



## Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Maggs Street**

Name of Veteran: Charles (Peter) Maggs -Sept. 25, 2000

Rank: 1st Class Stoker

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: 1935-37 and 1937-40

Year of Visit/Dedication: May 1991, Oct. 1999, April 2002

Veteran or Family Visit: Charles and Sybil (1991,1999), Sybil and son Nigel (2002)

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

Charles (Peter) Maggs was onboard the Ajax before World War Two. He was a member of the original steaming party which took Ajax from Vickers-Armstrong's builders' yard on April 12, 1935 to Portsmouth to be fully commissioned for service. He was also present when the ship was honoured during the final fitting-out period by a visit from The Duke and Duchess of York, later King George VI and the Queen Mother.



Bermuda, 1936

Charles Maggs earned his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education. He spoke French and Spanish and tutored before and after the war. He married Sybil, a fine artist who was in the Women's Auxiliary Police Force, and they had one son, Nigel.



While onboard HMS Ajax Charles worked in the engine room and ran the evaporators which turned salt water into fresh water.

After leaving the Royal Navy Charles joined the police force in England where he worked for 26 years before retiring in 1968.

*"I graduated in Science and Math, so I went on to teaching for another 20 years".* In 1984 he tutored Paul and Linda McCartney's children in the United

States while they were making the movie 'Give My Regards to Broad Street'.

Charles was a founding member of the HMS Ajax and River Plate Veterans Association and acted as its first treasurer. He was decorated for his acts of bravery in saving both human and animal life while in the Royal Navy, Hastings Borough Police and Sussex Constabulary. He held the Polish Medal of Valour and was a member of the Legion of Honour of the Croix de Guerre.



Charles died September 25, 2000 while undergoing knee replacement surgery.