



**SUPPLY
LINE**

Guy Henri Rainville

Royal Canadian Air Force

Shot down over Germany in 1944, Guy was taken prisoner, but survived the war.



Guy Rainville dancing and laughing with his wife, Peggy.
George Metcalf Archival Collection
Canadian War Museum 20030359-096

Early Years

Guy was born in 1913 to a prominent French-Canadian family in Quebec. His war service began in 1940, when he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

While training in Toronto, Ontario, he met a young opera student named Peggy Hayes, and the two began a wartime correspondence.

Danger in the Skies, Worry at Home

Guy arrived in England in April 1941 as an Air Gunner. He joined 419 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, completing 38 missions and earning the Distinguished Flying Medal.

In September 1942, he returned to Canada for a month's leave. The photogenic and decorated airman was asked to assist with a **Victory Loan** drive in Quebec. He went on a speaking tour throughout his home province, encouraging support for the war effort.

Guy had another reason for returning home. He reunited with Peggy, and they married. In November 1942, Guy returned to England for second tour of duty. He left his wife – now pregnant – with the impression that he would not be flying any more missions.

Guy flew another 13 missions – this time with 432 Squadron, RCAF – before being shot down over Germany in January 1944.

He was reported missing to his shocked family, who had no idea he had returned to the skies. “How did he come to be flying over Germany?” wrote his aunt Rachel. “I had thought he wasn't supposed to be flying.” Guy's wife Peggy tried to cope with the news while caring for their baby daughter.

One month after Guy was reported missing, news came that some of his crew members were prisoners of war in Germany. But where was Guy?

Two weeks later, word arrived that Guy was also a prisoner. After being shot down, he had tried to escape Germany on foot, but had been captured on 16 January 1944.

He spent the next 16 months in German prisoner-of-war camps, captive but alive and able to exchange letters with family. Peggy grew anxious again when, during the uncertainty near the war's end, they lost track of him. Finally, on 12 May 1945, she received a telegram informing her that Guy was back in Britain.

Return to Life in Canada

Reunited, Guy and Peggy Rainville remained married for 39 years, until his death in 1981.

Vocabulary

Victory Loan:

One of the ways the Canadian government helped finance the war effort was by appealing to Canadians to loan the government money by buying Victory Bonds. These could be redeemed at a later date, with interest. Other fundraising efforts included the War Savings Stamps sold by “Miss Canada” volunteers.

