

# Joe Cleary & Bert Shepard, "Dual Day in the Sun"

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On August 4, 1945, in the second game of a double-header with the Boston Red Sox, two Washington Senators pitchers - Joe "Fire" Cleary and Bert Shepard - make their first, and only major league appearances before 13,035 in Washington's Griffith Stadium.

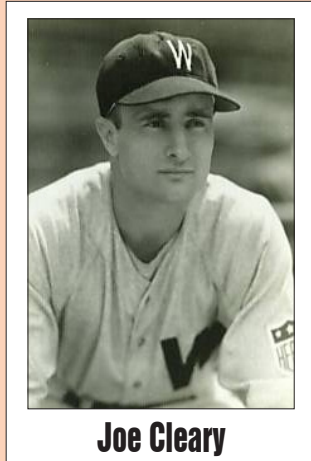
Washington had won the opener 4-0, behind the four-hit pitching of Wally Holborow. For the 30-year-old Holborow, it marks the only start, complete game and shutout in his brief three year (1944-45 & 1948) major league career.

Cleary and Shepard receive their opportunities in part because of an outstanding effort by Red Sox left fielder Tom McBride who ties a major league record by driving in six runs in a 12-run fourth inning.

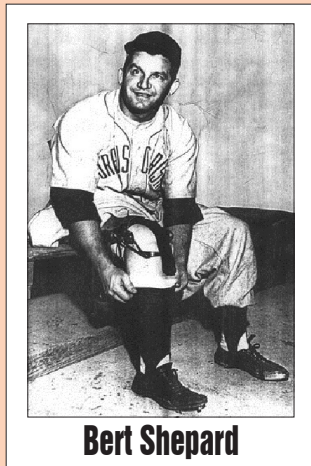
The 30-year-old McBride doubles off of Washington starter Santiago Ullrich (a member of the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame) and then triples against reliever Joe Cleary, each hit coming with the bases loaded. Joe Cronin's Red Sox bat around against the unfortunate Cleary, who yields seven runs on five hits and three walks in one-third of an inning.

Cleary, the 40th, and last major leaguer to be born in Ireland, strikes out Boston pitcher Dave Ferriss for the only out in his brief major league career. Following McBride's bases-clearing double that makes the score 14-2, the 26-year-old Cleary is unceremoniously removed from the game by Senator manager Ossie Bluege, who simply waves at him from the dugout to leave the mound.

An angry Cleary swears at Bluege when he reaches the dugout and is relieved by Shepard, who strikes out left-handed hitting George "Catfish" Metkovich on a 3-2 pitch to end the inning. When Shepard enters the game, he is still a lieutenant in the Army Air Corp and becomes the first player with an artificial leg to pitch in a major league baseball game. He pitches 5 1/3 innings of impressive relief, allowing only one run on three hits, striking out two and walking one.



Joe Cleary



Bert Shepard

## August 4, 1945 Boston Red Sox at Washington Senators

SECOND GAME									
BOSTON	A	H	O	A	WASH'N	A	H	O	A
Lake, s	4	2	3	2	Case, lf	5	1	1	1
Laforest, 3	4	2	1	2	Myatt, 2	2	2	2	0
McBr'e, 1-lf	6	3	5	1	Vaughn, 2	2	1	2	2
Met'vich, cf	6	2	2	0	Lewis, rf	5	1	3	0
Camilli, lf	3	0	0	0	Kuhel, 1	3	2	4	1
Cul'son, lf	1	0	1	0	Zardon, cf	3	1	3	0
Fox, rf	4	1	2	0	Clift, 3	1	0	0	1
Newsome, 2	2	0	1	3	Layne, 3	2	1	1	2
Garbark, c	4	2	6	0	Binks, 1-cf	4	3	6	0
Ferriss, p	3	0	0	4	Torres, s	5	0	0	2
					Guerra, c	5	1	5	0
					Ullrich, p	1	0	0	0
					Cleary, p	0	0	0	0
					Shepard, p	3	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>

Boston ..... 101 (12) 01 000-15  
Washington ..... 011 .001 001-4

Runs—Lake 4, LaForest 3, McBride, Metkovich, Camilli, Fox, Newsome 2, Garbark, Ferriss, Case, Lewis, Clift, Layne. Errors—Myatt, Newsome, Case, Binks. Runs batted in—LaForest 2, Guerra 2, McBride 7, Metkovich, Fox, Garbark 2, Lake, Case. Two-base hits—Lake, LaForest, McBride. Three-base hit—McBride. Stolen base—LaForest. Sacrifice—Garbark. Double play—Kuhel (unassisted); Layne and Binks; Lake, Newsome and McBride; Torres, Vaughn and Binks. Left on bases—Boston 8, Washington 14. Bases on balls—Ferriss 4, Ullrich 7, Cleary 3, Shepard 1. Struck out—Ferriss 4, Ullrich 1, Cleary 1, Shepard 2. Hits—Ullrich: 4 in 3 1/3; Cleary, 5 in 1/3; Shepard, 3 in 5 1/3. Hit by pitcher—Ferriss (Clift), Shepard (Fox). Wild pitch—Cleary. Passed ball—Guerra. Loser—Ullrich.

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60TH YEAR IN DALLAS DALLAS, TEXAS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1945—TWENTY-TWO PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS NO. 311

**Most Destructive Force in World's History Hurlled at Japan to Hasten End of Conflict**

189.00 - the highest of any pitcher who records at least one out in a major league game - while Shepard will depart with a nifty 1.69 ERA.

In May of 1944, Shepard, on his 34th combat mission, is strafing a German truck convoy when his P-38 Lightning fighter is shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Severely injured in the resulting crash and captured, German doctors are later forced to amputate Shepard's right leg 11 inches below the knee.

During his recovery he is transferred to a Stalag prison camp at Meiningen, in central Germany. It's there that a fellow prisoner crafts a makeshift artificial leg.

### Pitchers with Highest ERA

One-third inning in major league game

Pitcher, Team	Year	Inn	ER	ERA
Joe Cleary, Senators	1945	1/3	7	189.00
Tom Qualters, Phillies	1953	1/3	6	162.00
Mike Capel, Brewers	1990	1/3	5	135.00
Clarence Mitchell, Dodgers	1918	1/3	4	108.00

## Joe Cleary & Bert Shepard [1 of 2]:

In February 1945, Shepard returns to the United States as a result of a prisoner exchange with the German government. The 25-year-old Dana, Indiana, native, who had pitched for three years (1940-42) in the low minor leagues prior to the war, attempts a return to baseball.

During spring training in 1945, Shepard impresses the Senators enough to be hired as a pitching coach and to throw batting practice.

On August 31, three weeks after making his major league debut, Shepard receives the Distinguished Flying Cross, between games of a doubleheader with the New York Yankees. Following his release by the Senators on September 4, he continues to pitch three more years in the minor leagues (1946, 1949 & 1955), compiling a 8-12 record in 38 appearances.

### Cleary's strange road to the major leagues

July 5

With a 10-5 mark and a 4.58 ERA, Cleary is one of five Chattanooga Lookouts named to the 1945 Southern Association All-Star team.

July 9

For the second time in as many seasons, Cleary, a malaria victim while serving in the military, returns home to "rest".

August 1

Three weeks after an upset Cleary leaves the Chattanooga Lookouts because the Washington Senators fail to bring him up to the majors after he is named to the Southern Association's All-Star team, the Senators announce that team owner Calvin Griffith consents to giving Cleary a trial with the team because Cleary's "mother is in the hospital and the veteran pitcher needed a job."

### Because Mother Ill, Pitcher Gets Chance

Chattanooga, Tenn. (P)—Joe Cleary, who left the Lookouts three weeks ago after winning 10 games and dropping five, has joined the Washington Senators. The Chattanooga front office announced Wednesday.

Owner Clark Griffith of the Senators and Lookouts, consented to give Cleary, a New Yorker, a trial with the Nats because his mother is in a hospital and the veteran pitcher needed a job, the front office said.

### Bert Shepard Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	ERA
1939	Jeanerette Blues .....	Evangeline	D	-	-	-
1940	Mt. Airy Graniteers.....	Bi-State	D	-	-	-
1940	Wisconsin Rapids White Sox...	Wisconsin	D	3-2	43	6.07
1941	Bisbee Bees .....	Arizona-Texas	C	-	-	-
1941	Anaheim Aces .....	California	C	0-1	11	-
1942	La Crosse Blackhawks .....	Wisconsin	D	9-13	172	4.45
1945	Washington Senators .....	AMERICAN	ML	0-0	5.1	1.69
1946	Decatur Commodores.....	Three-I	B	0-1	16	-
1946	Duluth Dukes .....	Northern	C	0-2	8	-
1946	Chattanooga Lookouts.....	Southern	AA	2-2	29	7.45
1949	Waterbury Timers.....	Colonial	B	5-6	73	6.16
1955	Modesto Reds .....	California	C	1-1	-	-

### Joe Cleary Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	ERA
1938	Greensboro Green Sox .....	Penn State	-	-	-	-
1939	Batavia Clippers .....	PONY	D	0-2	23	5.87
1941	Orlando Senators.....	Florida State	D	19-12	254	2.16
1942	Charlotte Hornets.....	Piedmont	B	10-13	172	3.09
1944	Chattanooga Lookouts.....	Southern	A1	6-14	168	6.96
1945	Chattanooga Lookouts.....	Southern	A1	10-5	108	4.58
1945	Washington Senators .....	AMERICAN	ML	0-0	0.1	189.00
1945	Buffalo Bisons .....	International	AA	3-3	41	-
1946	Jersey City Giants .....	International	AAA	0-1	11	-
1947	Gainesville G-Man.....	Florida State	D	13-10	179	2.16
	Palatka Azaleas .....	Florida State	D	-	-	-
1948	Gainesville .....	Florida State	D	18-8	233	2.16
1949	Augusta Tigers.....	South Atlantic	A	2-6	52	5.37
	Charleston Rebels.....	South Atlantic	-	-	-	-
1950	Anniston Rams .....	Southeastern	B	4-10	113	5.42
1951	Owatonna Aces .....	Southern Minnesota	Ind.	-	-	-