

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

The Drop Redoubt - Dover's Forgotten Fort

By Phil Eyden

Reviewed by Alan Lee

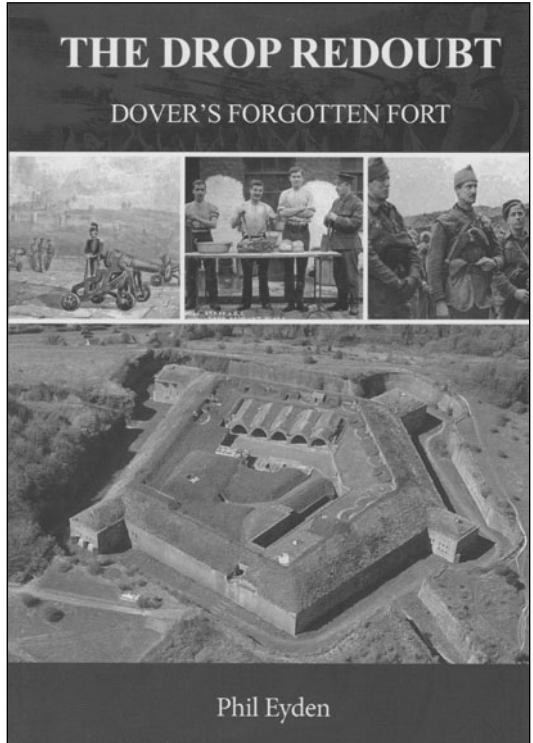
This is the authors latest offering in his well-researched books of local interest. Phil, as is usual, includes over 100 interesting photographs throughout this 189-page publication.

He recounts in depth the history of the *Drop Redoubt* from when, in 1779, 33 acres of land was purchased, for £6,300, from David Papillon, a local landowner, to the present day. But it was not until 1825 when the local press referred to this area as *The Drop Redoubt*. Prior to that it was known as *Grand Redoubt*, *Redoubt Barracks* or just *The Fortification*.

Many facts and technical details are mentioned but Phil has concentrated bringing the human element to life, telling the personal stories of gunners and soldiers stationed on the heights over the last 243 years.

There have been a number of instances over the years of soldiers dying or being seriously injured when falling into a moat. One, during the night of 23rd November 1854, was of Sergeant Widdup of the Staffordshire Militia. Sent on duty he failed to notice the swing bridge had been retracted, he stepped into thin air, fell 30 feet, and was seriously injured.

Many regiments were stationed on *the Heights* during WWI and WWII and some of



the graffiti that adorns the walls has been researched, discovering some moving and tragic tales of the soldiers and regiments mentioned.

A copy of this publication, can be obtained from the author, by email, at phil.precambrian@btopenworld.com. The price is £15.00 with postage to UK addresses £3.50 extra.