



# Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Lax Avenue**

Name of Veteran: William (Bill) Lax 1911-Dec. 26, 1992

Rank: Chief Petty Officer

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: 1938 to 1940

Year of Visit/Dedication: June 1997

Veteran or Family Visit: Niece Pinky Hill and her husband Ron on behalf of widow Olive Lax

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

William (Bill) Lax was born to John and Hannah Lax in 1911 in Horden, Durham, England. John Lax was a coal miner and he and Hannah had nine children in total (4 girls and 5 boys). Bill grew up in Horden and joined the Royal Navy from school at the age of fifteen.



Bill at 27 years old

Bill served on three ships during his naval career. His first was HMS Warspite, then HMS King George V, and finally HMS Ajax. He was remembered by fellow sailors as Second Captain of the Top and in charge of 'B' Turret.



Bill at 'The Star and Garter' pub he operated with Olive

Bill married Olive May Ventham from Gravesend, Kent and they had three children; William John (1942), Andrea Margaret (1944), and James Douglas (1950). Bill left the Royal Navy in 1947 and became an inspector for 'Cruelty to Children' in Richmond, London, England. He worked in that capacity until 1955, when he and his family moved to Tonbridge Kent, where they operated a pub for many years.

Bill Lax died in 1992 at the age of 81. He predeceased his wife Olive who died in 2008.



Bill and Olive, Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1987



Bill with Admiral Dreyer at the Union Jack Club for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle