

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 7

Testimony of Frank O. Evans

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/USInq/AmInq01Indxa.php>

(The witness was sworn by the chairman.)

Senator SMITH.
Give your full name to the stenographer.

Mr. EVANS.
[Frank Oliver Evans](#).

Senator SMITH.
Where do you live?

Mr. EVANS.
In Southampton. St. Michael's House, St. Michael's Square, Southampton.

Senator SMITH.
How old are you?

Mr. EVANS.
Twenty-seven.

Senator SMITH.
What is your business?

Mr. EVANS.
Able seaman, sir.

Senator SMITH.
How long have you been a seaman?

Mr. EVANS.
I was in the Royal Navy, sir.

Senator SMITH.
How long?

Mr. EVANS.
Nine years, sir; nine years and six months.

Senator SMITH.
On what ships?

Mr. EVANS.
Fourteen or fifteen ships; more than that, in fact, sir.

Senator SMITH.
So you have had considerable experience as a mariner?

Mr. EVANS.
Yes; as a sailor.

Senator SMITH.
How long have you been on merchant vessels?

Mr. EVANS.
On merchant vessels, I have been in the [Tintagel Castle](#), of the Union Line, in the [Ferneo](#), an admiralty collier, and in the [Olympic](#), of the White Star Line.

Senator SMITH.
And you came from the *Olympic* to the [Titanic](#)?

Mr. EVANS.
To the *Titanic*; yes, sir.

26 Senator SMITH.
Had you ever sailed the north Atlantic Ocean before?

27 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; only on that trip in the *Olympic*, sir.

28 Senator SMITH.
What position did you fill or hold on the *Titanic*?

29 Mr. EVANS.
Able-bodied seaman.

30 Senator SMITH.
Did you sail in this ship from Belfast?

31 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

32 Senator SMITH.
From Southampton?

33 Mr. EVANS.
From Southampton; yes, sir.

34 Senator SMITH.
I wish you would tell what took place, so far as you know, of your own knowledge, on the *Titanic* from the time you sailed from Southampton up to the time of the accident and your rescue by the [Carpathia](#), and state in your own way and give me a connected story.

35 Mr. EVANS.
Well, sir, we went on board; we joined the *Titanic* on Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock we had the first muster and had an inspection by the officers and went to boat drill. There were two starboard boats. We went away in one of those boats. The boats were hoisted up again and then I went on shore until half-past 11, sir.

36 Senator SMITH.
State the number of sailors that went in those two boats - that manned those two boats which were lowered at Southampton?

37 Mr. EVANS.
There were nine in each, sir. I would not be sure as to the exact number, but I think there were nine in each.

38 Senator SMITH.
Which side of the ship were they lowered from?

39 Mr. EVANS.
The starboard side.

40 Senator SMITH.
The port side being against the wharf?

41 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; up against the quay. On the way out we did the usual routine of scrubbing the decks, working four hours on and four hours off. On Sunday we do not do anything in regard to scrubbing and the like of that. Sunday night was my watch on deck, and I was sitting at the table reading a book, and all of a sudden I felt a slight jar. I did not take any notice of it for a few minutes, until one of the other able seamen came down with a big lump of ice in his hands, and he said "Look what I found on the [fore-well deck](#)," and he chucked it down on the deck; and I went up the ladder there and I met one officer.

42 Senator SMITH.
Which officer?

43 Mr. EVANS.
The fifth officer, I think.

44 Senator SMITH.
The fifth officer? Was it [Lowe](#) or [Moody](#)?

45 Mr. EVANS.

I think it was the fifth officer; the fifth or sixth officer. He told me to go down and find the carpenter and sound all the bells forward, and report to the bridge. I went down the engineer's alleyway to find him, and I met the boatswain [[Alfred Nichols](#)] there, and he said, "Who are you looking for, Evans?" I said "The carpenter." He said "He has gone up." He said "What is the matter?" I said "I do not know. I think we have struck an iceberg." The boatswain went up, then. We went up and we looked down the forward hatch, where the tarpaulin was raising up with the wind, and I seen the boatswain again, and he told me to go down and tell the seamen to come up and uncover the boats, and make them ready for going out. I went up there with the remainder of the crew and uncovered all of the port boats. I then went over to the starboard side and lowered the boats there, with the assistance of the boatswain.

46 Senator SMITH.

What was the boatswain's name?

47 Mr. EVANS.

I forget his name, now, sir.

48 Senator SMITH.

Can you not think of it?

49 Mr. EVANS.

I forget the boatswain's name. We used to call him Mick; we used to give him that nickname.

50 Senator SMITH.

Is he here?

51 Mr. EVANS.

No, sir; he was drowned, sir. He was the boatswain of the ship.

52 Senator SMITH.

Go ahead.

53 Mr. EVANS.

We then lowered the starboard boats. After they had been lowered I went over to the port side and seen my own boat with the women and children being passed into it.

54 Senator SMITH.

What was the number of your boat?

55 Mr. EVANS.

[No. 12](#) was my proper boat, on the port side.

56 Senator SMITH.

Was No. 12 filled with women and children?

57 Mr. EVANS.

Yes, sir.

58 Senator SMITH.

How many were put into it?

59 Mr. EVANS.

I should say, on a rough average, there was about 50, sir. There was one seaman standing in the stern sheets of it.

60 Senator SMITH.

Were there any other men in it?

61 Mr. EVANS.

No, sir; I did not notice any other men in the boat. She was swung out on the davits.

62 Senator SMITH.

And you did not notice any men?

63 Mr. EVANS.

I could only see a seaman there.

64 Senator SMITH.

One seaman, or more?

65 Mr. EVANS.

One seaman; yes, sir.

66 Senator SMITH.

That boat was lowered. Were there any male passengers in there; any members of the crew, males?

67 Mr. EVANS.

I did not notice any. After we got them into that, I sung out to the seaman: "How many have you got in that boat?" I said: "Ginger, how many have you got?" He said: "There is only me here." I lowered that boat, sir, and she went away from the ship. I then went next to [No. 10](#), sir, to that boat, and the chief officer, [Mr. Murdoch](#), was standing there, and I lowered the boat with the assistance of a steward. The chief officer said, "What are you, Evans?" I said "A seaman, sir." He said "All right; get into that boat with the other seamen." He said, "Get into that boat," and I got into the bows of this boat, and a young ship's baker was getting the children and chucking them into the boat, and the women were jumping. Mr. Murdoch made them jump across into the boat.

68 Senator SMITH.

How far?

69 Mr. EVANS.

It was about two feet and a half, sir. He was making the women jump across, and the children he was chucking across, along with this baker. He threw them onto the women, and he was catching the children by their dresses and chucking them in.

70 Senator SMITH.

Were any children thrown overboard or any women?

71 Mr. EVANS.

One woman slipped and fell. Her heel must have caught on the rail of the deck, and she fell down and some one on the deck below caught her and pulled her up. Her heel caught in the rail, I think, as she was jumping, and they pulled her in onto the next deck. She was a woman in a black dress.

72 Senator SMITH.

Do you know who she was? Did you ever see her afterwards?

73 Mr. EVANS.

Yes, sir; she came up onto the boat deck again, and then jumped again, and she came into the boat that time all right.

74 Senator SMITH.

Into your boat?

75 Mr. EVANS.

Yes; into No. 10 boat.

76 Senator SMITH.

Who was she?

77 Mr. EVANS.

I could not distinguish her at all in the boat, and I never took no more notice of her.

78 Senator SMITH.

We are talking about the No. 10 boat - the one that you were in.

79 Mr. EVANS.

Yes.

80 Senator SMITH.

How many people were put into that boat with you?

81 Mr. EVANS.

There were about 60 persons, women and children.

82 Senator SMITH.

How many women?

83 Mr. EVANS.

I should say about 57, sir. There were only me and another seaman and a steward, and two men besides.

84 Senator SMITH.

And how many children?

85 Mr. EVANS.
Seven or eight children, sir.

86 Senator SMITH.
How many men besides yourself?

87 Mr. EVANS.
I think there were one or two; there was me and another seaman and a steward, and two men.

88 Senator SMITH.
Who were these men?

89 Mr. EVANS.
I do not know, sir. I think one was a foreigner that was up forward.

90 Senator SMITH.
A passenger?

91 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; he was a passenger. The chief officer, Murdoch, had cleared all the women and children from that side of the ship, and he asked if there was any more, and there was no reply came, and the boat was packed, sir, and as this boat was being lowered this foreigner must have jumped from A deck into the boat.

92 Senator SMITH.
Did he catch something and throw himself into the boat?

93 Mr. EVANS.
No; he just deliberately jumped across into the boat.

94 Senator SMITH.
And saved himself?

95 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

96 Senator SMITH.
What occurred then; was it lowered?

97 Mr. EVANS.
It was lowered.

98 Senator SMITH.
To the water?

99 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; to the water.

100 Senator SMITH.
If I understand you correctly, Murdoch, who was chief officer, loaded that boat by having the women jump from the boat deck into the lifeboat?

101 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

102 Senator SMITH.
A distance of how much?

103 Mr. EVANS.
About 2 1/2 or 3 feet.

104 Senator SMITH.
In order to get them in there?

105 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

106 Senator SMITH.
Did the women hesitate about getting in?

107 Mr. EVANS.

One or two women did, sir; but he compelled them to jump. He told them that they must.

108 Senator SMITH.
Did any women refuse to jump?

109 Mr. EVANS.
One or two women refused, in the first place, to jump; but after he told them, they finally went.

110 Senator SMITH.
When you got to the water, what did you do?

111 Mr. EVANS.
We unhooked the falls, sir. It was impossible to get to the tripper, on account of the women being packed so tightly. It was impossible to get to the tripper underneath the thwart.

112 Senator SMITH.
What was done then?

113 Mr. EVANS.
We had to lift the fall up off the hook to release the spring, to get the block and fall away from it.

114 Senator SMITH.
And then what did you do?

115 Mr. EVANS.
We unhooked it by hand.

116 Senator SMITH.
Then what did you do?

117 Mr. EVANS.
We pushed off from the ship and rowed away.

118 Senator SMITH.
How far away?

119 Mr. EVANS.
About 200 yards.

120 Senator SMITH.
What did you do then?

121 Mr. EVANS.
We went over to where there were three more boats, and we tied up to them.

122 Senator SMITH.
Do you know which lifeboats you tied up to?

123 Mr. EVANS.
There was No. 12.

124 Senator SMITH.
Your boat?

125 Mr. EVANS.
I was in No. 10, then.

126 Senator SMITH.
Yes, I understand; but No. 12 was your own boat?

127 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, she was my original boat. That was my station.

128 Senator SMITH.
What were the numbers of the other boats?

129 Mr. EVANS.
I was in No. 10, and we tied up to No. 12. We gave the man our painter and made fast, and we stopped there.

130 Senator SMITH.
How long did you stop there?

131 Mr. EVANS.
We stopped there about an hour, I think it was, sir, when No. 14 boat came over with one officer.

132 Senator SMITH.
What officer?

133 Mr. EVANS.
The fifth officer. I think it was.

134 Senator SMITH.
Mr. Lowe; No. 14 boat?

135 Mr. EVANS.
No. 14 boat. He came over in No. 14 boat, and he says, "Are there any seamen there?" We said, "Yes, sir." He said, "All right; you will have to distribute these passengers among these boats. Tie them all together and come into my boat," he said, "to go over into the wreckage and pick up anyone that is alive there." So we got into his boat and went straight over toward the wreckage. We picked up four men there, sir; alive.

136 Senator SMITH.
When you went over toward the wreckage, how many people were in your boat?

137 Mr. EVANS.
Eight or nine, sir.

138 Senator SMITH.
And you picked up how many?

139 Mr. EVANS.
We picked up four persons alive.

140 Senator SMITH.
Any dead?

141 Mr. EVANS.
One died on the way back, sir. There were plenty of dead bodies about us.

142 Senator SMITH.
How many? Scores of them?

143 Mr. EVANS.
You couldn't hardly count them, sir. I was afraid to look over the sides because it might break my nerves down.

144 Senator SMITH.
Did these bodies have life preservers on?

145 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; from here upward (*indicating*) they were clear of the water. They were like that (*indicating*). They simply had perished, sir.

146 Senator SMITH.
The boat that came to you was under sail?

147 Mr. EVANS.
After we left the wreckage we made sail to another boat that was in distress, farther over.

148 Senator SMITH.
That was Lowe's boat, was it not?

149 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

150 Senator SMITH.
When you picked up these four men, that left you 13 people in your boat?

151 Mr. EVANS.
Thirteen; yes, sir.

152 Senator SMITH.
Did you see other people in the water, or hear their cries?

153 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; none whatsoever, sir, other than these four persons we picked up.

154 Senator SMITH.
Did you not hear the cries of anyone in distress?

155 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

156 Senator SMITH.
For help?

157 Mr. EVANS.
In the first place, when the ship sank I was in No. 10 boat, then, sir.

158 Senator SMITH.
When the ship sank you heard these cries?

159 Mr. EVANS.
We heard these cries, but we took them to be the boats that went away from the starboard side of the ship; that they were cheering one another, sir.

160 Senator SMITH.
Giving them encouragement?

161 Mr. EVANS.
Giving them encouragement, sir.

162 Senator SMITH.
When you went back toward the wreckage the *Titanic* had been sunk how long?

163 Mr. EVANS.
It must have been about an hour and a half, I should think.

164 Senator SMITH.
And you laid by, about 200 yards off, for an hour and a half?

165 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

166 Senator SMITH.
And then pulled over toward the place where she sank?

167 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; that was in No. 14 boat, sir, with the officer.

168 Senator SMITH.
And you picked up four people?

169 Mr. EVANS.
Four people, sir.

170 Senator SMITH.
One of whom died?

171 Mr. EVANS.
One died; yes, sir.

172 Senator SMITH.
On the way to the [*Carpathia*](#)?

173 Mr. EVANS.
He died in the boat, sir.

174 Senator SMITH.
One of whom died in the boat?

175 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

176 Senator SMITH.
Was that [Mr. Hoyt](#)?

177 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say. He was a very stout man.

178 Senator SMITH.
A large man?

179 Mr. EVANS.
A large, fleshy man.

180 Senator SMITH.
He was a large, fleshy man, and you had great trouble in getting him into the boat?

181 Mr. EVANS.
We had great trouble in getting him into the boat.

182 Senator SMITH.
And you had to unfasten his collar to give him a chance to breathe?

183 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

184 Senator SMITH.
Why did you not go over toward the wreck quicker?

185 Mr. EVANS.
In No. 14 boat or in No. 10 boat, sir?

186 Senator SMITH.
In No. 14 boat.

187 Mr. EVANS.
The officer was in command of that boat then, sir.

188 Senator SMITH.
And he did not care to go over?

189 Mr. EVANS.
That I could not say, sir.

190 Senator SMITH.
He did not order you to go over?

191 Mr. EVANS.
He wanted as full a crew as he could get, to go over there quicker.

192 Senator SMITH.
He got the crew as soon as he got alongside of you?

193 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; he got alongside of these boats and got rid of his passengers. We never saw him before that, so that I do not know what he did.

194 Senator SMITH.
How many men did he have in his crew?

195 Mr. EVANS.
In his crew in No. 14 boat, sir?

196 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

197 Mr. EVANS.
Eight or nine, sir. There were stewards and firemen.

198 Senator SMITH.
He had eight or nine when you went back to the wreck?

199 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

200 Senator SMITH.
But how many did he have in his crew when you first saw No. 14 boat?

201 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say, sir. I could not tell you that, sir. I never took the trouble to count them.

202 Senator SMITH.
Did he use his revolver any, going over there?

203 Mr. EVANS.
The fifth officer used one, sir.

204 Senator SMITH.
Where?

205 Mr. EVANS.
He fired four shots when we went to this boat that was in distress. She was half full of water, and they were up to their ankles in water. There was one collapsible boat that we had in tow, and we went over to this one that was swamped, sir. Three dead persons were left there, besides our taking two other people into our boat, and one woman.

206 Senator SMITH.
I did not understand you to say that any women were taken off of this boat - the collapsible boat.

207 Mr. EVANS.
The second officer was on the collapsible boat. He was a collapsible boat in tow, sir. Then we went over to this other collapsible that was swamped. There was one woman in it, and I should say there were about 10 or a dozen men, and 3 dead bodies were lying across the thwarts in the stern sheets.

208 Senator SMITH.
As I understand you, that boat was taking in water?

209 Mr. EVANS.
The collapsible boat?

210 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

211 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

212 Senator SMITH.
And capsizing?

213 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; she was swamped. She was up out of the water, but she was swamped.

214 Senator SMITH.
The people were taken out of that boat? [Collapsible A]

215 Mr. EVANS.
Into our boat.

216 Senator SMITH.
Into your boat?

217 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

218 Senator SMITH.
Including one woman, and all the balance were men?

219 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; the remainder of them were men.

220 Senator SMITH.
Were those men seamen?

221 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; I never saw any seamen there. There were firemen and passengers.

222 Senator SMITH.
Firemen and passengers?

223 Mr. EVANS.

Yes.

224 Senator SMITH.
How many passengers were there?

225 Mr. EVANS.
There were one or two firemen I recognized, and some of them might have been firemen,
and I did not know them, sir.

226 Senator SMITH.
Would you say the largest proportion of those in that boat which was swamped were
passengers, or members of the crew of the [Titanic](#)?

227 Mr. EVANS.
The majority of them were passengers.

228 Senator SMITH.
How many were passengers; half of them?

229 Mr. EVANS.
About eight of the dozen, I should think, sir, and this one woman. [Rhoda Abbott]

230 Senator SMITH.
I do not think I have yet got the number of that swamped boat. Do you know what the
number of it was?

231 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

232 Senator SMITH.
It was a collapsible boat, but what was the number of it?

233 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; I could not give you the number of it.

234 Senator SMITH.
After you took these four people into boat No. 14 from the water, what did you do?

235 Mr. EVANS.
I had a thorough good look around everywhere in the wreckage.

236 Senator SMITH.
To see if you could see any life?

237 Mr. EVANS.
To see if I could see any live ones, any live bodies.

238 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any alive?

239 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

240 Senator SMITH.
A good many dead?

241 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

242 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any women dead in the water?

243 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; mostly men.

244 Senator SMITH.
Was it daylight at this time?

245 Mr. EVANS.
Just breaking daylight.

246 Senator SMITH.
Did you have a lamp in your boat?

247 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

248 Senator SMITH.
Was there a lamp in boat No. 14?

249 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

250 Senator SMITH.
Or a lamp in No. 10 boat?

251 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

252 Senator SMITH.
When you found there were no live persons whom you could rescue, why did you not take some of the dead ones aboard? You had lots of room.

253 Mr. EVANS.
That lay with the officer. [Fifth Officer Lowe]

254 Senator SMITH.
And what did he say about it?

255 Mr. EVANS.
He did not pass any remark at all, sir. He said, "Have a good look around, and see if you can see anybody alive, at all."

256 Senator SMITH.
And when you did find anybody alive, what did the officer say?

257 Mr. EVANS.
The officer said, "Hoist the sail forward." I did so, and made sail.

258 Senator SMITH.
Hoist the sail forward?

259 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; on the foremast; and we altered the course into the direction of this collapsible boat which had been swamped. On the way down we picked up another collapsible that had some women and children in it, and took her in tow, and then we sailed to this sinking boat.

260 Senator SMITH.
What did you go out to the sinking boat for? There was nobody on it?

261 Mr. EVANS.
It was a boat that was swamped.

262 Senator SMITH.
Yes; but you had taken the people off of that before.

263 Mr. EVANS.
No; we took this other boat in tow before we went to the boat that was swamped. We picked her up on our way down toward the boat that was swamped.

264 Senator SMITH.
This boat that was swamped you went to after you had been around the wreck?

265 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; we came from the wreck direct in the direction of this boat that was swamped.

266 Senator SMITH.
Then you took those people?

267 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; off that boat, into ours.

268 Senator SMITH.
And let the collapsible drift?

269 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

270 Senator SMITH.
How many people did you find in that swamped boat?

271 Mr. EVANS.
There were about 4 of them and this 1 woman. There were about 12 men and 1 woman.

272 Senator SMITH.
That made about 25 people, including the one who died?

273 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

274 Senator SMITH.
Did you take off of the swamped boat the dead bodies?

275 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; we left them there.

276 Senator SMITH.
You left them there to drift?

277 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; three of them that were dead.

278 Senator SMITH.
Were those dead people passengers?

279 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say, sir. They were lying right over the thwarts, like that (indicating).

280 Senator SMITH.
Did you know any of them?

281 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

282 Senator SMITH.
Did you look at them?

283 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir, I did not particularly look at them. I was assisting the other passengers off.

284 Senator SMITH.
Evidently you do not like to look at dead people very well.

285 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

286 Senator SMITH.
Is that one of the reasons why you did not pick up more of these dead people that were floating around there?

287 Mr. EVANS.
If the officer had given orders to pick them up, we should have picked them up.

288 Senator SMITH.
But he gave no orders?

289 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

290 Senator SMITH.
There was a lot of cork floating around on the water. Did you see any of it?

291 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

292 Senator SMITH.
After you got those people out of that swamped boat it was daylight?

293 Mr. EVANS.

Yes.
294 Senator SMITH.
And you sighted the [Carpathia](#) coming?
295 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.
296 Senator SMITH.
Did you row toward her?
297 Mr. EVANS.
We did not row toward her; we made sail.
298 Senator SMITH.
You laid down your oars?
299 Mr. EVANS.
Laid down our oars and hoisted sail to make more speed, to get rid of these passengers, to
get them aboard as soon as possible.
300 Senator SMITH.
So that you went out with sail?
301 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.
302 Senator SMITH.
To the Carpathia?
303 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; under sail to the Carpathia, with the collapsible boat in tow. One of the ladies there
passed over a flask of whisky to the people who were all wet through. She asked if
anybody needed the spirits, and these people were all soaking wet and nearly perished,
and they passed it around between these men and women.
304 Senator SMITH.
Who took it?
305 Mr. EVANS.
They gave a woman the first drink. After that the men passengers, who were wet through.
306 Senator SMITH.
Do you know the quartermaster, Hitchens?
307 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; I have never been in conversation with him.
308 Senator SMITH.
Do you yourself know him by sight?
309 Mr. EVANS.
I know him by sight.
310 Senator SMITH.
Was he in that collapsible boat?
311 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.
312 Senator SMITH.
How long did it take you after you sighted the Carpathia to get alongside of her?
313 Mr. EVANS.
About 20 minutes, sir.
314 Senator SMITH.
During the time that you lay off from the wreck, and during the time that you cruised
around the wreck, around the place of the disaster, and while you were sailing out to the
Carpathia, did you see any icebergs?
315 Mr. EVANS.

Yes.
316 Senator SMITH.
Many?
317 Mr. EVANS.
Five or six, I should think, sir.
318 Senator SMITH.
How big?
319 Mr. EVANS.
Some were tremendous icebergs.
320 Senator SMITH.
How big; as big as the Titanic?
321 Mr. EVANS.
I should say about the height of that, sir.
322 Senator SMITH.
And there were quite a number of them?
323 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; quite a number of icebergs.
324 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any growlers?
325 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.
326 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any field ice?
327 Mr. EVANS.
I saw the field ice after we got on the Carpathia.
328 Senator SMITH.
A great deal of it?
329 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; at a rough estimate there was about a 21-mile floe, sir.
330 Senator SMITH.
A 21-mile floe?
331 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; floating ice; flat like the floor.
332 Senator SMITH.
What did you do after you got aboard the Carpathia? Did you get all these people aboard?
333 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; we got all these people aboard.
334 Senator SMITH.
Did you get all the dead people aboard?
335 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; we got all the passengers aboard as soon as we could.
336 Senator SMITH.
Then what did you do?
337 Mr. EVANS.
I made fast the boat. I picked up a big satchel that was in the bottom of the boat, and I
threw it up to the master-at-arms of the Carpathia, and then we went on the boat deck of
the Carpathia and got orders to hoist our boat.
338 Senator SMITH.
Did you see the captain that night?
339 Mr. EVANS.

Yes.

340 Senator SMITH.
Where?

341 Mr. EVANS.
He came to the starboard action boat that I was lowering, sir.

342 Senator SMITH.
What did he say, if anything?

343 Mr. EVANS.
He passed some remark to a tall military gentleman there with white spats on, but what it was I could not say, as I was attending to the fall; it was a tall military-looking gentleman who was giving orders as to lowering away forward or aft or both together. As soon as we lowered the starboard action boat to the next deck the gripes of the boat caught and we had to cut them with an axe.

344 Senator SMITH.
What happened to that?

345 Mr. EVANS.
We had to cut it away.

346 Senator SMITH.
Did it get caught in the gear?

347 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, the gripes we use in the lowering of the boat; it caught up underneath, or else it had not been untied. I could not look at it, because it was holding it in.

348 Senator SMITH.
It was chopped away with an axe?

349 Mr. EVANS.
Chopped away with an axe, sir.

350 Senator SMITH.
Then what happened to it?

351 Mr. EVANS.
It was lowered right down to the water.

352 Senator SMITH.
It was lowered, then, to the water's edge?

353 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

354 Senator SMITH.
Was it filled with people?

355 Mr. EVANS.
It was not on the boat deck, not when I first lowered it. Whether any passengers dropped in underneath I could not say.

356 Senator SMITH.
You mean that this No. 1 boat that was caught was not filled at the boat deck?

357 Mr. EVANS.
Some ladies were passed into it on the boat deck, but very few.

358 Senator SMITH.
How many?

359 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say.

360 Senator SMITH.
About how many?

361 Mr. EVANS.

I should say five or six.
362 Senator SMITH.
And then it was lowered?
363 Mr. EVANS.
Then it was lowered to the next deck.
364 Senator SMITH.
To A deck?
365 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.
366 Senator SMITH.
And at A deck what happened?
367 Mr. EVANS.
I could not tell you, because I could not see.
368 Senator SMITH.
Whether anybody got in there or not you do not know?
369 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say.
370 Senator SMITH.
Did you see it in the water?
371 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.
372 Senator SMITH.
Did you ever see it after that time?
373 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.
374 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any men in it at all?
375 Mr. EVANS.
I saw the able seaman, Symons; I think his name is Symons. Yes, it is Symons.
376 Senator SMITH.
The lookout?
377 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; the lookout man.
378 Senator SMITH.
You saw him in it?
379 Mr. EVANS.
I saw him in the boat. There were some more men. There were five in it, sir.
380 Senator SMITH.
How many men?
381 Mr. EVANS.
Three, I think, sir.
382 Senator SMITH.
Was that all there were in it?
383 Mr. EVANS.
That is all I could see, sir.
384 Senator SMITH.
But what became of that boat you do not know?
385 Mr. EVANS.
I do not know, sir.
386 Senator SMITH.

Did Symons survive?

387 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

388 Senator SMITH.
Is he here?

389 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

390 Senator SMITH.
This No. 1 boat was the emergency boat?

391 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

392 Senator SMITH.
On which side?

393 Mr. EVANS.
On the starboard side. There in one on each side.

394 Senator SMITH.
This was on the starboard side?

395 Mr. EVANS.
On the starboard side; yes, sir.

396 Senator SMITH.
It always hangs ready for any emergency? It always hangs ready in the davits, swung out?

397 Mr. EVANS.
It is already swung out, sir.

398 Senator SMITH.
All ready for lowering?

399 Mr. EVANS.
All you have to do is to take hold of the grips and lower away the boat.

400 Senator SMITH.
When you saw it last it only had eight or nine people in it?

401 Mr. EVANS.
It only had eight or nine people in it.

402 Senator SMITH.
How many would it hold?

403 Mr. EVANS.
I should think, on an average, of near about 35, sir; 35 or 40.

404 Senator SMITH.
No. 12, your boat, and No. 10 and No. 14, in which you escaped, were all large boats?

405 Mr. EVANS.
The largest-sized boats.

406 Senator SMITH.
The largest sized lifeboats?

407 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

408 Senator SMITH.
How many will a lifeboat of that kind hold, safely?

409 Mr. EVANS.
A large one, sir?

410 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

411 Mr. EVANS.

It will probably hold 60, I should say, sir.

412 Senator SMITH.
Would it be perfectly safe to lower a large boat like that, with new tackle and davits, and everything in good condition, with 60 people in it?

413 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

414 Senator SMITH.
How many would it hold on the water if the water was smooth?

415 Mr. EVANS.
You could not get more than 60 into the boat. My boat, No. 10, was literally packed, without any room to move, at all. We could not get to this tripper at the time, with 60 persons in it, or anywhere near it.

416 Senator SMITH.
Do you wish to be understood as saying that a large lifeboat like No. 14 or No. 12 or No. 10 could be filled to its full capacity and lowered to the water with safety?

417 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; because we did it then, sir.

418 Senator SMITH.
That is a pretty good answer.

419 Mr. EVANS.
It was my first experience in seeing a boat loaded like that, sir.

420 Senator SMITH.
Was it your first experience with a wreck?

421 Mr. EVANS.
Yes.

422 Senator SMITH.
I think that is all.

423 (Witness Excused.)

424 Day 8

425 Testimony of Frank O. Evans, recalled

426 Senator SMITH.
Evans, I think you told me you had served nine years in the Royal Navy?

427 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

428 Senator SMITH.
Where were you in the lifeboat -

429 Mr. EVANS. (interrupting)
Yes, sir.

430 Senator SMITH.
One moment, now. Where were you in the lifeboat when lifeboat No. 14, in charge of Officer Lowe, was tied up to your boat?

431 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; he was not tied up to us. He came over to us.

432 Senator SMITH.
Where were you when he came over to you?

433 Mr. EVANS.
In the bow of No. 10 boat.

434 Senator SMITH.
You got out of No. 10 boat and got into No. 14 boat with Officer Lowe?

435 Mr. EVANS.

Yes, sir; by his orders, sir.

436 Senator SMITH.
You said you heard Officer Lowe fire four shots from a revolver?

437 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

438 Senator SMITH.
Where were you at that time?

439 Mr. EVANS.
Going to the assistance of the collapsible boat that was swamped.

440 Senator SMITH.
On the way from the place where you joined Officer Lowe, in boat 14, to the collapsible
boat that was being swamped and filled with passengers, men and women -

441 Mr. EVANS. (interrupting)
One woman, sir. [Rhoda Abbott]

442 Senator SMITH.
They were up to their ankles in water?

443 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; the boat was swamped within about 5 or 6 inches of the gunwale, the top of the
boat, sir.

444 Senator SMITH.
You heard Officer Lowe and saw him fire his revolver several times?

445 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

446 Senator SMITH.
In what direction did he point the revolver?

447 Mr. EVANS.
In the air, sir.

448 Senator SMITH.
Did you ask him why he fired?

449 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

450 Senator SMITH.
Did he tell you why he fired?

451 Mr. EVANS.
He told people in this boat it was to warn them not to rush our boat when we got
alongside.

452 Senator SMITH.
How many people did you have in your boat, No. 14, with Lowe?

453 Mr. EVANS.
We had one dead and three alive, that we picked up off the wreckage. This man died on
the way from the wreckage, sir.

454 Senator SMITH.
This man was a large man? [William Hoyt]

455 Mr. EVANS.
A very stout man, sir.

456 Senator SMITH.
Do you know his name?

457 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

458 Senator SMITH.

Was it Mr. Hoyt?
459 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say; I do not know his name.
460 Senator SMITH.
Did you unfasten his collar?
461 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; some of the stewards did, sir.
462 Senator SMITH.
In the end of your boat?
463 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.
464 Senator SMITH.
In order that he might breathe?
465 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; in order that he might breathe.
466 Senator SMITH.
Were those all the persons in lifeboat No. 14 at that moment?
467 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; besides the crew.
468 Senator SMITH.
And of how many did the crew consist?
469 Mr. EVANS.
I should say about eight or nine, sir.
470 Senator SMITH.
Then, in your boat at that time was a crew of eight or nine, which included yourself?
471 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.
472 Senator SMITH.
Including Officer Lowe?
473 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir
474 Senator SMITH.
This Mr. Hoyt, whom you picked up out of the water alive, was there?
475 Mr. EVANS.
He was alive when we got him over the side of the boat, into the boat.
476 Senator SMITH.
You picked him up out of the water alive?
477 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.
478 Senator SMITH.
And two other persons?
479 Mr. EVANS.
Three others, sir.
480 Senator SMITH.
Who were these three other persons?
481 Mr. EVANS.
I did not recognize two of them, sir.
482 Senator SMITH.
Did you recognize one?
483 Mr. EVANS.

Yes, sir; the steward, young Stewart.

484 Senator SMITH.
Were the others stewards?

485 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say, sir.

486 Senator SMITH.
Or firemen?

487 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say, sir.

488 Senator SMITH.
Or stokers?

489 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say, sir, which. I did not know them, sir.

490 Senator SMITH.
You do not know whether they were part of the crew or not?

491 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

492 Senator SMITH.
How far was this swamped collapsible lifeboat from lifeboat No. 14 when you started to it?

493 Mr. EVANS.
About a mile and a half, sir.

494 Senator SMITH.
How near were you to the swamped boat when Lowe fired those shots?

495 Mr. EVANS.
About 150 yards, sir.

496 Senator SMITH.
Going toward it?

497 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; about 150 yards, sir.

498 Senator SMITH.
Did he say anything at the time he did it?

499 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; he just mentioned the fact that they must not rush the boat, as it was liable to capsize her.

500 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear Lowe fire three shots when he was lowering from the ship's deck to the water in his lifeboat?

501 Mr. EVANS.
I never seen him, sir, when his boat was being lowered, sir.

502 Senator SMITH.
Did your lifeboat pick up the lamp trimmer?

503 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

504 Senator SMITH.
At the time Lowe fired these shots were there many floating bodies about your boat?

505 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; no floating bodies, sir. We had come away from them.

506 Senator SMITH.
You had come away from them?

507 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir. They were around the wreck.

508 Senator SMITH.
How many?

509 Mr. EVANS.
I should think between 150 and 200. We had great difficulty in getting through them to get to the wreck.

510 Senator SMITH.
The collapsible boat, according to this evidence, was from the *Titanic* and had been in the water from about 12 o'clock, or half-past 12, that night, until daylight?

511 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; it was daylight when we seen it, sir.

512 Senator SMITH.
At daylight this man saw about 20 people standing upon what he supposed to be floating ice, and in company with Officer Lowe, in lifeboat No. 14, went in that direction .When they got within 150 yards of it Officer Lowe fired these shots. They went up to the boat and took therefrom about 25 passengers?

513 Mr. EVANS.
Between 20 and 25. We left 3 dead ones.

514 Senator SMITH.
About 25 passengers living, including one woman, and you left 3 dead bodies in the swamped boat. While you were standing beside your boat, which was, I believe, No. 12, on the port side, with Officer Murdoch, you saw him load that lifeboat?

515 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; sir.

516 Senator SMITH.
Did I understand you correctly last night when you told me that the lifeboat was about 2 1/2 to 3 feet from the ship's side?

517 Mr. EVANS.
That was No. 10 lifeboat, sir.

518 Senator SMITH.
And that women hesitated to get into it at the command of Mr. Murdoch, because they could not reach it safely?

519 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

520 Senator SMITH.
That one woman, in attempting to jump into it, had gone over the side?

521 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; and her foot caught on the rail, and she was suspended in the air.

522 Senator SMITH.
And little children were thrown into it?

523 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

524 Senator SMITH.
Were pitched into it?

525 Mr. EVANS.
Yes. They had them in their arms, chucking them in.

526 Senator BOURNE.
They were chucked in?

527 Mr. EVANS.

Yes, sir.

528 Senator SMITH.
And No.10 was not filled, was it?

529 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; full to its capacity. [Boat 10 was actually launched with about half it's capacity - 30 to 32 people.]

530 Senator SMITH.
But you had some difficulty about getting the people to get in in that way?

531 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

532 Senator BOURNE.
Who caught the children as they were thrown into the boat?

533 Mr. EVANS.
The first child was passed over, sir, and I caught it by the dress. It was dangling. I had to swing it, and a woman caught it. The remainder of the children - there was a fireman there and with the assistance of a young woman they caught the children as they were dropped into the boat. There were none of the children hurt. That was the only accident, with this woman. She seemed a bit nervous. She did not like to jump, at first, and then when she did jump she did not go far enough, and the consequence was she went between the ship and the boat.

534 Senator BOURNE.
She fell into the water?

535 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; she did not fall into the water. Her foot caught on the rail on the next deck and she was pulled in by some men underneath. This woman went up again on the boat deck and took another jump and landed safely in the boat.

536 Senator BOURNE.
Do you know who she was?

537 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir; I do not know her name.

538 Senator FLETCHER.
Which was the last lifeboat to leave the ship?

539 Mr. EVANS.
The last lifeboat was No. 10. That was the last boat to leave the ship, sir.

540 Senator FLETCHER.
Edward John Buley was on that boat - an able seaman?

541 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; my mate.

542 Senator FLETCHER.
You were both ordered into the boat?

543 Mr. EVANS.
Yes; by Chief Officer Murdoch.

544 Senator FLETCHER.
How many men were in that boat?

545 Mr. EVANS.
There were me, and Buley, a fireman, a steward, and one foreigner. The reminder was all women and children.

546 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you have enough men in to row it, to take care of it?

547 Mr. EVANS.

Yes, sir.
548 Senator FLETCHER.
Were the men all ordered in?
549 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; they were ordered in by Chief Officer Murdoch.
550 Senator FLETCHER.
Which was the next boat to this one to leave the ship?
551 Mr. EVANS.
I could not tell you, sir. I went away in No. 10, and that was the last boat. That was a big lifeboat.
552 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you help to load No. 12 and No. 14?
553 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir. I was on the starboard side, then.
554 Senator FLETCHER.
The boat that preceded No. 10 was what number?
555 Mr. EVANS.
I could not tell you, sir. No. 10 was the last boat, the big boat.
556 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see the *Titanic* after you rowed away from where she was?
557 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.
558 Senator FLETCHER.
How far did you go away?
559 Mr. EVANS.
About 200 yards.
560 Senator FLETCHER.
How much of the bow was under the water when you left?
561 Mr. EVANS.
She was about 10 feet from the port bow light, sir.
562 Senator FLETCHER.
How far did your boat have to go to get to the water?
563 Mr. EVANS.
It would be guesswork if I told you.
564 Senator FLETCHER.
As near as you can tell.
565 Mr. EVANS.
I should say about 50 feet. I could not tell. I was paying so much attention -
566 Senator SMITH.
Could you see the boat well after you pulled away from her?
567 Mr. EVANS.
You could see her when the lights were clear, and then until she gave the final plunge.
568 Senator FLETCHER.
Did the boat go to pieces or come in two?
569 Mr. EVANS.
She parted between the third and fourth funnels.
570 Senator FLETCHER.
What makes you say that?
571 Mr. EVANS.
The foremost part was gone, and it seemed as if the engines were all gone out.

572 Senator FLETCHER.
You could see the forepart was all gone and you could see the stern come up horizontally?

573 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

574 Senator FLETCHER.
After the forepart had disappeared the stern came up and was horizontal with the surface of the water?

575 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir.

576 Senator FLETCHER.
And how much of the stern; up to what part of the ship; to the funnels?

577 Mr. EVANS.
From the after funnel to the ensign mast.

578 Senator FLETCHER.
About how much of the ship was afloat then, after the forepart had gone down?

579 Mr. EVANS.
I should say about 200 feet was afloat; that is, of the stern part.

580 Senator FLETCHER.
Could you see that clearly in the outline?

581 Mr. EVANS.
You could see that in the outline. Then she made a sudden plunge, and the stern went right up.

582 Senator FLETCHER.
Then she plunged forward and went right down?

583 Mr. EVANS.
Plunged forward, perpendicular, sir.

584 Senator FLETCHER.
How long was the stern afloat in that horizontal position?

585 Mr. EVANS.
About four or five minutes, I should judge.

586 Senator FLETCHER.
You were too far away to see whether there were any passengers on the stern?

587 Mr. EVANS.
Yes, sir; I was too far away to see that.

588 Senator FLETCHER.
Was there any light in this boat, No. 10?

589 Mr. EVANS.
No, sir.

590 Senator FLETCHER.
No lantern?


591 Mr. EVANS.
No lantern at all.

592 Senator FLETCHER.
Was there any in No. 12, do you know?

593 Mr. EVANS.
I could not say about No. 12.

594 Senator FLETCHER.
Were there any other supplies in No. 10?

595 Mr. EVANS.
In No. 10, yes, sir; there was in the tank forward, and the aft one was loaded with biscuits

 and kegs of water, with a small drinking cup.