



DOUG'S BLOG

A Daily Log & Online Journal from Doug Phillips

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New 'Titanic' Film Reportedly Portrays First Officer Murdoch as True Hero

Close to a decade ago, Vision Forum and the Christian Boys' and Men's Titanic Society reported that Jim Cameron's film *Titanic* not only introduced a [Marxist vision of class warfare](#) between the first, second, and third class passengers, but vilified a few very heroic men like [First Officer Murdoch](#). Now, on the eve of the centennial of the *Titanic*'s sinking, and around the time as Vision Forum Ministries [Titanic 100 event](#), there is a new *Titanic* film in town that reportedly seeks to right the wrongs of at least one major evil committed by James Cameron in his 1997 blockbuster film.

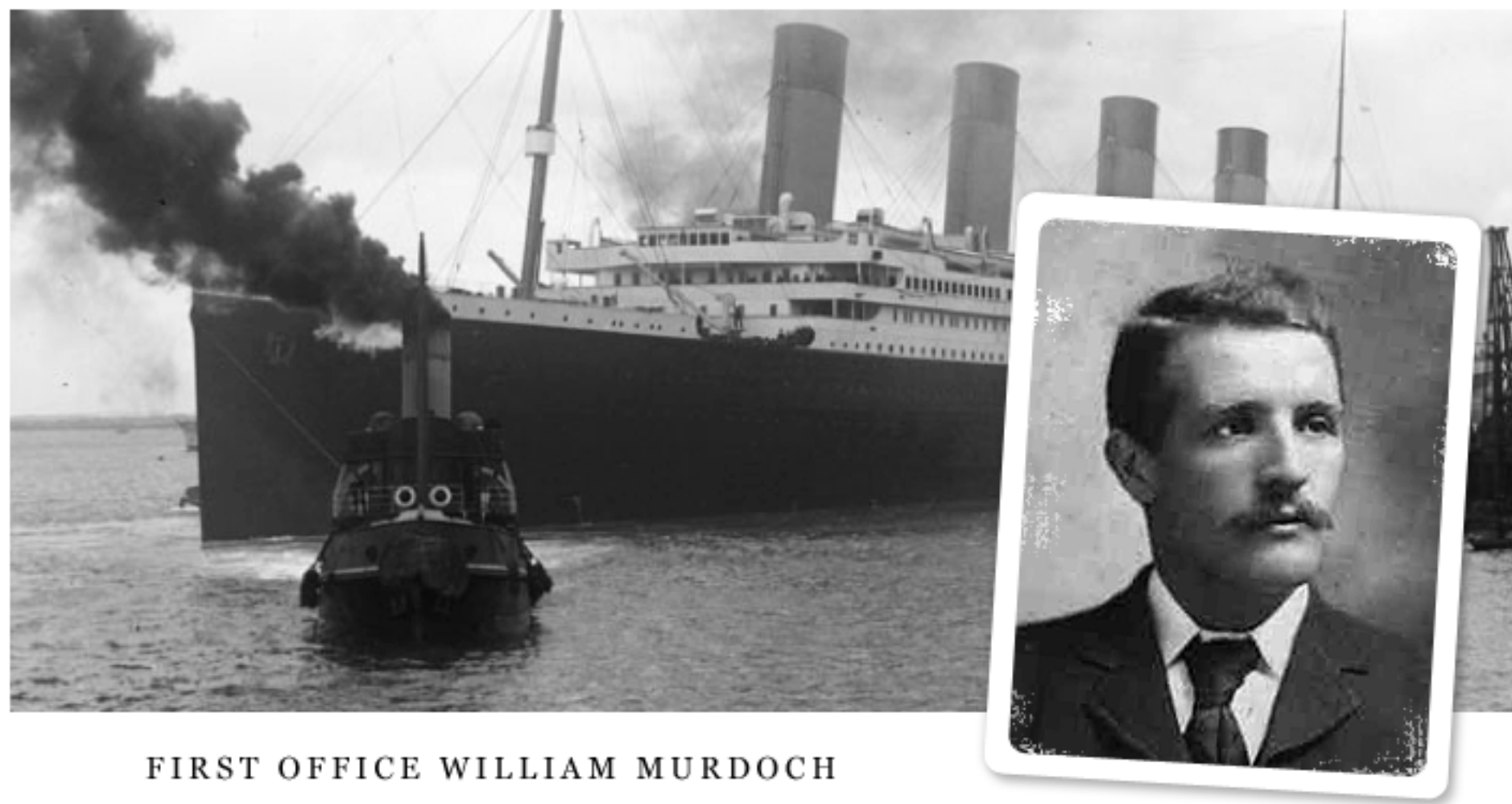
Downtown Abbey creator Julian Fellowes has produced a new 4-part miniseries on *Titanic* that is said to portray the ship's First Officer William Murdoch as the real hero he was, rather than the deranged villain that Cameron depicted in his soap-operatic rendition of *Titanic*.

In an [interview](#) with Radio Times, Fellowes stated that he was intent on setting "the record straight" regarding Murdoch: "I don't think you can just say, 'Well, we'll make this guy a villain - he'll do' . . . [to] take someone who was moral and decent and make them do something immoral and indecent."

Fellowes' miniseries will begin airing on ABC on April 14, the anniversary of *Titanic*'s sinking.

Amere eight days earlier, Cameron's *Titanic* will be re-released to theaters nationwide in 3D. The second-largest grossing film in history, *Titanic* raked in more than \$1.8 billion in ticket sales worldwide when it was originally released.

Despite the film's enormous financial success, Cameron's depiction of the events of April 14-15 did a titanic-size disservice to the heroism and nobility displayed as the great ocean liner sank in 1912. In his film, Cameron portrays a false image of Marxist class-warfare as *Titanic* foundered, with the rich seeking to bribe their way to freedom, the poor deliberately prevented from reaching safety, and the nobility of Christian sacrifice minimized and ridiculed.



FIRST OFFICE WILLIAM MURDOCH

Among Cameron's worst historic revisions was his depiction of First Officer Murdoch, who was shown to be a confused and wavering shell of a man who took a bribe, shot a third-class passenger, and then committed suicide.

In point of fact, Murdoch gave his life to save passengers, helping them into boats, and then throwing deck chairs overboard so that drowning passengers would have something to keep them afloat. Murdoch is generally recognized by historians and Titaniphiles as a hero who never wavered in the performance of his duty and who gave his life for women and children.

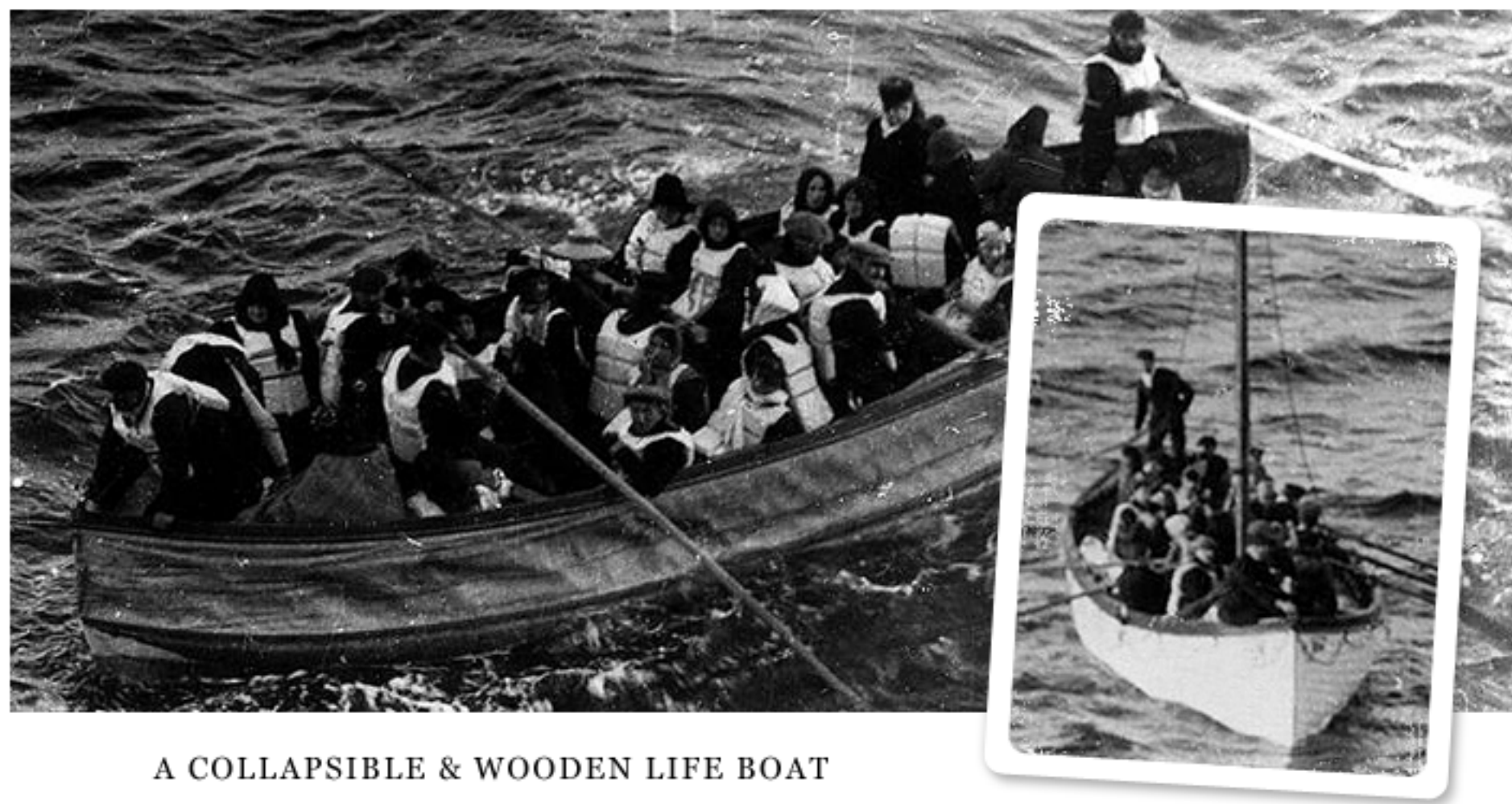


WILLIAM MURDOCH (FAR LEFT) AND CAPTAIN EDWARD J. SMITH (FAR RIGHT)

The outcry against Cameron's portrayal of Murdoch eventually led 20th Century Fox to admit in a letter to Alisdair Morgan, the member of Parliament for Murdoch's hometown, that there was no basis for the villainous portrayal of Murdoch. Eventually Cameron himself donated \$8,340 to a memorial fund set up in Murdoch's honor.

By contrast, Fellowes new 4-part miniseries on *Titanic* reportedly sets "the record straight" on First Officer Murdoch. If accurate, this is a welcome tip of the hat to one of the noble men on board *Titanic* who gave his life so that women and children might live.

To learn more about or to register for Vision Forum's *Titanic 100 Celebration* — to be held April 13-15 in Branson, Missouri — [click here](#).



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