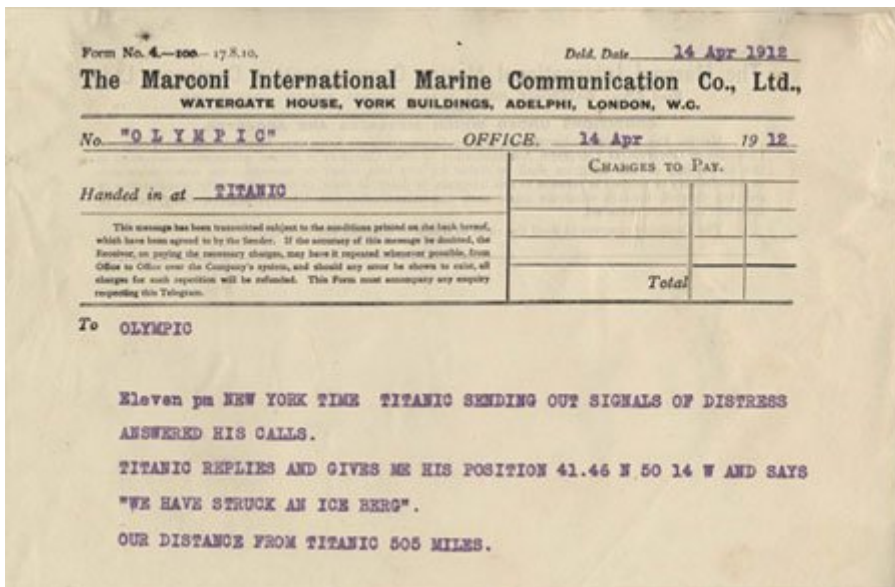


- 0. A DOOMED SHIP - Story Preface
- 1. TITANIC - INSIDE AND OUT
- 2. TITANIC'S CREW
- 3. MAIDEN VOYAGE
- 4. THE PASSENGERS
- 5. ICEBERGS
- 6. TITANIC'S WIRELESS
- 7. ICE WARNINGS IGNORED
- 8. ICEBERG RIGHT AHEAD
- 9. A DOOMED SHIP**
- 10. DOOMED PASSENGERS
- 11. WIRELESS TRANSMISSIONS
- 12. RESCUE OF THE LIVING
- 13. RECOVERY OF THE DEAD
- 14. NEWSFLASH!
- 15. HEROES
- 16. A DISINTEGRATING VESSEL
- 17. THE REST OF THE STORY



The *Olympic*, *Titanic's* sister ship, received a distress signal from the stricken vessel on April 14, 1912, at 11 PM New York time. Among other things, *Titanic's* wireless operator told the *Olympic*: "We have struck an ice berg." [The ship's location](#), at that moment, was reported as "41.46 N 50 14 W." Image of Marconigram online, courtesy [National Museums Northern Ireland](#).

Archibald Gracie had gone to bed early that night. He planned to work out in the gym first thing in the morning. [He testified](#):

*I was awakened in my stateroom at 12 o'clock. The time, 12 o'clock, was noted on my watch, which was on my dresser, which I looked at promptly when I got up. At the same time, almost instantly, I heard the blowing off of steam, and the ship's machinery seemed to stop.*

Did the *Titanic* keep steaming ahead - resuming her course - after she struck the iceberg? Did she stop and start again? Does that explain why there was a difference of 13 nautical miles from her first "CQD" (often, but wrongly, referred to as "Come quick danger") and her final resting place? At least one author, relying on the hearing transcripts and thirty years of research, believes so.

By midnight, Captain Smith and Thomas Andrews knew the ship would sink. Five forward compartments had flooded. She could stay afloat with four flooded compartments, but not with five.

The captain instructed Jack Phillips and Harold Bride to send urgent messages. They began with the customary "CQD," but their last transmission also used the new Morse distress call "SOS" (usually, but wrongly, referred to as "save our ship").

Captain Smith ordered the crew to lower the lifeboats. Both the captain and the designer knew, of course, there were not enough boats for everyone on board. And even though there were more than enough life jackets, the frigid North Atlantic would not be a place in which anyone could survive for very long.

The Captain ordered Phillips and Bride to send urgent rescue messages. Both passengers and crew could see the lights of a ship off the port bow, perhaps 10-20 miles away. It was the Californian, stopped due to ice. Her wireless operator had shut down his system for the night.

Despite repeated efforts to attract the vessel's attention - including several distress rockets - the *Titanic* was never able to hail her. Some of the *Californian's* crew saw a ship in the distance, but they did not learn of *Titanic's* fate until 5 a.m. the next morning.

By that time, *Titanic's* passengers had been in the freezing water nearly three hours.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-DOOMED-SHIP-Fatal-Voyage-The-Titanic>

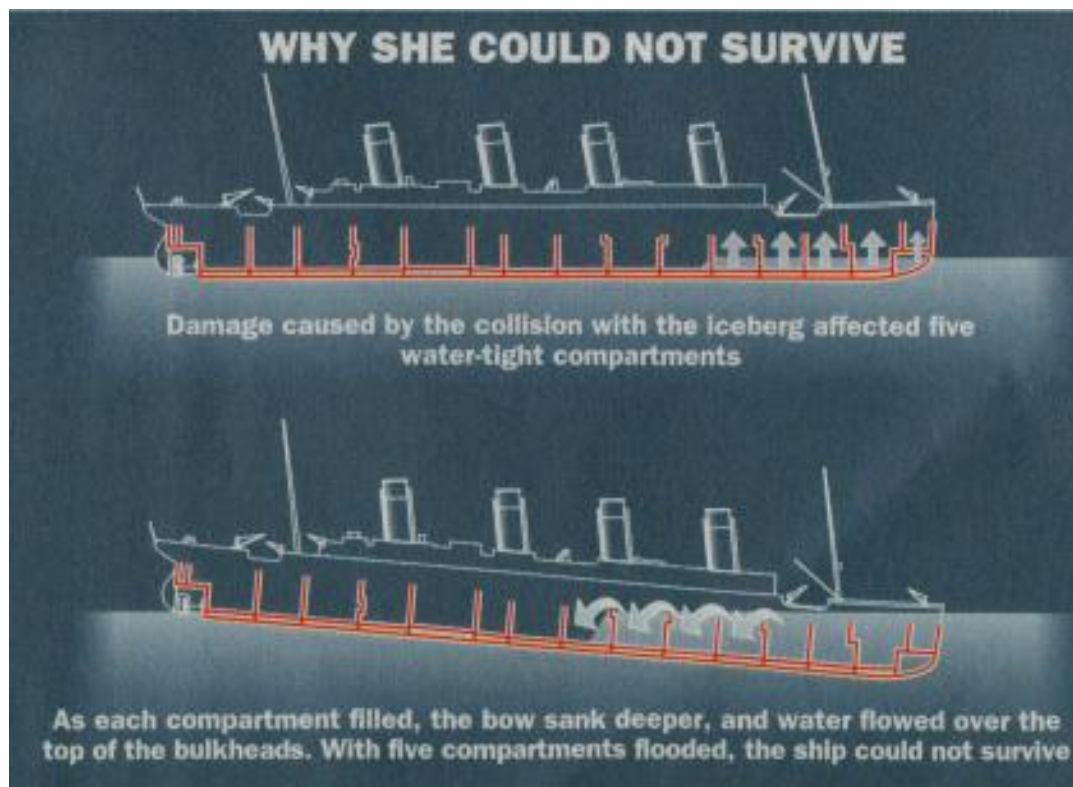
See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-DOOMED-SHIP-Fatal-Voyage-The-Titanic>

## Questions 2 Ponder

### How Does Knowledge of a Looming Disaster Help to Save Lives?

Thomas Andrews—who designed *Titanic*—knew that the huge ship could remain afloat with four flooded forward compartments. She would surely sink, however, if five forward compartments were flooded.



Explain how the Captain and the ship's designer, Thomas Andrews, knew that *Titanic* was going to sink.

How did that knowledge, of an impending disaster, impact the unfolding situation aboard the ship?

If you were the Captain, and you knew that five forward compartments were flooded—meaning that *Titanic* would sink—how would you handle the situation?

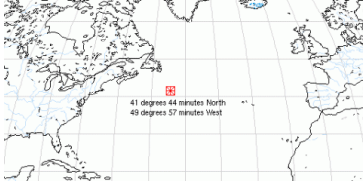
Would your answer change if you also knew that the ship did not have enough lifeboats to accommodate all the passengers and all the crew members? If so, what would you do differently?

## When Is “Being Close” not Enough to Make a Difference?

Why was the ship nearest *Titanic*, the *Californian*, not able to reach the sinking vessel in time to rescue the passengers and crew before they were in the water too long?

Assess how their predicament may have seemed to *Titanic's* crew and passengers, who were in the water, when they could see the lights of a nearby ship which was not moving toward the disaster scene.

### Media Stream

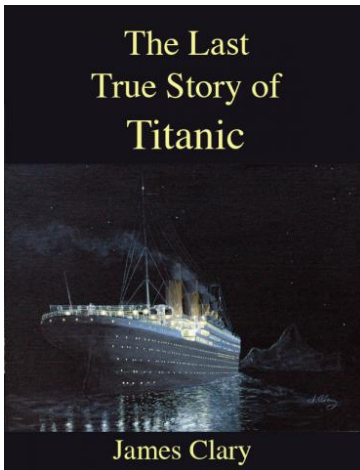


#### Titanic's Final Resting Place

Map image online, courtesy NASA.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Titanic-s-Final-Resting-Place>

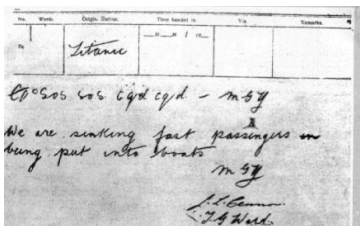


#### The Last True Story of Titanic - by James G. Clary

Image cover, online via James Clary. Copyright, James Clary, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new readers with [the book](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Last-True-Story-of-Titanic-by-James-G.-Clary>



#### Titanic's Last SOS Transmission

Image online, courtesy UK National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Titanic-s-Last-SOS-Transmission>



#### Titanic Sinking - Disaster in the North Atlantic

Clip from a documentary on the disaster.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Titanic-Sinking-Disaster-in-the-North-Atlantic->