



Harold Thomas Cottam, from Southwell (Nottinghamshire, England), was a 20-year-old wireless operator on board the *Carpathia* when *Titanic's* wireless operators were sending their distress calls.

Ready for bed, Cottam thought he'd check-in with *Titanic* one more time before leaving his office for the night. He received a surprising response - a distress message - from *Titanic*.

A series of communications between Cottam and the *Titanic* followed thereafter:

Titanic 12.20am: **COME AT ONCE. WE HAVE STRUCK A BERG. IT'S A CQD, OLD MAN**

Cottam 12.25am: **SHALL I TELL MY CAPTAIN? DO YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE?**

Titanic 12.26am: **YES, COME QUICK**

Cottam 12.32am: **PUTTING ABOUT AND HEADING FOR YOU**

Titanic 12.40am: **SOS TITANIC SINKING BY THE HEAD. WE ARE ABOUT ALL DOWN**

Although *Titanic* sank while the *Carpathia* was en route, Cottam's efforts helped to save around 700 people. Without his efforts, a rescue vessel would have arrived much later to the scene of the wreck.

This image depicts Harold Cottam aboard the *Carpathia* in 1912, at the beginning of his voyage. He lived until May of 1984 and was 93 years old at the time of his death.

Cottam has always been considered a "hero" of the *Titanic* disaster.

Credits:

Image online, courtesy "[Our Nottinghamshire](#)" website.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Harold-Thomas-Cottam-Titanic-Hero>

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Media Stream



Harold Thomas Cottam - Titanic Hero

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