



Bill Taylor began his engineering career in 1931, being articled for three years to the County Surveyor of Nottinghamshire, J C Haller. In 1934 he passed Part 3 of the ICE examinations, and he was Resident Engineer on the A1 Ranby bypass. In 1936 he moved to Northamptonshire County Council, and was elected AMICE in 1938.

As a territorial member of the Northants Yeomanry he was called up at the outbreak of war and was involved in Home Defence duties in the south-east. In 1940 he joined the Royal Engineers as an officer cadet, eventually progressing to the rank of Captain. His back was injured during training. He worked as a bomb disposal officer until 1941 when he went to Cyprus with the 50th Div RE to fortify the island against German invasion.

In late 1941 he was part of the advance party sent to North Africa, but further back injuries caused him to be invalided out to Palestine (as it was then). Eventually he returned to England in 1942, after a further stay in hospital in South Africa. He spent the rest of his war service as a Staff Captain at the RE depot in Halifax, and as adjutant at a reception centre in Horsham for returning POWs, interspersed with further spells in hospital.

On discharge he took up his position at Northamptonshire again, progressing via Divisional Surveyor with Nottinghamshire CC to Area Surveyor in Leicestershire in 1950. In 1957 he was appointed County Surveyor of the Isle of Ely – a chief officer post in the smallest county in England. He held this post until the county, along with others, disappeared in 1965, when he was appointed ACS in Cambridgeshire.

He was a member of the County Surveyors' Society and he became a Fellow of both Civils and Highways in 1968. He retired from full-time work in 1977, but continued as a part-time consultant to a number of eastern England local authorities in developing the Eastern England Roadman Training Scheme, something which he had instigated earlier with Cambridgeshire in partnership with the Bircham Newton Training College in Norfolk.

In 1960 Bill and other County Surveyors set up the East Midlands branch of the Institution of Highway Engineers (now IHT), with their first meeting in Huntingdon.

In the early 1960s he proposed to the IHE that a separate organisation should be set up for technicians and he and others steered the Association of Highway Technicians (now IHIE) into existence in 1965. He served as Chairman until its incorporation as HTTA in 1972.

Bill died on 14th February 2009 at home in March, Cambridgeshire after a short illness. He is survived by his daughter and two sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.