

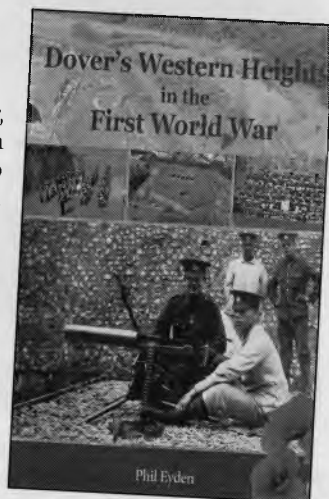
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Reviewed by S S G Hale

Phil Eyden is a researcher for Western Heights Preservation Society and has written two books on Dover history.

Dover's Western Heights in the First World War

During the First World War three regiments defended Dover, the East Surrey and the East Kent regiments at the Western Heights and the Royal Fusiliers at the Castle. They also trained reinforcements for the Western Front and these will appear in regimental histories, the Dover Anti-Aircraft Corps will not. They were a local civilian group, hired by the Admiralty, who for 20 months provided search light defence against Zeppelins. Useless against airplanes they were disbanded and were taken over by the army. All 166 members of the Corps are listed and since Dover is a highly stable society descendants of these men are likely to still be here and these lads were obviously local heroes.



Dover's Forgotten Commando Raid



After several cancellations the raid on Hardelot finally took place on 21st April 1942. 100 commandos under Lord Lovat and 50 Canadians of the Carleton and York regiment under Lieutenant Ensor set out for France transported by the Royal Navy. The commandos landed successfully, but in the wrong place, under non directed fire, sent out patrols and returned with only one casualty. The Canadians waited offshore but navy navigation was weak and the locality uncertain so they returned when the withdrawal signal was given by the main party. The objective was to capture a prisoner, and destroy the search light and general reconnaissance. The later Dieppe disaster shows that lessons were not learned.

Phil Eyden has researched both military and civilian sources, both books are well illustrated and are well worth reading. 25,000 soldiers were sent to the Western Front, with about 100,000 soldiers stationed in Dover 1914-1918

the local shops regretted their leaving.

Proceeds from these books will donated to the Western Heights Preservation Society.