

ARMY INDUCTS HIGHEST-PAID BASEBALL PLAYER

Last week in Detroit, Hank Greenberg, Tiger outfielder and baseball's highest-paid player, came to bat in the second inning against the Yankees and hit his first home run of the season. In the third inning he hit another. Next morning at 6:30, along with some 300 other draftees, he reported to an induction center in a Detroit corset factory, took the oath of allegiance and became a buck private in the Army.

Greenberg was the first prominent baseball player to be drafted. As such, he might have become the greatest draftee case in athletics since Jack Dempsey's picture was published during World War I wearing patent leather shoes while allegedly working in a shipyard. When his number (621) was called, Greenberg was examined by a doctor near the Tigers' training camp in Florida and declared unfit because of flat feet. In their attempt to keep a good story alive, overzealous newspapermen implied he might be a draft dodger, inquired whether he could still play \$55,000 worth of baseball a year on flat feet. Actually, he was being handled just like any other draft prospect. Upon his return to Detroit to open the season, he was re-examined and declared fit.

All through the rumpus Greenberg kept on playing baseball and got ready for the Army. When asked about the amount of pay he would lose he said: "It isn't as much a sacrifice as it appears. After all, the Government takes most of that 50 grand." He added: "I have never asked for deferment. I made up my mind to go when I was called. My country comes first."



Detroit newspapers gave great play to every phase of Greenberg's draft situation. Reporters tagged after him on the

street, routed him out of bed at night. Six-foot-four-inch Greenberg endured everything without losing his temper.



At home plate, Hank is congratulated by Bruce Campbell after he hit a homer. Greenberg hit 41 home runs last season.



In Detroit dugout Hank's teammates pat him on the back. Night before, at farewell banquet, they gave him a watch.



In team dressing room Manager Del Baker says goodbye as Hank turns in his Tiger uniform. His playing number was 5.



Owner Briggs also says goodbye. Greenberg was paid \$7,500 of his year's \$55,000 salary, will now earn but \$21 a month.



Elaborate cake from a fan shows how much they liked him. One fan even flew by private plane with son to see last game.



The last night before reporting to Army at 6:30 next morning was spent with some friends at the London Chop House.

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Greenberg drafted (continued)



Bright and early at 6:30 a. m. Greenberg reports to draft center. He was asked to be the leader of group but refused. He signed over 1,000 autographs on his first day.



Hank's fingerprints are taken by an Army corporal. He went through entire preliminary routine before noon, was allowed some time off to say goodby to his friends.



He takes oath of allegiance, administered by Captain C. C. Curtis. Greenberg's cardboard identification disk hangs around his neck. He was tallest man in his group.

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Greenberg drafted (continued)



Army doctor peers down Greenberg's throat with the aid of a flashlight. Army doctors admit his feet are slightly flat, but claim they are serviceable enough for duty.



Hank is measured for his uniform. He was sent to Fort Custer, near Grand Rapids. He may stay there for his year or be transferred to Camp Livingston in Louisiana.



Hank practices salute. Men at Fort Custer like him, especially since the first day when an officer started to shake hands and Hank properly gave him salute instead.