



Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **O'Dell Court**

Name of Veteran: Harold J. O'Dell 1922-Oct.12, 1940

Rank: Able Seaman

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: 1939 to 1940

Year of Visit/Dedication: September 2001

Veteran or Family Visit: October 2002, sister Betty and husband Don, nephew Tony

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

Able Seaman Harold O'Dell died during a mission east of Malta on October 12, 1940. He was only eighteen years old.

The official report was as follows; Ajax provided cover for Convoy MF4 to Alexandria with Fleet units and deployed with ships of Squadron east of Fleet. In close range night action with HM Cruisers Orion, Sydney and York, screened by HM Destroyers Nubian and Mohawk against Italian convoy in Gulf of Otranto. Two destroyers, Airone and Ariel were sunk and destroyer Artigliere was damaged. Ajax was hit by seven shells resulting in thirty five casualties including thirteen killed.



A tree was planted in honour of Harold by council under the Millennium Tree Planting Project in October, 2001.



BETTY - SISTER OF O'DELL
TONY - NEPHEW (SON OF
BETTY)
DON - BETTY'S HUSBAND

Tony Field
Betty & Don Burton
visit to O'Dell Court
October 3, 2002