

# On This Date

# December 27, 1917

Born on December 27, 1917, [Herb Karpel](#) makes his major-league debut on April 19, 1946, on the New York Yankees' opening day. Pitching to one batter in the eighth inning in relief of Joe Page, the 5-foot-9 portsider retires Washington's Buddy Lewis with the bases loaded. The following afternoon he allows two runs on four hits in his second and final major league appearance.



Following an 11-1 mark in 1942 with the Kansas City Blues, Karpel is invited to the Yankees spring training camp for the following season. However, his career plans are put on hold when on January 8, 1943, he becomes the 10th New York Yankee player inducted into the Army. Serving 17 months in Europe, first in a tank destroyer unit and then as an infantryman, the Brooklyn native is awarded both a Bronze Star and a Presidential Citation.

Discharged on January 17, 1946, Karpel figures prominently in New York's plans for the upcoming season and he is invited to spring training, where he makes the team's opening day roster. Following his brief two-game trial with the Yankees, Karpel is sent down to the International (AAA) League's Newark Bears where he is 14-8 with a 2.41 ERA.

Following a 9-11 mark with the Bears in 1947, Karpel is sold to the Seattle Rainiers of the Pacific Coast (AAA) League. His last four years (1948-1951) in pro baseball are spent between the Rainiers and the Hollywood Stars. Allowed by the Stars to make a deal for himself after the 1951 season, the 34-year-old first signs with the Medford Cheney Studs of the Southwestern Oregon League and then the Deming Loggers of the Northwest League, the La Grande Loggers of the Tri-State League