

## 9-B Death of the Ti·tan·ic

When it **made** its **mai·den** **voy·age** in 1912, the Ti·tan·ic was the **grea·test** ship of its **time**. No·th·ing had been spared for the **com·fort** of **pas·sen·ger**s. **Below** **deck**s, 16 **wa·ter·tight** **com·part·ment**s **sep·a·ra·ted** by **e·mer·gen·cy** **door**s **made** the **hu**ge ship **un·sink·a·ble**. At **lea**st, that was what the ship's buil·ders thought.

On **A·pril** 14, the Ti·tan·ic's **of·fi·cer**s **re·cei**ved **dis·tur·bing** **mess·a·ge**s from o·ther ships. The **La·bra·dor** **curr·ent** had **car·ried** **hu**ge **i**ce·bergs **far·ther** **sou·th** than **us·u·al**, well **in·to** **ship·ping** **lane**s. The **war·ning**s were **ig·nored**. Then at 11:40 that **night**, a **young** **sai·lor** on **wa·tch** **saw** some·th·ing **a·head**. **He** rang

the look·out **bell** and sent a **mess·age** to the **bridge**: "**I**ce·berg **right** **a·head**." **Less** **than** a **min·ute** **la·ter**, the ship **trem·bled**. **Deep** **down** **below** the **water·line**, **sai·lor**s **stared** **un·be·liev·ingly** **as** a **tw**o·**foot·high** (60·**cen·ti·me·ter·high**) **rush** of **i·cy** **sea·wa·ter** **poured** through a **gash** in the ship's **side**. **An**

of·fi·cer hit the le·ver that closed all the wa·ter·tight doors. As the sai·lor<sup>s</sup> climb<sup>e</sup>d an es·c<sup>a</sup>pe la·dder, they saw the hull ra·pid·ly fil·ling with wa·ter.

Just af·ter mid·night, the cap·tain or·dered the ship a·ban·doned. At 2:20 A.M., those in the life·boat<sup>s</sup> look·ing back at the *Ti·tan·ic* saw the stern of the ship lift clear of the wa·ter. Then the *Ti·tan·ic* slid down in·t<sup>o</sup> the dark·ness and was gone. Of more than 2,200 pas·sen·ger<sup>s</sup> and crew, on·ly 705 sur·vived.