

DORSET SHIPWRECKS

From the South West Coast Path

Terry Townsend

Views from Dorset's South West Coast Path present a wave-washed shoreline rich in maritime history. On a tranquil summer's day it's almost impossible to imagine this stunning coast in the full force of its treacherous temper. However, the beaches, cliffs, reefs and rocks all bear witness to a tragic loss of lives and vessels.

Over many centuries a significant number of craft of all types from numerous nations have come to grief in these waters. In the days of sail as many as one voyage in six is thought to have ended in either a stranding on the coast or a foundering off shore. *Dorset Shipwrecks* tells the human stories behind some of the most dramatic and unusual of these nautical disasters.

From Poole Bay all the way round to Lyme Bay the sea bed is so littered with the remains of stricken vessels it has been called 'The Bay of a Thousand Wrecks'. Every mile of Dorset cliff top and beach, every coastal town and village has its tales to tell, not only of tragedy but also of unbelievable acts of bravery.

Terry Townsend who lives in Dorset with his wife Carol has walked the coast path through every season. In this book he recalls the characters of the men who commanded and manned the wrecked vessels and the courage and heroism displayed by those who risked their lives to save them.

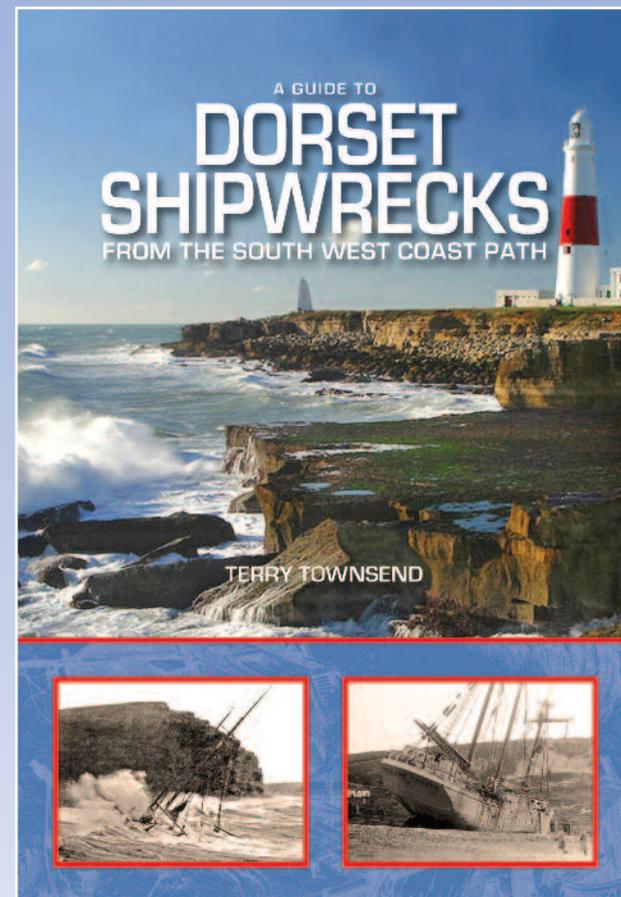
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terry Townsend is a prolific author on Westcountry subjects, with a specialism in books about historic inns.

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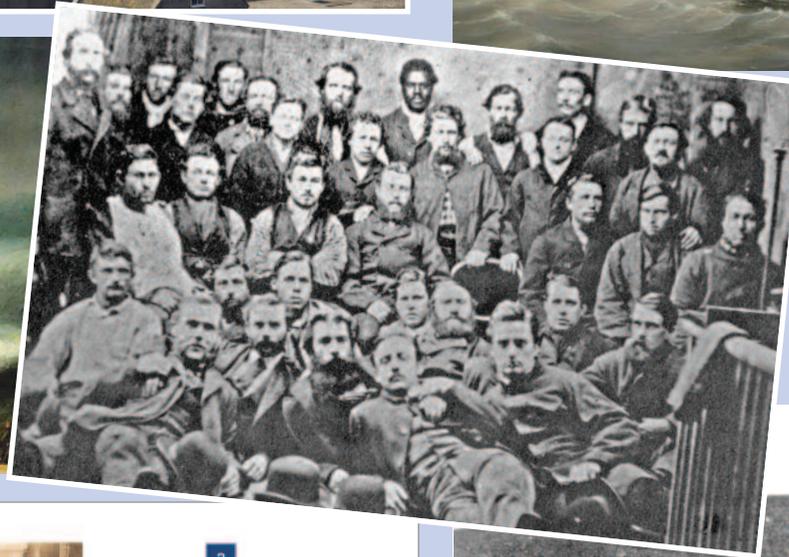
Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
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This 2014 photograph captures the ferocity of a storm at Chesil Cove and demonstrates how the undertow creates the extraordinarily high waves.



Below: A painting showing the scene at the western end of Chesil Beach after the 200 ton emigrant clipper Royal Adelaide was driven broadside onto the beach during the south-westerly gale.



Above: Over a period of 29 years three of the magnificent, showy ships of the East India Company were lost on Dorset's coast.



Left: A group photograph of the grim-faced men who survived the wreck of the Royal Adelaide.

Below: The German Ketch Alioth aground in May 1923 after the captain declined an offer by a local steam tug to tow her out of the harbour and clear of land.



These few remaining cottages along Butter Street are vestiges of Fleet Village devastated in the Great Storm of 1824.



Example of a double-page spread.

