

British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry

Day 11

Testimony of Elizabeth Leather

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/BOTInq/BOTIndx02.php>

Examined by Mr. BUTLER ASPINALL.

13156. Were you serving as a first class stewardess on the "Titanic" on the occasion of this disaster?
- Yes.

13157. Were you asleep, or rather, were you turned in at the time of the collision with the iceberg?
- Yes.

13158. Did you get up?
- Not for some time afterwards.

13159. When you speak of some time, do you mean in five minutes or half-an-hour, or what?
- About half-an-hour or three-quarters.

13160. You thought there was no reason for getting up?
- Yes.

13161. And your judgment is that in about half-an-hour or three-quarters of an hour you got up?
- Yes.

13162. Would it be your business to look after some of the ladies in your part of the ship?
- Certainly.

13163. And did you go to look after them?
- They had already gone out of their rooms.

13164. By the time you got up you found they were all up?
- Yes.

13165. Where did you go after you got up?
- Up to B deck.

13166. Did you see any of your stewardesses about?
- Yes, quite a number.

13167. Were the stewardesses, as far as you could see, all doing their duty?
- Yes; they had blankets and ciderdowns to put round people.

13168. And as a class they were doing all they were being told to do were they?
- Yes.

13169. Looking after the lady passengers?
- Yes.

13170. You went to B deck; did you remain on B deck or did you go elsewhere?
- I went down to the cabin again.

13171. To your cabin?
- Yes.

13172. I do not want to go into this in great detail. You went to your own cabin and then later on did you go up?
- Yes.

13173. To which deck?
- To A deck.

13174. Were you after a time helped into No. 16 boat?
- Yes.

13175. And you were ultimately taken on board the "Carpathia"?
- Yes.

- 26 Examined by Mr. SCANLAN.
- 27 13176. Have you been for a considerable time a stewardess?
- Yes.
- 28 13177. Is it the practice on liners to give each stewardess a boat station?
- Yes.
- 29 13178. And at some time on the voyage are the stewardesses as well as the other hands called to their stations?
- Only on sailing days; there is then a boat muster.
- 30 13179. But you had not that on the "Titanic"?
- On the sailing day we all mustered in the companion to pass the doctor.
- 31 13180. You mean the day you left Southampton?
- Yes.
- 32 13181. But were you told then what your boat station was?
- No, we were supposed to look for it ourselves on the list.
- 33 13182. But you had not been told the station you would take on the boat?
- No.
- 34 13183. After the collision you and all the other stewardesses were doing their duty in helping the people as much as possible?
- Yes.
- 35 Examined by Mr. HARBINSON.
- 36 13184. Do you know if after the collision any general alarm was sounded on the "Titanic"?
- I do not know.
- 37 Examined by Sir ROBERT FINLAY.
- 38 13185. Before your boat put off did you hear the question asked whether there were any more women and children?
- Yes, and there were no more to be seen when we went off.
- 39 (The Witness withdrew.)