

# Bernard Brandon

- *Documented by Lucas Bertone*

**Branch:** US Army Air Force

**Rank:** T Sergeant

**Years of Service:** 1942 - 1945

**Locations of Service:** England, Germany, France

**Medals:** Air Medal & 40 OLC (Oak Leaf Clusters)



Bernard was born on August 16, 1923 in Danbury Connecticut. Bernard graduated from Brewster High School in 1941 and he then got a job with the New York Central railroad in the Signal Division.

Bernard originally wanted to be in the Aviation Cadets of the Army Air Force, so he enlisted on December 9, 1942 and got into the program, although he would wash out six months later. Bernard recalled that that time was “the biggest disappointment of my life,” before continuing on with “It might have saved my life, because I have the world’s worst sense of direction!”

Following sixteen weeks in Sioux Falls, South Dakota Radio School and further training at a Gunnery School in Yuma, Arizona, Bernard went to Chatham Field in Savanna, Georgia where he met his crew and was assigned to a four-engine B-24 heavy bomber. After final training in Ireland, the crew was sent to England as the 446th group, 705th squadron.

Bernard’s position was a radio operator. He had to open the bomb bay, as well as check the oxygen every 5 minutes to make sure no one was passing out. Bernard flew thirty-three missions over Germany and France before being grounded after they couldn’t land in their original Field.

As Bernard was sent back home on a liberty ship, he was put in charge of making up all the American guard details for one thousand German prisoners that were also on board the ship

After finishing his service, Bernard went to St. Louis, Missouri as a Navigational Instructor and enrolled at Pace Institute under the GI Bill on September 29, 1945. He spent a year there and then he went to NYU and attended a year of school there. While in school, he went to work at the Siebold Ink Company, which he would continue to do for four decades.

Bernard met his future wife, Alice Gorman, in 1949 at the Tonetta Lake pavilion. They married on July 8, 1950, and had six daughters.

Bernard passed on April 19, 2008 at the age of 84, he was buried at Saint Lawrence O'Toole Cemetery next to his father and fellow honoree of the Remember the Veterans Project, Daniel Brandon.

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Quote from: Stephens, Dolores Beal. *Those Who Served, Those Who Waited: WWII Experiences as told by the Veterans and Civilians of Brewster/Southeast, NY*. Heritage Books, 2008.