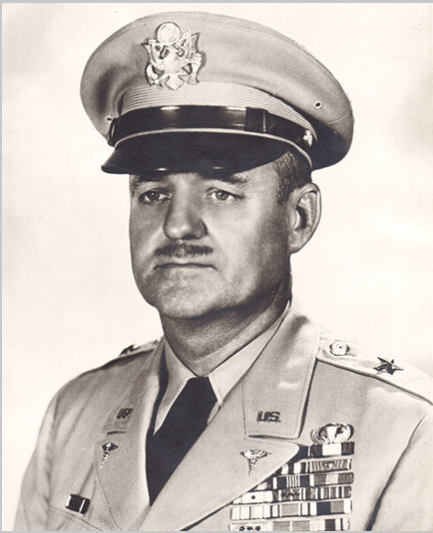


DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**BRIGADIER GENERAL
CRAWFORD E. SAMS**

Inducted 04 May 2018



Brigadier General Crawford F. Sams was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 1, 1902. Brig. Gen. Sams was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1923, and graduated from the University of California in 1925, with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Resigning after three years, he graduated in 1929, from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, as a Doctor of Medicine.

Commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps, he served in that branch for the remainder of his Army career. He is notable for rebuilding the Japanese health system after World War II and leading the Civil Affairs efforts early in the Korean War.

During World War II, Sams served in North Africa, Europe and the Philippines, attaining the rank of colonel. In 1945, he transferred to serve as the Chief of the Public Health and Welfare Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in the military government of occupied Japan. By professionalizing the Japanese medical system to modern standards while freeing the population from persistent endemic diseases and malnutrition, Sams engineered one of the most transformative medical revolutions ever undertaken in a country. He expanded these practices to South Korea and was promoted to brigadier general in 1948.

When war broke out in Korea, General Douglas A. MacArthur made Brig. Gen. Sams the Chief, Health and Welfare, United Nations Command, Korea, which was the CA command in Korea. Brig. Gen. Sams set out to prevent smallpox, cholera, diphtheria and typhus from raging through the refugee population. "This success had propaganda value because the ability to control epidemics was a test of communist versus democratic abilities. If we could control these diseases and the communists could not; it would be a direct and telling blow to the communist propaganda, because we could show that literally the chances of dying under the communist banner were far greater," recalled Brig. Gen. Sams. In addition, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross for participating in an amphibious mission that infiltrated North Korea to determine if an outbreak of disease in that enemy country was bubonic plague. The discovery that it was not bubonic plague meant the UN Command did not have to implement an additional vaccination program. Following Gen. MacArthur's April 1951 relief in Korea, Brig. Gen. Sams, a close associate, returned to the United States after nearly 10 years overseas.

Brig Gen. Sams retired in July 1955 after a 33-year career. At that time, Sams said the highlight of his career was helping to rebuild a destroyed nation and to establish health and welfare programs which, on a nation-wide basis, are among the most modern in the world today. It was his hope that he influenced the thinking of many people in the underdeveloped countries so that they knew that their lives were worth saving and that this very essence of democracy is more desirable than the promises of the dictatorships of the welfare of a socialist state, where the individual is nothing and the welfare of the state is of primary importance.

Following his retirement, Brig. Gen. Sams worked with the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center studying the general effects of radiation on societies and the human nervous system. He died in 1994 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.