



(BOOK 13)

## **FAWLEY'S FRONT LINE**

### **A century of firefighting and rescue**

**Author: ROGER HANSFORD**

The book has been welcomed as an authoritative account of the development of local authority fire and rescue service and that of Exxon-Mobil Corporation from the start of the twentieth century. Highlights from the book include the significant part played by Leading Fireman Malcolm Rumsey in developing a high standard of training during the 1980s.

Also of particular interest is that throughout the nineties a picture emerges of constant debate about the level of fire cover in the Waterside area, notably, the station at Hardley had opened with 15 wholetime personnel, subsequently reduced to 13 in 1994 and then to 8 in 1995. In January 2000 Hardley Fire Station was regraded from day crewing to retained. The author makes it clear that the decisions reflect the different motivations of those involved in the changes of cover. The local people appreciated and were satisfied with the service received.

The book is also to be commended for providing a detailed account of the major exercise codenamed 'Exercise Shannon' held in May 2012. In this account the author has virtually presented a reference document for those planning similar exercises in the future. Particularly those in respect of the petro-chemical industry.

The text in the book is very well supported by a generous number of photographs that do much to add to the reader's interest and make the book attractive. Overall, a useful work of reference.

**KEN HARRISON**

Publisher by The History Press  
ISBN 978-0-7524-9857-7

(The Branch – June 2015)