

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 4

Testimony of Arthur G. Peuchen

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

(The witness was sworn by the chairman.)

Senator SMITH.

Will you kindly give the reporter your full name?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

[Arthur Godfrey Peuchen](#).

Senator SMITH.

Where do you reside?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

Toronto, Canada.

Senator SMITH.

How old are you?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

Fifty-three.

Senator SMITH.

What is your business?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

Manufacturer of chemicals.

Senator SMITH.

Do you hold any official rank in the military or civic affairs of Great Britain?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

I am a major in the Canadian militia.

Senator SMITH.

Were you aboard the vessel [Titanic](#) when it sailed from Southampton?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

I was.

Senator SMITH.

When did you board the vessel?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

Twenty minutes before sailing, I should say; half an hour.

Senator SMITH.

What time did she sail?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

I think a little after 12; a little after noon.

Senator SMITH.

What day of the week?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

On Wednesday, the 10th.

Senator SMITH.

Of April?

Maj. PEUCHEN.

Yes, sir.

26 Senator SMITH.
Did you make the [trip](#) from Belfast Lough to Southampton?

27 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; oh, no.

28 Senator SMITH.
Had you ever seen this ship before?

29 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Never.

30 Senator SMITH.
Were you accompanied by anyone?

31 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; several gentlemen friends.

32 Senator SMITH.
Who?

33 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mr. Markleham Molson [[Harry Markland Molson](#)], a co-director of mine, was my personal friend on the trip; [Mr. Allison](#) and [Mrs. Allison](#).

34 Senator SMITH.
Where were they from?

35 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Montreal.

36 Senator SMITH.
All were Canadians?

37 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Canadians; yes, sir.

38 Senator SMITH.
Did your friends survive?

39 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; they were all lost.

40 Senator SMITH.
Where were you located on the vessel? Where were your quarters and where were your friends located?

41 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was located on [C deck](#), stateroom 104, and they were located on [A deck](#), I think A-2. I forget Mr. Allison's number, but most of my friends were on A deck.

42 Senator SMITH.
That was the deck just above yours?

43 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; two above.

44 Senator SMITH.
Two above; yes. And A deck was just below the [boat deck](#)?

45 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Just below.

46 Senator SMITH.
The upper deck?

47 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Just below the bridge, I should think; just below the upper deck. I guess you are right, sir.

48 Senator SMITH.
Do you know any of the passengers that were on C deck?

49 Maj. PEUCHEN.

No, I can not say that I do.

50 Senator SMITH.
Do you know any other passengers on A deck than those you have named?

51 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, several.

52 Senator SMITH.
Who?

53 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mr. [Hugo Ross](#).

54 Senator SMITH.
Give his address, if you can.

55 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mr. Hugo Ross, of Winnipeg; Mr. Beatty [[Beattie](#)], of Winnipeg; [Mr. McCaffrey](#), of Vancouver.

56 Senator SMITH.
Where were they located?

57 Maj. PEUCHEN.
On A deck.

58 Senator SMITH.
Do you know the rooms?

59 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mr. Hugo Ross, who was my friend, I think was in [A-12](#), and the others were in A-8, and numbers similar to that close by. [According to the Cave list Ross was in A-10.]

60 Senator SMITH.
Did they survive?

61 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No.

62 Senator SMITH.
Did you know any other passengers on the *Titanic* on this voyage from Southampton or from Queenstown?

63 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mr. [Charles M. Hays](#), of Montreal.

64 Senator SMITH.
Who was he?

65 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He is the president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Railroad. [Mr. Davidson](#), his son-in-law, of Montreal; [Mr. Fortune](#) and his son, of Winnipeg.

66 Senator SMITH.
Do you know where they were located on the ship?

67 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I do not, sir.

68 Senator SMITH.
Did you see them aboard ship?

69 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; talked to them all.

70 Senator SMITH.
Do you know whether they survived?

71 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; they were all lost, sir.

72 Senator SMITH.
If I understood you correctly, you do not know on which deck Mr. Hays or the other persons referred to

were?

73 Maj. PEUCHEN.

No; outside of I know where Mr. Beatty and Mr. McCaffry were.

74 Senator SMITH.

Where were they?

75 Maj. PEUCHEN.

They were in A, as I have already described. The others, I did not know where they were.

76 Senator SMITH.

Did you know any other passengers?

77 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Oh, I met a number of other passengers.

78 Senator SMITH.

Who?

79 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I met [Mrs. Gibson](#) and [Miss Gibson](#), of New York, and [Mr. Foreman](#), of New York. These people I did not know as well. The others I knew before coming on the boat.

80 Senator SMITH.

If you can recall the names of any others you met, I wish you would do so.

81 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I met a number that were saved, afterwards on the [Carpathia](#) - on the other boat.

82 Senator SMITH.

Did you meet aboard ship any of the others who were lost?

83 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I do not think I met many more. Outside of my own circle of friends, which were about 10 - we were only three days out - I do not remember meeting very many more. I talked to a number, but not to meet them.

84 Senator SMITH.

Do you recall having seen a list of the passengers?

85 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Yes, sir.

86 Senator SMITH.

After you sailed from Southampton?

87 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Yes; I looked over the list.

88 Senator SMITH.

Did you retain the list?

89 Maj. PEUCHEN.

No, sir; I did not. There were only about one or two retained by the survivors.

90 Senator SMITH.

Do you know who has one?

91 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I saw them copying one in the smoking room of the *Carpathia*; only one, I think.

92 Senator SMITH.

Who had it?

93 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I do not remember. It was a young man, a fair young man, who was in the smoking room.

94 Senator SMITH.

You do not remember his name?

95 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I do not remember; no, sir.

96 Senator SMITH.
Have you seen him since?

97 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; not since leaving the boat.

98 Senator SMITH.
Did this list of passengers show the location of the passengers on the boat?

99 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; only the names.

100 Senator SMITH.
Just the names?

101 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

102 Senator SMITH.
Were they taken in alphabetical order?

103 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; in alphabetical order.

104 Senator SMITH.
Did you ask this person on the *Carpathia* to let you have a list of them?

105 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I did not sir. Several were making copies of them.

106 Senator SMITH.
Major, I wish you would tell the committee in your own way, beginning from the time you boarded the ship, the *Titanic*, at Southampton, the condition of the weather on the voyage; whether or not any accident occurred before the collision where the boat was lost; whether there was any fire aboard the ship between Southampton and the place of the catastrophe; whether you saw any drill of officers or men; and as nearly as you can, in your own way, what took place from the time the *Titanic* sailed. You may proceed in your own way and take your own time, and you will not be interrupted until you finish.

107 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The day was a fine day. Shortly after leaving our pier our wash or suction caused some trouble at the head of the pier that we were going around, at which there were two or three boats of the same company as our boat. There was considerable excitement on those boats on account of the snapping of their mooring lines, but there was no excitement on ours, the *Titanic*. There was also excitement on the wharves when the larger ship commenced to snap one or two of her moorings. But I do not think there was any accident.

108 The smaller boat, I think, was the [New York](#). She drifted away, not being under steam and having no control of herself. The result was that she was helpless. At first she drifted to our stern, and then afterwards she drifted along and got very near our bows. I think we stopped our boat and we were simply standing still. They got a tug or two to take hold of the *New York* and they moved her out of harm's way. I should think we were delayed probably three-quarters of an hour by this trouble. Then we moved out of the harbor.

109 The weather up to the time of Sunday was pleasant. There was very little wind; it was quite calm. Everything seemed to be running very smoothly on the steamer, and there was nothing that occurred. There was no mention of fire in any way. In fact, it was a very pleasant voyage up to Sunday evening. We were all pleased with the way the new steamer was progressing and we had hopes of arriving in New York quite early on Wednesday morning. Do you wish me to go on further?

110 Senator SMITH.
Go right along. I wish you to complete your statement, in your own way, up to the time you went on board the *Carpathia*.

111 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It would be a rather long story.

112 Senator SMITH.
Well, I want it in the record, Major.

113 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Sunday evening I dined with my friends, Markleham Molson, Mr. Allison, and Mrs. Allison; and their daughter [\[Helen Lorraine Allison\]](#) was there for a short time. The dinner was an exceptionally good dinner. It seemed to be a better bill of fare than usual, although they are all good. After dinner my friends and I went to the sitting-out room and had some coffee. I left the friends I had dined with about 9 o'clock, I think, or a little later. I then went up to the [smoking room](#) and joined Mr. Beatty, Mr. McCaffry, and another English gentleman who was going to Canada. We sat chatting and smoking there until probably 20 minutes after 11, or it may have been a little later than that. I then bid them good night and went to my room. I probably stopped, going down, but I had only reached my room and was starting to undress when I felt as though a heavy wave had struck our ship. She quivered under it somewhat. If there had been a sea running I would simply have thought it was an unusual wave which had struck the boat; but knowing that it was a calm night and that it was an unusual thing to occur on a calm night, I immediately put my overcoat on and went up on deck. As I started to go through the grand stairway I met a friend, who said, "Why, we have struck an iceberg."

114 Senator SMITH.
Give his name, if you can.

115 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I can not remember his name. He was simply a casual acquaintance I had met. He said, "If you will go up on the upper deck " or "If you will go up on A deck, you will see the ice on the fore part of the ship." So I did so. I went up there. I suppose the ice had fallen inside the rail, probably 4 to 4 1/2 feet. It looked like shell ice, soft ice. But you could see it quite plainly along the bow of the boat. I stood on deck for a few minutes, talking to other friends, and then I went to see my friend, Mr. Hugo Ross, to tell him that it was not serious; that we had only struck an iceberg. I also-called on Mr. Molson at his room, but he was out. I afterwards saw Mr. Molson on deck and we chatted over the matter, and I suppose 15 minutes after that I met Mr. Hays, his son-in-law, and I said to him, "Mr. Hays, have you seen the ice?" He said, "No." I said, "If you care to see it I will take you up on the deck and show it to you." So we proceeded from probably [C deck](#) to [A deck](#) and along forward, and I showed Mr. Hays the ice forward. I happened to look and noticed the boat was listing, probably half an hour after my first visit to the upper deck. I said to Mr. Hays, "Why, she is listing; she should not do that, the water is perfectly calm, and the boat has stopped." I felt that looked rather serious. He said, "Oh, I don't know; you can not sink this boat." He had a good deal of confidence. He said, "No matter what we have struck, she is good for 8 or 10 hours."

116 I hardly got back in the [grand staircase](#) - I probably waited around there 10 minutes more - when I saw the ladies and gentlemen all coming in off of the deck looking very serious, and I caught up to Mr. Beatty, and I said, "What is the matter?" He said, "Why the order is for lifebelts and boats." I could not believe it at first, it seemed so sudden. I said, "Will you tell Mr. Ross?" He said, "Yes; I will go and see Mr. Ross." I then went to my cabin and changed as quickly as I could from evening dress to heavy clothes. As soon as I got my overcoat on I got my life preserver and I came out of my cabin.

117 In the hallway I met a great many people, ladies and gentlemen, with their lifebelts on, and the ladies were crying, principally, most of them. It was a very serious sight, and I commenced to realize how serious matters were. I then proceeded up to the boat deck, and I saw that they had cleared away.

118 Senator SMITH. (*interposing*)
Pardon me one moment. Were you still on C deck?

119 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was on C deck when I came out and saw the people standing in the corridor near the [grand stairway](#). I then proceeded upstairs to the [boat deck](#), which is the deck above A.

120 I saw the boats were all ready for action; that is, the covers had been taken off of them, and the ropes cleared, ready to lower. This was on the port side. I was standing near by the second officer [\[Lightoller\]](#), and the captain [\[Smith\]](#) was standing there as well, at that time. The captain said - I do not know whether it was the captain or the second officer said - "We will have to get these masts out of these boats, and also the sail." He said, "You might give us a hand," and I jumped in the boat, and we got a knife and cut the lashings of the mast, which is a very heavy mast, and also the sail, and moved it out of the boat, saying it would not be required. Then there was a cry, as soon as that part was done, that they were ready to put the women in; so the women came forward one by one. A great many women came with their husbands.

121 Senator SMITH.
Just a second, before you come to that. What number boat did you get into?

122 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I got into - I think it was - the first large boat forward on the port side, and I imagine, from the way they number those boats, the emergency boat is 2, and the first large one is 4, and the next one is 6. I am not sure about that. [Peuchen actually left in [lifeboat 6](#) - the second large boat on the port side].

123 Senator SMITH.
Beginning to count from the forward end?

124 Maj. PEUCHEN.
From the forward end; from the bow.

125 Senator SMITH.
On the port side?

126 Maj. PEUCHEN.
On the port side. This was the largest lifeboat - the first large lifeboat toward the bow on the port side. They would only allow women in that boat, and the men had to stand back.

127 Senator SMITH.
Was there any order to that effect given?

128 Maj. PEUCHEN.
That was the order. The second officer stood there and he carried out that to the limit. He allowed no men except the sailors, who were manning the boat, but there were no passengers that I saw got into that boat.

129 Senator SMITH.
How many sailors?

130 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I am not sure, but I imagine there were about four. As far as my memory serves me, there were about four. I was busy helping and assisting to get the ladies in. After a reasonable complement of ladies had got aboard, she was lowered, but I did not see one single passenger get in that first boat.

131 Senator FLETCHER.
You mean male passenger.

132 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; male passenger.

133 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any attempt to get in?

134 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I never saw such order. It was perfect order. The discipline was splendid. The officers were carrying out their duty and I think the passengers behaved splendidly. I did not see a cowardly act by any man.

135 Senator SMITH.
Was the boat safely lowered?

136 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The boat was loaded, but I think they could have taken more in this boat. They took, however, all the ladies that offered to get in at that point.

137 Senator SMITH.
Was the boat safely lowered?

138 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, very; the boat was safely lowered.

139 Senator SMITH.
Who was in it that you know of?

140 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should say about - I do not know - I imagine about 26 or 27. There was room for more.

141 Then, as soon as that boat was lowered, we turned our attention to the next.

142 I might say that I was rather surprised that the sailors were not at their stations, as I have seen fire drill very often on steamers where they all stand at attention, so many men at the bow and stern of these lifeboats. They seemed to be short of sailors around the lifeboats that were being lowered at this particular point. I do

not know what was taking place in other parts of the steamer.

143 There was one act, sir, I would like to mention a little ahead of my story. When I came on deck first, on this upper deck, there were, it seems to me, about 100 stokers came up with their dunnage bags, and they seemed to crowd this whole deck in front of the boats. One of the officers - I do not know which one, but a very powerful one - came along and drove these men right off that deck. It was a splendid act.

144 Senator SMITH.
Off the boat deck?

145 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Off the boat deck. He drove them, every man, like a lot of sheep, right off the deck.

146 Senator SMITH.
Where did they go?

147 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know. He drove them right ahead of him, and they disappeared. I do not know where they went, but it was a splendid act. They did not put up any resistance. I admired him for it.

148 I had finished with the lowering of the first boat from the port side. We then proceeded to boat No.2 or No.4 or No.6; I do not know which it is called.

149 Senator SMITH.
You had stepped into the boat to assist in lowering it?

150 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; and then got out of it again.

151 Senator SMITH.
And you stepped out of it?

152 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I only got into the boat to assist in taking out the mast and the sail.

153 Senator SMITH.
I understand. Then you got out again?

154 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Then I got out again, and I assisted the ladies into the boat. We then went to the next boat and we did the same thing - got the mast and the sail out of that. There was a quartermaster in the boat, and one sailor, and we commenced to put the ladies in that boat. After that boat had got a full complement of ladies, there were no more ladies to get in, or if there were any other ladies to get in they did not wish to do so, because we were calling out for them - that is, speaking of the port side - but some would not leave their husbands.

155 Senator SMITH.
Do you know who they were?

156 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I only saw one or two stand by who would not get in. Whether they afterwards left them I can not say, but I saw one or two women refuse to get in on that account.

157 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any woman get in and then get out because her husband was not with her?

158 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, I do not think I did. I saw one lady where they had to sort of pull her away from her husband, he insisting upon her going to the boat and she did not want to go.

159 The boat was then lowered down, and when it got -

160 Senator SMITH. (*interposing*) Pardon me a moment. How many were put into this second boat?

161 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not know at the time of the lowering, but as I happened to be a passenger later on, they were counted and there were exactly 20 women, 1 quartermaster, 1 sailor, and 1 stowaway that made his appearance after we had been out about an hour.

162 Senator SMITH.
Twenty-three all together?

163 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Twenty-three all together; before I was a passenger.

164 After that the boat was lowered down some distance, I should imagine probably parallel with C deck, when the quartermaster [Hichens] called up to the officer and said, "I can not manage this boat with only one seaman."

165 Senator SMITH.
Where was this call from?

166 Maj. PEUCHEN.
As the boat was going down, I should think about the third deck. So he made this call for assistance, and the second officer leaned over and saw he was quite right in his statement, that he had only one man in the boat, so they said, "We will have to have some more seamen here," and I did not think they were just at hand, or they may have been getting the next boat ready. However, I was standing by the officer; and I said, "Can I be of any assistance? I am a yachtsman, and can handle a boat with an average man." He said, "Why, yes. I will order you to the boat in preference to a sailor."

167 Senator SMITH.
Pardon me right there. Who was this man then in the boat?

168 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He was one of the quartermasters. The captain was standing still by him at that time, and I think, although the officer ordered me to the boat, the captain said, "You had better go down below and break a window and get in through a window, into the boat."

169 Senator SMITH.
The captain said that?

170 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes. That was his suggestion; and I said I did not think it was feasible, and I said I could get in the boat if I could get hold of a rope. However, we got hold of a loose rope in some way that was hanging from the davit, near the block anyway, and by getting hold of it I swung myself off the ship, and lowered myself into the boat.

171 Senator SMITH.
How far did you have to swing yourself?

172 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The danger was jumping off from the boat. It was not after I got a straight line; it was very easy lowering. But I imagine it was opposite the C deck at the time. On getting into the boat I went aft in the lifeboat, and said to the quartermaster, [Hichens] "What do you want me to do?" He said, "Get down and put that plug in," and I made a dive down for the plug, and the ladies pretty well aft, and I could not see at all. It was dark down there. I felt with my hands, and I said it would be better for him to do it and me do his work, and I said, "Now, you get down and put in the plug, and I will undo the shackles," that is, take the blocks off. So he dropped the blocks, and he got down, and he came rushing back to assist me, and he said, "Hurry up." He said "This boat is going to founder." I thought he meant our lifeboat was going to founder. I thought he had had some difficulty in finding the plug, or he had not gotten it in properly. But he meant the large boat was going to founder, and that we were to hurry up and get away from it. So we got the rudder in, and he told me to go forward and take an oar. I went forward and got an oar on the port side of the lifeboat; the sailor was on my left, on the starboard side. But we were just opposite each other in rowing.

173 Senator SMITH.
Who was the sailor?

174 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He was the man who gave evidence just before me.

175 Senator SMITH.
Mr. Fleet, from the lookout.

176 Maj. PEUCHEN.
From the lookout, yes; sitting next to me on my left. He told us to row as hard as possible away from the suction. Just as we got rowing out part of the way, this stowaway, an Italian -

177 Senator SMITH.
Pardon me. Did the officer say to row away, so as to get away from the suction?

178 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The quartermaster who was in charge of our boat told us to row as hard as we could to get away from this suction, and just as we got a short distance away this stowaway made his appearance. He was an Italian by birth, I should think, who had a broken wrist or arm, and he was of no use to us to row. He got an oar out, but he could not do much, so we got him to take the oar in.

179 Senator SMITH.
Where did he make his appearance from, Major?

180 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Underneath; I think he was stowed away underneath. I should imagine if there was any room for him to get underneath the bow of the boat he would be there. I imagine that was where he came from. He was not visible when looking at the boat. There were only two men when she was lowered.

181 Senator SMITH.
Would you know him if you should see him?

182 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, it was dark. At daylight I was rowing very hard - in the morning - and I did not notice. As we rowed, pulled away from the [Titanic](#), there was an officer's call of some kind. We stopped rowing.

183 Senator SMITH.
A whistle?

184 Maj. PEUCHEN.
A sort of a whistle. Anyway, the quartermaster told us to stop rowing so he could hear it, and this was a call to come back to the boat. So we all thought we ought to go back to the boat. It was a call. But the quartermaster said, "No, we are not going back to the boat." He said, "It is our lives now, not theirs," and he insisted upon our rowing farther away.

185 Senator SMITH.
Who made the rebellion against it?

186 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think the rebellion was made by some of the married women that were leaving their husbands.

187 Senator SMITH.
And did you join in that?

188 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not say anything. I knew I was perfectly powerless. He was at the rudder. He was a very talkative man. He had been swearing a great deal, and was very disagreeable. I had had one row with him. I asked him to come and row, to assist us in rowing, and let some woman steer the boat, as it was a perfectly calm night. It did not require any skill for steering. The stars were out. He refused to do it, and he told me he was in command of that boat, and I was to row.

189 Senator SMITH.
Did he remain at the tiller?

190 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He remained at the tiller, and if we wanted to go back while he was in possession of the

tiller, I do not think we could have done so. The women were in between the quartermaster and myself and the other seaman. The night was cold and we kept rowing on. Then he imagined he saw a light. I have done a good deal of yachting in my life, I have owned a yacht for six years and have been out on the Lakes, and I could not see these lights. I saw a reflection. He thought it was a boat of some kind. He thought probably it might be a buoy out there of some kind, and he called out to the next boat, which was within hearing, asking if he knew if there was any buoy around there. This struck me as being perfectly absurd, and showed me the man did not know anything about navigating, expecting to see a buoy in the middle of the Atlantic. However, he insisted upon us rowing. We kept on rowing toward this imaginary light and, after a while, after we had gone a on distance - I am ahead of my story. We commenced to hear signs of the breaking up of the boat.

191 Senator SMITH.

Of the Titanic?

192 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Of the Titanic. At first I kept my eyes watching the lights, as long as possible.

193 Senator SMITH.

From your position in the boat, did you face it?

194 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I was facing it at this time. I was rowing this way (indicating), and afterwards I changed to the other way. We heard a sort of a call for help after this whistle I described a few minutes ago. This was the officer calling us back. We heard a sort of a rumbling sound and the lights were still on at the rumbling sound, as far as my memory serves me; then a sort of an explosion, then another. It seemed to be one, two, or three rumbling sounds, then the lights went out. Then the dreadful calls and cries.

195 Senator SMITH.

For help?

196 Maj. PEUCHEN.

We could not distinguish the exact cry for assistance; moaning and crying; frightful. It affected all the women in our boat whose husbands were among these; and this went on for some time, gradually getting fainter, fainter. At first it was horrible to listen to.

197 Senator SMITH.

How far was it away?

198 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I think we must have been five-eighths of a mile, I should imagine, when this took place. It was very hard to guess the distance. There were only two of us rowing a very heavy boat with a good many people in it, and I do not think we covered very much ground.

199 Senator SMITH.

While these cries of distress were going on, did anyone in the boat urge the quartermaster to return?

200 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Yes; some of the women did. But, as I said before, I had had a row with him, and I said to the women, "It is no use you arguing with that man, at all. It is best not to discuss matters with him." He said it was no use going back there, there was only a lot of stiffes there, later on, which was very unkind, and the women resented it very much. I do not think he was qualified to be a quartermaster.

201 Senator SMITH.

As a matter of fact, you did not return to the boat?

202 Maj. PEUCHEN.

We did not return to the boat.

203 Senator SMITH.
After you left its side?

204 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No.

205 Senator SMITH.
And when the boat went down, were you looking toward it?

206 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was looking toward the boat; yes.

207 Senator SMITH.
Did you see it?

208 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I saw it when the lights went out. You could not tell very much after the lights went out.

209 Senator SMITH.
You were not close enough to recognize anyone aboard?

210 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, no.

211 Senator SMITH.
Could you see the outlines of the people on the deck?

212 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; you could not. I could only see the outline of the boat, you might say.

213 Senator SMITH.
Do you know how she went down?

214 Maj. PEUCHEN.
While the lights were burning, I saw her bow pointing down and the stern up; not in a perpendicular position, but considerable.

215 Senator SMITH.
About what angle?

216 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should think an angle of not as much as 45°.

217 Senator SMITH.
From what you saw, do you think the boat was intact, or had it broken in two?

218 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It was intact at that time. I feel sure that an explosion had taken place in the boat, because in passing the wreck the next morning - we steamed past it - I just happened to think of this, which may be of some assistance to this inquiry - I was standing forward, looking to see if I could see any dead bodies, or any of my friends, and to my surprise I saw the barber's pole floating. The barber's pole was on the C deck, my recollection is - the barber shop - and that must have been a tremendous explosion to allow this pole to have broken from its fastenings and drift with the wood.

219 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear the explosions?

220 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir; I heard the explosions.

221 Senator SMITH.
How loud were they?

222 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, a sort of a rumbling sound. It was not a sharp sound - more of a rumbling kind of a sound, but still sharp at the same time. It would not be as loud as a clap of thunder, or anything that way, or like a boiler explosion, I should not think.

223 Senator SMITH.

Were these explosions evidently from under the water?

224 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should think they were from above. I imagined that the decks had blown up with the pressure, pulling the boat down, bow on, this heavyweight, and the air between the decks; that is my theory of the explosion. I do not know whether it is correct or not, but I do not think it was the boilers. I think it was the pressure, that heavy weight shoving that down, the water rushing up, and the air coming between the decks; something had to go.

225 Senator SMITH.
How many explosions did you hear?

226 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I am not absolutely certain of this, because there was a good deal of excitement at the time, but I imagine there were three, one following the other very quickly.

227 Senator SMITH.
Did you see the captain after he told you to go below and get through the window into the lifeboat?

228 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I never saw him after that.

229 Senator SMITH.
From what you saw of the captain, was he alert and watchful?

230 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He was doing everything in his power to get women in these boats, and to see that they were lowered properly. I thought he was doing his duty in regard to the lowering of the boats, sir.

231 Senator SMITH.
Did you see the officer of the watch that night?

232 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Whom do you mean? I hardly know what you mean?

233 Senator SMITH.
Who was the officer with you on your side of the boat?

234 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The second officer.

235 Senator SMITH.
Mr. Lightoller?

236 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir.

237 Senator SMITH.
Had you seen the captain before that night?

238 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I passed him in one of the companionways some place, just about dinner time.

239 Senator SMITH.
What time?

240 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I can not be very certain as to the hour; around 7 o'clock, I imagine. I generally come out to dress about 7 o'clock.

241 Senator SMITH.
What time did you dine that night?

242 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I dined a little after 7; I think it was a quarter after.

243 Senator SMITH.
In the main dining room?

244 Maj. PEUCHEN.
In the main dining room; yes.

245 Senator SMITH.
Did the captain dine in that room?

246 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not think so. I think he dined in the other - in the restaurant.

247 Senator SMITH.
But you did not see him?

248 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not see him dining.

249 Senator SMITH.
I wish you would say whether or not these lifeboats were equipped with food and water and lights.

250 Maj. PEUCHEN.
As far as I could tell, our boat was equipped with everything in that respect. I heard some talk that there was not proper food in some of the boats, and when I was on the [Carpathia](#) I made it my business to go down and look at one or two, and I found hard-tack in this sealed box.

251 Senator SMITH.
In both of them?

252 Maj. PEUCHEN.
On the boat. I did not go all around the fleet.

253 Senator SMITH.
You say you looked at one or two?

254 Maj. PEUCHEN.
One or two.

255 Senator SMITH.
Did you find provisions and water in both?

256 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not examine the kegs, but I was assured by the sailors there was water in them.

257 Senator SMITH.
Did you see lights in them?

258 Maj. PEUCHEN.
We had lights in our boat, but some of the other boats did not. I know there was a boat that hung near us that had not lights. Whether it was on account of not being able to light their lights I do not know.

259 Senator SMITH.
You say there were 36 or 37 people in your boat?

260 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir.

261 Senator SMITH.
In the first boat that was lowered?

262 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I said I thought about 26 or 27.

263 Senator SMITH.
In the first one?

264 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; I think so.

265 Senator SMITH.
And 23 in the second boat before you got in?

266 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Including the stowaway there would be 23. I made the twenty-fourth.

267 Senator SMITH.
Twenty women?

268 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Twenty women, yes; the quartermaster, one seaman, the stowaway, and then when I got in there were 24.

269 Senator SMITH.
Any children?

270 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I do not think we had any children. Later on we tied up to another boat, toward morning, for a very short time - I think for about 15 minutes.

271 Senator SMITH.
What boat was that?

272 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know. Our quartermaster did not know the number of our boat. I do not know the other. I know they called out and asked the number of our boat and our quartermaster did not know which it was. [Boats 6 and 16 tied up together during the night]

273 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear the testimony given this morning by the third officer? [Pitman]

274 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I heard part of it, sir. I was out in the hall while he was giving some of it.

275 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear him say that a lifeboat was attached to his lifeboat for a while?

276 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; but, then, let me see; did he not say he took some people off of that boat?

277 Senator SMITH.
I was going to come to that.

278 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; that was not our boat.

279 Senator SMITH.
He said he took three people out of his lifeboat.

280 Maj. PEUCHEN.
And put them into the one attached.

281 Senator FLETCHER.
On the starboard side of No. 7.

282 Senator SMITH.
That was not done in your boat?

283 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No. The only thing that occurred with the boat we were tied up with was, we asked how many men they had in their boat, and this quartermaster said he had about seven sailors, or some-thing like that - six or seven. Then we said, "Surely you can spare us one man, if you have so many," and we got a fireman.

284 Senator SMITH.
You got a fireman?

285 Maj. PEUCHEN.
One more man out of that boat.

286 Senator SMITH.
They transferred one more man to you?

287 Maj. PEUCHEN.

Yes; one more man.

288 Senator SMITH.
What did he do?

289 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He assisted in rowing on the starboard side of the lifeboat, and I rowed on the port side.

290 Senator SMITH.
Did any of the women help with the oars?

291 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; they did, very pluckily, too. We got the oars. Before this occurred we got a couple of women rowing aft, on the starboard side of our boat, and I got two women to assist on our side; but of course the woman with me got sick with the heavy work, and she had to give it up. But I believe the others kept on rowing quite pluckily for a considerable time.

292 Senator SMITH.
Do you know who these women were at the oars?

293 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I know one of them.

294 Senator SMITH.
Give the name.

295 Maj. PEUCHEN.
If you will excuse me, I will have to look it up. (Referring to memorandum.) Miss M. E. A. Norton, Apsley Villa, Horn Lane, Acton, London.

296 Senator SMITH.
Is that the only one of the women who handled the oars that you know by name?

297 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I think there is another.

298 Senator SMITH.
The other two women who handled the oars you do not know?

299 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know their names.

300 Senator SMITH.
Do you know any other passengers on your lifeboat?

301 Maj. PEUCHEN.
There are several who put their names on the back of that card (indicating).

302 Senator SMITH.
Can you read them?

303 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mrs. Walter Clark, 2155 West Adams Street, Los Angeles, Cal.; Miss E. Bowerman, Thorncliff, St. Leonards-on-Sea, England; Mrs. Lucien P. Smith, Huntington, W. Va.; Mrs. Martin Rothschild, 753 West End Avenue, New York; Mrs. Tyrell Cavendish, Driftwood, Monmouth; Mrs. Edgar J. Mayer [Meyer], 158 West Eighty-sixth Street, New York; Mrs. Walter Douglas, Deepshaven, Mass.; Mrs. J. J. Brown, Denver.

304 Senator SMITH.
Major, at any time between leaving the side of the Titanic and reaching the Carpathia, did Mrs. Douglas hold the tiller?

305 Maj. PEUCHEN.
In our lifeboat?

306 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

307 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think the quartermaster was at the tiller all the time, with the exception probably of a

couple of minutes. I know he asked one of the ladies for some brandy, and he also asked for one of her wraps, which he got.

308 Senator SMITH.
The officer did?

309 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The quartermaster, not the officer.

310 Senator SMITH.
Do you know Mrs. Douglas?

311 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Mrs. Walter Douglas?

312 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

313 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

314 Senator SMITH.
Was her husband lost? [Walter Douglas]

315 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir.

316 Senator SMITH.
On what deck were you when you had this conversation with Mr. Charles M. Hays?

317 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was on C deck, on the deck which is one deck above the dining saloon. I walked out and took him out to A deck.

318 Senator SMITH.
You say when the impact occurred, the ship shuddered?

319 Maj. PEUCHEN.
When the impact occurred, describing it I would say it would be like a wave striking it, a very heavy wave.

320 Senator SMITH.
How soon after that did the boat begin to list?

321 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should think about 25 minutes afterwards.

322 Senator SMITH.
So far as you could observe, did the passengers have on lifebelts?

323 Maj. PEUCHEN.
They had.

324 Senator SMITH.
Before you left the boat, so you can say from your own knowledge they had them on?

325 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I say if they had not them on, I think they could have gotten them all right. I did not hear of any shortage of life preservers, or of any complaints, rather.

326 Senator SMITH.
Did you have any light on your lifeboat?

327 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; we did.

328 Senator SMITH.
What was the color?

329 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Just an ordinary white light.

330 Senator SMITH.

Not a green light?
 331 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 No.
 332 Senator SMITH.
 But a white light?
 333 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 Yes.
 334 Senator SMITH.
 Did you see other lights on lifeboats?
 335 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 Yes. We could see those different lifeboats that had lights. They were all over. They were not all staying together at all. Some of them were going east, west, north, and south, it seemed to me, but there was one boat that had a sort of an electric light, and one a sort of a bluish light, as well, which we thought at first was a steamer or something.
 336 Senator SMITH.
 I believe you said you have had considerable experience as a mariner?
 337 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 Yes, sir.
 338 Senator SMITH.
 Can you say whether the [Titanic](#) listed to the starboard or port side?
 339 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 She listed to the starboard side; the side she was struck on.
 340 Senator SMITH.
 Did she go down by the bow or by the head?
 341 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 Eventually, you mean?
 342 Senator SMITH.
 Yes.
 343 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 She was down by the bow. You mean the head by the bow, do you not?
 344 Senator SMITH.
 Exactly.
 345 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 It is the same thing.
 346 Senator SMITH.
 No; not exactly the same thing. Where was this impact on the bow of the ship?
 347 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 It was aft of the bow about 40 feet, I should imagine, on the starboard side - about 40 or 50 feet, I should imagine from where the ice started to come off the iceberg.
 348 Senator SMITH.
 You say you saw some ice on the deck?
 349 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 Yes, sir.
 350 Senator SMITH.
 Do you know of anyone being injured by ice on the deck?
 351 Maj. PEUCHEN.
 No; but I know a great many of the passengers were made afraid by this iceberg passing their portholes. The ship shoved past this ice, and a great many of them told me afterwards they could not understand this thing moving past them - those that were awakened at the time. In fact, it left ice on some of the portholes, they told me.

352 Senator SMITH.
Do you know of your own knowledge whether any alarm was sounded to arouse the passengers from their rooms after the impact?

353 Maj. PEUCHEN.
There was no alarm sounded whatever. In fact, I talked with two young ladies who claimed to have had a very narrow escape. They said their stateroom was right near the Astor's, I think almost next to it, and they were not awakened.

354 Senator SMITH.
They were not awakened?

355 Maj. PEUCHEN.
They slept through this crash, and they were awakened by Mrs. Astor. She was in rather an excited state, and their door being open - and I think the Astor door was open - they think that was the means of their being saved.

356 Senator SMITH.
On what deck were they?

357 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know, sir. It was only conversation told me on the [Carpathia](#).

358 Senator SMITH.
I think you said that from your judgment and from your own observation there was no general alarm given?

359 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, I did not hear one. I was around the boat all the time.

360 Senator SMITH.
After getting aboard the Carpathia, did you learn the latitude and longitude in which the boats were picked up?

361 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; I did not. All I know is that when I made inquiries for the nearest port, I was told it was 36 hours' sail to Halifax.

362 Senator SMITH.
Did you see those lifeboats on the port side of the ship? Were you on the port side?

363 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was on the port side.

364 Senator SMITH.
Did you see them on the starboard side?

365 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir. We heard afterwards that the officers on the starboard side were more generous in allowing the men in than on the port side. That is what I heard afterwards; that some of the officers on the starboard side had allowed some of the men into the boats.

366 Senator SMITH.
You were on the same side with Mr. Lightoller?

367 Maj. PEUCHEN.
That was the port side; yes.

368 Senator SMITH.
The second officer?

369 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

370 Senator SMITH.
And on that side they did not permit but two men to get into the first boat?

371 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think there were four sailors in the first boat, sir.

372 Senator SMITH.
Not more than four?

373 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I would not be certain about that, sir. They did not allow any male passengers; that is what I mean.

374 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any lifeboat that was caught in the gear or tackle?

375 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; the boats I saw lowered away very nicely, indeed, in a very short time.

376 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any collapsible boat lowered?

377 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I think our boat left before they started to get those out.

378 Senator SMITH.
Were those lifeboats taken aboard the Carpathia?

379 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think two or three boats were allowed to drift. One I think, had some dead bodies in it. I saw two, at least, drifting away. I was afraid they could not take care of more.

380 Senator SMITH.
You saw two or three drifting away?

381 Maj. PEUCHEN.
That is, after they let them go.

382 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any dead bodies in those drifting boats?

383 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I saw dead bodies in one of the boats that came up, lying in the bow. I do not know whether that was set adrift or not. I was told that one boat contained three bodies.

384 Senator SMITH.
Did you see Mr. Ismay that night?

385 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I saw him - which night?

386 Senator SMITH.
Sunday night?

387 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think I saw him standing for a moment without his hat on; just a moment, on the port side.

388 Senator SMITH.
On the boat deck?

389 Maj. PEUCHEN.
On the boat deck; yes.

390 Senator SMITH.
What time?

391 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should say it would be probably an hour after we had struck the iceberg.

392 Senator SMITH.
An hour after you struck the iceberg?

393 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I would not be certain. I think it was Mr. Ismay. I think I saw him standing for a moment.

394 Senator SMITH.
What was he doing; anything?

395 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Not at that time.

396 Senator SMITH.
You did not see him after that?

397 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not see him after that except on coming aboard the Carpathia.

398 Senator SMITH.
Did you see Mr. Hays after he passed this word with you about the icebergs?

399 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes I saw him again on the upper deck just before I started to help with the boats. He said,
"Peuchen, this boat is good for eight hours yet."

400 Senator SMITH.
That is the last time you saw him?

401 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes. I shook hands with him then and he said, "This boat is good for eight hours. I have
just been getting this from one of the best old seamen, Mr. Crossley " - I think he
mentioned his name "of Milwaukee," and some person else; and he said, "Before that
time, we will have assistance." [Mr. Crossley was actually Edward Crosby]

402 Senator SMITH.
Did you know of the proximity of the Titanic to ice on Sunday?

403 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir. All I know is that there was a big change in the temperature between the afternoon
and the time I went on deck later on in the evening.

404 Senator SMITH.
Did that indicate anything unusual to you ?

405 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I had only had experience once before among icebergs, and it was cold, and a similar
change took place in the weather.

406 Senator SMITH.
Have you ever been in the vicinity of the Grand Banks before?

407 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; this was on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, just as we were approaching the Gulf of St.
Lawrence.

408 Senator BURTON.
This change in temperature would not necessarily mean that there was ice in the
immediate vicinity; it might occur just as the weather changes from morning to evening,
or from evening to morning?

409 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir; there was quite a change in temperature.

410 Senator SMITH.
Who was the quartermaster? What was his name?

411 Maj. PEUCHEN.
His name was -

412 Senator SMITH.
Who was the quartermaster on your lifeboat, I mean?

413 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know exactly how to pronounce his name, but it is spelled H-i-c-h-e-n. He was the
man at the wheel on Sunday evening.

414 Senator SMITH.
Have you his initials?

415 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No. He was Quartermaster Hichens. I think probably you can find him; but he was the man at the wheel, and he was calling out to the other boats wanting to know what officer was on duty at that time. He did not seem to know which officer, at the time of the sighting of the iceberg, was on duty.

416 Senator FLETCHER.
What was the movement of the ship after the collision with the iceberg?

417 Maj. PEUCHEN.
After the collision it seemed to me not immediately, but after a short space of time it sounded as though we were reversing.

418 Senator FLETCHER.
What effect did that have upon the progress of the ship, if you noticed?

419 Maj. PEUCHEN.
She still was going, even if they were reversing for a certain period.

420 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you observe how long she continued to go ahead?

421 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I did not.

422 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you form any idea as to how far she had gone beyond the iceberg, after striking it, before she stopped?

423 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No. I was really too much interested in changing my clothes and in my friends, and I really did not pay any attention to that.

424 Senator FLETCHER.
Have you any idea how far you were away from the iceberg when you took to the lifeboat?

425 Maj. PEUCHEN.
We took to the lifeboat - I should imagine I was in the lifeboat probably an hour after we struck. We had been going ahead at a pretty good rate of speed, and then we had to reverse. I should imagine we would be 3 miles away from it, I think - at least 2 1/2 miles, probably.

426 Senator FLETCHER.
After you took to the lifeboat you proceeded to row in the direction in which the ship had been moving, westward?

427 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; we started right off from the port side of the boat directly straight off from her about amidship, on the port side, right directly north, I think it would be, because the northern lights appeared where this light we had been looking at in that direction appeared shortly afterwards.

428 Senator FLETCHER.
When did you first see an iceberg?

429 Maj. PEUCHEN.
A year ago -

430 Senator FLETCHER. (interposing)
No, I did not mean that; I mean on that occasion. You did not see the iceberg the ship struck, I understand.

431 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; I did not see that.

432 Senator FLETCHER.

When did you first see an iceberg there?

433 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Just after daybreak or just a little before daybreak.

434 Senator FLETCHER.
Can you give us an idea of how far you probably were at that time from where the Titanic went down?

435 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should imagine we would be probably 2 miles, and we kept on rowing for this imaginary light for some time.

436 Senator FLETCHER.
How far away from you was this iceberg, and in what direction?

437 Maj. PEUCHEN.
There were several icebergs. There were at least three icebergs that you could see plainly. There was one toward the front, the way our boat was facing, and one on the west. I should think there was one toward the north and one toward the south. We seemed to be in a nest of icebergs, with some smaller ones, of course.

438 Senator FLETCHER.
About how many, in all, that you can recall?

439 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think you could see - at least to count, I think - five.

440 Senator FLETCHER.
What were about the sizes of them?

441 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Two were large; another was sort of smaller in size. Some were jagged, but very high, and a number of them not so high.

442 Senator FLETCHER.
These large ones you think were about what height above the water, and what width and length, if you can give us an idea?

443 Maj. PEUCHEN.
They were at least 100 feet high, two of them, and of a width I should think of 300 feet and 400 feet long; somewhat like an island.

444 Senator FLETCHER.
Major, do you mean for us to understand that at the time lifeboat No. 4 and lifeboat No. 6 on the port side of the ship were loaded and lowered every woman in sight was given an opportunity?

445 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Every woman on the port side was given an opportunity. In fact, we had not enough women to put into the boats. We were looking for them. I can not understand why we did not take some men. The boats would have held more.

446 Senator FLETCHER.
If there had been more women there they could have found room in those boats?

447 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Plenty of room.

448 Senator FLETCHER.
Do you mean to say, too, that so far as you knew and heard and observed no general alarm was given throughout the ship, arousing the passengers, and advising them of their danger?

449 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not hear any alarm whatever.

450 Senator FLETCHER.

Do you know what the method is of giving an alarm in an emergency of that kind?

451 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I have never had the experience of an accident at sea before.

452 Senator FLETCHER.
Major, can you give us any idea why, if the passengers were equipped with life belts, and they were in good condition, those passengers would not float and live for four or five or six hours afterwards?

453 Maj. PEUCHEN.
That is something that astonished me very much. I was surprised, when we steamed through this wreckage very slowly after we left the scene of the disaster - we left the ground as soon as this other boat, the [Californian](#), I understand, came along - that we did not see any bodies in the water. I understood the Californian was going to cruise around, and when she came we started off, and we went right by the wreckage. It was something like two islands, and was strewn along, and I was interested to see if I could see any bodies, and I was surprised to think that with all these deaths that had taken place we could not see one body; I was very much surprised. I understand a life preserver is supposed to keep up a person, whether dead or alive.

454 Senator FLETCHER.
You think the Carpathia passed in the immediate vicinity where the Titanic went down?

455 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, I would not say the immediate vicinity, because there was a breeze started up at daybreak, and the wreckage would naturally float away from where she went down, somewhat. It might be that it had floated away, probably a mile or half a mile; probably not more than that, considering that the wind only sprang up at daybreak.

456 Senator FLETCHER.
Have you any idea which way that drift would tend, on account of the breeze or other conditions there?

457 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Which way the wind was blowing, you mean?

458 Senator FLETCHER.
Yes.

459 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The wind was blowing, I imagine, from the north at that time.

460 Senator FLETCHER.
You heard sounds of people calling for help when you were, you say, about five-eighths of a mile away, when the Titanic went down?

461 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir.

462 Senator FLETCHER.
And immediately you heard these cries and then you heard them gradually die out?

463 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir

464 Senator FLETCHER.
Is it your idea that the water was so cold that a person could not live in it except for a short time?

465 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I feel quite sure that a person could not live in that water very long. Those who had been in the water had their feet frozen; that is, those who were standing up in a boat in the water. I happened to have the cabin with three of them who were rescued, and they said they sustained their life by punching each other during the two or three hours they stood

up. The minute any one got tired and sat down in the water, or at least very shortly thereafter, he floated off the raft, dead, I believe.

466 Senator FLETCHER.
What was the temperature of the water, if you know?

467 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know, sir.

468 Senator FLETCHER.
You say people were frozen?

469 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Their feet were frozen; yes, sir.

470 Senator FLETCHER.
Was that by exposure, after being taken out of the water on the boat?

471 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir. A number of them swam, I know of three cases, at least, where they jumped from the big boat and swam and got on to a raft which was partly submerged in the water, and they stood up in the raft, and those are the ones whose feet were badly swollen or frozen.

472 Senator FLETCHER.
You assume from that that the water was very cold?

473 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I am sure it was.

474 Senator FLETCHER.
Was it below the freezing point?

475 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It must have been very near the freezing point, anyway. It probably would not be quite freezing; but it being salt water, of course it would not freeze very readily.

476 Senator FLETCHER.
Was there any floating ice, aside from these icebergs?

477 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, yes; when we started to steam away we passed a lot of floating ice, I suppose several miles long.

478 Senator FLETCHER.
You mean the Carpathia steamed through the ice?

479 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

480 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you come into contact with floating ice while you were on the lifeboat?

481 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; we did not.

482 Senator FLETCHER.
Have you any idea as to how long a person could live in water like that?

483 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It depends on his constitution, but I should imagine that if a person could stay in the water a half an hour he would be doing very well.

484 Senator FLETCHER.
Would not the effort to swim, and exercise, prevent one getting numb for several hours?

485 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Up to a certain point; yes. But I do not think a man could live an hour in that water.

486 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you observe in this wreckage any broken pieces of life preservers, corks, and things of that sort.

487 Maj. PEUCHEN.
There was a very large quantity of floating cork. I am at a loss to understand where it came from. There were a great many chairs in the water; all the steamer chairs were floating, and pieces of wreckage; but there was a particularly large quantity of cork.

488 Senator FLETCHER.
What was the appearance of the cork? Did it look as if it had come from life preservers?

489 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was not near enough to tell that. I would not like to pass an opinion, but it looked like cork to me.

490 Senator FLETCHER.
You said, I believe, that there seemed to be a lack of competent sailors to take charge of the lifeboats?

491 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I would not like to say that, sir. I said that they were not at their stations, ready to man the boats. I imagine this crew was what we would call in yachting terms a scratch crew, brought from different vessels. They might be the best, but they had not been accustomed to working together.

492 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see any other boats filled - that is, loaded - and lowered?

493 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Those were the only two I saw filled and lowered.

494 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see the boats as the [Carpathia](#) reached them? Did the boats come to the Carpathia or did the Carpathia go around and pick up the boats?

495 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know whether she came to anchor; I think probably she did. However, she was in the lee of all the boats. That is, we had all come down; we were to the weather of the Carpathia, and so she stayed there until we all came down on her.

496 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you observe in what manner these boats reached the Carpathia? What position was your boat in, for instance, among the first or the last?

497 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think there were about two or three after us. We were almost the last. We were about the last, with the exception of two or three.

498 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you observe the condition of those boats, as to whether they were all loaded to their capacity or not at that time, at the time you saw them unloaded?

499 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I saw some of the boats come in; one boat particularly was very full, had a large number of passengers. She seemed to be crowded right down. Whether they had taken on more in the water, I do not know.

500 Senator FLETCHER.
Do you know what boat that was - the number of it, or the officer in charge?

501 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; there seemed to be a lot of steerage or second class passengers on that boat; but still, I did not know them by sight.

502 Senator FLETCHER.
Was it a collapsible boat?

503 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; that was one of the regular lifeboats.

504 Senator FLETCHER.
The boat you were in, you say, could have carried how many more people than you had?

505 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Well, I made inquiries, and I was told that those boats were capable of holding from 60 to 65, I suppose according to how they were stowed and how the boat was trimmed and the weight of the passengers; but I should imagine they ought to hold a good number. They seemed very solid and strong boats. I was told by the second officer, though, that they could not lower those boats filled to the full capacity. That was the capacity with them floating, according to the figures given.

506 Senator FLETCHER.
And the idea was to fill them after they reached the water?

507 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It struck me that those boats ought to have a certain capacity on the hooks, and then be loaded up to that capacity; and then they should have some means of filling them in the water.

508 Senator FLETCHER.
There were none attempted to be loaded except from the rail?

509 Maj. PEUCHEN.
That is the only place I saw any boats loaded, sir.

510 Senator FLETCHER.
Referring to that light that you observed, that you said you thought was a hallucination, did that disappear after awhile?

511 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; it disappeared; but I did not think, from my knowledge of yachting, that it was a boat light. I think it was one of those reflected lights. The northern lights were very strong that night. It might have been some reflection on ice. I was not satisfied it was the light of a steamer, by any means.

512 Senator FLETCHER.
You could not tell, then, of course, whether it might be a stern light or what sort of a light it might be on a steamer?

513 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It was a glare. It was not a distinct light, it was a glare.

514 Senator FLETCHER.
Did Mr. Ismay give any directions or orders on the boat, so far as you know?

515 Maj. PEUCHEN.
On which boat, sir?

516 Senator FLETCHER.
On the ship. You say you saw him there.

517 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Only standing there. He did not in my presence.

518 Senator NEWLANDS.
Major, you say this was a clear night?

519 Maj. PEUCHEN.
A clear night; yes.

520 Senator NEWLANDS.
Was it as clear while you were on the water in this boat as it was prior to the catastrophe?

521 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; it was a beautiful night. It was a dark night, but starlight. We could see some distance. We could see another boat without a light, some distance away, by the shadow.

522 Senator NEWLANDS.

523 You were how many hours on the water, do you think?
Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think we were rather late in getting to the Carpathia. I imagine that we were at least eight hours on the water.

524 Senator NEWLANDS.
About what time did you get on the Carpathia?

525 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It was after 8 o'clock that I looked at my watch; it was something after 8 o'clock that we got on.

526 Senator NEWLANDS.
What time did the dawn come?

527 Maj. PEUCHEN.
We could just commence to distinguish light, I think, about near 4 o'clock.

528 Senator NEWLANDS.
What was that answer?

529 Maj. PEUCHEN.
About 4 o'clock.

530 Senator NEWLANDS.
Prior to 4 o'clock, while you were drifting in the water, did you see any icebergs?

531 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, we did not drift near anything; we saw -

532 Senator NEWLANDS.
When the dawn came, did you find yourself near icebergs?

533 Maj. PEUCHEN.
We found that there was a sort of a field of icebergs. There were icebergs in one direction, probably a mile away, and another iceberg in another direction, probably half a mile away, and another iceberg over here, probably 5 miles away.

534 Senator NEWLANDS.
Were there any ice fields?

535 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not notice any in the morning. I was busy rowing, because I rowed all the time. But when we started to steam away on the Carpathia, I could see this ice field 4 miles long.

536 Senator NEWLANDS.
Did you observe any of these ice fields before you got on the Carpathia?

537 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, I did not. Well, I could see something like an island at a distance, but not as clear as when we got on the Carpathia.

538 Senator NEWLANDS.
But you think when the dawn came the nearest iceberg was about half a mile away?

539 Maj. PEUCHEN.
It was farther than that. In rowing the boat I know we thought at first we would have to row close to the iceberg, and we were then about 5 miles off, at least. It was a question whether we were going to get very close to this island of ice or not. The iceberg was between our boat and the Carpathia.

540 Senator NEWLANDS.
All the icebergs were not between you and the Carpathia?

541 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; this was the only one.

542 Senator NEWLANDS.
And the others were in different directions?

543 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

544 Senator NEWLANDS.
At all points of the compass?

545 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

546 Senator NEWLANDS.
How do you account for the fact that you were not able to see any of these icebergs when you were in the water before the dawn and you were able to see a boat?

547 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Well, they were a little farther away than the boat; but we picked these icebergs out pretty early in the morning, before dawn. They were dark objects; in fact, we did not know what they were at that time.

548 Senator NEWLANDS.
Is it your observation that on a night of that kind glasses enable one to get a wider range of vision?

549 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; we use glasses at night, especially when the night is bright. There is such a difference in the human eye. Take 12 men on a yacht and one man will see twice as far as another.

550 Senator NEWLANDS.
Without glasses?

551 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir.

552 Senator NEWLANDS.
I mean at night, such a night as you had that night, would glasses add very much to the range of your vision?

553 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think they would. I can see better with glasses at night than I can with my naked eye.

554 Senator NEWLANDS.
Have you any idea how much they add to the range?

555 Maj. PEUCHEN.
For instance, if you look at the moon at night with a glass you can see everything distinctly, and with the naked eye you can not.

556 Senator NEWLANDS.
How is it with reference to objects on the sea?

557 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think glasses assist you, provided it is bright enough.

558 Senator NEWLANDS.
And you think that night was bright enough?

559 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I think it would assist. I really think if we had had a searchlight, though, we would have saved the ship.

560 Senator SMITH.
You say the second officer told you that he could not lower the lifeboats safely if they were filled to their capacity?

561 Maj. PEUCHEN.
The second officer [James Bisset] sent for me on board the Carpathia, as he had heard some complaints from the ladies about this quartermaster [Hichens], and while there I asked him regarding the loading of these boats, and he stated that those boats were filled just nicely for lowering from the height of the deck.

562 Senator NEWLANDS.
He told you this after the [Titanic](#) had gone down?

563 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes. I can not understand why they have such very heavy block and tackle, if they can only put in such a small number of people, because the tonnage of 24 people is only about a ton and a half, English tons.

564 Senator SMITH.
Well, Major, some of these boats contained many more people than were in your boat?

565 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; but whether they were picked up afterwards or not, I do not know.

566 Senator SMITH.
Or whether they were lowered from the Titanic, you do not know?

567 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir.

568 Senator SMITH.
You heard nothing of that kind while these two boats were being lowered?

569 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Heard what?

570 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear the second officer say that they could only be partially filled and lowered with safety?

571 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; he made no remark of that kind, sir. I think it was a case that we had no more ladies to put in there.

572 Senator SMITH.
You had no more ladies to put in, and they were to be lowered without being filled?

573 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know exactly what "filled" means in that sense - filled from the deck. I spoke to the officer about it a couple of days afterwards, and he told me that was the reason they were not filled, that they were just comfortably filled for lowering that distance.

574 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any rockets fired on the Titanic during the 15 or 20 or 30 minutes before her sinking?

575 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know as to that time before sinking, but while we were lowering the boat they were sending up rockets.

576 Senator SMITH.
Sending them from your deck?

577 Maj. PEUCHEN.
From the bridge, I should say.

578 Senator SMITH.
What colored rockets-red and all colors?

579 Maj. PEUCHEN.
A good deal like an ordinary skyrocket, going up and breaking, and the different colors flying down.

580 Senator SMITH.
Do you know why they were being exploded?

581 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Because we wanted assistance.

582 Senator SMITH.

Did you know that any assistance was available?

583 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No. I think if there was any assistance available we should have been told of it when we left the boat. We were rowing around there, and if we had known that some ship was coming we would not have started off rowing for an imaginary light, trying to make a great many miles. I do not know whether they had that information or not.

584 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear the testimony that there was a light sighted, or a boat sighted about 5 miles ahead of the Titanic, after the collision?

585 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I read in the morning paper that some evidence was given yesterday in regard to that.

586 Senator SMITH.
But you did not hear anything about that on the Carpathia?

587 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; and I did not see it.

588 Senator SMITH.
When you and Mr. Hays went forward to look at the ice, how much of it could you see?

589 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I should think about 4 1/2 feet of ice, probably 1 1/2 to 2 inches thick. That is, it would be thicker on the rail than it would be on the bow, I heard the men walking over it, and it would crunch under their feet.

590 Senator SMITH.
Do you mean to be understood as saying that you saw that part of the berg that was sloughed off by the impact?

591 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; sort of shaken off. As we went past, this would scrape off.

592 Senator SMITH.
Did you look at the iceberg itself?

593 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, I did not see that; it had passed.

594 Senator SMITH.
You did not see that?

595 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir.

596 Senator SMITH.
You could not describe its color or how it appeared?

597 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir.

598 Senator SMITH.
Did you talk with Mr. Fleet, the man in the lookout, who was in your lifeboat?

599 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir.

600 Senator SMITH.
About this iceberg ?

601 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes. I spoke to him about it.

602 Senator SMITH.
What did you say to him about it?

603 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I was interested when I found he was in the crow's nest, and I said, "What occurred?" In

the conversation he said he rang three bells, and then he signaled to the bridge.

604 Senator SMITH.
Did he say how far off the iceberg was when he first sighted it?

605 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; he did not tell me that.

606 Senator SMITH.
Did he say what it looked like when he first saw it?

607 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; he did not go into that. The only thing he said was that he did not get any reply from the bridge.

608 Senator SMITH.
From the telephone?

609 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I heard afterwards that really the officers were not required to reply.

610 Senator SMITH.
That is, the information is imparted from the crow's nest to the officer at the bridge, and that is the end of that information?

611 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I spoke to the second officer [Lightoller] on the boat regarding the conversation; and he told me it is simply a matter of whether the officer wishes to reply or not. He gets the information, probably, and acts right on it without attempting to reply to the crow's nest.

612 Senator SMITH.
Did he tell you anything more about the iceberg and the collision than you have stated?

613 Maj. PEUCHEN.
That is all. They had some conversation - the quartermaster was asking them who was on the bridge and they were calling over, and they did not know which officer was on the bridge, and the quartermaster called out to another boat, to the quartermaster or whoever was in charge of the other boat.

614 Senator SMITH.
Another lifeboat?

615 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir.

616 Senator SMITH.
From your boat?

617 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, sir; they were not far off.

618 Senator SMITH.
What did he say?

619 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I did not catch the answer.

620 Senator SMITH.
No; I mean what did the quartermaster say?

621 Maj. PEUCHEN.
He said, "You know one officer was on duty on the bridge at the time we struck." So far as I could gather, the officer was in command of the other boat. He did not know; he might not have been on duty.

622 Senator SMITH.
And the lookout in the crow's nest did not seem to know?

623 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No.

624 Senator SMITH.
I would like to ask whether, from what you observed, in your opinion, there was proper discipline on the part of the crew in loading the lifeboats?

625 Maj. PEUCHEN.
You wish to know whether there was discipline in loading the lifeboats by the crew?

626 Senator SMITH.
Yes; whether there was any order or discipline about it, whether they were loaded systematically and with care, and with consideration for the lives of the passengers, and considering the peril in which they were placed?

627 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Among those of the crew that I saw working, such as loading the boats, lowering the boats, and filling the boats, the discipline could not have been better.

628 Senator SMITH.
The discipline could not have been better?

629 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir; but there were too few.

630 Senator SMITH.
Too few of them?

631 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Too few, yes. That is, I am only speaking now of the port side of the boat, where I happened to be. I can not speak of all over the boat.

632 Senator SMITH.
No. I said from your observation.

633 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, just from that. I was surprised not to see more sailors at their stations. I was also surprised that the boats were not filled with more people.

634 Senator SMITH.
Each boat constitutes a station?

635 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes, that is what I understand.

636 Senator SMITH.
Each lifeboat?

637 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

638 Senator SMITH.
And from your observation, do I understand you to say that there was not a sailor at each station?

639 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, I do not say that there was not a sailor at each station, but there was not a full complement.

640 Senator SMITH.
There was not the full complement?

641 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir. From what I gathered I understand that these men had been told off; that is, that each man had been assigned to his station, but they had had no practice, from what I learned from talking with the crew.

642 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any drill yourself?

643 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Oh, no; there was no drill. As a rule Sunday is the day they do some drilling; but I did not

see any drilling on Sunday.

644 Senator SMITH.
Would you have been likely to see it if it had occurred?

645 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes. It is very interesting and I always like to see it. There is always the bugle sounding the call. I have seen it, crossing, many times, the fire drill and the boat drill.

646 Senator SMITH.
You saw no drill from the time you left Southampton until the time this accident occurred?

647 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No, sir.

648 Senator SMITH.
Did you, before or after the Titanic struck, learn that it was officially known to the ship, on Sunday, that there were icebergs on or near her track?

649 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I heard it afterwards, but not before.

650 Senator SMITH.
Not before Sunday?

651 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I heard, on the Carpathia, that they were expecting icebergs or ice.

652 Senator SMITH.
From whom did you hear it?

653 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I heard the third officer [Pitman] just mention it, casually, to two or three of them, that they knew that there was ice; that they were approaching ice.

654 Senator SMITH.
What time of day was this?

655 Maj. PEUCHEN.
I do not know. It was on the fore part of the Carpathia.

656 Senator SMITH.
The fore part of the journey on the Carpathia?

657 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

658 Senator SMITH.
Did they seem to be quite agreed that that was the case, or was there some dispute about it?

659 Maj. PEUCHEN.
No; there was no dispute. This was just a casual remark that was made.

660 Senator SMITH.
You do not know by whom?

661 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes; I know it was made by the third officer.

662 Senator SMITH.
By the third officer?

663 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Yes.

664 Senator SMITH.
Is there anything further? I think that is all, Major.

665 Maj. PEUCHEN.
Could I make just a little statement, sir? It will not be very long.

666 Senator SMITH.

Yes.

667 Maj. PEUCHEN.

I have been quoted as making a great many statements or as saying several things, and I would like to just put this straight. I do not criticize Capt. Smith, but I do criticize the policy and methods pursued by the company, for I feel sure that in this case caution would have been of every virtue and would have averted the terrible calamity. I have been given the credit of saying many things which are absolutely untrue and I wish to state that I have not said any personal or unkind thing about Capt. Smith. I have been quoted as saying some very unkind things about the late captain, but I assure you I have never made any statement of that kind.

668 Senator SMITH.

Did you ever sail with him before?

669 Maj. PEUCHEN.

No, sir.

670 Senator SMITH.

Is that all you care to say, Major?

671 Maj. PEUCHEN.

That is all. I am here, sir, more on account of the poor women that came off our boat. They asked me if I would not come and tell this court of inquiry what I had seen, and when you wired me, sir, I came at once, without being pressed in any way, simply to carry out my promise to the poor women on our boat.

672 Senator SMITH.

The committee is greatly obliged, Major. You will be excused.