

## **Sea Trials - April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1912**

Titanic's sea trials were originally scheduled for 10.00am on Monday, 1st April, a mere nine days before she was due to leave Southampton on her maiden voyage, but due to the adverse weather the trials were postponed until the following day.

On board Titanic were 78 members of her 'black gang' stokers, greasers and firemen. There were also a further 41 members of crew which included officers, senior crewmen, cooks and storekeepers. Also on board were representatives of the various companies including Harold A. Sanderson on behalf of IMM, Thomas Andrews and Edward Wilding on behalf of Harland and Wolff.

At 6.00am Titanic began to make her way gracefully down Belfast Lough. Two miles off Carrickfergus a blue and white burgee was raised: 'I am undergoing speed trials'. Titanic made good speed of 20 knots. Several manoeuvres were carried out including turning using only the rudder, turning using only the propellers, and several start-stop tests. One of which included dropping a buoy into the water, which Titanic would run at full speed towards and stop. When Titanic came to a dead stop, she had taken about 850 yards to come to rest, successfully carrying out an emergency stop test.

After 12 hours of extensive trials Titanic arrived back in Belfast where the Board of Trade surveyor approved her as sea worthy for 12 months. Titanic left Belfast bound for Southampton where after an uneventful 600 mile voyage she arrived at Berth 44 from where she would depart in a little under seven days.