



Town of Ajax Street Dedication



Street Name: **Garrardview Street**

Name of Veteran: John S. Garrard May 8, 1922-April 20, 2017

Rank: Boy 1st Class

Ship Served: HMS Ajax

Date of Service on Ship: April 1939 to April 1941

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

John Garrard was born on May 8, 1922 in Spalding, Lincolnshire. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 15 on September 13, 1937 and began training onboard HMS Ganges in Harwich Harbour. His best friend from childhood, Albert Smith joined weeks after John and they served together often throughout their lengthy careers. In total John served over 15 ships. HMS Ganges was his first ship and his last. He returned to her in the 1950s as a Chief Petty Officer Instructor.

John was seventeen years old at the Battle of the River Plate and served the Ajax for two years. At the start of the Battle John was up the mast and noticed the smoke from the Graf Spee. He and friend Albert Smith then worked at supplying ammunition to the ship's guns. In the end only three were in action.



Albert Smith, and wife with John Garrard and wife Jean

John married Jean and had one daughter, Fiona. He was officially discharged from HMS Victory on his 40th birthday on May 8, 1962. After service in the Royal Navy he worked with the National Health Service as an Ambulance attendant.



John with Mayor Parish and Cherry Sevigny, 2007 HMS Ajax and River Plate Veterans Association Reunion

John died on April 20, 2017 at the age of 95.