

CHAPTER ONE

On Monday, trains brought food supplies to G Deck, where they were loaded into storerooms and refrigerators. Although the full list of supplies for the *Titanic* has been lost, we know that her sister ship, the *Olympic*, took on massive quantities of food for a transatlantic voyage. It's likely that the *Titanic* set sail with supplies that included 75,000 pounds of meat; 11,000 pounds of fish; 10,000 pounds of sugar; 36,000 oranges; 7,000 heads of lettuce; 40 tons of potatoes; 40,000 eggs; and 20,000 bottles of beer.

In addition to the supplies for passengers, the *Titanic* was carrying a wide assortment of items. The cargo list included cartons of books; 100 bales of shelled walnuts; 1,196 bags of potatoes; 15 cases of rabbit hair; 63 cases of champagne; plus cheese; brandy; wine; orchids; lace; surgical instruments; feathers for hats; gloves; preserves; mussels; tea; and silk. One passenger was even shipping a red Renault automobile!

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Twenty-four-year-old Violet Jessop signed on as a stewardess in the days before sailing. The eldest of six children, Violet had once dreamed of getting an education, but when her mother fell ill, Violet had to help support the family. She followed her mother's path and became a stewardess. Violet was a hard worker and took a lot of pride in caring for "her" passengers, turning down beds at night, bringing tea trays to passengers, and, of course, helping anyone who got seasick.

The layout of the *Titanic* was familiar to Violet, since she had worked on the *Olympic*. The two ships were indeed quite similar, one reason why many of the photographs we see today

of the *Titanic*'s interiors are actually of the *Olympic*. However, there were a few differences. One obvious one was that the forward part of the promenade on A Deck on the *Titanic* was enclosed, rather than open. The *Titanic* also had its new restaurant, the Café Parisien, which offered fantastic views of the sea for diners.



The first class Café Parisien on B Deck.