

# On This Date

# January 6, 1918

Born on January 6, 1918, in Astoria, New York, right-handed pitcher Bill Zinser appears in two games with the last-place Washington Senators in August of 1944. In 2/3rds of an inning, the Astoria, New York, native fashions a 27.00 ERA, allowing one hit and walking five of the eight batters he faces.

An outstanding sandlot player for several years in Mineola, Long island, Zinser decides to try baseball for a living after being laid off from a well-paying construction job.

Breaking into professional baseball in 1940 as a 22-year-old with the Coastal Plain (D) League's Kinston Eagles, Zinser is 17-9 in 32 games and a league-leading 2.08 ERA. His older brother and teammate, Lou, is 11-4 with a 2.62 ERA.

The following year, he is 11-14 with a 4.41 ERA with Greenville Spinners of the South Atlantic (B) League. In 1942, Zinser goes South with the Washington Senators for spring training, but fails to make the club and is sent to Charlotte of the Piedmont (B) League. Zinser elects to return to the New York area and becomes a star pitcher for the Grumman Bombers while working a war industry job at the Grumman Wildcat Plant in Bethpage, New York.

Zinser is pitching for Harrington Park of the Bergen County League when he signs with the Senators in August of 1944. In his major league debut against the Chicago White Sox on August 19, Zinser relieves Nats' starter Alex Carrasquel at the start of the eighth inning and walks the only batter he faces before he is relieved by Bill LeFebvre, who pitches two hitless innings securing a 3-2 win.

