

Titanic remembered 缅怀泰坦尼克号

The 100th anniversary of the ship they said would never sink has been remembered in a number of special events this week.

It was on the night of April 15th 1912 that the world's largest ship, Titanic, struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage.

The owners of the huge vessel, White Star Line, had said the ship was "designed to be unsinkable" but people interpreted this as proof that it was completely invincible.

But sadly this wasn't the case and more than 1,500 people perished in the icy cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. It was a tragedy that is still remembered today and a story that has become part of the popular imagination. The Titanic is a symbol for the most epic and glamorous failure.



Myths and legends surround the story but the only real first-hand account of what happened can be discovered from the collection of wireless messages sent between the Titanic and the other ships which hurriedly tried to organise a rescue operation.

It is a telegraphic narrative showing how the Titanic had been given warnings of ice by other ships and which records the increasingly frantic calls for assistance after the collision with the huge iceberg.

"Come at once. We have struck a berg. It's a CQD, [an official distress signal] old man," the Titanic called to another ship, the Carpathia. It was like trying to organise a rescue by Twitter, with operators on other ships trying to make sense of the stream of sometimes contradictory information.

The Titanic, as the showcase of an ambitious, optimistic era, had the biggest and best wireless equipment in the world but investigations after the sinking would never satisfactorily establish why these warnings had been ignored.

Its sinking may have happened 100 years ago, but the ship's legacy still plays an important role in the way the maritime industry works today. International safety regulations became far stricter following the disaster and these rules are still governing the way ships are built.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Is this statement true, false, or not given? *The Titanic was on its first trip when the disaster happened.*
2. What did the owners of the Titanic say it was designed to be?
3. How did ships communicate with each other when they were at sea?
4. What word describes the current interest of an event that happened in the past?
5. What has the maritime industry done to the international safety regulations since the disaster?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Many of the true stories about what happened to the Titanic are from _____ told in messages sent from the ship.

myths	tweets	first-hand accounts	rumours
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2. Certain messages being received by one ship _____ messages being received by other ships.

contradicted	contradictory	contraband	controls
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3. A very confident and positive time in history can be described as an _____.

golden era	ambitious era	fantastic era	optimistic era
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4. When people are trying to send messages quickly and in a panic they are sending them _____.

frantic	frantically	frantastically	frantics
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5. The Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean after _____ an iceberg.

struck	stroking	striking	streaking
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Is this statement true, false, or not given? *The Titanic was on its first trip when the disaster happened.* True
2. What did the owners of the Titanic say it was designed to be? Unsinkable
3. How did ships communicate with each other when they were at sea? By wireless or telegraphic messages
4. What word describes the current interest of an event that happened in the past? Legacy
5. What has the maritime industry done to the international safety regulations since the disaster? Made them stricter

Exercise 练习

1. Many of the true stories about what happened to the Titanic are from first hand accounts told in messages sent from the ship.
2. Certain messages being received by one ship contradicted messages being received by other ships.
3. A very confident and positive time in history can be described as an optimistic era.
4. When people are trying to send messages quickly and in a panic they are sending them frantically.
5. The Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean after striking an iceberg.

Glossary 词汇表

maiden voyage	处女航/首航
vessel	船只
invincible	所向无敌的
perished	消失
part of the popular imagination	人们的想象的一部分
myths	神话
first-hand account	第一手记录
telegraphic narrative	电报内容
contradictory	相互矛盾的
optimistic era	乐观的时代
legacy	遗产
maritime industry	航海业