

United States Senate Inquiry

Day 7

Testimony of John Hardy

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

(The witness was duly sworn by Senator Fletcher.)

Senator FLETCHER.
Will you state your full name?

Mr. HARDY.
[John Hardy](#), sir.

Senator FLETCHER.
Where do you reside?

Mr. HARDY.
Oakleigh, Holy Rood Avenue, Highfield, Southampton.

Senator FLETCHER.
What is your age, Mr. Hardy?

Mr. HARDY.
I am 36 years old.

Senator FLETCHER.
Are you married or single?

Mr. HARDY.
I am married. I have a wife and two children.

Senator FLETCHER.
How long have you followed the sea?

Mr. HARDY.
I have been 14 years at sea.

Senator FLETCHER.
What is your position now?

Mr. HARDY.
Now and for the last seven years I have been chief steward, second class.

Senator FLETCHER.
With what company are you employed?

Mr. HARDY.
I have in the White Star Line service for 12 years past.

Senator FLETCHER.
With what ships were you employed?

Mr. HARDY.
I was with the [Majestic](#), the [Adriatic](#), the [Olympic](#), the [Teutonic](#), and the [Titanic](#).

Senator FLETCHER.
When did you ship with the *Titanic*?

Mr. HARDY.
I shipped with the *Titanic* on her last voyage.

Senator FLETCHER.
In what capacity?

Mr. HARDY.
As second class steward.

26 Senator FLETCHER.
Did anything unusual occur on that voyage?

27 Mr. HARDY.
Nothing unusual occurred until we struck the iceberg.

28 Senator FLETCHER.
What were your duties?

29 Mr. HARDY.
My duties were to be around the ship until 11 o'clock at night, when I would see to the closing up of the rooms and the turning out of the lights.

30 Senator FLETCHER.
You may begin now at the time of the collision of the *Titanic* with the iceberg, and state fully what happened?

31 Mr. HARDY.
I did not retire until 25 minutes after 11. I went down to my [room](#) after going around the ship and seeing that all the unnecessary lights were out. I went to my room and stripped and turned in. I had not been in more than five minutes before I heard this slight shock. I got up and slipped on my pants and coat over my pajamas and went on deck to see what the trouble was. I got on deck and could not see anything, and I went below again and turned in again within about 10 minutes after I had gone on deck.

32 Senator FLETCHER.
What deck?

33 Mr. HARDY.
I had gone up then to [B deck](#) to look over the ship's side to see if I could see anything. I could not see anything, and I went below and retired again and was reading a few minutes when the chief first class steward came to my room and asked me to get up, as he thought it was pretty serious, that she was making water forward. I went with him forward to see what water she was making, and on my return to my end of the ship I met [Purser Barker](#).

34 Senator FLETCHER.
Who was he?

35 Mr. HARDY.
Purser Barker. He advised me or told me to get the people on deck with their lifebelts on as a precaution. Immediately I sent down for all hands to come up. The stewards were interested in their own cabins, because they had all retired, and the middle watch came on at 12. They all came along, and I went among the people and told those people to go on deck with their lifebelts on, and we assisted the ladies with the belts, those that hadn't their husbands with them, and we assisted in getting the children out of bed. I also aroused the stewardesses to assist them. The whole of the men came, and they assisted me in going around calling the different passengers.

36 Senator FLETCHER.
On which deck? Was it on just the one deck?

37 Mr. HARDY.
On all the decks, sir; [D](#), [E](#), and [F](#).

38 Senator FLETCHER.
How many men did you have?

39 Mr. HARDY.
I had 12. The whole class numbered 70, which, of course, they were not interested in bedrooms, consequently it is only the bedroom stewards that would be interested in the rooms. We commenced to close the watertight doors on F deck. I assisted the bedroom stewards also in sending the people up through the companionways to the upper decks.

40 Senator FLETCHER.
Who told you to close the watertight doors?

41 Mr. HARDY.
We had this order also from Mr. Barker, when he told me to rouse the people as a precaution.

42 I got them all up on the outer decks, and they were grouped about the ship in different parts, and I went to

my station at the boat, which was [boat 1](#), on the starboard side. I saw that lowered before I myself got there; that is, I myself did not get into it, as there was no room. By that time all the starboard boats had gone, and I went over to the port side and assisted the ladies and children in getting into the boats, and finally I was working on deck until the last [collapsible boat](#) was launched.

43 Senator FLETCHER.
Where was that located?

44 Mr. HARDY.
Right forward, on the port side. We launched this filled with passengers. We launched the boat parallel with the ship's side, and [Mr. Lightoller](#) and myself, two sailors, and two firemen - the two sailors were rigging the poles and getting them in working order and Mr. Lightoller and myself loaded the boat. When the boat was full, Mr. Lightoller was in the boat with me; and the [chief officer](#) came along and asked if the boat was full, and he said yes. He said he would step out himself and make room for somebody else, and he stepped back on board the ship and asked if I could row. I told him I could, and I went away in that boat.

45 We lowered away and got to the water, and the ship was then at a heavy list to port by the time we commenced to lower away.

46 We got clear of the ship and rowed out some little distance from her, and finally we all got together, about seven boats of us, and I remember quite distinctly Boatswain [Lowe](#) telling us to tie up to each other, as we would be better seen and could keep better together. Then Officer Lowe, having a full complement of passengers in his boat, distributed among us what he had, our boat taking 10. We had 25 already, and that number made 35.

47 Officer Lowe then returned with his crew back to the ship to pick up all he could. I found out afterwards he had picked up some. We hung around then until dawn, until we sighted the [Carpathia](#), pulling now and again. We were towed up by Mr. Lowe with a sail to the *Carpathia*, not having enough men in the boat to pull. There was only just this quartermaster and myself, two firemen, and about four gentlemen passengers, and the balance were women and children.

48 Senator FLETCHER.
Do you know the names of the quartermaster and firemen?

49 Mr. HARDY.
I do not know the names of the firemen, but [Bright](#) was the quartermaster, and he took the tiller. He was using an oar to steer by. I myself pulled with all my might.

50 Senator FLETCHER.
Do you know the names of any of the passengers?

51 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir; I do not. They were all strangers to me. There were a number of third class passengers, that were Syrians, in the bottom of the boat, chattering the whole night in their strange language.

52 Senator FLETCHER.
Then you were taken aboard the *Carpathia*?

53 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

54 Senator FLETCHER.
What boat had been unloaded before you got to the *Carpathia*?

55 Mr. HARDY.
Five or six of them, or possibly more. We were some of the last.

56 Senator FLETCHER.
How many boats had been lowered before you lowered the collapsible?

57 Mr. HARDY.
All the lifeboats had been lowered and had left the ship.

58 Senator FLETCHER.
All of the lifeboats?

59 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

60 Senator FLETCHER.
And the sea boats?

61 Mr. HARDY.
They are lifeboats. Those are the wooden boats.

62 Senator FLETCHER.
Had the other collapsibles gone?

63 Mr. HARDY.
From the port side?

64 Senator FLETCHER.
Yes.

65 Mr. HARDY.
I do not know that.

66 Senator FLETCHER.
This was on the starboard side?

67 Mr. HARDY.
I came in the last collapsible boat that left the ship and, greatly to my surprise, when I got on the *Carpathia* I saw Officer Lightoller coming in the following afternoon. When he stepped from this collapsible boat, I was sure he had gone down in the ship and I was greatly surprised when I saw him on the *Carpathia*.

68 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see [Mr. Ismay](#) at any time?

69 Mr. HARDY.
I never saw Mr. Ismay from Southampton until today in this building.

70 Senator FLETCHER.
You did not even see him on board the *Carpathia*?

71 Mr. HARDY.
No; I did not see him. I was in the second class and more interested in the second class, and was doing all I could to pacify them.

72 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you take in that collapsible boat all of the people that you could take on her or that were there?

73 Mr. HARDY.
From where?

74 Senator FLETCHER.
From the *Titanic*, when you were lowered away.

75 Mr. HARDY.
Yes; and we took 10 off the other boat.

76 Senator FLETCHER.
I mean when you lowered away from the ship did you take all that she would hold safely or all who were there.

77 Mr. HARDY.
We took all who were there. There was nobody to lower the afterfall until Mr. Lightoller went aboard to do it himself.

78 Senator FLETCHER.
Were there passengers on board the ship standing there trying to get on board the lifeboat?

79 Mr. HARDY.
There was nobody on board, because we could not get our collapsible boat lowered from one end of it. The forward part of the collapsible boat was lowered, but there was nobody there to lower the afterend, which you will find in Mr. Bright's evidence. Mr. Lightoller stepped from the collapsible boat aboard the ship again and did it himself.

80 Senator FLETCHER.
There were no women and children there?

81 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir; not in sight at all. There was nobody to lower the boat.

82 Senator FLETCHER.
The women and children could not lower it?

83 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir.

84 Senator FLETCHER.
There were no men passengers there on the deck?

85 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir; not when we were ready to lower the boat.

86 Senator FLETCHER.
When you were ready to lower that boat every passenger in your vicinity had gone?

87 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; they had gone.

88 Senator FLETCHER.
Which way had they gone?

89 Mr. HARDY.
I could not say.

90 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see passengers on the decks?

91 Mr. HARDY.
Afterwards?

92 Senator FLETCHER.
Yes.

93 Mr. HARDY.
We were too near the water when we lowered away. We were not more than 40 feet from the water when we lowered.

94 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you hear any passengers calling out on deck at the time you were lowered, or before, trying to get into the boat?

95 Mr. HARDY.
We picked up the husband of a wife that we had taken off in the load in the boat. The gentleman took to the water and climbed in the boat after we had lowered it.

96 I remember that quite distinctly.

97 Senator FLETCHER.
You mean you took a woman on board the boat -

98 Mr. HARDY.
Before we lowered. Her husband took to the water.

99 Senator FLETCHER.
Jumped in the water?

100 Mr. HARDY.
Yes; and climbed in the boat when we were afloat.

101 Senator FLETCHER.
Do you know who he was?

102 Mr. HARDY.
I know the gentleman - but I do not know his name - because he sat there, wringing wet, alongside of me, helping me row.

103 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see him afterwards on the *Carpathia*?

104 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

105 Senator FLETCHER.
What became of him; do you know?

106 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir; I do not know, sir.

107 Senator FLETCHER.
Was he an American?

108 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; an American gentleman.

109 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see any icebergs?

110 Mr. HARDY.
At daylight we did; quite a lot.

111 Senator FLETCHER.
How many?

112 Mr. HARDY.
I should think there was, in my judgment, 5 or 6 miles of field ice, and any number of bergs. I could see them from the *Carpathia*.

113 Senator FLETCHER.
You did not see any bergs until after you were on the *Carpathia*?

114 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir; I did not see one.

115 Senator FLETCHER.
How far away were you when the *Titanic* went down?

116 Mr. HARDY.
We could get a full view of her, unfortunately.

117 Senator FLETCHER.
You could get a full view?

118 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

119 Senator FLETCHER.
In what way did she go down?

120 Mr. HARDY.
She went down head first.

121 Senator FLETCHER.
The stern almost perpendicular?

122 Mr. HARDY.
Not perpendicular, but almost. Her stern was right out of the water.

123 Senator FLETCHER.
Did you see any passengers then on her?

124 Mr. HARDY.
We were too far away for that and it was too dark.

125 Senator FLETCHER.
Could you hear any cries?

126 Mr. HARDY.
Yes; I did, sir.

127 Senator SMITH.
After she went down or before?

128 Mr. HARDY.
After she went down.

129 Senator SMITH.
None before?

130 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir.

131 Senator SMITH.
Was there anything like a panic on board the ship?

132 Mr. HARDY.
Not at all, because everybody had full confidence that the ship would float.

133 Senator SMITH.
Up to what time; up to the time your boat left?

134 Mr. HARDY.
Up to the time my boat left. She began to list before we left her.

135 Senator SMITH.
People even then thought she would float?

136 Mr. HARDY.
Of course I had great respect and great regard for Chief Officer Murdoch, and I was walking along the deck forward with him, and he said, "I believe she is gone, Hardy"; and that is the only time I thought she might sink; when he said that.

137 Senator SMITH.
How long was that before your boat was lowered?

138 Mr. HARDY.
It was a good half hour, I should say, sir.

139 Senator SMITH.
Where did he go then, do you know?

140 Mr. HARDY.
He was walking toward the afterpart of the deck. That was before all the boats had gone.

141 Senator SMITH.
He superintended the loading of the boats?

142 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; he went to see if a particular boat was properly manned.

143 Senator SMITH.
When you left the ship you thought she was going to sink?

144 Mr. HARDY.
When I left the ship?

145 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

146 Mr. HARDY.
Yes; it began to get serious. I still had confidence the thing would float, though, sir, without a doubt.

147 Senator SMITH.
You could have carried more people in your boat?

148 Mr. HARDY.
Evidently, for we took on 10 more outside.

149 Senator SMITH.
You can not lower a boat with quite as many people in it as you can float?

150 Mr. HARDY.
I can not say that. Of course they are only frail things.

151 Senator SMITH.

If there had been people there trying to get in, you would have taken them in, would you not?

152 Mr. HARDY.
Without a doubt. Mr. Lightoller stepped right back aboard the ship to make room for somebody else.

153 Senator SMITH.
Where were all the passengers, these 1,600 people?

154 Mr. HARDY.
They must have been between decks or on the deck below or on the other side of the ship. I can not conceive where they were.

155 Senator SMITH.
Was there any drinking among the stewards or any portion of the crew that night?

156 Mr. HARDY.
Not to my knowledge, sir. In the first place, the crew could not afford to buy drinks. There is no other means of getting it but to buy it, so a man would not be in a position to do it if he drank.

157 Senator SMITH.
You did not see any members of the crew under the influence of liquor?

158 Mr. HARDY.
That is impossible to think, that is impossible to suggest, that men drink while at sea; because in the first place, if it was possible for a man to want it he could not afford to buy it; and there is no hope for him to get it, because he would not be served, anyway.

159 Senator SMITH.
Where was your berth located?

160 Mr. HARDY.
Where was my room located?

161 Senator SMITH.
Yes.

162 Mr. HARDY.
Just beyond the engine room, aft; just a little farther aft than --

163 Senator FLETCHER. (*interposing*)
On what deck?

164 Mr. HARDY.
[E deck](#), right amidships, as near amidships as possible.

165 Senator SMITH.
Did you see any water coming in anywhere?

166 Mr. HARDY.
Not until I went forward to see. Then I did not see it, in fact; I could only hear it.

167 Senator SMITH.
You could hear it?

168 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

169 Senator SMITH.
Was it pouring in great volume?

170 Mr. HARDY.
It was making too much noise to come in in any great volume.

171 Senator SMITH.
How do you mean?

172 Mr. HARDY.
The fall of the water was not like a volume. It was coming in fast, but you could hear it falling, which, if you get a body of water - it was continuous - this flow of water that I heard. Of course it was gradually coming up. We could see it coming up the stairs gradually.

173 Senator SMITH.
Where did you see it coming in or hear it coming in?

174 Mr. HARDY.
On the port side.

175 Senator SMITH.
Which side was struck - the starboard side?

176 Mr. HARDY.
On the starboard side, I meant. I beg your pardon; yes.

177 Senator SMITH.
You saw it on the starboard side, then?

178 Mr. HARDY.
Yes.

179 Senator SMITH.
Did you see the iceberg which she struck?

180 Mr. HARDY.
No; and I went up within two or three minutes afterwards and did not see it.

181 Senator SMITH.
When did you first know she had struck an iceberg?

182 Mr. HARDY.
Only through hearsay.

183 Senator SMITH.
You did not see any ice on the decks anywhere?

184 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir; it was too dark. Our duty does not take us on deck at all. We are intrusted with the passengers, and that keeps us fully employed.

185 Senator SMITH.
How many people did you arouse?

186 Mr. HARDY.
The method I used was to just open the doors and throw them back, and go right on down through the rooms myself.

187 Senator SMITH.
What did you say?

188 Mr. HARDY.
Just, "Everybody on deck with lifebelts on, at once."

189 Senator SMITH.
You gave that order?

190 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; myself.

191 Senator SMITH.
How many doors do you think you opened?

192 Mr. HARDY.
I should think 20 or 24. Before I got there the men were along doing the same thing, the bedroom stewards. They all went into their own sets of rooms. They each have a set of rooms to look after.

193 Senator SMITH.
How many bedroom stewards were there?

194 Mr. HARDY.
Twelve, sir.

195 Senator SMITH.
Was that sufficient to arouse all the passengers on the boat?

196 Mr. HARDY.
Oh, yes; because a man has no more than 12 rooms. That was early. By the time these men were along it was about a quarter to 12, I should say.

197 The way we work on board ship, all unnecessary lights are out at 11, and then there are four bedroom stewards kept on from 11 until 12. That is only one hour. Then two bedroom stewards come along for the middle watch, from 12 until 4 in the morning. Then they are relieved at half-past 5 by all hands for the day, until the following night.

198 Senator SMITH.
This collision occurred before 12 o'clock?

199 Mr. HARDY.
Just between 11 and 12, 25 minutes to 12, I should say.

200 Senator SMITH.
You began giving this alarm about what time after the collision?

201 Mr. HARDY.
I should think about between 20 minutes and a quarter to 12. I sent for all hands at once.

202 Senator SMITH.
That was immediately after the collision?

203 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

204 Senator SMITH.
The order came to you then?

205 Mr. HARDY.
I could prove positively, but there is not a bedroom steward living today. I have 14 men out of 70. That is all I did save, sir.

206 Senator SMITH.
Your recollection is that you had the order to give the alarm to put on lifebelts immediately after the collision?

207 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; within five minutes after the collision.

208 Senator SMITH.
How did that order come?

209 Mr. HARDY.
From Purser Barker; that is Purser Barker brought it himself personally to me.

210 Senator SMITH.
How was it transmitted, do you know? Did it come from the commander?

211 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; to the two pursers. There is a first class purser and a second class purser. They would get it direct from the bridge, I presume. They are our superiors aboard the ship, and we take our orders through them.

212 Senator SMITH.
After the ship went down could you see the people in the water, or just hear them?

213 Mr. HARDY.
Just hear them.

214 Senator SMITH.
Did you go back to rescue any of them?

215 Mr. HARDY.
We were overloaded then, with ten more aboard.

216 Senator SMITH.
Did Lowe go back?

217 Mr. HARDY.

Yes, sir; he did, with five or seven men in the boat to row.

218 Senator SMITH.
Did he return with people in his boat?

219 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; he did. He returned, I think, with seven. I think three died. He can give his account later, or I think perhaps he has already done it.

220 Senator SMITH.
The weather was cold?

221 Mr. HARDY.
Very cold, sir.

222 Senator SMITH.
No fog?

223 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir.

224 Senator SMITH.
Did the ship's sirens blow?

225 Mr. HARDY.
We have no sirens. There is no whistle. The rockets were fired. They were fired for some time.

226 Senator SMITH.
Before she went down?

227 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

228 Senator SMITH.
But no whistles?

229 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir.

230 Senator SMITH.
The steam was escaping?

231 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; but they are more distinctive.

232 Senator SMITH.
You think there were sufficient stewards there to awaken and arouse all hands?

233 Mr. HARDY.
Without a doubt. We work in three departments on the ship. Each man is assigned to his different department, and goes at once to his department. We have more than enough men to call.

234 Senator SMITH.
Do you know of anything further that will throw any light on this matter; is there anything you can suggest that will throw any further light on it?

235 Mr. HARDY.
I have nothing I could suggest any further. I have answered all I know, from 20 minutes of 12 until we went with the boat at 12.30. That boat [lifeboat 14] that went back to the ship picked up a collapsible boat, and took about 20 men off of a collapsible boat. She was awash when we met her.

236 Senator SMITH.
What do you mean by that?

237 Mr. HARDY.
She was waterlogged.

238 Senator SMITH.
There were people hanging on her or clinging to her?

239 Mr. HARDY.

No, sir; they were standing up.

240 Senator SMITH.
Some of these people were taken off by Lowe?

241 Mr. HARDY.
They were all taken off by the boat I spoke of, that returned to the ship.

242 Senator SMITH.
That was Lowe's boat?

243 Mr. HARDY.
Lowe was in charge of it; yes.

244 Senator SMITH.
Could these firemen or any of these men in your boat row at all?

245 Mr. HARDY.
Yes; there were two firemen in the forward end that could row, myself and a passenger rowed from the middle, and this quartermaster was at the stern to keep her head on. The sea got up early in the morning.

246 Senator SMITH.
Did you hear any explosions on the ship?

247 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir; I fancied I did. There were two direct reports.

248 Senator SMITH.
What did it sound like, the giving way of bulkheads or the bursting of boilers?

249 Mr. HARDY.
That I could not say. There were two reports or explosions. What it was, I do not know. I was not able to say.

250 Senator SMITH.
Did you feel the shock or jar when the collision took place?

251 Mr. HARDY.
Very slightly, sir. I did not think it was anything at all.

252 Senator SMITH.
You were in bed, you say?

253 Mr. HARDY.
Yes, sir.

254 Senator SMITH.
It did not throw you out of your bunk, or anything like that?

255 Mr. HARDY.
No, sir. It was just a slight jar, just a gradual jar, and that is all. She did not heel over, or anything of that kind.

256 Senator SMITH.
I believe that is all I desire to ask you, Mr. Hardy.

257 (Witness Excused.)