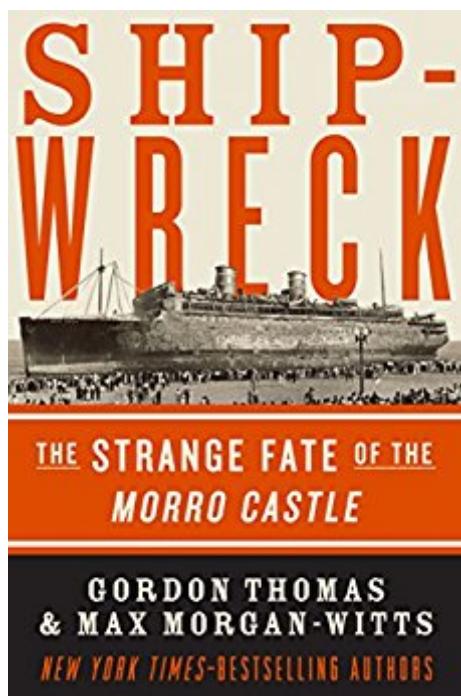


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Shipwreck: The Strange Fate Of The Morro Castle



Synopsis

Edgar Award Finalist: A gripping account of one of the most spectacular disasters off the coast of New York—was it a terrible accident, or arson? In the early morning hours of September 8, 1934, the luxury cruise liner Morro Castle, carrying 316 passengers and 230 officers and crew, caught fire a few hours out of the New York harbor on a return voyage from Havana. The fire spread with terrifying swiftness, transforming the ship into a blazing inferno. One hundred thirty-four people died that night—was it an accident? Writers Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan Witts prove that the disaster was no accident, but was planned, meticulously and deliberately, by an officer of the Morro Castle. His name: George White Rogers, chief radio officer. They also prove that Rogers was responsible for the death of the captain, who was poisoned several hours before the fire broke out. Shipwreck is a spellbinding moment-by-moment account of the Morro Castle's last voyage, and one of the most spectacular disasters to stir the Atlantic Ocean. Through interviews with survivors, rescuers, and investigators, the authors detail a desperate investigation and the search for a mass murderer. Against the backdrop of the Great Depression and the buildup of World War II, Shipwreck is a sweeping tale of personal heroism, tragedy, and murder.

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Customer Reviews

I knew only about the Morro Castle and its fate, but after reading this fascinating book about the ship, its crew, passengers and fate, I know a lot more. The authors write in detail about the crew members and their conduct using eyewitnesses and family members; they also write about some of the passengers and survivors of the fire that happened aboard the ship, which while serving as a passenger pleasure cruise ship also carried arms and ammunition to Cuba. This only makes the mysterious happenings on the ship before the deadly fire more mysterious. The person who eventually became the primary suspect in starting the fire that led to the ship's demise is revealed as a madman, a psychopath which leads the reader in believing he is responsible for what happened to the Morro Castle and missteps and non-compliance of shipping regulations by the captain and crew led to panic and fatal consequences for the passengers. The book is written not so much as a historical document as a mystery thriller that happens to be true. I enjoyed reading and learning about the fate of the Morro Castle.

Not many people remember the disaster of the "Morro Castle." But once upon a time it swamped the headlines after it caught fire offshore, taking the lives of many passengers and crew, including women and children. Unlike the Titanic, however, the Morro Castle fire is shrouded in mystery. This book not only tells the tale of the ill-fated vessel and its final journey, but does so in a flowing, infinitely readable narrative. It also adroitly looks at that which has long been rumored but now seems more certain: that the fire wasn't an accident. The author makes the case for who started the fire and why. All in all a fantastic read. You'll get to the end in no time, and you'll be sad it was over!

This was a great read, to the point of being hard to put down. But if I am reading history, I want to be certain that what I am reading is not one or two people's dim recollection of events (or secondhand telling of how their relative was the hero of the story). Points taken away for not telling me that this was a book written in the 1970s, and points taken from the publisher for the lousy job they did converting the Kindle edition. Yes it was cheap, but even free books from Gutenberg have been proofread for accuracy.

This book is well written and cohesive, filled with actual statements from survivors of the disaster. The

well researched and documented information helps complete a picture where corporate greed paves the path to death and destruction.

A well-written tale of the end of a cruise ship about 100 years ago. This is history with all the shortcomings and chaos of people when things are going well, and then suddenly things don't go so well. A loss similar to the Titanic but loss by fire instead, you will enjoy this book and weep with sadness over the loss of so many lives when it didn't have to happen. There are parallels to today's world with people not always thinking with a clear head or caring about others.

Hats off to this well written story of the Morro Castle! The events leading up to the disaster are truly mind boggling. Mr. Thomas does a fine job of describing the events as they happened... This is one of the saddest disasters in maritime history. Most, if not all, of the deaths could have been prevented. While there were sinister forces at work, this book illustrates the fact that the crew's incompetence was responsible for the loss of life.

the turn of events that can make all the difference in the world. I was not aware of this happening before I read the story.i. I am appalled that this could happen even in those days. it is an interesting story about how greed and corruption of the powers that be can sometimes twist the facts about actions of others that would make them look bad. it is a reminder that the truth about the actions of others can be used for good or bad.

This is well written and interesting, and after reading it and hearing about all the sickness on curises this winter, and the last few years of snaffoos and wrecks on luxury liners in the near past, I have decided that the need for profits far outweigh the need for safety and common sense. And its been going on for many generations. Not so sure I want to go on a cruise any more.

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