

A QUIET SEA
RMS TITANIC



VIOLET JESSOP



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Violet Constance Jessop was born to Irish emigrants in Argentina in 1887. Surviving tuberculosis as a child, she moved to Britain at the age of 16 with her mother and siblings when her father died. Violet became a stewardess and has the distinction of working on all three giant White Star liners, Olympic, TITANIC and Britannic. She was in Olympic when that liner was rammed in the Solent by HM cruiser Hawke. After TITANIC's collision with the iceberg, she survived by being ordered into a lifeboat to look after passengers and care for a seemingly abandoned baby, whose mother was later found aboard the rescue ship Carpathia. During WW1, Violet, now a nurse, suffered a fractured skull when she leapt from a lifeboat and narrowly escaped a partially exposed whirling propeller during the sinking of Britannic in the Aegean Sea. Auntie Vi, as she was known to her family, retired from the sea in 1950 and passed away in 1971 at the age of 83.

Image: Wiki Commons

Source: Violet Jessop memoirs as recorded by John Maxtone-Graham