

# Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Brockman Crescent**

Name of Veteran: Arthur Thomas (Brock) Brockman Feb.15, 1920-Dec.30, 2005

Rank: Stoker

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: 1939 to 1945

Year of Visit/Dedication: September 2006

Veteran or Family Visit: Colin Brockman, son

Veteran of the Battle of the River Plate: Yes Died at Battle: No

Thomas, or Brock as he was known, was born on February 15, 1920 in Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, the eldest of three children. He attended St. Ethelbert's school until he was 14 years of age and then went to work. He first worked at Austin's, the local greengrocer's store and then moved onto MacFisheries, the fishmongers.

Both Brock, and his brother Frank, followed their father into the Royal Navy. At age 18, he was serving as a stoker on HMS Ajax during the conflict with the Graf Spee. During his time in the Navy he also visited Jamaica, the Falkland Islands, Buenos Aires, the Mediterranean and the North Atlantic seas.



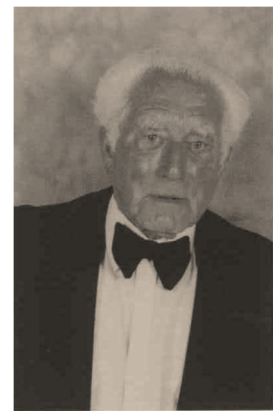
1939



1950

Brock went on to serve on HMS Cumberland, Superb, and Solebay. It was while he was a Petty Officer on HMS Superb that he married Ivy Gifford at Newbury on December 17, 1949. He left the Royal Navy in 1952 and briefly worked at Harwell before moving to Southampton with Ivy and their young son Colin. He worked for two engineering firms in Southampton, Skinners and Vero Electronics before retiring in 1980. In his retirement, he devoted time to his allotment where he grew most of the fruit and vegetables for the family, until failing eyesight made this too difficult. Ivy and Brock also enjoyed many holiday cruises.

Brock passed away on December 30, 2005 after a two year battle with leukemia.



1994

