

On This Date

September 27, 1942

In the final regular season game of his professional baseball career, St. Louis Cardinals infielder [Frank "Creepy" Crespi](#) is 2-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI in a 4-to-1 win over the visiting Chicago Cubs in the second game of a season-ending doubleheader.

The victory is the Cardinals' 43rd over their last 52 games of the season and clinches the team's sixth National League pennant since 1926.

Drafted into military service on February 20, 1943, Crespi suffers a compound fracture of his left leg that July while turning a double play in a service game at [Fort Riley, Kansas](#).

The [St. Louis, Missouri](#), native later breaks the same leg in a training accident, and just for good measure, breaks it a third time during a wheelchair race while recuperating at a military hospital in [Topeka, Kansas](#)

While recovering from his NASCAR-like mishap, a nurse accidentally applies an excessive amount of boric acid to his bandages, causing severe burns to his leg and leaving him with a permanent limp and effectively ending his baseball career.

In five major league seasons (1938-1942), all with the Cardinals, Crespi hits .263 with eight home runs and 88 RBIs in 264 career games. In 1941, he hits .279 with 46 runs batted in and finishes 18th in that season's MVP balloting.

