

COL Paul Ryan Goode

(175th Infantry Regiment / 29th Infantry Division)

1892 – 1959

EARLY MILITARY LIFE

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Colonel Goode attended The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduated in 1917, and later served as an Infantry Instructor there. Other postings during his 35 years of service in the US Army included his assignment as Commanding Officer, Machine Gun Company, 24th Infantry Regiment, Columbus, New Mexico; Ft. Benning, Georgia; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After WW II, Colonel Goode served as Commander of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and was the Deputy Post Commander at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, at the time of his retirement in 1952.

WWII YEARS



175th Infantry Regiment

During World War II, Colonel Goode served as a Regimental Commander of the 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division during the D Day Invasion at Normandy, where he is quoted as saying, "Get your ass on the beach. I'll be there waiting for you and I will tell you what to do. There ain't anything to this plan that is going to go right."



29th Infantry Division

Captured on 13 June 1944, during the first week of heavy engagement in the Vire River Valley near Seine, Colonel Goode displayed exemplary leadership qualities after which he was moved with others captured through France and into Germany. Leaving Limburg, he arrived at Oflag 64 on 16 October 1944 and became the SAO (Senior American Officer) at the first officers' camp to which he had been sent. By early January, the Russian Army was on the move westward across Poland, causing the evacuation of the Oflag 64 POWs to Germany.



COL Goode (2nd from left) with Mr. C. Christiansen (center) of the War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. in in Oflag 64 during October 1944.

An official US War Department Debriefing paraphrased section includes the following: Colonel Goode, once again SAO with 1300 men, reported 490 survivors left after a 360-mile march of 48 days in ten-degree-below-zero, snow covered ground. After arrival at Parchim Germany, the prisoners were moved by train to Oflag XIII-B near Hammelburg, and then marched to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg where they were liberated by Combat Team A of the 14th Armored Division. Colonel Goode's negotiation skills on behalf of other POWs combined with conduct befitting his rank and responsibilities under extreme conditions saved many lives and served as much-needed morale builders for the men under his command.

AWARDS



Silver Star

Actions on Colonel Goode's part resulted in a deserved Commendation and the following medals during his career: Silver Star "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with military operations against the enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of the 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division during World War II", Legion of Merit (for significant contributions recognized by the US Army), and the venerated POW Medal from WWII.

LATER YEARS

Following his retirement, Colonel Goode maintained his professional mission toward service by joining as a staff member of the Soldiers' Home and becoming its deputy governor in 1954. Perhaps his most valuable contribution in civilian life was the in-depth, precise researching and writing of a book entitled *THE UNITED STATES SOLDIERS' HOME A HISTORY OF ITS FIRST HUNDERD YEARS*. Contents describe in engaging details the desperate plight of enlisted personnel and the struggle to establish a permanent home "for the relief and support of invalid and disabled soldiers of the Army of the United States." This institution, which later welcomed Air Force personnel as well, was based on legislation enacted by Congress in 1851.



COL Goode

TAPS

Colonel Goode and his wife, Helen, remained cherished members of a family whose lives centered around service to their nation during active duty years and beyond retirement. Colonel Goode was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in 1959. Helen joined her husband at Arlington in 1979.



Biography written by Kriegy Research Group writer Ann C. Rogers