

BOOK REVIEW

Dover Promenade Pier

by Martin Easdown and Martyn Webster

Reviewed by Alan Lee

This well researched book, the latest in a series on piers, contains over eighty illustrations and is well worth a read. It follows the fortunes of the Dover Promenade Pier from the initial proposal in 1847, unto it was demolished in 1927.

To fund construction, the Dover Landing Pier Company was formed in July 1847, with an original capital of 800 shares at £10 each. Owing to many objections and delays, the first pile was not driven until 1891 with the pier finally opening in 1893. The pier was an impressive 900 feet long with Moorish-style kiosks and, over the years, boasted a number of different amenities to attract the public.

The pier always struggled financially and in 1913 it was purchased by the Admiralty and renamed the Naval Pier. It was from here that the ships of the Zeebrugge Raid sailed on 23rd April 1918 and, in 1919, the body of Nurse Cavell was landed here. From 1921 to 1926 it was leased and reverted back to a pleasure pier. Dover Town Council then declared it unsafe and in 1927 Dover Harbour Board demolished the pier.

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