

DON'T BLAME THE ICEBERG

There were several mitigating circumstances that led to the sinking of the *Titanic* after it sideswiped an iceberg in 1912. The going theory is that the rivets used to hold the hull together were made from cheap steel, so they weren't able to hold the ship together after the accident.

But were it not for one man's absentmindedness, the *Titanic* would have never hit that iceberg in the first place. Second Officer David Blair was transferred just before the doomed ship set off for New York on April 10, 1912. In his haste, Blair either forgot or neglected to turn over all of his equipment to his replacement. Two of the forgotten items: the crow's nest binoculars and the key to the crow's nest telephone.

According to crew survivor testimony, if the lookouts had been given the binoculars, they would have seen the iceberg sooner. And if they'd had access to the phone, they could have alerted the bridge sooner. Either one of those two scenarios might have given the *Titanic* enough time to get out of the way, thereby saving 1,522 lives.