



### Personal info

Full name

**BRAATZ, Elroy John**

Date of birth

**26 June 1921**

Age

**23**

Place of birth

**Milwaukee, Milwaukee County,  
Wisconsin**

Hometown

**Milwaukee County, Wisconsin**

## Military service

Service number

**36842645**

Rank

**Private**

Unit

**2nd Battalion,  
513th Parachute Infantry Regiment,  
17th Airborne Division,  
313th Troop Carrier Group**

Awards

**Purple Heart**

## Death & Grave

Status

**Killed in Action**

Date of death

**26 March 1945**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Margraten**

Plot	Row	Grave
F	15	11

## Immediate family

Members

**John H. Braatz (father)**

**Lillian G. (Schultz) Braatz (mother)**

**Lauretta Braatz (sister)**

**Virginia Braatz (wife)**

## More information

Pvt Elroy J. Braatz was aboard a C-46 aircraft in Serial A-5, 313 TCCG, 9th TCC scheduled to drop by parachute into Drop Zone W. Due to a smokescreen and disorientation of the aircraft, his unit was dropped 2.5 miles northeast of the drop zone east of a railway line and 1.5 miles southwest of Hamminkeln, Germany. After landing, his unit fought its way to within 1 mile northeast of Diersfordt where he was killed.

## Photos



Source of information: Peter Schouteten, [www.wwiiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiiimemorial.com), [www.ww2-airborne.us](http://www.ww2-airborne.us), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - 1930 Census / Headstone and Interment Record / family trees, 17th Airborne Division Historical Report of Operation Varsity, Book: The Last Drop, March 24-25, 1945 by Stephen L. Wright

Photo source: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) - Des Philippet, Tamra Michelle Braatz