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THE WRECK OF THE TITANIC

DEATH ROLL 1490

Latest telegrams put the death roll caused by the foundering of the White Star liner, Titanic, at 1490.

The vessel carried 1465 passengers and 903 of a crew, a total of 2358, and there is every reason to fear that the death roll reaches the awful number of 1490. The terrible calamity has created consternation not only in this country and in the United States but also on the Continent, and on all hands great sympathy is expressed for the bereaved.

A Press Association telegram says: The faltering wireless communications have as yet given but a bare outline of the harrowing tragedy. What stands out is the fact that a gigantic mass of ice hopelessly crippled the supposedly unsinkable vessel, tearing and rending her plates and iron beams as to send her within four hours bow foremost to the bottom. Despite this respite the despatches are regarded as indicating that the urgency of the occasion was considered so great that few were given time to return to their state-rooms for their clothes and belongings, but how far the transfer to the boats and rafts had progressed is not known. That order prevailed in conditions which might well have been attended by chaos is eloquently shown by the proportion of women to men among the survivors, only 79 men so far having been reported as aboard the Carpathia out of a total of 248 souls whose names are yet to hand. These figures tell their own story of heroism and self-sacrifice. The Carpathia is now making for New York with 868 survivors, who alone can tell the tale of the midnight plunge into the whirlpool of ice, the wreckage, and drowning men with which the great ship went to her burial. Wireless messages have told how in the darkness there the crews had to guide the boats with greatest caution to prevent these being jammed in the ice or overturned by the swirling floes, so that the heavily laden craft became widely separated from each other. There followed hours of heartbreaking anguish before daylight came., and the first faint tones of the searching Carpathia's siren were heard through a dense fog. Even then their anxiety not at an end, for the Carpathia proceeded cautiously, sounding her fog whistle almost continuously, until one after another she picked up the scattered lifeboats. No other ship was in the neighbourhood of the disaster, although before the Titanic disappeared wireless messages were pouring in telling of the approach of the Olympic.

Contact: www.titanicfiles.org/impressum_english.htm

Contributed to www.titanicfiles.org by Susanne Störmer