

Yogi BERRA

Batting L

- HR KING
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
STOIC PROSPECT

Participated in the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach on 6/6/1944, a gunner's mate on board a landing craft. Also spent time in No. Africa, Italy.



NAVY Catcher
History ★ Maker Who Served 1944-45

Bill DICKEY

Batting L

- CHAMPION
- EAGER
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● STOIC ICON

Drafted 6/3/1944, at age 37 despite sinus condition. Served as an athletic officer in the Pacific and managed the US Navy team that won '44 Service WS in Hawaii.



NAVY Catcher
History ★ Maker Who Served 1944-45

Ted WILLIAMS

Batting L

- HERO
- CHAMPION
- SLUGGER
- HR KING
- PATIENT
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
STOIC ICON

Drafted in '42, commissioned 2nd LT and earned pilot's wings 6/44. Served as instructor with the USMC. Recalled into active duty in '52, flew 39 combat missions in Korea.



MARINES First Base
History ★ Maker Who Served 1942-53

Stan MUSIAL

Batting L

- HERO
- CHAMPION
- SLUGGER
- HR KING
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
ICON

Spent 14 months in the Navy, a seaman second class. He served with the special services, mostly in the capacity of entertaining troops by playing baseball.



NAVY 1B/Outfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1945-46

Jackie ROBINSON

Batting R

- HERO
- CHAMPION
- SLUGGER
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● ACTIVE ●PROSPECT

Began OCS in '42, commissioned 2nd LT in '43. Fought racism in military, refusing an order to move to the back of a military bus. Later acquitted of the charges.



ARMY Second Base
History ★ Maker Who Served 1942-44

Phil RIZZUTO

Batting R

- HERO
- EAGER

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD

Served at Norfolk NTS in '43, later put in charge of 20mm gun crew. Contracted malaria while in New Guinea. Sent to Australia to recover, coached baseball while there.



NAVY Shortstop
History ★ Maker Who Served 1942-44

Johnny PESKY

Batting L

- HERO
- CHAMPION
- PATIENT
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● PROSPECT

Graduated an ensign from OCS in Atlanta in '45, sent to Honolulu NAS. Later said, "I think if I didn't have baseball to come back to, I'd have stayed in the Navy!"



NAVY Shortstop
History ★ Maker Who Served 1943-46

Ernie BANKS

Batting R

- HERO
- HR KING
- SLUGGER
- EAGER
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● PROSPECT

Enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1949 and served for two years. After his discharge, as he was signed by Chicago (N) where he became a fixture at shortstop.



ARMY SS/First Base
History ★ Maker Who Served 1949-51

Pee Wee REESE

Batting R

- HERO
- PATIENT

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● ACTIVE

Enlisted in '43 and did stints at Norfolk NAS, Hawaii and Guam, mostly as a player/coach on the unit baseball teams.



NAVY Third Base
History ★ Maker Who Served 1943-45

Larry DOBY

Batting L

- HERO
- HR KING
- SLUGGER
- PATIENT
- WHIFFER

Fielding Running Experience

Stationed at Great Lakes NTS in Illinois, where he played baseball. Also stationed at Camp Sam Roberts, CA, Treasure Island, San Diego and Ulithi Atoll in the Pacific.



NAVY Centerfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1944-46

Joe DiMAGGIO

Batting R

- CHAMPION
- SLUGGER
- HR KING
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● STOIC

Achieved rank of SSG, assigned to Army Air Corps Special Services division, stationed first at the Santa Ana, CA West Coast Training Center, then later sent to Hawaii.



AIR CORPS Centerfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1943-45

Al BUMBRY

Batting L

- HERO
- SCRAPPER
- WHIFFER

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● ACTIVE PROSPECT

ROTC at Virginia State, served as a Lieutenant, platoon leader during the Vietnam War. Received the Bronze Star Medal of Honor.



ARMY Outfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1969-71

Garry MADDOX

Batting R

- HERO
- EAGER

Fielding Running Experience
IRON ● ACTIVE PROSPECT

Served in Viet Nam, '69-70. Exposure to chemicals left his skin highly sensitive, and he has worn a full beard ever since to protect his face.



ARMY Centerfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1969-70

Willie MAYS

Batting R

- CHAMPION
- SLUGGER
- HR KING

Fielding Running Experience
ACTIVE

Assigned to the physical fitness department at Camp Eustis, VA, his primary role was to play baseball and provide entertainment for troops and military families.



ARMY Centerfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1952-53

Roberto CLEMENTE

Batting R

- HERO
- HR KING
- EAGER
- WHIFFER

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ICON

Enlisted in the USMC Reserve after the '58 season, active duty at Parris Island, SC and Camp LeJeune, NC. Inducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.



MARINES Right Field
History ★ Maker Who Served 1958-64

Ty COBB

Batting L

- HERO
- CHAMPION
- SCRAPPER
- EAGER
- GOOD EYE

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ACTIVE ICON

Deferred (wife and young kids), but insisted on enlisting anyway. Commissioned in what would be known today as Special Forces. Armistice signed before seeing duty.



ARMY Outfield
History ★ Maker Who Served 1918

Hank BAUER

Batting R

- HERO
- SLUGGER

Fielding Running Experience
●STOIC ●PROSPECT

Served 32 months of combat, earning 11 campaign ribbons, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. His brother Herman was killed in action in France.



MARINES Right Field
History ★ Maker Who Served 1943-45

Hank GREENBERG

Batting R

- HERO
- CHAMPION
- SLUGGER
- HR KING
- PATIENT

Fielding Running Experience
GOLD ● STOIC ICON

Served two stints during WWII, inducted in '41, enlisted in '43. Served 45 months, longer than any player. 1st LT, scouted bombing targets in Burma-India-China.



AIR CORPS Left Field/1B
History ★ Maker Who Served 1941-45

Joe GARAGIOLA

Batting L
●UTILITY
●SCRAPPER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC PROSPECT

Promising minor league career interrupted by World War II, drafted 4/1944 (age 19), served at Ft. Riley, KS and then sent to Phillipines in '45.


ARMY  **Catcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1944-46

Ed FIGUEROA

Pitching R **Batting R**
STAR● SAD SACK
CONTROL UTILITY
SCRAPPER
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC PROSPECT

Called to military service just as baseball career was getting started, served with USMC in Viet Nam, 1969. "I learned that it's beautiful to be alive. I saw a lot of people dead there."


MARINES  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1968-69

Bob FELLER

Pitching R **Batting R**
ACE● ●SAD SACK
FLASH UTILITY
CONTROL EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC ICON

Enlisted day after Pearl Harbor, served 26 months as Chief Gunnery Specialist aboard the USS Alabama. Instrumental in battles for Marshall, Gilbert-Islands (Pacific Theater).

NAVY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1941-45

Whitey FORD

Pitching L **Batting L**
STAR ●SAD SACK
FLASH● UTILITY
CONTROL● SCRAPPER
●WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC PROSPECT

Drafted in '50, sent to Ft. Monmouth, NJ, he was assigned to play for the Army team there. "Army life was rough...they actually wanted me to pitch three times a week."


ARMY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1950-52

Tom SEAVER

Pitching R **Batting R**
ACE● SAD SACK
FLASH ●UTILITY
CONTROL● SCRAPPER
●EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
PROSPECT

Joined the Marine Corps Reserves after high school, age 18. Served a six-month active duty stint before moving on to play in college and major leagues.

MARINES  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1962-66

Nolan RYAN

Pitching R **Batting R**
STAR SAD SACK
FLASH UTILITY
SCRAPPER
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC ●PROSPECT

Missed the '67 season because of six-month active duty obligation with US Army Reserves.


ARMY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1966-67

Christy MATTHEWSON

Pitching R **Batting R**
ACE SAD SACK
FLASH● SCRAPPER
CONTROL EAGER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC ICON

Enlisted over wife's objections, served in France as a captain in the newly formed Chemical Service. Accidentally gassed during a training exercise, developed tuberculosis.

ARMY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1918

Don NEWCOMBE

Pitching R **Batting L**
STAR SCRAPPER
FLASH WHIFFER
CONTROL●

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC

Big league stardom interrupted by service in Korean War, "I was going to fight for my country and my flag if I was asked...I'm proud of my contribution."

ARMY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1951-53

Warren SPAHN

Pitching L **Batting L**
STAR SAD SACK
CONTROL ●UTILITY
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC ●PROSPECT

Saw combat in the Battle of the Bulge with the 276th Engineer Combat Battalion, 1159th Engineers. Awarded Bronze Star and Purple Heart, promoted to 1st LT.

ARMY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1943-45

Hoyt WILHELM

Pitching R **Batting R**
ACE● ●SAD SACK
FLASH● ●SLUGGER
CONTROL● EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC PROSPECT

Saw combat in Europe with the 395th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received during the Battle of the Bulge

ARMY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1944-45

Hugh CASEY

Pitching R **Batting R**
STAR● ●SAD SACK
CONTROL ●UTILITY
SCRAPPER
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
STOIC ●ICON

Stationed at Norfolk NAS where he was a physical fitness trainer before being sent to the Pacific in '44. Served at Kaneohe Bay Air Base, Aiea Hospital (Hawaii) in '45.

NAVY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1943-45

Jerry COLEMAN

Batting R
SCRAPPER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
●ICON

The only big-league player to see combat in both WW II and Korea. In all, flew 120 missions, earning two Distinguished Crosses, 13 Air Medals and three Navy Citations.

MARINES  **Infielder**
History★Maker Who Served 1944-53

Hometown SAILOR

Batting R
UTILITY
●SLUGGER
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
IRON● PROSPECT

The European and North African theaters had leagues so well organized that they competed in their own versions of the World Series. There was even a league formed in Russia!

NAVY  **Utility**
History★Maker Who Served 1918-70

Hometown SAILOR

Pitching R **Batting R**
WORKMAN SAD SACK
WILD● UTILITY
SCRAPPER
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
●STOIC PROSPECT

Within months of Pearl Harbor, military baseball was in full swing. In every theater of operations, Americans took along bats, bases and enthusiasm for the national pastime.

NAVY  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1918-70

Hometown MARINE

Pitching L **Batting L**
STRUGGLER● SAD SACK
FLASH● UTILITY
SCRAPPER
EAGER
●WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
IRON● PROSPECT

At times it seemed as though military engineers built as many baseball diamonds as latrines. One island in the Marianas had 10 leagues and 60 baseball diamonds!


MARINES  **Pitcher**
History★Maker Who Served 1918-70

Hometown SOLDIER

Batting R
●SAD SACK
●SLUGGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
IRON● ●STOIC PROSPECT

In the Asian theater, the Japanese and Americans captured each other's ball fields. Baseball even became a staple relaxation of Americans in German POW camps.

ARMY  **Utility**
History★Maker Who Served 1918-70

Hometown SOLDIER

Batting R
SAD SACK
●UTILITY
●SCRAPPER
●EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
PROSPECT

All branches of the armed services saw baseball as both a natural morale booster and a much-needed alternative to calisthenics and other fitness programs.

ARMY  **Utility**
History★Maker Who Served 1918-70

Hometown AIRMAN

Batting R
SAD SACK
●HR KING
EAGER
WHIFFER

Fielding **Running** **Experience**
IRON STOIC PROSPECT

Most American men grew up chasing baseballs on country sandlots or city streets. Soldiers and sailors wanted nothing better than to relax with the game of their youth

AIR CORPS  **Utility**
History★Maker Who Served 1918-70

Augie DONATELLI

Air Corps 1942-45



**RESPECTED
STRICT•**

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Lee BALLANFANT

Army 1917-18



RESPECTED•

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Jim HONOCHICK

Navy 1943-46



**STRICT
RESPECTED•**

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Nestor CHYLAK

Army 1942-45



**LENIENT•
RESPECTED•**

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Emmett ASHFORD

Navy 1942-45



**RESPECTED
STRICT•**

©2018 PLAAY Games LLC

Red FLAHERTY

Marines 1942-52



**RESPECTED•
LENIENT**

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Isley FIELD

1944 • Saipan, Marianas

Ball Park Qualities

RH: SMALL
LH: SMALL

Grass

©2018 PLAAY Games LLC

Honolulu STADIUM

1943 • Honolulu, HI

Ball Park Qualities

RH: SMALL
LH: SEMI SMALL

Grass

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HISTORY MAKERS WHO SERVED: 1918-1970

All across America, Memorial Day will be observed with moments of silence and displays of patriotism in honor of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, defending our country through military service. I thought about the link between sports and patriotism, and it started me off on a few hours of research about baseball players who served in the the military. I found this fascinating, and as a result have put together a few paragraphs of back-story and also what I think is a very cool collection of playable cards for HISTORY MAKER BASEBALL!

Certainly there's no shortage of information about baseball players who performed military service during the first and second World Wars. There's no need for me to post links to relevant, interesting material—it's all over the internet! What I found interesting is the gradual shift that's occurred since World War II, to the point that—to the best of my knowledge—there are no current big league players who have ever served in the military!

(At this point, let me interject that I have not done exhaustive research here. The information and insights I present in this article are factual to the best of my knowledge, but there may be other information that I acknowledge I may not have come across.)

Based on what I've been able to deduce, it appears that the last active player to have done time in the military was Nolan Ryan, who served in the Army Reserve in the mid 1960s, but played baseball into the 1990s. Champ Summers, a former paratrooper with Viet Nam War service, appears to be the last military combat veteran to appear in a big league game. Summers played for the Padres in the '84 World Series. That was over 30 years ago.

It was very different 100 years ago. When America got involved in World War I, major league ball stars like Ty Cobb and Christy Mattewson clamored to be sent "over there." Eight big leaguers were lost in combat, and only the subsequently quick resolution of the war kept the numbers relatively small.

When World War II broke out, baseball had truly achieved the status of "National Pastime." The 1941 season was perhaps the best-ever, certainly the most-closely followed season to date. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war, the nation began to prepare for armed conflict. There was quite a discussion about what baseball should do, with war looming. Some felt that the sport should go on hiatus, so that the players could be deployed in battle. Others felt that baseball should continue, as a morale-booster and a "thumb-in-the-eye" to the Axis powers, sort of an American version of Britain's "Keep Calm and Carry On." President Roosevelt, in what became known as the "Green Light Letter," wrote that it was his opinion that baseball should play on. A survey of men already serving in the military—"should some be allowed to play baseball while you're putting your life on the line?"—generated an overwhelming agreement with the President.

Thus, baseball continued to operate and entertain through the war. But not at full-strength. According to the Baseball in Wartime website, 90% of players on a big league roster in 1941 exchanged their baseball uniforms for military uniforms. In all, over 500 big league ball players spent time in military service during World War II, including many big-name players, like Ted Williams and Hank Greenberg.

For some, military life wasn't that much different. Many major leaguers ended up playing baseball on one of several very good military teams. Notable was the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Chicago, which probably could have won the World Series during the war years. It became sort of a competition between branches of the service, to see who could field the best base or post ball club. As a result, Stan Musial's Navy service consisted mainly of playing baseball. It was much the same for Joe DiMaggio, Pee Wee Reese and others.

However, many big leaguers abandoned their bats and gloves and took on traditional military roles. Some became bona-fide war heroes. Yogi Berra took part in the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944,

(Continued on next page)

a gunner's mate on board a landing craft. Bob Feller spent 26 months as chief anti-aircraft specialist aboard the USS Alabama. Hank Greenberg enrolled in Officer Candidate School, became a First Lieutenant and spent nearly four years in the Army Air Corps—more than any other ball player—scouting out bombing targets in the Chinese theater. Among the biggest heroes was Hank Bauer: twice hit by shrapnel, multiple bouts with malaria, Bauer was credited with 32 months of combat duty, eleven campaign ribbons, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

After WWII, the Korean conflict came all too quickly. Again, baseball deferred to war time duty, but this time to a lesser extent. There was a different national attitude toward the Korean war than there had been to WWII. So, there was less fanfare for players doing their military time. The practice of deploying baseball players for public relations and morale-boosting duty expanded. Whitey Ford famously (and jokingly) said, “Army life was rough! Would you believe, they wanted me to pitch three games each WEEK!” Willie Mays was assigned to the instructional division of the physical fitness department at Camp Eustis, Virginia, but soon found himself playing ball daily, entertaining troops and families. Still, as had been the case in World War II, some baseball stars had dangerous duty. Ted Williams was called back to active duty as a fighter pilot, and survived a harrowing crash near enemy lines. Yankees infielder Jerry Coleman, a lieutenant colonel in the Marines, was there when Williams crashed, and feared for the worst. In later years, he would say repeatedly that Williams was lucky to have made it out alive. Coleman himself flew over 100 missions as a Marine pilot, earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses, thirteen Air Medals and three Navy Citations.

When the Viet Nam war came along, baseball by and large stayed out of it. A couple of eventual stars (like Tom Seaver, Nolan Ryan) signed up for reserve duty and played baseball in the interim. A couple others (like Garry Maddox and Al Bumbry) served in the military and then pursued baseball careers afterward. But no big league player had his baseball career interrupted by Viet Nam military service the way many had experienced during WWII and the Korean War.

Since Viet Nam, we've had a couple of Middle East conflicts, in the early '90s and again after 9-11. But there's no big-leaguer who's both served and played. (This is not to meant as a criticism or lament, simply an observation of changing times.)

In any case, that leads us back to the game. I wanted to create something that could capture the unique intersection between major league baseball and military service. What I came up with was a set of “History Makers Who Served,” baseball players who served in the military during periods of combat. Some served on the front lines, some served behind the lines. There's a capsule summary of each player's military contribution contained on his card, along with game ratings for HISTORY MAKER BASEBALL. The umpires are also military veterans, service branch listed on their cards. Notable is Augie Donatelli, who spent 15 months as a German prisoner of war after flying 18 missions as a tailgunner on a B-17 during World War II. Nestor Chylak earned both the Silver Star and Purple Heart after being hit by shrapnel during the Battle of the Bulge. There are two ball park cards as well, based on actual wartime venues.

The players are rated somewhat arbitrarily, a combination of their war time and career baseball-playing abilities. Those who served before they became stars (Warren Spahn, Tom Seaver, etc.) were made PROSPECTS; those whose careers were interrupted by war (Ty Cobb, Ted Williams, etc.) were made ICONS. Think about it as if these guys are playing for an on-post Army or Navy team (as many of them actually did) rather than some sort of alumni game.

It's my hope that you might get some entertainment from these cards this holiday weekend. I envision a couple possibilities. First, you could pit the team against your favorite historical team, from the past or present. Or, even better, you could divide this collection into two teams, Army (and Army Air Corps) vs. Navy (and Marines)! As it turns out, this arrangement will give you two teams of fifteen players. The Army/Air Corp squad has a surplus of pitching, but is short on infielders. The Navy/Marine team is the opposite. So, I've created some extra cards of generic soldiers, sailors and airmen to help fill out the rosters and at the same time provide a neat twist to your games. These cards represent “Regular Joes” who might have gotten the thrill of their lives playing alongside a real-life big-leaguer during the war.

FOR THE RECORD: Appropriate for Memorial Day, here's an overview of big league baseball players who died in military combat.

Eight players with major league experience were killed in World War I. Of these, best known was 3B Eddie Grant, who played for four big league clubs over 10 seasons. With the Phillies in 1909, Grant led the NL in games played, plate appearances and at bats. Grant was killed in action in France, October 5th 1918. A number of other big league players were sent to Europe—Christy Matthewson and Ty Cobb the best known among them—but many never saw combat due to the signing of the Armistice shortly after America got involved.

During World War II, only two big league players lost their lives. Elmer Gedeon, who played a few games for Washington in 1939, was killed in action in France 4/20/44. Harry O'Neill, a catcher who played a single game with the '39 Athletics, was killed in action on Iwo Jima, 3/6/45.

Bob Neighbors, who played seven games for the St. Louis Browns in 1939, is the only known big-leaguer to have been killed in the Korean conflict. He was honored in a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery 6/14/2000.

Since then, no big league player has died in combat while serving in the military. That includes Viet Nam, and the two Persian Gulf conflicts.