



The Loss of the S. S. Titanic: Its Story and Its Lessons

Lawrence Beesley (1877 - 1967)

Read by:	Allyson Hester	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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The sinking of the largest ship afloat after a collision with an iceberg in the North Atlantic in April 1912 has sparked the interest of the general public ever since. The 2,224 people on board included some of the wealthiest people in the world, on hand to celebrate the maiden voyage of the celebrated vessel, as well as hundreds of European emigrants, most relegated to second class status that would prove fatal. While Titanic boasted numerous advanced safety features, she was equipped with lifeboats for only 1,178 people, just over half of capacity. The disaster was greeted with shock and outrage at the systemic failures that caused such huge loss of life and led to public inquiries that resulted in significant maritime safety improvements. Lawrence Beesley was a passenger on the voyage who managed to survive and

was soon after requested to recount his experiences to a group of Boston lawyers. The editor of the *Boston Herald* persuaded him to publish his account of the event to counter the misinformation already stemming from the piecemeal accounts by those who were not present. Although reluctant at first, Beesley felt a duty to bring the need for reform to public attention in recognition of the many that died needlessly as a result of management shortcomings. His memoir is a gripping story that stands the test of time.

Lawrence Beesley (December 31, 1877 – February 14, 1967) was an English science teacher who survived the sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912. He was born one of eight children in Wirksworth, Derbyshire and educated at Derby School and Caius College, Cambridge. He received a degree in Natural Sciences in 1903 and served as a schoolmaster until 1957. He is best known for his memoir *The Loss of the S.S. Titanic*, which was published just nine weeks after the disaster. He is also famous for crashing the film set during production of *A Night to Remember* in 1958, hoping to go down with the ship during the re-enactment of the sinking, but was prevented from doing so by actors' union rules. He was portrayed by David Warner in the 1979 dramatization of the voyage and disaster, *S. O. S. Titanic*.