

# First objects retrieved from Titanic’s sister ship in Greece



A member of a Greek-British search team holding a silver serving tray from the HMHS Britannic, a British hospital ship that sank near the Greek island of Kea in 1916 after hitting a mine during World War I.



A diver exploring the HMHS Britannic

AFP | Athens, Greece

The HMHS Britannic was one of three transatlantic passenger lines built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, the first of which was the infamous RMS Titanic.

Deep-sea divers have retrieved a first batch of objects from the the Titanic’s sister ship that sank off the coast of Greece in 1916, the Greek culture ministry said yesterday.

The ministry said a research programme in May involved “the retrieval of objects from the wreck site (of the HMHS Britannic) for the first time, from

depths exceeding 120 metres (394 feet).”

The HMHS Britannic was one of three transatlantic passenger lines built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, the first of which was the infamous RMS Titanic.

Requisitioned by the British Admiralty to be converted into a floating hospital during World

War I, it struck a German mine in November 1916 while sailing off the Greek island of Kea.

The vessel sank in less than an hour. Of the 1,065 people on board, 30 died when the ship’s propellers snagged two lifeboats, the culture ministry said.

The project to document the wreck and its contents was car-

ried out by an 11-member team composed of professional deep-sea divers, using closed-circuit diving equipment.

The research was organised by British amateur historian Simon Mills, founder of the Britannic Foundation, and supervised by Greece’s Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities.

“Conditions at the wreck site

were particularly challenging due to currents, depth, and low visibility,” it said, adding that certain objects initially selected could not be retrieved due to their location and preservation status.

The retrieved objects include the ship’s observation post bell, the portside signal lamp, various items of portable equipment

from first and second class, ceramic tiles that had decorated a Turkish bath and a pair of binoculars.

They were transported to the ephorate’s laboratories in Athens for further conservation and are set to feature in a permanent exhibition at a new museum of underwater antiquities currently under construction in Piraeus, the ministry said.

The third vessel of the group, the RMS Olympic, sailed from 1911 t

## US cos should not have to report quarterly: Trump

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump on Monday called for publicly listed US companies to no longer be required to report their earnings quarterly, shifting instead to a half-yearly model in line with the European Union.

“Subject to SEC Approval, Companies and Corporations should no longer be forced to ‘Report’ on a quarterly basis (Quarterly Reporting!), but rather to Report on a ‘Six (6) Month Basis,’” he posted on his Truth Social platform on Monday.

Trump said the move would “allow managers to focus on properly running their companies.”

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has required quarterly reporting since 1970, but the debate over whether to move to a six-monthly system is not new.

Such a move would bring the United States in line with the European Union and United Kingdom. Many large EU companies continue to report quarterly, however.

Trump also proposed the move in his first term. Proponents of half-yearly reporting say the time frame allows managers to

focus on long-term growth rather than hitting short-term performance targets.

The SEC did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

Moving to semiannual reporting would allow firms to dedicate fewer resources to the process, said Sam Stovall of CFRA Research.

“Certainly it could help companies save money,” Stovall told AFP.

He cautioned, however, that it “would probably increase volatility because you would have less guidance (and) resetting of expectations.”

## UK aristocrat, partner get 14 years for baby daughter’s manslaughter

AFP | London, United Kingdom

A British woman from an aristocratic family and her partner were Monday jailed for 14 years each for the manslaughter of their newborn daughter, who died while they were living off-grid in freezing temperatures.

Passing sentence Judge Mark Lucraft told Constance Marten, 38, and Mark Gordon, 51, that the way they treated their baby, Victoria, had been “neglect of the gravest and most serious type”.

The pair sat separately in the glass-fronted dock at London’s Old Bailey central criminal court, but had to be reprimanded by the judge for repeatedly gesturing and passing notes to each other, showing a “complete lack of respect” to the court.

They were arrested after a seven-week police hunt in January and February 2023 during which they spent time living in a tent.

A jury found them guilty in July after a previous jury was unable to reach a verdict on the manslaughter charge.

Marten and Gordon went on the run to try and keep their daughter after authorities took their four other children into care due to the couple’s



Constance Marten (L) and Mark Gordon.

lifestyle, saying their attitude posed a “significant risk” to the youngsters, the court heard.

They were eventually arrested two months later, in Brighton on England’s southern coast.

Days afterwards, baby Victoria’s badly decomposed body was found in a shopping bag on a vegetable patch.

Marten told police Victoria died when she fell asleep on her in the tent, but the judge said he believed she died from hypothermia.

In a statement to the court, Marten’s mother, Virginie de Selliers said she had been “horrified” at how her daughter had been characterised, adding it did not reflect “the daughter I

remember”.

Her lawyer, Tom Godfrey, said Marten felt genuine “sadness and remorse” over Victoria’s death.

Philippa McAtasney, defending Gordon, said he had not been thinking “properly or rationally” when he decided to go on the run, but would have to live with the consequences of his actions for the rest of his life.

Born into a life of wealth and privilege, Marten grew up in a 25-room mansion on a vast estate in Dorset in southwest England.

Her aristocratic family had close links to the royal family.