



Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Bashford Road**

Name of Veteran: Cyril G. Bashford 1916-Dec.13, 1939

Rank: Royal Marine Corporal, Gunner

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: 1939

Year of Visit/Dedication: November 2000

Veteran or Family Visit:

Veteran of the Battle of the River Plate: Yes Died at Battle: Yes

Cyril was the son of Frederick and Helena Bashford of Redhill, Surrey. He died at the age of 23 during the Battle of the River Plate and is buried at Chatham Naval Memorial.

Cyril was remembered by shipmate Sam Shale in a ceremony at the Battle site in 1999. Sam recited a poem he had written and laid a wreath for his friend and co-gunner Cyril Bashford, who was killed by the Graf Spee's heavy guns only a few metres from where Sam stood. Sam remembered Cyril as "a wonderful chap, 6ft 2in tall with the looks of a young Errol Flynn".



A tree was planted by Town Council to honour Marine Corporal Bashford under the Millennium Tree Planting Project.