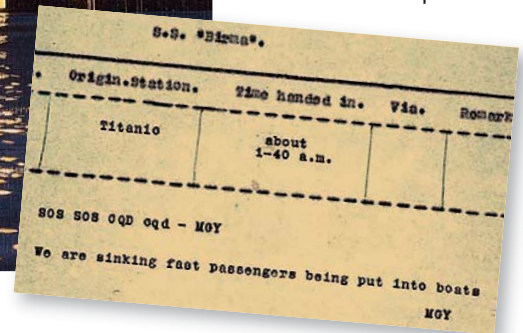




Illustration © Ken Marschall from *Titanic, an Illustrated History*, a Hyperion/Madison Press Book.

This telegraph message was sent by Bride and Phillips as a call for help.



From the bridge of the *Titanic*, a ship's lights were observed not far away, possibly the *Californian's*. Captain Smith then ordered white distress rockets fired to get the attention of the nearby ship. They burst high in the air with a loud boom and a shower of stars. But the rockets made no difference. The mystery ship in the distance never answered.

290 In the radio room, Bride and Phillips now knew how serious the accident was and were **feverishly** sending out calls for help. A number of ships heard and responded to their calls, but most were too far away to come to the rescue in time. The closest ship they had been able to reach was the *Carpathia*,¹⁵ about fifty-eight miles away. Immediately, the *Carpathia* reported that she was racing full steam to the rescue. But could she get there in time? ○

Not far away, the radio operator of the *Californian* had gone to bed for the night and turned off his radio. Several officers and crewmen on the deck of the *Californian* saw rockets in the distance and reported them
300 to their captain. The captain told them to try to contact the ship with a Morse lamp. But they received no answer to their flashed calls. No one thought to wake up the radio operator. P

On board the *Titanic*, almost an hour after the crash, most of the passengers still did not realize the seriousness of the situation. But Captain Smith was a very worried man. He knew that the *Titanic* only carried lifeboats for barely half the estimated twenty-two hundred people on board. He would have to make sure his officers kept order to avoid any panic among the passengers. At 12:30 Captain Smith gave the orders

feverishly
(fē'vər-īsh-lē) *adv.* in a way marked by intense emotion or activity

○ **SUSPENSE**
Given what you already know about the *Titanic*, what details help create suspense?

P **CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**
Record the *Californian's* response on your timeline. At this point, how might disaster still have been minimized?

15. *Carpathia* (kär-pā'thē-ə).