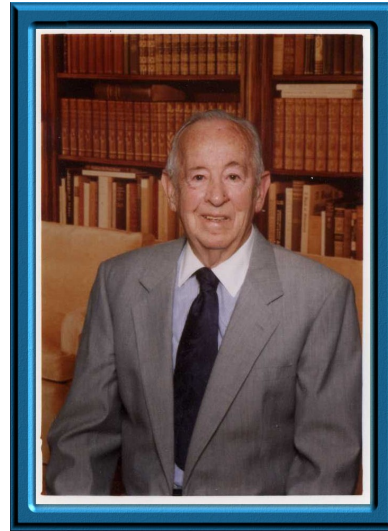


## A Salute to Bert Price POW, WWII

*Presented by  
Pearson Wood, member  
The American Legion Post 67  
Cary, North Carolina  
May 8, 2007*



Ausburn B. Price was born on July 15, 1915, in New York, New York, but he lived and grew up in Durham, New Jersey. He graduated from New York University in 1937 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He then went to work with an insurance company.

Bert's military career began when he joined the National Guard in 1939; he was assigned to the 119<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron. On September 15, 1940, all National Guard units were inducted into the US Army; Bert was sent to radio school at Scott Field, Illinois. In 1942 he went to Navigation School at Monroe, Louisiana; he graduated and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in April 1943 in the Army Air Corps.

On April 29, 1943, Bert married Dorothy Brown at Monroe, Louisiana.

Bert's first assignment as an officer was to the Anti-Submarine Command which patrolled the Gulf of Mexico out of Cuba. Next he went into bomber training, preparing for overseas duty. In January, 1944, Bert was sent to Tunis, Africa, then to Burri, Italy, to perform bombing missions over Austria and Germany.

Then came May 29, 1944, on his 10<sup>th</sup> mission, Bert's B24 bomber plane was shot by German fighter planes. The entire crew of ten parachuted out of their plane over Austria, however,

only four were reported to have done so; there was confusion as to the identities of those men.

The parachutists landed in Austrian farm country. Farmers were waiting for them with shotguns, but German soldiers came out and captured the crew, transporting them to Vienna, Austria. The crew was then sent to Stalag Luft 3, ninety miles south of Berlin, Germany.

January, 1945, the Russians were getting close to Berlin and the Germans did not want to lose their prisoners to the Russians. So the prisoners left camp and marched to Nuremberg, Germany. They spent three months at Nuremberg, then transferred to Mooseberg, Germany. On April 29, 1945, General Patton and his army captured the prison camp and the prisoners were freed. Later that year, Bert was discharged as a Captain. He had been awarded the Air Medal and several commendations.

When Bert was captured he weighed 160 pounds, when he was freed from the prison camp he weighed just 110 pounds.

He returned to civilian life and to the insurance business.

Bert had made a promise to God in 1944 when his plane was shot and he had to bail out. He promised to go into the ministry. At the age of

sixty he left the insurance business and went to a seminary for two years, then three years at Diaconic School. He was ordained in 1980 as an Episcopal Deacon and served The Lord faithfully. Bert retired in 1997 as an active deacon, but he continues to serve the Lord as he can. He moved to North Carolina after his retirement to be close to his grandchildren.

Dorothy Price died March 10, 1990. He remarried May 12, 1991, to Anne Greene and is still happily married to her.

I met Bert in 2000. Both of us were in the process of joining Resurrection Lutheran Church in

Cary and attended the same orientation classes. We liked and respected each other, and became friends. We have served together as Lay Ministers. When I found that Bert had military experience, I invited him to attend an American Legion meeting at Cary, Post 67; he joined our post and has been active as a member.

Bert Price, we salute you for your service to our country in the military and business, then as an Episcopal Deacon, then as an active Lay Person.

The American Legion Post 67, Cary, North Carolina, salutes you.