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Carpathia, skippered by Captain Arthur Rostron (from Liverpool), at Pier 54 in New York City, after safely rescuing *Titanic*'s survivors in April of 1912. Six years and three months later, *Carpathia* was fatally torpedoed by U-55, a German submarine, during World War I. Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

Covering the distance of fifty-eight miles in 3½ hours, Captain Rostron later received a Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism. He had to skipper his ship through the same ice-filled sea which had stopped the *Californian* and had sunk the *Titanic*. He testified at the U.S. Senate hearing:

...I made out an iceberg about a point on the port bow, to which I had to port to keep well clear of. Knowing that the Titanic had struck ice, of course I had to take extra care and every precaution to keep clear of anything that might look like ice.

Between 2:45 and 4 o'clock, the time I stopped my engines, we were passing icebergs on every side and making them ahead and having to alter our course several times to clear the bergs.

At 4 o'clock I stopped.

At 4:10 I got the first boat alongside.

Not allowing anyone on board his ship to use hot water (so his engines had all available steam), Rostron still arrived too late for people whose sole means of survival were life jackets. That he arrived at all was incredible:

The whole thing was absolutely providential. I will tell you this, that the wireless operator was in his cabin, at the time, not on official business at all, but just simply listening as he was undressing...He had this apparatus on his ear, and the message came. That was the whole thing. In 10 minutes, maybe he would have been in bed, and we would not have heard the messages.

Carpathia's passengers took pictures of the lifeboats with their survivors. (Follow this link to view lifeboat 6 with Molly Brown aboard.) It took several hours to load everyone onto the rescue ship.

Once Stanley Lord, the *Californian*'s captain, realized what had happened to the *Titanic*, he also raced to the scene. When he arrived, at 8 a.m., he found nothing of the ship but wreckage.

Captain Rostron did not want his rescued passengers to see any dead bodies. He wanted them to leave their ice-filled surroundings as quickly as possible. By 8:50 a.m. he was steaming back to New York, having altered his original course to Gibraltar.

The bodies would be retrieved by others.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/RESCUE-OF-THE-LIVING-Fatal-Voyage-The-Titanic>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/RESCUE-OF-THE-LIVING-Fatal-Voyage-The-Titanic>

Questions 2 Ponder

Is It Ever a Good Idea to Put Ourselves at Risk in Order to Save Others?

Using your own words, describe the *Carpathia's* voyage as the ship steamed toward *Titanic's* last-known location.

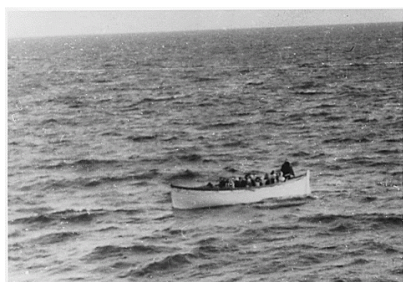
Do you think Captain Rostron deserved a Congressional Medal of Honor for reaching the *Titanic* in time to save some of the stricken ship's passengers and crew members? Why, or why not?

Are Events Ever Miraculous or Providential?

What role did Captain Rostron's actions play in rescuing *Titanic's* survivors? How do you assess Captain's Rostron's description of events as "Providential?"

What do you think would have happened to *Titanic's* survivors but for the actions of Captain Rostron and Thomas Cottam?

Media Stream



Titanic Passengers in A Lifeboat

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Titanic-Passengers-in-A-Lifeboat>



Launching Lifeboats

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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Survivors in Titanic Lifeboats

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Survivors-in-Titanic-Lifeboats>



Lifeboat 6 - Titanic

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lifeboat-6-Titanic>



Stanley Lord - Captain of the Californian

Image online, courtesy the findagrave.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Stanley-Lord-Captain-of-the-Californian>



Titanic - Last Surviving Passenger

Video clip, courtesy Al Jazeera English - a YouTube channel.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Titanic-Last-Surviving-Passenger>