David Cairns, GCVO CB

Cairns joined the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant in 1931

Educated Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

1939 Lieutenant Commander

Mentioned in Despatches

1944 Commander

1946 Succeeded as the 5th Earl Cairns

1949 Captain Deputy Director Signal Division Admiralty

1950 to 1952

May, 1952 to March, 1953 7th Frigate Squadron Commander HMS St Austell Bay

1953 to 1954 Commanding HMS Ganges

1955 to 1957 Captain HMS Superb

1958 Rear Admiral

1958 to 1961 President of the Royal Naval Collage, Greenwich

1961 Retired

1962 HM Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps in the Royal Household of the Sovereign of the United Kingdom from 1962 to 1971.

1966 to 1977 President Navy League

He was also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers of the City of London, rising to become the Company's Prime Warden for 1972-73, and for many years was Chairman of the Governing Body of Gresham's School.

On his death in 21 March, 1989 he was succeeded by his son Simon Dallas Cairns.