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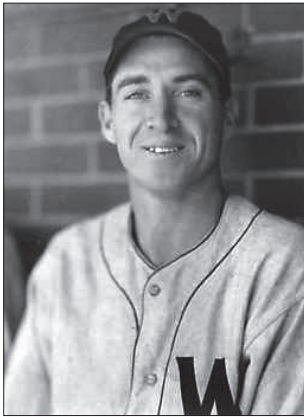
## Senator Returns Early

Washington Senators third baseman Hillis Layne returns home to Whitwell, Tennessee, after being honorably discharged from the Army because of recurring leg problems. The 24-year-old Hillis tells the Senators that he is optimistic about resuming his playing career in the future. In the July 16, 1942, edition of *The Sporting News*, Layne elaborates about his time in the military:

**"I did all right in the Army, with the exception of a little sergeant trouble because of not being able to make an about-face," said Layne. "Joe Engel and Clark Griffith have spent a lot of money on my leg and in one operation the surgeon cut the veins at the upper part of my left thigh and tied them up. Since then I haven't been able to make any quick turns. That's why I should be able to play third better than short.**

**"I was getting by in the Army until they sent us to Camp Keesler in Mississippi. We had to walk a mile and a half from the train in full packs. Next day my leg was swollen so badly they kept me there for almost 14 weeks. Finally they gave me my discharge"**

### Hillis Layne 1945 Washington Senators



Faced with a growing man power shortage from having to fight on two fronts (Pacific and European), the military reclassifies Layne and he eventually serves two years in the Army before being officially discharged in March of 1944.

Layne, a 6-foot, 170-pound left-handed hitter, will make Washington's opening day roster in 1944 and play a total of three seasons with the Senators (1941, 1944-45), hitting .265 (75-for-284) with one home run, 28 RBIs and three stolen bases in 107 games.

As a young boy in Tennessee, Layne promised his mother that he would make the Major Leagues and one day hit a home run in Yankee Stadium. On August 25, 1945, Layne fulfils his promise when he homers against Yankees' right-hander Tiny Bonham in the seventh inning of a 10-inning 5-4 loss.

However, it will be his 17-year minor league career where Layne makes his mark. Appearing in 1,791 games, he hits .335 with 83 home runs and 953 RBIs. Layne leads the Pacific Coast League in batting in 1947 (.367) and the Northwest (B) League in 1955 (.391). He hits .362 over his last four years in professional baseball as a player/manager for the Lewiston Broncos from 1955-1958. Later a minor-league director and a scout for the Texas Rangers, Layne will die on January 12, 2010, in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, from a heart attack he suffered two days earlier. He is 91 years old at the time of his death.

## Third Time a Charm

Paul O'Dea was never a man to be taken lightly. In late June of 1942, O'Dea, despite being released twice previously by Cedar Rapids' manager Ollie Marquardt, remains persistent and finally earns a spot on the team's roster. Released first as an outfielder and then later as a relief pitcher, Marquardt re-signs the 21-year-old for a third time when starting outfielder Gus Gregory is sidelined with an injury.

Despite losing the vision in his right eye as a result of a batting practice mishap on March 21, 1940, at the Cleveland Indians spring training camp in Fort Myers, Florida, O'Dea sticks with the Raiders for the remainder of the season hitting .261 with 13 doubles and two home runs in 72 games.

Even more remarkable, two years later, the Cleveland, Ohio, native will make his major league debut with his hometown Indians on April 18, 1944, playing leftfield and batting cleanup in the Tribe's season opener against the Chicago White Sox.

As a 23-year-old rookie in 1944, O'Dea hits .318 (55-173), including nine doubles and 13 RBIs. In 163 Major League games, O'Dea's career batting average is .272. On June 14, 1944, O'Dea raises his average to .392 after a 4-for-4 performance in a 9-7 win against the Detroit Tigers. Following his release from the Indians in March of 1946, O'Dea plays five more seasons in the minor leagues, finishing with the Fort Smith Indians of the Western (C) Association in 1951.

### Hillis Layne 1948 Seattle Rainiers



### Paul O'Dea 1938 Fargo-Moorhead Twins



## Sporting News [2 of 2]:

### Rocky Mount Romance

As a result of a wager, Rocky Mount and Bi-State (D) League fans are treated to a rare sight on the playing fields during summer of 1942. Every time that catcher Charley Munday or outfielder Harry Soufas hits a home run, the other kisses the home run hitter before he enters the dugout. It proves to be a summer of smooches as the duo combines to total 45 round trippers with Soufas accounting for a league-leading 29.

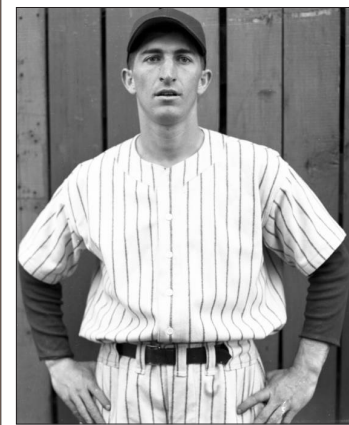
Born in Greece on May 22, 1917, Soufas grows up in Wilson, North Carolina, and is awarded a football scholarship to the University of North Carolina where he stays one year before transferring to Atlantic Christian College. One of Soufas' teammates on the 1942 Rocks is Scottish-born 18-year-old third baseman Bobby Thomson, who is best remembered for hitting a game-winning home run against the Brooklyn Dodgers known as the "Shot Heard 'Round the World" that sends the New York Giants to the 1951 World Series.

Although they finish third in the regular season with a 63-60 record under George Ferrell (of the Greensboro Ferrells), the Rocks rebound to win the league's Shaughnessy playoffs, beating the Sanford Spinners 4 games to 1 in the championship series.

### Washburn Walks to a Win

On July 7, Newark Bears pitcher George Washburn walks his way to a 5-1 win over Montreal in a International (AA) League game. A 27-year-old right hander with obvious control problems, Washburn allows the Royals only four hits, but walks 14 men and hit another as the Bears (48-33) reclaim first place over the Jersey City Giants (46-34) by 1 1/2 games following the Giants' doubleheader loss to Buffalo. On May 4, 1941, Washburn makes his only major league appearance with the New York Yankees. Starting on the hill against the Detroit Tigers, Washburn takes the loss after allowing four runs (three earned) on two hits and five base on balls in two innings.

**Harry Soufas**  
**1940 Norfolk Tars**



**Lew Carpenter**  
**1943 Chattanooga Lookouts**



### Lew Carpenter

On July 3, Memphis manager Doc Prothro announces that his top pitcher, Lew Carpenter had applied for a spot in a Air Corp training course and is leaving the team. Recently named to the Southern Association all-star team, Carpenter is 10-10 at the time of his departure, having lost six-in-a-row. Prothro does not elaborate on a report that he and the side-arming knuckleballer did not see eye-to-eye. TSN reports that "all was not serene between Carpenter and Manager," and that the Georgia Tech alumnus wants out of Memphis. It is later reported that Prothro bans all discussion of the war in the clubhouse.

Carpenter later decides that flying is not his cup of tea and takes a war plant job in Atlanta. He returns to the Chicks in March 1943, and is quickly sold to the Philadelphia Phillies in a deal that later falls through because of Carpenter's salary demands. On April 27, Prothro announces that Carpenter has been sold again, this time to the Washington Nationals. In his only major league experience, the 29-year-old right-hander appears in four games for the Nationals, allowing only one hit in 3 1/3 innings with four walks and one strikeout (Roy Weatherly of New York) before being optioned on June 14 to Chattanooga.

### Deaf be not Blind

Players, managers and fans of the Piedmont (C) League can say almost anything to umpire Bud Newman and it won't matter. Newman, who works at a sanitarium in Shreveport, Louisiana, in the off-season and considers umpiring as a "summer vacation", is deaf.