



Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Medley Lane**

Name of Veteran: Ralph Cyril Medley Oct. 2, 1906-July 23, 1999

Rank: Staff Officer to Admiral Harwood

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: 1939

Year of Visit/Dedication: n/a

Veteran or Family Visit: n/a

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

Ralph Cyril Medley was born in Barton Seagrave, Northamptonshire, England on October 2, 1906, the youngest son of Dudley Julius and Isabel Alice (nee Gibbs). He entered the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in 1924 at the age of eighteen.

In 1939 Ralph acted as Staff Officer to the Admiral of the South American Station, Admiral Harwood. In that position he served on HMS Exeter, HMS Ajax and HMS Achilles. On December 13, 1939, during the Battle of the River Plate, Ralph was stationed onboard the Ajax and was Mentioned in Dispatches.

Ralph rose to the rank of Captain and commanded HMS Cumberland. He also obtained two very important medals during his long career with the Royal Navy; the Distinguished Service Order received in 1942 and the Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1946.

On June 16, 1934 Ralph married Letitia Boyce at Faringdon, Hampshire. They had two daughters, Shirley Vivienne, born August 1935 and Carolyn, born April 8, 1937.

From 1960 to 1971 Ralph was Chief Executive of The Worshipful Company of Saddlers. This organization is one of the most ancient of the Livery Companies of the City of London. The Guild of Saddlers, the Company's predecessor, is thought to have been an Anglo-Saxon Craft Guild that existed as early as the eleventh century.

Ralph died on July 23, 1999 a few months before his ninety-third birthday.

