

Biographical Profile of Albert E. Holland

Albert Edward Holland was born in Wanamassa, New Jersey, on July 28, 1912. He attended Brooklyn Preparatory School before matriculating at Trinity College with the Class of 1934. Holland left the College in early 1933 due to illness and financial circumstances, but continued to read widely in economics and history. In late 1935, his fluency in German led to an appointment to the staff of the Institute for Business Cycle Research in Berlin. Holland also edited the Institute's *Weekly Economic Report*, pursued course work at the University of Berlin, and soon became the personal assistant to the managing director in Europe of Brown Brothers Harriman. In 1939, he established the firm's office in Amsterdam to deal with clients in Norway, Denmark, and Finland. Holland returned to New York in late 1939, and during the ensuing year prepared for Harrison, Ripley & Company a survey on financing the American aviation industry.

In early 1941, Holland accepted the position of assistant to the vice president of the Ossorio Companies in the Philippines and then served as a junior executive with the North Negros Sugar Company, Manila. Caught up in the Japanese conquest of the Philippines in 1942, he, his wife, and two children were incarcerated at the Santo Tomas Camp for 37 months, until February 1945. Holland kept a diary for his sister Hope beginning November 1, 1944 and it sheds light on events in the Camp and the Pacific Theater as the war drew to a close. Holland joined the Camp's executive committee and served in a variety of capacities, including chair of the medical board and the parent's committee as well as the special activities committee and the release committee. In addition, Holland directed the men's ward for the aged. Upon liberation, he coordinated the repatriation of all the internees. In recognition of his efforts Holland received a letter of commendation from the U. S. military authorities.

Holland returned to Trinity after the war and received his B.A. degree in 1946 with honors in history and modern languages. Following graduation he was appointed the College's secretary of admissions and freshman advisor. In November 1946, Holland became director of alumni relations and assistant to Trinity's president, G. Keith Funston. He also devoted considerable effort to philanthropic work in the community, particularly fund raising for the Greater Hartford Community Chest, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Hartford Symphony Society. In 1953, Trinity asked Holland to establish a development office and he successfully directed the College's first national fund-raising campaign. Appointed vice president of development, Holland became vice president of the College in 1959 with responsibility for admissions, alumni affairs, and development. He also earned a master's degree in history from Trinity in 1959, and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the College in 1966.

Holland's reputation spread well beyond Hartford, and in 1966, he became president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Holland sought to pursue an ambitious and progressive agenda, but after two tumultuous years, he resigned in August 1968. Following work with the U.S. Office of Education, he became vice president for resources at Wellesley College, a position he held until his retirement in 1977. Heavily involved in the Greater Boston community, Holland continued his philanthropic work. He died August 17, 1984, after a long illness, leaving his wife, Eva J. Engel Holland, and two children and two step-children by previous marriages.