

# Introduction

Allan Malcolm Morrison was born on November 26, 1916, and died on May 22, 1968. Most widely known for his inexhaustible work as a news reporter and journalist, he was a man of superb wit and expansive memory who also displayed a unique expertise in the world of entertainment. Morrison appears to have been born and raised in Toronto, Canada, although an undated résumé in his personal file states his birthplace as Rochester, New York. In 1939 he moved to New York City where, along with George Norford and W. Cummings, he compiled the first and last issues of the short-lived *Negro World Digest*.

During World War II, Morrison served in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of sergeant and becoming the first negro war correspondent of *Stars and Stripes*. He first joined Johnson Publications (Chicago) in January 1946 but left the following year to return to New York, where he edited Harlem's *The People's Voice*. In 1948 he became the New York editor of *Ebony* magazine and later the editorial bureau chief of Johnson Publishing Company. He was married to actress Ruth Attaway.

Morrison's other accomplishments include cohosting a WLIB jazz program along with George Schuyler. He also served as board chairman of the New World Symphony. A widely known jazz and classical music authority, Morrison was a frequent contributor to *Downbeat* magazine. He was also chairman of the Steering Committee of Haryou Act Inc., a massive youth program in central Harlem.

Various assignments took Morrison all over the world. Among his many talents and interests, he was also considered a great cricket player and art buff. Morrison was honored on many occasions by organizations such as the NAACP and the Overseas Press Club for his achievements in journalism as well as in the field of human relations.