



The John Cargill Story

A Celebration of the
life of
John 'Sarge' Cargill



John Cargill

John Cargill was born in Gourdon in 1892.



After leaving school he worked on a succession of fishing boats.



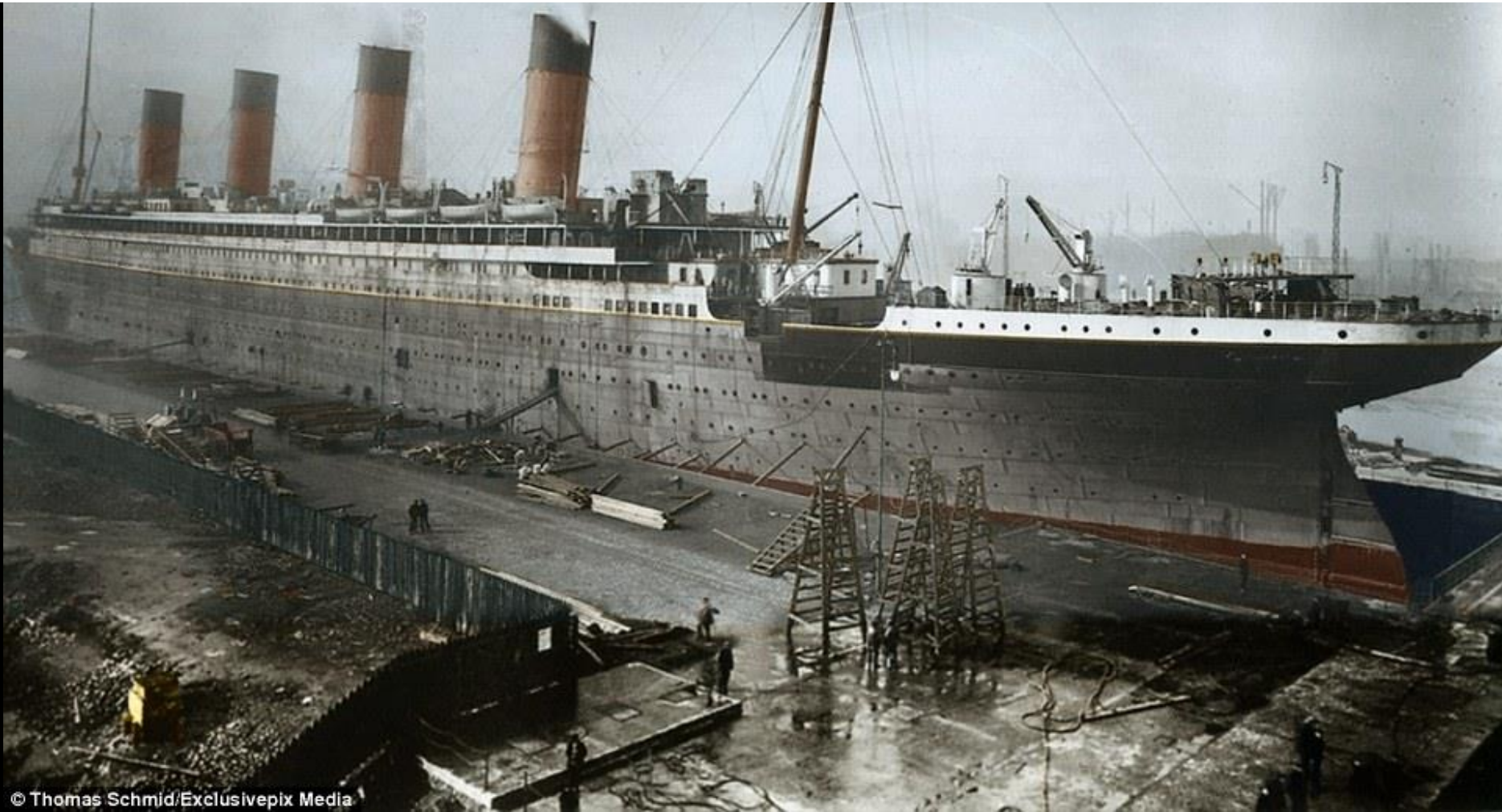
On the 9th February 1912, he signed up to the Cunard Line as a quartermaster on the Carpathia.

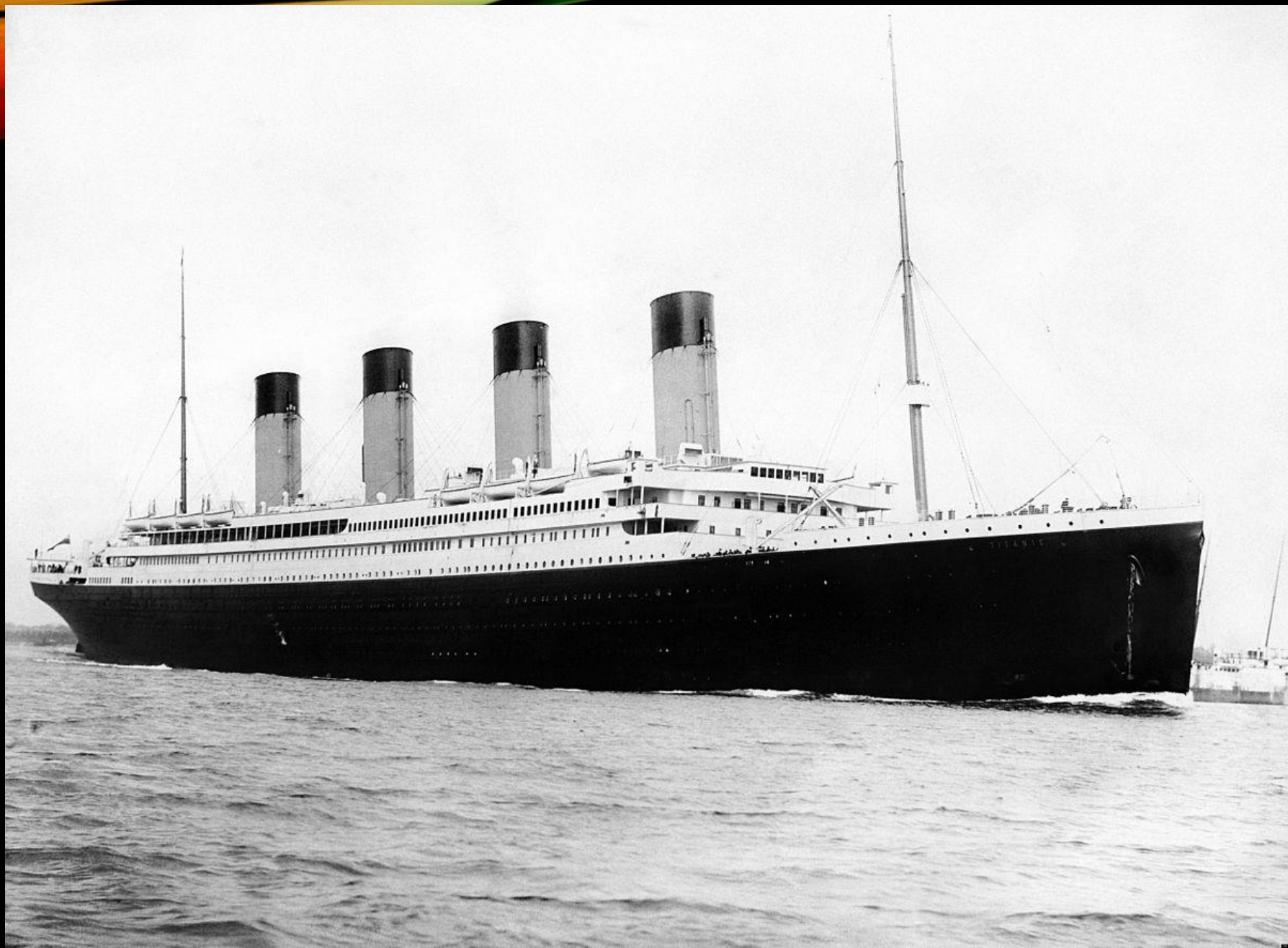


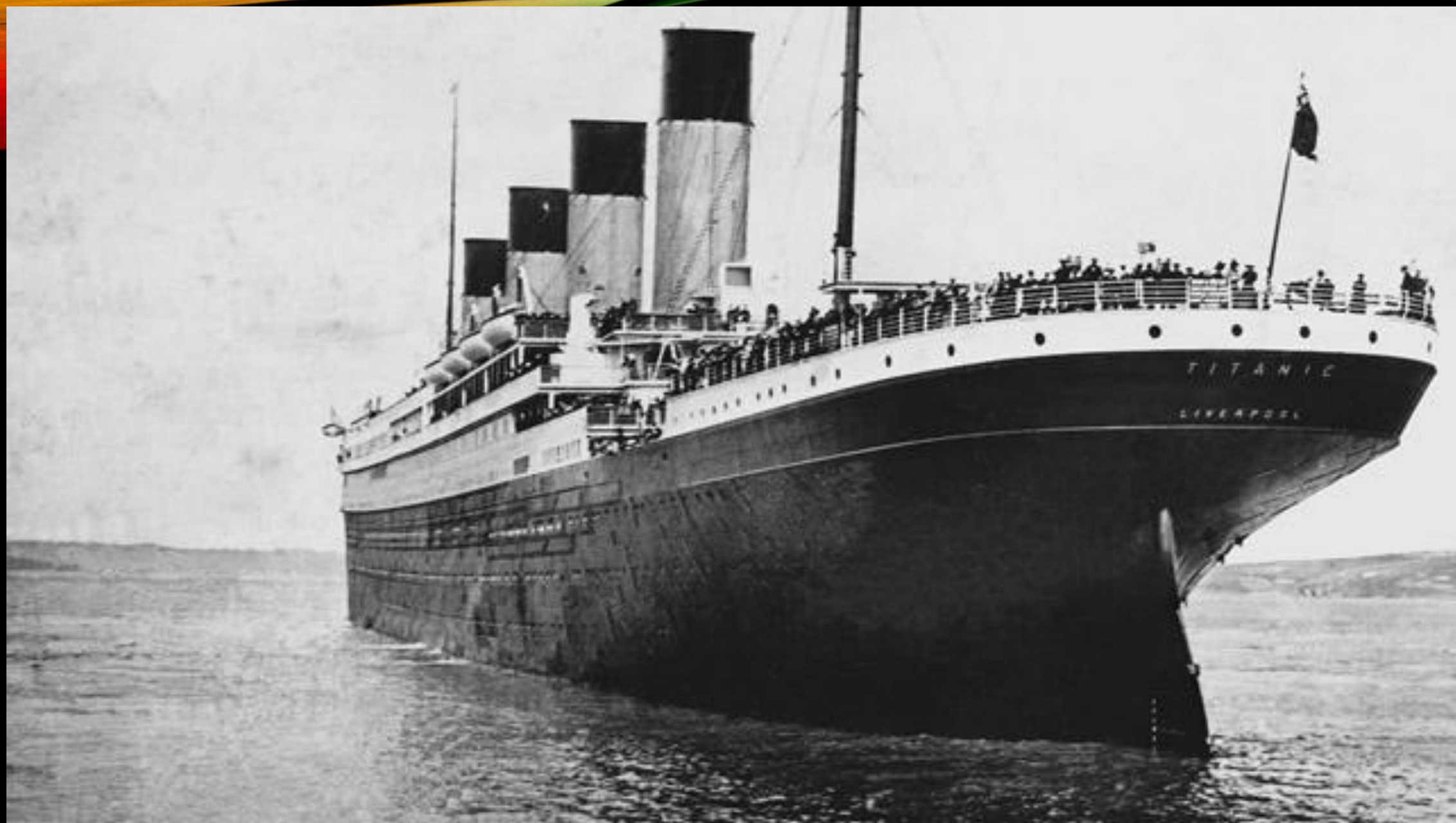
The Carpathia was the first vessel to respond to the SOS from the Titanic.



The Titanic, the largest passenger vessel of its time, deemed to be unsinkable, built at the Harland and Woolf shipbuilding yard in Belfast.







On April 14th 1912 the Titanic hit an iceberg, south of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.



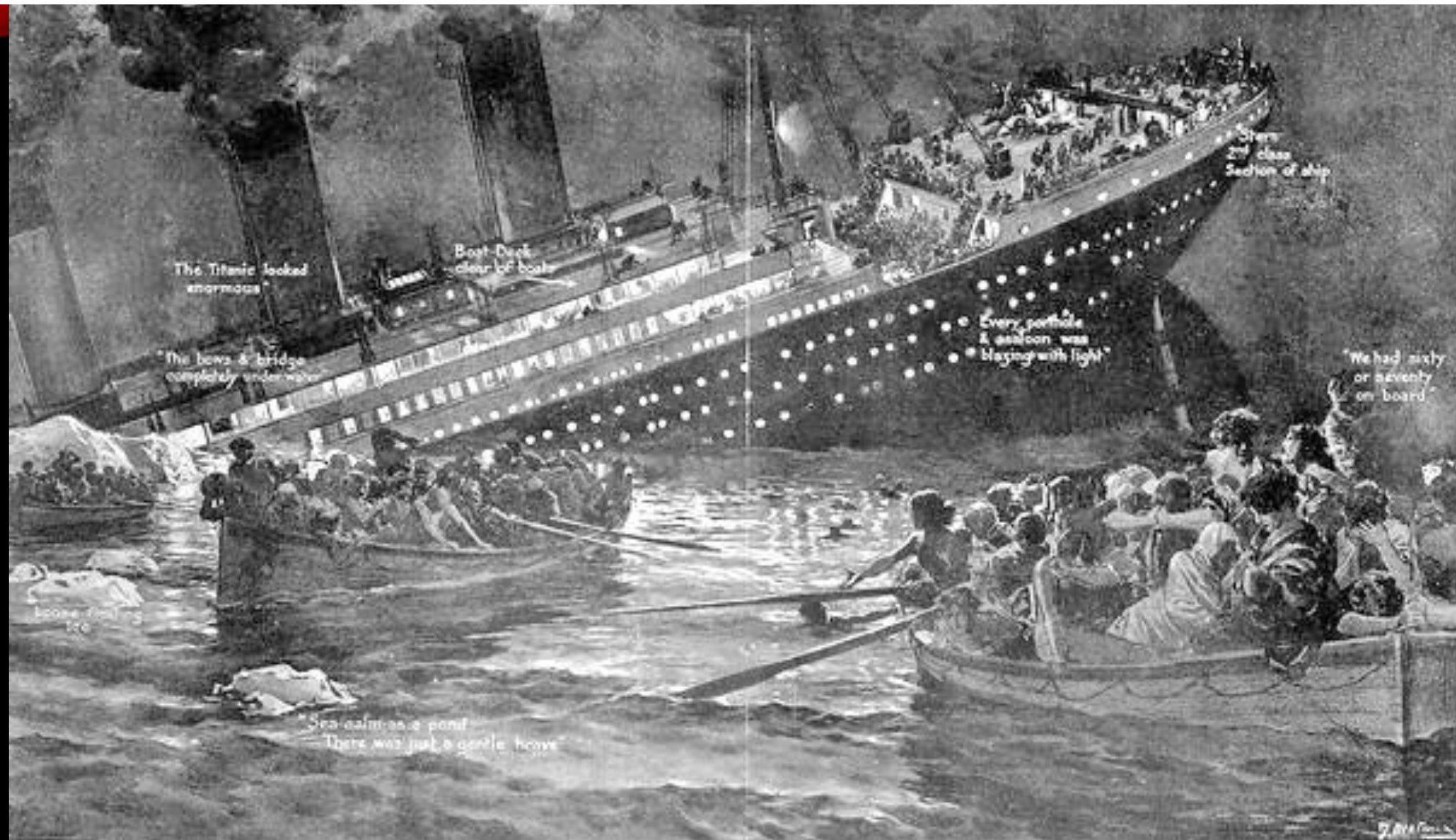
The Carpathia responded to the distress signals, and was the first ship on the scene.



The Carpathia took four hours to reach the area, by which time the Titanic had sunk beneath the waves, putting 1,500 lives in jeopardy.



John Cargill and the crew of the Carpathia rescued passengers from the lifeboats of the Titanic and from the sea.



That night John and the crew of the Carpathia rescued:

202 first class passengers

115 second class passengers

178 third class passengers

4 Officers

206 members of the Titanic crew

The survivors were taken to New York, bodies were buried at sea, and the Carpathia resumed her Mediterranean journey.

After the tragedy, Mr Cargill and the rest of the crew received a medal for their part in the rescue. It became known as the Titanic Medal.



John Cargill's rescue efforts were not the end of his adventures. In 1914, he fought in the trenches of France during the First World War.



He was promoted to the rank of sergeant - which resulted in him receiving his well-known nickname of "Sarge".



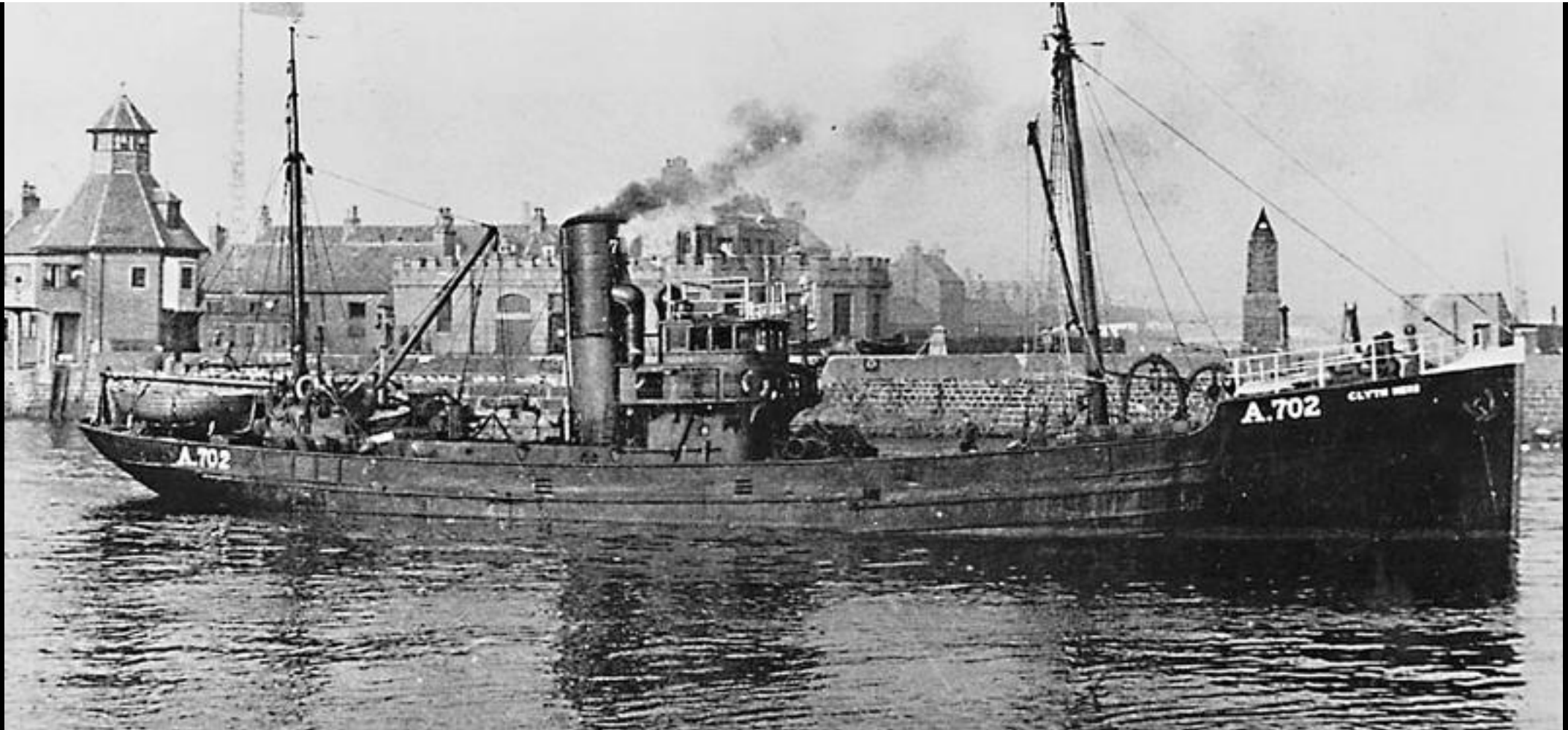
His exploits won him the Military Medal after he volunteered to capture a German soldier to elicit information from him about enemy units.

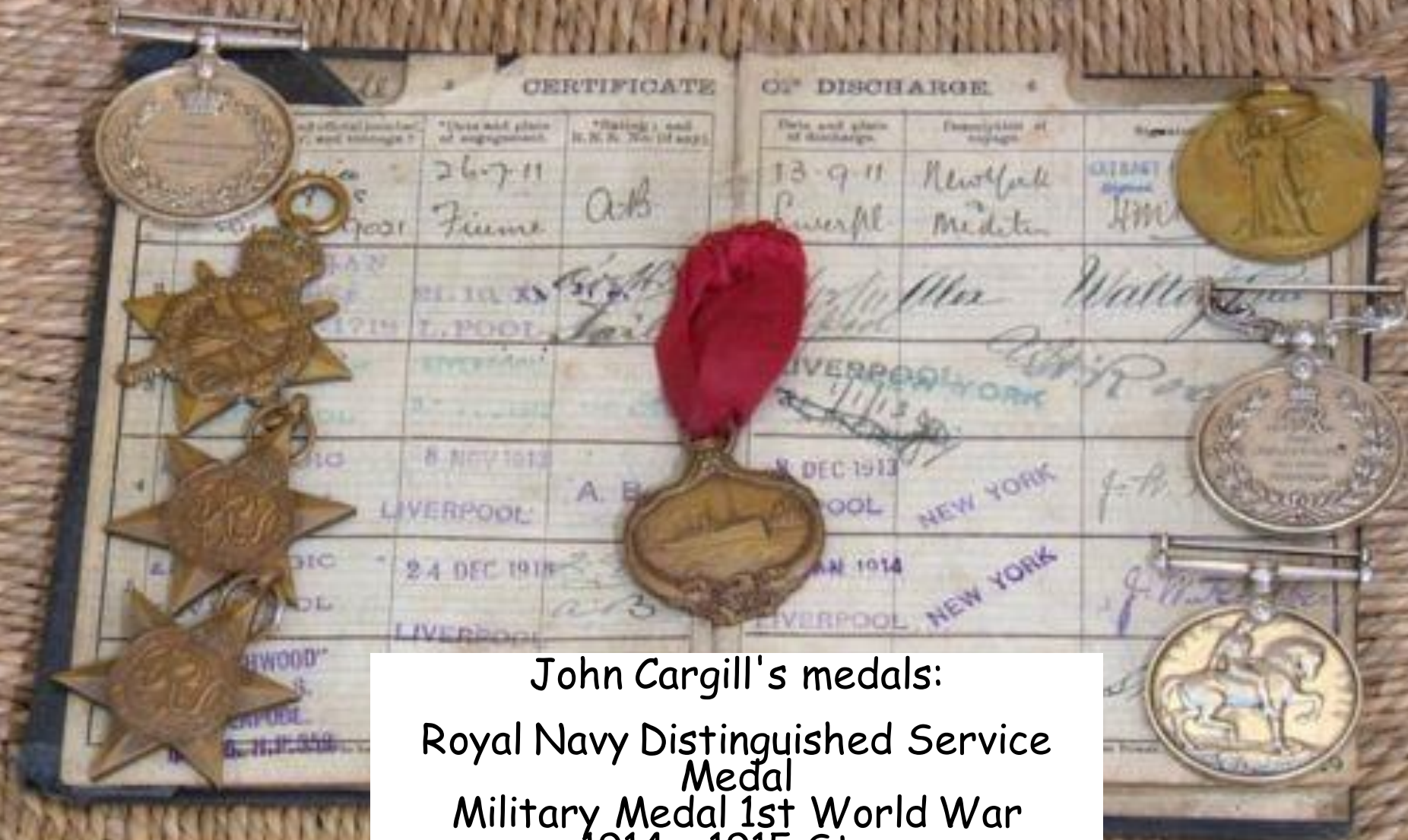


He went over no man's land and captured the soldier single-handed. He also fought at Vimy Ridge and Ypres, and was wounded twice.



In 1939, John Cargill, who was then 47 years old, volunteered as a leading seaman with the Royal Navy. He was based at Dover on the minesweeper HMS *Clyth Ness*, and won the Distinguished Service Medal for his part in helping to clear the way for explosive ships to be sent in to block the canal at Zeebrugge in Belgium. John Cargill was also involved in the evacuation of troops from Dunkirk.





John Cargill's medals:

Royal Navy Distinguished Service Medal

Military Medal 1st World War
1914 - 1915 Star

1914 - 1920 British War Medal

Allied Victory Medal

1939 - 1945 Star

Atlantic Star

1945 War Medal



At the end of the war John Cargill returned to his occupation as a fisherman, before retiring in his late sixties. He and his wife, Mary, who had four of a family, celebrated their golden wedding in 1970. John Cargill died in 1980 at the age of 87. Mary died two years before him.



John Cargill
1892 - 1980