

# MURDER & MYSTERY ON THE *TITANIC*

Mike Holgate

The *Titanic* disaster of April 1912 not only claimed over 1500 souls but blighted the lives of 700 survivors forever. *Murder & Mystery on the Titanic* looks back at the world's greatest ever maritime tragedy in this fascinating collection of stories recalling criminal activities and enduring mysteries surrounding many of the personalities on board the so-called 'unsinkable' vessel.

Tragedy continued to dog the careers of several members of the ship's crew who were later lost at sea on active service, although John Priest was luckier than most, surviving many other shipwrecks before abandoning life at sea when branded a 'Jonah' by his shipmates.

Criminals who travelled on the ill-fated liner included convicted killers George McGough and William Mintram, whilst professional gambler and cardsharp George Brayton was one of several survivors who later committed suicide. Children's nanny Alice Cleaver became embroiled in controversy for abandoning a baby to die on the ship amid allegations that she had been previously tried for the death of her own child. Another passenger, Oskar Palmquist was plucked from the ocean only later to drown in a shallow pool – allegedly murdered by a love rival. Twenty years after the tragedy, helmsman Robert Hichens was jailed for attempted murder still haunted by memories of the sinking that had been foreseen in premonitions experienced by many, long before the *Titanic* sailed.

All these and many other extraordinary stories are revealed in this remarkable book.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

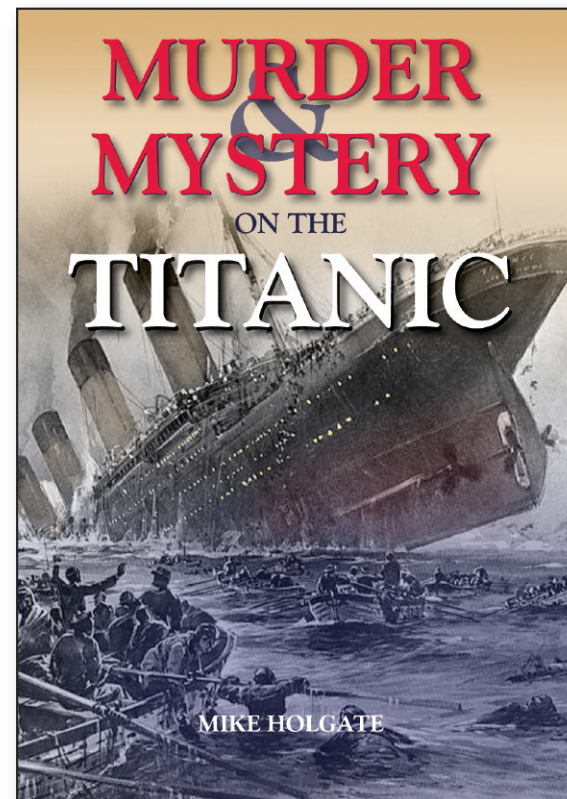
Mike Holgate lives in Torquay, South Devon, and has combined three careers as an author, musician and librarian since obtaining an honours degree from Plymouth University. He is a regular contributor to Devon Life Magazine and the author of several books including two about the notorious murderer and one-time GWR employee John 'Babbacombe' Lee – 'The Man They Could Not Hang'. He is author of *Murder & Mystery on the GWR* recently republished in hardback by Halsgrove.

## HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

The full Halsgrove catalogue is available free or visit [www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com) for regional and category listings of available titles.

Halsgrove Publishing  
Halsgrove House,  
Ryelands Business Park,  
Bagley Road, Wellington,  
Somerset TA21 9PZ  
Tel: 01823 653777  
Fax: 01823 216796  
[www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com)  
e-mail: [sales@halsgrove.com](mailto:sales@halsgrove.com)

## HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION

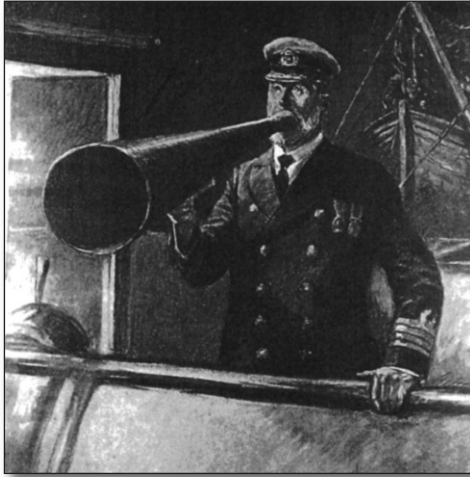


**Format:** Hardback, 136 pages, 210x148 mm  
with over 50 illustrations  
**Price:** £12.99  
**ISBN:** 978 0 85704 121 0  
**Imprint:** Halsgrove  
**Published:** October 2011



**Great Books from  
your Local Bookseller**





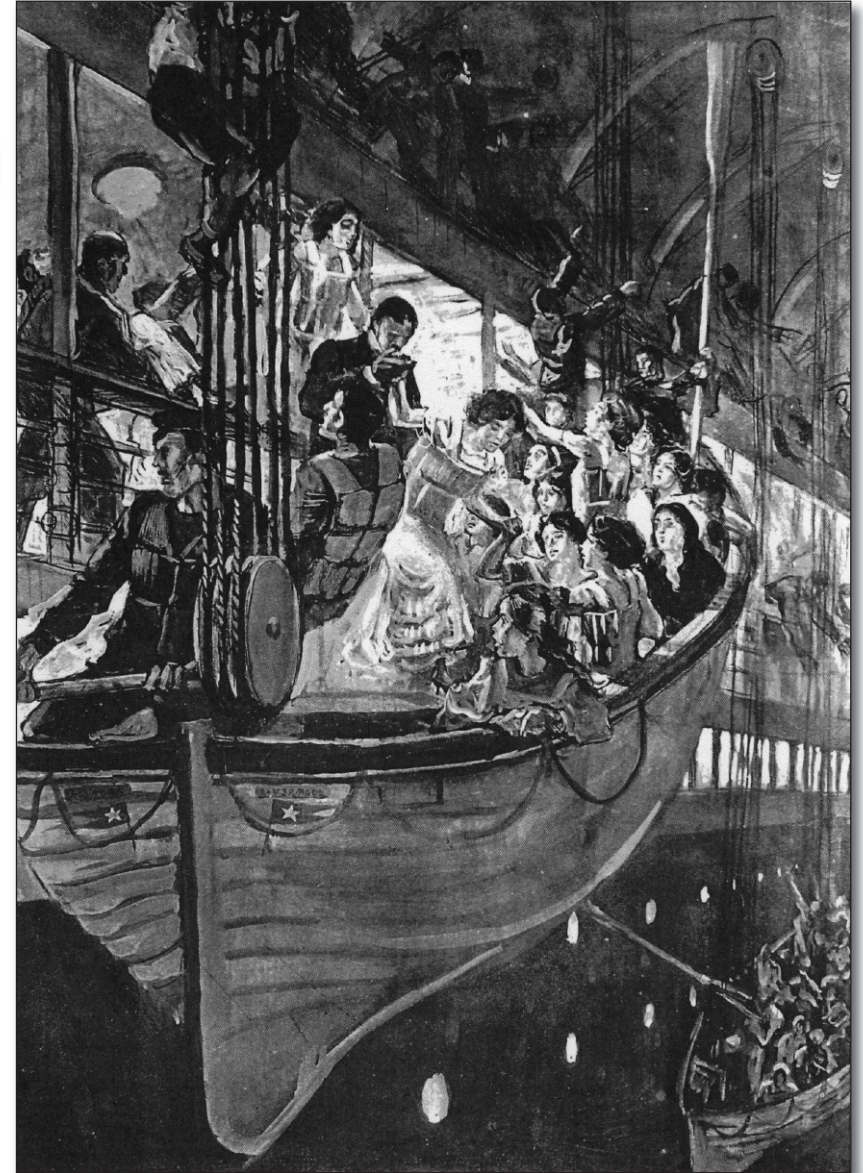
Captain Smith gave the rallying cry 'Be British'.

Right: Hester Forbes Julian experienced a terrible premonition.

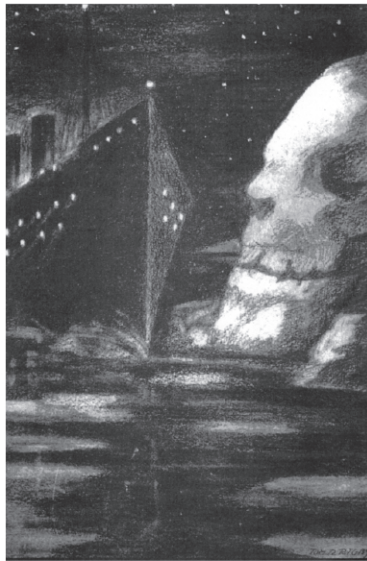


Above left: William Murdoch allegedly shot passengers then himself.

Above right: Heroic Bandmaster Wallace Hartley.



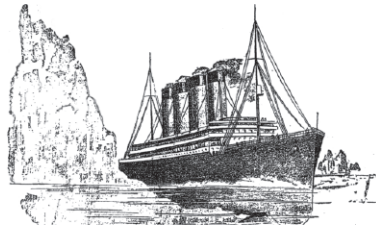
Most men stoically kissed their wives goodbye and stood by watching while half-empty lifeboats were launched.



## INTRODUCTION TRAGIC TALES OF THE TITANIC

*'I remember that it occurred to me that the good God had stretched out His mighty hand and checked further murder by His elements'. Arthur Rostron, master of rescue ship Carpathia*

A century ago on 31 May 1911, the world's largest vessel was launched by the White Star Line in Belfast and proudly named the *Titanic*. Within a year, inquiries were held on both sides of the Atlantic counting the cost of an unthinkable tragedy that had befallen an 'unsinkable' vessel. Contemporary newspaper opinions that the needless loss of so many lives was a 'crime' or 'murder'



Example of a double-page spread.