



(Ship named after Gallagher)

Name: Ralph W. Gallagher

Place: Salamanca, New York

Years: May 27, 1881 – July 31, 1952

Brief Biography

Ralph W. Gallagher was born on May 27, 1881 in Salamanca, New York. At the age of 16, his father died and he was forced to leave school. At 16 years old, he had to work to help support his family. As a young man, he went back to school at nights and focused his studies on engineering. Throughout the years he held an assortment of jobs at various companies.

By 1900, Ralph had moved to Ohio where he worked at the East Ohio Gas Company. He started off as the superintendent and eventually became the person who oversaw construction and distribution. By 1923, he was vice president of the company and elected president of the American Gas Association. In 1926, he was president of East Ohio and became known as the man who cared about his employees and their safety. He was also a smooth communicator which was great for sales.

After about seven more years, Ralph was a director in the company and was in charge of natural gas productions. His work record lengthened as he became vice president of Standard Oil. With WWII looming, the company faced some difficulties. However, by the time of the war, the company began producing oil to meet the needs but unfortunately things did not go well. Because of a relationship with a European Company, they were charged with treason. This hit the company hard. They were let off the hook but the damage had been done.

After the death of the president, Ralph assumed the presidency. He began working on fixing the companies damaged reputation. He also solidified oil leases with Venezuela which was huge for the war effort.

Ralph later gave up the president role and instead was board chairman. Ralph would later resign.

Major Achievements

Ralph was a well-known man in the oil industry. He held various positions with various companies. He was a man known for skill as well as his work on employee benefits programs. He also extended the amount of pipelines and renegotiated a deal with Venezuela concerning oil leases.

For More Information

The company records of Standard Oil. *Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) in World War II* by Charles Sterling Popple. *History of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey): New Horizons, 1927-1950* by Henrietta M. Larson. *Growth in a Changing Environment: A History of Standard Oil (New Jersey)-Exxon Corporation, 1950-1975* by Bennett H Wall.]

Resources

American National Biography Online,
<http://www.aukevisser.nl/inter/id158.htm>