

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

Front Line Harbour

A History of the Port of Dover

By Anthony Lane

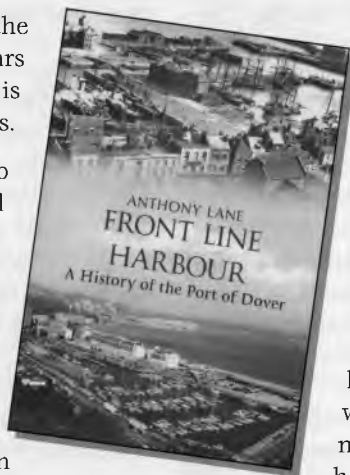
Reviewed by Alan Lee

Anthony grew up near the sea and for the last 14 years has lived near Dover. He is married with two daughters.

The author has managed to capture, with this well researched book, the history of one of Britain's oldest ports. He covers the early years but concentrates in the main on the last 500 years of the harbour. The era when the port was a haven for smugglers brings to light some amusing and interesting stories.

Although not as widespread locally or as colourful as in the 1700's, the modern smuggler flourishes and concentrates more on drugs and people. One thing that has not changed over the years is the bringing in of illicit booze. The port has evolved over the decades in answer to the type or style of trade and commercial use demanded from it. The pilot system has improved and been refined to become the efficient system that we see today.

There have been many connections with the Navy. The battleship *The*



Prince of Wales moored alongside the pier of that name for the ceremony when The Prince of Wales officially opened the harbour on 15th October 1909. This led to warships arriving in increasing numbers. The evolution of shipping that has used the port and the work of the lifeboats has not been forgotten, nor have the collisions and

sinkings that have occurred around the port. Commercial and leisure fishing, yachting and important personalities all have separate chapters. Anthony completes the book with descriptions of some of Dover's many maritime buildings, from piers and hotels long gone and ancient buildings still standing to modern architecture.

This excellent and interesting book contains over 300 illustrations. It is obtainable on line from www.amberleybooks.com, from local bookshops or by post from Amberley Publishing, Cirencester Road, Chalford, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 8PE.