

Harold E. Edgerton's Life

**Pre
World
War
II**

**War
Time**

**Post
WW
II**

- 1903 Born on April 6th in Fremont, Nebraska
- 1925 Receives B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Nebraska
- 1926 Enters the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in his graduate studies uses the strobe light to study whirling rotor engines
- 1927 Receives M.S. in EE from MIT and becomes a faculty member
- 1928 Marries Esther May Garrett, they have three children: Mary (b. 1931), William (b. 1933), Robert (b. 1935)
- 1931 Develops and perfects the stroboscope
Forms partnership with former student Kenneth J. Germeshausen
Receives D.Sc. in EE from MIT
- 1933 Applies for U.S. patents for the stroboscope
- 1934 Herbert E. Grier joins the partnership of Edgerton and Germeshausen
- 1938 Perfects multiflash photography of athletes in action
Unsuccessfully attempts to sell the concept of electronic flash to major U.S. camera manufacturers
- 1939 U.S. Army Air Force commissions Edgerton to design a strobe lamp powerful enough to be used for aerial photography at night
First book, "Flash! Seeing the Unseen by Ultra High Speed Photography," published
- 1940 Works at MGM Studios in Hollywood
Wins the Academy Award with short film "Quicker Than a Wink"
- 1944 Serves in Italy, England, and France as a technical representative for the US Army Air Force
Strobes used in nights preceding the D-day invasion of Normandy
- 1947 With partners Germeshausen and Grier, forms Edgerton, Germeshausen, and Grier, Inc. (EG&G, Inc.)
Begins work in the nuclear arena
- 1953 Begins life-long association with French underwater explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau
Develops "pinger" and side-scan sonar
- 1961 Designs the "boomer", a sonar device useful for seismic profiling of the sea floor
- 1964 Develops technique using stroboscopic lighting for taking motion pictures of blood flow in human capillaries
- 1975 Ends association with EG&G, Inc., and becomes emeritus chairman of the board at MIT
- 1983 MIT dedicates "Strobe Alley" in Harold Edgerton's honor
- 1985 The Edgerton-Benthos underwater camera is used to photograph the sunken RMS Titanic
- 1990 On January 4th after paying for his lunch at the MIT Faculty Club, he succumbs to a heart attack. He was 86 years old.