



## Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **McClarnan Road**

Name of Veteran: Robert McClarnan      Sept. 4, 1916-1987

Rank: Able Seaman

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

Robert McClarnan was born on September 4, 1916 in Walton-Le-Dale, Preston in Lancashire. His father was Francis McClarnan and his stepmother was Agnes. He also had a brother named Jack. Robert spent his youth in Walton-Le-Dale and worked at Wilcoks Iron Mongers before joining the Royal Navy around 1937-1938. While in the Royal Navy Robert served onboard many ships and by April 16, 1937 he was serving on HMS Fortune.



While serving HMS Ajax at the Battle of the River Plate Robert was ranked Able Seaman. He soon rose to Acting Petty Officer and was awarded The Distinguished Service Medal for an act of bravery during the Battle. This medal was presented by King George V in Whitehall, London in 1940.

In the spring of 1942 Robert married Winifred Valentine and together they had a daughter, Ann and a son, James.



Robert receiving his DSM for acts of bravery from King George V.

After the war Robert was employed by the Royal Ordnance Factory which led to various posts and promotions in positions around England and Northern Ireland, finally settling in Gosport, near Portsmouth. After he retired he enjoyed travelling abroad on holiday with his wife and also enjoyed his grandchildren Tracy and Stuart.

Robert McClarnan died in 1987 in HMS Haslar Hospital at the age of 71.



Winifred and Robert, c. 1983