

What factors led to the sinking of the Titanic?



The Situation:

One coal strike left the Harland and Wolff without sufficient coal. The Company had to find its coal from other sources. This delays the sailing by a month.

Consequence:

There would have been a larger number of icebergs and sheet ice in the area where the Titanic sank in April, than in March.



The Situation:

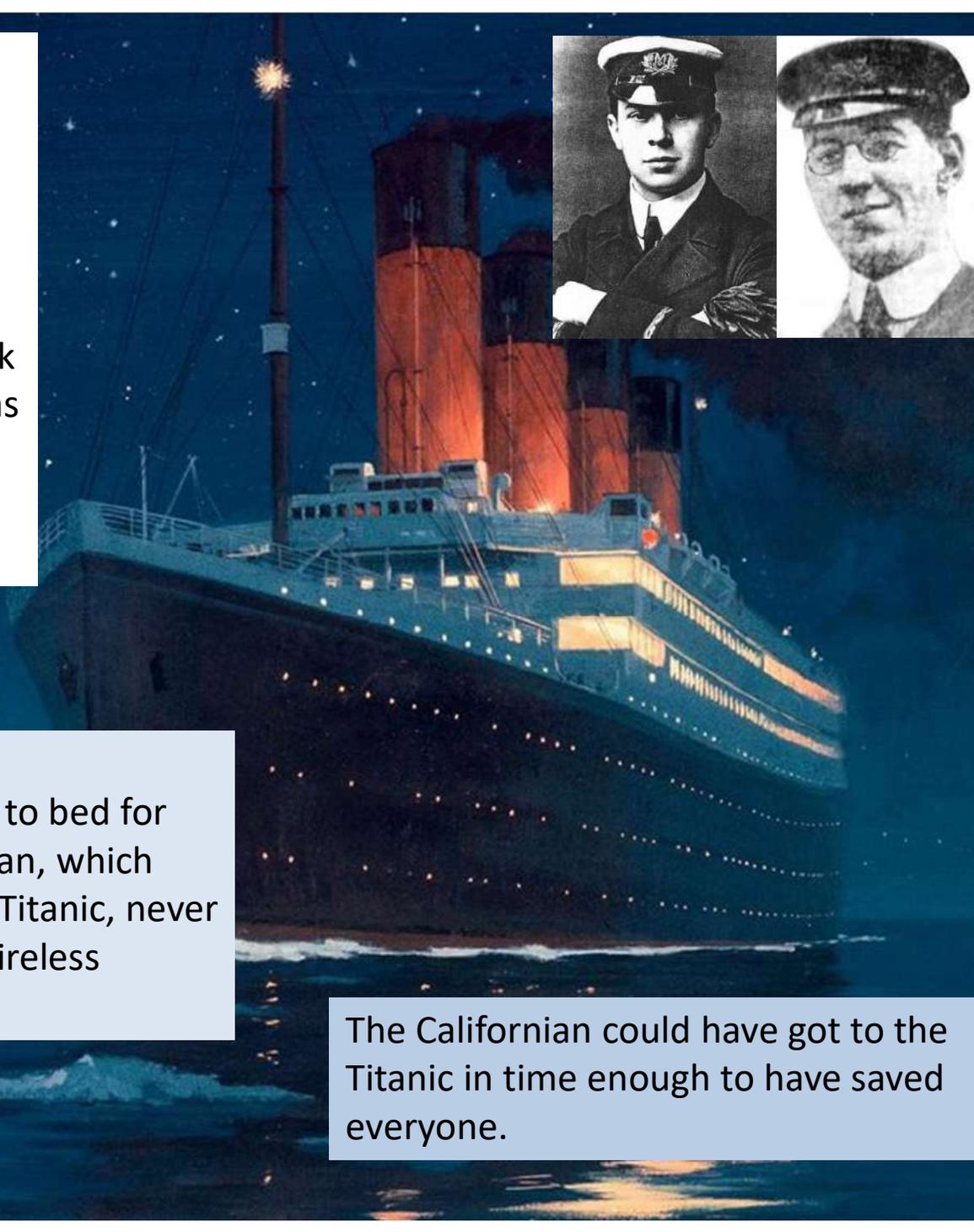
Cyril Evans, the Marconi wireless operator on the Californian was trying to send passengers' messages to Cape Race at the same time as Jack Phillips. His messages were blocking those of the Titanic's so Jack told him to stop transmitting, even as Evans was sending a ice warning message.



Consequence:

Evans stopped transmitting and went to bed for the night. Consequently, the Californian, which was less than an hour away from the Titanic, never received the Titanic's SOS and CQD wireless messages.

The Californian could have got to the Titanic in time enough to have saved everyone.



The Situation:

On hearing about the iceberg, Officer Murdoch, took the decision to try to avoid it by changing the direction of the ship.



Consequence:

If The Titanic had hit the iceberg head on only one or two of the watertight compartment would have been flooded. Research has shown that the Titanic would not of sunk.

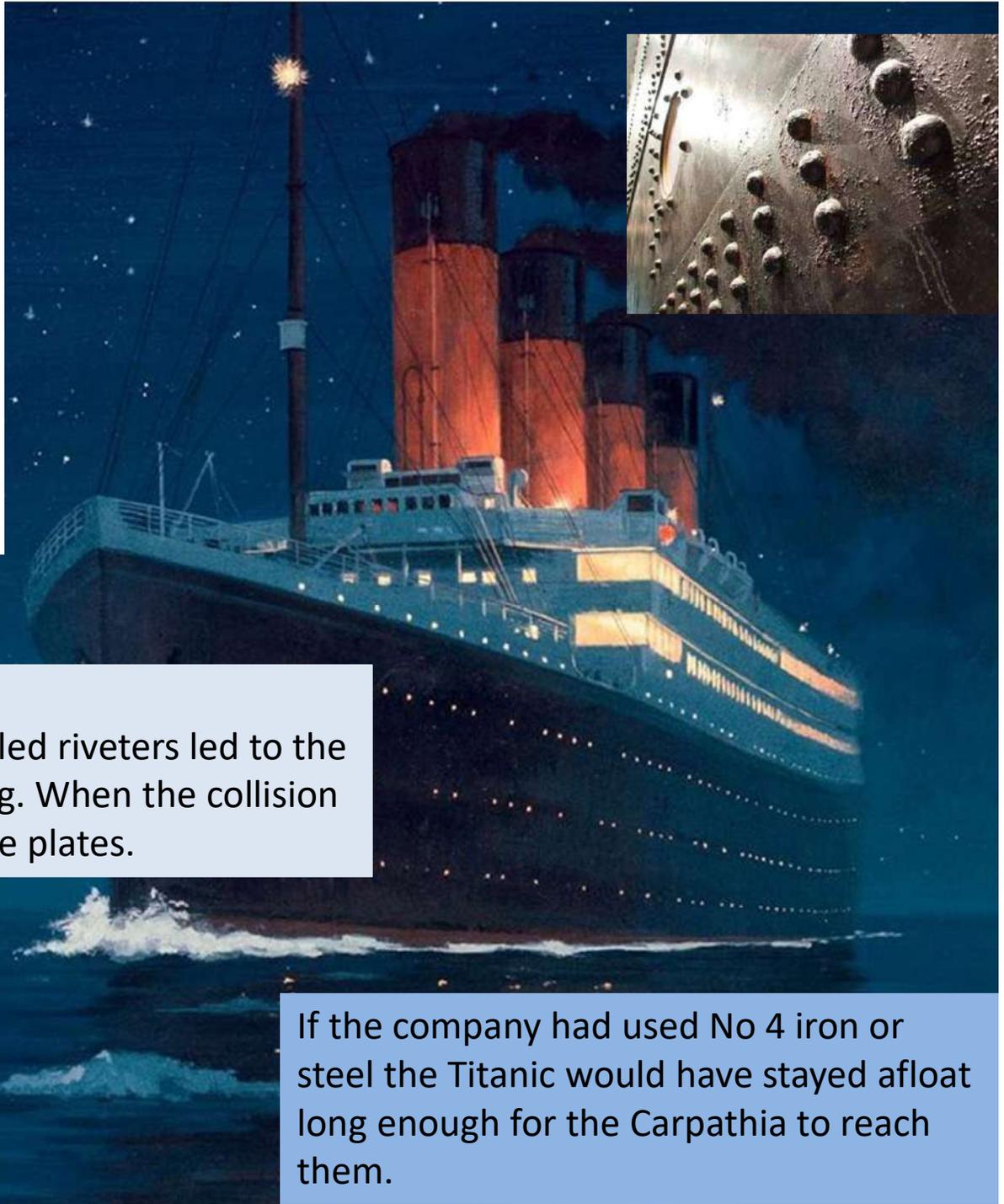
The Situation

There was a shortage of rivets and riveters. The Titanic needed 3 million rivets to act as a glue to hold the plates together. To get enough rivets they had to find other suppliers. Local suppliers were not as expert and the company's records showed they used cheaper (3 best and not 4 best best) iron.

Consequence:

The poor quality iron and lack of skilled riveters led to the rivets becoming brittle and fracturing. When the collision happened the Titanic's rivets split the plates.

If the company had used No 4 iron or steel the Titanic would have stayed afloat long enough for the Carpathia to reach them.



The Situation:

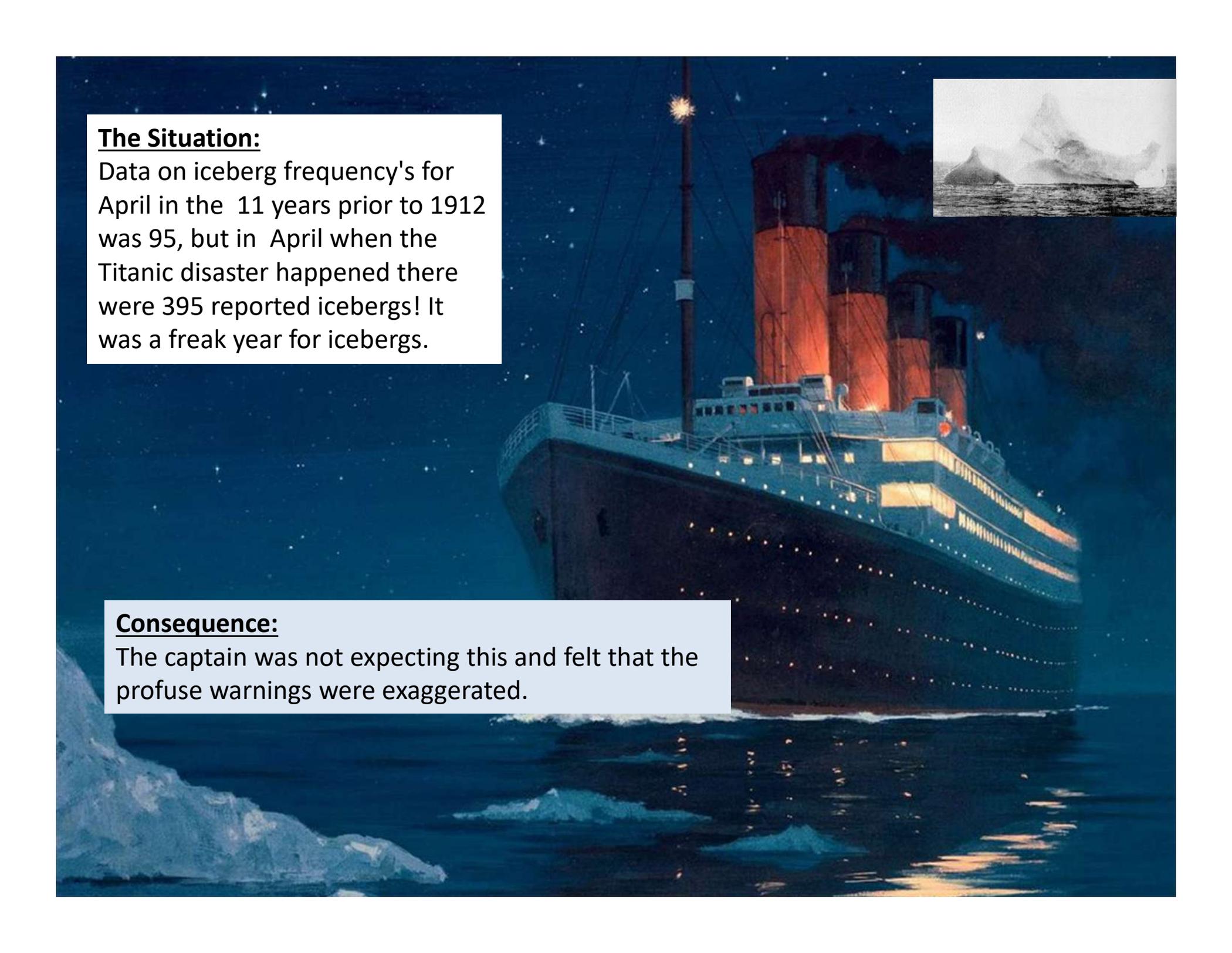
Second Officer David Blair, who was to sail on the Titanic, was dismissed. Without realising it, he took with him the key to the locker where the binoculars for the lookout were kept.



Consequence:

If the lookouts, Archie Jewell and Freddie Fleet had had the binoculars they would have seen the iceberg early enough to have probably avoided the collision completely.



A composite image featuring a large illustration of the Titanic at night, illuminated by its own lights against a starry sky. The ship's four red funnels are prominent. In the foreground, there are several icebergs in the dark water. In the top right corner, there is a smaller, black and white photograph of a large iceberg.

The Situation:

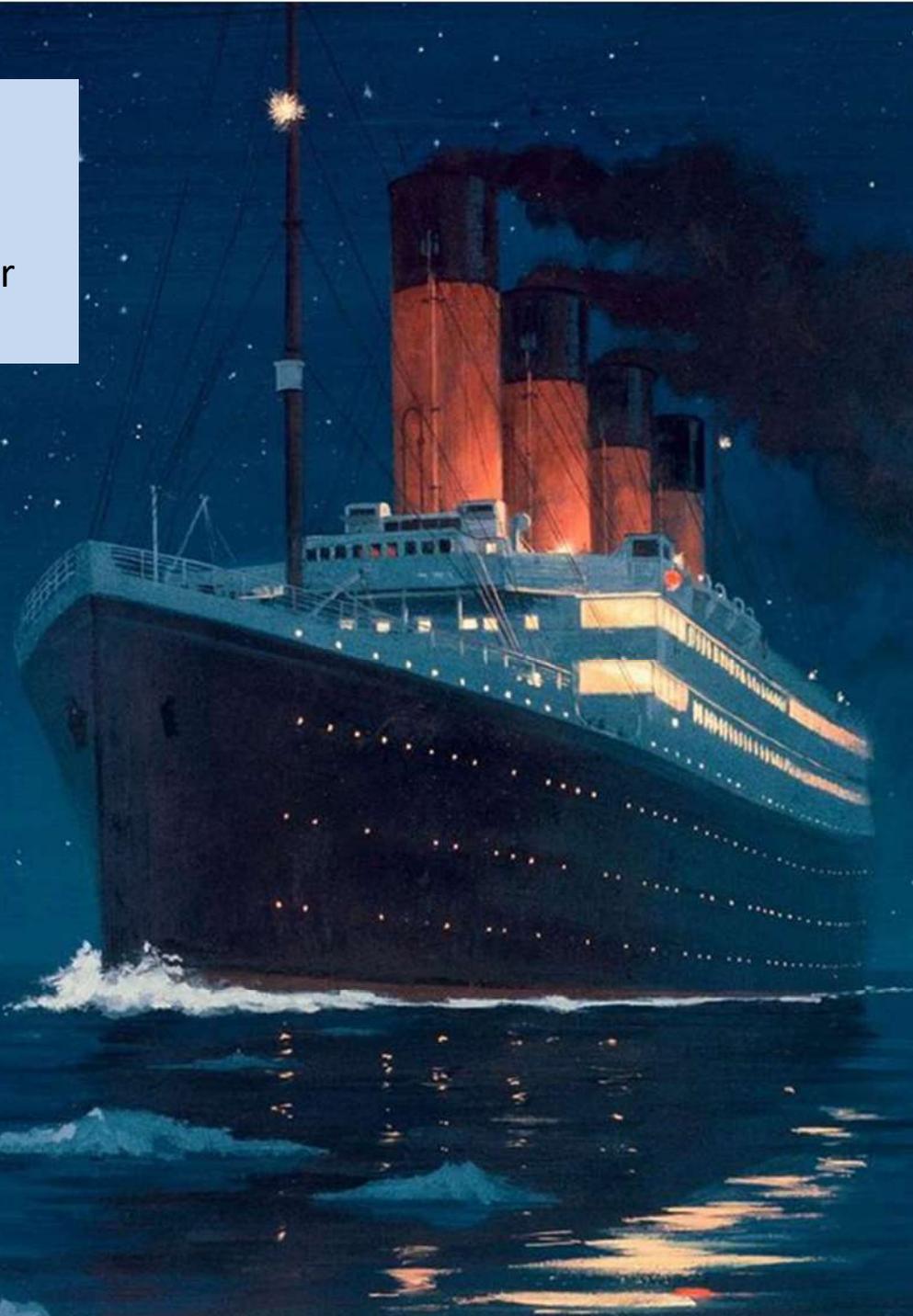
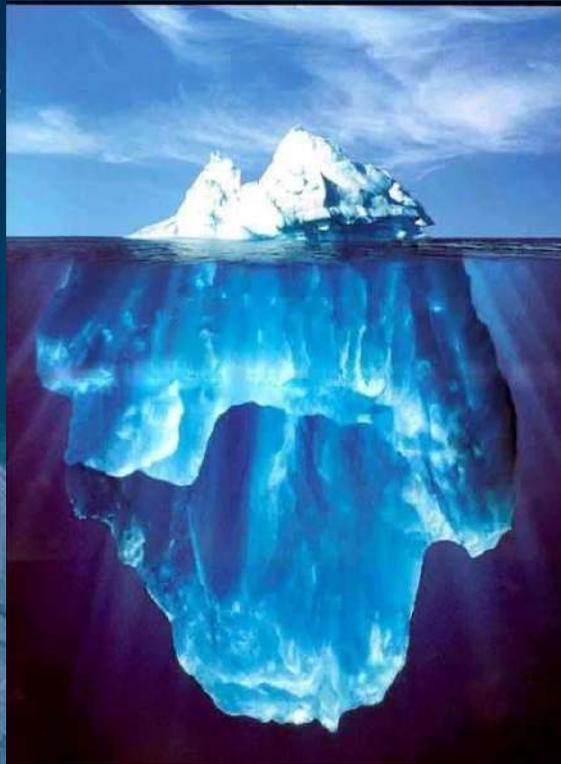
Data on iceberg frequency's for April in the 11 years prior to 1912 was 95, but in April when the Titanic disaster happened there were 395 reported icebergs! It was a freak year for icebergs.

Consequence:

The captain was not expecting this and felt that the profuse warnings were exaggerated.

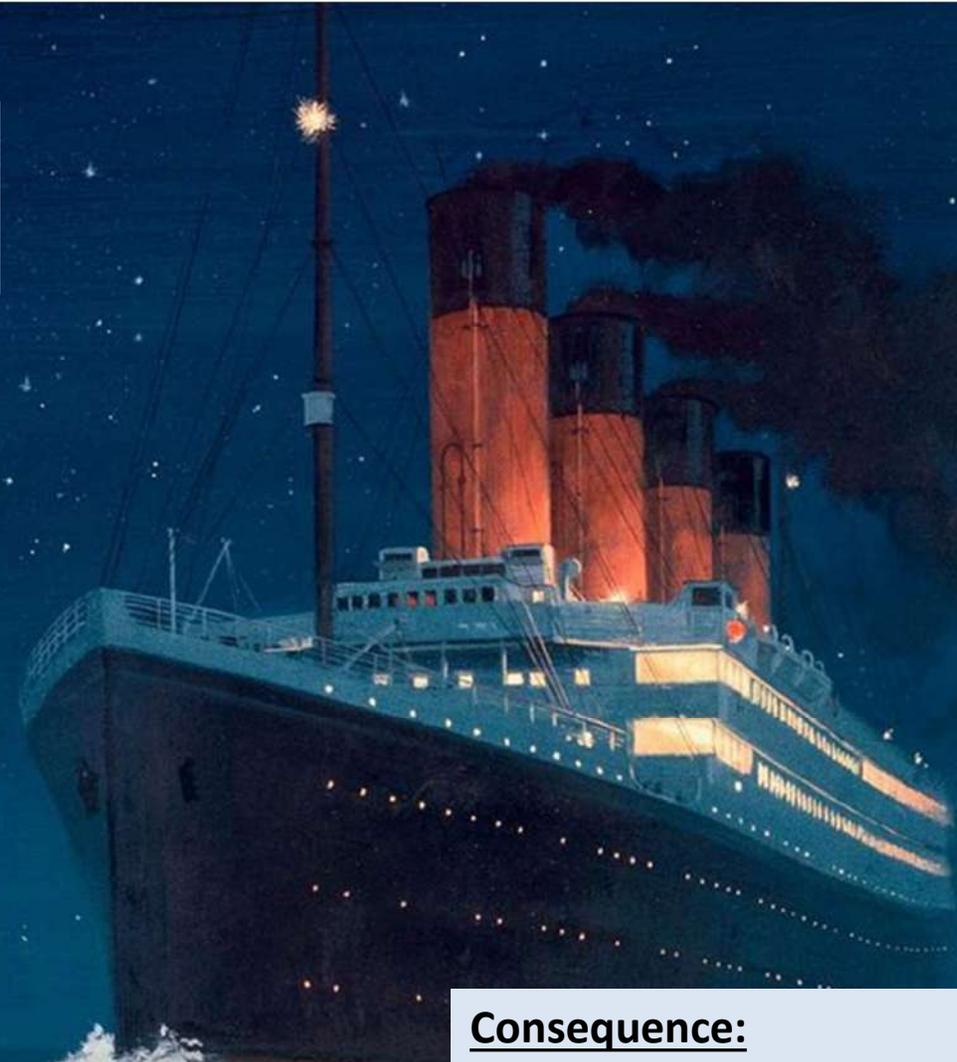
The situation:

The iceberg that sunk the Titanic would normally have been on a different trajectory but the weather was very mild that year.



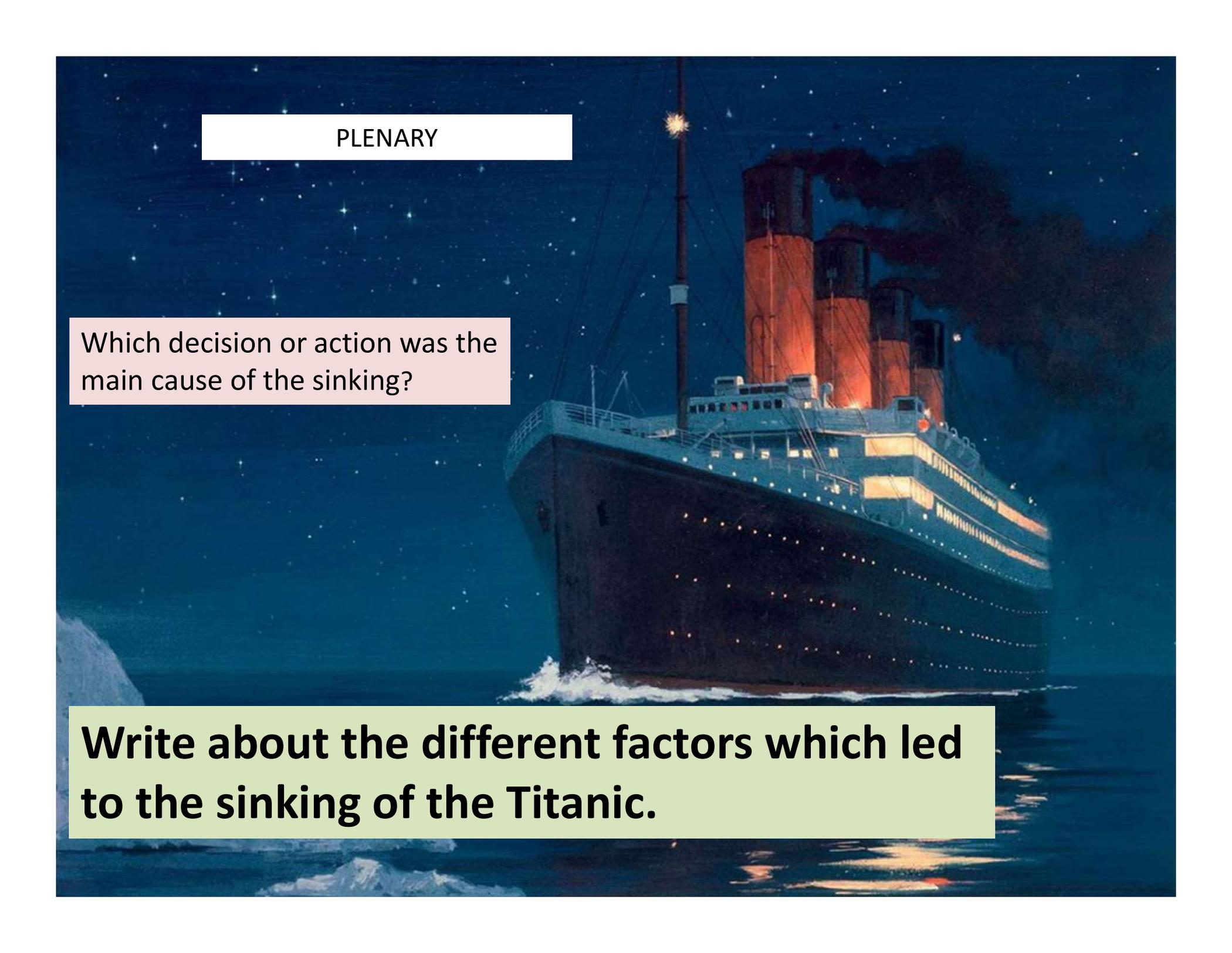
The Situation:

The sea was calm and it was a moonlit night.



Consequence:

The lookouts might have seen the iceberg from the waves hitting against the sides of the iceberg. The iceberg was not reflected in the moon's light.



PLENARY

Which decision or action was the main cause of the sinking?

Write about the different factors which led to the sinking of the Titanic.