

Cups of Coffee: Henry Heitmann

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On July 27, 1918, on the same day that a 127-pound sturgeon is taken from a lake in Sandy Pond, New York, 21-year-old Brooklyn Dodger pitcher Henry Heitmann makes his only major league appearance in the second game of a doubleheader against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Sturgeon Taken From Sandy Pond

At the left of the fish is Ed Calkins, while Gene Wyman is shown to the right of the sturgeon.



Acquired by the Dodgers only two days prior from the Rochester Huskies of the International (AA) League, Heitmann gives up hits to the first four batters he faces - Cliff Heathcote (single), Bob Fisher (triple), Gene Paulette (single) and Rogers Hornsby (triple) - before being relieved by future Hall of Fame right hander Burleigh Grimes ... the Albany, New York, product is one of 14 pitchers with an infinite ERA in the modern era (post-1903) and is the only one to face at least four batters and allowing every one of them to score.

The game reporter for the *Brooklyn Eagle* gives Heitmann a reprieve (albeit a shaky one) for his performance in the 22-7 loss. "The poor start made by Harry Heitmann in the second game should be discounted and the 'Iron Man' of the International League should be given another big league trial." The reporter also opines that an umpire's bad call "put [Heitmann] in a bad way right off the reel."

One of 11 pitchers at the Dodgers' spring training at Hot Spring, Arkansas, Heitman is sent (under option) to Rochester where is 17-6 with a league-leading 1.32 ERA when he enlists in the Navy on either July 23 or 24 ... Rochester releases him to the Dodgers on July 25 ... following the game, Heitmann reports for duty at the Brooklyn Naval Yard where he is a member of the base's baseball team which is managed by Casey Stengel.

HARRY HEITMAN IS IN NAVY

Rochester and Brooklyn Clubs Given Hard Jolt When Pitcher Enlists With the Jankies.

Not only Rochester of the International but Brooklyn of the National as well, was hit a blow when pitcher Harry Heitmann enlisted in the navy. Heitmann, who was with Rochester under option from Brooklyn, had been the big sensation of the International league this year. He was picked up from a high school team in Brooklyn by Ebbets and later sent to Rochester for seasoning. Recently Ebbets tried to get him back for the Dodgers, but the Rochester club would not let him go. He settled the controversy for himself by deciding to go to war.

Following his discharge in 1919, the 6-0, 175-pound right-hander will play eight more seasons in the minor leagues as a pitcher and an outfielder, finishing with a 68-46 mark and a .292 career batting average.

On December 15, 1958, Heitman dies in Brooklyn, New York at the age of 62.

HEITMAN GETS BAD START

Henry Heitmann Major League Debut
July 27, 1918

The second game ended 22 to 7 in favor of the Cardinals, who made 26 hits. Heitman, late of Rochester, and now in the Navy, started for Brooklyn and was hit for two triples and two singles by the first four men up. Grimes, who relieved him, was knocked out of the box in the fifth. The Dodgers were allowed to run wild on the bases in the last few innings. The score:

| ST LOUIS | | | | BROOKLYN | | | |
|--------------|----|----|---|-------------|----|----|---|
| ab | hh | no | a | ab | hh | no | a |
| Heathcote cf | 6 | 2 | 0 | Johnston 1b | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Fisher 2b | 7 | 4 | 0 | Olson ss | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Paulette 1b | 5 | 4 | 5 | Coombs rfp | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Grinn 1b | 2 | 1 | 5 | Wheat lf | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Hornsby ss | 5 | 4 | 4 | Myers cf | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| McHenry lf | 5 | 3 | 2 | O'Mara 3b | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Bronkie 3b | 5 | 2 | 0 | Doolan 2b | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Anderson rf | 6 | 4 | 1 | Miller c | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| Gonzalez c | 4 | 0 | 8 | Heitman p | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sherdell p | 2 | 1 | 0 | Grimes p | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Meadows p | 3 | 1 | 0 | M Wheat rf | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|----|----|---|--------|----|----|----|---|------|
| Totals | 50 | 26 | 27 | 8 | Totals | 30 | 11 | 27 | 8 | |
| Innings | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| St Louis | | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1-22 |
| Brooklyn | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0-7 |

Runs made, by Heathcote, Fisher 4, Paulette 4, Hornsby 4, McHenry 4, Bronkie, Anderson 2, Sherdell, Meadows, Johnston 2, Olson, 2, Wheat, Myers 2, M. Wheat. Errors made, by Bronkie, Coombs, Grimes, M. Wheat. Two-base hits, Heathcote, Anderson, Myers, Doolan. Three-base hits, Fisher, Hornsby, Anderson 2, Johnston. Home runs, Fisher, Bronkie, Sherdell. Stolen bases, Paulette, Johnston 2, Olson 2, O'Mara 2, M. Wheat 2. Sacrifice hit, Gonzalez. Sacrifice by Sherdell. Left on bases, St Louis 7, Brooklyn 0. First base on errors, St Louis 4, Brooklyn 0. Base on balls, by Sherdell 4, by Grimes 4. Hits, off Sherdell, 6 in 4 1/2 innings; off Meadows, 5 in 4 1/2; off Heitman, 4 in 1/2; off Grimes, 10 in 5 1/2; off Coombs, 12 in 2. Struck out, by Sherdell 3, by Meadows 3, by Grimes 8, by Coombs. Wild pitch, Coombs.