minor leagues before entering military service with the Army Air Force in October 1942. He spent the next three years at Craig Field, near Selma, Alabama, where he regularly played baseball. Rackley was back in the Dodgers organization in 1946, as a teammate of Jackie Robinson at Montreal. He made his major league debut with the Dodgers in April 1947, and spent four years as a big leaguer. Rackley continued to play in the minors until 1955, managing the Southern Association's Atlanta Crackers his final year.

Ed Redys

Aged 94

Coach for the St. Louis Browns (1950-1951)

Army



Ed Redys signed with the St. Louis Browns organization in 1940, he won 14 games with the Youngstown, Ohio, Browns in 1941, and was assigned to the San Antonio Missions for the 1942 season. However, an ankle injury side-lined him at the start of the season and he was then called for military service. Redys served with the 215th Signal Depot

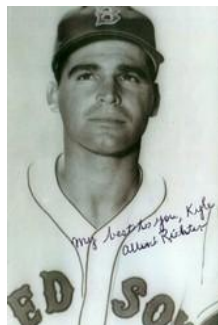
Company until 1945, re-joining the Browns organization in 1946. After retiring as a player in 1947, Redys spent the next two years as the Browns' batting practice pitcher, before being hired as a coach for the 1950 and 1951 seasons. When Bill Veeck became owner of the Browns in 1951, Redys and three other members of the Browns organization formed a band that would entertain the crowd during the seventh-inning stretch. Redys was the accordion player, with Al Widmar on bass or fiddle, Johnny Berardino on conga or maracas, and Satchel Paige on snare drum.

Al Richter

Aged 88

Boston Red Sox (1951, 1953)

Army Air Force



Al Richter signed with the Red Sox in 1945, and played three games with Roanoke of the Piedmont League, before entering military service with the Army Air Force in June. He spent 17 months in service, taking basic training at Keesler Field, Mississippi, then attending photography school at Lowry Field, Colorado, before being assigned to Germany for Special Services work. Private First Class Richter was discharged in 1947, and returned to the Red Sox organization. He made his major league debut with Boston in September 1951, appearing in five games before the season ended. His only other time in the majors was a single game appearance for the Red Sox in April 1953. Richter played in the minors until 1955. He graduated in business administration from the University of Miami in 1955, and worked for Goldberger Foods for over 35 years.

Jim Rivera

Aged 94

St. Louis Browns (1952), Chicago White Sox (1952-1961),

Kansas City Athletics (1961)

Army Air Force



Jim Rivera grew up in an orphanage in New York city. He boxed as an amateur, played semi-pro baseball and entered service with the Army Air Force in August 1942. Stationed at Camp Barkeley, Texas, he played on the baseball team and won his outfit's light-heavyweight title. While in the Army, Rivera was charged with the rape and assault following a dance at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. The charge was later changed to attempted rape and Rivera was convicted and sentenced to life. Paroled in 1949 from the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, Rivera was signed by the Southern Association's Atlanta Crackers and made his major league debut with the St. Louis Browns in April 1952. Rivera played over 1,100 games in 10 seasons in the major leagues. He led the American League in triples in 1953, and in stolen bases in 1955. He played for the White Sox in the 1959

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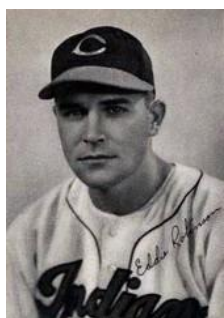
World Series. Rivera went on to manage the Jalisco Charros in the Mexican League in the 1960s. After baseball, Rivera ran a restaurant in Angola, Indiana, for 20 years. He has been inducted into the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame.

Eddie Robinson

Aged 95

Cleveland Indians (1942, 1946-1948), Washington Senators (1949-1950), Chicago White Sox (1950-1952), Philadelphia Athletics (1953), New York Yankees (1954-1956), Kansas City Athletics (1956), Detroit Tigers (1957), Cleveland Indians (1957), Baltimore Orioles (1957)

Navy



Eddie Robinson was playing for the semi-pro Coca-Cola Bottlers in Texas, when he was signed by the Southern Association's Knoxville Smokies in 1939. He played four seasons in the minors and made his major league debut with the Cleveland Indians in September 1942. Robinson enlisted in the Navy at the end of the season and served three years, during which time he had a leg operation that could have ended his career.

Robinson was back with the Indians in 1946, had a 13-year career and was a four-time all-star. He played in the 1948 and 1955 World Series. After retiring from his playing career, Robinson coached and scouted for the Orioles. He joined the Houston Colt .45s as the Assistant General Manager in 1962-1963, and farm director in 1964-1965. He was the Kansas City Athletics' Director of Player Development in 1967. He was with the Atlanta Braves as farm director from 1968 to 1972, and General Manager from 1973 to 1976. Robinson joined the Texas Rangers as General Manager from 1977 to 1982.

Eddie Samcoff

Aged 91

Philadelphia Athletics (1951)

Marine Corps



Eddie Samcoff enlisted in the Marines in 1943, and served three years as a private first class with the 155th Howitzer Battalion, seeing combat in Guam and Okinawa. After being discharged in 1946, he signed with the California League's Stockton Ports and helped them win back-to-back league championships. Samcoff made his major league debut with the Philadelphia Athletics in April 1951, appearing in four

games that month. It was his last year in professional baseball. He went to work for the Exxon Corporation, where he retired as a sales representative in 1982.

Mike Sandlock

Aged 100

Boston Braves (1942, 1944), Brooklyn Dodgers (1945-1946), Pittsburgh Pirates (1953)

Army



Mike Sandlock learned baseball on the sandlots of Connecticut, and began his minor league career with the Huntington, West Virginia, Bees in 1938. He made his major league debut with the Boston Braves in September 1942, but lost the entire 1943 season to military service. Sandlock played 30 games with the Braves in 1944, and joined the Brooklyn Dodgers the following season. He played Triple-A ball from 1947 to 1952, and returned to the majors with

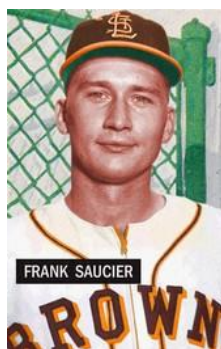
the Pirates in 1953. He retired after a knee injury in 1954, and worked as a carpenter, while finding time to win the men's golf championship at the Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, four times. He was also active in the Baseball Assistance Team, an organization that helps older baseball players that do not have health insurance and may need medical assistance.

Frank Saucier

Aged 89

St. Louis Browns (1951)

Navy



Frank Saucier (pronounced so-shay) graduated from Washington High School, Missouri, in 1943, and enlisted in the Navy a week later. He entered the V-12 program in July, and was assigned to Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri. He entered the USNR Midshipmen's School at Notre Dame in November 1944, and, thanks to his commanding officer waiving the age requirement of 19 to be an officer, he graduated with his class in March 1945 – one of the

youngest deck officers ever commissioned in the Navy. His first assignment was in the amphibious forces in the Philippines and Japan, leading Beach Party Team No. 76. His second assignment was in China, aboard the amphibious force command ship USS Mount Olympus, as deck watch officer and second division officer. Released from service in August 1946, he returned to Westminster College, receiving a degree in mathematics and a reputation as an outstanding baseball player. Saucier signed with the St. Louis Browns in 1948, and began his professional career with the Belleville, Illinois, Stags. In 1949, playing for the Wichita Falls Spudders, he led all minor league hitters with an exceptional .446 batting average and made his big league debut with the Browns in July 1951. He appeared in 18 games that year, primarily as a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner. On August 19, 1951, Saucier was the player who was in the starting line-up when Bill Veeck pulled off his memorable stunt of sending 3-foot 7-inch Eddie Gaedel to the plate. In

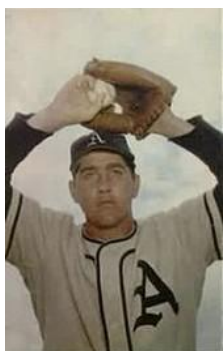
Living WWII Baseball Veterans

April 1952, Saucier was recalled to military service as battalion commander, Headquarters Cadet Battalion, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. He was released from active duty in April 1954. He went on to become the owner of Chemical Industries Inc., and worked in Texas as a financial consultant. The baseball field at Westminster College is named Saucier Field in his honor.

Carl Scheib

Aged 89

Philadelphia Athletics (1943-1945, 1947-1954), St. Louis Cardinals (1954)
Army



Carl Scheib played high school baseball in his hometown of Gratz, Pennsylvania, and for the local American legion team, before getting a tryout with the Philadelphia Athletics in September 1942. Although not offered a contract, he joined the team in 1943 as a batting practice pitcher, pitched impressively in an exhibition game for the Athletics and made his big league debut against the New York Yankees on September 6. Scheib was 16 years old and the youngest player in American League history. He pitched six games that year and a further 15 in 1944. In 1945, he made four appearances before entering military service in May. He served with the 3rd Regiment at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and helped the Seventh Battalion team win the camp's championship. He left for Europe in January 1946, and originally served with the Railroad Transportation Division before joining the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. Pitching for the 60th Infantry Go-Devils, he was outstanding in the 1946 ETO World Series. Scheib returned to the Athletics in 1947, and continued to pitch in the major leagues until 1954. After three seasons in the minors, Scheib retired from baseball and ran a service station in San Antonio, Texas, for 12 years. He later sold and installed automatic car wash equipment until retiring in 1989.

Red Schoendienst

Aged 92

St. Louis Cardinals (1945-1956), New York Giants (1956-1957), Milwaukee Braves (1957-1960), St. Louis Cardinals (1961-1963)

Hall of Fame 1989

Army



Red Schoendienst signed with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1942, and worked his way up to the Class AA Rochester Red Wings before entering military service in May 1944. He reported to Camp Blanding, Florida, then was later transferred to Pine Camp, near Great Bend, New York – a prisoner of war camp for Italian prisoners - where he played baseball. A shoulder injury and earlier eye injury led to Schoendienst's medical dis-

charge in January 1945. He joined the Cardinals for spring training that year and made his big league debut on opening day. Schoendienst played over 2,200 games in a 19-year major league career. He was a 10-time all-star and appeared in three World Series. After retiring as a player in 1963, Schoendienst managed the Cardinals from 1965 to 1976, and again in 1980 and 1990. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989.

Bobby Shantz

Aged 90

Philadelphia Athletics (1949-1954), Kansas City Athletics (1955-1956), New York Yankees (1957-1960), Pittsburgh Pirates (1961), Houston Colt .45s (1962), St. Louis Cardinals (1962-1964), Chicago Cubs (1964), Philadelphia Phillies (1964)
Army



In 1944, Bobby Shantz held down a job at the Disston Saw Company in Philadelphia, and played baseball for the Holmesburg Ramblers, a youth team that played in the competitive Quaker City League. He had been rejected for military service because he was below the required minimum height, but had grown an inch by the end of the year and entered service with the Army in December. He served with a mortar outfit at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and arrived in the Philippines in June 1945. Serving with the 86th Infantry Division, Corporal Shantz was overseas for 16 months and regularly played baseball. He was discharged in late 1946, and returned to work at the saw mill before signing with the Athletics in November 1947. Shantz spent just one season in the minors and made his debut with the Athletics in May 1949. His major league career spanned 16 seasons. He had a career-best 24-7 won-loss record in 1952, and was a three-time all-star. He pitched for the Yankees in the World Series in 1957 and 1960. After his baseball career, Shantz managed a restaurant in Chalfont, Pennsylvania, until he retired in 1986. In 2010, he was inducted into the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame, and Pottstown High School named their baseball field, Bobby Shantz Field.

Charlie Silvera

Aged 91

New York Yankees (1948-1956), Chicago Cubs (1957)

Army Air Force



Charlie Silvera signed with the New York Yankees organization in 1942, and played his rookie year with the Wellsville Yankees in the PONY League. He entered military service in the spring of 1943, and was stationed at McClellan Field in California. In 1944, Corporal Silvera was assigned to Hickam Field, Hawaii, and then to the Pacific island of Saipan, with the 73rd Bombardment Wing of the 20th Air Force. Silvera played a lot of baseball

Living WWII Baseball Veterans

in the Pacific with the 73rd Bombardment Wing Bombers. He returned to the Yankees organization in 1946, and made his major league debut in September 1948. Silvera spent the next eight seasons as a back-up to Yogi Berra and was with the club for seven World Series although he only played in the 1949 series. He later managed three years in the minors, scouted for various teams and was a coach with the Twins in 1969, the Tigers from 1971 to 1973, and the Rangers from 1973 to 1975.

Bob Spicer

Aged 90

Kansas City Athletics (1955-1956)

Army Air Force



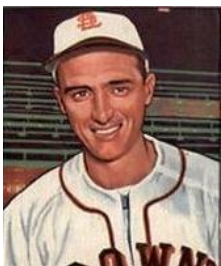
Bob Spicer served three years with the Army Air Force, stationed in Arkansas, before signing with the Chicago Cubs in 1947. He was a 21-game winner his second year in pro ball but it was not until 1955 – six days after his 30th birthday – that Spicer made his major league debut with the Kansas City Athletics. He pitched two games that year and another two the following year before returning to the minors for a further five seasons. Spicer played a total of 20 seasons in professional baseball and won 166 minor league games. He later became a salesman in the shoe department for the Fleischman Brothers clothing store and retired as assistant manager for Divine's Sporting Goods in 1991.

Dick Starr

Aged 94

New York Yankees (1947-1948), St. Louis Browns (1949-1951), Washington Senators (1951)

Army



Dick Starr signed with the New York Yankees organization in 1941, and won 33 games over his first two minor league seasons before entering military service with the Army in October 1942. He trained in Alabama, California, and Arizona, and later served in Hawaii, Guadalcanal, Palau, New Caledonia, the Philippines, and Japan. Attaining the rank of sergeant, Starr was discharged in December 1945. He won 19 games with Augusta in 1946, and made his big league debut with the Yankees in September 1947. Starr spent five seasons in the majors and continued to play in the minor leagues until 1956. After baseball, Starr was employed in the production control department for the Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation.

Chuck Stevens

Aged 97

St. Louis Browns (1941, 1946, 1948)

Army Air Force



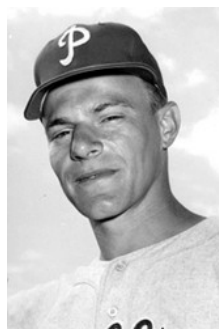
Chuck Stevens graduated from Polytechnic High School in Long Beach, California, in early 1937, and enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley, in the pre-dental program, before signing with the St. Louis Browns. After five seasons in the minors, Stevens made his debut with the Browns in September 1941, appearing in four games at first base. The following March, he entered military service and spent the next three years in the Army Air Force, first in California at Long Beach Army Airfield with the 384th Airbase Squadron, and later in the Pacific Theater, in Tinian, Guam and Okinawa. Stevens played baseball at Long Beach with the 6th Ferrying Group and in the Pacific with the 58th Bombardment Wing. Back with the Browns in 1946, he played 122 games and batted .248, played in the minor leagues the following year, and re-joined the Browns for 85 games in 1948. Stevens continued to play in the minors until 1957, managing the Amarillo Gold Sox in 1956. In 1960, he was appointed as secretary-treasurer of the Association of Professional Ball Players of America, a position he retained until 1998. He was instrumental in modernizing the structure of the organization. The Chuck Stevens Award, created by the APBPA, is presented in his honor. The award is given to the Southern California resident who had the most outstanding season in the minor leagues.

Paul Stuffer

Aged 88

Philadelphia Phillies (1950, 1952-1953)

Army



Paul Stuffer graduated from Lincoln High School in Canton, Ohio, in 1945, winning 15 and losing just two in his senior year. He signed with the Philadelphia Phillies after a three-day trial in August, and was expected to report to the Bradford Blue Wings of the PONY League for 1946, but was called into military service with the Army. Stuffer was back with the Phillies organization in 1947, and made his major league debut with the Phillies in September 1950. He returned to the minors in 1951, but pitched briefly for the Phillies again in 1952 and 1953. Stuffer continued to pitch in the minor leagues until 1957. After baseball, he owned an insurance agency and retired in 1992.

Living WWII Baseball Veterans

Wayne Terwilliger

Aged 90

Chicago Cubs (1949-1951), Brooklyn Dodgers (1951), Washington Senators (1953-1954), New York Giants (1955-1956), Kansas City Athletics (1959-1960)

Marine Corps



Wayne Terwilliger graduated from Charlotte High School in Charlotte, Michigan, in the spring of 1942. In the fall, he attended Western Michigan College of Education, but flunked history, making him ineligible to play baseball in the spring. Instead, Terwilliger enlisted in the Marines. He was called to active duty in August 1943, and reported to San Diego, California, for boot camp. Terwilliger became an amphibious tank radioman-machine

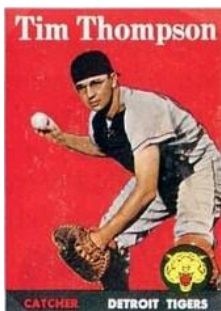
gunner and reported to Oceanside, California, assigned to the 2nd Armored Amphibian Battalion. In April 1944, the battalion sailed to Maui, then participated in the invasions of Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Corporal Terwilliger had his tank knocked out on the beach at Saipan. He played baseball for the battalion team while on Tinian in 1945, and returned to Western Michigan College in 1946. Terwilliger was playing semi-pro baseball with the Benton Harbor Buds when he was signed by the Chicago Cubs in July 1948. He made his major league debut in August 1949, and played 666 games over nine years. He managed in the minors from 1961 to 1980, coached for 20 years, then returned to manage the Fort Worth Cats from 2003 to 2005, remaining with the team as a coach after that time.

Tim Thompson

Aged 91

Brooklyn Dodgers (1954), Kansas City Athletics (1956-1957), Detroit Tigers (1958)

Army



Tim Thompson, who served in the Army during the war, signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers organization in 1947. He played seven years in the minors and was 30 years old when he made his big league debut with the Dodgers in April 1954, appearing in just 10 games. He was back in the major leagues in 1956, playing two seasons with the Athletics, and finished his major league career with the Detroit Tigers in 1958. He continued to

play in the minor leagues until 1962. In a 14-year minor league career he played over 1,400 games. After his playing days, Thompson was a scout and later a supervisor of scouting for the St. Louis Cardinals for 30 years. In 1981, he was a coach with the Cardinals. During the 1990s, he worked in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization as a scout and from 2000, he has worked in the same capacity for the Baltimore Orioles.

Wally Westlake

Aged 95

Pittsburgh Pirates (1947-1951), St. Louis Cardinals (1951-1952), Cincinnati Reds (1952), Cleveland Indians (1952-1955), Baltimore Orioles (1955), Philadelphia Phillies (1956)

Coast Guard



Wally Westlake signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers organization in 1940, and played three seasons in the minor leagues – the last with the Pacific Coast League Oakland Oaks - before entering service with the Coast Guard. From 1943 to 1945, Westlake was stationed in California at Alameda, and played baseball for the Coast Guard Sea Lions.

He returned to the Pacific Coast League in 1946, and made his major league debut with the Pirates in April 1947. Westlake played 10 seasons in the major leagues, was a National League all-star in 1951, and played for the Indians in the 1954 World Series. After baseball, Westlake worked for the A. Teichert & Sons Construction Company, working there as a lead laborer.

Tom Wright

Aged 92

Boston Red Sox (1948-1951), St. Louis Browns (1952), Chicago White Sox (1952-1953), Washington Senators (1954-1956)

Army Air Force



Tom Wright signed with the Boston Red Sox after graduating from Shelby High School, North Carolina in 1941. The following year he played his rookie season in the minors before entering military service with the Army Air Force. Wright trained as an armorer, serving with the 13th Air Force in New Guinea, Moreton Island, Biak and Palawan in the Philippines. Corporal Wright returned to baseball in 1946. Following an outstanding season with the American Association's

Louisville Colonels in 1948, Wright made his debut with the Red Sox in September of that year. He played nine years in the major leagues and ended his professional career with the Birmingham Barons in 1957. After baseball, Wright worked in the credit department of a clothing store for a few years and then with a polyester fibers company for 20 years, retiring as a production supervisor in 1982.



Living WWII Baseball Veterans

George Yankowski

Aged 93

Philadelphia Athletics (1942), Chicago White Sox (1949)
Army



George Yankowski, a standout baseball player at Watwertown High School, Massachusetts, was a member of the Army Reserve at Northeastern College, Boston, when he was signed by the Philadelphia Athletics in 1942. While awaiting call to active duty he played six games behind the plate for the Athletics. He entered service in March 1943, and was stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, where he was the regular catcher on the Reception Center ball team. While at Fort Devens, Yankowski decided he wanted to become a pilot and trained at Greensboro, North Carolina. However, he was soon informed that the Army Air Force had enough pilots and he was transferred to the infantry at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. Private First Class Yankowski trained to be a sniper and went overseas as a company sniper of Company G, 346th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division. The division landed at Scotland, traveled through England and arrived at Le Havre, France, before meeting its baptism of fire near Saarbrücken, Germany, in December 1944. With his platoon pinned down by the Germans, Yankowski quickly became a hero by taking out the enemy machine-gunner with a single shot from his telescopic sniper rifle. Yankowski later fought his way through the Battle of the Bulge, liberated a Nazi concentration camp, and finally got to play a few ballgames in Czechoslovakia, once the fighting was over. Yankowski was released by the Athletics upon his return in 1946, and played in the White Sox minor league system before returning to the major leagues for 12 games with the White Sox in 1949. Yankowski later played semi-pro baseball in Maine with the Portland Pilots and in Minnesota with the Rochester Royals, before returning home to Watertown, Massachusetts, where he was a teacher/coach until his retirement. In 2014, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor, the highest honor the French government can bestow on American servicemen.



STEPHEN AMBROSE
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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."

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Sincerely,

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\$5,290 per person
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A minimum number of participants
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- Educational road book full of maps and historical information
- Three- and four-star accommodations
- Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portorage and service charges
- Touring by private, first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach
- Breakfast daily, 14 dinners and a Welcome Reception
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