



**SUPPLY  
LINE**

## Allan Selwyn Bundy

Royal Canadian Air Force

Allan broke racial barriers as one of the first Black pilots in the Royal Canadian Air Force, at the age of 22.



Allan Bundy, in his Royal Canadian Air Force uniform.  
George Metcalf Archival Collection  
Canadian War Museum 20100197-001\_64b

### Before the War

Allan Bundy was born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, in 1920. He was one of four children. His father, William Henry Bundy, was a First World War veteran.

Allan did well in school, and won a scholarship to study chemistry at Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He hoped one day to become a doctor.

## One of the First Black Pilots in the Royal Canadian Air Force

When war broke out in 1939, Allan tried to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). The recruiter turned him away because, at the time, air crews were restricted to White men only and Bundy was Black.

In 1942, Allan received a notice that he was being conscripted into the Canadian Army. Because he still wanted to fly, he ignored the letter. This resulted in a visit from the police.

Allan explained to the officer about his earlier attempt to enlist. “I told him that I had gone to join the air force in 1939 and if the bullet that kills me is not good enough for the air force, then it is not good enough for the army either – so take me away.”

Allan was not arrested. He was allowed to try the air force again. This time, he was accepted. The rules had recently changed to allow visible minorities to serve as air crew.

After training, Allan became a Pilot Officer in September 1943. After further training in Canada, he was sent overseas in December 1943. He was posted to England, where he flew aircraft on sorties against enemy ships. He had undertaken more than 40 missions by the end of the war.

Along with about 49 other African-Canadians known to have served with the Air Force during the Second World War, Allan Bundy helped change attitudes towards visible minorities in the military, and in Canadian society.

## Return to Life in Canada

Allan returned to Canada after completing his final mission, and was discharged from the RCAF in August 1945.

He lived in Toronto, where he worked as a supervisor for a manufacturing firm. He died in 2001.