

# B.O.O.K R.E.V.I.E.W

## Dover in the Great War

By Stephen Wynn

Reviewed by Alan Lee

This book, published by Pen and Sword, is the latest in the series of *Your Towns and Cities in the Great War*.

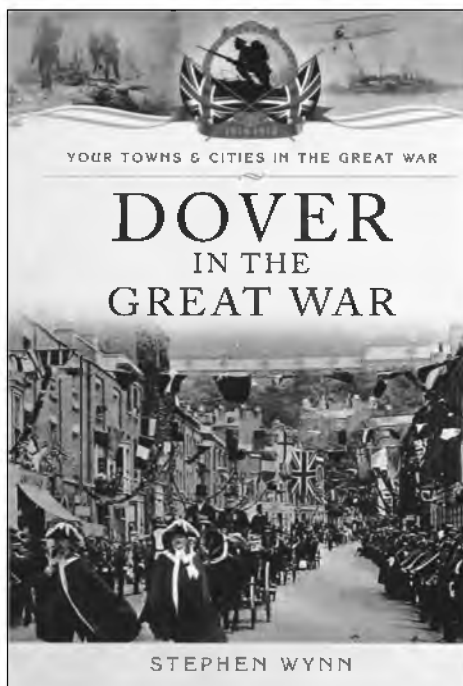
Throughout the author has managed to uncover many little known facts concerning local Dover people and their trials and tribulations during the First World War.

We read about the outbreak of war and the increased amount of naval and military activity. As the war progressed we hear of how restrictive and difficult it was to enter and leave the town, everyone had to have a special pass.

The longer the war continued the harder life became. In 1914 Dover saw the first bomb dropped on British soil and also the last bombing raid on 24th August 1918. At the onset little changed but by 1917 Dover had been regularly shelled and attacked by Zeppelins and Gotha bombers. One imposition that Dover residents could not understand was the cost of tram fares doubling in price.

Roads were in a poor state of repair, the tram system struggled to keep running. 1917 saw Dover's worst tram accident. The Harbour Board had to borrow heavily and was nearly bankrupt, The Royal Victoria Hospital struggled financially. Surprisingly one of the few bright spots was that house and property sales sold in great numbers.

The big issue with the police in 1914 was from 66 to 68 constables. In 1914 Dover Borough



Police had 66 constables, they turned down an increase to 68, and a list of 50 Special Constables. By January 1915 a further 156 Specials had been sworn in.

Many other aspects are covered throughout, The Dover Patrol, Volunteer Training Corps, Dover's airfields, and the Woman's Land Army.

Well illustrated this excellent book is obtainable from selected bookshops and online from [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)

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