

Gary Bedingfield's BASEBALL IN WARTIME

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WWW.BASEBALLINWARTIME.CO.UK

Welcome!



Welcome to the first Baseball in Wartime newsletter. This website has been in existence in some form or another since 2001, so I figured it was about time it had an accompanying newsletter to keep you up-to-date with what's happening behind the scenes.

The newsletter will bring you information on upcoming events, newly-released books and articles, information on authentic apparel and just about anything that has some relationship to baseball in WWII.

Many people ask why baseball in WWII? And I hope to answer that

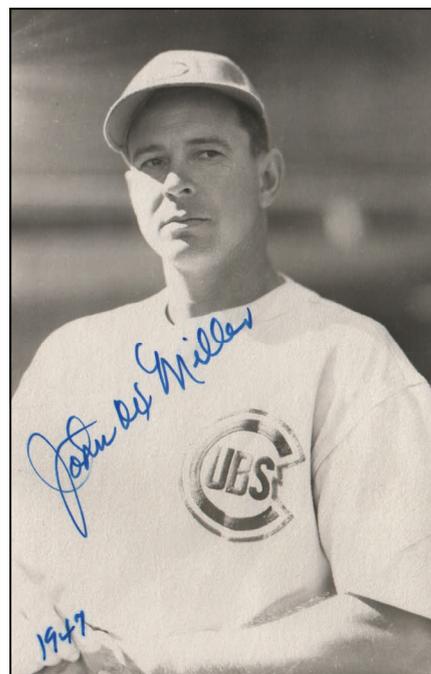
question over the next couple of issues, revealing why this subject is so important to me and why I want to ensure these ex-servicemen ballplayers are not forgotten.

I hope to be able to produce this on a quarterly basis and would be grateful for your feedback. Is this something you would be pleased to receive or is it just another pain-in-the-neck email?

I'm also looking for anyone to contribute to the newsletter. Do you have a wartime-related baseball story you want to share? If so, this would be a great forum in addition to the website.

Well, if you've read this far then I think I'm on the right track, so please enjoy the first issue. Enjoy what's left of the summer and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Gary Bedingfield



John "Ox" Miller, WWII veteran who passed away August 13, 2007.

Recent Passings

Sadly, the following players who served in the military in WWII are no longer with us. Rest in peace.

May

10 Dick Kryhoski
Kryhoski played seven seasons in the majors with the Yankees, Tigers, Browns and Orioles.

17 Bill Wight
Wight played 12 seasons in the majors with the Yankees, White Sox, Red Sox, Tigers, Indians, Orioles, Reds and Cardinals.

June

11 Vern Hoscheit
Hoscheit, a former minor league catcher, was a coach with the Orioles, Athletics, Angels and Mets from 1968 to 1987.

July

11 Shag Crawford
Crawford, a major league umpire from 1956 to 1975, was an Electrician 3rd Class aboard the destroyer *USS Walke* when she was hit by a kamikaze plane in January 1945.

16 Carl McNabb
Served with the 83rd Chemical (Motorized) Battalion in North Africa.
Read his biography on the Baseball in Wartime website.

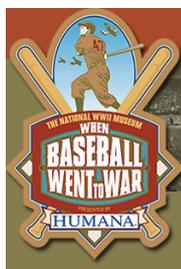
23 Scat Davis
Davis made his only major league appearance as a pinch runner for the Dodgers in 1946.

August

4 Frank Mancuso
Mancuso suffered a serious injury during a parachute training jump.
Read his biography on the Baseball in Wartime website.

13 Phil Rizzuto
Rizzuto played for the Norfolk Naval Training Station ball team in 1943 and was stationed in Australia.
Read his biography on the Baseball in Wartime website.

13 Ox Miller
Miller served with the Army in Texas.
Read his biography on the Baseball in Wartime website.



Duty, Honor, Country: When Baseball Went To War

A Special Conference and Exhibition On America's Pastime in WWII

November 9-11, 2007

New Orleans

The National World War II Museum teams up Hall of Fame players, baseball historians and authors to explore how baseball went to bat on the battlefield and the home front. Among the panelists will be Bob Feller, Morrie Martin, Lou Brissie, Dom DiMaggio, Johnny Pesky, Jerry Coleman and Tommy Lasorda.

I hope to see you there!

For further information call the museum on 504-527-6012 xtn 257 or email conferences@nationalww2museum.org.

No Greater Love by Todd Anton

Occasionally, a book comes along that inspires you to do something. It talks to you, and tells you it's time to do something you've been putting off for far too long.

That's the case with Todd Anton's *No Greater Love* from Rounder Books. The heartfelt account of his mission to honor his father, a WWII/Korean War combat veteran, has given me the inspiration to visit a little place in Normandy, France, called La Fiere. Geographically, the place is insignificant today, but on June 6, 1944, a

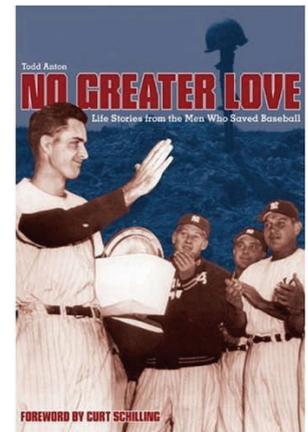
young paratrooper named Forrest "Lefty" Brewer, lost his life there.

Lefty was a minor league pitcher - property of the Washington Senators - and had a 20-win season and a no-hitter under his belt when he entered military service. Probably above all else he is the inspiration behind my wartime baseball research. He was one of the first players I was aware of to be killed in WWII and I have studied him to such an extent that I feel as if I actually knew him and could call him a friend.

But I have never been able to visit the site of his tragic death despite the fact that it is only an hour's flight away. Emotionally, I just haven't been ready.

Now that I've read Todd's book I'm ready for La Fiere. Todd's extremely personal account of his journey to honor his father and his interviews with baseball immortals including Bob Feller, Dom DiMaggio, Johnny Pesky and Bert Shepard, have made me realize it is something I simply HAVE to do.

Thanks, Todd.



No Greater Love: Life Stories from the Men Who Saved Baseball
Todd Anton
Rounder Books \$18.95
Order your copy at www.rounderbooks.com

Ebbets Field Flannels

Ebbets Field Flannels is the finest manufacturer of vintage historically-inspired athletic clothing. Since 1988 they have been creating fine handcrafted clothing, based on their extensive historical research, passion for authenticity and belief that athletic clothing of the early to mid 20th century, made of natural



7th Air Force jersey as worn by Joe DiMaggio

fabrics makes great timeless clothing today.



1942 Great Lakes Naval Station

Ebbets Field Flannels, who have just launched a unique range of WWII service team apparel, offer an extensive range of jerseys, caps, t-shirts and jackets.

For more information visit their website at www.ebbets.com



THE BOB FELLER GLOVE

I get a lot of emails asking about old baseball equipment and thought I'd share with you this range of "new" baseball gloves. The Hoboken Collection from Akadema includes Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth models as well as the Bob Feller model shown above. For further information contact Akadema Professional at www.akademapro.com.



Ernie Raimondi (seated) with Bill Lillard and Dom DiMaggio

Ernie Raimondi

The Raimondi family was West Oakland's first baseball family back in the 1930s. Billy Raimondi was a catcher with the Oakland Oaks and Al Raimondi pitched for the Mission Reds.

Ernie Raimondi caused quite a stir when he signed with the San Francisco Seals at the age of 16 in 1936. The young third baseman enjoyed a number of seasons in the Pacific Coast League and Texas League before military service beckoned in 1944.

Raimondi served with the 44th Infantry Division in France. Taking part in the Seventh Army's drive to secure the Vosges Mountains, liberate Strasbourg and defend Sarreguimines.

Private First Class Raimondi lost his life in combat on January 26, 1945.

On June 28, 1947, Bayview Park in Oakland was re-named Ernie Raimondi Park during an official opening celebration that included family members, city officials and

well-wishers.

Whilst the park has been the playing ground for many young Oakland ballplayers over the years, it has fallen into disrepair. But now Oakland Planning Commission have just approved a \$5 million makeover for the park. There will be a dedication ceremony with family members in attendance.

Read the full Ernie Raimondi biography at Baseball in Wartime

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