



IN READINESS—Members of Battery B, 690th Field Artillery seen left to right first row are E. E. Nobles, D. G. Smith, R. G. Rice Jr., W. S. Lewis, C. T. Pridgen, R. E. Hines, R. F. Rose, D. R. Batchelor, R. R. Smith, F. D. Holt, R. R. Chase. Second row, C. R. Hart, R. L. Mills, D. W.

Banks, T. E. Davidson, R. W. Mallard Jr., L. E. Swank, R. G. Wilson, R. D. Keel, J. A. Eubanks, J. D. Autry, A. R. Ireland. Third row, W. Stewart, J. R. Smith, C. I. Brentley Jr., J. A. Purifoy, C. J. Jones Jr., H. G. Stille, E. T. Bennett, M. R. Harriet, W. R. Hardison, R. O. Harker, C. L. Cahoon.

get one starting assignment against Ayden, and was slaughtered 10 to 0. When Doc commented in the showers later about his ineffectiveness, Berry, a gentle soul, came up with one of his rare comebacks. "We didn't get any runs, Skipper," he drawled in his best South Carolina accent, "so if I had pitched a no-hitter we would still be out there sweating it out."

Berry lived long enough to see his day of triumph, however. When the 1938 season rolled around, he racked up 12 victories while losing four. He was hit fairly often in the 31 games he worked. As a matter of fact, he gave up 187 safeties in 199 innings, but when the chips were down he could retire the side quite effectively. Yes, Bill and Bullpen were a

couple of kids who exemplified all that is decent and inspirational in the world of sports. Remembering them on Memorial Day can't help but give a fellow's heart a tug, and make him glad that they passed his way enroute to a hero's death.

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As Seen in The Mirror's

SPORTS REFLECTIONS

of Athletes and Events

Memorial Day brings to mind two Coastal Plain league ball players who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in World War II.

Leonard (Bullpen) Berry of the

New Bern Bears died in the ill-fated Battle of the Bulge. Billy Southworth, Jr., of the Kinston Eagles perished when the plane he was piloting crashed in flames.

Many fine boys died in that con-

flict, and Leonard and Billy were among the finest. Each was a team man, more concerned with the success of the club he played with than his own individual stardom.

Changing from a baseball uniform to an Army uniform didn't change either of them. They gave their best, in peace and war, and died as they had lived, true to the high ideals both believed in.

Young Southworth, son of a major league manager, strived constantly to improve his diamond prowess before he entered service, and dreamed of being a big leaguer.

Whether Billy had the natural ability to achieve his baseball ambition can only be speculated upon. If grim determination, faith in himself, and perseverance could have accomplished it, he would have made the grade.

A handsome chap, he had already been offered a Hollywood acting contract at the time of his death. Movie fame might have been his, yet knowing Billy intimately, we have no doubt that his great love was baseball and always would have been.

In 1938, with Kinston, he batted .283, collected 110 hits in 389 trips to the plate, and scored 70 runs while driving in 78. Included in his safeties were 14 homers, six triples and 15 doubles. Fleet of foot, he stole 22 bases.

We gave Berry the nickname of Bullpen during a 1937 season that saw him work in 18 ball games, and end the season with three wins and three losses.

He was Doc Smith's chief relief hurler, and usually got into the ball game after it was hopelessly lost. There wasn't much glory for Leonard that year.

If we remember rightly, he did

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