

walked towards the film set and saw part of the ship rise from its bed of concrete. She stopped in her tracks and stood in silence for a long time until she said, "I can't believe it" She was even able to walk to the spot where she had stood on the *Titanic*.

In his book MacQuitty reflects on the moments of joy and the exhausting work it took to make the film.



Lawrence Beesley (left) giving valuable advice.

He had consulted widely and obtained the best in all areas. The simplicity of his words is conveyed in the moments after the viewing of the film in the Rank viewing theatre. He states, "The most moving image for me had been not one from the film, but of Joseph Boxhall sitting on his own in the theatre as he watched the final scene of the *Titanic* sinking. He had been the officer on deck when the ship struck the iceberg. He had fired the rockets and seen the vessel slowly flounder. Had we got it right? I asked him. He wept as he said, 'Terribly right'.

The book is full of detail and information, for example sketches of uniforms worn, photographs taken from the publicity brochure for the film, as well as highlights from the producer's diary.



Captain Smith's daughter with actor Laurence Naismith.

There is one particularly interesting passage in the book where the author recounts meeting James Cameron and both great men had an opportunity to compare their films. There was no difference of opinion. Both men agreed that the two films were quite different - Cameron's film was an epic love story with *Titanic* as the background whereas in MacQuitty's film *Titanic* herself was the star and the emphasis was on accurately reflecting Lord's book on the tragedy.

Towards the end of the book there is perhaps the truest reflection of Bill MacQuitty's philosophy of life where he states, "The original disaster certainly confirms my belief that life is for living as fully as possible.

Lost opportunities do not return. "Too late" are the saddest words in any language. Time is our most precious gift. Our wonderful world may not appeal to everyone, and using time to its best

advantage is difficult though this was never a problem for any of the *Titanic* survivors that I met. The thing they had in common was a keen sense of living and making the most of their lives. They all had a calm, appreciative outlook, they cherished their friends and they enjoyed themselves."

His book is a commemoration of the *Titanic*, which sailed on its maiden voyage on 5th April 1912. On April 15th at 2.20am the *Titanic* sank having struck an iceberg at latitude 41.15 north, longitude 50.14 west. On April 18th the *Carpathia* docked in New York with 705 survivors. Total number on board 2207, perished - 1502.

Marion Smith.

During her period as Mayor of North Down Borough Council, Marion was invited to New York to launch the Titanic Trail tourist initiative.



This successful venture brought together the three areas of Cobh (formerly known as Queenstown) *Titanic's* last port of call, New York and North Down.

Launched from Belfast the *Titanic* was cheered by those who watched her steam along the coastline of North Down and out into the Irish Sea.

William MacQuitty, a long time family friend fuelled and inspired Marion's interest in *Titanic*, and it was with the greatest of pleasure she reviewed his book. *Titanic Memories, the making of A Night to Remember* gives a unique and personal account of what is regarded to be the definitive film of the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Titanic Memories – the making of A Night to Remember
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(Phone Number 02083126565) Price £7.99

