

PART 3

You are going to read a magazine article about the *Titanic*. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A-H) the one which fits each gap (16-21). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Exploring the Ocean for a Long-lost Beauty

My first sighting of the *Titanic* lasted less than two minutes, but the image of her huge black hull lying on the ocean floor will remain in my memory forever. The search for the *Titanic* had dominated my life for 13 years, and now the quest was over.

0 D

She is no longer the graceful lady that sank in 1912 after hitting an iceberg. 16 She will never be raised, but the search for the *Titanic*, the most famous of ships, was the most exciting journey of my life.

Our first sighting of the ship took place from Alvin, a miniature submarine. As we began our two and a half hour descent to the ocean floor, we discovered our sonar was not working. Without that, we had to rely on our ship *Atlantis II*, on the surface, to guide us to the *Titanic*'s location. Then we discovered another problem. 17 Without them, we would have very little time at the bottom of the ocean, if any at all. When we reached the bottom, however, there was no *Titanic*, just a lot of mud.

To add to our problems, the tracking system from *Atlantis II* wasn't working. The surface ship should have known where we were and where the *Titanic* was. 18 So close, and yet so far.

The alarm inside our submarine grew worse. As more sea water was entering the batteries we had decided to return to the surface. 19 We were informed that the *Titanic* was only 50 yards away.

We slowly moved to the right until we were stopped by an enormous piece of black steel rising from the bottom of the ocean. At last we had reached our goal. The *Titanic* was a few inches away.

20 After gazing for a few minutes in silent wonder, we were forced to return to the surface.

Most of the eleven dives which followed were more rewarding. During one we investigated the question of the 300 foot cut in the *Titanic*'s side, which was supposed to have been caused when she hit the iceberg. 21 It had simply bent inwards, allowing sea water to enter the ship and sink her.

Other dives produced scenes which will also remain with me forever. We saw the head of a child's doll and a cup delicately balanced on top of one of the ship's steam boilers. On another dive, as we moved past the *Titanic*, the round windows seemed to me like rows of sightless eyes filled with great tears of rust.

- A Salt water was entering the batteries which powered Alvin.
- B Then a voice suddenly came from *Atlantis II* telling us that the tracking system was working again.
- C Although we searched, there was nothing to indicate a hole in the steel plates.
- D In a way I'm sorry we found her.
- E In that instant we became the first people to see the *Titanic* in her watery grave.
- F We knew that if we were patient we would surely find the ship.
- G Her beauty has gone, destroyed by decades beneath the sea.
- H Instead we were lost, with no way of knowing that we were within yards of the ship.