

Titanic: History

Titanic Cards 5A

The Titanic's route through the Northern Atlantic took her through dangerous ice fields at high speeds, despite the captain being warned several times of icebergs along the route.

The attitude that the Titanic was unsinkable meant that passengers and crew felt safer aboard the Titanic and were reluctant to take evacuation seriously.

The rivets used to construct the Titanic were of poor quality and broke easily under pressure.

The Titanic, whilst it had the legal number for a ship of her size, did not have enough lifeboats for the number of people on board.

The crew on the Titanic were poorly prepared for the event of an emergency evacuation. Lifeboat drills had been cancelled and the crew had not practised, meaning lifeboats were launched half full.

The SS Californian's radio officer had gone to bed, meaning the Titanic's distress signals were not received and the distress flares were ignored.

The icy conditions meant that people who were exposed to the freezing water were more likely to die from the extreme cold.

First-class passengers had evacuation priority over other passengers and third-class passengers found it difficult to reach the boat decks.

The bulkhead compartments in the ship's hull were not watertight. As each compartment became full, it began flooding the next one, pulling the bow of the ship underwater as it flooded.

Greatest cause for loss of life

Joint 2nd causes

Joint 2nd causes

Joint 3rd causes

Joint 3rd causes

Joint 3rd causes

Joint 4th causes

Joint 4th causes

Lowest cause for loss of life

<p>Thomas Andrews: Ship's architect</p> <p>Harland and Wolff: Shipbuilders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rivets used to hold the Titanic together were of poor quality and broke more easily than ones used for other ships. • The 'watertight' bulkheads (walls which separate the hull into compartments) in the Titanic's compartments were not sealed at the top. When they flooded, water could escape from one compartment to another.
<p>Bruce Ismay Ship's owner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorised the Titanic to have fewer lifeboats than she was originally designed to have. • Encouraged the rumour that the Titanic was unsinkable. • Spoke to the captain during the voyage to ask about a possible test of the ship's speed. • According to his testimony, he helped other passengers board lifeboats before boarding one when there were no more women and children around to offer the space to.
<p>Captain Edward Smith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received several iceberg warnings during the journey. • Slightly adjusted the Titanic's course to take a more southern route. • Kept the ship going at almost full speed. • Cancelled a lifeboat drill the morning before the Titanic sank. • Ordered the evacuation an hour after the collision. • Helped with the evacuation by giving orders and instructions to people on board. • Made an attempt to call back lifeboats to pick up more passengers. • Went down with the ship.
<p>SS Californian</p> <p>Captain Lord: Commander of the Californian</p> <p>Cyril Evans: Wireless officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was less than 20 miles from the Titanic (the RMS Carpathia, who responded to the Titanic's distress calls, was 67 miles away) • They had stopped as they were surrounded by ice, and had warned the Titanic as such. • Wireless officer went to bed at 11:30 pm, leaving the wireless communications unsupervised. • Crew reported flares being sent from the Titanic, these were reported to the captain who responded with a morse light (a light for signalling nearby ships) but ultimately ignored them.
<p>Other information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People believed that the Titanic was unsinkable and therefore felt safer on the ship rather than escape on a lifeboat. • First-class passengers had priority in the evacuation and their cabins were nearer to the boat deck. • Third-class cabins were low in the ship and some of the gates which separated the class areas remained locked, preventing people from escaping. • Lifeboats were launched half full as evacuation procedure was not made clear to crew members. • The freezing cold water meant that people who were exposed to it could not survive for long.

