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William Henry Harrison, 63, President of I. T. & T., Dies

Special to the Herald Tribune

GARDEN CITY, L. I., Apr. 21.—William Henry Harrison, sixty-three, president of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., died of a heart ailment today at his home, 120 Kensington Road, Garden City.

Mr. Harrison, who had to quit Boys High School in Brooklyn at seventeen to go to work as a New York Telephone Co. repairman, later was granted honorary degrees by some of the nation's outstanding institutions.

Former President Truman appointed him Defense Production Administrator during the Korean War. He served for nine months, until May, 1951. Commissioned a colonel in the Army in 1942, Mr. Harrison became a brigadier general and in 1943, a major general, heading Signal Corps procurement and distribution.



William Henry Harrison

Was A. T. & T. Official

He came to I. T. & T. in 1948, from the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., where he had been vice-president in charge of operations and engineering.

Mr. Harrison reached that post after a succession of steps up the ladder in jobs with several Bell System companies.

During his first telephone job as repairman and inspector, he took night courses to earn his high school diploma. A year later he started as an engineer with the Western Electric Co., and earned an electrical engineering degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

He went to A. T. & T. in 1918, serving in administrative and engineering posts until 1933, when he was elected vice-president in charge of operations of the Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania and the Diamond State Telephone Co. Fifteen years later he was put in charge of the parent firm's operations and engineering.

In 1940 the late Major Gen. William S. Knudson named him to head the construction division of the National Defense Advisory Commission and a year later, Mr. Harrison became chief of the shipbuilding and construction branch of the Office of Production Management. In 1942 he was appointed director of the production division of the War Production Board, which succeeded the O. P. M., and he served as a member of the Joint Defense Production Committee of the United States and Canada.

War Service Honors

For his war time services in the Army, Mr. Harrison was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire with the degree of Honorary Commander, and the Cross of the French Legion of Honor with the rank of Officer.

Besides his directorships in the I. T. & T. system, he was a director of the Intertype Corp. of Brooklyn and the Nassau Hospital of Mineola, L. I. He was also on the board of governors of the New York Hospital.

A past president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Mr. Harrison was a director of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, and a trustee of the Pratt Institute, and the United Engineering Trustees, Inc. He was on advisory councils of the University of Notre Dame and Princeton University. He held honorary degrees from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Notre Dame, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Manhattan College.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mabel Gilchrist Ochterloney Harrison, and two sons, William Henry Harrison jr. of Barrington, Ill., and Dr. J. Grant Harrison, of Garden City.

HARRISON, William H. (AM '20 - M '30 F '31) D. Eng., L.L.D.; V-P AIEE '35-'37; Pres. AIEE '37-'38; Hoover Medalist 1945; President-International Tel. and Tel. Corp., 67 Broad Street, New York, N.Y.

Deceased
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