

# United States Senate Inquiry

## Day 9

### Testimony of Andrew Cunningham

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

*(The witness was sworn by the chairman.)*

Senator SMITH.  
Where do you reside?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
In Southampton, England.

Senator SMITH.  
How old are you?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Thirty-eight.

Senator SMITH.  
What is your business?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I was stateroom steward on the [Titanic](#).

Senator SMITH.  
What deck were you assigned to, if any?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
[C deck](#) aft, on the starboard side.

Senator SMITH.  
How many rooms did you have charge of?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Nine, sir.

Senator SMITH.  
Do you know who occupied those rooms on the voyage from Southampton to the place of the wreck of the *Titanic*?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH.  
Who were they?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
In number 85 were [Mr.](#) and [Mrs.](#) Bradley Cummings, of New York City; in 87 [Mr.](#) and [Mrs.](#) Clark, of New York City; in 89 [W. T. Stead](#), the editor of the Review of Reviews, from London; in number 91 were a Mr. [\[Mrs. Edith\]](#) and [Miss](#) Graham, of New York City; in 125 was a Miss Schutz [\[Shutes\]](#), a governess to Miss Graham. The other cabins were vacant.

Senator SMITH.  
Where were you the Sunday afternoon and evening preceding this accident?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
It was my afternoon off. I was off that Sunday afternoon.

Senator SMITH.  
You were off that afternoon

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir. It happened to be my turn for the middle watch, or from 12 to 4. So I was excused from duty from 9 until the time I was called to go on the middle watch.

24 Senator SMITH.  
Were you on duty when this accident happened?

25 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I was just called, sir.

26 Senator SMITH.  
What did you do when you found that there was an accident?

27 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I was stationed on [D deck](#), forward, that night.

28 Senator SMITH.  
In charge of what?

29 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Of the bells; to answer bells - the wants of any passengers.

30 Senator SMITH.  
Were you on D deck at the time the impact occurred?

31 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

32 Senator SMITH.  
Where were you?

33 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I was leaving the glory hole, where we lived.

34 Senator SMITH.  
After the ship struck this obstacle, what did you do?

35 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I answered one or two of the bells. The ladies wanted to know how to put on lifebelts. There had been no order passed then. They asked me how to put them on, and I showed several of them; six or seven probably. I do not know their names. I looked down on [E deck](#) to see how things were there. There was a [stairway](#) that led from the E deck to the post office, and the water was down there then. That was level with [F deck](#).

36 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know the names of any of the passengers on D deck whom you assisted that night?

37 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir; it was not my section.

38 Senator SMITH.  
Have you ever seen any of them since?

39 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; I saw one maid on the [Carpathia](#) afterwards.

40 Senator SMITH.  
What was her name?

41 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not know.

42 Senator SMITH.  
Was that Miss Graham's maid?

43 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

44 Senator SMITH.  
She was no one you had known before; no one from your special section on the ship?

45 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No; only seeing her on the ship.

46 Senator SMITH.  
Did you look about the *Carpathia* to see whether any of those passengers whom you had assisted were on

board?

47 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I saw 6 of my own passengers.

48 Senator SMITH.  
Who were they?

49 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Mr. [Mrs. Edith] and Miss Graham and the governess, and Mrs. Clark, and Mrs. Cummings.

50 Senator SMITH.  
Did you make diligent search?

51 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
On the *Carpathia*? No, sir.

52 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know whether the others survived or were lost?

53 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
My own people? They were lost, sir.

54 Senator SMITH.  
After you found that there was water in the post office, what did you do?

55 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
There was another bell rung, and I came up and answered it.

56 Senator SMITH.  
Was there any signal given or order given, within their staterooms?

57 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Oh, yes. About half-past 12 all the stateroom stewards came on duty again, to their respective stations. I went back to my own station on C deck, and my passengers had then been aroused. There were only three left, then.

58 Senator SMITH.  
At half-past 12?

59 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

60 Senator SMITH.  
Did you hear any order of that kind given before half-past 12?

61 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

62 Senator SMITH.  
That was about 55 minutes after the ship had struck the iceberg?

63 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Forty-five or fifty minutes; I think she struck about a quarter to 12.

64 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know whether any of the passengers were given any warning by any order or by any person before that time; do you know that of your own knowledge?

65 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Not that I know of. A sort of a general order was passed around.

66 Senator SMITH.  
At that hour?

67 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
At that hour.

68 Senator SMITH.  
Were you awake when this collision occurred?

69 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

I had just been called to go on watch.

70 Senator SMITH.  
Were you dressed, or were you in bed?

71 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I was lying on my [bunk](#) with my clothes on.

72 Senator SMITH.  
Who called you?

73 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
One of the other stateroom stewards.

74 Senator SMITH.  
What did he say to you?

75 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
"It is time to turn out."

76 Senator SMITH.  
Is that all he said?

77 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
That is all he said.

78 Senator SMITH.  
When did you first learn of the very serious character of the collision?

79 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
From my own knowledge, when I saw the water in the post-office [deck](#), I thought it was pretty bad then.

80 Senator SMITH.  
That was the first information that you got that was reliable, and you then formed your opinion?

81 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

82 Senator SMITH.  
About its seriousness? You yourself judged as to its seriousness at that time.

83 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

84 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know whether they had an emergency alarm on the *Titanic* at that time?

85 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
To call all the passengers?

86 Senator SMITH.  
Yes.

87 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not think so.

88 Senator SMITH.  
You do not think they had?

89 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

90 Senator SMITH.  
In the absence of such an alarm, how would the passengers be awakened in case of distress?

91 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Each stateroom steward would go around and call them himself.

92 Senator SMITH.  
Then, if they were apprised of serious danger, they would be obliged to depend entirely upon the vigilance of the stateroom steward?

93 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
That is so, sir.

94 Senator SMITH.  
Did you return to your stateroom after you found that there had been a collision?

95 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
About half-past 12, when the order was given to awaken all the passengers, I went back to my own section - C deck, aft - and all my passengers were gone out except three.

96 Senator SMITH.  
They had gone out?

97 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
They had gone up on the boat deck with lifebelts on, all except three.

98 Senator SMITH.  
How do you know they had gone up there?

99 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Because the stewardess had called the ladies and they were not in their rooms.

100 Senator SMITH.  
The stewardess told you?

101 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes.

102 Senator SMITH.  
And where were the other three?

103 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Mr. Cummings was in his stateroom.

104 Senator SMITH.  
Asleep?

105 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No; he had come down for an overcoat. He had been on deck. Later, Mr. Clark came along and entered his stateroom, and he then put on a lifebelt. Then Mr. Stead asked me how to fix on a life belt and I helped him put it on and that was the last man of my passengers.

106 Senator SMITH.  
You put the lifebelt on Mr. Stead yourself?

107 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

108 Senator SMITH.  
That was the last lifebelt you adjusted to any one?

109 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

110 Senator SMITH.  
Did you ever see Mr. Stead after that?

111 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

112 Senator SMITH.  
Then you assisted these ladies you have mentioned to put lifebelts on - four or five altogether - and Mr. Stead?

113 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

114 Senator SMITH.  
Did you put lifebelts on any other persons?

115 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

No, sir; not that evening.

116 Senator SMITH.  
Or at any other time?

117 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

118 Senator SMITH.  
Did you put one on yourself?

119 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; when all the passengers had gone out.

120 Senator SMITH.  
After the passengers from your staterooms had gone up, you put a lifebelt on yourself?

121 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes.

122 Senator SMITH.  
And where did you go?

123 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I waited on the ship until all the boats had gone and then I took to the water.

124 Senator SMITH.  
You waited on the ship until all the boats had gone and then threw yourself into the water?

125 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; into the water.

126 Senator SMITH.  
How long was it before the boat sank?

127 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I went in the water about 2 o'clock, I should say.

128 Senator SMITH.  
How long had you been in the water before the boat sank?

129 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I should say about half an hour.

130 Senator SMITH.  
When you struck the water what did you do?

131 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I swam clear of the ship, I should say about three-quarters of a mile. I was afraid of the suction.

132 Senator SMITH.  
You were swimming away from the suction that you supposed would follow the sinking?

133 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes.

134 Senator SMITH.  
What did you do then?

135 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I had a mate with me. We both left the ship together.

136 Senator SMITH.  
Did he have a life preserver on?

137 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

138 Senator SMITH.  
What did you do?

139 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

We saw the ship go down then. Then we struck out to look for a boat.

140 Senator SMITH.  
You swam around in the water until you saw the ship go down?

141 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Until I saw the ship go down.

142 Senator SMITH.  
Then you turned to look for a lifeboat?

143 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Then I turned to look for a lifeboat; yes.

144 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see one?

145 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No. I heard one, and I called to it.

146 Senator SMITH.  
Did that lifeboat come toward you, or did you go toward it?

147 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I went toward it.

148 Senator SMITH.  
It did not come toward you?

149 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not think so.

150 Senator SMITH.  
When you got in it, whom did you find in it?

151 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
There was a quartermaster in charge - Perkins or [Perkis](#). It was [No. 4](#) boat. They picked us up. There was also a lamp trimmer in it named [Hemming](#), and another sailor called [Foley](#), and a fireman. The rest were ladies. Two of my own passengers happened to be there.

152 Senator SMITH.  
Two of your passengers and Hemming and Foley and Perkis and yourself?

153 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
And myself; yes.

154 Senator SMITH.  
That made six male passengers?

155 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Then there was a fireman there, as well.

156 Senator SMITH.  
What was his name?

157 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
A fellow called Smith - F. Smith.

158 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see any other man in the boat?

159 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes. I think there was one of the galley hands; I am not quite sure.

160 Senator SMITH.  
What was his name?

161 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not know. The reason I know the names of any of them is that Mrs. Cummings, one of my passengers, sent me around to find out who was in the boat. Otherwise I would not know their names.

162 Senator SMITH.

In addition to that fireman, were there any other male passengers in that boat?

163 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; I think there was another fireman in the bottom of the boat; and besides that there was my mate, who died just after he was pulled in.

164 Senator SMITH.  
How many women were in that boat?

165 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I could not tell you.

166 Senator SMITH.  
Did you count them?

167 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
They were fairly well crowded. I could not count them. There was not room to row.

168 Senator SMITH.  
What boat was it?

169 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No. 4 boat, sir.

170 Senator SMITH.  
Who was in charge of it?

171 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
The quartermaster, Perkis.

172 Senator SMITH.  
You say you found Hemming in the boat?

173 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Hemming was in the boat, sir.

174 Senator SMITH.  
Do you know where he reached the boat?

175 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not know where he got in, but he himself has told me that he was picked up.

176 Senator SMITH.  
He swam to the side of the boat?

177 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
He swam to the side of the boat.

178 Senator SMITH.  
Without a life preserver, 200 yards, and climbed into this boat?

179 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not know whether he had a life preserver on or not.

180 Senator SMITH.  
I wish you would tell me accurately, if you can, or approximately, how many ladies were in that boat and how many children were in it?

181 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I would say there were 40 ladies in that boat.

182 Senator SMITH.  
Were there any children?

183 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I did not see any.

184 Senator SMITH.  
Was it the large lifeboat?

185 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; one of the large ones.



186 Senator SMITH.  
How many people do you understand a lifeboat of that size is intended to hold on a calm night with an unruffled sea?

187 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I think 60 would be enough.

188 Senator SMITH.  
And yours had 48 in it?

189 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Of course, we picked up another man after I was picked up.

190 Senator SMITH.  
When you were picked up?

191 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Just after.

192 Senator SMITH.  
They picked up you and your mate and another man?

193 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Another man, yes; one of the storekeepers [[Frank Prentice](#)].

194 Senator SMITH.  
That makes 49 in there. You have not yet said whether there were any male passengers?

195 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I never saw any male passengers.

196 Senator SMITH.  
Did you hear the testimony of Hemming, that 15 minutes after the ship struck this iceberg his mate came to his room and aroused him and told him he had but 15 minutes to live; that this information came from [Mr. Andrews](#), the builder of the ship and to say nothing to anyone?

197 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No. I never heard that until I saw it in the paper; last night, I think it was.

198 Senator SMITH.  
Did Hemming say anything to you about that?

199 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

200 Senator SMITH.  
How do you account for a large proportion of those in that lifeboat being members of your crew, and no male passengers?

201 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Well, as far as I understand, when the boat left the ship's side there were only about three sailors in it, three men to man the boat; the rest were picked up.

202 Senator SMITH.  
How do you know there were only three in it? You were not there when it was loaded, but you joined this boat out away from the *Titanic*. Did somebody tell you?

203 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
There were only about eight or nine men in it.

204 Senator SMITH.  
I understand that.

205 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
The majority of them were picked up out of the water.

206 Senator SMITH.  
Not after you got aboard?

207 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

When I came in the boat there was Smith, a fireman; another fireman whose name I do not know; Hemming; Foley; and the quartermaster.

208 Senator SMITH.  
Yourself and your mate, and, you picked up another man?

209 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; Prentiss [Prentice], the storekeeper.

210 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see the barber, [Mr. Whitman](#), in your boat?

211 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir; he was not in our boat.

212 Senator SMITH.  
But this storekeeper you recall?

213 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I recall him.

214 Senator SMITH.  
Did any other person, man or woman, attempt to enter lifeboat No. 4 after you got into it?

215 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I never saw any, sir.

216 Senator SMITH.  
Did the officer in charge of lifeboat No. 4 attempt to go to any persons in the water?

217 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I think his was the nearest boat to the scene of the accident, because he picked up most of the lot, I think.

218 Senator SMITH.  
But he was some distance off, in order to avoid the suction?

219 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
He was some distance off.

220 Senator SMITH.  
What did you next do?

221 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Well, as soon as I got into the boat, I took an oar, and we rowed about until morning, until we sighted the [Carpathia](#).

222 Senator SMITH.  
Did you row away from the scene of the wreck, in the direction of the *Carpathia*?

223 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
We rowed in the direction of the *Carpathia*.

224 Senator SMITH.  
Away from the scene of the wreck?

225 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Away from the scene of the wreck.

226 Senator SMITH.  
And did you row all night?

227 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Up until about half-past 7 in the morning, when we went on board the *Carpathia*.

228 Senator SMITH.  
So that you did not lie on your oars there and drift; you went in the direction of the relief?

229 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Of the relief, as soon as we saw it.

230 Senator SMITH.  
How far could you sight it?

231 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
It might have been 4 or 5 miles off.

232 Senator SMITH.  
Did all the passengers, or all the people in your boat, No. 4, reach the *Carpathia* alive?

233 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
All alive, sir. Of course, we took the two dead men with us. They were taken on board.

234 Senator SMITH.  
While you were in the water that night did you suffer from the cold?

235 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir; it was very cold.

236 Senator SMITH.  
Bitter cold?

237 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Bitter cold; nearly freezing, I should think..

238 Senator SMITH.  
You had a regular station on the ship, did you not?

239 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
On the ship; yes, sir.

240 Senator SMITH.  
In time of trouble?

241 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

242 Senator SMITH.  
Where was your station?

243 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I think it was [No. 7](#) boat, sir.

244 Senator SMITH.  
On the starboard side?

245 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes; on the starboard side.

246 Senator SMITH.  
Did you respond to your station when you first heard of the accident?

247 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Go up to the boat, sir?

248 Senator SMITH.  
Yes.

249 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No; I did not.

250 Senator SMITH.  
Why not?

251 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I waited down in my rooms, closed them all and shut off the lights, and went on deck. When I went up there that boat had gone, I think.

252 Senator SMITH.  
No. 7 had gone?

253 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No. 7 had gone

254 Senator SMITH.  
Did No. 4 have a lamp on it?

255 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I do not think so, sir.

256 Senator SMITH.  
Did it have water and food?

257 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
It had water, I know.

258 Senator SMITH.  
Any food?

259 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
There may have been food, forward; but I never heard anyone ask for food. I know there was a tank in the forward part. There was water there.

260 Senator SMITH.  
What was your mate's name?

261 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
A man called [Sidney Seibert](#).

262 Senator SMITH.  
So far as you know, did the boat list provide for all the crew and all the passengers?

263 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
The boat list is only posted up for the crew, not of the first class passengers. It is only stationed there for the stewards and the galley hands. Of course, there was another list stationed in the firemen's forecastle for the firemen to see, one stationed for the sailors to see, in their own forecastle. They were quite distinct from our lists.

264 Senator SMITH.  
Was your list posted in its proper place?

265 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
It was posted in its proper place in the pantry.

266 Senator SMITH.  
You had had no drills between Southampton and the place of the wreck?

267 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir; only fire drill.

268 Senator SMITH.  
What did that consist of?

269 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Getting the hose out and seeing that was all right.

270 Senator SMITH.  
Taking the hose out?

271 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir.

272 Senator SMITH.  
Your mate did not survive?

273 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir.

274 Senator SMITH.  
I wish you would tell the committee the signal that calls you to your station in case of an emergency.

275 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
We have not any regular signal, sir. You mean to the heat station?

276 Senator SMITH.  
Yes.

277 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

Oh, that is a blast of the whistle from the bridge; one long blast of the whistle.

278 Senator SMITH.  
Did you hear a blast of the whistle giving the signal that night?

279 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
No, sir. It is very hard to hear, you know when you are between decks.

280 Senator SMITH.  
It is expected you will hear it, is it not?

281 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Did I expect to hear it, sir?

282 Senator SMITH.  
It is expected you will hear that signal?

283 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
I believe so, sir.

284 Senator SMITH.  
Did you see any icebergs that morning as you were rowing toward the *Carpathia*?

285 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
Yes, sir; three or four, sir; and a long field of ice.

286 Senator SMITH.  
All the passengers on lifeboat No. 4 were safely landed on the *Carpathia*?

287 Mr. CUNNINGHAM.  
All safely landed, sir.

288 Senator SMITH.  
I think that is all.

289 (Witness excused.)