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to be put to bed in the seaman's Club to recover.

The most memorable outing (for me anyway) was one Sunday afternoon when we visited Snowdown colliery. What a revelation! We dropped like a stone in an open cage, while filthy water sprayed over us. Once underground we trudged along with odd bits of coal dropping on us from above, then we crawled (yes - crawled) single file along the coal face, where of course you could not stand. A container of water was passed along and we all drank from it. It was so hot that we were glad to drink out of anything. For the trip

I had worn my usual office clothes and pearl earrings. I arrived home filthy and my mother made me undress in the garden shed before I was allowed into the bathroom!

After five years I left the company to join the Civil service and also to be married. Parker Pen Co. had apparently taken only a short lease on the Eastern Docks premises and at this time were relocating to their Newhaven site.

It had been quite 'something' to be employed by the Parker Pen Co. with its comparatively high wages and annual bonuses and, at the same time, so much fun and laughter as well as hard work.

Book Review - *Unlocking Keyes*

from Terry Sutton

THE ZEEBRUGE AND OSTEND RAIDS 1918

By Deborah Lake

Each year representatives of The Dover Society join others at St James' Cemetery to remember the bravery of those who took part in the epic Zeebrugge Raid 85 years ago. Buried there are some of those who died in the firefight on the mole of the Belgian port and with them Sir Roger Keyes who, when he died, was buried with the sailors and Royal Marines he led on the raid. As far as Dover is concerned Sir Roger, commander of the Dover Patrol, is a hero.

But a book, published in April, takes another look at Sir Roger. Author Deborah Lake says Roger John Brownlow Keyes was foolhardy, impetuous, and an indifferent planner. 'Keyes was not an uncaring man but, at heart, he possibly never stopped being a midshipman with a midshipman's values,' she writes. She accepts Keyes was personally brave, a charismatic leader and single-minded. Investigating the pre-

lude of the raid, the raid itself and its consequences, the author argues that the operations against Zeebrugge and Ostend were not military successes. The book, *The Zeebrugge and Ostend Raids 1918*, is well researched and well written, drawing on German as well as British contemporary war records.

Keyes' background, career and personality are probed and the smouldering dislike that Admiral Sir Reginald Bacon, originally in charge of The Dover Patrol, felt for his successor, Keyes is brought to light. Some senior naval officers based at Dover during the 1914-18 war were equally suspicious about Keyes on his appointment to the Patrol, believing he had conspired to get rid of Bacon. But there is no doubt that Keyes, in 1918, was considered a hero among the Dover population and has continued to be so ever since.