

# United States Senate Inquiry

## Day 7

### Testimony of Alfred Olliver

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

*(The Witness was sworn by Senator Burton.)*

Senator BURTON.  
What is your name?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
Alfred Olliver.

Senator BURTON.  
How old are you?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
Twenty-eight next 6th of June.

Senator BURTON.  
How long have you been a sailor?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
I have been a sailor ever since I was 16.

Senator BURTON.  
Navy or merchant marine?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
Both.

Senator BURTON.  
How long in the Navy?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
Seven years.

Senator BURTON.  
You were first on duty in the Navy?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
I was in the Navy first, and then I came into the merchant marine afterwards.

Senator BURTON.  
What was your position on the boat?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
Quartermaster.

Senator BURTON.  
Where were you when the collision occurred?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
I was stand-by quartermaster on the [bridge](#). I had been relieved from the wheel at 10 o'clock, and I was stand-by after 10 o'clock. I was running messages and doing various other duties. I was not right on the bridge; I was just entering the bridge. I had just performed an errand and was entering the bridge when the collision occurred.

Senator BURTON.  
Just state what happened?

Mr. OLLIVER.  
When I was doing this bit of duty I heard three bells rung up in the [crow's nest](#), which I knew that it was something ahead; so I looked, but I did not see anything. I happened to be looking at the lights in the standing compass at the time. That was my duty, to look at the lights in the standing compass, and I was trimming them so that they would burn properly. When I heard the report, I looked, but could not see

anything, and I left that and came and was just entering on the bridge just as the shock came. I knew we had touched something.

24 Senator BURTON.  
Just describe what that shock was.

25 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I found out we had struck an iceberg.

26 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see that iceberg?

27 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes; I did, sir.

28 Senator BURTON.  
Describe it.

29 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The iceberg was about the [height](#) of the boat deck; if anything, just a little higher. It was almost alongside of the boat, sir. The top did not touch the side of the boat, but it was almost alongside of the boat.

30 Senator BURTON.  
What kind of a sound was there?

31 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The sound was like she touched something; a long grinding sound, like.

32 Senator BURTON.  
How long did that sound last?

33 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It did not last many seconds.

34 Senator BURTON.  
How far aft did the grinding sound go?

35 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The grinding sound was before I saw the iceberg. The grinding sound was not when I saw the iceberg.

36 Senator BURTON.  
Where was the iceberg when you saw it, abeam or abaft?

37 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Just abaft the bridge when I saw it.

38 Senator BURTON.  
What was the length of it along beside the boat?

39 Mr. OLLIVER.  
That I could not say, the length of the iceberg, because I only saw the top. It was impossible to see the length of the iceberg from where I was standing.

40 Senator BURTON.  
What was the shape at the top?

41 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The shape was pointed.

42 Senator BURTON.  
You could not tell how wide it was?

43 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I only saw the tip top of the iceberg.

44 Senator BURTON.  
Did you notice the course of the berg as it passed you?

45 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I did not notice the course of the berg as it passed us. It went aft the after part of the ship. I did not see it afterwards, because I did not have time to know where it was going.

46 Senator BURTON.  
Do you know whether the wheel was hard aport then?

47 Mr. OLLIVER.  
What I know about the wheel - I was stand-by to run messages, but what I knew about the helm is, hard aport.

48 Senator BURTON.  
Do you mean hard aport or hard astarboard?

49 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I know the orders I heard when I was on the bridge was after we had struck the iceberg. I heard hard aport, and there was the man at the wheel and the officer. The officer was seeing it was carried out right.

50 Senator BURTON.  
What officer was it?

51 Mr. OLLIVER.  
[Mr. Moody](#), the sixth officer, was stationed in the wheelhouse.

52 Senator BURTON.  
Who was the man at the wheel?

53 Mr. OLLIVER.  
[Hichens](#), quartermaster.

54 Senator BURTON.  
You do not know whether the helm was put hard astarboard first, or not?

55 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I do not know that.

56 Senator BURTON.  
But you know it was put hard aport after you got there?

57 Mr. OLLIVER.  
After I got there; yes, sir.

58 Senator BURTON.  
Where was the iceberg, do you think, when the helm was shifted?

59 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The iceberg was away up stern.

60 Senator BURTON.  
That is when the order "hard aport" was given?

61 Mr. OLLIVER.  
That is when the order "hard aport" was given; yes, sir.

62 Senator BURTON.  
Who gave the order?

63 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The [first officer](#).

64 Senator BURTON.  
And that order was immediately executed, was it?

65 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Immediately executed, and the sixth officer saw that it was carried out.

66 Senator BURTON.  
How long did this sound continue; can you tell that?

67 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I can not say exactly, but I should say it was not many seconds.

68 Senator BURTON.  
Could you tell how far aft the sound continued?

69 Mr. OLLIVER.

I could not say how far aft, sir, because I do not know where it started and where it finished. I do not know.

70 Senator BURTON.  
You could not tell about that?

71 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

72 Senator BURTON.  
Was it 100 feet? Did it rub against the boat behind where you were?

73 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Not behind where I was. It did not, to my knowledge, rub behind where I was; it was before.

74 Senator BURTON.  
You can not tell, then, for how many feet it rubbed against the boat?

75 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

76 Senator BURTON.  
But you think it got away from the boat before the place where you were?

77 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

78 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see the iceberg?

79 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I tell you, sir. I saw the tip top of it.

80 Senator BURTON.  
What color was it?

81 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It was not white, as I expected to see an iceberg. It was a kind of a dark-blue. It was not white.

82 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see a light?

83 Mr. OLLIVER.  
On any other ship but the [\*Titanic\*](#)?

84 Senator BURTON.  
Yes.

85 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I saw lights in the boats, being displayed by the boats.

86 Senator BURTON.  
I mean of another boat?

87 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I saw what I thought was a light; but then I could not say whether it was a proper light or whether it was a star.

88 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see this before the ship struck?

89 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; after we were in the boats.

90 Senator BURTON.  
You did not see it when you were on board the *Titanic*?

91 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No; I did not.

92 Senator BURTON.  
In what boat did you go down to the water?

93 Mr. OLLIVER.  
[No. 5](#) boat. That was on the starboard side.

94 Senator BURTON.  
In the order in which they were lowered, which was yours?

95 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It was the third on that side.

96 Senator BURTON.  
Who had charge of that boat?

97 Mr. OLLIVER.  
[Mr. Pitman](#), sir.

98 Senator BURTON.  
How many of the crew were there with him?

99 Mr. OLLIVER.  
There was the officer, Mr. Pitman, myself, sailor, and two firemen and two stewards.

100 Senator BURTON.  
Six in all?

101 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Six in all.

102 Senator BURTON.  
How many passengers were there in the boat?

103 Mr. OLLIVER.  
When we lowered the boat there was, I should say - I do not know the exact number, but I should say - about 40 before we lowered the boat.

104 Senator BURTON.  
Did you have any trouble in lowering the boat?

105 Mr. OLLIVER.  
There were so many people that when I got in the boat I went to put the plug in, and there were so many people around me I could not get near the plug to put the plug in. As he was lowering the boat I implored the passengers to move so that I could put the plug in, so that as soon as they put the boat in the water I let the tripper go and water came into the boat; but I then forced my way to the plug and put it in. If it was not for that the boat would have been swamped.

106 Senator BURTON.  
What position did you have in the boat after you got into the water?

107 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I was rowing, sir, after I let go the tripper.

108 Senator BURTON.  
Was there any rush when you got into the boat?

109 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; there was not. I helped to put the passengers in myself.

110 Senator BURTON.  
Were most of the passengers up on the top deck at that time?

111 Mr. OLLIVER.  
At the time, sir, there were some in the other boats.

112 Senator BURTON.  
Was it crowded around there?

113 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No; not so overcrowded.

114 Senator BURTON.  
Were there firemen and stokers up there?

115 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir; some, I think.

116 Senator BURTON.  
Did you notice any passengers on the lower decks as you went by?

117 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I was busy looking after the safety of the boat.

118 Senator BURTON.  
Would you have seen them if they were there?

119 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; not for what I was doing, because I did not look toward the ship.

120 Senator BURTON.  
Were your passengers all women and children?

121 Mr. OLLIVER.  
There were also a few men.

122 Senator BURTON.  
How many do you think, about?

123 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I should say there were about six or eight men.

124 Senator BURTON.  
What was the order in which your boat was unloaded on the [\*Carpathia\*](#)? Was it the first, second, or third - what was it?

125 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It was the fourth or fifth, I think.

126 Senator BURTON.  
Did you get along comfortably in the water?

127 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir. It was cold, but we got along comfortably in the water, sir.

128 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear Pitman give an order to go back to the ship?

129 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

130 Senator BURTON.  
What happened?

131 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The women passengers implored him not to go, because they reckoned it was not safe.

132 Senator BURTON.  
How far were you away from the ship then?

133 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I should say about 300 yards.

134 Senator BURTON.  
Did Pitman then countermand the order?

135 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir; he did not go.

136 Senator BURTON.  
Did only a few of the passengers on board object to his going back, or did they all object?

137 Mr. OLLIVER.  
They very nearly all objected.

138 Senator BURTON.  
Did any ask him to go back?

139 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; not as I know of.

140 Senator BURTON.  
Would it have been safe to go back?

141 Mr. OLLIVER.  
To my idea, sir, no.

142 Senator BURTON.  
Why not?

143 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I reckon it would have been endangering the lives of the people we had in the boat already.

144 Senator BURTON.  
In what way; by being sucked down, or by persons trying to climb on?

145 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Both, sir.

146 Senator BURTON.  
Which would have been the more serious of the two?

147 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The suction, as I thought, sir.

148 Senator BURTON.  
After the ship was sunk, there could have been no suction, could there?

149 Mr. OLLIVER.  
There could have been none, no; but this was before.

150 Senator BURTON.  
After she had sunk?

151 Mr. OLLIVER.  
We had orders to pull back toward the ship before she sank.

152 Senator BURTON.  
Did you have any orders to pull back after she sank?

153 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; we did not; we were farther away.

154 Senator BURTON.  
Were there cries and moaning from the place where the boat had sunk?

155 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes. It lasted about 10 minutes.

156 Senator BURTON.  
Did it not last longer than that?

157 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No; not to my idea.

158 Senator BURTON.  
Then, you were only about 300 yards away?

159 Mr. OLLIVER.  
When the cries were heard we were farther, but when the ship sank we were about 300 yards away.

160 Senator BURTON.  
About how far away were you then?

161 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I should say about 500 yards away then.

162 Senator BURTON.  
So far as danger of capsizing is concerned, after the boat had sunk you could have gone back, could you not?

163 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir; we could have gone back.

164 Senator BURTON.  
Were you afraid that the boat would be capsized by persons trying to climb in?

165 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I was not afraid.

166 Senator BURTON.  
Who was afraid?

167 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The passengers; the women, especially.

168 Senator BURTON.  
Did they voice their fear?

169 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

170 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see the boat sink?

171 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I can not say that I saw it right plain; but to my imagination I did, because the lights went out before she went down.

172 Senator BURTON.  
How did she sink?

173 Mr. OLLIVER.  
She was well down at the head at first, when we got away from her at first, and to my idea she broke forward, and the afterpart righted itself and made another plunge and went right down. I fancied I saw her black form. It was dark, and I fancied

174 I saw her black form going that way.

175 Senator BURTON.  
Did she careen over, tip over sideways, or did she go ahead?

176 Mr. OLLIVER.  
She went ahead, like that (*indicating*).

177 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear explosions?

178 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I heard several little explosions, but it was not such explosions as I expected to hear.

179 Senator BURTON.  
Were these before or after she sank?

180 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Before she sank and while she was sinking.

181 Senator BURTON.  
What did you think those explosions were?

182 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Myself, I thought they were like bulkheads giving in.

183 Senator BURTON.  
Do you know whether the watertight doors were closed or not?

184 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The first officer closed the watertight doors, sir.

185 Senator BURTON.  
When?

186 Mr. OLLIVER.



On the bridge, just after she struck; and reported to the [captain](#) that they were closed. I heard that myself.

187 Senator BURTON.  
How did you know they were closed?

188 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Because Mr. Murdoch reported, and as I entered the bridge I saw him about the lever.

189 Senator BURTON.  
Did he have any way of telling whether they were closed or not?

190 Mr. OLLIVER.  
There is a lever on the bridge to close the watertight doors, and he turned the lever over and closed them.

191 Senator BURTON.  
Was there an instrument there to show the doors as they closed? Did you ever see one of those instruments?

192 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No; I never saw one.

193 Senator BURTON.  
With little lights that burn up as each door closes, and then go out?

194 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

195 Senator BURTON.  
There was no instrument like that on the *Titanic*?

196 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not see that.

197 Senator BURTON.  
Would you have seen it if it had been there?

198 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No doubt I would, sir.

199 Senator BURTON.  
Was there any steam coming out of anywhere except the exhaust pipe?

200 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not see any.

201 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear anybody say that they saw steam coming out?

202 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

203 Senator BURTON.  
Were there any alarms or signals given to arouse the passengers on the ship?

204 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I was not down below, sir; I could not say.

205 Senator BURTON.  
Could you have heard them from where you were on the bridge?

206 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

207 Senator BURTON.  
Were the engines reversed; was she backed?

208 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Not whilst I was on the bridge; but whilst on the bridge she went ahead, after she struck; she went half speed ahead.

209 Senator BURTON.  
The engines went half speed ahead, or the ship?

210 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Half speed ahead, after she hit the ice.

211 Senator BURTON.  
Who gave the order?

212 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The [captain](#) telegraphed half speed ahead.

213 Senator BURTON.  
Had the engines been backing before he did that?

214 Mr. OLLIVER.  
That I could not say, sir.

215 Senator BURTON.  
Did she have much way on?

216 Mr. OLLIVER.  
When?

217 Senator BURTON.  
When he put the engines half speed ahead?

218 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir. I reckon the ship was almost stopped.

219 Senator BURTON.  
He must have backed the engines, then.

220 Mr. OLLIVER.  
He must have done so, unless it was hitting the iceberg stopped the way of the ship.

221 Senator BURTON.  
You did not hit it squarely, did you?

222 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; a glancing blow.

223 Senator BURTON.  
If there had been more lifeboats, would there have been any difficulty in getting them out?

224 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No more difficult than what the others were, if they had been the same boats and placed the same way.

225 Senator BURTON.  
Suppose they had been stowed just inboard of the present boats, like the collapsible boats?

226 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The collapsible boats are more trouble, the way they are placed, to get out, than what the others were in their places.

227 Senator BURTON.  
In your opinion as a sailor man, which would be the more valuable, lifeboats stowed inboard - two rows of lifeboats - or collapsible boats stowed inboard?

228 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I reckon the lifeboats, sir would be the easiest.

229 Senator BURTON.  
There would have been room for three right there side by side, would there not?

230 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The way the collapsible boats were, there was not room for three.

231 Senator BURTON.  
There was room for two, was there not?

232 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

233 Senator BURTON.

Did the boat gear work all right?

234 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The boat gear worked all right in the boat I went down in.

235 Senator BURTON.  
How many passengers do you think could have been safely lowered in that boat?

236 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I reckon there was enough in that boat for safety. If there had been more it would have been dangerous.

237 Senator BURTON.  
In what way?

238 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Too many, sir.

239 Senator BURTON.  
Danger that the boat would break in two?

240 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Break, sir; and also the rope.

241 Senator BURTON.  
Could the boat have held more after she struck the water?

242 Mr. OLLIVER.  
After she struck the water; yes.

243 Senator BURTON.  
Was there any way of getting more passengers into the boat after she struck the water?

244 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I did not see any way to get passengers in then; and we were told to stand off.

245 Senator BURTON.  
Do you know whether there was any provision in the ship for getting passengers into the boats in this way after the boats were in the water?

246 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not see any.

247 Senator BURTON.  
Were there any small rowboats?

248 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

249 Senator BURTON.  
Were you told to go toward this light?

250 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; we were not told to go toward this light.

251 Senator BURTON.  
What officer directed the taking off of your boat?

252 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The first officer, [Murdoch](#).

253 Senator BURTON.  
Was there any stowaway in your boat?

254 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not see any.

255 Senator BURTON.  
How high up was the water on the ship when your boat was lowered?

256 Mr. OLLIVER.  
When we were alongside, I could not see, because I was busy in the bottom of the boat, and I could not see what was about, because I was pretty near suffocated myself doing what I was doing. When we got away

from the ship I should say 25 or 30 yards, I should say the water was about, I should say there (*indicating*). She had sunk between 15 and 20 feet right at the bows.

257 Senator BURTON.  
Did you notice whether her propellers were out of water or not?

258 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I noticed she was up by the stern, but I did not notice the propellers.

259 Senator BURTON.  
But you did notice she was up by the stern?

260 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Up by the stern; yes sir.

261 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see the captain ring to the engines to stop?

262 Mr. OLLIVER.  
To stop.

263 Senator BURTON.  
How long did he go ahead half speed?

264 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Not very long, sir.

265 Senator BURTON.  
One minute, two minutes, five minutes?

266 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I could not say the number of minutes, because I had messages in the meantime.

267 Senator BURTON.  
But you know he went ahead half speed?

268 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir; I know he went ahead half speed.

269 Senator BURTON.  
Then he stopped?

270 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I could not say whether he stopped. The ship was stopped when we took to the boats.

271 Senator BURTON.  
You saw the captain?

272 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I saw the captain.

273 Senator BURTON.  
Where was he and what was he doing?

274 Mr. OLLIVER.  
On the [bridge](#). When he first came on the bridge he asked the first officer what was the matter, and Mr. Murdoch reported, sir, that we had struck an iceberg, and the captain ordered him to have the watertight doors closed, and Mr. Murdoch reported that the watertight doors were closed.

275 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear him give any other orders?

276 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The captain gave me orders to tell the carpenter [Possibly [Hutchinson](#)] to go and take the draft of the water.

277 Senator BURTON.  
Where did you find the carpenter?

278 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Down below, already doing it.

279 Senator BURTON.

Where, down below?

280 Mr. OLLIVER.  
In the [working alleyway](#).

281 Senator BURTON.  
Forward?

282 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It is like forward; it is a forward part of the ship - not right forward.

283 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see any water down there?

284 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, I did not, sir.

285 Senator BURTON.  
What deck was that on, [E deck](#) or [F deck](#)?

286 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It was in a place we called the working alleyway.

287 Senator BURTON.  
Is not that right along here - the working alleyway (*indicating on chart*)?

288 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It is on E deck.

289 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see any damage there?

290 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, I did not, sir.

291 Senator BURTON.  
Nothing displayed?

292 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No. It was about in line here that I saw the carpenter. He was taking the draft.

293 Senator BURTON.  
What did he say about the draft?

294 Mr. OLLIVER.  
He says, "all right; I am doing it."

295 Senator BURTON.  
Did he say he had found any water?

296 Mr. OLLIVER.  
He did not tell me.

297 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear him report anything to the captain?

298 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I did not wait for an answer. As soon as I got on the bridge, I had another message.

299 Senator BURTON.  
What was the other message?

300 Mr. OLLIVER.  
A message to take to the [chief engineer](#).

301 Senator BURTON.  
What message did you take to the chief engineer?

302 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I can not say the message. It was on a piece of paper and the paper was closed.

303 Senator BURTON.

Where did you find the chief engineer?

304 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Down in the [engine room](#).

305 Senator BURTON.  
What we he doing?

306 Mr. OLLIVER.  
He was at work down there.

307 Senator BURTON.  
Were the engines running?

308 Mr. OLLIVER.  
The engines were not running. They were stopped.

309 Senator BURTON.  
Did he say anything about any water coming in down there?

310 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I delivered the message, and I waited for an answer. I waited for two or three minutes. Then he saw me standing, and he asked me what I wanted. I said I was waiting for an answer to the message I took him. He told me to take back - to tell the captain that he would get it done as soon as possible.

311 Senator BURTON.  
Do you know what it was?

312 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I do not, sir. The message was on the paper, and I did not see it.

313 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear any of the engineer officers down there say anything about damage below?

314 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

315 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see any stokers come out of the stoke room?

316 Mr. OLLIVER.  
They were coming out of the stoke rooms along the alleyway.

317 Senator BURTON.  
Were any of the men coming out of the engine room?

318 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not see any coming out of the engine room.

319 Senator BURTON.  
Did the men seem to be excited, as if they feared the ship would sink?

320 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

321 Senator BURTON.  
The chief engineer did not say anything more to you?

322 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

323 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear any of them talking between themselves down there?

324 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I did not, because I was standing apart from them. It is not our place to go and stand to hear what officers are talking about.

325 Senator BURTON.  
I understand; but I thought you might have heard?

326 Mr. OLLIVER.

No, sir.

327 Senator BURTON.  
Were they talking among themselves?

328 Mr. OLLIVER.  
They were talking as regards the work, I expect; but I did not take notice what they were saying.

329 Senator BURTON.  
The lights were all going?

330 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir; the lights were going in the engine room, but I believe they opened the watertight door leading to the [stokehole](#), and it looked very black inside there.

331 Senator BURTON.  
Who opened it?

332 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I expect the engineers done it.

333 Senator BURTON.  
Which stokehole?

334 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I can not say the number of the stokehole, but it is the stokehole next to the engine room.

335 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see them when they opened it?

336 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I did not see them when they opened it, but it was open.

337 Senator BURTON.  
Was the door to the stokehole open while you were there in the engine room?

338 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes. There was a man went through whilst I was down.

339 Senator BURTON.  
Went through down into the stokehole?

340 Mr. OLLIVER.  
He went through the door that was open.

341 Senator BURTON.  
Was that door shut when you first got down there?

342 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; it was open.

343 Senator BURTON.  
And it looked black in the stokehole?

344 Mr. OLLIVER.  
In the stokehole; yes, sir.

345 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see any men coming out of there?

346 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not see any men coming out of there; no, sir.

347 Senator BURTON.  
You saw a man go in there?

348 Mr. OLLIVER.  
An engineer went in.

349 Senator BURTON.  
You do not know what he went in for?

350 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

351 Senator BURTON.  
The electric lights were going in the engine room?

352 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

353 Senator BURTON.  
You do not think they were going in that stokehole?

354 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

355 Senator BURTON.  
What other messages did you carry?

356 Mr. OLLIVER.  
As soon as I came on the bridge I delivered back the message I was told to deliver to the captain.

357 Senator BURTON.  
What message was it?

358 Mr. OLLIVER.  
That he would get it done as soon as possible, the chief engineer told me; that he would get it done as soon as possible, and to return that to the captain. As soon as I delivered that message the [chief officer](#) sent me to the [boatswain](#) of the ship and told me to tell the boatswain to get the oar lines and to uncover the boats and get them ready for lowering, and I done so, and came back on the bridge. No sooner did I get on the bridge than the [sixth officer](#) told me to go and get the boat's list, so that he could muster the men at the boats. I went and got the sailors' boat list and took it to him. Then somebody told me to muster the boats.

359 Senator BURTON.  
That boat list has the names showing where each man is stationed at the boats?

360 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Where each man is stationed at the boats.

361 Senator BURTON.  
Did you muster the men at the boats?

362 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not muster the men at the boats. I gave this to Mr. Moody, the sixth officer.

363 Senator BURTON.  
Did he muster the men at the boats?

364 Mr. OLLIVER.  
That I cannot say; I did not see him; but I gave him the list.

365 Senator BURTON.  
Then what did you do?

366 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Then I went to my boat to muster them.

367 Senator BURTON.  
Then you left the ship in the boat at which you were stationed on the boat list?

368 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Stationed at on the boat list.

369 Senator BURTON.  
And you did not run any more messages?

370 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not run any more messages.

371 Senator BURTON.  
Were any of the men in the dynamo room saved, do you know?



372 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I do not know.

373 Senator BURTON.  
None of the engineers were saved?

374 Mr. OLLIVER.  
It is hard to recognize everybody.

375 Senator BURTON.  
You do not know?

376 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

377 Senator BURTON.  
What time did your boat get to the water?

378 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I do not know the exact time. I can not say the exact time.

379 Senator BURTON.  
About when was it, do you think?

380 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I should say it was near on 1 o'clock.

381 Senator BURTON.  
You did not hear any orders given when you were down in the engine room about starting any pumps, did you?

382 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir.

383 Senator BURTON.  
Do you know whether any pumps were started?

384 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; because I do not know anything about down in the engine room.

385 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear any hissing of steam or any noise in that stokehole to which the door was open?

386 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not.

387 Senator BURTON.  
Did you see the captain write out this order to the chief engineer?

388 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I did not, sir.

389 Senator BURTON.  
He had it written out when he gave it to you?

390 Mr. OLLIVER.  
He had it written out when he gave it to me.

391 Senator BURTON.  
In what form as it? It was not inside of an envelope, was it?

392 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; it was not. It was bent at the corner, and he told me to take that to the engineer.

393 Senator BURTON.  
It was folded and bent at the corner?

394 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir; and bent at the corner.

395 Senator BURTON.  
Was it a form of order that is used?

396 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I think so, sir. I think it was a form of order. I had taken messages like that before, and they were the same orders.

397 Senator BURTON.  
Were you sent to the chief engineer after the carpenter had reported to the captain?

398 Mr. OLLIVER.  
I do not know. I do not know when the carpenter reported to the captain.

399 Senator BURTON.  
You were sent after you had been down to see the carpenter?

400 Mr. OLLIVER.  
After I had been down to see the carpenter.

401 Senator BURTON.  
How long after that?

402 Mr. OLLIVER.  
As soon as I got back on the bridge.

403 Senator BURTON.  
Did you hear the pumps operating at all?

404 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; I did not.

405 Senator BURTON.  
Had you ever been down there before to take messages?

406 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

407 Senator BURTON.  
Had you ever been in this stokehold before?

408 Mr. OLLIVER.  
Yes, sir.

409 Senator BURTON.  
Was there a light there then?

410 Mr. OLLIVER.  
A faint light, sir.

411 Senator BURTON.  
But there was no faint light there at this time?

412 Mr. OLLIVER.  
No, sir; it was black.

413

A. OLLIVER

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of April, A. D. 1912.

[SEAL.]

E. L. CORNELIUS,  
Notary.