

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 9 - Testimony of Henry S. Etches

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

(The witness was duly sworn by Senator Smith.)

Senator SMITH.
Give your full name.

Mr. ETCHES.
Henry Samuel Etches.

Senator SMITH.
Where do you reside?

Mr. ETCHES.
No. 23 - A, Gordon Avenue, Southampton.

Senator SMITH.
Are you a married or single man?

Mr. ETCHES.
Married.

Senator SMITH.
How old are you?

Mr. ETCHES.
Forty, sir.

Senator SMITH.
What is your business?

Mr. ETCHES.
Bedroom steward, sir.

Senator SMITH.
Were you bedroom steward on the [Titanic](#) on the voyage from Southampton up to the time of the accident?

Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH.
What deck were you on?

Mr. ETCHES.
[B deck](#), after-end, port side.

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

Mr. ETCHES.
Eight on B deck and one on [A deck](#).

Senator SMITH.
Do you know who the passengers were on A deck?

Mr. ETCHES.
[Mr. Andrews](#), sir

Senator SMITH.
The builder of this ship?

Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

26 Senator SMITH.
What apartment did he have?

27 Mr. ETCHES.
He had a separate cabin, with bathroom attached - the only cabin. There was only one on each part of the after-end of A deck.

28 Senator SMITH.
What was the number?

29 Mr. ETCHES.
[Thirty-six](#), sir.

30 Senator SMITH.
Did you see Mr. Andrews frequently during the voyage?

31 Mr. ETCHES.
Every morning at 7 o'clock I went to his cabin, sir.

32 Senator SMITH.
For what purpose?

33 Mr. ETCHES.
I used to take him some fruit and tea.

34 Senator SMITH.
When would you next see him?

35 Mr. ETCHES.
I used to see him again when he dressed at night. That would be about a quarter or 20 minutes to 7, as a rule. He was rather late in dressing.

36 Senator SMITH.
Had you ever known him before this voyage?

37 Mr. ETCHES.
I had met him several times at Belfast, because I had been on the [Olympic](#).

38 Senator SMITH.
Did he build the *Olympic*?

39 Mr. ETCHES.
Oh, yes, sir.

40 Senator SMITH.
How old a man was Mr. Andrews?

41 Mr. ETCHES.
He signed himself as 38 on a paper that I gave him.

42 Senator SMITH.
Did he seem to be in good health on the voyage?

43 Mr. ETCHES.
In perfect health.

44 Senator SMITH.
Did he seem to be busy?

45 Mr. ETCHES.
He was busy the whole time.

46 Senator SMITH.
Did he have maps and drawings in his apartment?

47 Mr. ETCHES.
He had charts rolled up by the side of his bed, and he had papers of all descriptions on his table during the day.

48 Senator SMITH.
He was apparently working?

49 Mr. ETCHES.
He was working all the time, sir. He was making notes of improvements; any improvements that could be made.

50 Senator SMITH.
On the ship?

51 Mr. ETCHES.
In any of the cabins. Anything that was pointed out to him, he was making notes of it.

52 Senator SMITH.
From what you saw of him, you gathered that he was giving his undivided attention to this ship on its trial trip?

53 Mr. ETCHES.
I never saw him anywhere else, but during the day I met him in all parts, with workmen, going about. I mentioned several things to him, and he was with workmen having them attended to. The whole of the day he was working from one part of the ship to the other.

54 Senator SMITH.
Did you see him working nights?

55 Mr. ETCHES.
He was very late in going to bed, sir. I never saw him in the [smoke room](#) or in any other of these rooms. I happened to meet him at different parts of [deck E](#) more often than anywhere else.

56 Senator SMITH.
Did you see him in the [boiler room](#)?

57 Mr. ETCHES.
He had a suit, and I have seen that suit thrown on the bed when he had taken it off. I have seen him in the chief engineer's [room](#).

58 Senator SMITH.
You mean by that that he had a special suit which he wore when he went into the boiler room?

59 Mr. ETCHES.
It was there for the purpose. I knew exactly what it was. It was a suit the surveyors put on.

60 Senator SMITH.
What did you say about a suit that he wore when he went into the engineering department?

61 Mr. ETCHES.
He had an engineering suit on then - an ordinary blue suit, sir.

62 Senator SMITH.
When did you last see Mr. Andrews?

63 Mr. ETCHES.
It would be about 20 minutes past 12. He stopped me. I was going along [B deck](#), and he asked had I waked all my passengers. [Mr. Harrison](#) came up then, and I said: "No; I am going to see if the Carter family are up." I went to open the door. Mr. Harrison said: "I can tell you they are up. I have just come out of my cabin." His cabin adjoined. Mr. Andrews then told me to come down on [C deck](#) with him, and we went down the pantry staircase together. Going down he told me to be sure and make the passengers open their doors, and to tell them the lifebelts were on top of the wardrobes and on top of the racks, and to assist them in every way I could to get them on, which I endeavored to do.

64 Senator SMITH.
Is that the last time you ever saw him?

65 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir. We walked along C deck together. The [purser](#) was standing outside of his [office](#), in a large group of ladies. The purser was asking them to do as he asked them, and to go back in their rooms and not to frighten themselves, but, as a preliminary caution, to put the lifebelts on, and the stewards would give them every attention. Mr. Andrews said: "That is exactly what I have been trying to get them to do," and, with that, he walked down the staircase to go on lower [D deck](#). That is the last I saw of Mr. Andrews.

66 Senator SMITH.

He never asked you to put a lifebelt on him, did he?

67 Mr. ETCHES.

No, sir; and I never saw him with one in his own hand.

68 Senator SMITH.

Was he the only passenger or the only cabin passenger in an apartment on A deck?

69 Mr. ETCHES.

No, sir; [Mr.](#) and [Mrs.](#) Carter and the two children were occupying 98 and 96. Mr. Harrison was next door, occupying 94. [Mr. Guggenheim](#) was occupying 84, with his secretary [[Victor Giglio](#)].

70 Senator SMITH.

All on A deck?

71 Mr. ETCHES.

Not on A deck. There were only two cabins on the after-end of A deck. One was vacant and the other was occupied.

72 Senator SMITH.

On the deck below, under your charge, what rooms did you have?

73 Mr. ETCHES.

[98, 96, 94](#); and then came the door. The other rooms were empty until I came to [84](#), occupied by Mr. Guggenheim and his secretary. Mr. Carter's valet [[Alexander Cairns](#)] was in 96, the inside cabin.

74 Senator SMITH.

Where were you when the collision came?

75 Mr. ETCHES.

Asleep, sir.

76 Senator SMITH.

In what part of the ship?

77 Mr. ETCHES.

In our [apartments](#), which were about the middle of the [E Deck](#), in what we call the working alleyway.

78 Senator SMITH.

How many people slept in the same room with you?

79 Mr. ETCHES.

Nineteen of us, sir.

80 Senator SMITH.

What time did you retire that night?

81 Mr. ETCHES.

At half-past 9, sir. I was due again at 12 o'clock.

82 Senator SMITH.

Due on watch or on duty at 12 o'clock midnight?

83 Mr. ETCHES.

Yes, sir.

84 Senator SMITH.

How were you awakened?

85 Mr. ETCHES.

I was awakened by something, but I did not know what it was, and I called to my mate and I said "What time is it that they are going to call us next?" It was then between 25 minutes and 20 minutes to 12. He said, "I don't know." I turned over to go to sleep again. At that minute I heard a loud shout, "Close watertight bulkheads." I recognized it as our boatswain's voice; it was extra loud. I looked out and he was running from fore to aft.

86 Senator SMITH.

What was he saying?

87 Mr. ETCHES.

The one shout, "Close watertight bulkhead doors."

88 Senator SMITH.
How long was that after the impact?

89 Mr. ETCHES.
That would be under 10 minutes, sir. Seven minutes, I would say, as near as possible.

90 Senator SMITH.
Was there any other signal that you know for that action except the word of mouth?

91 Mr. ETCHES.
That is the only word, sir. My bed was next to the door.

92 Senator SMITH.
Do you know whether that was done or not?

93 Mr. ETCHES.
Well, a seaman was running with him from forward to aft, and so I took it they were going along to close those doors; but my business did not take me so far as that door.

94 Senator SMITH.
What did you do then?

95 Mr. ETCHES.
I partly dressed and looked out of the door, and I saw the third class passengers coming along from forward with their portmanteaus. I had gotten about 30 yards, probably, when I met a passenger with a piece of ice, that size (*indicating*), and he said, "Will you believe it now"? And threw it down on the deck. With that I went back and finished dressing, and then went up on deck.

96 Senator SMITH.
What did you do then?

97 Mr. ETCHES.
As I was going through the door I met a bedroom steward named Stone. He was the man my mate was supposed to relieve. He was bedroom steward on E deck. I said; "What is the time"? He said, "Never mind about that; there is something else for you to do. I saw them pull up bags of mail, and the water running out of the bottom of them." My mate called down to [E deck](#) and I went to the other ladder to [A deck](#), where I was to relieve the man. When I got on A deck the bedroom steward was assisting passengers then, and most of the doors were open. That was the forward end of A deck. I said, "Have you called all of your people"? He said, "Yes, but I can't get them to dress." They were standing in the corridors partly dressed. I said. "I will go down on my deck"; and with that I went down to B deck, arousing my passengers. That is when I met Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Andrews the builder.

98 Senator SMITH.
Did you arouse your passengers in their staterooms?

99 Mr. ETCHES.
I aroused the passengers in my stateroom; yes. I saw them all out, except Mr. Carter's family, and Mr. Harrison told me they were already up.

100 Senator SMITH.
Did you assist in putting life belts on them?

101 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, Sir; but more on C deck. I threw the lifebelts down, and then threw some of them into the corridor. Mr. Andrews said to be sure there were no lifebelts left. The first cabin I went to was at the foot of the pantry stairs. I pulled the bottom drawer out there and stood on it, and got out lifebelts, and as a gentleman was passing there, I gave him one of those.

102 Senator SMITH.
Do you know who he was?

103 Mr. ETCHES.
No; I gave him one. He was a stout gentleman; appeared to be an Englishman. He said, "Show me how to put this on," and I showed him how; and then he said, "Tie it for me." I said, "Pull the strings around to the front and tie it," and as he was doing it I ran outside and opened other doors, and then most of the doors were opened along C deck.

104 Senator SMITH.
What about Mr. Guggenheim and his secretary, and others?

105 Mr. ETCHES.
They were in their room. I took the lifebelts out. The lifebelts in this cabin were in the wardrobe, in a small rack, and the cabin was only occupied by two. There were three lifebelts there, and I took the three out and put one on Mr. Guggenheim. He apparently had only gone to his room, for he answered the first knock. He said: "This will hurt." I said, "You have plenty of time, put on some clothes and I will be back in a few minutes."

106 Senator SMITH.
Did you get back there?

107 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

108 Senator SMITH.
Was he there?

109 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes; he followed me along. I then found [No. 78](#) cabin door shut, and I banged with both hands on the door loudly, and a voice answered, "What is it"? Then a lady's voice said, "Tell me what the trouble is." I said, "It is necessary that you should open the door, and I will explain everything, but please put the lifebelts on or bring them in the corridor." They said, "I want to know what is the matter." I said, "Kindly open the door," and I still kept banging. I passed along, and I found one cabin was empty, and then I came to another cabin and a lady and a gentleman stood at the door. They were swinging a lifebelt in their hands.

110 Senator SMITH.
When you know who they were please name them.

111 Mr. ETCHES.
I do not know anyone outside of the people in my section.

112 Senator SMITH.
Did this woman open the door when you pounded so hard?

113 Mr. ETCHES.
I did not see the door opened.

114 Senator SMITH.
Do you know who was in that room?

115 Mr. ETCHES.
Well, I don't know the name. It was a shortish name, and I fancy it began with S. They were a stiff-built gentleman and a rather short, thin lady. They were undoubtedly Americans.

116 Senator SMITH.
Have you learned who they were?

117 Mr. ETCHES.
I have made no inquiry since then.

118 Senator SMITH.
Have you ever seen them since?

119 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir; but I think I should recognize them if I saw them.

120 Senator SMITH.
You did not see them aboard the [Carpathia](#)?

121 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir.

122 Senator SMITH.
What did you do after that?

123 Mr. ETCHES.
I went along to the purser's place. He said, "It is necessary to go up on the [boat deck](#)," and he said, "Tell all

the other bedroom stewards to assemble their passengers on the boat deck and stand by." I went on the boat deck, and they were just loading boat [No. 7](#). I said to the quartermaster, "Is this boat [No. 5](#) "? He said, "No; it is the next boat."

124 Senator SMITH.
You were on the starboard side?

125 Mr. ETCHES.
On the starboard side; yes.

126 Senator SMITH.
You went then to [No. 9](#) lifeboat?

127 Mr. ETCHES.
No. 7, I went to, and asked him, "Is this No. 5"? He said, "No; it is the next boat." I looked at No. 5, and they were taking the covers off and preparing her, and I assisted to launch No. 7 boat. There was [Mr. Murdoch](#), [Mr. Ismay](#), [Mr. Pitman](#), and a quartermaster [[Oliver](#)], two stewards, and myself there.

128 Senator SMITH.
Were you all working?

129 Mr. ETCHES.
My part was that I was clearing the falls. They were catching in the falls, or at least the falls were catching people's feet, as they were jumping around, and I cleared the falls as they were lowering them away. I went down to do it.

130 Senator SMITH.
Did Mr. Murdoch assist in loading the boat or lowering it?

131 Mr. ETCHES.
Mr. Murdoch stood there the whole time, giving orders.

132 Senator SMITH.
Did Mr. Pitman assist?

133 Mr. ETCHES.
Mr. Pitman assisted, yes; and Mr. Ismay was assisting with the falls.

134 Senator SMITH.
What did Mr. Ismay do?

135 Mr. ETCHES.
Mr. Ismay, in the first place, was asking the gentlemen to kindly keep back, as it was ladies first in this boat; and they wanted to get the boat clear first.

136 Senator SMITH.
Go ahead.

137 Mr. ETCHES.
After we lowered the boat -

138 Senator SMITH.
Just a moment. That boat was filled from the boat deck?

139 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

140 Senator SMITH.
Was it difficult to get into it from the deck?

141 Mr. ETCHES.
There was not the slightest difficulty, sir. A child could have stepped over.

142 Senator SMITH.
Was it a full-sized lifeboat?

143 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

144 Senator SMITH.

And were the women put into it first?

145 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir. The gentlemen were lined up, those that were trying to assist, and Mr. Ismay said, "Kindly make a line here and allow the ladies to pass through"; and I think it was Mr. Murdoch's voice that was calling out, "Ladies, this way; is there any more ladies before this boat goes?" The boat was three parts full of ladies, to my knowledge.

146 Senator SMITH.
Were there any more to get in? Did any more get in?

147 Mr. ETCHES.
There were, because No. 5 boat, which I went to next, took over 36 ladies.

148 Senator SMITH.
That was the next boat?

149 Mr. ETCHES.
That was the next boat, sir.

150 Senator SMITH.
And you went to No. 5 boat, then, from No. 7?

151 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

152 Senator SMITH.
You did not get into No. 7?

153 Mr. ETCHES.
No; I did not attempt to get into No. 7. My boat was No. 5, sir.

154 Senator SMITH.
Your boat was No. 5; that was your station?

155 Mr. ETCHES.
That was my station, sir.

156 Senator SMITH.
What men got into No. 7, if you know?

157 Mr. ETCHES.
I did not see the men that got in there, sir.

158 Senator SMITH.
Did Mr. Pitman get in there?

159 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir.

160 Senator SMITH.
No officer got in?

161 Mr. ETCHES.
Not to my knowledge, sir.

162 Senator SMITH.
How many men were in No. 7?

163 Mr. ETCHES.
I could not say, sir, because the position of the ladies sitting there was such that there may have been men back in the stern of the boat, and I was not able to see them.

164 Senator SMITH.
About how many men?

165 Mr. ETCHES.
I could only say for certain that there were three men there, the men forward, but who they were I could not say.

166 Senator SMITH.

And the men manned the boat?

167 Mr. ETCHES.
They were the men to attend the forward fall, I take it, sir.

168 Senator SMITH.
And no other men got in?

169 Mr. ETCHES.
Not to my knowledge, sir.

170 Senator SMITH.
Was it lowered in safety?

171 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir. It was lowered perfectly, and it seemed to me that the boat went down extra level
and very clear in the block.

172 Senator SMITH.
That was the first boat that you assisted in filling.

173 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

174 Senator SMITH.
Were there any children in that boat?

175 Mr. ETCHES.
In No. 7 boat I saw one child, sir, a baby boy, with a small woolen cap over his head. I
remember it well.

176 Senator SMITH.
Then you proceeded to boat No. 5?

177 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes sir. The next boat on the same side.

178 Senator SMITH.
What did you do there?

179 Mr. ETCHES.
I assisted as I had assisted at No. 7. I stood by the forward fall with the quartermaster and
three more stewards.

180 Senator SMITH.
Who was the quartermaster?

181 Mr. ETCHES.
Mr. Olliver, sir.

182 Senator SMITH.
Did he survive?

183 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, Sir.

184 Senator SMITH.
And two others?

185 Mr. ETCHES.
Two other stewards. I have not seen them since, sir.

186 Senator SMITH.
Was the same course taken with that boat?

187 Mr. ETCHES.
That was the same, sir. After getting all the women that were there they called out three
times - Mr. Ismay called out twice, I know, in a loud voice - "Are there any more women
before this boat goes," and there was no answer. Mr. Murdoch called out; and at that
moment a female came up whom I did not recognize. Mr. Ismay said: "Come along; jump
in." She said: "I am only a stewardess." He said: "Never mind, you are a woman, take your

place." That was the last woman I saw get into No. 5 boat, sir.

188 Senator SMITH.
What men got into it?

189 Mr. ETCHES.
There were two firemen in the bow of the boat, Mr. Pitman was standing in the center on the deck waiting, and one steward was standing with myself at the forward fall. Olliver, the sailor, the quartermaster who been assisting, stepped back with myself into the crowd of gentlemen. Mr. Murdoch said to me: "Are you the steward appointed to this boat?" I said, "Yes, sir; No. 5 boat is mine." He said: "Then jump in and assist those men with the forward fall." I took my place. At the same moment Mr. Pitman called out: "Is there a sailor in the boat?" I looked around and I said: "No, sir." He said to this man Olliver, who was standing on the deck: "Are you a sailor?" He said: "Yes, sir." He said: "Take your place in this boat;" and he jumped in. Mr. Murdoch then stepped up and said, "Are you the officer going in this boat?" He said: "Yes, sir." Then he said: "Take your place," held out his hand and shook hands and said, "Good-by and good luck." and he took his place and the order was given to lower the boat.

190 Senator SMITH.
Who was that officer to whom Murdoch spoke?

191 Mr. ETCHES.
Mr. Pitman.

192 Senator SMITH.
The third officer?

193 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

194 Senator SMITH.
What other men got into that boat?

195 Mr. ETCHES.
There was a stout gentleman, sir, stepped forward then. He had assisted to put his wife in the boat. He leaned forward and she stood up in the boat, put her arms around his neck and kissed him, and I heard her say, "I can't leave you," and with that I turned my head. The next moment I saw him sitting beside her in the bottom of the boat, and some voice said "Throw that man out of the boat." But at that moment they started lowering her away, and the man remained.

196 Senator SMITH.
Who was he?

197 Mr. ETCHES.
I do not know his name, sir; but he was a very stout gentleman, an American.

198 Senator SMITH.
Was the boat lowered in safety?

199 Mr. ETCHES.
Perfect, sir.

200 Senator SMITH.
What was done after you reached the water?

201 Mr. ETCHES.
Just as we got about 20 feet down a voice called out, "Be sure and see the plug is in that boat," and I passed the word around. I said, "See the plug is in that boat." Olliver crawled into the bottom of the boat, and I suppose he put the plug in, for when we touched water I crawled about in the bottom of the boat and found no water. So I took it the plug had been put in safety.

202 Senator SMITH.

203 Did the boat go away from the side of the [Titanic](#)?
Mr. ETCHES.
He cut the trigger that released the falls, and the order was given to pull off, to lay off from the ship. We laid off about 100 yards and waited, and the ship started going down; seemed to be going down at the head, and Mr. Pitman gave us the order to head away from the ship, and we pulled off then, I should say, about a quarter of a mile, and laid on our oars.

204 Senator SMITH.
How long?

205 Mr. ETCHES.
We remained until the Titanic sank.

206 Senator SMITH.
Did you see it go down?

207 Mr. ETCHES.
I saw it go down, sir.

208 Senator SMITH.
You could not see who was on the decks from your distance?

209 Mr. ETCHES.
I saw, when the ship rose - her stern rose - a thick mass of people on the after-end. I could not discern the faces, of course.

210 Senator SMITH.
Did the boat go down by the head?

211 Mr. ETCHES.
She seemed to raise once as though she was going to take a violent dive, but sort of checked, as though she had scooped the water up and had leveled herself. She then seemed to settle very, very quiet, until the last, when she rose up, and she seemed to stand 20 seconds, stern in that position (indicating), and then she went down with an awful grating, like a small boat running off a shingley beach.

212 Senator SMITH.
How long were you lying off, so to speak?

213 Mr. ETCHES.
Before the Titanic sank, sir?

214 Senator SMITH.
No; after.

215 Mr. ETCHES.
We waited a few minutes after she had gone down. There was no inrush of water, or anything. Mr. Pitman then said to pull back to the scene of the wreck. The ladies started calling out. Two ladies sitting in front where I was pulling, said, "Appeal to the officer not to go back. Why should we lose all of our lives in a useless attempt to save those from the ship?" I said I had no power; an officer was in charge of the boat, and he must use his discretion.

216 Senator SMITH.
As a matter of fact, you did not go back?

217 Mr. ETCHES.
We did not go back.

218 Senator SMITH.
How many people were in lifeboat No.5? Did you count them?

219 Mr. ETCHES.
We left the ship, sir. When we had gone away from the ship we had 42, including the child.

220 Senator SMITH.

Did all survive?
221 Mr. ETCHES.
All survived.
222 Senator SMITH.
How many of the crew were in your boat, Mr. Etches?
223 Mr. ETCHES.
Six, sir, including the officer.
224 Senator SMITH.
Who were they?
225 Mr. ETCHES.
There was a steward and myself.
226 Senator SMITH.
Give the names, if you can.
227 Mr. ETCHES.
I could not do that, sir.
228 Senator SMITH.
All right; give them if you can.
229 Mr. ETCHES.
There were men there that I met that I did know were on board the Titanic; that I had no
idea were aboard the Titanic, although in my own department.
230 Senator SMITH.
Were there any male passengers besides the six members of the crew?
231 Mr. ETCHES.
There were four gentlemen, to my knowledge, sir.
232 Senator SMITH.
Who were they?
233 Mr. ETCHES.
I do not know any of their names, sir. Two we transferred, with a lady and her child, into
boat No.7, I believe, sir.
234 Senator SMITH.
But you do not know any of their names?
235 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir.
236 Senator SMITH.
Six members of the crew and four passengers?
237 Mr. ETCHES.
Gentlemen; yes, sir. I did not know the other two gentlemen were there until we were
transferring them.
238 Senator SMITH.
Into No. 7?
239 Mr. ETCHES.
No; I did not know they were there. They were in the after-end of the boat somewhere.
240 Senator SMITH.
You do not know any of the other men, except the one you have mentioned, the officer
Pitman?
241 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir.
242 Senator SMITH.
Did you know any of the women who were in that boat?
243 Mr. ETCHES.

I know the stewardess, but I do not know her name, although she has a relative here at the present time. He could give you her name and address.

244 Senator SMITH.
You mean a witness?

245 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir.

246 Senator SMITH.
What is his name?

247 Mr. ETCHES.
Crawford, sir.

248 Senator SMITH.
Of your own knowledge, do you know whether any general call was made for passengers to arouse themselves from their berths; and when it was, or whether there was any other signal given?

249 Mr. ETCHES.
The second steward, sir, was calling all around the ship. He was directing some men to the storerooms for provisions for the boats and others he was telling to arouse all the passengers and to tell them to be sure to take their lifebelts with them.

250 Senator SMITH.
Was there any lamp in lifeboat No. 5?

251 Mr. ETCHES.
I saw none.

252 Senator FLETCHER.
Were there lights about the deck where the boats were being loaded?

253 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, sir. The cabin doors and all were open, giving a good light there.

254 Senator FLETCHER.
You had no difficulty in seeing the passengers or the people or the means of operating?

255 Mr. ETCHES.
I never saw a hitch in the lowering or the loading of the boats. In fact, I have seen more commotion at ordinary boat drill than there was on that occasion.

256 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see any other boat loaded and lowered?

257 Mr. ETCHES.
No, sir.

258 Senator SMITH.
Did you see lights while you were lying by, after or before the Titanic sank, from any other ship?

259 Mr. ETCHES.
After the Titanic had sunk we pulled a good distance out farther from her, after the cries were all over. We pulled away, and a light we thought was a mast headlight of a ship was across where the port bow of the Titanic would have been at the time. During the time the Titanic was there I saw no light. I was looking at the Titanic the whole of the time.

260 Senator SMITH.
Could you see the bridge when the ship went down?

261 Mr. ETCHES.
You could see it quite plain, sir.

262 Senator SMITH.
Did you see anybody on the bridge?

263 Mr. ETCHES.

Not a soul, sir.

264 Senator SMITH.
You probably could not distinguish objects?

265 Mr. ETCHES.
They may have been there; they may have been near the wheelhouse, but not on the corner of the bridge. I did not discern anyone there, sir.

266 Senator SMITH.
After you started out to sea, away from this wreck, did you see any lights of other vessels?

267 Mr. ETCHES.
Yes, Sir; we saw a light that there was quite an argument over. Some said it was a star; others said it was a ship. But we pulled toward it, and we did not seem to approach it an inch nearer. It had every appearance of a masthead light of a ship, but rather a faint light.

268 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any icebergs that morning?

269 Mr. ETCHES.
Oh, yes, sir; we saw a very large ice floe of flat ice, and three or four bergs between, in different places; and on the other bow were two large bergs, in the distance.

270 Senator SMITH.
How far away was this field ice?

271 Mr. ETCHES.
The field ice would be from us three-quarters of a mile at the least.

272 Senator SMITH.
At what hour?

273 Mr. ETCHES.
Between 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning.

274 Senator FLETCHER.
In what direction?

275 Mr. ETCHES.
I should say it would have been well over on the port side of the Titanic, in the position she was going. I should say, by the way we pulled, it must have been on the port side of the Titanic.

276 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see No. 7 after leaving the Titanic?

277 Mr. ETCHES.
We saw No. 7 when we got alongside of the [Carpathia](#), and they handed back the child, and I passed it aboard the Carpathia.

278 Senator FLETCHER.
How far were you from where the Titanic went down as near as you can judge, when you saw this field ice?

279 Mr. ETCHES.
I should say we should be about a mile and a half to 2 miles.

280 Senator FLETCHER.
How far was the Titanic, when she went down, from that ice field that you mentioned?

281 Mr. ETCHES.
I could not say exactly if the ice was traveling, at all, but it could not have been a great distance on the other side of the Titanic, not from that position.

282 Senator SMITH.
Were there any bergs there, about that field of ice?

283 Mr. ETCHES.
There was no berg. Well, there were three at different points, but the field extended such a

long distance, and they were in the field, apparently. But the separate bergs that we saw were a long way from the field of ice, the floating ones. They were separated from the field of ice.

284 Senator FLETCHER.

In what direction from the field of ice?

285 Mr. ETCHES.

When the Carpathia picked us up the Carpathia would be here (indicating), the field of ice here (indicating), and the bergs across the opposite side from her.

286 Senator FLETCHER.

The bergs would have been on the starboard side of the Titanic?

287 Mr. ETCHES.

Exactly, sir.

288 Senator FLETCHER.

That is all.

289 Senator SMITH.

That is all, Mr. Etches. You may be excused.

290 (Witness excused.)