

# Caribbean Glory



**PONT CASSE PRESS**

*Presents*

***Caribbean Glory***

In Honor of

***Caribbean American Heritage Month 2009***

You are cordially invited to a dinner & literary Salon in tribute to the British West Indians who valiantly served in the British Armed Forces during World War II to ensure our Freedom.

*Justice Phillip Louis Ulric Cross, DFC, DSO - Royal Air Force*  
*Dudley Thompson, OJ QC - Royal Air Force*  
*Twistleton Bertrand - British Army*  
*Wendell M. Christian, LSM - British Army*

*Under the auspices of Her Excellency Glenda Morean-Phillip*  
*Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*  
*to the United States of America*

and

*Permanent Representative*  
*to the Organization of American States*

*Keynote Speaker: Rt Hon Baroness Scotland of Ashtal, QC*  
*Attorney General of England*

**Friday, June 19, 2009**

**Andrews Air Force Base Officers Club**

**7:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Contribution: \$100.00 per person**

*This will also be the formal launch of the limited edition of*  
**For King & Country: The Service & Sacrifice of the**  
**British West Indian Military**

By: Rt Hon Irving W. Andre & Gabriel J. Christian, Esq.

**(Contributions are due no later than June 15, 2009)**

**Make checks payable and mail to: Pont Casse Press, 3060 Mitchellville Rd., Ste. 216, Bowie, MD 20716, or call to pay by credit card at 301-218-9400.**

*Your full name and drivers license information are required prior to June 15th. You may call or e-mail [gabrielchn@aol.com](mailto:gabrielchn@aol.com) with your information. **This invitation is your ticket once payment is made.** The invitation & driver's license or an official photo ID are required to enter the Base.*



Few people know that thousands of British West Indians served in the British armed forces during World Wars I and II. Those who served in World War I, such as Norman Washington Manley (Jamaica), Captain Arthur Cipriani (Trinidad), and Tubal Uriah “Buzz” Butler (Grenada/Trinidad) went on to become leaders for beneficial social change which enhanced freedom and democracy in the British West Indies. When World War II broke out on September 19, 1939, many British West Indians answered the call. About 16,000 West Indians volunteered for service alongside the British during the Second World War. Wendell Christian and Twistleton Bertrand served in the South Caribbean Forces which was created to secure the southern part of the region closest to Trinidad’s oil industry and the vital refineries in Curacao then under attack by marauding German U-Boats. Over 100 British West Indian women were posted overseas of which 80 chose the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) for their contribution, while around 30 joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). There were many more ATS and WAAF service women who stayed in the Caribbean region and did local duty. Around 7,000 West Indians served with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in roles from fighter pilots to bomb aimers, air gunners to ground staff and administration. No other colony contributed more airmen to the RAF than those from the British West Indies.

### **BATTLE OF THE CARIBBEAN**

***(An Excerpt from For King & Country: The Service & Sacrifice of the British West Indian Military; by Irving W. Andre and Gabriel J. Christian)***

“No one saw the U-Boat as she slid through the water in the faint moonlight. The sentries must have been asleep, because it was almost impossible to not see the U-Boat’s bow-wave and wake in a one mile stretch of water.” The U-Boat being described is U161 under the command of Captain Albrecht Achilles. Its mission was to attack and sink the allied ships moored in Castries harbor, St. Lucia. Once inside the harbor, Achilles gave the order and the U-Boat discharged two torpedoes. Achilles, his deadly deeds accomplished, swung his craft around and headed out to open sea leaving bedlam in his wake. Sunk that night was the Canadian owned steamship, *Lady Nelson* and the British owned freighter *Umtata*. There was much loss of life and pandemonium ensued as the calm of night at Castries was broken

by the loud blasts, shattering of glass, cries of those who were flung into the inky waters, commingled with the desperate rattle of machine guns and cannon fire from shore batteries which frantically sought their elusive target. This was not some news bulletin from the BBC which spoke to carnage in faraway Europe: World War had come to the Caribbean via the U-Boats in dramatic fashion and the Caribbean was never the same again.

### **THEY ALSO FLEW!**

**Philip Louis Ulric Cross, DFC, DSO**

**Trinidad & Tobago's Air Combat Hero, Judge, and Diplomat;**

**by Gabriel J. Christian, Esq.**

It is 1943 and London is still ringed by anti-aircraft batteries and barrage balloons to ward off attacking enemy aircraft. Below the grey skies of that embattled city, a BBC camera crew follows a young black man in Royal Air Force (RAF) uniform. With a quickstep and purposeful stride, he enters a building for the filming of a documentary "West Indies Calling." His name is Phillip Louis Ulric Cross, a Trinidadian, navigator bomb-aimer in 139 (Jamaica) Squadron. Cross, the only person of color in his unit, later became a Squadron Leader, was awarded high honors such as the Distinguished Flying Cross and Distinguished Service Order; he completed 80 missions over occupied Europe and Germany. He was one of 7,000 West Indian volunteers in the RAF. Of that number, about 500 were aircrew including Flight Lieutenant Cy Grant of British Guiana whose Halifax bomber was later shot down over Holland, and Flight Lieutenant Dudley Thomson of Jamaica who flew in Lancaster bombers. These West Indians had rushed to the defense of Britain, their "Mother Country" during that time, when she was under assault by Nazi Germany. The story of these brave West Indians in the Royal Air Force is only now being told.

*During Caribbean American Heritage Month 2009 we pay tribute to the British West Indian military who served and fought for freedom & democracy during World War II and beyond.*

### **Pledge Your Support for Caribbean Glory!**

We ask you to pledge your support for Caribbean Glory – A documentary which will detail the contributions of the British West Indian military in the building of the modern English speaking Caribbean. All such pledges are tax deductible and made payable to the Dominica Academy of Arts & Sciences [www.da-academy.org](http://www.da-academy.org), a 501(c)(3) US Non-Profit dedicated to the educational development of the Caribbean region and Diaspora. For more details call Gabriel J. Christian, Esq. at 301-218-9400 and for more of that history of World War Service visit [www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com](http://www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com).

*This event is present by Pont Casse Press. Pont Casse Press was founded in 1992 by Irving W. Andre and Gabriel J. Christian. It has published twenty one books on Dominican and Caribbean history, literature and society. Collaborators: The Institute of Caribbean Studies; the Dominica Academy of Arts & Sciences. Hosted by Winfield St. Hill of the West Indian American Military Members Association (WIAMMA), and brought to you with the kind compliments from the Law Offices of Gabriel J. Christian and Associates, LLC*