

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 7

Testimony of Albert Haines

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

(Mr. Haines was duly sworn by Senator Smith.)

Senator SMITH.
Where do you live?

Mr. HAINES.
In Kent. My home is in Kent.

Senator SMITH.
How old are you?

Mr. HAINES.
Thirty-one, sir.

Senator SMITH.
What is your occupation?

Mr. HAINES.
Boatswain's mate.

Senator SMITH.
What are your duties on ship?

Mr. HAINES.
I take charge of one watch, sir; the starboard.

Senator SMITH.
What watch?

Mr. HAINES.
The starboard watch, sir.

Senator SMITH.
What are your duties?

Mr. HAINES.
I am in charge of one of the watches, doing the work of the ship.

Senator SMITH.
Of what does your duty consist?

Mr. HAINES.
In keeping the decks clean, and the paint work; looking after the men, and keeping the decks clean - washing the decks down.

Senator SMITH.
When did you join the [*Titanic*](#)?

Mr. HAINES.
I joined her at Belfast.

Senator SMITH.
On what date?

Mr. HAINES.
I was there just about a week before she came away.

Senator SMITH.
Before she sailed from Belfast?

Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

26 Senator SMITH.
Were you on board when the trial trips were made?

27 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

28 Senator SMITH.
Did you have anything special to do during those trips?

29 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

30 Senator SMITH.
Where was your station on watch?

31 Mr. HAINES.
I am stationed out on the [poop](#). I have the watch out on the poop going in and out of the harbor.

32 Senator SMITH.
You went with the ship from Belfast to Southampton?

33 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

34 Senator SMITH.
And sailed with the *Titanic* on its voyage from Southampton on April 10?

35 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

36 Senator SMITH.
On the trip from Southampton to the place where this accident occurred, will you just tell what you did and what you saw, if anything?

37 Mr. HAINES.
There was nothing unusual occurred until we had the accident.

38 Senator SMITH.
Where were you when the accident occurred?

39 Mr. HAINES.
I was standing by, down below. It being Sunday night, the men did not work Sunday night, and the men were in the [mess room](#), and I was outside, sir. If it had been any other night, we would have been washing the decks.

40 Senator SMITH.
What do you mean by the expression "standing by"?

41 Mr. HAINES.
Standing by for any orders. I was standing under the forecastle, waiting for any orders, so that I would be available if they wanted me.

42 Senator SMITH.
Did you receive any orders that night?

43 Mr. HAINES.
Not before she struck; no, sir.

44 Senator SMITH.
Did you see the [captain](#) on the [bridge](#)?

45 Mr. HAINES.
Afterwards. I saw him when we was getting the boats out.

46 Senator SMITH.
After the collision?

47 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

48 Senator SMITH.

Did you see him before?

49 Mr. HAINES.

No, sir; I did not have cause to go on the bridge before.

50 Senator SMITH.

He might have been there and you not have seen him?

51 Mr. HAINES.

Yes, sir.

52 Senator SMITH.

Did you see Officer [Lightoller](#) there that night?

53 Mr. HAINES.

No, sir.

54 Senator SMITH.

Or Officer [Murdoch](#)?

55 Mr. HAINES.

Yes, sir; I was working with Officer Murdoch; and [Mr. Wilde](#), chief officer, was working with us, too.

56 Senator SMITH.

Did they give you any orders?

57 Mr. HAINES.

Yes, sir.

58 Senator SMITH.

What orders?

59 Mr. HAINES.

When I first heard the blow, I heard some air escaping right forward, and I ran forward to the exhaust from the forepeak tank. I said the forepeak tank was filling and the air was coming out and the water was coming in. It was an overflow pipe.

60 Senator SMITH.

What was said about that?

61 Mr. HAINES.

Just as I got there the chief officer, Mr. Wilde, had gotten there, and the lamp trimmer was there, [Mr. Hemming](#).

62 Senator SMITH.

What was said there?

63 Mr. HAINES.

We said the [forepeak tank](#) was filling; the air was coming out and the water was coming in.

64 He asked if there was any water in the forepeak, and the store-keeper went into the forepeak, and there was no water there, sir. That is the forepeak, sir; not the forepeak tank. The forepeak tank was full.

65 The chief officer then went on the bridge to report.

66 Senator SMITH.

What time was that?

67 Mr. HAINES.

The right time, without putting the clock back, was 20 minutes to 12.

68 Senator SMITH.

What was done then?

69 Mr. HAINES.

I went down to look at No. 1 hole.

70 Senator SMITH.

What did you find there?

71 Mr. HAINES.

The tarpaulin was bellying up, raising, showing that the water was coming in.

72 Senator SMITH.
What did you do then?

73 Mr. HAINES.
I went on the bridge and reported to the chief officer.

74 Senator SMITH.
What was said then?

75 Mr. HAINES.
I told him No. 1 hole was filling. He gave me an order then to get the men up and get the boats out.

76 Senator SMITH.
What did you do?

77 Mr. HAINES.
I worked on the boats, sir; got all the boats swung out.

78 Senator SMITH.
The lifeboats?

79 Mr. HAINES.
The lifeboats; yes, sir. Then I went and stood by my own boat, sir, [No. 9](#).

80 Senator SMITH.
On which side?

81 Mr. HAINES.
On the starboard side.

82 Senator SMITH.
What happened then?

83 Mr. HAINES.
We had the boat crew there, and Mr. Murdoch came along with a crowd of passengers, and we filled the boat with ladies, and lowered the boat, and he told me to lay off and keep clear of the ship. I got the boat clear, sir, and laid out near the ship. I did not think the ship would sink, of course, sir.

84 When I saw her going down by the head, I pulled farther away, for the safety of the people in the boat.

85 Senator SMITH.
How far away?

86 Mr. HAINES.
About 100 yards away at first, sir.

87 Senator SMITH.
Mr. Murdoch told you to get into this boat?

88 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir. I was in charge of that boat. That was my own boat, there being two sailors with me.

89 Senator SMITH.
What were their names?

90 Mr. HAINES.
One was named [McGough](#), and there was one by the name of [Peters](#). That was my boat's crew.

91 Senator SMITH.
That is, your regular boat's crew?

92 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir; just the two men.

93 Senator SMITH.
Was there a station bill posted at that time on the *Titanic*?

94 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir; a boat-station bill, before ever the ship left. As soon as the crew is known they make out the list and put it up in the crew's quarters. Every man has a lifeboat station.

95 Senator SMITH.

Of the crew?

96 Mr. HAINES.
The crew had; every one of the crew. They were told off in the different boats.

97 Senator SMITH.
Then what happened?

98 Mr. HAINES.
We saw the ship go down by the head.

99 Senator SMITH.
Did you go back near the ship?

100 Mr. HAINES.
I had a boat load, sir, and I asked the men if they thought it advisable to go back. They said there was no more room, sir, and the boat was overloaded. To go back I thought would be dangerous.

101 Senator SMITH.
How many men were there in the boat?

102 Mr. HAINES.
We had over 50 in our boat all together.

103 Senator SMITH.
Men?

104 Mr. HAINES.
The two sailors; and then I could not exactly say how many men, but there were three or four stewards, and three or four firemen.

105 Senator SMITH.
Do you remember their names?

106 Mr. HAINES.
I think the stewards are here with us now, sir.

107 Senator SMITH.
Just give their names, please.

108 Mr. HAINES.
I do not know their names.

109 Senator SMITH.
You do not remember just who they were?

110 Mr. HAINES.
I know their faces; but I do not know their names, sir.

111 Senator SMITH.
Besides the stewards?

112 Mr. HAINES.
We had some firemen and two or three men passengers.

113 Senator SMITH.
Do you know who they were?

114 Mr. HAINES.
No. sir.

115 Senator SMITH.
Have you heard, since, who they were?

116 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I never spoke to any of them afterwards.

117 Senator SMITH.
How many stewards were there in your boat?

118 Mr. HAINES.
There might have been half a dozen. I do not know the exact number, sir.

119 Senator SMITH.
And how many firemen?

120 Mr. HAINES.
I could not say, sir; two or three, or three or four.

121 Senator SMITH.
And were there any other members of the crew?

122 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; no more of the crew.

123 Senator SMITH.
Then there were about 15 men, altogether?

124 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

125 Senator SMITH.
How many men were there in the boat?

126 Mr. HAINES.
I counted them. I guess there were about 45 to 48. When there were no more women forthcoming, the boat was full. They were singing out for the women, and the men then jumped in the bows of her and filled the bow up. The boat was [chockablock](#), sir.

127 Senator SMITH.
You had 63 in your boat?

128 Mr. HAINES.
I could not say within one or two, but around 60, I had.

129 Senator SMITH.
Was this the first boat that was lowered?

130 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

131 Senator SMITH.
On the starboard side?

132 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir. We started forward, and I was No. 9. I was about the fifth boat to be lowered on the starboard side.

133 Senator SMITH.
Do you know any of the women in this boat?

134 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I do not know their names. I would know them by sight, some of them.

135 Senator SMITH.
Did you afterwards find out who any of them were?

136 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

137 Senator SMITH.
Did you have any difficulty in lowering your boat?

138 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

139 Senator SMITH.
And you handled it after you got to the water, all right?

140 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

141 Senator SMITH.
Was this one of the largest sized lifeboats?

142 Mr. HAINES.

Yes, sir. One of the largest size, sir.

143 Senator SMITH.
Was there any officer in that boat?

144 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

145 Senator SMITH.
Did Mr. Murdoch tell you to do anything with that boatload of people and to then come back to the ship; or did any officer tell you that?

146 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; he told me to keep them away, and lay off clear. That is what he said.

147 Senator SMITH.
How far were you from the *Titanic*? How far off did you lay?

148 Mr. HAINES.
I laid off close to her at first, sir.

149 Senator SMITH.
How close?

150 Mr. HAINES.
Within 100 yards at first, sir, until I saw her going down by the head.

151 Senator SMITH.
You kept within a hundred yards of her?

152 Mr. HAINES.
For a time; yes, sir.

153 Senator SMITH.
Until you saw her going down by the head?

154 Mr. HAINES.
Yes; until I saw she was gradually sinking farther and farther down.

155 Senator SMITH.
You then pulled away farther?

156 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

157 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any people in the water?

158 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

159 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear any cries for help?

160 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir; we heard some cries after the ship went down.

161 Senator SMITH.
Did anybody in your boat urge you to return?

162 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir. I called the sailors aft, and I passed the remark to them: "There is people in the water." I said, "Do you think it advisable?" I said, "We can't do nothing with this crowd we have in the boat," because we had no room to row, let alone do anything else, sir; and it was no good of our going back. by the time we got back there, we could not have done anything. We could not move in the boat, let alone row. I thought it unsafe to go back there, sir, having so many in the boat.

163 Senator SMITH.
What did you do after the ship went down?

164 Mr. HAINES.

I told the men it was no good rowing; that we could not do anything until the morning, and I just lay there all night, sir.

165 Senator SMITH.
Did you have a light on your boat?

166 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir; I had a lamp there, a little pocket lamp.

167 Senator SMITH.
Was the lamp lighted?

168 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

169 Senator SMITH.
Did you have any provisions on your boat?

170 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

171 Senator SMITH.
Did you have water?

172 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir; biscuits and water, sir.

173 Senator SMITH.
What happened then?

174 Mr. HAINES.
Just as it got daylight, sir, I saw the [Carpathia's](#) lights, and I pulled toward her and went alongside and put the passengers aboard the *Carpathia*.

175 Senator SMITH.
Were the passengers all alive when you got to the *Carpathia*?

176 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

177 Senator SMITH.
Did the women urge you to go back toward the boat?

178 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; the women did not, sir. I was in charge of the boat, sir, and if I had thought it possible I would have gone back. I took charge of the boat.

179 Senator SMITH.
Did you help load the other boats?

180 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; we were turning out the after boats while they were filling the forward ones. As soon as we finished turning the boats out I went to my own station. I got to my own boat just in time, as they filled my boat. The boatswain missed his boat, [No. 7](#). No. 7 was gone before he got there. My own boat was No. 9.

181 Senator SMITH.
You did not see any of the other boats loaded?

182 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I did not see any of them loaded. I came back just in time to take charge of my own boat.

183 Senator SMITH.
Is that all you know about this matter?

184 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

185 Senator SMITH.
These davits were of a new type, were they?

186 Mr. HAINES.

Yes, sir.

187 Senator SMITH.
Had you ever worked with them before?

188 Mr. HAINES.
In the [Olympic](#) I worked with them.

189 Senator SMITH.
Did they work all right?

190 Mr. HAINES.
They worked very free.

191 Senator SMITH.
Do you know of any of them that did not work all right?

192 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir. The screws were all in good condition, and they keep them covered with little canvas covers. You take the cover off and one man can haul them out or in, if they are in good condition.

193 Senator SMITH.
And when you were on the deck that night, near the bridge, did you see any ice?

194 Mr. HAINES.
I saw the ice on the forewell deck, where she hit small ice.

195 Senator SMITH.
I mean did you see any ice before she struck?

196 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

197 Senator SMITH.
After she hit, did you see any ice?

198 Mr. HAINES.
I saw a little small ice on the forward side of the forewell deck.

199 Senator SMITH.
In the morning, when it got daylight, did you see any ice?

200 Mr. HAINES.
All around, sir.

201 Senator SMITH.
You saw ice all around the boats - icebergs?

202 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir; and there was a big field of ice there, too.

203 Senator SMITH.
How many icebergs?

204 Mr. HAINES.
I could not say. There was a good few of them, sir. They were dotted all over the place.

205 Senator SMITH.
Had you ever seen icebergs before?

206 Mr. HAINES.
I had seen them before; yes, sir.

207 Senator SMITH.
Where?

208 Mr. HAINES.
I had seen them off Newfoundland.

209 Senator SMITH.
Up in this same region?

210 Mr. HAINES.
Further north, sir.

211 Senator SMITH.
Near the Grand Banks?

212 Mr. HAINES.
I had seen them up at St. Johns, Newfoundland.

213 Senator SMITH.
How many icebergs do you think you saw the Monday morning following the accident?

214 Mr. HAINES.
Well, there were anywhere from 30 to 50.

215 Senator SMITH.
Besides field ice?

216 Mr. HAINES.
Besides the icebergs, sir, there was a big field of ice, miles long.

217 Senator SMITH.
When you said that you saw these icebergs, did you include large and small ones?

218 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

219 Senator SMITH.
"Growlers," in other words?

220 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

221 Senator SMITH.
How high was the largest one that you saw?

222 Mr. HAINES.
I should say from 80 to 100 feet high.

223 Senator SMITH.
How far away from you was it when you saw it?

224 Mr. HAINES.
About half a mile, sir.

225 Senator SMITH.
You had been on the *Olympic*, had you not?

226 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

227 Senator SMITH.
Doing the same work?

228 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I was quartermaster there, sir.

229 Senator SMITH.
Had you made a trip from Southampton to New York on the *Olympic*?

230 Mr. HAINES.
I was in her from the time she started right up to the trip we went to the *Titanic*, sir.

231 Senator SMITH.
Did you ever see any icebergs while you were on the *Olympic*?

232 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

233 Senator SMITH.
How many of the crew of the *Titanic* had you worked with before?

234 Mr. HAINES.
There were several of the *Olympic's* crew there. The men that I had worked with were pretty well all White Star men. Some of them I had worked with in the Adriatic, and some of them in the *Olympic*, sir.

235 Senator SMITH.
You had not been out very long on the *Titanic*?

236 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

237 Senator SMITH.
And you had not worked with one another very long, had you?

238 Mr. HAINES.
Only from Southampton, sir.

239 Senator SMITH.
Is there anything more you care to say about this matter?

240 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

241 I know of one incident there, where a lady would not come into the boat. That is all, sir. She would not come into the boat when they were filling it. One of the ladies refused to get into the boat.

242 Senator SMITH.
Did you ask her to get in?

243 Mr. HAINES.
The officers were trying to get her in.

244 Mr. Murdoch, then, was trying to get her in the boat, and she would not get into the boat.

245 Senator SMITH.
Do you know who it was?

246 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I could not say who it was.

247 Senator SMITH.
How old a woman was it?

248 Mr. HAINES.
I could not say, sir. I could not see. I only know there was a lady there that would not get into the boat, and she went back.

249 Senator SMITH.
Did she say she would not get into the boat because of her family or husband?

250 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I do not think it was that, at all. I think she was afraid to get into the boat.

251 Senator SMITH.
Did the women hesitate a little about getting into the boat?

252 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; none of the others. I did not see any of the others hesitate, except this one.

253 Senator SMITH.
Did the men passengers try to get into the boats?

254 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I did not see any of them do it, at least.

255 Senator SMITH.
Were they told to stand back?

256 Mr. HAINES.
Yes.

257 Senator SMITH.
By Officer Murdoch?

258 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

259 Senator SMITH.
What did he say when he told them that?

260 Mr. HAINES.
He just stood there; that is all.

261 Senator SMITH.
What did he say?

262 Mr. HAINES.
He filled the boats with the ladies. He told me to put all these ladies in the boat, and he filled her up, sir. When she was full two or three men jumped in the bow of her. He said, "That is enough," and he lowered her down.

263 Senator SMITH.
What officer stood with you at the boat you lowered; that is, at the boat, and helped load it and lower it?

264 Mr. HAINES.
Mr. Murdoch, sir.

265 Senator SMITH.
Was there any other officer there?

266 Mr. HAINES.
I never noticed any other; no, sir.

267 Senator SMITH.
Did you see [Mr. Lowe](#)?

268 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir: I did not see him.

269 Senator SMITH.
Did you see [Mr. Boxhall](#)?

270 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir.

271 Senator SMITH.
Or [Mr. Pitman](#)?

272 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I never saw any of them, only Mr. Murdoch. He was in charge. He filled our boat alone, sir.

273 Senator SMITH.
And with 63 people in your boat, she lowered all right?

274 Mr. HAINES.
She lowered from the davits; yes, sir. She lowered from the [boat deck](#), sir.

275 Senator SMITH.
Did all the occupants of your boat get in from the boat deck?

276 Mr. HAINES.
Yes, sir.

277 Senator SMITH.
Did any of them attempt to get in as it was being lowered to the water?

278 Mr. HAINES.
No, sir; I did not see any of them. We had only to pass one deck where they could get in. That would be [A deck](#).

279 Senator SMITH.
Did you have a compass in your boat?

280 Mr. HAINES.
I did not see one, sir. I do not know whether there was one in there or not. We did not require one, sir. As

soon as it got daylight, sir, we sighted the ship.

281 Senator SMITH.

Do you know whether the board of trade regulations required one to be in the boat?

282 Mr. HAINES.

They have them aboard, sir. They are aboard. They have a place where they stow them in the lockers. But whether they were put into the boat or not I do not know, sir.

283 Senator SMITH.

You did not see any?

284 Mr. HAINES.

I did not see it, and I did not look for it.

285 Senator SMITH.

That is all.

286 (Witness Excused.)