

Merry Christmas to you all!

Another year draws to an end and I can look back with many fond memories at what Baseball in Wartime has achieved in 2008.

The year started with a very special event - my first visit to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at Cooperstown, New York. As part of the research for *When Baseball Went to War* (which was published in October 2008), Bill Nowlin and I spent a fascinating two days in Cooperstown where we had the opportunity to explore their incredible collection of photographs.

On memorial Day, May 26, 2008, Baseball in Wartime proudly teamed up with Minor League Baseball to remember all those ballplayers who served in the armed forces. At every minor league park across the United States, there was a Public Address announcement that highlighted the number of minor league players who served during World War II and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



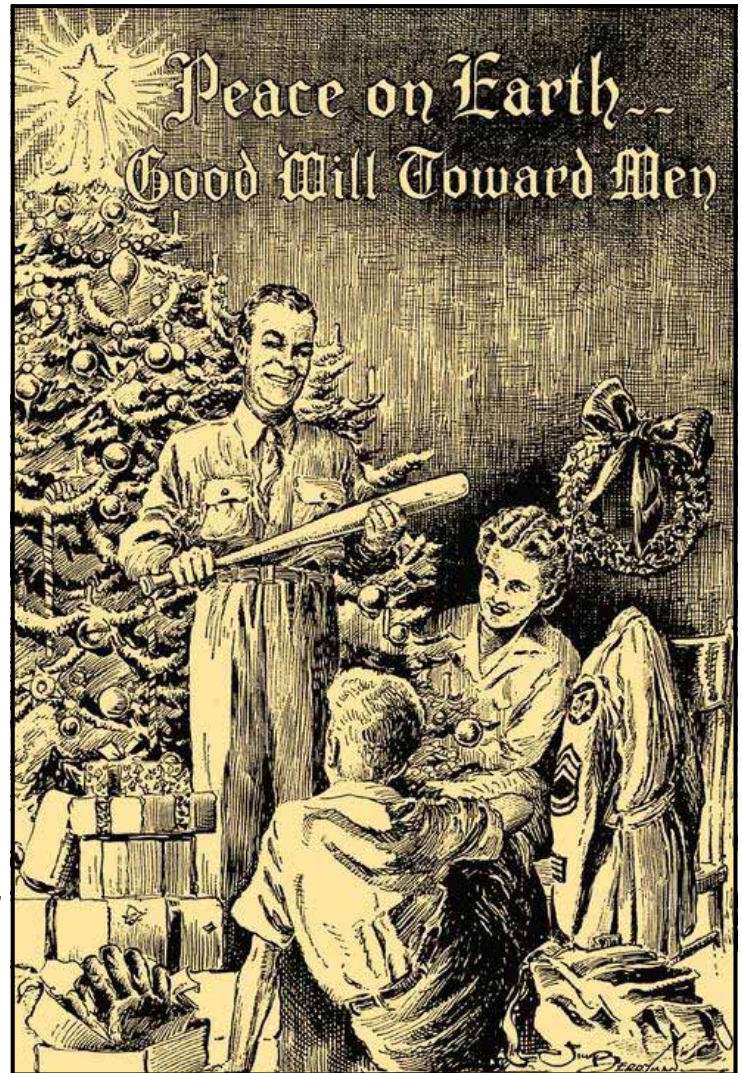
And the year is ending on a high note. I can now officially announce that McFarland Publishers - one of the

leading publishers of scholarly and reference books in the United States - and renowned for their baseball titles, will be publishing my book on baseball players who died during World War II. Look out for more news in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted me with the Baseball in Wartime website and newsletter. The list is far too big to name you all but I want to assure you that this project would not be possible without your support. Thank you.

So, as we approach that magical time of the year, I want to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Gary Bedingfield
(founder and editor of
Baseball in Wartime)



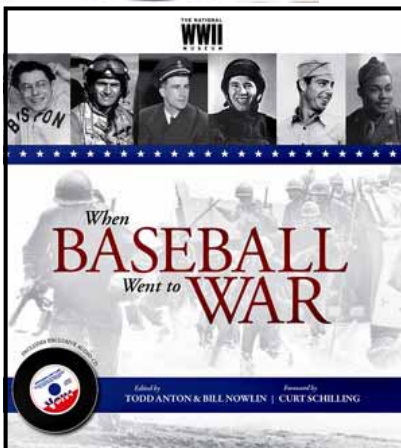
Get Your Copy in Time for Christmas!

When Baseball Went to War

With contributions from Todd Anton, Gary Bedingfield, Frank Ceresi, Bill Nowlin, Bill Swank and many others.

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Go-Devils - G.I. World Series Champs of 1946

When the fighting in Europe came to an end in May 1945, millions of American troops, who had been away from home for up to four years, had one thing on their mind ... getting home. But the cease of hostilities did not dictate the end of service for US troops in Germany. An Army of Occupation was put in place to help and oversee the rebuilding of the devastated country.

Among these young GIs were a number of ball players who ceased every opportunity to swing a bat and loosen their throwing arms. In September 1945, the GI World Series was staged between the two top teams from the Third Army and Com Z. In 1946, a second GI World Series was held in Germany by teams representing the Army of Occupation.

All summer long the teams played each other and one club, the 60th Infantry Regiment Go-Devils of the 9th Infantry Division, rose above all contenders to take the coveted GI World Series crown. This is the story of the 1946 Go-Devils.

May 4 – The 9th Infantry Division league season officially opens. In addition to the 60th Infantry Regiment, there are seven other teams representing the 16th Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Regiment, 47th Infantry Regiment, 338th Quartermaster Group, 346th Engineers, Division Artillery and Special Troops.

May 11 – The 60th Infantry Regiment Go-Devils beat the 9th Division Special Troops, 1-0. Carl Scheib, a pitcher with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1945, allows three hits beating Dan Horn of the Special Troops, who allowed only four.

May 19 – The Go-Devils beat the 16th AFA, 2-1. Scheib allows just two-hits before a crowd of 5,000 at Ingolstadt, Germany.

June 8 – The Go-Devils lose to the 558th Quartermaster Group, 5-2, to end their 10-game winning streak.

August 6 – The Go-Devils win 28 of 31 games to clinch the 9th Division league title and enter the Third Army play offs.

August 9 – The Go-Devils' Carl Scheib allows seven hits in a 4-1 win over Third Army Headquarters to snap the HQ team's 31-game win streak.

August 16 - The Go-Devils beat the 26th Infantry Blue Spaders, 10-8, to clinch the

Third Army championship. Fay Starr of the Go-Devils hits a 400-foot three-run home run into deep centerfield in the eighth to clinch the game.

August 26 – The Go-Devils enter the European Theater American League eliminations.

August 27 – The Go-Devils twice beat the USAFE Eagles, 4-3, at Bibich Field in Furstenfeldbruck. Scheib allows eight hits in the first game.

August 28 – The Go-Devils beat USAFE, 14-0, to move into first place in the American League standings.

August 30 – The Go-Devils beat USFA, 8-2, for their fourth straight win in American League. Bob Morgan hits a three-run homer in the sixth.

August 31 – The Go-Devils beat USFA, 6-2, for their fifth American League victory. Jim Patterson for the Go-Devils allows six hits.

September 1 – The Go-Devils beat USFA, 7-1. Dan Horn allows six hits and the game is broadcast over Radio Stuttgart, a German civilian station.

September 3 – The Go-Devils clinch the American League playoffs defeating the 1st Constabulary, 16-2. Carl Scheib allows just five hits and strikes out 13. He also hits two home runs. The Go-Devils are now in line to meet the National League winners on September 8, in the GI World Series.

September 10 – The GI World Series starts

in Frankfurt's Victory Stadium. The Go-Devils, with a record of 30 wins and five losses, will face the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), who won 38 of 42 games.

Game One – The Go-Devils win the first game of the World Series, 4-3. Carl Scheib throws a no-hitter for seven and two-thirds innings at Victory Stadium, with 5,000 in attendance.

September 11 – *Game Two* – The 508th win the second game, 2-1, to even the series. In a 15-inning battle, Lagomarsino scatters five hits for the paratroopers against Joe Moresco. The crowd Victory Stadium crowd is estimated at 10,000.

September 12 – *Game Three* – At Century Stadium in Stuttgart, the Go-Devils win the third game, 3-2. 18-year-old Dan Horn, hurls no-hit ball for six innings and strikes out 12. Carl Scheib homers in the fourth for the Go-Devils' second run.

September 13 – *Game Four* – The 508th win the fourth game, 10-4, to even the series at two games each.

September 14 – *Game Five* – The Go-Devils take a three-games-to-two advantage with a 12-2 win over the 508th. Carl Scheib stars for the Go-Devils with relief help from Joe Moresco.

September 15 – *Game Six* – At Victory Stadium in Frankfurt, the Go-Devils clinch the 1946 GI World Series title with a 6-0 win over the 508th PIR. Dan Horn, making his second start in four days, hurls a five hit shutout and strikes out eight.



60th Infantry Regiment Go-Devils (1946 GI World Series Champions)

Back Row: Durban, Cliff Ratliff, Bob Morgan, Joe Moresco, Jim Patterson, Bill Sharp, Jerry Weston, Floyd Gurney, Dick Menz and George Zallie.

The Go-Devils in Action



Jerry Weston hits the Go-Devils' first home run of the season on May 31, 1946, at Ingolstadt, Germany



Fay Starr slides home safely

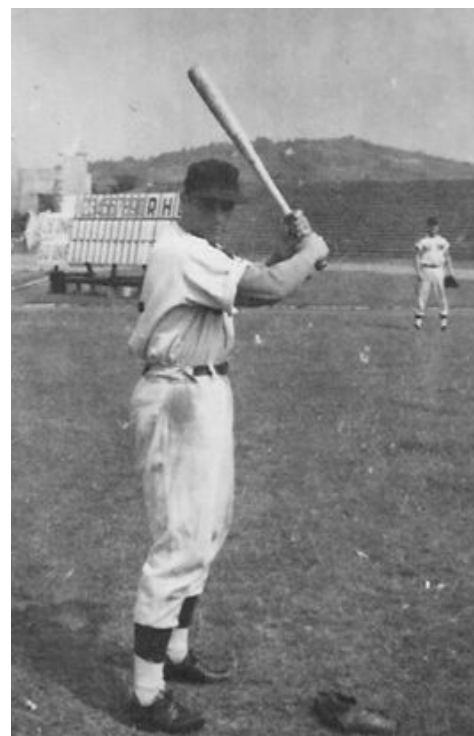
Meet the Go-Devils



Bob Stevens of Norfolk, VA



Bill Putney of Big Island, VA



Bob Page of Charleston, SC

Scheib Hurls Two-Hitter
To Defeat 16th Arm'd 2-1



Carl Scheib of Gratz, PA



Cliff Ratliff of Lexington, KY



George Zallie of Philadelphia, PA

OLD-TIME DATA, INC.

The Professional Baseball Player Databases

www.baseballinwartime.com/database.htm

Meet the Go-Devils



Jerry Weston of St Louis, MO



Jack Lance of Scranton, PA



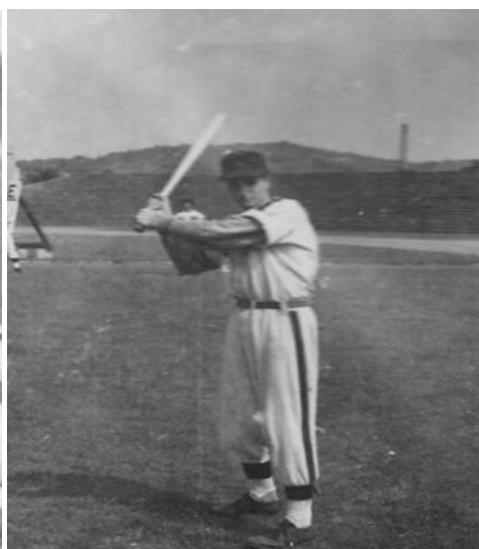
Fay Starr of Fort Worth, TX



George Straker of Reading, PA



Joe Moresco of Wilkes-Barre, PA



Ronnie Slaven of Detroit, MI



Bill Kennedy of Greensboro, NC



Bob Morgan of Oklahoma City, OK



Dick Menz of Honeoye Falls, NY

I'd like to say a very special thank you to Jeanmarie Diehn for taking the time to gather these images and information from the scrapbook of her father, Jerry Weston, who was the manager and left fielder with the Go-Devils. Jerry was from St Louis, MO, and during the 1942 and 1943 seasons he played with the Camp Roberts team. He played with the 90th Infantry Division team after VE day and joined the 60th Infantry Regiment Go-Devils in 1946.



THE BOOK

that captures Boo Ferriss and his impact on baseball.

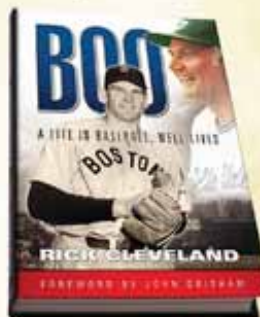
"Few in baseball have had their hearts broken and dreams dashed so suddenly as Boo Ferriss six decades ago. Far fewer still have gone on to enrich the sport, and the world around them as much or with such grace." Rick Cleveland, columnist for *The Clarion-Ledger* and author of *Boo: A Life in Baseball, Well-Lived*. Well-Lived penned those words about Mississippi icon Boo Ferriss.

In *Boo: A Life in Baseball, Well-Lived*, the life of Boo Ferriss and his impact on the sport he loves is chronicled by Mississippi's premier sportswriter Rick Cleveland, and includes a foreword by best-selling author John Grisham.

This is a limited edition, collector's item, so order yours before they're all gone. Supply is limited. *Boo: A Life in Baseball, Well-Lived* by Rick Cleveland is in production now. The ship date is currently scheduled for November 28, 2008, but is subject to change.

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<http://booferrissbook.com/>



"Drawing heavily upon his baseball-rich family history, Reagan Rothe has created a fascinating snapshot of a fleeting moment of brilliance in professional baseball and all that comes with the fame and fortune inevitably tied with it. Set decades in the future, *Dreams and Baseball* is a tale of flashbacks for the protagonist, Jeff Hartes. The tale hinges on Hartes' magical season of 1999, encased with heartache, sadness, sorrow and tragedy. Rothe has done an outstanding job demonstrating just how closely baseball and life are naturally intertwined in this highly recommendable, exciting, and page-turning work."

Gary Bedingfield, founder of the *Baseball in Wartime* newsletter.



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Recent Passings

John "Red" Murff

April 1, 1921 to November 28, 2008

Red Murff served with the Army Air Force during the war. He pitched for the Milwaukee Braves in the 1950s.

Andy Tomasic

December 10, 1917 to November 27, 2008

Andy Tomasic served with the Army during WWII and played for the New York Giants in 1949.

Randy Gumpert

January 23, 1918 to November 25, 2008

Randy Gumpert, famous for giving up Mickey Mantle's first home run, was with the Philadelphia Athletics before the war. He served with the Coast Guard during World War II, and played for the Yankees, White Sox, Red Sox and Senators after the war.

Sidney Wynn

1924 to November 22, 2008

Sidney Wynn served with the Third Army Quartermaster Corps during the war. He played for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro League in 1952.

Ed Levy

October 28, 1916 to October 27, 2008

Ed Levy played with the Phillies in 1940, and was with the Yankees in 1942 and 1944. He then served in the Coast Guard. Returning to baseball in 1946, he played and managed in the minors until 1955.

Baseball in Wartime Newsletter

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