

Hopeton Earle Pessoa, was the second of nine children for Bertram and Clarabel Pessoa. Although born in Westmoreland, he and his siblings would later consider Bounty Hall, Trelawny their home while their father was employed at the Hampden Sugar Estate as the Factory Superintendent.

After graduating from Cornwall College he worked at Reynolds Bauxite Mines before moving on to the Bank of Nova Scotia (now simply BNS). No doubt, influenced by his knack of picking winners as a loans officer, he too got the urge of risking his relatively secure job for starting a business in the fledgling security guard industry.

Buoyed by his love for dogs he registered Hopel Kennels in 1977 for the sole purpose of offering canine based security services for a small group of Kingston based clients. One of his earliest customers was Tops Fried Chicken in Cross Roads which was the forerunner to Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In 1980 in his pursuit to provide a complete security service for his growing client base, he launched Atlas Protection Limited. The choice of "Atlas" was based on the Greek mythological god who supported the heavens, mirroring his desire to provide a true support structure for his customers. There was also a more practical reason, the letter "A" came before "G" in the telephone book.

By the mid 1980s Atlas Protection Ltd had enjoyed exponential growth, and through the establishment of a north-coast based company and the formation of Atlas Armoured Services Limited, had become a household name. The Group had the enviable distinction of operating throughout the length and breadth of Jamaica. Hopeton's stated formula for success was his willingness to break ranks with the status quo - who viewed him as reckless and cavalier. Nowadays this would be described as "out of the box" thinking.

In 1996, after having been impressed by the extensive use of technology on a trip to California, he formed Atlas Electronic Security Services.

With his vision of offering an all-inclusive service under one roof and providing gainful employment to more than 2,000 persons complete, he handed over the day-to-day operations to his younger brother Ralston and retired to Cedar Valley, St. Thomas to start a coffee farm in the Blue Mountains. It was as if he was returning to his roots.

Hopeton was a former member of the erstwhile American Society for Industrial Security in the 1980s for a short time and attended several ASIS courses. He continued to support the Chapter for many years.

After a brief illness Hopeton Earle Pessoa died on March 3, 2021. He was an inspiration to many and a living example that you cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.