

SNAPSHOT

If I had a Boat

"There's nothing–absolutely nothing–half so much worth doing as messing about in boats."
— *Kenneth Grahame, The Wind In The Willows*

PHOTO: ARNAB DEBNATH

Strange History

Miss Unsinkable

The Olympic, Titanic, and Britannic. All these Olympic-class ocean liners had one thing in common – all of them suffered terrible fates at the sea. However, there's another thing binding the largest and most luxurious ships of the early 20th century. Violet Jessop, an Irish emigrant, was an ocean liner stewardess who was aboard the RMS Olympic, the largest civilian liner at that time, when the ship crashed with the cruiser HMS Hawke on June 14, 1911. Thankfully, the ship was able to make it back to Southampton. Violet boarded the RMS Titanic on April 10, 1912. We all know what happened to the ship, but Jessop survived this disaster as well when she was able to board the 16th lifeboat and was given a baby to look after. On November 21, 1916, Jessop was onboard the HMHS Britanic, when the ship hit a mine and sank in the Aegean Sea, taking the lives of 30 people with it. Jessop was forced to jump off her lifeboat as the ship went under, and was pulled under the water, where she hit her head on the ship's keel. Miraculously, Jessop was able to surface and was soon rescued. She died of congestive heart failure in 1971, at the ripe old age of 83.



Violet Jessop