THE SINKING AND SALVAGE OF COSTA CONCORDIA

The COSTA CONCORDIA sank on the 13th January 2012 one hundred years after the TITANIC sank and in similar circumstances. The ship had 3,229 passengers and a crew of 1,023. The captain of the ship was Francesco Schettino. He diverted the ship from its normal course to do a "salute" to a friend on Giglio Island. Schettino had on the bridge the maitre d' and a woman he had dined with on the night. At around 9 pm he took control of the ship and it hit a rock which tore a 53 metre gash in the port side. Communication with the Indonesian helmsman was difficult and a key order was misunderstood. All the vital compartments flooded resulting in the loss of power and electricity. At this point everyone on the bridge knew the ship would sink. The ship continued on under its own momentum listing to port. Cross flooding allowed the ship to right itself. The breeze and current blew the ship around and with a starboard list back to shore where it grounded and capsized.



Captain Schettino was in shock after striking the rock and failed to take command of the situation and organize for the passengers to abandon ship. There had been no lifeboat drill so the passengers and crew had to fend for themselves. It took over 6 hours to get everyone off the ship. Schettino fell into a lifeboat and went ashore with many of the passengers still on the ship. Rescue operations were quickly mounted and Schettino was ordered back to the ship and take charge.



He refused and went home to be detained the next day. He was found guilty of multiple counts of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning his ship while passengers remained on board. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

Come along and hear what really happened and the chain of events that led to this disaster and the brilliant engineering to salvage the ship that took years and 2 billion dollars. The ship cost $900 million to build.



