

Maiden Voyage 10th - 14th April 1912

Titanic berthed at midnight 4th April and the following day was Good Friday, an opportunity for people to visit the quayside and view the marvel of human ingenuity. The ship was 'dressed overall' with flags rising from the bow to the top of the two masts and then to the stern.

The next days witnessed the final flurry of activity, as mail sacks and cargo were stored along with passengers' luggage labelled 'not wanted on voyage'. Titanic received her first passengers on the morning of Wednesday 10th April. First and Second Class ticket holders boarded using covered walkways whilst Third Class or 'Steerage' passengers mounted the inclined gang planking into the ship's lower decks. For many it would take hours to begin to find their way round their strictly designated deck spaces.

As the ship set out at noon that day, suction from the propellers almost resulted in a premature end to the voyage. The liner New York broke away from its mooring and almost collided with Titanic. In one of the story's "what ifs", had the two ships collided then Titanic's first trip would have been postponed by at least a few days and her encounter in the ice fields therefore might not have occurred.

The ship carried on to Cherbourg arriving at 6.30pm to take on more passengers and mail. An overnight passage saw Titanic at Queenstown, now Cobh, Ireland at midday. Here the ship welcomed mostly steerage passengers, people bound for a new life in America. For a few this would mark the end of their time on board. Father Browne who had taken dozens of soon to be famous ship board photographs left with his plate camera on the paddle tender Ireland pausing to take the final photographs of Titanic.

With 2,228 passengers and crew safely on board the 15.5 ton starboard anchor was raised, the engine-room telegraphs rang ahead full and the ship steered past Roche Point and into the open Atlantic. The transatlantic trip should see Titanic berth in NY on Wed 17th April.