



Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Biggs Drive**

Name of Veteran: Reginald Charles Biggs July 27, 1904-Oct. 8, 1978

Rank: Gunner

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: Feb. 21, 1938 to May 1940

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

Reginald Charles Biggs was born on July 27, 1904 in Mile end, Portsmouth, Hampshire to Walter John Biggs and Jennie Maria Biggs.

Reginald joined the Royal Navy in January 1920 as a Boy 2nd Class and immediately began his training onboard HMS Ganges. He attended gunnery school in 1933 and by May 17, 1935, he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant.



After approximately two years serving HMS Resolution, he joined HMS Ajax in 1938 bound for the South American and West Indies Station. In December 1939 he saw action in the famous Battle of the River Plate.

Reginald received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during the Battle of the River Plate and the Daily Herald from February 23, 1940 printed the following;
"In charge of a turret, (he) dealt very well with the failure of one ammunition hoist, and by his zeal and energy saw to it that his guns fired all they could in the time".



Reginald was promoted to Commander on August 17, 1942. He was Lieutenant onboard the Minesweeper HMS Hussar from January 1942 to mid-1944 and Lieutenant Commander of the Destroyer HMS Offa, from August 1944 to January 1945. While a Lieutenant onboard HMS Hussar he received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), which was given to officers of the Royal Navy who had performed acts of gallantry while under enemy attack. As a Commanding Officer onboard the Offa he was Mentioned in Despatches.

The last ship Reginald served during the War was HMS Montclare, a destroyer/submarine depot ship. He retired on July 27, 1954.

Reginald died on October 8, 1978 in Weymouth, Dorset. He was seventy-four years old.