

# Gary Bedingfield's BASEBALL IN WARTIME

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[WWW.BASEBALLINWARTIME.CO.UK](http://WWW.BASEBALLINWARTIME.CO.UK)

## 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

**W**hen I launched the Baseball in Wartime newsletter this summer I had no idea it would receive such a huge and positive response. The mailing list has continued to grow on a daily basis and demand has prompted me to rethink how regularly the newsletter should be produced.

I had originally planned to circulate this, the second issue, after the New Orleans conference, but decided to bring it forward to meet demand. There will, of course, be a "special" issue that will bring you all the highlights and news from New Orleans in November. From there on the newsletter will probably be released on a bi-monthly basis.

As you may have noticed, I have been a little slow in updating the Baseball in Wartime website recently and that is primarily due to preparation I am doing for New Orleans. Please bare with me

during this time because I certainly have plenty more information to add.

On the subject of the New Orleans conference (which is only two weeks away), if you get the opportunity to be there, please come over and say hello. I know so many of you by name. It would be great to finally meet you after all these years!

**Gary Bedingfield**

I love discovering service team logos and particularly enjoyed this one. It was worn by the Las Vegas Army Airfield Horned Toads. The team was coached by Red Dugan who coached the University of Kansas baseball team after the war.

You can read his biography at [www.baseballinwartime.co.uk](http://www.baseballinwartime.co.uk)



## Hal Jeffcoat

September 6, 1924 to August 30, 2007

Jeffcoat served with the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team in WWII. His pro career began in the Tri-State League in 1946. He batted .346 with 15 home runs and 118 RBIs for Nashville in the Southern Association in 1947, and joined the Cubs in 1948. In 1954, Jeffcoat converted from the outfield to pitcher. He had his best season on the mound in 1957 with the Reds when he was 12-13. He ended his professional career with Seattle in the Pacific Coast League in 1960.



I really can't say enough about what a great event this is going to be. Spread over a three-day period, there will be panels focusing on key issues relating to wartime baseball including morale, the

homefront, the battlefield, civil rights and baseball's role in American society.

In addition to numerous experts in the field of wartime baseball, former major league players in attendance will include Bob Feller, Johnny Pesky, Lou Brissie, Morrie Martin, Jerry Coleman and Lenny Yochim.

Keynote presentations will be from Todd Anton (author of *No Greater Love*), Tommy Lasorda and myself.

I hope to see you there!

For further information call the museum on 504-527-6012 xtn 257 or email [conferences@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:conferences@nationalww2museum.org).

## Baseball in Wartime Website Facelift

I am currently in the process of redesigning the Baseball in Wartime website. I have a great-looking new layout and pages will open in a much more uniform manner, no matter what size monitor you are viewing on. I know there has been a problem with the way some of the pages have been opening and this should overcome that issue.

I anticipate a launch sometime in December 2007.



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## The Professional Baseball Player Database

The Professional Baseball Player Database software program includes the 1922-2004 seasons, containing all leagues, teams, and players listed in the Official Baseball Guides for those seasons.

For further information visit [www.baseball-almanac.com/minor-league](http://www.baseball-almanac.com/minor-league)



## Ted Williams at War by Bill Nowlin

Ted Williams was no ordinary ballplayer. He was a two-time MVP winner, led the league in batting six times, and won the Triple Crown twice.

But, it has always amazed me how authors have managed to sum up Ted Williams' military career in a couple of paragraphs. They usually provide you with a paragraph about his WWII activities and then a paragraph about his exploits in the Korean War ... and that's it.

Well, at long last, author Bill Nowlin has corrected this enormous oversight. *Ted*

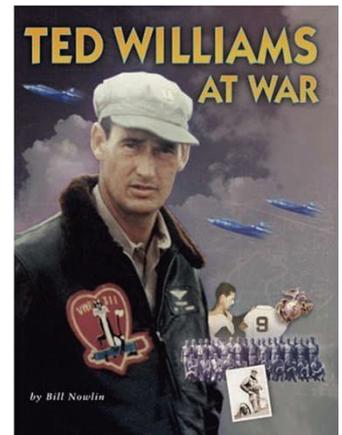
*Williams at War* is a day-by-day, blow-by-blow account of Ted Williams the military serviceman. It is an exceptionally in-depth record of his distinguished career, featuring many interviews with fellow servicemen from both WWII and the Korean War.

Ted Williams is undoubtedly one of our greatest military baseball heroes but to what extent he is worthy of that title has never really been explored. Bill Nowlin has done an outstanding job in piecing together Williams' career and the book works

very well on both the baseball and military level.

The photographs are a particular treat, showing Ted Williams as a "normal guy" serviceman rather than the glamorous ballplayer he was as a civilian.

If you have read any of the Ted Williams' biographies then I strongly advise you to get yourself a copy of Bill Nowlin's *Ted Williams at War*. At last you will be able to fill in the gaps and get a complete picture of this deep, fascinating and intriguing human being.



**Ted Williams at War**  
Bill Nowlin  
Rounder Books \$24.95

Order your copy at  
[www.rounderbooks.com](http://www.rounderbooks.com)

## Murry Dickson

Murry Dickson was born in Tracy, Missouri on August 21, 1916. He began his pro career with Grand Island of the Nebraska State League in 1937 and made single game appearances with the St Louis Cardinals in 1939 and 1940.

After posting a 21-11 record at Columbus of the American Association, he joined the St Louis Cardinals in 1942, posting a 6-3 record in 36 games with an excellent 2.91 ERA.

In September 1943, Dickson

joined the Army, but at the request of baseball commissioner Landis, he was granted a 10-day furlough by Seventh Service Command to pitch in the 1943 World Series, and pitched two-thirds of an inning in the final game. He is one of only two members of the armed forces to appear in a World Series. In 1918, Fred Thomas was on leave from the Navy when he appeared in all six games of the World Series for the Red Sox.

Dickson was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1943. He was later stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Meade, Maryland and Camp Shanks, New York, before leaving with the 35th Infantry Division for Europe on May 12, 1944.

He arrived in Liverpool, England on May 26 and on July 7, he reached mainland Europe. For 10 months, Dickson advanced through Europe with the 35th Infantry Division as the driver of a point jeep. He was in combat at the breakout at St Lo, the Battle of the Bulge, the crossing of the Rhine and the final thrust through Germany.

On one occasion he was

### Past Time Sports

[www.pasttimesports.biz](http://www.pasttimesports.biz)

Antique-style Baseball Gloves



I get a lot of emails asking about old baseball equipment and thought I'd share with you this range of "antique-style" baseball gloves from Past Time Sports. The range includes models from the 1920s as well as the great 1930s model shown above. For further information contact Past Time Sports at [www.pasttimesports.biz](http://www.pasttimesports.biz).

forced to dive into a foxhole to avoid enemy fire. Shortly afterwards, someone else jumped on top of him. It turned out that this man was General Patton. After they got out of the fire and were able to retreat to the safety of their lines General Patton asked Dickson to become his personal jeep driver to which he reclined. He later said "no way, Patton is nuts, he doesn't think anyone can kill him." Fortunately for Dickinson he refused the job, as Patton was killed in a jeep accident in France shortly after the war.

When the war ended, he traded fatigues for flannels

and pitched the 35th Infantry Indians to a series of victories in exhibition games in Germany and France.

When Dickson returned home he had with him a vast assortment of "souvenirs" including German hand guns, cameras, binoculars and watches.

*Read the full Murry Dickson biography at Baseball in Wartime*

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Murry Dickson pitched for 18 seasons in the major leagues.