



### Personal info

Full name

**GAUTNEY, David Lavern**

Date of birth

**27 July 1922**

Age

**22**

Place of birth

**Cassville, Barry County, Missouri**

Hometown

**Barry, Barry County, Missouri**

### Military service

Service number

**37236276**

Rank

**Private First Class**

Unit

**I Company,  
3rd Battalion,  
504th Parachute Infantry Regiment,  
82nd Airborne Division**

Awards

**Purple Heart**

### Death & Grave

Status

**Died of Wounds**

Date of death

**28 September 1944**

Cemetery

**American War Cemetery Ardennes**

Plot	Row	Grave
D	4	30

## Immediate family

### Members

**Teat D. Gautney (father)**  
**Pansy (Hobbs) Gautney (mother)**  
**Doyle Gautney (brother)**  
**Bethyl Gautney (brother)**

## More information

Pfc Gautney was severely wounded when elements of the German Panzer Brigade 108, supported by an array of infantry units, overran the I Company positions at Den Heuvel farm, along the Wylerbaan near Groesbeek. This took place on 27 September 1944.

Pfc Robert Hedberg served in the same platoon and was captured along with Gautney. Hedberg took Gautney on his shoulders and carried him a couple of hundred yards until the guard ordered Hedberg to leave Gautney in an open field, shouting "Kaputt, kaputt!"

Apparently Gautney was later picked up by German medics, who took him to the hospital at Bedburg-Hau, where he died the next day (28th) of his wounds. He was initially buried at the cemetery of Bedburg-Hau.

## Photos



Source of information: Terry Hirsch, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - WWII Draft Card / 1930 US Census

Photo source: Irene Gautney (niece-in-law) - courtesy of Kathy McDermott