



Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Fearn Crescent**

Name of Veteran: Luther Fearn May 5, 1918-June 11, 2000

Rank: Seaman Torpedoes

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: Feb. 17, 1938 to April 12, 1940

Year of Visit/Dedication:

Veteran or Family Visit:

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

Luther Fearn was born on May 5, 1918 to Ernest Fearn and Amelia-Emma Barnnett in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. He was one of six boys and three girls. Ernest, Luther's father, saw action in World War One in both Turkey and France. He sustained one injury, a bullet hole in his arm. Upon his return he resumed working as a coal miner to support the large family.

Luther joined the Royal Navy in 1936 at the age of eighteen. He was stationed first aboard HMS Resolution for basic training and then by 1937 to the land based training centre, HMS Vernon, where he qualified in Torpedoes and electrical wiring. By the age of twenty one, he was on board HMS Ajax at the Battle of the River Plate. He trained as a Torpedo Gunner's Mate and was described on his certificate as, *"a keen, reliable man, who has produced excellent results, always called upon as the expert in times of trouble"*.



After Luther left the Ajax in 1940 he served the HMS Duncan, a D-Class Destroyer, as a Leading Torpedo Man. By 1942 he was promoted to Petty Officer Torpedoes and was stationed on HMS Berle (a Canadian ship leased to Britain). From August 1944 until January 1945 he was in Alexandria, Egypt at the training centre HMS Canopus as a Petty Officer Leading Torpedo man and instructor.



In 1943 Luther married Janetta Mosley and they had one child, Joseph Charles, born in 1956. He left the Royal Navy at the end of the war as a Torpedo Instructor. Together they lived in Thorne, Yorkshire where Luther worked as an electrician for Thorne Coal Mine in Yorkshire and later Hatfield Coal Mine closer to home. His son Joseph became a Doctor of Philosophy and a poet.

Luther died in Doncaster on June 11, 2000 at the age of 82.

