

COMMODORE JOHN FAIRBAIRN, SM.

Commodore Fairbairn was born at Plumstead, Cape, on 8 March 1912 and educated at the Diocesan College, Rondebosch. After leaving school at the end of 1929, he joined the Standard Bank of SA Ltd., where he served until he joined for fulltime service at the commencement of the 1939/45 War.

He joined the R.N.V.R. (SA) Cape Town Division on 1 July 1933 as a recruit and was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in 1935. He commenced fulltime service on 4 September 1939, was promoted to Lieutenant on 12 November 1939 and to Lieutenant Commander on 1 October 1943. He commanded mine-sweepers and anti-submarine vessels in South African waters as well as in the Mediterranean.

On 1 May 1946 he joined the SA Navy Permanent Force in the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. He commanded various types of ships and shore establishments of the SA Navy and also held several staff appointments at Naval Headquarters. In 1954 he attended an R.N. Staff Course at Greenwich. In 1962 he commissioned SAS PRESIDENT STEYN at Glasgow. On his return to South Africa in 1963, he was awarded the Southern Cross medal. He was appointed Naval Officer-in-Command, Simonstown Naval Command, in February 1965 and assumed his present appointment of Commodore Superintendent, Simonstown Dockyard on 1 August 1968.

He was promoted to Commander on 1 January 1954; Temporary Captain on 1 January 1960; Captain on 1 December 1960; Commodore on 1 August 1968.

Commodore Fairbairn is a widower with one unmarried daughter.