

Casualties of the Korean War

Last month I was discussing Korean War casualties with my dear friend, Burr "Ox" Oxley. Whilst Baseball in Wartime has always focused on WWII, I felt a need to include casualties from other wars, and Burr kindly offered to help compile a list of Korean War casualties from Sporting News Baseball Guides.

Together with a little of my own homework, I am proud to present this special edition of the Baseball in Wartime Newsletter featuring baseball's casualties of the Korean War. This in no way is meant to be a definitive list, but it is certainly a good starting point. I for one know how difficult it is to compile complete lists of ballplayers who died in conflict (I have been operating the Baseball in Wartime website since 2000 and not until January of this year did I feel sure I had the names of all former ballplayers who died during WWII).

I hope you appreciate this diversion from WWII and take a moment to remember all those who have given their lives in service for their country.

Gary Bedingfield

September 2, 2009

Glasgow, Scotland

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Name	Pos	Service	Cause of Death	Location	Date
Erwin Adamcewicz	OF	US Army	Died from Wounds	USA	Nov 21, 1952
William Crago	OF	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	July 26, 1951
Leonard Glica	IF	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	May 26, 1951
John Hrasch	SS	US Army	Auto Accident	USA	Aug 18, 1952
James Hudgens	OF	US Navy	Killed in Action	Korea	April 21, 1952
Raymond Jankowski	P	US Army	Accident	USA	Nov 5, 1951
Walter Koehler	P	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	July 28, 1952
John Lazar	P	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	Sept 7, 1951
Edward Leneve	C	USMC	Killed in Action	Korea	Dec 2, 1950
Jack Leonard	P	USAF	Unknown	USA	Sept 15, 1953
Robert Neighbors	IF	USAF	Missing in Action	Korea	Aug 8, 1952
Marcel Poelker	2B	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	Sept 25, 1951
George Reeden	IF	USAF	Plane Crash	USA	Dec 11, 1953
Gilbert Shirk	C	Unknown	Accident	USA	May 20, 1953
Carroll Sweiger	P	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	Oct 4, 1951
Frederick Tschudin	C	USAF	Plane Crash	USA	March 14, 1952
Carl Tumlinson	SS	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	April 6, 1953
Charles Wilcox	OF	US Army	Killed in Action	Korea	Sept 18, 1952

With the surrender of Japan in 1945 the United Nations developed plans for a trusteeship administration of Korea, the Soviet Union administering the peninsula north of the 38th parallel and the United States administering the south. The politics of the Cold War resulted in the 1948 establishment of two separate governments, North Korea and South Korea.

The Korean War was an armed conflict between North Korea and South Korea, which began on 25 June 1950 and paused with an armistice signed 27 July 1953.

The war was a consequence of both countries aggressively attempting Korean national reunification under their respective governments. Despite reunification talks in the months preceding open warfare, their continual cross-border skirmishes and raids at the 38th Parallel, and the political frustration of failed all-Korea elections in 1948, escalated to warfare. The reunification negotiations ceased when North Korea invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950. The United States and the United Nations intervened on the side of the South. After a rapid UN counteroffensive reversing the initial North Korean invasion, the People's Republic of China (PRC) intervened on the side of the North. The fighting ended with an armistice that approximately restored the original border between the Koreans; it became the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

480,000 Americans fought in Korea. 36,516 were killed.



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Erwin J "Ace" Adamcewicz

Position: Outfield

Born: November 8, 1929 Norwich, Connecticut

Died: November 21, 1952 Fort Devens, Massachusetts

(died of complications from wounds received in Korea)



1949 Appalachian League batting champion

1950 Western Association batting champion

1981 inductee of Norwich Sports Hall of Fame

Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1947	Lenoir	Blue Ridge	D	none	54	218	59	9	1	1	.271
1948	Albany	GA-FL	D	STL	140	549	153	29	5	1	.279
1949	Johnson City	Appalachian	D	STL	114	455	151	37	12	12	.332
1949	Albany	GA-FL	D	STL	27	107	29	8	1	1	.271
1950	St. Joseph	Western Assoc	C	STL	134	510	166	34	10	13	.325

William E Crago

Position: Outfield

Born: 1928 Lake County, Indiana

Died July 26, 1951 in Korea

(Killed in action while serving as a Private First Class with the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1948	Fitzgerald	Georgia St	D	none	105	381	85	6	9	0	.223
1949	Fitzgerald	Georgia St	D	none	137	502	139	23	7	4	.277
1950	Fitzgerald	Georgia St	D	none	140	510	165	41	5	10	.324



Leonard G Glica

Position: Infield

Born: October 8, 1928 Omaha, Nebraska

Died: May 26, 1951 Korea

(Killed in action while serving as a private with the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1947	Abilene	W Tex-NM	C	BRO	103	393	99	17	1	8	.252
1948	Abilene	W Tex-NM	C	BRO	136	482	125	21	5	8	.259
1949	Lancaster	Interstate	B	BRO	126	425	111	22	2	6	.261
1949	Newport News	Piedmont	B	BRO	10	31	8	3	0	0	.258
1950	Lancaster	Interstate	B	BRO	129	438	111	22	5	10	.253

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John A Hrasch

Position: Shortstop

Born: December 22, 1928 Cleveland, Ohio

Died: August 18, 1952 Camp Pickett, Virginia

(Private Hrasch was one of two soldiers killed when their car was involved in a head-on collision with a truck at Camp Pickett)



An All-American at Ohio University in 1950 and inducted in the Kermit Blosser Ohio Athletics Hall of Fame in 1993

Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1950	New Orleans	S Assoc	AA	PIT	73	217	48	6	1	0	.221
1951	New Orleans	S Assoc	AA	PIT	13	47	15	0	0	0	.319

James R Hudgens

Position: Outfield

Born: January 4, 1929 Tucson, Arizona

Died: April 21, 1952

(Seaman Hudgens was killed when there was an explosion in a gun turret aboard the USS St Paul)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1947	Carbondale	N Atlantic	D	PHI	35	136	32	5	1	1	.235
1948	Oroville	Far West	D	BOS	113	397	115	7	13	2	.290

Raymond H Jankowski

Position: Pitcher

Born: June 23, 1929 Locust Township, Pennsylvania

Died: November 5, 1951 Fort Huachuca, Arizona

(Died from injuries while serving as a private at Fort Huachuca)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	ER	BB
1948	West Frankfort	Illinois St	D	STL	15	2	2.52	23	150.0	119	42	88
1949	Hamilton	PONY	D	STL	13	7	4.70	23	136.0	140	71	67

Walter T Koehler

Position: Pitcher

Born: 1928 Kalamazoo, Michigan

Died: July 28, 1952 Korea

(Killed in action as a Private First Class with the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	ER	BB
1949	Visalia	California	C	CHC	0	7	8.72	18	64.0	84	62	61
1950	Sioux Falls	Northern	C	CHC	7	9	5.04	23	125.0	134	70	99
1951	Carthage	KOM	D	CHC	6	5	3.41	13	87.0	79	33	66

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John Lazar
 Position: Pitcher
 Born: December 12, 1929 Kewanee, Illinois
 Died: September 7, 1951 Korea
 (Killed by a sniper while serving as a corporal with the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	ER	BB
1950	Pittsburg	KOM	D	STB	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Edward C Leneve
 Position: Catcher
 Born: October 25, 1929 Richmond, California
 Died: December 2, 1950 Korea
 (Killed in action during the battle for Chosin Reservoir while serving as a private with the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1948	Visalia, Stockton	California	C	CHC	41	109	14	2	0	0	.128

Jack C Leonard
 Position: Pitcher
 Born: 1930
 Died: September 15, 1953 Montgomery, Alabama
 (Died in a USAF hospital)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	ER	BB
1950	Fulton	Kitty	D	WSH	11	4	3.68	26	132.0	136	54	61



In 1952, at the age of 34, Ted Williams was recalled to active duty for service in the Korean War. After learning to fly the new Grumman F9F Panther at MCAS Cherry Point in North Carolina, he was assigned to VMF-311, Marine Aircraft Group 33 (MAG-33) in Korea.

Williams flew 39 combat missions before being pulled from flight status in June of 1953 after an old ear infection acted up.

Williams returned to baseball after military service and continued to play in the major leagues until 1960. His final at-bat produced his 521st home run. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1966, his first year of eligibility.

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Robert O Neighbors
 Position: Infield
 Born: November 9, 1917 Talihina, Oklahoma
 Died: August 8, 1952 Korea

(Served as a major with the 13th Bomb Squadron, 3rd Bomb Group. Reported missing after failing to return from a mission as the pilot of a B-26B Invader)



Only player with major league experience to lose his life in Korean War

Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1936	Siloam Springs	Ark-Mo	D	none	118	448	125	29	3	16	.279
1937	Siloam Springs	Ark-Mo	D	none	91	311	89	17	2	8	.286
1937	Abbeville	Evangeline	D	none	14	55	12	1	1	0	.218
1938	Palestine	E Texas	C	SLB	139	522	157	28	3	18	.301
1938	San Antonio	Texas	A1	SLB	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1939	Springfield	Three-I	B	SLB	119	435	117	22	6	14	.269
1939	St Louis	American	ML	---	7	11	2	0	0	1	.182
1940	Palestine	E Texas	C	SLB	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1940	San Antonio	Texas	A1	SLB	4	14	1	0	0	0	.071
1940	Toledo	Amer Ass	AA	SLB	71	204	57	10	2	0	.279
1941	San Antonio	Texas	A1	SLB	155	496	107	17	3	4	.216

Marcel C Poelker

Position: Second Base
 Born: August 26, 1928 St Louis, Missouri
 Died: September 25, 1951, Korea

(Killed in action at Heartbreak Ridge while serving as a sergeant with 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1947	Lawton	Sooner State	D	none	30	88	17	1	1	0	.193
1947	Bristol	Appalachian	D	NYG	10	26	3	0	0	0	.115
1947	Fort Smith	Western Assoc	C	NYG	19	55	8	2	0	0	.145
1948	Lawton	Sooner State	D	NYG	133	523	110	14	2	1	.210
1949	Lawton	Sooner State	D	NYG	21	75	12	1	0	2	.160
1950	Sanford	Florida State	D	NYG	139	547	148	14	6	0	.271



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George C Reeden

Position: Infield

Born: 1930

Died: December 11, 1953 Panama City, Florida

(Died in a USAF F-86D Sabre plane crash while serving as a lieutenant)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	PCT
1950	Lexington	N Carolina St	D	PHA	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Gilbert F Shirk

Position: Catcher

Born: 1930

Died: May 20, 1953 Perryville, Maryland

(died in an automobile accident)

Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1950	Hornell	PONY	D	BRO	74	250	59	4	3	0	.236
1951	Hornell	PONY	D	BRO	111	364	97	18	0	1	.266
1952	Pueblo	Western	A	BRO	86	256	59	7	0	2	.230

Carroll W "Bill" Sweiger

Position: Pitcher

Born: May 20, 1924 Baltimore, Maryland

Died: October 4, 1951 Korea

(Killed in action while serving as a 1st lieutenant with the 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division)



Also served during WWII, entering military service in July 1943

Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB
1943	York	Interstate	B	PIT	1	2		6	21.0	22	11
Military Service											
1947	York	Interstate	B	PIT	11	13	3.19	29	175.0	180	55
1948	Indianapolis	American Assoc	AAA	PIT	0	0	0.00	2	1.0	2	1
1949	Yakima	Western Int	B	none	11	2	4.96	16	107.0	126	31
1949	Portland	Pacific Coast	AAA	none	0	3	4.15	6	13.0	18	6
1950	Richmond	Piedmont	B	NYG	10	16	3.57	31	217.0	223	58

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Frederick Beverly Tschudin

Position: Catcher/Manager
 Born: May 29, 1922 Missouri
 Died: March 14, 1952 Kinston, North Carolina
 (died in USAF training plane crash)



Also served during WWII

Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1940	Lafayette Rayne, Port	Evangeline	D	SLB	70	205	41	2	0	0	.200
1941	Arthur, Lafayette, Alexandria	Evangeline	D	SLB	55	156	30	5	1	0	.192
1942	Pampa	W Tex-NM	D	none	10	39	10	3	1	2	.256
1942	Muskogee	Western Ass	C	none	62	203	43	9	0	2	.212
Military Service											
1946	Grand Forks	Northern	C	BRO	30	101	33	2	2	0	.327
1946	Asheville	Tri-State	B	BRO	50	170	35	9	0	0	.206
1947	Marshall	Lone Star	C	none	10	31	5	0	0	0	.161
1947	Vicksburg, Pensacola	Southeastern	B	none	74	223	53	11	1	1	.238
1948	Miami	Florida Int	C	none	135	469	128	14	1	2	.273
1949	Douglas	Georgia State	D	none	135	520	182	24	9	4	.350
1950	Douglas	Georgia State	D	none	137	516	147	24	6	2	.285
1951	Tifton	Ga-Fla	D	none	122	454	136	28	1	0	.300

Carl D Tumlinson

Position: Shortstop
 Born: March 31, 1932 Phoenix, Arizona
 Died: April 6, 1953 Korea
 (Killed in action while serving as a Private with the 5th Infantry Regimental Combat Team)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1950	Santa Barbara	California	C	BRO	86	325	88	22	2	1	.271
1951	Greenwood	Cotton States	C	BRO	118	464	148	30	8	19	.319
1951	Newport News	Piedmont	B	BRO	10	25	6	1	0	0	.240
1952	Elmira	Eastern	A	BRO	53	221	57	11	2	5	.258

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Charles B Wilcox

Position: Outfield

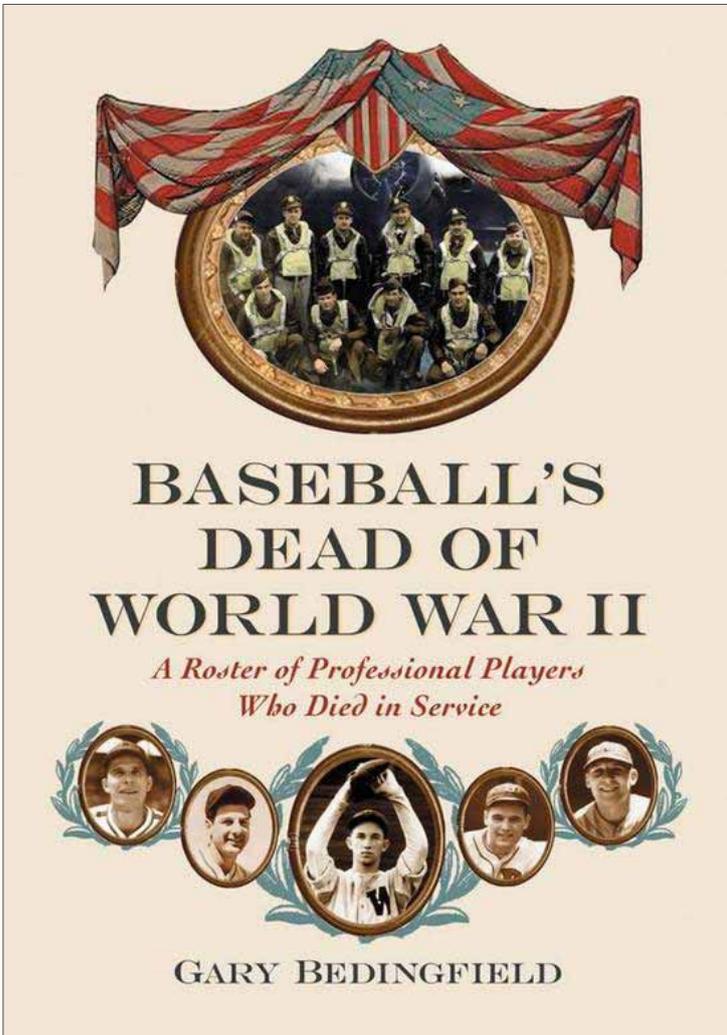
Born: 1927 St Francisville, Louisiana

Died: September 18, 1952 Korea

(Killed in action while serving as a Private with the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division)



Year	Team	League	Level	Affil	G	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	PCT
1948	Hammond	Evangeline	D	none	125	508	140	33	10	6	.276
1949	Hammond	Evangeline	C	none	139	554	163	29	4	5	.294
1950	Anderson	Tri-State	B	none	131	521	130	22	6	8	.250
1951	Baton Rouge	Evangeline	C	none	50	198	47	13	2	4	.237
1951	Anderson	Tri-State	B	SLB	22	47	9	3	0	0	.191



Baseball's Dead of World War II

A Roster of Professional Players Who Died in Service

Gary Bedingfield

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Baseball's Dead of World War II by Baseball in Wartime founder Gary Bedingfield is soon to be released by McFarland - leading publishers of scholarly and reference books in the United States.

Bob Neighbors



Robert O "Bob" Neighbors was born on November 9, 1917 in Talihina, Oklahoma. When he signed with the Siloam Springs Travelers of the Arkansas-Missouri League in 1936, he had never played baseball – only fast-pitch softball. However, he made the conversion easily and batted .278 in 118 games with 16 home runs and 86 RBIs.

Neighbors produced similar numbers with the Travelers in 1937, and joined Palestine of the East Texas League in 1938, where he hit .301 in 139 games. The young shortstop played for Springfield of the Three-I League in 1939, and his 14 home runs and 80 RBIs in 119 games earned him a late-season call-up to the St Louis Browns. The 21-year-old made his major league debut on September 16, 1939, and appeared in seven games, getting two hits in 11 at-bats.

Neighbors played for the Toledo Mudhens of the American Association in 1940 and was with San Antonio of the Texas League in 1941. Neighbors married his wife, Winifred Wilcox, in January 1941, but tragedy struck that summer Winifred hit by a car and killed. Bob was on the road with the team at the time.

Neighbors entered military service with the Army Air Force at Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 8, 1942. He served with the 22nd Air Transport Training Detachment at Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he played baseball for the Sheppard Field Mechanics. The Mechanics team was led by Texas A&M star Lieutenant Maryland Jeffrey, and featured Dave Short of the White Sox, Ray Poole of the Athletics, Bill Gray of the Hollywood Stars, Ray Murray, who would play for the Indians and Athletics after the war, and Pete Hughes of Spokane in the Western International League.

Neighbors later served at Maxwell Air Base in Montgomery, Alabama, where he met and later married Katherine Burke. He also served in California at Fairfield-Suisan Army Air Base and

Hamilton Field, where he also had the opportunity to play ball.

Bob Neighbors didn't return to professional baseball after the war. He chose, instead, to remain in military service although he did manage and play for the Maxwell Air Base team.

Major Neighbors saw combat duty during the Korean War as a Douglas B-26B Invader pilot with the 13th Bomb Squadron of the 3rd Bomb Group. On August 8, 1952, during a night mission, Neighbors and his crew – First-Lieutenant William Holcom and Staff-Sergeant Grady Weeks – reported they had been hit and were bailing out. There was no further contact and the crew was reported missing in action after failing to return. All hope for Neighbors, Holcom and Weeks was lost after the fighting in Korea ended on July 27, 1953, and prisoners were repatriated.



Douglas B-26B Invader "The 7th Chadwick" which Bob Neighbors flew in North Korea

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