

THE FINDING OF A TITANIC LIFE RAFT

The Times

Thursday 30 May 1912

A letter has been received in Birmingham from Mr Harry C.Church, of Moseley, who was on board the *Oceanic* on May 16, in which he describes the finding of one of the Titanic's rafts with three bodies in it. He writes:-

As quickly as possible a boat was lowered. They rowed out, and than after few minutes came back to report. They then took tarpaulins and big iron weights, and the doctor also went out and read the burial service over them and they were then buried in the sea. I have never seen anything so impressive in my life and there was hardly a dry eye on the ship whilst this was taking place. I sat next to the doctor at table, and he told us the three men consisted of a seaman, a fireman and a first-class passenger. They found the latter's name in a pocket book. He was in evening dress. His name was Thomas Beattie, of Chicago. They also found a fur overcoat, some hairpins, a comb, and some ladies rings, so it proved there were other people in it, including ladies. His theory is that the boat was never launched, but floated off the

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