



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2365

July 30, 2017

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

## MailCall News

From Facebook site: [517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team - Families & Friends](#)

Unsure if this was a part of an official award from France or something he had made?

**Matt Marohn**



It is a souvenir of Nice, local manufacture on a base of coins. Not common to find nowadays

Fred Sanchez

Good day Sir,

I have adopted the grave of **PFC Raymond W Hanish** Servicenumber: 35902728.

I'm looking for more information about him.

Pictures, where he was for training and combat, reason of his death (because for the info I founded already it was not during combat he died but he died from a gun shot), family, and so on...

I hope you can help me to give some more information about him.

With Regards,  
Koen Van Hoey  
Belgium



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Koen,

I cannot find much on Hanish in my records, other than he was on the Christmas 1944 roster with D Company.

<http://517prct.org/documents/xmas1944/xmas1944.htm>

But I did find this page with more info and a photo:

<https://www.fieldsofhonor-database.com/index.php/en/american-war-cemetery-henri-chapelle-h/52533-hanish-raymond-w>

It looks like this info came from his enlistment records and obituary.

How do you know that he died from a non-combat gunshot wound?

Bob Barrett

[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)



The father of a three-year-old daughter, Betty Lee, Pfc. Hanish entered the service Feb 11, 1944, and was sent overseas in October 1944. He received basic training at Camp Blanding, FLa., and advanced parachute training at Fort Benning, Georgia. A former employee of Terry Hanis Cities Service station, the paratrooper is survived by four brothers, Pfc William and S/Sgt. Edward in the army, Clarence of Dyer and Carl of Hammond, his mother and one sister.



Another enjoyable Mail Call. I particularly enjoyed Merle's posting about waiting for the funny papers when he was a kid illustrated by the comic you posted next to it with the reference to modern day google! You and Merle have such wonderful senses of humor. Thank you for sharing and giving me a chuckle.

As we get close to August 14, I was interested to see the flyers for the remembrance in France. Looks like they are doing an impressive job.

**Pat Seitz**



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Mail Call 2364 had a query regarding the late **Colonel Raymond Cato**. My late father was the First Sergeant, Headquarters Battery of Col. Cato's 460th PFAB. From my research Colonel Cato was born in Indiana on 29 Sep 1912. He died on 16 August 2005 at Ft. Walton Beach, FL. He married Dorothy Richards on 28 Dec 1936 at West Point, NY. I have yet to find his burial location.

I was fortunate to be introduced to him at two different 517th Reunions.

**Thomas F. Finley III**  
St. Louis, MO

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RE: **LTC Raymond L Cato**, Commanding officer of the 460<sup>th</sup>

From: <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=102157>

**Raymond Lemuel Cato**

Date of death: August 16, 2005

Raymond Cato graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Class of 1936. He retired as a U.S. Army Colonel.

### AWARDS AND CITATIONS



**Army Distinguished Service Medal**

[See more recipients of this award](#)



Awarded for actions during the [Vietnam War](#)



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Army Distinguished Service Medal to Colonel (Field Artillery) Raymond Lemuel Cato (ASN: 0-20195), United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services to the Government of the United States, in a duty of great responsibility, during the period from June 1961 to July 1966.

**General Orders:** Department of the Army, General Orders No. 36 (August 19, 1966)

**Action Date:** June 1961 - July 1966

**Service:** [Army](#)

**Rank:** Colonel



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This is Melvin's son Rick Trenary.....I seem to remember that dad did a taped interview. Would there be any way that I could get a copy of the interview, I'd love to be able to show it to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Thanks for all the work you do,

**Rick Trenary**

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Hi Rick,

Do you remember where and when. There were some done at the last couple of reunions, but not by me. I think a few were done at the 2015 reunion. I'll ask around.

Bob Barrett



John Jonientz (G), Gabriel Delsosio (460/C) , Allan Johnson (596), Leo Dean (Reg HQ),  
Mel Trenary (A), Phil McSpadden (460/HQ), Tony Mandio (HQ/1), Merle McMorrow (460/C)

**New Orleans, June 2015**

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From the 517<sup>th</sup> Guestbook:

Submitted by	Comments:
Name: <b>Charles F Vincent Jr</b> From: Florida E-mail: <a href="mailto:cvin5@aol.com">cvin5@aol.com</a>	My Uncle Wallace C Vincent Jr was in the 517 Company H <hr/> Added: July 26, 2017

to whom

My Uncle passed away in 2011 he was a jumpmaster with 517 company H and he is on the christmas pdf on your site. Listed as **Wallace C Vincent Jr**. Please find attached copy of his obit. This is also searchable online if you don't do attachment. I am doing a family tree and simple want to honor my uncle and the men of wwll

Charles F Vincent Jr.  
[cvin5@aol.com](mailto:cvin5@aol.com)



### Wallace Clayton Vincent Jr.

POCOMOKE CITY — Wallace Clayton Vincent Jr., 91, of Pocomoke City went home to be with Jesus on Oct. 27, 2011, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

He was born in Pocomoke on April 17, 1920, to the late Wallace Clayton Vincent Sr. and wife Sally Taylor Vincent.

Wallace was a veteran in the Army and served in World War II. He was with the 52nd Artillery in 1941. He protected the beaches from invasion by the Germans at New York Harbor in New Jersey. After this, he joined **the Airborne 517 Parachute Combat Team**. He was a jump master. He did five major jumps in the European Theater. The five jumps were in Normandy, North Africa, Arden's, Angelo and the Battle of the Bulge. His highest rank was sergeant. He trained German shepherds to sniff out mines and the enemy. He was on the cover of two Post magazines. He retired from more than 30 years of service at Delmarva Power & Light Co. Wallace loved the Lord, family, friends and served the Lord in church missions and helping others. He was a wonderful father and grandfather. Wallace is survived by three daughters, Sarah Elizabeth Vincent, Jeri Vincent and Sallie V. Powers; three grandchildren, Glen A. Vickers Jr., Heather M. Powers and Nathan R. Powers; one great-grandson, Scott O. Powers; and other extended family members, James R. Johnson and his wife, Linda Rose, Linda Carmine and grandchildren, Jimmy, Timmy, Steve, Will, Chuck, Lisa, Tracy, Kim and Tina; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Richardson Vincent; three daughters Gloria, Jeanette and Janice; his brother, Frank Vincent; and his sister Elizabeth Hicks.



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Re: Looking for **LTC Raymond Cato**, 460<sup>th</sup> PFAB

Hi Bob... I was searching around for your Col Cato & came up with this info:

- Birth: 27 Sep 1912
- Marriage: 28 Dec 1936 - West Point, NY (New York)
- Death: 16 Aug 2005 - Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa, FL (Florida)
- Spouse: Dorothy Richards

And for the wife:

- Birth: 12 Jul 1916
- Marriage: 28 Dec 1936 - West Point, NY (New York)
- Death: 22 Oct 2005 - Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa, FL (Florida)
- Parents: Lewis Webb Richards, Blanche Toland
- Spouse: Raymond L. Cato

It would appear that they lived over in Ft Walton at the end of their life anyway & died very close together...there is a large military retired community over there which does not surprise me. It is a little over an hour's drive from where I live. I have not been able to find a grave for him or his wife tho...surprising as I would "assume" they would be buried somewhere that would be listed. I always like a good search, especially when I can be successful!

### **Lyn Vickers**

(wife of David, G-517th)

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Good research. I've been trying to do the same and am somewhat surprised ( and saddened) that there is no formal obituary, considering his rank and experience and importance to WW2 and Vietnam.

I also haven't found anything in Find-a-Grave. He does have family. I'd love to get some photos and history, or a bio for him.

Bob Barrett

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I found a daughter (or I ASSUME it is a daughter) listed as Kay Cato in Arlington VA. Looks like she was married to a Brinkmeyer at some point. That is the only child I have been able to FOR SURE locate as being Raymond's. She is 64. This might put you onto actually contacting her for more info.

Very much agree with you on the formal obit...usually with a good rank & history, an obit is a given. Of course given the couple died so close together, and at such an elderly age, perhaps there was no one to handle this. I know folks who have prepared an obit & filed with the undertaker...which is a good idea I think. I would like to more about this fellow myself.

Thanks for answering me so fast, Bob! I am recovering from a left knee replacement, so it gives me something to take my mind off the PAIN...LOL.

Lyn Vickers



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Col Cato's son Richard (good read)

### Richard W. Cato 1960

Cullum No. 22827 • Apr 05, 2008 • Died in Fairfax, VA  
Cremated. Interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA



*Richard Webb Cato* was born on 11 Jun 1938 in Manila, the first child of a West Point graduate, **COL Raymond Cato '36**, who commanded the 460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion in World War II, and Dorothy Richards of Dallas, TX.

From his family Dick inherited the calling for military service and the love of Army life. He spent his formative years in some historic Army posts (Bragg, Campbell, Leavenworth, and Carlisle Barracks) as well as in Washington and Copenhagen.

Dick's early dream of becoming a West Pointer came true on a hot July day in 1956 when Dick joined the Class of 1960. During those exacting four years at the Academy, the actions and passions of each of us revealed not only who we were then, but provided a foretaste of who

we would become. We remember Dick as dutifully fulfilling his obligations with high spirits, infectious enthusiasm, a penchant for making friends, and fierce competitiveness on the squash court. Aside from his commitment to unending extracurricular interests and activities, Dick's standards were evident in the classroom, where his intellectual curiosity and energy placed him within the top 20% of the class.

Following graduation and commissioning in the Infantry, Dick was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, a post where his family had lived earlier. Throughout his life, Dick strongly felt the familial and filial bonds, and a sense of continuity with his father touched Dick's life whenever he was posted where his father had previously served.

Dick thrived in the gung-ho atmosphere and driving intensity of the airborne milieu. He was honored as the 82nd Airborne Division's Lieutenant of the Year and presented with a pearl-handled .45 caliber pistol engraved with his name. But the pinnacle was his marriage to Emily Davis, whom he had met by chance at Ft. Rucker four years earlier. Dick was smitten on the spot and told friends and family that this was the girl of his dreams destined to become the love of his life. Throughout their busy lives, Dick and Emily worked tirelessly with the military and associations to improve programs for military families.

They spent three years in the idyllic landscape of Bad Tolz, Germany with the 10th Special Forces Group before moving to Ft. Benning, GA. In 1966 Dick served the first of two Viet Nam tours. Commanding a company of the 1st Infantry Division during Operation Attleboro, he was badly wounded during the battle of Ap Cha Do but continued to lead his unit in close combat until ordered to evacuate. At the evacuation site, he established security, supervised the extraction of the wounded, and ensured every Soldier was treated before accepting medical help himself. He was awarded the Silver Star for valor but lost the engraved .45 caliber pistol. Incredibly, 30 years later, Senator Bob Kerrey discovered the weapon while visiting a military museum in Hanoi, secured its release, and returned the pistol to its surprised, but grateful, rightful owner.



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Dick spent a year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center recovering from his Viet Nam wounds. In the years that followed, he earned dual masters' degrees from Stanford University in economics systems and operations research and engineering, returned to Viet Nam for a second tour, commanded the 4th Airborne Battalion at Ft. Benning, graduated from the National War College, and served in the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Ft. Sheridan.

In 1976, Dick and Emily were sent to the Middle East. For two years he served as a military assistant in Iran, working with the International Red Cross monitoring refugee treatment. He played a key role—coordinating highly sensitive U.S. and Iranian drug-interdiction efforts and developing international smuggling suppression.

Dick's final tours were all in Washington, developing personnel procedures for officer selection and leading efforts to automate the Army's recruitment and training programs in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. These programs were part of the Army's effort to rebuild itself after the Viet Nam years, and Dick's contributions were a vital part of this overall successful effort.

In 1986, Dick retired from the Army, with a Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Bronze Star Medals, a Purple Heart and four Meritorious Service Medals.

His second career began with defense contractors BDM and Boeing, rising through their ranks to ever more senior corporate positions and concluding in 2004 as a vice president at Science Applications International in Fairfax, managing multibillion-dollar defense communications projects supporting our forces in Iraq.

In 2005, he followed his passion for gourmet cooking to the L'Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg, enrolling in a rigorous one-year professional chef's program. Mastering the theoretical foundation and practical skills of cooking along with all the French terms and techniques, Dick graduated with distinction and served for six months as a sous-chef in Nora's, one of Washington's top restaurants. He declined the offer of a permanent position, choosing instead a genuine but active retirement centered upon friends and family.

Dick and Emily raised and loved their children Gavin and Lauren, sending them into the world imbued with a devotion to family and the ethic of hard work. Their marriages and the birth of five grandchildren were causes for great joy and celebration. Dick was an active member of The Falls Church (Anglican). Richard Cato left this life on 5 Apr 2008, after a valiant, year-long struggle with brain cancer. We remember Dick as an exemplary family man and a patriot who cared for the well-being of the human race. Dick was a man who lived his life in a vibrant and cheerful happiness that had in it nothing either dull or gloomy. He had the most illuminated and enchanting smile, both elevated and kindly at the same time. We trust that smile will greet us when we join him in the Long Gray Line.

—*Lemuel J. Cato (LTC) '69, John A. Berry (COL) '60, Cato family*





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Found at: [http://taskandpurpose.com/andy-ramotnik-docked-pay-for-escaping-german-captors-wwii/?utm\\_content=hp-facebook&utm\\_campaign=history&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social](http://taskandpurpose.com/andy-ramotnik-docked-pay-for-escaping-german-captors-wwii/?utm_content=hp-facebook&utm_campaign=history&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social)

### **A WWII Vet Was Docked Pay For Escaping His German Captors And Now He Wants His \$13 Back**

By James Clark  
on July 26, 2017



A veteran who survived a plane crash and capture by the Germans during World War II has an axe to grind with the Department of Defense, and it centers around \$13.

Andy Ramotnik flew 42 successful combat missions as a 20-year-old radio operator in the Army Air Corps during World War II, until he was shot down on his 43rd mission and captured. After nearly two years in captivity, he escaped and rejoined American troops in Austria, not far from where he was held.

Following his captivity, Ramotnik received a check for \$554 — \$1 for every day in captivity — but in his eyes, the military came up short, according to WLTV, a Jacksonville, Florida ABC news affiliate, which first broke the story of Ramotnik's miraculous survival, capture, and escape.

With the check was a letter from the Department of War that said Ramotnik was being docked \$1 for each day he was on the run — or \$13 total. According to letter, under the War Claims Act, the government “does not provide for the payment of benefits during a period of escapement.”

“That’s the reason I’m unhappy!” Ramotnik exclaimed in an interview with WLTV.

More than 70 years later, that still doesn’t sit well with the 94-year-old veteran — who lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Now, Ramotnik wants that money back and an explanation from the Department of Defense.

“I’m paying a penalty?” Ramotnik asked. “Why? I did good.”

The mission that set it all in motion launched on Oct. 4, 1943. Ramotnik’s B-25 was on a bombing run to take out a German military target in Italy, when the aircraft’s right engine was hit. As the B-25 plummeted toward the earth, Ramotnik parachuted to safety, but he was floating down toward German lines and was captured moments after he hit the ground.

After he was interrogated in Frankfurt, Germany, Ramotnik was transferred to Stalag 17-B a prison camp in Krems, Austria, where he was held for the next 19 months, but he wasn’t idle. The first time Ramotnik escaped was during a forced march, when he and a fellow prisoner made a break for it, but their freedom was short-lived, and they were captured a few days later. They tried again, and in April



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1945, pulled off the same stunt, ducking their captors on an unguarded forced march. This time, Ramotnik and his brother-in-arms got away. Not long after their escape, the two heard the news: The Allies had won.

They met up with American troops and were granted a 90-day rest period before Ramotnik received his discharge, and then, the letter and the check.

His goal now? He just wants to close the books on the whole ordeal, and not feel like he's been penalized for doing his duty.



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## Administrivia

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- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know, or just click on the unsubscribe link on the email.
- Send any news, stories, or feedback to: [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)
- If you send me email that you do not want included in MailCall, just label it as FYEO.
- I now understand how Ben could get confused about what he already posted and what he didn't. If I miss something, please just send it again.

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