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General Goddard

~~Information for his visit
Oct 25~~

By WLS

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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

October 24, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Backup Data on Retired Brig General Goddard

On Wednesday, October 25, at 1630 you will have a courtesy visit from Gen Goddard.

At the right is a biographical sketch on Gen Goddard which covers his military career through 1953. Since retirement he has been active with industry as the Washington representative for Itek, and has written a book entitled "Overview," published in 1969, which deals with aerial reconnaissance. He presently resides in Boca Raton, Florida.

Mr. Lundahl will host and brief Gen Goddard on Thursday, October 26. We are planning to oath Gen Goddard prior to his visit with you and will debrief him following the NPIC show.


HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Major, USAF

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE WILLIAM GODDARD, USAF Retired

George William Goddard was born in London, England, June 15, 1889. He came to Rochester, New York in June, 1904, to live with his aunt and uncle. He was naturalized April 27, 1918.

General Goddard was graduated from Washington Irving Preparatory School in New York in 1910, attended Kouka College in Kouka, New York, for two years, then studied commercial art in Rochester for a year. He was a free-lance cartoonist in Rochester until January, 1916, when he became a staff artist for the Coke and Iron Monthly in Chicago, Illinois.

On December 14, 1917, General Goddard enlisted in the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps and entered the aerial photography course at the School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University. Upon completion of the three-month course, he became an instructor in aerial photographic interpretation.

General Goddard was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Aviation Section Reserve on August 8, 1918, and assigned to Tullahoma Field, Fort Worth, Texas, to organize and take to France the 43rd, 44th and 45th Aerial Photographic Sections.

When the World War I armistice was declared, General Goddard was transferred to Carlstrom Field, Florida, where he was graduated from flying school and rated a pilot in May, 1919. He then was assigned to McCook Field, Ohio, as officer in charge of aerial photographic research. In that capacity, he started developments in infra-red and long-range photography, special aerial cameras, photographic aircraft and portable field laboratory equipment and formed the nucleus of the present Photographic Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

On July 1, 1920, General Goddard received his Regular commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Service, and was promoted immediately to first lieutenant the same date. He then was appointed officer in charge of aerial photography in the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps, Washington, D.C. While on that assignment, he received a presidential appointment as Air Corps representative on the Federal Board of Surveys and Maps. He organized the first Army aerial photographic mapping units which pioneered in mapping Muscle Shoals, Tennessee River Basin, Teapot Dome, Mississippi River and many other areas.

In August, 1945, General Goddard was appointed chief of the Photographic Laboratory at Wright Field. He was retired June 30, 1949, but was recalled to active duty the following day, retaining his position as chief of the Photographic Laboratory.

In May, 1952, General Goddard was transferred to headquarters of the Allied Air Forces in Central Europe at Fontainebleau, France, for duty as Director of Reconnaissance, Operations Division.

In July 1953, General Goddard was assigned to Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

General Goddard was sent to Bikini in 1946 in connection with the atomic bomb tests. In July, 1950, he was awarded the Thurman H. Banc Award for his development in low-altitude high-speed night photography. Immediately thereafter he went to Korea to introduce this new system of night photography and the latest type strip camera, which has been highly successful in low-altitude jet aircraft operations under adverse weather conditions. In August, 1951, he was awarded the Honorary Degree of Master of Photography by the Photographers' Association of America, and also received the Progress Medal for 1951 at the annual convention of the Photographic Society of America, held in Detroit, Michigan.

In addition to the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, General Goddard has been awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for his work in the organization of French aerial photographic research and operational units. He is rated a command pilot, combat observer, and technical observer.

General Goddard and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Hayes Goddard, have one daughter.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to captain July 2, 1934; to major (temporary) August 19, 1937; to major (permanent) July 1, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) March 21, 1941; to colonel (temporary) March 1, 1942; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) November 16, 1942; to colonel (permanent) April 2, 1948; to brigadier general (temporary) March 8, 1952, with date of rank from January 25, 1952.

E N D

Up to date as of 3 August 1953.