

Herman Louis Philipson Jr.

**Co. H, 423rd Regiment
106th Infantry Division**



Herman Louis Philipson Jr. was a Dallas computer pioneer whose data-scanning technology ushered in the end of the punch-card era.

A decorated World War 2 prisoner of war, Mr. Philipson founded Recognition Equipment, which developed optical scanners that allowed documents — credit card receipt, and later checks — to be read directly into computers.

Mr. Philipson, 81, died Tuesday of pulmonary fibrosis at his Dallas home.

A memorial will be at 11 a.m. today in the Lefkowitz Chapel at Temple Emanu-El. He will be buried in a private ceremony at Temple Emanu-El Cemetery.

Mr. Philipson and a group of associates started their computer data-entry revolution in a converted mansion on Ross Avenue near Fitzhugh Avenue. The start-up company grew to have its stock listed on the New York Stock Exchange and attracted customers from around the world.

Recognition Equipment, later based in Irving, created innovations ranging from the inkjet printer to an improved electronic crawl used to keep traders abreast of stock trades, said Israel “Iz” Sheinberg of Dallas.

“He was a very empathetic and hardworking man,” said Mr. Sheinberg, Mr. Philipson’s brother-in-law and an original company employee.

Born in Dallas, Mr. Philipson graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. He entered the Army as a private in March 1943 while attending Texas A&M University. "His whole junior class simply left and went to war," said his wife, Sonia Philipson of Dallas.

He became a lieutenant and was captured during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. He was wounded in the chest and arm by a German hand grenade.

His German captors treated his wounds. He nearly starved for three months in a German POW camp before he later escaped.

He was awarded a Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Philipson received his bachelor's degree at Texas A&M and did graduate business studies at Harvard University.

In 1948, he returned to Dallas, and joined his family's store, Philipson's.

He sold the store in 1956 and joined a small data-processing firm, National Data Processing. He became the firm's president but started Recognition Equipment after the business was sold.

Working in their laboratory on Ross Avenue, Mr. Philipson and his co-inventors developed an optical character reader that allowed computers to scan account numbers from documents. At the time, checks were being scanned with magnetic technology that was less efficient, Mr. Sheinberg said.

Another Recognition Equipment innovation was a point-of-sale wand developed for Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Mr. Philipson retired as chief executive officer of Recognition Equipment in 1973 but remained on the company's board of directors. Recognition Equipment became Recognition International during a merger in 1995.

Mr. Philipson was active in civic organizations for decades, including

the Community Chest, the Red Cross, the Dallas Heart Association, the building funds at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas and the University of Dallas. He also was active with Dallas Big Brothers and the Dallas Citizens. Council.

A Mason, he was a member of Pentagon Lodge, Scottish Rite and Heila Temple. He had been a director of the Dallas Council of Campfire and a trustee of Temple Emanu-El.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Philipson is survived by daughters Cynthia Klein of Houston, Leslie Krakow of Dallas, Nancy Philipson of Los Angeles and Julie Boren of Dallas; a sister, Shirley Pollock of Dallas ; and eight grandchildren.

Memorials maybe made to the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas, 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75247; Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, P.O. Box 199300, Dallas, Texas 75219; the Boy Scouts of America, Circle 10 Council, 8605 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75235; or a charity of choice.

By JOE SIMNACHER

May 14, 1924 - March 7, 2006

Herman Louis Philipson, Jr., age 81, passed away on March 7, 2006, after an extended illness.

Herman was born in Dallas. He attended William Lipscomb Elementary School and J. L. Long Junior High. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and Texas A&M University, and attended Harvard Business School. Herman was called to active duty as a Private with his Texas A&M class in March, 1943.

He volunteered for Infantry OCS at Fort Benning in Georgia. He served in Europe with the [106th Infantry Division](#), where he was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge and captured by the Germans. He was treated in Germany before escaping in March 1945 by convincing his captors to surrender to Allied forces.

He recovered at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, until January 1946. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor, two Purple Hearts, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After completing his studies, Herman managed Philipson's Ladies Clothing Store briefly before co-founding National Data Processing Corporation in 1957. In 1961 he

founded Recognition Equipment Incorporated, a company that manufactured character recognition and document processing equipment. He was co-inventor of three patents, including one for a bar code inkjet printer and reader. He retired as CEO in 1973, but continued as a director for several years. Herman then established International Business Development, an international financial services company. He was listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Finance and Industry.

Herman participated in Boy Scouts, DeMolay, ROTC, Jaycees, Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and Dallas Citizens Council. He was a member of Pentagon Lodge, Scottish Rite, Hella Temple, Texas A&M Engineering Council, City Club, and Columbian Country Club. Herman served as director of Dallas Council of Campfire and a trustee of Temple Emanu-El.

He is survived by his dear wife of 50 years, Sonia; daughters, Cynthia Klein, Leslie Krakow, Nancy Philipson and Julie Boren; sons-in-law, Ben Klein, Bob Krakow and Todd Boren; eight grandchildren; a sister, Shirley Pollock; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Betty Sue and Israel Sheinberg.

Memorial Services will be held Thursday March 9th, at 11:00 am, in Lefkowitz Chapel of Temple Emanu-El. Rabbi Gerald J. Klein, officiating.

If desired, memorials may be sent to Visiting Nurse Association of Texas, 1440 West Mockingbird Lane, Suite 500, Dallas, Texas 75247; Scottish Rite Hospital, P.O. Box 199300, Dallas, Texas, 75219; Boy Scouts of America Circle 10 Council, 8605 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas, Texas, 75235; or the charity of your choice.

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