



**SUPPLY
LINE**

Kam Len Douglas “Doug” Sam

Royal Canadian Air Force

Enlisting when he was 24, Doug flew with the Royal Canadian Air Force, worked with the French Resistance and trained for a special bomber unit to fight Japan.



Kam Len Douglas Sam in his Air Force uniform.
George Metcalf Archival Collection
Canadian War Museum 20020083-002_4b

Before the War

Born in Victoria, British Columbia, on 6 April 1918, Doug Sam was the oldest of nine children, born to Chinese immigrants. He was well-educated and spoke five languages.

In 1941, he tried to join the Royal Canadian Air Force, but was rejected because he was Chinese. Racial restrictions loosened the following year, and he enlisted in the air force on 21 October 1942.

Shot Down over German-Occupied France

Doug trained in Canada as an Air Gunner. As part of a bomber crew, his job was to defend the plane from enemy aircraft. He took part in 28 sorties against German targets.

His final mission was a bombing run over the rail yard at Metz in German-controlled France. When German fighters shot down his plane, Doug parachuted safely, but now had to avoid being taken prisoner.

It was late June 1944, and the Allies were weeks into their invasion of Normandy. Evading German capture, Doug made contact with the French **Resistance**. Pretending to be an Asian student in France, he worked with underground fighters and helped other downed Allied airmen escape. He was awarded the French Croix de guerre for his actions.

Doug stayed in France until September 1944, when he met up with American troops and returned to England. He went back to Canada in October.

In Canada, Doug's knowledge of Japanese made him ideal for Tiger Force, a bomber unit being organized for the war against Japan. He was sent for additional language training in Vancouver, British Columbia. The war in the Pacific ended before Tiger Force was deployed.

A Life in the Military

Doug Sam made military intelligence his career, remaining in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After his retirement, he remained in the reserves and was made a Lieutenant-Colonel.

After he left the military, he worked for the federal Department of Immigration as an intelligence officer. He died in 1989.

Vocabulary

Resistance:

Organized efforts by civilians in occupied areas to resist the government or occupying power. During the Second World War, this often referred to resistance movements in various areas of German-occupied Europe.