

April 26, 1943

Wasp Survivor

Navy Lieutenant Don Patrick, a survivor of the sinking of the ill-fated aircraft carrier USS Wasp (CV-7) off of the coast of Guadalcanal, pays his way to the Detroit Tigers spring training camp in Evansville, Illinois, in hopes of being signed as an outfielder ... following the workout, the Tigers feel that Patrick will do better as a pitcher and assign him to the Hagerstown Owls of the Interstate (B) League.

NAVAL HERO MAKES GOOD IN BASEBALL

Lt. Don Patrick, Who Was Rescued From Carrier Wasp, Sinks Lancaster In Interstate League



Let go by the Owls prior to their season opener, the

22-year-old Patrick signs with the York White Roses and picks up his first professional baseball victory on May 27, pitching three scoreless innings (as a starter) in a 7-4 win over the Wilmington Blue Rocks in the first game of an Interstate (B) League doubleheader ... a University of Detroit graduate, Patrick is 1-2 in four appearances and 13 innings before being released at the end of June.

A combat pilot, Patrick enlists in the Navy the day after Pearl Harbor and spends 13 months in the Navy ... during his Pacific tour on the Wasp he is credited with shooting down three Japanese planes ... after spending a month in a Sydney, Australia, hospital he is sent back to the United States where he is awarded the Navy Cross.