

Shipwrecks



***After the Storm, Sandown.* A view from the beach of the hull of a boat upturned in the water. To the right of the hull is a small boat with two people aboard.** The J.B. Williamson Collection. IWCMS.2009.23

The J.B. Williamson Collection is a collection of images of Island shipwrecks and lifeboats that was donated to the Isle of Wight Heritage Service.

The five images displayed here are the only ones in the collection identified to be the work of James Dore, although it is likely many more are his work.



The Wreck of the Eider - the boat of the Eider. The wreck of the Eider as viewed from the beach, a small boat is rowing to shore.

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The S.S. Eider had left New York and was bound for Bremen (Germany) with 227 passengers and 167 crew on board.

She ran aground on Atherfield Ledge, about half a mile from the shore in a dense fog on the night of 31 January 1892.

The Atherfield Lifeboat, '*Catherine Swift*' was launched but assistance was refused. The Captain hoped to re-float on the next high tide. The lifeboat returned to shore but remained on watch as the weather was rapidly getting worse. The lifeboat launched just before 7.00am the next morning. Again help was refused, but some of the mail it was carrying was brought ashore. Tugs arrived, but could not tow her off.



The Wreck of the Eider - the boat of the Eider. A rowing boat from the Eider on the shore with a rough sea behind.

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The Brook and Brighstone lifeboats were summoned to assist in the rescue. The Brighstone boat, '*The Worcester Cadet*' successfully transported some passengers to shore.

After five hour rowing the '*William Slaney Lewis*' from Brook reached the Eider and carried women and children safely to shore. The '*Catherine Swift*' joined in the shuttle operation and after many trips by all the lifeboats the passengers and crew were all safely rescued. Later the German Emperor sent gold watches to the three coxswains and a gift of money to the Lifeboat Institution.

The Eider was carrying maize, cotton, gold, silver and mail when she ran aground. After many weeks of salvage work that continued until 29 March she was towed to Southampton.



The Wreck of the Eider - lifeboat slipway at Looking up the slipway built to get the lifeboat from the cliff onto the beach.

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Eider. A team of cart horses with a hoist are lifting large cotton bales from the Eider to the top of the cliff during salvage operations.

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