

# British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry

## Day 11

### Testimony of Frederick Sheath

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/BOTInq/BOTIndx02.php>

Examined by the SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

13054. Is your name frederick Sheath?  
- Yes.

13055. Are you a trimmer?  
- Yes.

13056. Were you one of the people ordered into this emergency boat, No. 1?  
- Yes.

13057. Do you remember the boat being lowered to the water?  
- Yes.

13058. Did you hear any order given, as the boat was leaving the "Titanic," to Symons, who was in charge of the boat?  
- No.

13059. You did not hear it?  
- No.

13060. Where were you sitting in No. 1?  
- The after-mid.

13061. Were you rowing?  
- Yes.

13062. And the man called Symons was steering I think?  
- Yes.

13063. I want to see where you were. Was anybody else on the same thwart with you?  
- One lady, but I could not say who it was.

13064. Who was in front of you, next nearest the stern?  
- One gentleman whose name I do not know and Pusey, a fireman.

13065. And after that again in the stern of the boat?  
- There was a lady and a gentleman, and the coxswain Symons.

13066. You were on the second thwart from the stern?  
- Yes.

13067. Do you know who was behind you?  
- Only Taylor - that is all I know - a fireman.

13068. Taylor, who has given evidence here? There was another lady in the boat, was there not?  
- Yes.

13069. Where was the other lady?  
- Right aft.

13070. Do you mean nearer the stern than you?  
- Yes, right aft.

13071. This is what we want to know. When the "Titanic" went down did you

- hear any talk or discussion in the boat as to what should be done?  
- No.
- 24 13072. Nothing at all?  
- No.
- 25 13073. Did you hear any orders given by Symons?  
- No, only to pull away from the ship, that is all.
- 26 13074. You heard him say, "Pull away from the ship"?  
- Yes.
- 27 13075. Was the ship still floating then, or had the ship gone down then?  
- It was still floating, then, when we left.
- 28 13076. Still floating when he said that. Did you pull away from the ship?  
- Yes.
- 29 13077. I asked you if you remembered when the "Titanic" went down: Did you see it go down?  
- I saw it go down.
- 30 13078. When it went down what was your boat doing? Were you rowing, or resting on your oars?  
- We were resting on our oars.
- 31 13079. What I want to know is, after the "Titanic" went down, what was done by your boat then?  
- We pulled back again to the other boats.
- 32 13080. Did you hear any orders given as to what you should do?  
- I was not taking much notice of what he was saying; I was looking after myself.
- 33 13081. When the "Titanic" went down did you hear any cries?  
- Yes.
- 34 13082. Did the cries continue for some time?  
- Yes.
- 35 13083. You say your boat went back to the other boats?  
- Yes.
- 36 13084. Had these other boats left the "Titanic" before you or after you?  
- Some of them left before we did.
- 37 13085. Then they had not gone as far away from the "Titanic" as you had?  
- Well, we were all around; we all met one another. They must have gone as far away as we did.
- 38 13086. I just want to understand if you can help us. You say your boat went back. Do you mean it went back to where the "Titanic" had sunk?  
- I could not say where she sank; I am no navigator.
- 39 13087. That is what you heard the last gentleman say?  
- No, I never.
- 40 13088. Were you not here?  
- No.
- 41 13089. Were you not here when the last man gave evidence?  
- No; I was outside the curtains having a smoke.
- 42 13090. You say you heard the cries, and they went on for some time. Did you get near to any of the cries?  
- I could not say about getting nearer any of the cries.
- 43 13091. You could not say?  
- No.

44 13092. You do not remember any more conversation than that?  
- No.

45 The Commissioner:  
Does anyone want to ask this Witness any further question. Do you, Mr.  
Duke?

46 Mr. Duke:  
No.

47 (The Witness withdrew.)