

HENRY RICE Leg d'Hon



Picture courtesy of Matt Sills Photography

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Normandy veteran Henry Rice at the age of 100. Henry served in the Royal Navy and was a signaller aboard HMS Eastway as part of the Normandy landings.

Following the Normandy Landings, Henry served in the Mediterranean and was then sent to the Far East.

After the war, Henry worked on cruise ships until he married, when he left the sea to forge a career in the local Fire Service.

Henry was committed to remembering those who were sent to war and never returned. He travelled with the Spirit of Normandy Trust on pilgrimage visits to Normandy on many occasions. He also attended many remembrance events in the UK including the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, the Cenotaph Parade and the planting of ceramic poppies at the Tower of London where he handed Queen Camilla the last poppy to be placed to mark VE80.

Henry also attended events at the invitation of the military, including a visit to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the RAF Red Arrows Display team, where he had the opportunity to sit in a decommissioned Red Arrows fast jet.

Henry always represented the veterans with dignity, particularly when asked to lay a wreath on behalf of his colleagues or to recite the Exhortation or Kohima Epitaph..



Henry was a great character, with a cheeky smile that endeared him to everyone he met. He will be greatly missed by all and we offer his family our most sincere condolences.

RIP Henry.

