

4. John Fairbairn died in the Tygerberg Hospital on the 20th 1984, at the age of 72. John was at Bishops from 1921 to 1927. Immediately after leaving Bishops John joined the South African Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and became a full-time officer in South Africa's fledgling navy at the outbreak of the Second World War. During the war he commanded several of South Africa's ships along the coast and in the Mediterranean and in 1944 was appointed O.C. Saldanha. Later in 1946 he was in charge of the South African Naval contingent which took part in the Victory March through London. Two years later he was in command of HMSAS Transvaal at the annexation of Marion and Prince Edward Islands. In 1979, while in retirement, he revisited Marion Island with members of the National Monuments Council for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at what is known as "Fairbairn City". In 1962 he commissioned the frigate SAS President Steyn in Scotland and two years later was appointed Naval Officer in Command at Simonstown. In 1968 he was promoted to the rank of Commodore and succeeded another OD, Commodore Paul Dryden-Dymond (1926-27), as Officer Commanding the South African Naval Dockyard at Simonstown. In 1963 he was awarded the Southern Cross Medal and in 1967 represented South Africa at the 500th anniversary of the birth of Prince Henry the Navigator in Lisbon and was awarded a medal as a Grand Officer of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator. His wife predeceased him in 1963 and he is survived by his daughter, Tessa, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.