

# On This Date

# November 15, 1991

On November 15, 1991, former major league pitcher **Jack Franklin** passes away in Panama City, Florida, at the age of 91.

As a youth, Franklin came up as an outfielder in the Junior American Legion program in his hometown of Paris, Illinois. In 1940, he plays with various semi-pro teams in Muncie and later with Brazil.

One of seven pitchers to make the Dayton Ducks' opening day roster in 1941, the unheralded Franklin makes his professional debut on May 4, scattering seven hits in a 3-1 complete game win over the visiting Akron Yankees before 1,200 fans on Ladies' Night at Dayton's Hudson Field. The "fair-haired, blue-eyed chap" finishes 1941 leading the sixth-place Ducks in wins (14) and innings pitched (211).



Following a 12-8 mark with Dayton again in 1942, Franklin is inducted into the Army on October 27, despite being able to see out of only one eye. Franklin spends all of 1943 in the United States' Army during World War II. Given his medical discharge in February 1944, the right-hander is 2-0 with New Orleans before being called up to the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Franklin makes his only major league appearance on **June 12, 1944**, against the New York Giants. The fifth of five pitchers, Franklin allows three runs on two hits and four walks in a 15-9 loss. Following his playing days, he becomes a supervisor for the Beaman Corporation back in his hometown before retiring to Florida in 1986.