



## **A LESSON FROM THE TITANIC: DANGERS OF "SMALL" COMPROMISE**

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I watched a National Geographic Channel (NatGeo) feature on the Titanic. It showed how naval forensics investigated the tragedy from a different perspective.

The Titanic sank because the hull ruptured after colliding with an iceberg. But, naval engineers found out that the builders used substandard materials. The Titanic could have survived the impact had engineers followed the correct specifications.



A team of metallurgists tested the integrity of scrap parts from the Titanic's underwater keel. Investigators theorized that the Titanic sank due to the use of substandard materials.

Tests revealed that the steel used for the hull passed the standards of that era. Then, investigators focused on the rivets that held the steel hull together. The ship used 3,000,000 rivets to fasten three-centimeter-thick steel hull plates.

The manufacturer made the rivets out of mere melted slugs - not metal. As such, it weakened the integrity of the fastened hull plates. The hull could have withstood 14,000 pounds of impact if builders had followed the correct rivet specification.

The naval engineers replicated the rivets of the Titanic and tested them. It snapped after applying just 7,000 pounds of pressure.

On April 15, 1912, 1,500+ people died when the Titanic sank. Substandard rivets cause the sinking of history's most infamous ship.

The investigation of the Titanic got me thinking. Neglect of small details, like the rivets, caused the mighty ship to sink. Sometimes, seemingly insignificant elements are the most critical parts of a structure.

In life, we focus on the big-picture scenario - our goals and dreams that we want to accomplish. Or, when we have already achieved what we wanted, we sail through the ocean of life like the mighty Titanic.

In our heyday, we commit little oversight, mistakes, and neglect. Then, an unexpected iceberg hits us and ruptures our life. Our ship starts to sink into the cold, dark waters.

### **Are you sailing through life on a Titanic?**

Do you have a business that is doing well or a blissful relationship? Is everything smooth in your life right now? Never too late to check small details in your "ship" that you might be neglecting. Are your rivets reliable?

Substandard rivets are small compromises that affect the quality of relationships and work. Lies, excuses, mediocrity, complacency, and bad habits are among the weak rivets in life.

In time, these compromises add up and unravel. Don't neglect the "little things," and watch out for "small compromises."

The Titanic sank because of compromised rivets.

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