

## Memories of Old Dover

### A BIRTHDAY PRESENT

I fell in love with Dover at the age of six, when I came from Kensington to visit a relative of my mother's who had a commercial boarding house in Castle Street.

The visit made such an impression on me that when the time came for my birthday and my mother asked what I would like, to her surprise I replied "I'd like to go to Dover for a week's holiday". My mother, who had expected me to ask for a party or a present, was taken aback, but, nevertheless, she granted my wish. She brought my brother and me to Dover for a week.

It was the delight of my life. It was so exciting in Dover. It must have been regatta week. I remember being taken at night to the seafront and seeing the lights along the promenade and the moon making a path on the water. From one of the barrows on the front I chose a biff-bat with a little, lurex-

covered, paper ball on a piece of elastic. 57  
I played with it as I walked along.

The excitement of the holiday was the beach; it was the nicest beach I had ever known. In my child's mind it became my beach and my harbour, which should always be kept in order just for me.. I remember the Granville Gardens with its deckchairs and bandstand, where the adults liked to listen to music, which I found boring. I liked Woolworth's, where I spent my 3d pocket money on a little pencil case, which looked like a purse and which I carried with me everywhere throughout the holiday. I used to linger in Woolworth's reading books, until my mother pulled me away.

The feeling of excitement which I experienced as a child of six and seven never left me. After the war, to my delight, my family moved to Dover and I have lived here ever since. I never tire of the view from the seafront. When I sit on the verandah of the White Cliffs Hotel in the evening and watch the lights come on across the harbour and the path of moonlight on the water, it brings back the memories of my first visit to Dover as a child. The magic has always remained with me.

JUNE DYER

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There was so little inflation in the latter half of the 19th century that for almost all purposes it may be ignored. A direct comparison may therefore be made between the imposition of 2s mentioned above and the charge, in 1897, for the use of a 1st class hackney carriage for one hour - 2s 6d. In the same year one could travel one mile in a 2nd class carriage for 1s. and would be charged 4d by the Town Porters to convey 1 or 2 pieces of luggage, not exceeding 112lbs in weight, from anywhere in the town to one of the railway stations.