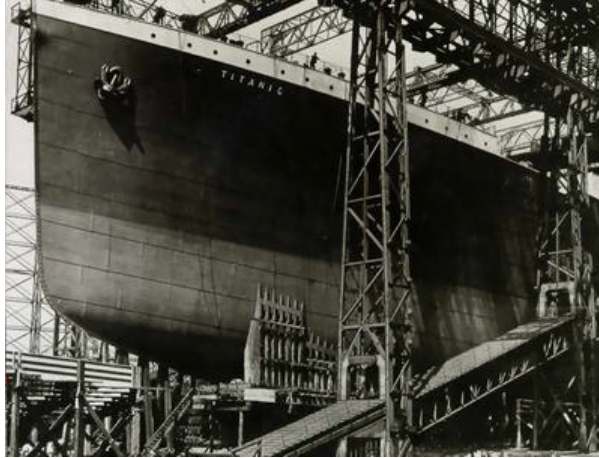


The Titanic

The RMS Titanic was built in 1912 at the Harland and Wolff Shipyards in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was commissioned by a British shipping company, White Star Line, to be used as a passenger ship to carry people across the Atlantic Ocean between North America and Europe.

Weighing 45,000 tons, 882 feet in length and with a

capacity to carry around 3,500 passengers, the Titanic was the biggest and most luxurious boat ever built in the world at the time.

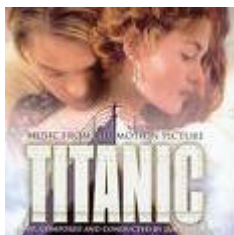


But the story of the Titanic is a tragic one. On April 14th 1912, four days after she set off on her first voyage, the Titanic hit a giant iceberg which cracked the side of the ship and ultimately caused it to sink. Due to a shortage of lifeboats, 1,517 of the passengers that were on board died. 123 people had boarded the Titanic at Cobh in the very south of Ireland. A memorial has been erected in Cobh in honour of the victims of the sinking of the Titanic.

Fun Fact: One of the famous myths from the Titanic is the story of the ship's band who continued to play music even as the ship was sinking.



Despite the tragic journey of the Titanic, before she sank she was hailed as 'the new wonder of the world' and remains a source of pride in the city she was built - Belfast. In 1909, when work began on building the Titanic, Belfast was one of the world's greatest ports. In Belfast today you can visit the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum to see the Titanic exhibition and the Harland and Wolff Shipyards where she was built. There is also an annual 'Titanic Made in Belfast' festival which includes exhibitions, school projects, speakers, bus, boat and walking tours and dramatic re-enactments.



Fun Fact: In 1997, a movie simply called 'Titanic' was made about the sinking of the RMS Titanic. It went on to become the highest grossing film of all time and won 11 Academy Awards at the Oscars.

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