

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 7

Testimony of George Moore

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/USInq/AmInq01Indx2a.php>

(The witness was sworn by Senator Newlands.)

Senator NEWLANDS.
State your age and residence?

Mr. MOORE.
Fifty-one years old; Graham Road, Southampton.

Senator NEWLANDS.
What is your occupation?

Mr. MOORE.
Able seaman, sir.

Senator NEWLANDS.
State what drills if any there were, when you got on the [Titanic](#), or the ship's crew, what their character was, and what occurred of any significance during your trip from Southampton to the point of the collision.

Mr. MOORE.
We joined the ship on Wednesday morning, the 10th of April, and had boat drill and proceeded at 12 o'clock. We called at Cherbourg and Queenstown.

Senator NEWLANDS.
How many participated in that boat drill; how many men took part in that boat drill?

Mr. MOORE.
All the able seaman, sir.

Senator NEWLANDS.
How many were there?

Mr. MOORE.
I could not say the exact number, but about 30 to 40.

Senator NEWLANDS.
How many boats did you have out?

Mr. MOORE.
We lowered two boats in the water.

Senator NEWLANDS.
Go on.

Mr. MOORE.
On a Sunday it came in rather cold, Sunday afternoon. Sunday night about a quarter to 12 I was on the watch below and turned in, and there was suddenly a noise like a cable running out, like a ship dropping anchor. There was not any shock at all. About 10 minutes to 12 the [boatswain](#) came and piped all hands on the boat deck, and started to get out boats.

Senator NEWLANDS.
What did that mean, that the entire crew was to go up on the [boat deck](#)?

Mr. MOORE.
All the able seamen.

Senator NEWLANDS.
Would that include firemen?

Mr. MOORE.
It had nothing to do with firemen; only the two watches, the port and starboard watches.

24 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many were there of them, about 40?

25 Mr. MOORE.
No; 13 in one watch and 12 in the other. Then there was a man who used to work in the alleyway, and there were promenade daymen, saloon daymen, and second class daymen.

26 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many in all?

27 Mr. MOORE.
How many able seamen?

28 Senator NEWLANDS.
Yes.

29 Mr. MOORE.
There were 6 quartermasters, 6 lookout men, 13 in the port watch, 12 in the starboard watch, and 7 day hands.

30 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do those men constitute the crews of the boats in case of an emergency?

31 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

32 Senator NEWLANDS.
Are any others included?

33 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

34 Senator NEWLANDS.
Who are the others?

35 Mr. MOORE.
In emergency?

36 Senator NEWLANDS.
Yes; are they the only men who are expected to report when there is a call for the boats?

37 Mr. MOORE.
When there is an order, "Boat stations," everyone goes to boat stations - firemen, stewards, and all are called. There is a list showing where each man is to go. Every man in the ship has a fire station and a boat station. But in case of emergency, where there is a man overboard or anything like that, it is only the watch on deck, the boat's crew, that is called.

38 Senator NEWLANDS.
What was the call on this occasion, simply for the boat's crew?

39 Mr. MOORE.
So far as I can say, all the seamen from the forecastle were ordered up to clear away the boats and to take off the boat covers.

40 Senator NEWLANDS.
That would mean about 40 men would have to go up there?

41 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

42 Senator NEWLANDS.
Were any others expected to go up there on that call - firemen or stewards?

43 Mr. MOORE.
I can not answer for those; they do not come under our department.

44 Senator NEWLANDS.
Very well. When this call came, do you think the 40 men were there?

45 Mr. MOORE.

Oh, yes; they all went on the boat deck.

46 Senator NEWLANDS.
If there were 20 boats, that would make about two men to a boat?

47 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

48 Senator NEWLANDS.
Is that considered sufficient?

49 Mr. MOORE.
That is the rule generally, sir; two seamen to each boat.

50 Senator NEWLANDS.
Very well. Go on and tell what happened.

51 Mr. MOORE.
I went on the starboard side of the boat deck and helped clear the boats; swung three of the boats out; helped to lower [No. 5](#) and [No. 7](#). When we swung [No. 3](#) out, I was told to jump in the boat and pass the ladies in. I was told that by the [first officer](#). After we got so many ladies in, and there were no more about, we took in men passengers. We had 32 in the boat, all told, and then we lowered away.

52 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many of those 32 were men and how many women?

53 Mr. MOORE.
I could not say how many were women.

54 Senator NEWLANDS.
Can you tell how many men there were?

55 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir; I could not say exactly.

56 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many seamen were in the boat?

57 Mr. MOORE.
Two seamen were in the boat.

58 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you recall whether there were five or six men passengers besides?

59 Mr. MOORE.
Yes; there were a few men passengers; and there were some firemen in the boat.

60 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many firemen?

61 Mr. MOORE.
I should say there were five or six firemen.

62 Senator NEWLANDS.
How did they get in the boat?

63 Mr. MOORE.
After all the ladies and children that were about there got in, I suppose anyone jumped in, then.

64 Senator NEWLANDS.
What officer was there?

65 Mr. MOORE.
The first officer, Mr. Murdoch.

66 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did he tell these men to go in?

67 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir; he never told them. He got all the women and children in, and the men started to jump in; and when we thought we had a boat full there, we lowered away.

68 Senator NEWLANDS.
You think there were five or six firemen in the boat, do you?

69 Mr. MOORE.
Yes; I am sure of that.

70 Senator NEWLANDS.
Were there any stewards?

71 Mr. MOORE.
No; not one steward.

72 Senator NEWLANDS.
Were there any engineers?

73 Mr. MOORE.
No; no engineers.

74 Senator NEWLANDS.
Any stewardesses?

75 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

76 Senator NEWLANDS.
What officer did you have in the boat?

77 Mr. MOORE.
No officer at all, sir.

78 Senator NEWLANDS.
Who took charge of the boat?

79 Mr. MOORE.
I took charge of the boat.

80 Senator NEWLANDS.
You had the tiller?

81 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

82 Senator NEWLANDS.
Why did you not take more than 32 in that boat?

83 Mr. MOORE.
That is not up to me, sir; that was for the officer on top.

84 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you not think at the time that it ought to have been more heavily loaded?

85 Mr. MOORE.
It seemed pretty full, but I dare say we could have jammed more in. The passengers were not anxious to get in the boats; they were not anxious to get in the first lot of boats.

86 Senator NEWLANDS.
What was your feeling at the time?

87 Mr. MOORE.
I thought, myself, that there was nothing serious the matter until we got away from the ship and she started settling down.

88 Senator NEWLANDS.
You would have been as well pleased to have stayed on the ship as to get on the lifeboat?

89 Mr. MOORE.
I would at that time, sir.

90 Senator NEWLANDS.
How soon after getting in the water did you see that the ship was sinking?

91 Mr. MOORE.

After we pulled a distance away, sir, you could see her head gradually going down.

92 Senator NEWLANDS.
Where were the most of the passengers on the ship at the time you left the ship and when you could see the passengers?

93 Mr. MOORE.
When we started lowering the boats all I saw was first class ladies and gentlemen all lined up with their lifebelts on and coming out of the saloon. I could not say what was on the after part of the ship at all. There was a lot of space between the boats.

94 Senator NEWLANDS.
Where were the steerage passengers, do you think?

95 Mr. MOORE.
I could not answer that. I should say that they were making for the [boat deck](#) as well.

96 Senator NEWLANDS.
There was nothing to prevent them from coming up to any part of the ship, was there?

97 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

98 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did they show any disorder?

99 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

100 Senator NEWLANDS.
Was it your view that the ship was an unsinkable ship?

101 Mr. MOORE.
That was the talk.

102 Senator NEWLANDS.
Was that the general idea of the crew on the ship?

103 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

104 Senator NEWLANDS.
You knew that there were not enough boats to accommodate the entire crew and the passenger list?

105 Mr. MOORE.
I knew there were only 20 boats, and I knew they would not carry all the people.

106 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many did you estimate a boat ought to carry?

107 Mr. MOORE.
Fifty or sixty in a boat.

108 Senator NEWLANDS.
And 50 in a boat would make 1,000, and 60 in a boat would make 1,200?

109 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

110 Senator NEWLANDS.
So all the crew knew that the boats were not sufficient to carry all the passengers and crew off?

111 Mr. MOORE.
I suppose they did, sir.

112 Senator NEWLANDS.
But they regarded the ship as unsinkable?

113 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

114 Senator NEWLANDS.

Who was the officer in charge on the starboard side, where you loaded these boats?

115 Mr. MOORE.
Mr. Murdoch was one. He was the only one I recognized.

116 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you know [Mr. Ismay](#)?

117 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

118 Senator NEWLANDS.
He was not pointed out to you?

119 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

120 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you know any of the passengers on the ship by name?

121 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

122 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did all the women who went on your boat go there willingly, or were some of them forced on?

123 Mr. MOORE.
They were not forced on at all. They all went of their own will.

124 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did any of the ladies on your boat come back to the ship after being put into the lifeboat?

125 Mr. MOORE.
Oh, no; we got clear of the ship as soon as we were lowered in the water.

126 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you take any passengers on your boat in the water?

127 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

128 Senator NEWLANDS.
How far were you from the ship when it sank?

129 Mr. MOORE.
I should say just over a quarter of a mile, sir.

130 Senator NEWLANDS.
You heard the cries of the people in the water, did you not?

131 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir; everybody heard that, sir.

132 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you see the ship go down?

133 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

134 Senator NEWLANDS.
What was the appearance of the ship at that point of time?

135 Mr. MOORE.
I saw the forward part of her go down, and it appeared to me as if she broke in half, and then the after part went. I can remember two explosions.

136 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did your boat make any effort to go back?

137 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

138 Senator NEWLANDS.
Why not?

139 Mr. MOORE.
All the people in the boat wanted to get clear of the ship. They did not want to go near her. They kept urging me to keep away; to pull away from her. In fact, they wanted to get farther away.

140 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you make any effort to go back to the ship?

141 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

142 Senator NEWLANDS.
Why did you not go back and attempt to rescue some of the people who were sinking?

143 Mr. MOORE.
Well, sir, we were about a quarter of a mile away, and the cries did not last long. I do not think anybody could live much more than 10 minutes in that cold water. If we had gone back, we would only have had the boat swamped.

144 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you think it would have been swamped?

145 Mr. MOORE.
Yes; if there were any alive. Five or six pulling on that boat's gunwales would no doubt have capsized the boat.

146 Senator NEWLANDS.
How long have you been at sea?

147 Mr. MOORE.
Seventeen years, sir.

148 Senator NEWLANDS.
Have you seen ice frequently?

149 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir. I do not generally come this way in the wintertime. I go on the Bombay route.

150 Senator NEWLANDS.
Have you ever seen ice before?

151 Mr. MOORE.
Oh, yes; I have seen ice before.

152 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you know whether it is customary for ships to slow down when they know that ice is in the vicinity, or do they keep on, relying upon their ability to steer clear?

153 Mr. MOORE.
I think they go more to the southward when there is ice.

154 Senator NEWLANDS.
How about slowing down?

155 Mr. MOORE.
I could not answer as to that.

156 Senator NEWLANDS.
What did you row for? To what point did you row, or in what direction?

157 Mr. MOORE.
We started to pull away in the boat. There was one bright light away on the starboard bow, 2 or 3 miles away, I should judge.

158 Senator NEWLANDS.
And you rowed for that light?

159 Mr. MOORE.

Yes sir. While we were rowing we came on small ice; you could see small ice in the distance.

160 Senator NEWLANDS.
That night; before dawn?

161 Mr. MOORE.
Yes; we got away from it.

162 Senator NEWLANDS.
You were surrounded by ice at dawn, were you not?

163 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, at dawn.

164 Senator NEWLANDS.
Is it your idea that when the ship struck it was near all this ice at that time?

165 Mr. MOORE.
I could not say that, sir.

166 Senator NEWLANDS.
When you looked out that night after you struck, did you see any iceberg?

167 Mr. MOORE.
I never saw any ice at all until after we got away in the boat.

168 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you see very much then?

169 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir; it did not look like much.

170 Senator NEWLANDS.
Was it high?

171 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir; it was low.

172 Senator NEWLANDS.
But the ice you saw in the morning was high?

173 Mr. MOORE.
Yes. There was ice all around in the morning.

174 Senator NEWLANDS.
Was it your idea that that ice had floated down in your direction, or did you think you had floated down into it?

175 Mr. MOORE.
I believe the ice we saw in the morning was to the northward of where the *Titanic* had gone down.

176 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you think that ice had been to the northward of the *Titanic*?

177 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

178 Senator NEWLANDS.
And was slowly coming down?

179 Mr. MOORE.
Yes. There were lots of bergs around, and there was a great field of ice, I should say between 20 and 30 miles long.

180 Senator NEWLANDS.
Solid ice?

181 Mr. MOORE.
Yes. The stretch of ice was very low, but there were also big bergs.

182 Senator NEWLANDS.
Would it have been possible for a ship to make its way among that ice?

183 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir.

184 Senator NEWLANDS.
It would have had to avoid it altogether?

185 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

186 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did the *Carpathia* have to exercise much care in getting out of the ice?

187 Mr. MOORE.
When we went aboard the *Carpathia* there was ice all around, and I believe after I got aboard we had to steam all around it.

188 Senator NEWLANDS.
And was the ice to the northward of you then?

189 Mr. MOORE.
I could not say, because I never knew the direction the ship's head was.

190 Senator NEWLANDS.
Well, the ship soon took a direction toward the southwest, did it not?

191 Mr. MOORE.
I could not say.

192 Senator NEWLANDS.
It must have done so in order to go to New York.

193 Mr. MOORE.
I should say it went to the westward, sir.

194 Senator NEWLANDS.
Then, were these icebergs to the north of your ship at that time, or the south?

195 Mr. MOORE.
I could not say. I do not know what the direction of the ship was when she started steaming away.

196 Senator NEWLANDS.
Take that entire crew. Do you think that entire crew was able to work together as well as if that ship had been running for six months or a year?

197 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir. I think they were all trained men, sir. They were all able seamen.

198 Senator NEWLANDS.
And they knew their business?

199 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

200 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you think they could work together with the same effectiveness --

201 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

202 Senator NEWLANDS.
There were about 750, crew and passengers, saved, and your boats were able to accommodate about 50 per boat, which would make 1,000, or, at the rate of 60, 1,200. How do you account for it that more were not saved?

203 Mr. MOORE.
Well, I should say that in the first lot of boats that went away people were not eager to get in them. All the people around about were put in the boat and they were lowered away, sir.

204 Senator NEWLANDS.
Were they urged to go in the boat?

205 Mr. MOORE.
They were told to come along and jump in, ladies and children first.

206 Senator NEWLANDS.
When there were no more ladies and children, were the men urged to get in?

207 Mr. MOORE.
Anyone could jump in then, as far as I know, to fill the boat up, to get it away.

208 Senator NEWLANDS.
How many could you safely lower to the water, 70 feet below, in one of those boats; what would you regard as a wise method of loading those boats from the boat deck?

209 Mr. MOORE.
I should say from 30 to 40 people.

210 Senator NEWLANDS.
And then you would expect to take on more when the boat got in the water?

211 Mr. MOORE.
We could have taken more, sir.

212 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you wait there at all, for people to offer themselves, when you got down to the water?

213 Mr. MOORE.
No; we were told to go clear of the ship.

214 Senator NEWLANDS.
Were you given any instruction to pull in any particular direction?

215 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir. I think everyone pulled toward this white light.

216 Senator NEWLANDS.
What did you think that light was at the time?

217 Mr. MOORE.
I thought it was a fisherman. That is what I thought. It was only just one single light.

218 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did that light disappear?

219 Mr. MOORE.
We kept pulling for it until daylight, and we could not see a thing of it then.

220 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you have this light in view all the time while you were pulling at the oars?

221 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

222 Senator NEWLANDS.
How far do you think you pulled from the point where the ship went down?

223 Mr. MOORE.
I could hardly say.

224 Senator NEWLANDS.
Do you suppose you pulled as far as 10 miles?

225 Mr. MOORE.
No, sir. We were going against the current.

226 Senator NEWLANDS.
Was there a current?

227 Mr. MOORE.
I should say so, sir. We kept the boat's head to the wind. We kept going toward this white light.

228 Senator NEWLANDS.
You were sure that the light was there?

229 Mr. MOORE.
Yes, sir.

230 Senator NEWLANDS.
It was a genuine light, you think?

231 Mr. MOORE.
Yes; one bright light.

232 Senator NEWLANDS.
There were 750 saved, in all, and of them 210 belonged to the crew, and of the 210 about 15 were women, stewardesses. How do you account for the fact that such a large proportion of those people saved belonged to the crew?

233 Mr. MOORE.
I can only account for the seamen being saved, two in each boat. That would number just about the number of seamen who were saved.

234 Senator NEWLANDS.
That would be about 40?

235 Mr. MOORE.
Yes; I think there were 39 saved.

236 Senator NEWLANDS.
How do you account for the 79 or 80 firemen being saved?

237 Mr. MOORE.
I could not answer as to that.

238 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did they rush into the boats?

239 Mr. MOORE.
I do not think there was any rush at all, sir. I think a few were picked up in the water.

240 (*Witness excused.*)