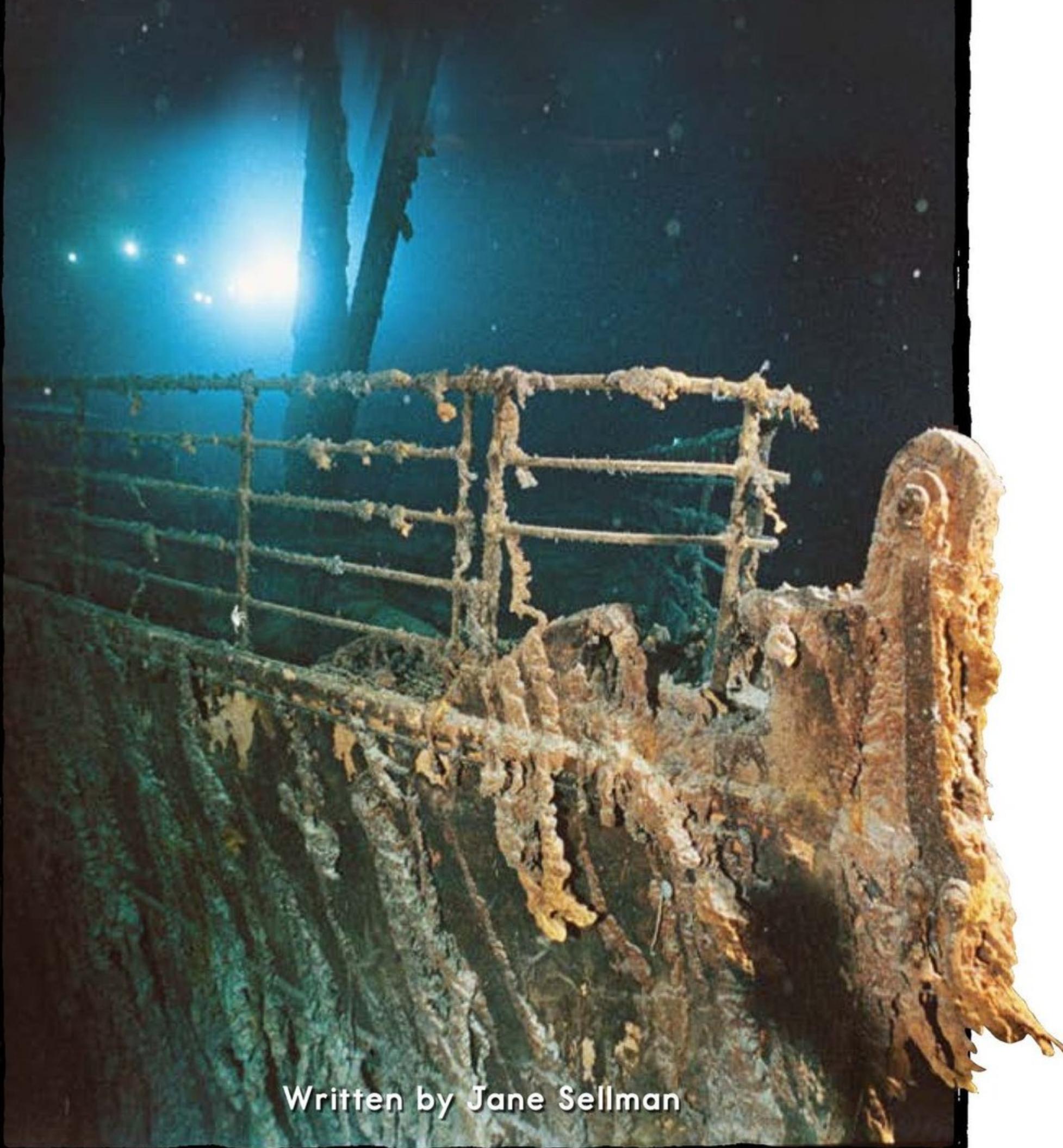


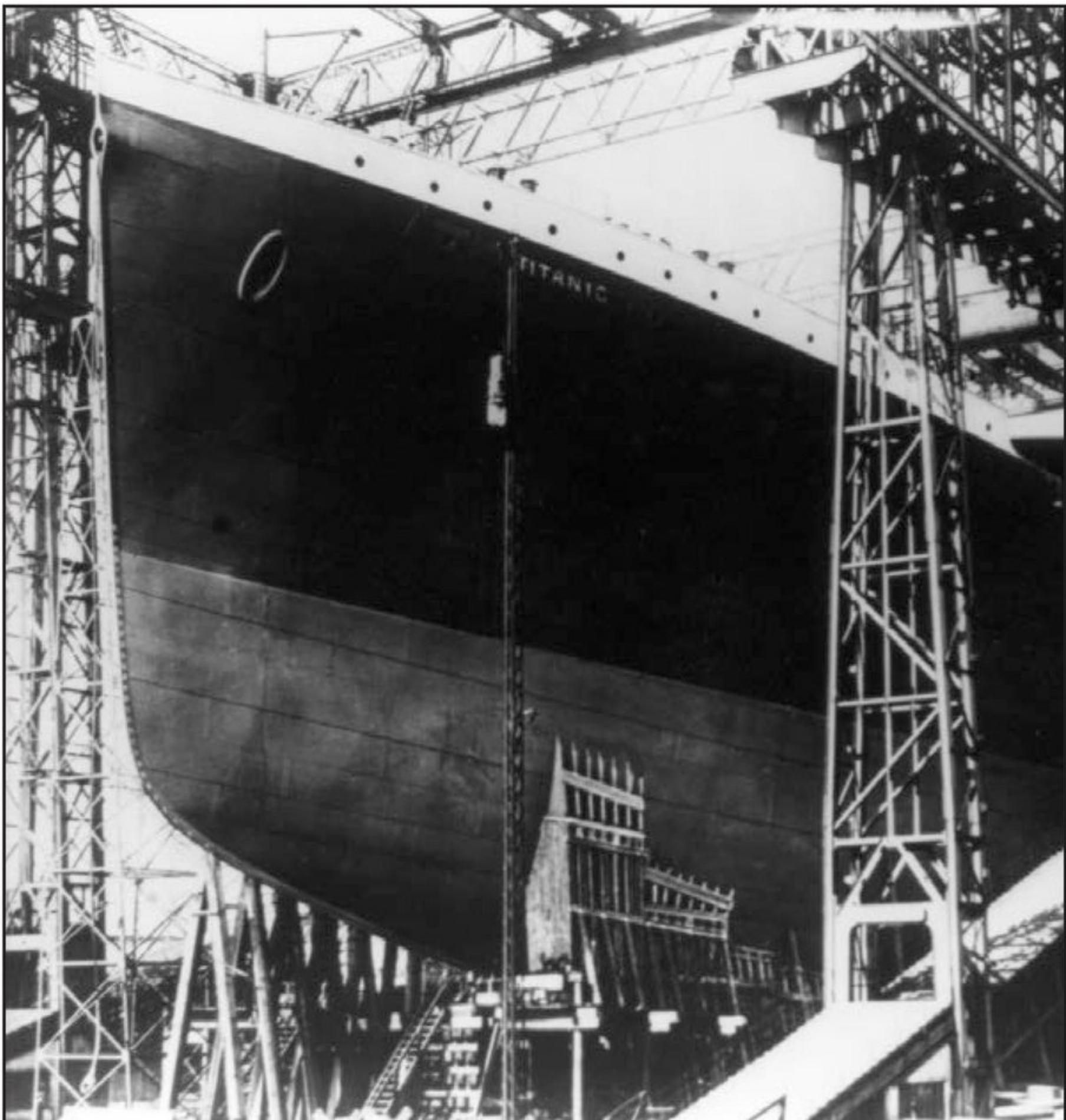
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Titanic Treasure



Written by Jane Sellman

Titanic Treasure



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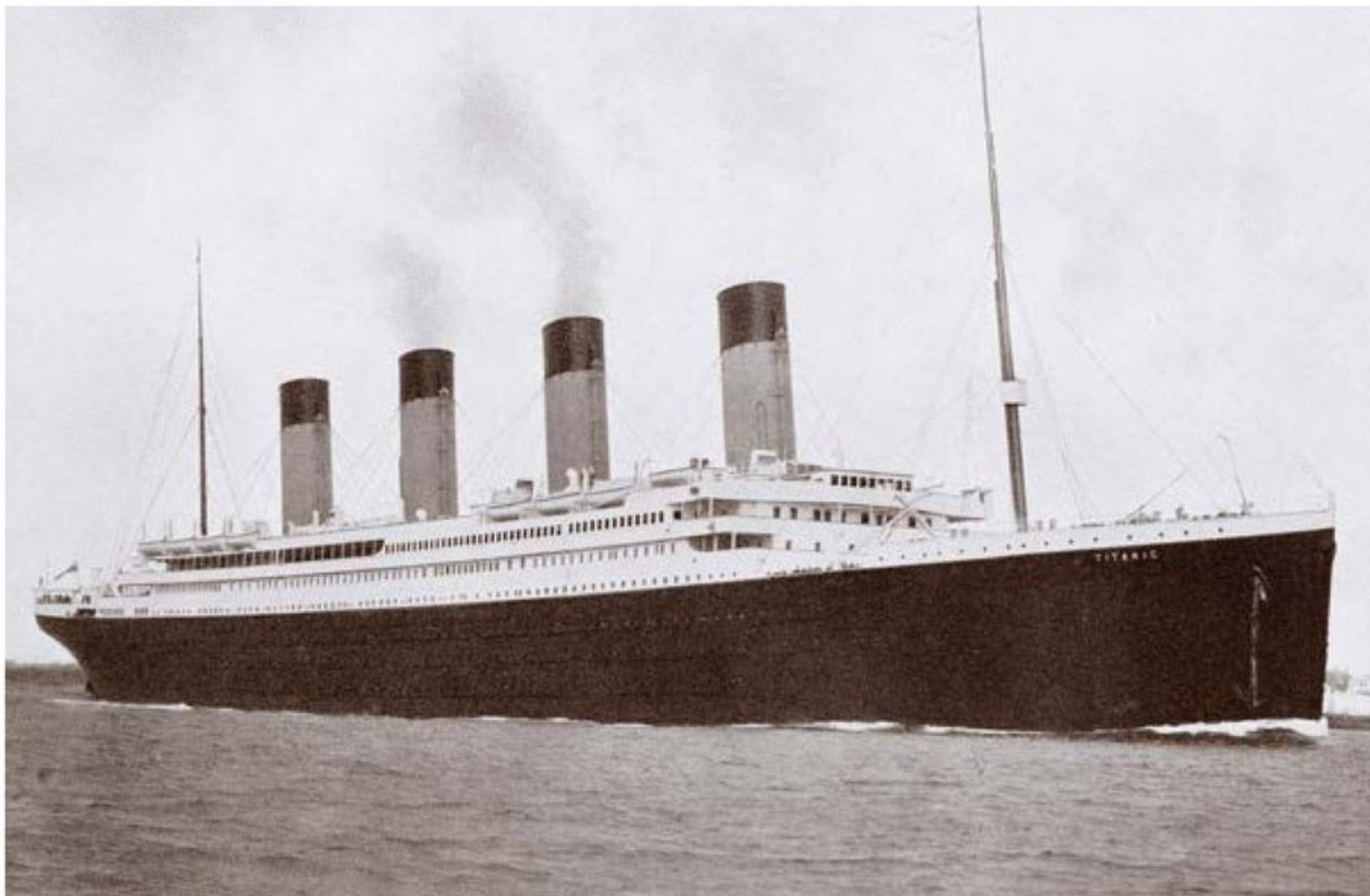


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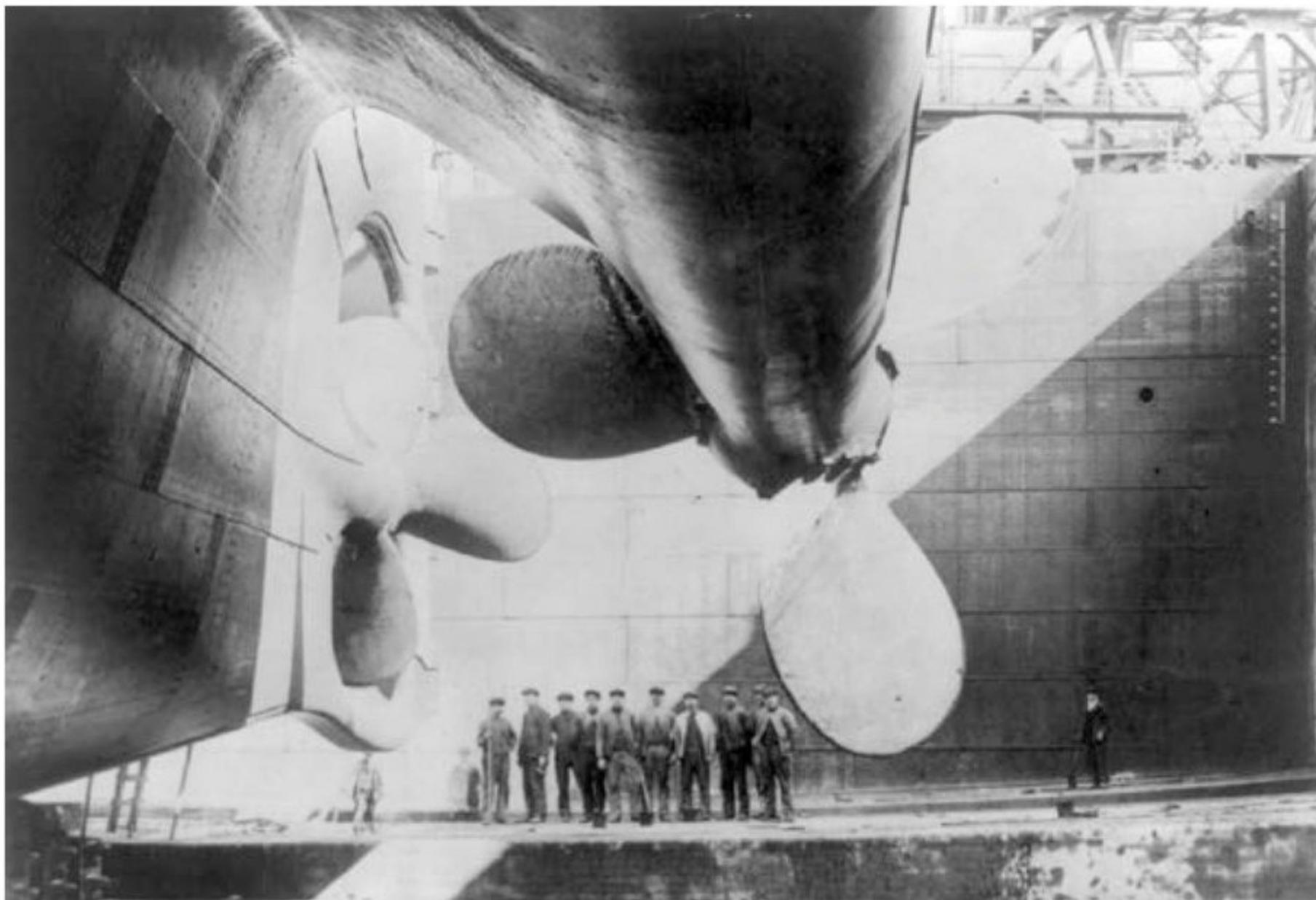
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Introduction

The sea was calm as a huge new ship bound for New York City crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Suddenly, just before midnight, the crew and passengers felt a jarring thud as the ship struck an iceberg. Less than three hours later, the ship broke in two, disappeared under water, and sank to the bottom of the ocean. The *Titanic* was gone forever—or was it?



A painting depicting the sinking of the *Titanic*



The size of the *Titanic* is clear in the comparison of the ship's propellers with the men in the background.

The Unsinkable Ship

The *Titanic* was built in 1911 to travel across the Atlantic Ocean. Back in the early 1900s, airplanes were not available for passenger travel. The only way to travel between Europe and the United States was by ship.

The *Titanic* was the largest passenger ship ever built. It rose twelve stories high, and the length from **bow** to **stern** equaled three football fields. The builders fitted the ship with watertight doors to prevent the ship from sinking.



Most of an iceberg's hazards lie beneath the surface (top); the fateful route of the *Titanic* (right).

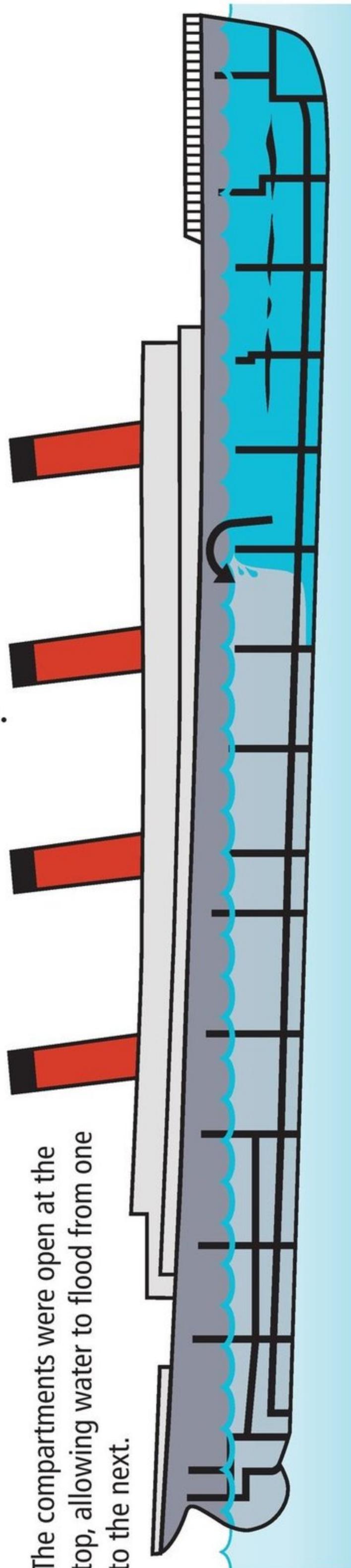


Tragedy Strikes

Many people wanted to travel on the ship's **maiden voyage**. The last passengers boarded the *Titanic* on April 10, 1912. The ship left Southampton, England, and sailed for New York City, United States, but it never arrived. On the night of April 14, the ship struck an iceberg. People were not worried because they had been told that the ship was unsinkable.

The side of the ship scraped an iceberg, causing seawater to pour in. With more than 2,200 people aboard, the *Titanic* started to sink. The ship did not carry enough lifeboats because people believed the ship was unsinkable. Women and children quickly filled the few lifeboats that were available. Many people in the lower decks could not reach the boats in time.

The *Titanic*'s bow was soon under water. Then, at 2:17 am, the *Titanic* split in two. More water rushed in, and the two parts of the ship slipped under water and sank to the bottom of the ocean. About 1,500 people did not survive that night.



For many years, people discussed the tragedy and what may have caused the “unsinkable” *Titanic* to sink. Some people tried to locate the ship, hoping to find clues to help them understand what happened. But the water was too deep, too dark, and too cold. The mystery of the *Titanic* tragedy went unsolved.



Rough seas place crews at risk and thwart efforts to find out what happened to the *Titanic*.



Robert Ballard

Following Curiosity

As a boy, Robert Ballard was very curious about the ocean. He explored the beach in southern California, where he grew up. His parents and teachers encouraged his curiosity about the ocean. Robert spent hours fishing and exploring the sea life in **tidal pools**. Then he learned how to **snorkel** and **scuba dive**.



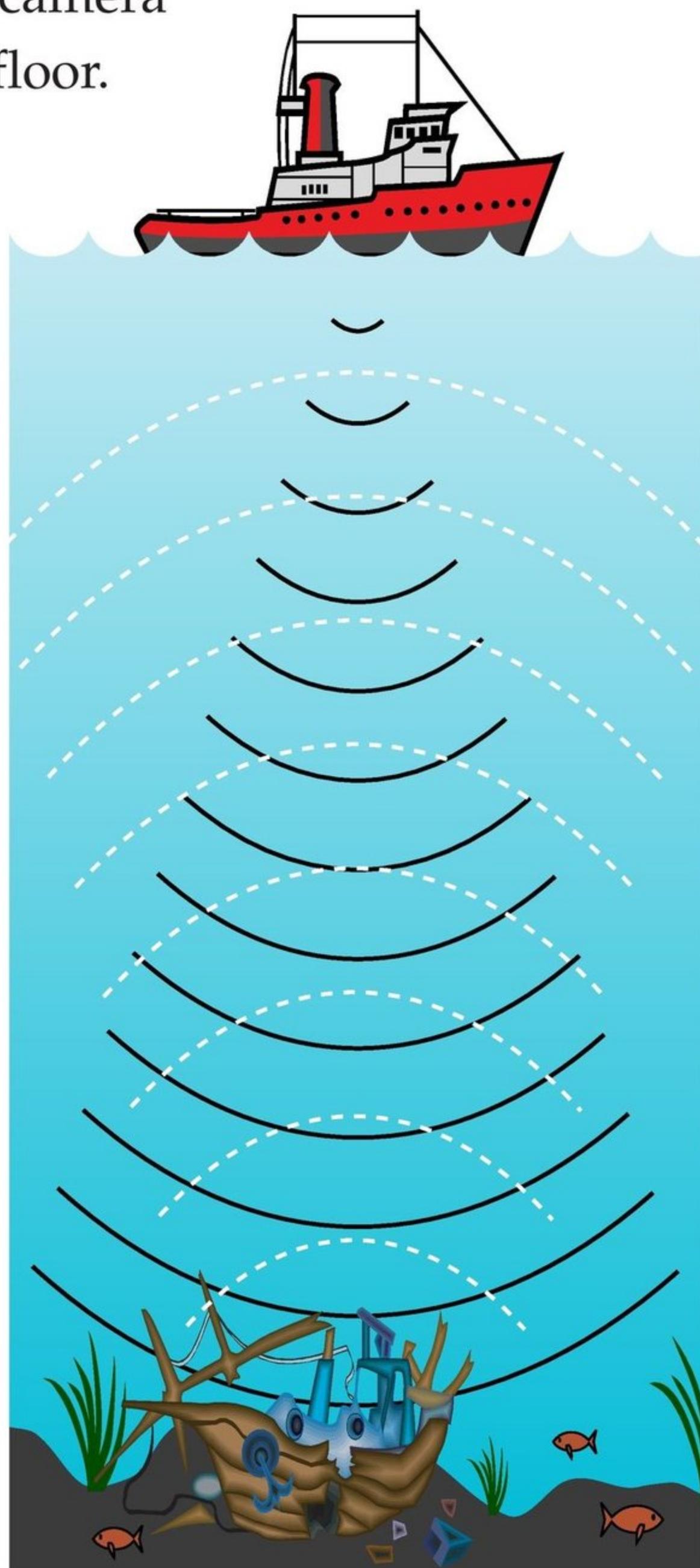
Robert Ballard, center, and fellow scientists

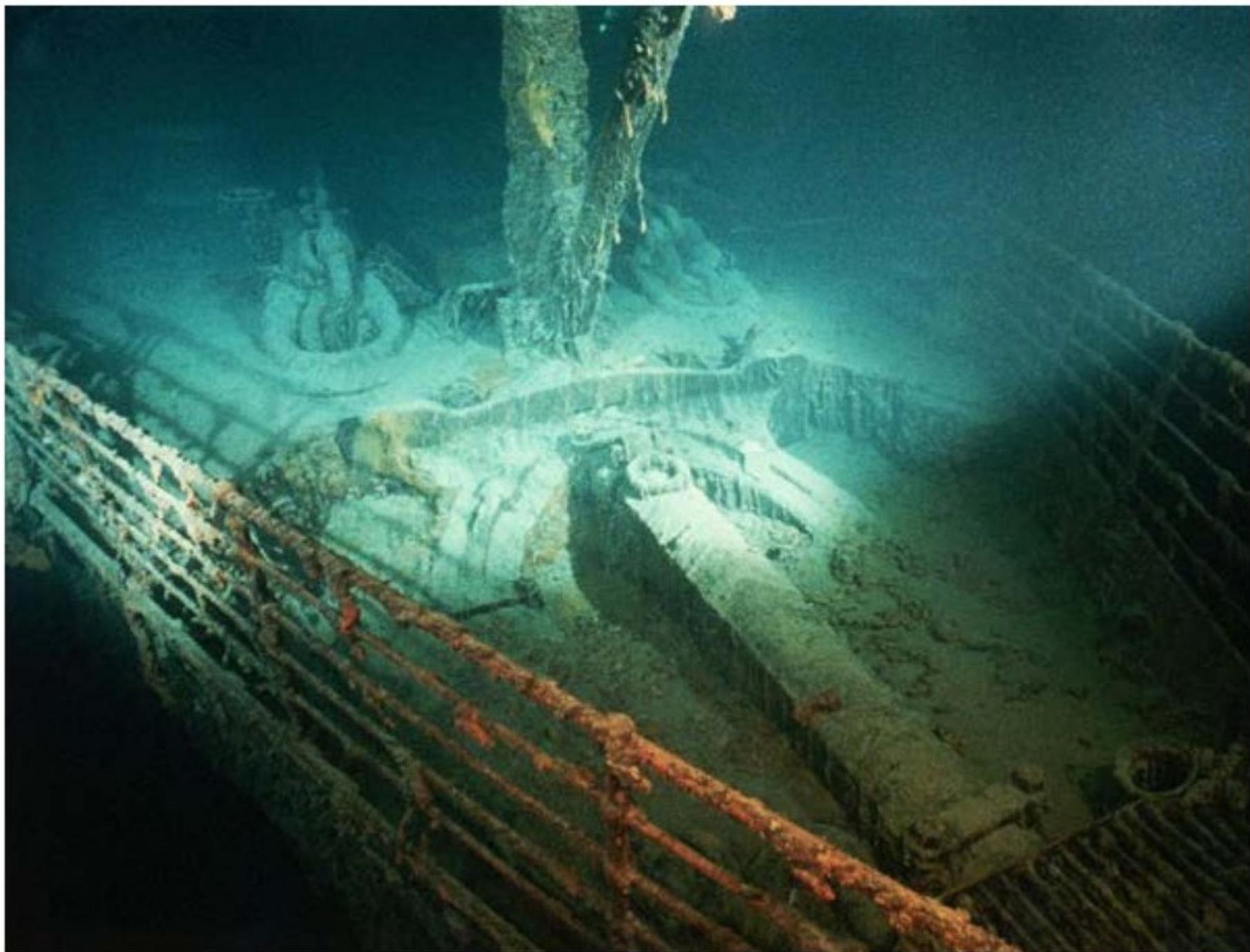
Robert followed his curiosity and studied many subjects to prepare for becoming an underwater explorer. He studied geology to learn about rocks and minerals, and he studied other sciences, too. In the U.S. Navy, he received more training. Robert went to work for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts and studied Earth's oceans. He became interested in shipwrecks and decided to find the *Titanic*.

By 1985, advancements in technology allowed for more **remote** ocean exploration. So Robert and his fellow scientists went to the area where the *Titanic* had sunk. They first used a small video camera to study the ocean floor.

Robert and his co-workers also used sonar, which enables people to locate distant things using sound waves. One day, **sonar** showed marks on the ocean floor. Soon the group discovered pieces of a ship and a **hull**—which is the main part of a ship.

Through sonar, a ship can explore the depths of the oceans.





Comparing photos like this one to old photos of the *Titanic* let Robert's team know they had found the right ship.

By comparing what they saw with old photographs, the team members knew they had found the *Titanic*. At first they were so excited that they yelled and clapped. Although, later, they felt sad. They held a memorial service for the ship's passengers who did not survive.

Robert and his co-workers began to videotape the ship and study the tapes. However, winter was coming, and Robert's curiosity would have to wait. The sea had become too rough and dangerous for the exploration to continue.

A Closer Look

In 1986, Robert and his team returned better prepared. They now had *Alvin*, a **submersible** that allowed the person inside it to get into tight places underwater and move quickly. Robert also brought *Jason Junior*, which allowed a person above the surface of the water to control it. Robert's team used *Alvin* to view the decks and rooms of the ship's wreckage. They recorded more video, and *Jason Junior* also took pictures.



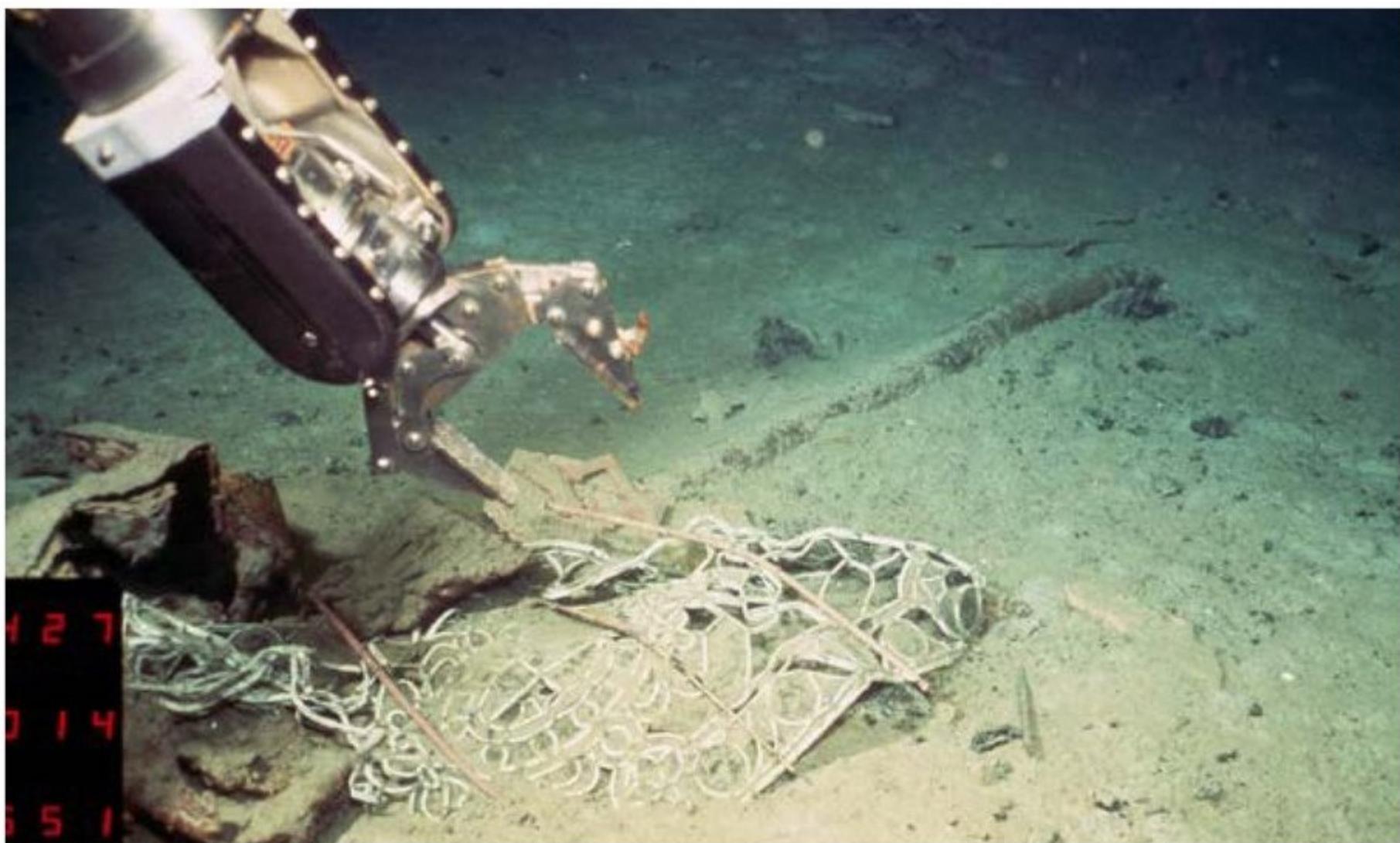
The
submersible
Jason Junior

The explorers were amazed and saddened by what they found. The bow and stern of the *Titanic* were 1,900 feet (579 m) from each other. Between the two pieces of the ship was a **debris field**. The team saw shoes, a safe, a bathtub, and even part of a doll.



Titanic's debris field

Robert and his team also saw that the iceberg had struck the ship's hull, causing the damage that allowed water to rush in. The weight of the water caused the ship to sink.



A mechanical arm sifts through shipwreck debris.

Robert tried to protect the *Titanic* from treasure hunters. He did not want anyone to take the things that belonged to the ship or its passengers. But in the following year, **salvagers** took away thousands of items from the ship. Some of the items were placed in an exhibit.

Robert Ballard is still protecting the *Titanic*. Every time someone explores the shipwreck, the remains are damaged more. Robert's goal is to get governments to sign a treaty, or agreement, saying that no one may take anything from the ship. Robert believes the *Titanic* should be respected as a memorial to those who died aboard it. The United Kingdom and the United States have both signed this treaty.

Lessons from the Tragedy

After the *Titanic* tragedy, shipbuilders no longer believed a ship could truly be unsinkable. Crews became better trained to take care of passengers in emergency situations. People learned the importance of putting enough life jackets and lifeboats on each ship for all passengers.



life jackets

The *Titanic* also taught people about the incredible power of the ocean. Scientists have

discovered that the shipwreck's metal is being eaten away by tiny bits of rust. Tourists and divers have also added to the ship's problems, littering it with everything from artificial flowers to soda bottles.



Lifeboats on a modern cruise ship



A doctor's bag collected from the *Titanic*'s wreckage

Protecting the *Titanic* is a way to protect history. The original **artifacts** on the ship tell a story that needs to be heard as it really happened. Every time people remove something from the *Titanic* or add something to its remains, they change history. Whenever this happens, it becomes harder to tell what happened to those 2,200 passengers over one hundred years ago.

A *Titanic* Survivor

Millvina Dean was nine weeks old when she was carried aboard the *Titanic*. Along with her parents and brother, she was going to the United States. Her father hoped to open a tobacco shop there.

Millvina and her mother and brother survived the sinking of the *Titanic*. Aboard their rescue ship, baby Millvina became a celebrity. Everyone wanted to hold the littlest survivor and take her picture.

The Dean family returned to England. During World War II, Millvina helped her country by drawing maps for the government. She became a celebrity again in her 70s and often attended *Titanic* conventions.



Glossary

artifacts	discovered objects made or used by humans (p. 17)
bow	the front of a ship (p. 5)
debris field	an area in which items from a wreck are located (p. 14)
hull	the outer body or shell of a ship (p. 11)
maiden voyage	the first voyage of a ship (p. 6)
remote	distant or hard to reach (p. 11)
salvagers	people who recover parts of a ship after a shipwreck (p. 15)
scuba dive	to stay under water for long periods of time by using special breathing equipment (p. 9)
snorkel	to swim using a short, curved tube that allows the swimmer to breathe while under water (p. 9)
sonar	a device that sends high-frequency sound waves through water and records their reflection back to the system (p. 11)

stern	the back of a ship (p. 5)
submersible	a small vessel designed to be operated while completely under water (p. 13)
tidal pools	pools of water that remain on a coastline after the tide becomes lower (p. 9)
tragedy	an event that causes great destruction, suffering, or loss of life (p. 8)

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