

2nd Lt. Anthony J. Goode
United States Army Air Corp
January 4, 1916 – May 5, 1944



“At about 1148 a Zero using a split S attack hit Major Cass’s ship in #2 engine and immediately that engine was feathered and within a few seconds the engine was on fire and the fire spread to the trailing edge of the wing The plane at that time seemed under control but had slowed down. Shortly after the men were seen to bail out, two parachuted out of the waist window and chutes opened and two more followed but no chutes opened and they fell into the water ... At an altitude of 1,700 feet, the wing was seen to crumple at the #2 engine and then the plane dove into the water. The plane hit the water at 1152. Immediately I called to the formation to fly top cover for me as I went down to circle the survivors and to give them the flotation box and life raft. Two Zeros were still above us and dropped phosphorus bombs on us while we were circling the survivors. My Navigator immediately gave the position of the survivors to the radio operator who in turn notified Dumbo, Hollandia and Los Negros. After we had done this I told the formation to get on my wing and then returned to base.”

Captain William A. Stuart, Jr.
Eye Witness



As with thousands of other accounts of unanticipated heroism by the members of The Greatest Generation, this is the story of a young man whose short life began during the War to End All Wars and ended twenty-eight years later at the turning point of World War II, which many historians believe erupted from the settlement terms of World War I. Much was experienced in that short time – the Treaty of Versailles in 1918, the Roaring Twenties, the stock market crash of 1929, the Great Depression, Roosevelt’s Fireside Chats, the New Deal and painfully slow but positive economic recovery. People were employed and dreaming again but while the US was finding its feet the War to End All Wars was quickly becoming a distant memory as Germany began to assert its power in Europe.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, now in his unprecedented third term of office, spoke strongly of US neutrality. In a speech to the American people in 1940 he declared, "I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again: your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars."

Although claiming neutrality the United States was openly supporting Great Britain and by the spring of 1939 to insure preparedness President Roosevelt began rapid expansion of military forces for the defense of the Western Hemisphere. He signed the Selective Training and Service Act (STSA) of 1940 on September 16 creating the country's first peacetime draft and formally established the Selective Service System as an independent Federal agency. The World War I conscription system served as a model for that of World War II.

The 1940 STSA instituted national conscription in peacetime, requiring registration of all men between twenty-one and forty-five, with selection for one year's service by a national lottery. In the massive draft of World War II, 50 million men from eighteen to forty-five were registered, 36 million classified, and 10 million inducted. No one would escape the pressure of the draft.

Then December 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor was obliterated. On December 11, 1941, Germany declared war on the United States taking advantage of the blow in the Pacific.

With one stroke Japan seized the initiative in the Pacific. Long-made plans for offensive action by the US Pacific Fleet in the event of war had to be discarded overnight. The enemy's military forces deployed with almost explosive speed throughout the western Pacific and an early counter-offensive was quite beyond the means of The United States Army and Navy. Furthermore, overall strategic considerations demanded that we direct our major strength against Germany before turning against Japan; in the Pacific we were forced to accept a defensive role, unsatisfying as well as hazardous and ultimately very costly in American lives.

Like many others subject to the draft, to have some say in their eventual roles both [Anthony](#) and his younger brother, Stanley, 22, enlisted and charted a course for officer training in the Army Air Force.

