

Fields of Honor Memorial

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Fields of Honor
Foundation



Personal info

Full name

HAYDEN, Paul E "Buddy"

Date of birth

10 April 1923

Age

21

Place of birth

Fort Sam Houston, Bexar county, Texas

Hometown

Washington, District of Columbia

Military service

Service number

20381299

Rank

Private First Class

Unit

**HQ & HQ Company,
1st Battalion,
504th Parachute Infantry Regiment,
82nd Airborne Division**

Awards

**Silver Star,
Purple Heart**

Death & Grave

Status

Killed in Action

Date of death

21 December 1944

Cemetery

American War Cemetery Henri-Chapelle

Plot	Row	Grave
C	1	47

Immediate family

Members

Henry E. Hayden (father)

Mary Hayden (mother)

Mary T. Hayden (sister)

Ruth C. Hayden (sister)

Regina C. Hayden (sister)

Eleen E. Hayden (sister)

More information

Pfc Paul Hayden joined the Air Corps of the Regular Army at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland on 28 June 1941. He was later transferred to the paratroopers.

He served in North Africa, in Italy and participated in D-Day landing.

He was awarded the Silver Star Medal posthumously for his action on 20 December 1944. The citation cited: Pvt Hayden was a member of an advance machine gun crew during an attack on this strongly defended town when the left flank assault company was held up by the fire from an enemy cannon and supporting machine gun elements. Casualties were becoming heavy when Pvt Hayden, realizing the seriousness of the situation, picked up his machine gun and rushed to a forward position in an effort to draw fire from his comrades engaged in a flanking movement. While engaged in this gallant and unselfish act, Pvt Hayden was killed. Due to his supreme sacrifice, his company was able to take advantage of the diversion he created in its flanking assault on the enemy. His gallant actions and dedicated devotion to duty, without regard for his own life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

On one picture he poses with his sisters Mary and Ellen.

Photos



Source of information: Raf Dyckmans, WW2-Airborne.us, NARA, www.wwiimemorial.com

Photo source: Peter Schouteten, Patricia Schreech Mungle, daughter of Paul's sister Mary Theresa Hayden Schreech - courtesy of Kathy McDermott