

RAYMOND CARL RICHMOND

U. S. Army Air Force Technical Sergeant

Flight Engineer, 881st Bomb Squadron, 500th Bomb Group, 20th Air Force

Died May 25-26 in a fire while a POW at Tokyo Military Prison

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.



Raymond Carl Richmond

(Photo provided by Doug Comella.)

Note: Tech. Sergeant Raymond Carl Richmond has been memorialized on several other websites. Since he was born in Marshall County, he is being honored here, as well.

Raymond Carl Richmond, born in Marshall County on October 19, 1919, was the son of Joshua Litten Richmond and Susannah Myers, married in Marshall County on May 27, 1898.

At the time of the 1920 Federal Census of Cameron District, Marshall County, Joshua L. Richmond and his wife, "Anna," were the parents of Charles E., 20, Floyd R., 18, Bula M., 15, and Reymond C., 2 months.

In 1930, the family resided in Meade District, Marshall County. "Liton J. Richmond" was employed as a "Foreman Public Roads." He and Anna had one child at home, Reymond C., age 10.

Raymond was not readily found in the 1940 census. At the time of his WWII Draft Registration, he was a resident of RD#3 Proctor, which is Wetzel County.

REGISTRATION CARD

1996

SERIAL NUMBER 5-62	1. NAME (Print) Raymond Carl Richmond <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>			ORDER NUMBER 5-1996
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) R.D. #3 Proctor Glen Easton, Marshall Co. W. Va. <small>(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)</small>				
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]				
3. MAILING ADDRESS <small>[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]</small>				
4. TELEPHONE Farmers	5. AGE IN YEARS 21	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Marshall Co. W. Va. <small>(Town or county) (State or country)</small>		7. OCCUPATION Farm Laborer
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS J. L. Richmond Glen Easton R.D. 1, W. Va.				
9. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS H. L. Shepherd, Glen Easton W. Va.				
10. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS R.F.D. 1, Glen Easton W. Va. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
D. S. S. Form 1 <small>(Revised 6-9-41) (over)</small>		16-21630		<i>Raymond Carl Richmond</i> <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
			Sallow	Light
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5-11 1/2	138	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Negro	Blue	Blonde	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruddy
	Gray <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dark
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Freckled
	Brown	Black <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light brown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indian	Black	Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dark brown
		Bald	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black
Filipino				

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

H. B. James
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board *No. 2 Marshall Co.*
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration *July 17, 1941*

LOCAL BOARD # 2, SELECTIVE SERVICE

COURT HOUSE

MONROSVILLE (MARSHALL CO.), W. VA.

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-21630

On January 8, 1943, Raymond C. Richmond, born October 19, 1919 at RD#1 Glen Easton, Marshall County, married Alberta C. Wade, born February 28, 1923 at Paden City, Wetzel County. They were married by Edward Michael Flanigan, Minister of the Presbyterian Church, Moundsville. His parents were J. L. & Anna. Her parents were Joseph H. and Hazel.

The following information was provided by Doug Comella.

“Sgt. Richmond was a member of the Lt. Edward G. Law Crew when their B-29 was shot down 2 April 1945. One of the 11 men died in the crash and 10 survived. One of the survivors was sent to the Omori POW Camp and in May, the 9 remaining were transferred to the Tokyo Military Prison. They all died the night of 25-26 May 1945 when the prison caught fire during a B-29 mission. All the Japanese prisoners were released. But none of the 62 POWs. Sgt Richmond is one of these and his remains are currently unidentified.”



The men in the 1st Lt. Edward Getty Law Crew of the 500th Bomb Group taken at Pyote Army Air Field, 20 January 1945.

“The crew was transferred to Kearney Army Air Field, Nebraska, and then flew on a B-29 to Saipan, arriving late February 1945. The B-29 was shot down during the mission the night of 1-2 April 1945. Lt Law remained with the aircraft and was killed in the crash. The other 10 men were able to parachute safely to the ground but were captured and taken to the Tokyo Kempei Tai Headquarters. One of the men, Sgt. Ray F. Hopper, was transferred to the Omori POW Camp while the others were sent to the Tokyo Military

Prison. They died on May 26, 1945 during a fire raid on Tokyo when the Japanese prisoners were released but these American men were not."



Robert H. Mead
416 Wainford St
Perry, Iowa
Radio, O.P.

Harry E. McMillen
Box 20
North Apollo, Pa
Right Blister

Raymond C. Richmond
Allen Easton, W. Va.
Route #1.
Flight Engineer

Maurice Myers
Mainland
Penna.
Left Blister

Ray J. Hopper
Box 30
Marion, Oregon

Cpl. Thaddeus J. Pasternak
24 Bliss Street
Chippew Falls,
Mass.
Radio Engineer

Edward L. Law
Clare
Iowa
Airplane Commander

Gerould L. Diddings
45 TACONIC AVE
GT. BARRINGTON, MASS
Pilot

David R. Lerhard
2020 Clifton Ave
Springfield, Ohio
Bomber
Don J. Van Diver
1814 10th St
Wichita Falls, Tex
Navigator

Sergeant McNeill didn't sign the image.

The men who died in this fire at the Tokyo Military Prison are memorialized on the Sea Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial Honolulu, Hawaii. They were awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

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The following article appeared in the Wheeling Intelligencer:

*Wheeling Intelligencer*, 1 May 1945  
**T-Sgt. R. C. Richmond**  
**Listed as Missing**  
Mr and Mrs. J L. Richmond of Glen Easton, RD 1, have been advised that their son, T-Sgt. Raymond, has been listed as missing in action since April 2, in a B-29 bomber raid over Saipan  
T-Sgt Richmond, whose wife Mrs Alberta Wade Richmond, resides at Proctor, was employed as a farmer before entering service April 7 1942 He has been overseas since March of this year, and it was on his fifth bombing mission that he failed to return  
He is a brother of F R. "Jim" Richmond and Ed Richmond, both residents of Poplar ave, Moundsville

Raymond C. Richmond's widow, Alberta Christina Richmond, age 24, married Urban Gregory Klug, 24, at New Martinsville, Wetzel County, on November 29, 1947. She died August 21, 1971 and is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

The soldier's mother, (Susannah) Anna Richmond, died on February 9, 1951 in Moundsville. She is buried at Salem Church of Christ Cemetery, Marshall County.

The father, Joshua Litton Richmond, 79, married Ella (Crow) Richmond, 70, on March 19, 1955 at Moundsville. Ella was the widow of James Spencer Richmond who died in 1941. Joshua died January 28, 1968 at Moundsville General Hospital. Ella died in 1971. All of these folks are buried at Salem Church of Christ Cemetery, Marshall County.