

Ron Spencer was born in Berlin 78 years ago where he spent most of his childhood.

As a result of the political disruptions caused by National Socialism his parents sent him, as a young teenager, to school in England where he would be able to develop in a stable and more secure environment. Whilst his older brother John was enjoying the relative freedom of being an agricultural student in Suffolk, Ron was experiencing the rigors and disciplines of a public school in Caterham, Surrey. This was the first of many occasions when both Ron and his brother had to radically adapt to a new way of life.

Before the end of his period of formal education at Caterham School, Ron's parents sought refuge in England having to leave behind their belongings and finances in Germany. This meant that he was required to leave school with some fees still owing. This debt was not forgotten by Ron and when he commenced work and received a regular income his first priority was to repay to the school the fees they had remitted some years earlier. Those of us who were privileged to know Ron will instantly recognise this aspect of his character. Integrity of the highest order.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was interned by the British Government both in the Isle of Man and Australia. The latter being a most unpleasant and life threatening experience. But his strength of character and his great ability to deal with people in an even handed way allowed him to bear no grudges for the treatment he had endured.

After internment he joined the army as an interpreter and quickly gained rank although I suspect wielding authority could not have been one of his strong points.

On the cessation of the war he moved to Bradford with his parents and began work in the wool trade. Although never a man for seeking change, Ron continued in the same trade throughout his working life, but with many companies due to the various takeovers within the textile business. His unique style of operation made him a trustworthy and extremely reliable colleague.

Ron's outstanding ability was his knowledge and use of foreign languages. His fluency in this field allowed him to conduct his overseas business to most exacting standards. His command of most European languages was truly incredible to the extent that a visit to London in his company would result in him helping out innumerable visitors with their enquiries in their own mother tongue, which would include local dialects. These were truly remarkable experiences. A visit to Ron's home would reveal a vast library of foreign language books which could be read with equal ease as if in either English or German.

Ron was not a gregarious man but those who were lucky enough to befriend him found a companion who lived by the highest ideals and who could be trusted implicitly. He was an extremely generous and caring man whose willing help extended to a wide field. We have loved and admired him for the exacting standards by which he conducted his life and the care and thoughtfulness he offered to us all. We will deeply miss him and not see the likes of this unique man again.

x A friend and colleague has told me that . . .

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

☎: [REDACTED]

21 June 2000

Mr. Leavor

As requested I have prepared a few notes for you concerning my  
Uncle. There is obviously more to be said but I am unsure of  
your time constraints. Please contact me further if you require  
any clarification. From Sunday evening I will be in Heysham with my  
With Compliments mother on [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

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