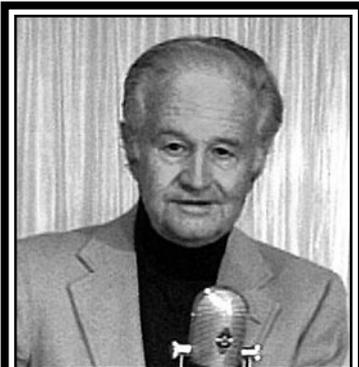


# In Memoriam



Robert Morrison  
1925-2003

**R**obert Keith Morrison, a victim of cancer, died on March 10, 2003, at the age of 77. Anyone involved in studio recording or broadcast during the 1960s and 1970s probably heard him say: "Ampex reproduce alignment tape 31321-01. The following tone is a reference tone of 700 cycles, recorded 10 dB below operating level." Morrison was the "voice" of Ampex, during his tenure as manager of their alignment tape laboratory.

With a keen interest in audio recording from a very early age, Bob entered the industry at the start of World War II when he was only sixteen. His first job was at Picto Sound Productions, a San Francisco film and audio studio. Among his many other duties Bob manned a bank of five Universal disc-recording lathes, delaying network broadcasts, preparing transcriptions for Armed Forces Radio and recording hours of podium audio from a fledgling United Nations. Despite his gravitation toward the hands-on aspects of sound recording, Bob somehow found time to earn a B.A. degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

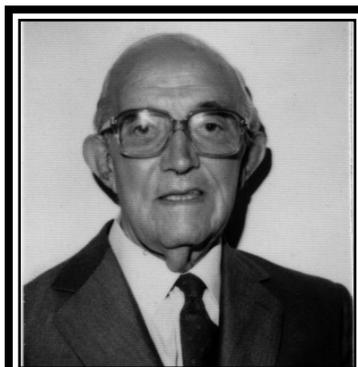
Following a year's service in the early 1950s as a recording engineer and staff announcer with Voice of America in New York, Bob returned to the Bay Area to assume the positions of chief engineer and a primary air talent with KRE Radio in Berkeley. During this same period he worked on contract with Ampex Corp in Redwood City and ultimately assumed full time management of their alignment tape facili-

ty in 1960. He founded his own firm, Standard Tape Laboratory, in 1969, and continued to manufacture test tapes and magnetic films into the 1990s.

Bob retired in 1995, but he never ceased being active in recording technology. He maintained membership in AES, SMPTE and the Golden Gate Sapphire Group, a club with its roots in disc recording. For Bob the golden years' of audio were those dominated by the disc, and his love for disc recording and vintage audio equipment kept him occupied with research and experimentation in this arcane, historical area of our industry. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.

No one could tell a story better than Bob. His anecdotal recollections and encyclopedic knowledge of earlier times will be forever treasured and very much missed.

Jim Wood  
Brea, California



George Alfred Victor Sowter  
1900-2002

**G**eorge Sowter, AES fellow, died on September 26, 2002, at the age of 103. Gavs, as his friends and colleagues affectionately knew him, was widely respected as an international authority on magnetic materials and on the design and construction of audio frequency transformers.

George Alfred Victor Sowter was born on August 28, 1900, in the East End of London. The son of a furrier, he worked as a stage hand at London's Lyric Theatre.

He was educated at Owens School London and at the Northampton Poly-

technic Institute (now City University), where, in 1922, he earned a B.Sc. in engineering.

As a young man, he became interested in wireless communications, building his own spark transmitters and becoming an active radio amateur in 1921 with the call sign G20S. He was also a keen motorcyclist, owning a Scott water-cooled machine on which he impressed his friends by riding it standing on the saddle. His last contact was made from his room at Birtley House nursing home with a German ham, Ralph, at 11:20 on Nov 25, 2001, at 14.32 MHz.

After graduation, he joined The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company (Telcon) where he was engaged in research into magnetic materials including Mumetal. In the early 1930s, he worked with N. W. McLachlan, a pioneer in the design of moving coil loudspeaker technology, developing the transmitter and receiver for a projected transatlantic submarine telephone cable.

The onset of the Depression in the early 1930s prevented this project from proceeding further, but Gavs was able to use the facilities of the Telcon laboratory to pursue his work on moving coil loudspeakers.

Together with McLachlan, he wrote a number of technical papers on loudspeaker design, which were published in *The Philosophical Magazine*. Also published at this time was a standard text book entitled *Loudspeakers*, written by McLachlan and based upon measurements made by Sowter.

He was very active in the Institution of Electrical Engineers, becoming a student member in 1921, an associate member in 1926, a full member in 1930 and a fellow in 1942. He served on a number of IEE committees, becoming chair of the measurements division. He was also a member of the IEE Council.

Sowter was chair of the Council of the British Institute of Radio Engineers and of a number of committees of the British Standards Institution, specializing in magnetic materials and writing a number of technical papers on this ➡

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subject. He became group commercial director of Telcon Metals, specializing in Mumetal and similar magnetic alloys.

Prior to World War II, Sowter taught Higher National Certificate courses in addition to his responsibilities at Telcon Metals, resulting in his being awarded a London University External Doctorate. His thesis was on "Harmonic Distortion in Transformers and Chokes with Nickel Iron Cores." It was during this time that he acted as a consultant to the British Air Ministry on magnetic materials.

In 1941, he established Sowter Audio Transformers, using the premises and equipment from the family furrier business. Sewing machines were adapted for transformer manufacture for the British Armed Services as were the work tables.

Sowter Audio Transformers (E. A. Sowter Ltd.) continue to manufacture audio transformers in Ipswich, Suffolk, largely to designs originated by George Sowter from 1935 to 1991.

Transformers based upon his expertise have been supplied to a wide range of leading organizations including the BBC, Dolby Laboratories, The Royal Opera House, and The Royal Shakespeare Company.

George Sowter was a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers, later as Steward Emeritus. He was a member of the Dynamicables Club and of the 25 Club, serving as treasurer for both.

At the 73rd Convention of the Audio Engineering Society held in Eindhoven, he was awarded a fellowship "for his contribution to audio transformer and loudspeaker design, especially for the optimal employment of magnetic materials."

Gavs was an accomplished pianist and entertained his fellow liverymen at the livery lunch held to celebrate his 100th birthday. The piano was brought into the Livery Hall specially for the occasion.

He married Muriel in 1931. He is survived by two sons, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.