

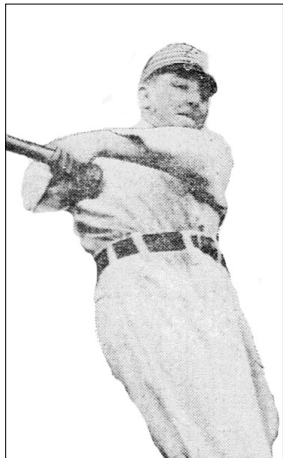
On This Date

October 15, 1893

John Gottlieb Karst is born on October 15, 1893, in Philadelphia. Following a standout collegiate career at Penn, Karst makes an unusual, but rapid, ascent to the major leagues.

A 20-year-old Karst is among 13 Philadelphia Athletics who leave New York for Jacksonville, Florida, on the steamer Lanape (below) on February 24, 1914.

On April 15, 1914, Connie Mack releases Karst to the Portsmouth (Va.) Truckers of the Virginia (C) League. In 10 games in the Commonwealth, he hits only .182 and makes 10 errors in 54 chances before returning home to Philadelphia, where he plays the rest of the summer with the local semipro Strawbridge and Clothier team.



Karst signs with the National League's Brooklyn Robins on February 4, 1915, and attends the team's spring training camp in Daytona, Florida, where on March 12, the middle infielder is hitting .636 (7-for-11), when he suffers a double dislocation of his right ankle in a base running mishap. It is later revealed that Karst had paid manager Wilbert Robinson \$200 to come to the camp.

Making his major league debut on October 6, 1915, against his other hometown team, the Phillies, Karst replaces Gus Getz at the start of the seventh inning and handles his only chance smoothly, starting a 5-4-3 double play on a ground ball by Dode Paskert. On April 16, 1916, Brooklyn releases Karst and Mack Wheat to the Troy Trojans of the New York State (B) League. The Trojans return Karst back to the Robins on May 18, who say they will release him. After doctors recommend that he quit playing baseball for a year, to allow his injured ankle to heal, Karst says he will quit baseball and enter private business.