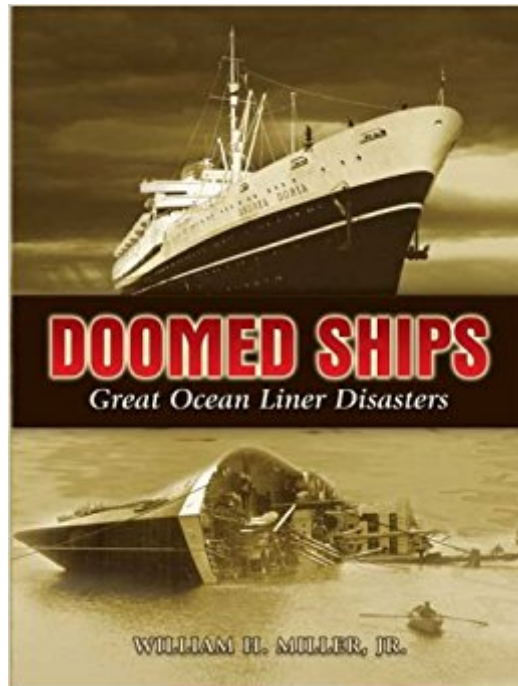




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Doomed Ships: Great Ocean Liner Disasters (Dover Maritime)



Synopsis

These true-life adventures unfold amid flames, collisions, and explosions, with frantic calls of SOS and a rush to clamber aboard the lifeboats. Naval historian William H. Miller, Jr., recounts the dramatic stories behind a host of ill-fated passenger ships. He takes readers beyond the newspaper headlines and formal inquiries, offering firsthand accounts of heroic rescues, daring escapes, and tragic losses. Starting with the torpedoing of the Lusitania in 1915 and concluding in 2005 with the capsizing of the Oriana during a Chinese typhoon, these are the world's most ill-starred vessels: the Morro Castle, Normandie, Andrea Doria, Europa, and many other ships whose maritime lives ended in catastrophe (the Titanic has been omitted, since that disaster has been well documented elsewhere). Nearly 200 photographs, many from private collections, highlight a compelling blend of personal anecdote and historical record.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If I could take back my order for this book, I would do it. Its content is no more than a series of photos of the ships plus a two-three paragraph, very sketchy description of what happened to her, then statistics about her dates, tonnage, and ownership. I am very disappointed that there isn't more depth. I should have known better since it's a Dover book and therefore probably aimed at young people and not readers who want to dig deeper.

Noted nautical author Bill Miller has written a new and very fascinating book on doomed ocean liners. Quite wisely he elected to skip the "Titanic" tragedy as it has been so well covered in many other books. He elected to start the book with the sinking of the "Lusitania" on May 7, 1915, by a German submarine, the "U-20." It ends with the capsizing of the "Oriana" at her berth in China during a typhoon in March 2004. Between these two bookends, there are many liner tragedies summarized, including the famous like the "Morro Castle," "Normandie," "Bremen," "Rex," and "Andrea Doria" as well as ships virtually unknown except for those personally involved in the accident in question, such as the "Alcoa Corsair," "Viceroy of India," "Empire Windrush," and "Klipfontein." The book provides a brief operational history of each ship as well as the vital statistics of each vessel. The accidents are examined in varying degrees of detail: after all there are no commonly available accounts of accidents like the fire that ravaged the "Skaubryn" in the Indian Ocean during 1958 (especially given that all passengers and crew were rescued). This points to a great strength of the book: less well-known accidents are presented here alongside famous disasters, and the lessons learned from all are valuable and interesting regardless of your exact motivation for reading the book. As an aside, I didn't keep track, but an inordinate number of losses occurred due to fire (and water from firefighting). This was especially the case among French built liners, an observation not overlooked by the author. Overall this is an excellent effort. It accomplishes exactly what it sets out to do. It is not encyclopedic, nor does it claim to be, but it is an interesting book on a difficult subject to cover well.

A fairly cut and dried retelling of some major, and many minor sinkings, fires and scrapping. Not a lot of detail, but if you're interested in ships, it's a nice read.

This ship disaster book covers a long list of ships but some of the stories are quite short. A bit more detail would have made it better in my view.

An interesting short and sweet review of "Doomed Ships". A good starting point for those who want to know more details.

Well printed, lots of technical information regarding weight, tonnage, capacity, speed and propulsion type.

Good Book. Detailed history of the ships and there demise very interesting. If you are interested in

Ocean Liners like myself then you should find this book good reading.

Enough detail without being boring. Very engaging I would recommend this for anyone with interest in ocean liner history. Enjoy

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