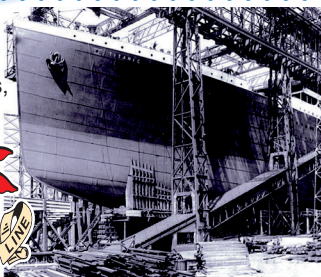


Ninety years of mystique

No other story about the sea has been told so often. *The Titanic* – the most famous shipwreck of all time – continues to generate superlatives. Artefacts from the wreck have been seen by millions; there are more than 15,700 sites on the Internet and now she sails again in the world's most costly movie to date

1907 The White Star Line plans to build three superships, the *Titanic*, *Olympic* and *Britannic* will be the biggest and safest luxury liners afloat



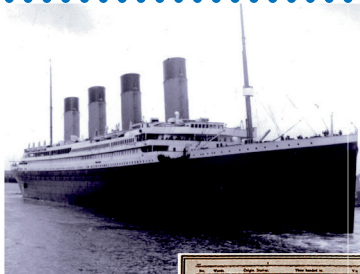
1909 March 31: First keel plate of *Titanic* laid at *Harland & Wolff* shipyard in Belfast. More than 11,300 workers are required to build the 1,200-ton ship which costs about £1.5m – almost £70.5m at today's values



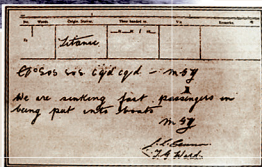
1911 May 31: *Titanic* is launched and months of fitting out begin. 62-year-old Captain **Edward J. Smith** is set to retire after taking *Titanic* on her maiden voyage



1912 April 10: 'Unsinkable' *Titanic* departs Southampton on her maiden voyage to New York via Cherbourg and Queenstown. During Sunday, April 14, the Marconi wireless room receives seven reports of a huge field of ice ahead

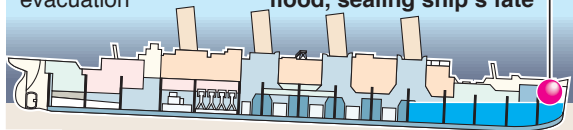


April 14, 11.40pm: Lookout reports 'Iceberg right ahead!' *Titanic* hits the iceberg a glancing blow along its starboard bow – water begins to pour into the liner's 'watertight' compartments



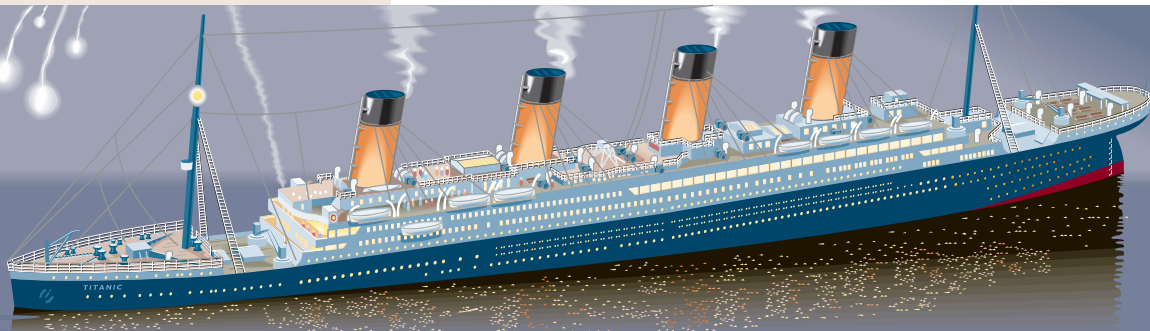
April 15, 12.05am: As water floods over *Titanic's* bulkheads, Captain Smith orders evacuation

Titanic is designed to float with up to four compartments breached. **First five compartments flood, sealing ship's fate**



12.15am: Radio operator transmits CQD – Come Quick Danger – distress call, followed by new signal, SOS – Save Our Souls

02.20: *Titanic* sinks **04.10:** Rescue ship *Carpathia* picks up first survivors. Of 2,228 people on board, only 705 survive



1953 Hollywood takes up the story. *Titanic* stars **Clifton Webb** and **Barbara Stanwick**



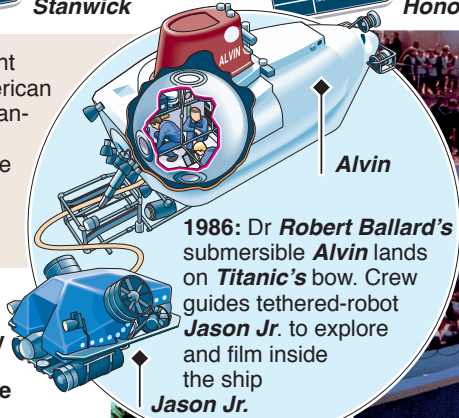
1958 *A Night to Remember*, written by **Eric Ambler**, stars **Kenneth Moore** and **Honor Blackman**



1980 *Raise the Titanic!* 'It would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic' – **Lew Grade** on his \$40m flop

1985 Joint French-American team of oceanographers discovers the *Titanic* at a depth of 2.5 miles

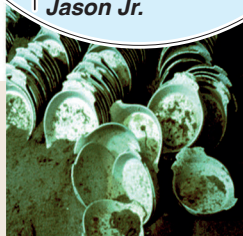
1986 Wreck is explored by a manned submersible



1986: Dr **Robert Ballard's** submersible *Alvin* lands on *Titanic's* bow. Crew guides tethered-robot **Jason Jr.** to explore and film inside the ship

1987 First artefacts recovered

1994 *The Wreck of the Titanic* exhibition opens at the National Maritime Museum, London



1998 **James Cameron's** whopping \$200 million *Titanic* is the most expensive film in the history of cinema. Costing more than \$1 million per minute, it stars **Kate Winslet**, **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Kathy Bates** as the 'unsinkable' Molly Brown. Director Cameron spared no expense – taking two submarines down to the wreck to shoot opening sequences on the *Titanic's* decks, and building a replica nine tenths as large as the ship itself

