



John B. Goettke **64-43**

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Service # O-513639

**908th Field Artillery Battalion
83rd Infantry Division**

Entered the Service from: Ohio

Died: 10-Aug-1944

Buried at: Plot L Row 8 Grave 10

Brittany American Cemetery

St. James, France

Awards: Air Medal, Purple Heart

From the 908th Field Artillery Battalion history:

1st Lt John Goettke was listed on the 908th roster as being a Pilot in the Battalion HQ. Battle hardened by the bloody Normandy campaign of July 1944, the 908th met its greatest test at La Marchandais, a small farm in Brittany about 10 km south of the seaport cities of St. Malo and Dinard. There, on August 10, 1944, as the 908th fired its 105mm guns directly into the St. Malo fortifications, the battalion was subjected to fierce German counter-battery fire.

Early in the morning of the 10th of August 1944 a Piper Cub that was carrying forward observers 1st Lt. Philip J. Reichert and 1st Lt. John B. Goettke exploded in mid-air, apparently struck by a shell. Both were killed instantly. They were awarded the Air Medal posthumously.) 1st Lt. Manny Goodridge recalls seeing the plane being hit. "The wing broke in the middle and both wing tips folded forward."



LT. JOHN B. GOETTKE.



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1 LT 908 FA BN 83 DIV
OHIO AUG 10 1944

10