



## Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Lurcook Street**

Name of Veteran: William James Lurcook May 8, 1922-Dec. 17, 1989

Rank: Royal Marine

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: March 1940 to 1942

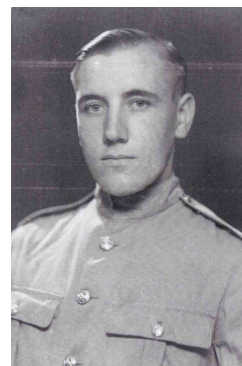
Year of Visit/Dedication: June 2010, Dec. 2018

Veteran or Family Visit: Grandson Neil Robinson and his wife Michelle (2010),  
Grand-niece Teresa O'Reilly (2018)

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

William James Lurcook a.k.a. Jim/Bill was born on May 8, 1922 in Ramsgate, Kent, England. He joined the Royal Marines just after his seventeenth birthday, a few months before the outbreak of World War Two in September 1939.

HMS Ajax was William's first ship and while serving onboard he saw action at the Battle of Crete in May 1941. During his military career he visited many countries; Malta, Crete, Italy, and Egypt, to name a few. He was awarded the 1939-1945 Star ribbon while serving the Ajax (1940-1942), the Africa Star while onboard HMS Hannibal (1943-1944), the Italy Star ribbon (1943-1944) and the Defence Medal while serving HMS St. Clements (1944-1945).



Not long after VE Day on May 8, 1945, Jim was medically discharged due to loss of hearing caused by the loud noise of the ship's guns while operating in the gunnery. He was a Royal Marine Sergeant at the time.



In 1944 Jim met and married Kathleen (a.k.a. Eileen O'Reilly). After his discharge from the Royal Marines, Jim and Eileen returned to Ramsgate where they spent forty-five devoted years to each other raising their family. They had three daughters; Ann, Josie and Marcella; two sons; Wayne and Jamie, and six grandchildren; Caroline, Jackie, Neil, Louise, Marcella and Karen. Jim was the happiest when surrounded by his family.

