

Sunday April 14th 1912

On April 14th, 1912, Titanic had been at sea for four days. Several ice warnings were received during the day from various ships including the 'Noordam', 'Caronia', 'Baltic', 'Amerika', 'Californian' and 'Mesaba'.

Captain Smith decided to alter the Titanic's course twenty five miles further south to avoid the reported ice. The Titanic was travelling at a speed of 22 knots and the air was getting colder as the day went on. At 9.40pm a wireless message was received from the 'Mesaba' warning that ice lay right ahead of the Titanic.

At 11.00pm the Leyland Line's Californian's wireless operator tried to warn Titanic of the ice ahead, but was told to "shut up! shut up!" by a busy Jack Phillips. The Californian's wireless was then shut down and operator Cyril Evans retired for the night.

Titanic was steaming at 20.5 knots. Suddenly, the lookouts, Frederick Fleet and Reginald Robinson Lee, saw an iceberg dead ahead about 500 yards away towering some 55-60 feet above the water. They immediately sounded the warning bell with three sharp rings and telephoned the bridge: "Iceberg right ahead".