

# Louis James Hauge Jr

## **Born**

December 12, 1924 Ada, Norman, Minnesota

## **Entered Service**

April 23, 1943

Marine Corps Reserve

1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division

New Caledonia and New Guinea

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marines

Peleliu

## **World War II**

### **Died**

May 14, 1945, Killed in Action, Okinawa, Japan



## **Early Years**

Louis Hauge Jr. was born on December 12, 1924 in Ada, Minnesota. He was active in all athletics, but left high school after his first year and worked in a canning factory in Ada, where he became assistant foreman. He later was employed by a ship yard in Tacoma, Washington as a painter.<sup>[1]</sup>

He was inducted into the Marine Corps Reserve on April 23, 1943 and completed light-machine gun school at Camp Elliott, California before serving with the 1st Marine Division at New Caledonia and New Guinea. Later, he saw combat action on Peleliu as a message runner with Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1st Marines. In this capacity, he distinguished himself for his bravery under fire and was given a meritorious promotion to corporal.<sup>[1]</sup>

## **The War Years**

Corporal Hauge was killed in action on May 14, 1945, while serving on Okinawa as a member of the 1st Marine Division. For his heroic actions on that day, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. At the time of his death, Cpl Hauge was squad leader of a machine gun squad in Southern Okinawa engaged in an assault against a heavily fortified Japanese hill. It was during the evening that the left flank of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, was pinned down by a barrage of mortar and machine gun fire. The enemy was pouring enfilade fire into the ranks of the Marines. Quickly spotting the two guns responsible for the damage, Corporal Hauge boldly rushed across an open area, heaving hand grenades as he ran. Wounded before he reached the first gun, he nevertheless continued his one-man assault and completely destroyed the position. Without stopping, he pushed forward and attacked the second gun with grenades and demolished it before falling from the deadly fire of the Japanese snipers. Inspired by his actions, his company rose from their besieged position and pressed home the attack.<sup>[1]</sup>

The award was presented to his father on June 14, 1946 by Col Norman E. True, USMC, who represented the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Corporal Hauge's remains were eventually returned to the United States and interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

### **Medal of Honor citation**

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

**CORPORAL LOUIS J. HAUGE JR.**  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Leader of a Machine-Gun Squad serving with Company C, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryūkyū Chain on 14 May 1945. Alert and aggressive during a determined assault against a strongly fortified Japanese Hill position, Corporal Hauge boldly took the initiative when his company's left flank was pinned down under a heavy machine-gun and mortar barrage with resultant severe casualties and, quickly locating the two machine guns which were delivering the uninterrupted stream of enfilade fire, ordered his squad to maintain a covering barrage as he rushed across an exposed area toward the furiously blazing enemy weapons. Although painfully wounded as he charged the first machine-gun, he launched a vigorous single-handed grenade attack, destroyed the entire hostile gun position and moved relentlessly forward toward the other emplacement despite his wounds and the increasingly heavy Japanese fire. Undaunted by the savage opposition, he again hurled his deadly grenades with unerring aim and succeeded in demolishing the second enemy gun before he fell under the slashing fury of Japanese sniper fire. By his ready grasp of the critical situation and his heroic one-man assault tactics, Corporal Hauge had eliminated two strategically placed enemy weapons, thereby releasing the besieged troops from an overwhelming volume of hostile fire and enabling his company to advance. His indomitable fighting spirit and decisive valor in the face of almost certain death reflect the highest credit upon Corporal Hauge and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.<sup>[2]</sup>

/S/HARRY S. TRUMAN

### **Honors**

The United States Navy container & roll-on/roll-off ship, MV Cpl Louis J. Hauge Jr. (T-AK-3000), commissioned on September 7, 1984, is named in honor of Cpl. Hauge.<sup>[3]</sup> This ship is the lead ship of its class of five maritime prepositioning ships.<sup>[4]</sup> The Cpl. Louis J. Hauge Jr. class is the original class of MPS ships chartered by Military Sealift Command.<sup>[5]</sup>

A Marine Corps installation on the island of Okinawa was named Camp Louis J. Hauge Jr. During the Vietnam War, Camp Hauge served as a staging installation for Marines in transit to and from Vietnam. The camp was decommissioned following the return of Okinawa to the Japanese government.

### **The Post War Years**

Louis James Hauge, Jr. did not marry or have any children.



Photos of grave markers courtesy of John "J-Cat" Griffith, "Find A Grave" contributor. Ada Cemetery, Ada, Norman County, Minnesota, Plot: Block 4, Row 1, In Fenced area.

**Sources:**

- "Corporal Louis James Hauge Jr.", *Who's Who in Marine Corps History*.
- Louis J. Hauge Medal of Honor citation, *Marines Awarded the Medal of Honor*.
- *MSC Ship Inventory 2002*.
- *U.S. Navy Ships 1999*.
- *U.S. Navy Fact File 2005*.
- Findagrave.com
- United States Federal census records and Minnesota State census records.

**Compiled by DeAnn Caddy  
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