

AJAX FIRE STATION VISIT – *Dave Lear*

During the recent visit to Canada, members of the HMS Ajax Association had the pleasure of being invited to the Ajax Fire Station. We were warmly welcomed by the team, starting with our arrival when we were greeted with a magnificent Guard of Honour accompanied by a pipe band. This impressive reception set the tone for what proved to be a memorable and enjoyable day.



One of the highlights of the visit was learning about the appliances and emergency vehicles. We were delighted to discover that several of these had been named after those ships that had fought in The Battle of the River Plate, serving as a lasting tribute to those who demonstrated courage and service during that Battle.



Members received a tour of the station facilities, with firefighters explaining their various roles. They also demonstrated the equipment used during emergency situations and shared details of the training that they undertake to enable them to maintain their high level of readiness. The opportunity to see the vehicles and equipment up close was both informative and impressive, with members given the privilege to climb aboard the vehicles (excellent photo opportunity!).



Being a working station, during the visit the emergency alarm sounded. Fortunately, we had been provided clear instruction on what was required of us and duly stood aside to allow the team to perform their duties. It was a remarkable sight to see the 'Ajax' appliance, together with its crew, spring into action.

The station personnel had kindly catered a generous buffet lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. This thoughtful hospitality provided an opportunity to relax, converse with those that worked at the station and further appreciate the welcoming atmosphere that was present throughout the day. To mark the visit the station kindly presented members with a commemorative coin.



As a mark of our appreciation, the Association presented Chris Porter 'Deputy Fire Chief' with a framed photograph of HMS Ajax arriving in 1976, together with a framed first day cover (stamped envelope) signed by Admiral

Sir Desmond Dreyer. Admiral Dreyer was a gunnery officer on HMS Ajax during the Battle and had officially opened a new fire station, in the Town, during the ship's visit in 1976.

All presentations served as a fitting reminder of the long-standing friendship and shared history between the Association and the community of Ajax. A huge thank you goes to Chris and the whole team, who provided us with an amazing insight into the important work that they preform every day when protecting the community.

Dave Lear Committee Member

