

On This Date

October 14, 1948

A war veteran with two years of service in Europe, Ottawa Senators' pitcher Leonard (Lefty) Seamon dies after having a tumor removed from his chest. The 23-year-old left-hander has just finished his third minor league season posting a 21-4 mark in a four-month schedule with over 250 strikeouts and a league-best 3.00 ERA with regular season league champion Ottawa.

Club owner T.P. Gorman has offers for his star pitcher from New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians, Pittsburgh Pirates, Brooklyn Dodgers and Chicago Cubs.

In the semifinals against Ogdensburg, Seamon pitches in severe pain and enters the hospital for what is suspected to be an appendectomy. Instead, doctors find a large stomach tumor and despite a operation, they are unable to save him.

In his three minor league seasons, the 5-foot-10, 160-pound left-hander from Wiscasset, Maine, is 44-21.

He plays very little baseball during his time in high school. He enlists in the army a couple of weeks after graduating in 1943 and serves with a field artillery unit in Europe He is discharged from the army in January 1946 and it is at that time he begins his pitching career in earnest.

In 1947, Seamon is 3-3 with the Geneva Red Birds when he is traded to the Ottawa Senators for pitcher Leon St. Dennis. With the Senators, Seamon is 11-3 with six shutouts, including a no-hitter against his former Geneva teammates. He finishes the season with a 14-6 record in Border (C) League play.

