

## Vice Admiral Sir John Webster KCB

Vice Admiral Sir John Webster KCB and Member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists, was born on 3rd November 1932 and died on 5th October 2020 at the age of 87.

After School (Pangbourne) and BRNC training he followed a career that gave him Command of HMS Argonaut in 1970. He was appointed the British Naval Advisor (Attaché) in Ottawa in 1974 and CO of HMS Cleopatra and Capt F in 1977. Time in MOD followed and then FOST at the time of the Falklands War in 1982 followed by COS to CinC Fleet and finally FO Plymouth in 1987, retiring in 1990. It was during this final appointment that he became an Honorary Life Member of the Exeter Flotilla.

Throughout his career he pursued his hobby as an artist and held several one-man exhibitions in both London and Canada. The latter included one in Halifax where I was on exchange at the time and we purchased a splendid view of the Athabasca River. John Webster and his wife Val were some of the first to meet our elder son when he was just a few weeks old whilst in Canada. Later, whilst he was FOST I was able to give him some photographs of the shoreline of San Carlos Water on my return from 'Down South' in 1982. At the time he had been commissioned to paint the landings in oils. Though I have not seen the finished product I believe that the picture - probably quite a large one - hangs in the Wardroom at Northwood. His artwork is hung in a number of Establishments including two at BRNC. He was a very friendly person and well able to get on with anyone; in 1995 we were on mid-tour leave from Turkey and he took our younger son who was a budding artist at the time and who had been 'going off the rails' somewhat when we visited them and John took him off to his studio for an hour or so and it was the start of Christopher's 'rehabilitation'! Advice on a subject of common interest from an adult who was not either a schoolmaster or parent - worked wonders!

Val Webster died some years ago and they had lost their son, Tom, in 1995 whilst filming in the W. Indies. Two daughters survive him, Lucilla and Rozelle.

David & Carol Lingard





HMS Westminster passing RNC Greenwich



Entering Dartmouh