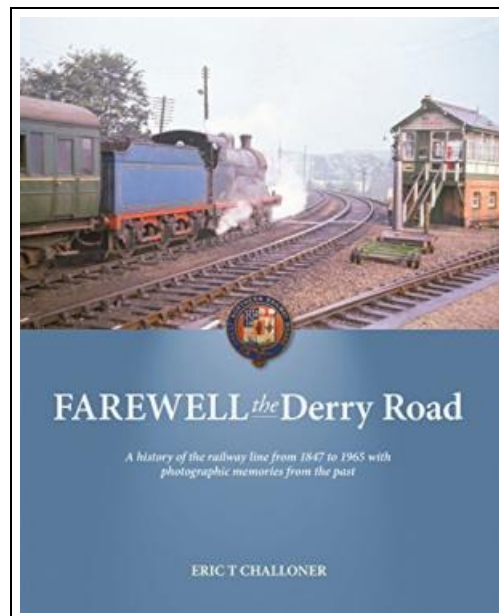


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FAREWELL THE DERRY ROAD: A HISTORY OF THE RAILWAY LINE FROM 1876 TO 1965 WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES FROM THE PAST



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Colourpoint Books, United Kingdom, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 264 x 213 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. INTRODUCTION: Sunday 14 February 1965, is a date that will live in the minds of working men and railway enthusiasts alike in Northern Ireland, for on that day, a heavily biased Stormont Government, totally obsessed with road transport and with a barely veiled mandate to remove all forms of rail traction in Northern Ireland, closed the 75 1/2 mile railway line between Portadown and Londonderry, together with the Dungannon to Coalisland branch, in the process bringing to an end 118 years of travel in County Tyrone. Nominally closed by the Ulster Transport Authority - in reality another arm of the Government - this completed a move first proposed as far back as 1957. Known to all as the Derry Road and one of the most important secondary lines in the province, it provided both a social service and a transport feeder for the local economy that was an essential lifeline for the wellbeing of the market towns and rural communities that it served along its route; its platforms and halts had become important meeting places, with much social significance and importance to the community. Stations like Dungannon and Omagh, that bustled with the sounds of porters cheerful banter, wicker baskets and sacks being loaded with the slamming of carriage doors, fell strangely silent. The often-played-out scenes of heartfelt hellos and desperately poignant good-byes would not be seen again. Passing places like Trew Moy or Beragh, and distant Pomeroy, high upon the slopes of the Sperrin foothills, suddenly seemed more remote than before. The final day s UTA workings were operated by ex- Great Northern men in the true spirit of their previous employer. Strong in their beliefs, the timetable was operated faultlessly...



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