



A subject I enjoy - “**Hallicrafters Corp.**”

**William J. Halligan \*1898-1992\***  
**W9WZE -W9AC-W4AK**, born in Boston and showed an early interest in radio at age 14, earned station license 1AEH in the spark gap era.

Bill’s first job at age 16 was wireless operator on excursion ships between Boston and other coastal cities. When WW1 began, he put his skills to good

use by serving his country in U.S. Navy wireless aboard the Battleship Illinois.

Later he enrolled at Tufts University in engineering, unable to complete studies enrolled in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was married in 1922 and took a job as newspaper reporter in Boston and left journalism in 1924 to sell radio parts for a large corporation called Toby Deutschmann. Bill managed and opened a small parts store near Boston’s city hall and called it “Radio Shack.”

In 1928 Halligan decided to start his own company and moved to Chicago. With all kinds of obstacles including the depression in 1933, Bill founded his company that made him a legend. I can testify the thrill of opening an newly arrived Hallicrafters box via Railway Express in 1956! It was almost an Epiphany!

Hallicrafters involvement in WW2 is legendary with the massive amount of radio gear they produced for the war effort! After the war a lot of good engineering happened and they became a house hold word in AM/FM TV and amateur radio hobby.

Bill Halligan began to think about retirement in late 1966. By late 1966 Hallicrafters was sold to Northrop and Bill Halligan’s involvement in the company ended.

Mr. Halligan remained active in amateur radio as W9AC/W4AK, he was often heard on the amateur bands and gained almost legendary status, always supported the ham radio community. He expired in Miami Beach, on 14 July 1992 at age 93. His equipment is treasured and revered to this day. May it ever be so!

