

British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry

Day 4

Testimony of James Johnson

Source : <http://www.titanicinquiry.org/BOTInq/BOTIndx01.php#a>

Examined by Mr. ROWLATT.

3340. James Johnson, is that your name?
- Yes.

3341. You live, I think, in Liverpool?
- Yes.

3342. Were you on the "[Titanic](#)" as saloon steward?
- In the saloon, not the saloon steward.

3343. Which saloon was it?
- The first saloon. I was night watchman; I had charge of the night watch. There were five of us went on every night.

3344. I want to get the part of the ship first - which was it?
- The first saloon.

3345. Where is that situated in the ship?
- By the exit doors from A, B, and C down to E deck to the engine room; the saloon is in front of that, through the pantry.

3346. Do you understand that plan; can you see it?
- Yes, I have an idea.

3347. Can you see where the engine room is?
- Yes, it was in front of that. It ran through that blue mark, I should think. The first big blue one.

3348. Can you see the funnels?
- Yes.

3349. Do you know where your saloon was with reference to the funnels? Do you know where the engineers' room was?
- Yes.

3350. There it is?
- I say the first large blue mark would be the entrance door.

3351. "Third class galley and stewards," I see there?
- Yes, the working stairs.

3352. Were you further along *here* (*Pointing*)?
- Yes.

3353. The first class dining saloon?
- Yes.

3354. Was it your job to go on every night?
- Yes.

3355. Did you go on the night of the accident?
- I went on at 11 o'clock.

3356. You simply had to go into the saloon and wait?
- Well, no. Everyone gets a watch and at 12 o'clock when the bedroom stewards turn over we take their watch. There is a bedroom steward and a

..Informed through crew

..Crew rescue action (gei

- night watchman on each deck, and all the third class and all the second class reported to me each night when they came on watch.
- 23 3357. Now what you had to do was simply to stay in that saloon as I understand?
- No, I took E - what they call the saloon - the reception room and the pantry, on.
- 24 3358. Where were you when the accident happened?
- About the amidships saloon, I should think. We were all talking a few chairs up. It would be about the third or fourth table up.
- 25 3359. In that big saloon?
- Yes.
- 26 3360. Did you feel the shock?
- I did not feel much because we thought she had lost her wheel or something, and somebody passed the remark, "Another Belfast trip."
- 27 3361. Another what?
- To go back to Belfast it meant.
- 28 3362. Do you belong to Belfast?
- I belong to Scotland.
- 29 3363. Did you do anything in consequence of feeling a shock?
- I had a look round first and then I asked a man when he came up for some hot water, "Do you mind going down to the engine room and have a look." He went down and came back and said, "I think it is a bit hot" - that is a racing phrase. He meant it was a bit serious.
- 30 3364. Do you know who that was?
- I have found out afterwards, but I did not know then. I only knew our own division. I never knew anyone but those in our own stewards' department.
- 31 3365. He was a greaser, was he not?
- I think he was.
- 32 3366. You do not know his name?
- I think he might have been a man they called White. I have found out, but I do not know whether it is right or not.
- 33 3367. Did you do anything after that?
- Yes; I went down and walked along the saloon and saw [Mr. Andrews](#) come down and go down to the engine room, and then I saw the [Captain](#) directly following him, and then I followed Mr. Andrews after he came up from the engine room.
- 34 3368. Now tell me who is Mr. Andrews?
- Well, one of the best known among our division, because he did anything for us we asked him.
- 35 3369. But who is he?
- He is one of the builders.
- 36 3370. He is the representative of the builders?
- Yes.
- 37 3371. And he and the Captain came through?
- No, he came three or four minutes before the Captain.
- 38 3372. Through the saloon you were in?
- He had to come down through the stairs to get down to the engine room to get on to E deck; he had to go down through those stairs.
- 39 3373. And then he gets into the alleyway and got to the engine room?
- Just turn to the left and he is in it.
- 40 3374. Did he go in that direction?

- I do not know. I know he went down.
- 41 3375. Did the Captain go down after him?
- Directly after.
- 42 3376. Did you stay where you were?
- No; I put four oranges into my pocket. I might have done it after, but I think I did it then.
- 43 3377. Did you follow the captain or stay where you were?
- No; I waited a minute and followed Mr. Andrews.
- 44 3378. What happened next?
- Mr. Andrews went through the saloon after this man came and told me it was a bit thick. I followed Mr. Andrews and went down to E deck to see if Duschek was there. He was down there on watch in that deck. I went down to E deck and saw Mr. Andrews go down by the baggage room or mail room. One door goes down and the other does not.
- 45 3379. It is lower down still?
- Yes.
- 46 3380. Is that the same part of the ship? Are you still speaking of the same part of the ship?
- It is a little bit farther forward, past the reception room.
- 47 3381. Is *that* it? (*Pointing on the plan.*) - Give it another 50 yards.
- 48 3382. Was it as far as the squash racket?
- Opposite the squash racket.
- 49 3383. That is a good way forward, is it not?
- Yes.
- 50 3384. The baggage room is there, is it?
- Well, they were handling mails or something; when I looked there was water there then.
- 51 3385. In the baggage room?
- Yes, it is on F deck, underneath E.
- 52 3386. The squash racket is on two decks, is it not?
- I do not think so.
- 53 3387. Does not that go up through two decks?
- No.
- 54 3388. Surely it is higher?
- You are asking me a question and I am answering you. I say it is on F deck. You have to go down from E to it.
- 55 3389. It is on F deck, and is it not on G deck too?
- No.
- 56 3390. Now where is the first class baggage? It is on G deck - the baggage room?
- No, I do not think so. I never went further than that, and I think it was in that.
- 57 3391. Will you understand this if I show you the plan.
- 58 3392. (*Sir Robert Finlay.*) It is on G deck.
- 59 The Witness:
Well, it is a little bit further down. The baggage room was not on G deck.
- 60 3393. (*Mr. Rowlatt.*) Is it not?
- The mail room is on E, F.
- 61 3394. The baggage room and mail room are on this deck. Come and look at the plan and then we shall not quarrel. We had better understand it once for

..Informed through crew/

all.

62 (*The Witness examined the plan with the learned Counsel.*)

63 The Commissioner:
Which deck is it?

64 Mr. Rowlatt:
G.

65 The Commissioner:
Very well.

66 3395. (*Mr. Rowlatt.*) You looked into the baggage room?
- No, I looked down the stairs.

67 3396. You saw into it, and saw there was water there?
- Yes.

68 3397. How long should you say after the shock was it that you saw water in the baggage room?
- I went down to call the second steward, [Mr. Dodd](#). I took plenty of time and it must have been a good twenty-five minutes after I met [Mr. Wheat](#) coming up, and he said "What is it?" I said "I think it is a bit serious."

69 3398. Who said that?
- I said I thought it was a bit serious.

70 3399. Whom to?
- To Mr. Wheat, the assistant second steward. He is living now, I think he was the only one I met there at the time.

71 3400. Had you seen Mr. Andrews in the reception room?
- I saw him speaking to some ladies, and they were all in a bunch and he said he thought it would be all right. He said, "Be easy, it will be all right." I asked him, and he said; "All right."

72 3401. Were those first class passengers?
- Yes, all first class passengers just at the corner of the reception room, down the companion stairs.

73 3402. After you found there was water in the baggage room, what did you do next?
- After I had called Mr. Wheat I went away down and changed my clothes in the glory hole, and put this suit of clothes on.

74 3403. Which is the glory hole?
- No. 3 glory hole on E deck.

75 3404. Where is that?
- It is situated half between the two exit doors. There is one from the first class companion on to the working alleyway, and then there is one for the boys to go down to the engine room.

76 3405. On E deck?
- On to E deck. There is an exit right from the saloon companion to the working deck.

77 3406. You went down there?
- Yes.

78 3407. And whom did you find there?
- All the boys were in bed when I went down there.

79 3408. Who are the "boys"?
- All the stewards. They are called "boys."

80 3409. After you had gone there, did you go up again?
- I went up again, and I walked up through the companion, and I saw [Mr.](#)

[Latimer](#), the Chief Steward. You could not make any mistake about him, he was too big. There was [Mr. McElroy](#) and the purser standing by the Officers, and two or three Officers on C deck.

- 81 3410. Had you a lifebelt then?
- I had no lifebelt then. I went down for it after.
- 82 3411. You had gone down and fetched your clothes, but you did not bring your lifebelt?
- I went down for that after, again.
- 83 3412. You had a lifebelt?
- Yes.
- 84 3413. In your bunk - in your quarters?
- Yes, everybody had a lifebelt.
- 85 3414. You saw all these people you have mentioned?
- Yes.
- 86 3415. What happened next?
- I went out on the top. I thought I might have made a mistake in the boat station list, and I went to look at it again. I said "I will have a sky again."
- 87 3416. You went to look at the list?
- Yes.
- 88 3417. Had you seen it before?
- Yes, I had seen it on Thursday afternoon.
- 89 3418. Where was your list?
- In the pantry on the port side, right opposite the chief steward's office.
- 90 3419. Had that been there from the beginning?
- It was there from Thursday afternoon.
- 91 3420. Do you mean you saw it put up?
- I did see it because I went and looked for my name, and I knew where my boat was.
- 92 3421. You went and looked at it again?
- Yes, I went to make sure I had not made a mistake.
- 93 3422. Had you heard any order to go to the boats?
- Nothing at all then. I did it on a principle of my own, being Scotch, I suppose.
- 94 3423. Then did you see what your boat was?
- I went and had a look at it.
- 95 3424. What was it?
- One of the small boats - the emergency boat No. 2.
- 96 3425. That is on the port side?
- Yes, abaft the bridge.
- 97 3426. Was it slung?
- It was slung out outside the rails. It was all right when I saw it.
- 98 3427. Do I understand you went up there then?
- Yes, I had a look round, and I spoke to one man. I should know him if I saw him again. I looked in the boat to see if the plug and everything was right. I came out again and stood by for a bit, and the second steward said to me, "Hold this." It was his lifebelt and his dustcoat. I never saw him after that. I suppose he went West.
- 99 3428. When you got up to the boat this first time were there many people up there?
- There were not many people wanted to go in at all, because they all wanted

- to travel. They seemed to travel in heaps.
- 100 3429. Were there plenty of people on the boat deck?
- Yes, plenty, but they would not go into our boat.
- 101 3430. Were the crew mustering there at the boats?
- I think Mr. Wilde asked, "What boat do you belong to" I said, "No. 2." I am sure he had the list because he said, "That is right." He said, "Can you pull" I said, "Certainly." He said, "Stand by the falls."
- 102 3431. Did you stand there by the falls?
- I stood a little bit longer.
- 103 3432. You said you went to get your lifebelt. When did you do that?
- I went for my overcoat down below again. The Chief Steward told me to get upon deck, and go to my boat again. By that time the water was coming to the foot of the companion -
- 104 3433. One moment; was it after that that Mr. Wilde spoke to you?
- Yes, after that I went down for my coat.
- 105 3434. And you came up again?
- Yes.
- 106 3435. Did you go to your boat again?
- Certainly.
- 107 3436. Was there anybody in it?
- No, there was nobody in it - not a soul.
- 108 3437. What was happening at your boat?
- There were about eight or ten firemen, and I asked if they belonged to it, and some of them seemed to hesitate - they did not know.
- 109 3438. Were there women there?
- There might have been about four or five.
- 110 3439. Did they go in?
- No. We did not lower for a good ten minutes after that.
- 111 3440. Was any Officer there?
- An Officer got into the boat afterwards. This man handed me a lamp out of the boat. I saw a lamp standing on the deck. It was ready-lit. I said, "It will be all right for us," so I stowed it in there.
- 112 3441. Had you seen whether the plug was in the boat?
- Yes.
- 113 3442. And had it oars?
- Yes, four oars.
- 114 3443. Had it any provisions?
- I saw a loaf lying on the deck and a box of biscuits lying on the deck, but nobody seemed to care whether he put it in or not.
- 115 3444. When you came up again I think you said nobody was in the boat?
- No.
- 116 3445. Could you explain how the boat came to be filled with people?
- I got to the forward fall. I had asked one of the firemen (I do not know whether fireman or trimmer) "Have you a knife? There is no knife in the boat." I had looked at the fall because anybody lowering the fall with a jerk might shove it off the blocks. I thought I must have a knife if nobody else had one. I asked the man and he handed me a razor. He told me his name was McCuliffe. He said "Remember me at Southampton and give it me back."
- 117 3446. You took it?
- Yes.

..Officers in charge

..Women & Children fi

..Women shortage

- 118 3447. And you stood by the fall?
- Yes.
- 119 3448. Was anybody else in the boat then?
- There was no one else then. Then the women and children got into it.
- 120 3449. Who put them in?
- The Chief Officer.
- 121 3450. Were they women and children?
- Yes; they could walk right into it because there were either gratings or something, you had only to step half-a-foot on to the ledge and into the boat.
- 122 3451. That was on the boat deck?
- Yes.
- 123 3452. How long did that boat stay in that position on the boat deck?
- She must have stayed a good quarter of an hour.
- 124 3453. Were there any other people standing by waiting to go in?
- No, I saw 30 or 40 ladies going down the deck again. - No 2 boat is here, here is the companion right down there - right down to A deck.
- 125 3454. (*The Commissioner.*) Going back to their berths do you mean?
- No, I do not think they were; they did not seem to realise that there was anything wrong.
- 126 3455. (*Mr. Rowlatt.*) So far as you saw they were going off the boat deck?
- Yes.
- 127 3456. Down to the deck below?
- Yes.
- 128 3457. And how much further you could not, of course, tell?
- No.
- 129 3458. Was there any call for women and children at that boat?
- All the women and children that were there could have got in. We could have put more in; in fact, we had not a full complement.
- 130 3459. Can you tell us at all what classes were represented?
- I could not.
- 131 3460. When all the women that wanted to go in were in was the boat lowered?
- No, it was put down perhaps 3 or 4 feet. They were told to go down to A deck to see if anybody else wanted to come in. There was nobody came down to A deck. It stopped opposite A deck.
- 132 3461. It looks from here as if there was a window there?
- There is A deck (*Pointing on the model.*)
- 133 3462. If it is lowered to A deck it looks as if it is outside a window?
- There was no window, it was a free passage.
- 134 3463. Did anybody get in at A deck?
- No, there was nobody to get in.
- 135 3464. Then what happened?
- We got lowered, and then we cut her adrift. The razor came in handy.
- 136 3465. You did use it?
- Yes, we had to because nobody else had a knife. The ropes were a little bit jerky, but they came down properly.
- 137 3466. When you got to the bottom you cut adrift with the razor?
- They slipped all right enough. It was in other boats the same. All companies have been the same I have been in. They would fall off with a little bit of a jerk.
- 138 3467. You got free?

- Yes.

139 3468. How many people were there in your boat?
- I think 23 to 25.

140 3469. Is she as big a boat as the others?
- Certainly not.

141 3470. Was she full, in your judgment?
- She would not be full, but she would have been full in a heavy sea. She was not full according to how we were.

142 3471. Was anybody that wanted to get on that boat kept back?
- Not at all, certainly not.

143 3472. Were there any seamen in that boat?
- There was one. He said he was a seaman. We saw a light and we pulled for that light. I do not know whether he was a seaman or not.

144 3473. Was there an Officer in the boat?
- Yes.

145 3474. Who was he?
- I do not know his name; I should know him if I saw him.

146 3475. The Fourth Officer, was it not?
- I think it would be him.

147 3476. And somebody who said he was a seaman?
- Yes.

148 3477. Was there any other man beside yourself?
- There was a foreigner, and I think the other one was a cook or something. He told me afterwards he was a cook.

149 3478. And any passenger men?
- No, that was all the men.

150 3479. All the rest were women and children?
- Yes.

151 The Attorney-General:
The cubic capacity of an emergency boat is 40 persons, my Lord.

152 3480. (*Mr. Rowlatt.*) Mr. Boxhall is the 4th Officer, is he not?
- I did not know them by their names.

153 3481. You said something about seeing a light?
- Yes.

154 3482. Did you see that light from the deck of the "Titanic"?
- I should think we saw it for about twenty minutes on the port bow.

155 3483. How broad from the port bow?
- I should think from where I was standing we pulled a mile and a half or two miles after it.

156 3484. Was it nearly right ahead?
- No, something like an angle.

157 3485. A right angle?
- A left angle from the port bow rather.

158 3486. Now face the same way as the ship in that model?
- Yes, it was there about and the boat was there, and it was lying like that. (*Demonstrating.*) I should consider it would be about eight or ten miles off.

159 3487. But that is not the angle you know. A little clear of the bow on the left hand side as you looked towards the bow?
- A little more aft.

- 160 3488. One of the Witnesses said two points?
- I do not know a point unless it is in billiards.
- 161 3489. Did you row for that light?
- Certainly.
- 162 3490. How many oars did the boat row?
- We had four?
- I think there were two rowing and the other two dipping. I think two could row and the other two were dipping.
- 163 3491. They were simply dipping their oars?
- Well, they were doing their best.
- 164 3492. Which were you doing, rowing or dipping?
- I think I was rowing.
- 165 3493. Was somebody steering?
- Sometimes there was a girl steering and sometimes an Officer steering. He was telling her what to do and he was helping the foreigner at the other oar to pull. He was pulling a stroke oar.
- 166 3494. Did the Officer direct you to steer to the light?
- We took a star and got this star underneath us and kept it in front of us, and tried not to get away from it.
- 167 3495. Did you see the light all the time?
- No, we lost it, it disappeared.
- 168 3496. How long do you think you were rowing towards the light?
- By the time we came back again and pulled round the stern of the "Titanic" we must have pulled a mile and a half, I should think a good half-hour.
- 169 3497. You came back to the "Titanic"?
- Yes, round the stern of the "Titanic."
- 170 3498. How far off from the stern did you come round?
- I should think about 800 yards.
- 171 3499. How long was that before she sank? Did you see her sink?
- Yes.
- 172 3500. How long before you saw her sink did you get back to her?
- We went back and rowed round, and the Officer said to the ladies, "Do you think we should go back or not?"
- 173 3501. How long before she sank did you get back to the region of the "Titanic" after you had been looking for the light?
- I suppose a good half-hour before she sank.
- 174 3502. Then you had not gone very far towards the light?
- A mile and a half. I am certain we pulled that.
- 175 3503. Did this light seem to get fainter or did it disappear suddenly?
- When we got away it disappeared altogether.
- 176 3504. What coloured light was it?
- I think it was red. I think there were two lights, in fact, a red and a white light.
- 177 3505. (*The Commissioner.*) Are you sure?
- I can discern any sort of colour, racing, a mile and a quarter off, and I think I could see a red light.
- 178 3506. Are you sure?
- I am certain.
- 179 3507. What are you certain about?
- I am certain there was a light. The Captain told the Officer to pull for that

light.

180 3508. Are you sure there were two lights?
 - I am certain there were two lights. The Captain told the Officer to pull for that light and come back again.

181 (The Witness withdrew.)

182 Day 5

183 Testimony of James Johnson, recalled

184 Further examined by Mr. ROWLATT.

185 3509. Now, Mr. Johnson, you told us you rowed away and came back again. Did you see the "Titanic" sink?
 - I saw her go down.

186 3510. How far off were you from her then in your boat?
 - It might have been three-quarters of a mile, or it might have been a little bit less.

187 3511. Did you row back at all towards the wreck?
 - Well, the boatswain told us to keep a star and keep looking at this star and not to lose it, and keep within the vicinity of it.

188 3512. Keep within the vicinity of what?
 - Of the star, underneath it rather.

189 3513. Did you go back towards the wreck at all?
 - Well, we might have pulled a little bit back. When we were all quiet he said, "Listen," and what we heard was the swish of the water against another iceberg.

190 3514. What I want to get at is this. You saw the ship go down?
 - Certainly.

191 3515. You knew in what direction that was?
 - Yes.

192 3516. Now did you try to row back in that direction with your boat?
 - No; we stood off.

193 3517. Three-quarters of a mile away?
 - Very near it, I think.

194 3518. At that time was your boat full?
 - No; I told you yesterday it was not full.

195 3519. Was there any suggestion by anybody that you should go back in the boat?
 - Yes; the Officer asked a question as to going back, but at that time we were just close to an iceberg, and the ladies said, "No," I think; they thought it was dangerous.

196 3520. Did anything more pass in the boat - a conversation about going back, that you heard?
 - I was not listening. I was told by the Officer to listen, and I heard the swish of the water, and when we looked there was an iceberg right in front of us.

197 3521. You saw it?
 - Certainly; we were close to it.

198 3522. Did you hear any cries of people in distress?
 - Oh, yes, too many.

199 3523. You did?

- Certainly.

200 3524. Did you recognise from your boat in which direction those cries came?

- From the left-hand side where we were; we had pulled round astern and were on the left-hand side.

201 3525. Was anything said in the boat about the cries?

- Certainly, there were lots of remarks by the ladies. They said they were sorry and everything.

202 3526. But with reference to going back?

- The only thing I heard was he asked them; should we go back, and I heard the ladies distinctly say no.

203 3527. (The Commissioner.) I do not understand what you mean by your left-hand side?

- The "Titanic" - after we pulled round astern, we had left the port side and we came to the starboard side of her. After we went after the light we came right round astern to the left-hand side. You might say we were still on the port - my left hand was still on the port side of our boat. I mean the "Titanic," you know.

204 3528. Then the cries that you heard?

- You heard them every now and again.

205 3529. They came from the direction -?

- Of the left hand.

206 3530. Of the "Titanic"?

- Yes.

207 3531. (Mr. Rowlatt.) At this time how many oars were being used on your boat?

- Well, I know two were pulling strong - two of us.

208 3532. And two, you told us yesterday, were pulling easy?

- Yes.

209 3532a. There were two good oars on your boat?

- Yes.

210 3533. How did your boat travel through the water?

- Easy, Sir.

211 3534. I think you said yesterday that you think you had rowed a mile and a half away and back again?

- Certainly.

212 3535. I may take it the boat could have gone back towards the wreck, if it had been decided to do so?

- Yes, we had the only lights.

213 3536. What did you say?

- We had a light in the boat; all the rest of the boats followed us; we had flashlights in our boat.

214 3537. You had flashlights?

- Yes, Roman candles.

215 3538. What did you do then, did you lie on your oars or row, or do what after it was all over, you know?

- We did not row, we kept round the vicinity of the boat; we never rowed after we came round astern; we lay still and the Officer told us to keep our eye on this star.

216 3539. (The Commissioner.) I have taken that down - "We tried to

keep stationary"?

- That is right, Sir.

217 3540. (Mr. Rowlatt.) Were there other boats near you?

- We did not see one; we heard a whistle, but I do not know where the boat was.

218 3541. In time I suppose it got light, did it?

- No. I think we were the first boat in the "Carpathia."

219 3542. Were you picked up before it was light?

- No, it was just dawn. We thought we saw an illumination of a boat coming; it was the Northern Lights.

220 3543. You did see the "Carpathia" ultimately?

- Yes.

221 3544. It was still dark then, was it?

- When we saw it, it was a little bit dark.

222 3545. (The Commissioner.) It was at dawn that the "Carpathia" picked you up?

- At dawn, yes.

223 3546. (Mr. Rowlatt.) Did you signal to her with your candles, or was it too light?

- I think all the boats followed us, because the Officer must have burned about eight or nine.

224 3547. Did you signal to the "Carpathia" with your candles, or how did you attract attention?

- With a lamp. The Officer put his hat in front of the lamp, and held it up. (Demonstrating.)

225 3548. The next morning did you see any icebergs or ice?

- Yes, there were fields of it.

226 3549. (The Commissioner.) Was the "Carpathia" in the ice-field?

- It could not have been 200 yards off some of the ice.

227 3550. Then they were off the edge of the ice?

- Yes.

228 Examined by Mr. SCANLAN.

229 3551. When you sighted the "Carpathia" was she going slow?

- I could not tell you that.

230 3552. Do you know if there was a compass on this lifeboat you were on?

- I know there was a lamp, and we had roman candles.

231 3553. But you do not know whether there was a compass?

- I never looked.

232 3554. Were the lady passengers frightened?

- They were quite satisfied, and they lay still.

233 3555. At the time your boat was lowered, had the "Titanic" begun to sink?

- Yes.

234 3556. Had she sunk much?

- Yes, she was right down by the bridge when we lowered our boat.

235 3557. Did you realise when you got into the boat that the condition of the "Titanic" was very dangerous?

- No, I do not think we thought about that.

236 3558. You yourself, I mean?
 - I did not; I did not think so, in my own private opinion. I do not think any of us thought that.

237 3559. You had had an interview with Mr. Andrews?
 - I had no interview; I only saw him.

238 3560. Did he not tell you, as the result of his inspection?
 - No, Mr. Andrews did not speak to me. I said I sent a man down that was getting hot water, not Mr. Andrews. I followed Mr. Andrews, he never spoke to me.

239 3561. I think you said you were present when he said something re-assuring to a few ladies?
 - Well, I thought so at the time too.

240 3562. And you then had a word with him?
 - He told me to see that the ladies were quiet, or something to that effect, at the foot of the companion.

241 3563. But he did not tell you anything?
 - He did not.

242 3564. Is it your evidence that instead of the Fourth Officer, who was in charge of your boat, deciding for himself as to whether it was possible for him to go and rescue the people from whom he heard shrieks, he consulted the lady passengers on the boat?
 - He asked the lady passengers.

243 3565. There would have been no difficulty at that time in your rowing round to the place from which you heard the shrieks?
 - Question?

244 3566. What was the difficulty, if there was any?
 - She is not a big one, she is a dinghy.

245 3567. You had only 23 people, and you have told my Lord that the boat's capacity was 40 people?
 - I did not say so; I did not know the capacity.

246 The Commissioner:
 I took it down. I may have been wrong, or possibly someone else told me. "The boat is constructed for 40." I may have taken it from the Attorney-General.

247 Mr. Scanlan:
 Yes, the cubic capacity is 40 persons.

248 The Attorney-General:
 What did your Lordship say you took from me?

249 The Commissioner:
 I have down in my note in this Witness' evidence that the boat was constructed to carry 40.

250 The Attorney-General:
 That is right.

251 The Commissioner:
 He says he did not say so.

252 The Attorney-General:
 That is quite right; I said so.

253 The Commissioner:
 And he did not know it, and I was saying I possibly took the information from you.

254 The Attorney-General:
Your Lordship did.

255 3568. (Mr. Scanlan.) It is so down in the official note. (To the Witness.) Do you know yourself how many additional people you could have accommodated in your boat?

- I have no idea - they might have crammed in.

256 3569. For the benefit of the Court, give us the best of your belief?

- I think if they had got five or six more in it would have been quite enough to pull, and if it had been heavy weather I do not suppose there would be anybody here to tell the tale.

257 3570. In the weather conditions which you had, I take it to be your view that you could at all events have accommodated five or six more?

- Certainly.

258 3571. In that calm sea, when you heard the shrieks of people struggling in the water, how far were you from them?

- Half a mile to three quarters, I should think.

259 3572. I thought when you rowed back, after rowing for a mile and a half, you came quite close to the "Titanic"?

- We came round astern.

260 3573. Was it not just in the immediate vicinity of the "Titanic" that people were struggling in the water?

- We did not see anybody struggling where we were.

261 3574. Were the crew of your boat rowing quite easily?

- Two of us were rowing very easy.

262 3575. I noted you said when you rowed this mile and a half each way you did it remarkably quickly?

- Well, I think we could do it again.

263 3576. Is it fair to assume that if the Officer had given instructions on his own account, on his own responsibility, instead of consulting frightened passengers?

- They were not frightened.

264 3577. You might have got back in a short time to the people struggling in the water?

- I do not think they were frightened.

265 3578. But they advised him not to go to the rescue of those people?

- I think that was their answer. And he acted on their advice, instead of on his own responsibility.

266 The Commissioner:
I understand, Mr. Scanlan, that they were in fear of some iceberg.

267 3579. (Mr. Scanlan.) What distance from you was the iceberg that you were in fear of?

- I think as to the one we saw we could hear the water swish up against it. We could not have been very far from it. We could not have been far because everyone distinctly heard it.

268 The Commissioner:
I wish you would put your questions to him quite plainly and distinctly, if you will. Was he of opinion that there was any

..Women hesitate/refuse

cowardice on the part of the man who accepted the suggestion of the ladies, because that is, as I understand, what you are suggesting.

269 3580. (Mr. Scanlan.) If I may say so with deference, my Lord, do not wish to suggest cowardice. What I do feel inclined to suggest is that there was a great lack of discretion on the part of the Officer in charge of a boat which could be rowed easily, in not rowing to the rescue of those people. I would not like to say it was cowardice, my Lord. (To the Witness.) Can you explain why it was, with an unfilled boat, the Fourth Officer [Boxhall] failed to go to the rescue of the drowning people?

- I have answered the question.

270 3581. It was because the ladies protested?

- Yes. I have answered that question.

271 3582. If you had had charge of the boat, would you have gone back?

- I do not suppose I would have done any more than he did. He acted as an Englishman.

272 Examined by Mr. HARBINSON.

273 3583. Just one question. Have you any notion as to which class the majority of passengers in your boat belonged?

- I think they belonged mostly to the third or second. I could not recognise them when I saw them in the first class, and I should have known them if there were any prominent people.

274 3584. Most of them were in the boat when you came along?

- No.

275 3585. You put them in?

- No. Mr. Ismay tried to walk round and get a lot of women to come to our boat. He took them across to the starboard side then - our boat was standing - I stood by my boat a good ten minutes or a quarter of an hour.

276 3586. At that time did the women display a disinclination to enter the boat?

- Yes.

277 3587. Do you know as a matter of fact if reassuring statements had been made to them that everything was all right?

- I could not tell you. I could not tell you all those people.

278 3588. Did you say as a matter of fact yesterday that you heard Mr. Andrews say to some ladies he thought it would be all right?

- I think he did not know the full strength of it.

279 3589. You mean he did not know how dangerous it was?

- Certainly not; he could not have known.

280 3590. (The Commissioner.) I understand you to say that when you got into the boat you did not think the condition of the "Titanic" was dangerous?

- Oh, yes, I did; I thought so then, when I got into the boat.

281 3591. Then I have not got it down right?

- I thought so then.

282 3592. Is this right: "When we lowered our boat I did not think the condition of the 'Titanic' dangerous"?

283 - I thought it was sure to stand up, but my opinion was very little.
3593. Is that right - is that what you said?
- Yes, very likely.

284 3594. (Mr. Harbinson.) At the time you lowered your boat the
water had risen almost to the wheel, had it?
- I do not know where the wheel was; I was not looking at it; I
was not near the bridge.

285 3595. You did hear Mr. Andrews make these reassuring
comments to the ladies?
- When I heard him it was just a quarter of an hour after she
struck, not much more.

286 3596. What I want to ask you is this: Would the disinclination on
the part of the ladies to get into the boats as a matter of fact be
traceable to those reassuring statements which had been made to
them by members of the crew?
- No, I do not think so.

287 Examined by Mr. COTTER.

288 3597. How long have you been going to sea?
- A few years, 25 to 30 very near.

289 3598. How long have you been in the employ of the White Star
Line?
- Over 18 years.

290 3599. Have you ever taken part in a boat drill?
- Everybody in the White Star knows their boats. Every Sunday
you have to have a boat drill, but I have never taken a boat drill
for lowering a boat.

291 3600. Never in your life?
- I have not done it in one company; I have not done it in any.
They generally ask for sailors to do that and to try the boats.

292 3601. Have you been in any other company where there has been
boat drill?
- The Pacific Company.

293 3602. There you took part in lowering the boats?
- Yes.

294 3603. Did you learn how to handle a boat through that?
- Yes.

295 3604. Have you ever taken part in bulkhead door drill?
- Yes.

296 3605. Were there any hand-closing bulkhead doors?
- No; they were all bridge-closed.

297 3606. Were there any hand-closing bulkhead doors?
- No.

298 3607. Are you sure?
- Certainly. I can only tell you the working deck and the position
I was working in.

299 3608. Was there any bulkhead door drill?
- I could not tell you. The ship had only sailed for the one week,
and on Saturday they close all the doors. They try them at 12
o'clock; they are closed and opened again.

300 3609. Did not you take part in that bulkhead door drill?

- No.
- 301 3610. When the boat struck you said you were on night watch?
- Yes.
- 302 3611. Your duty would be round the first class saloon to receive the reports from the bedroom stewards and the stewards of the second and third class?
- That is right.
- 303 3612. Where did you go when you found there was water going into the baggage-room?
- As I told you, I went down and changed my clothes.
- 304 3613. You did not go to the second steward or the chief steward?
- I went down. I met Mr. Wheat, the assistant second steward, and I told him I thought it was serious, and I was going away into the glory hole. I called all our boys.
- 305 3614. What did you say to them?
- I told them I thought it was a bit serious.
- 306 3615. Did they come up?
- Some of them did and some did not till Mr. Dodd came, and he chased everyone out of every glory hole.
- 307 3616. Were you there when he came?
- Yes. I had changed and had everything ready.
- 308 3617. What order did he give the men?
- Everyone to get their life preservers and go to their boats.
- 309 3618. Did he give instructions to get the women out of the third and second class and the first?
- The bedroom stewards were all told to go to every room and put life preservers on the passengers and get them out of their cabins.
- 310 3619. Did the men carry out those orders as far as you could see?
- As far as I could see.
- 311 3620. Now I want to ask you a very vital question. How many men were in the steward department of the "Titanic"?
- I think something like 470 altogether - there must have been.
- 312 3621. Were they all Englishmen?
- I do not know whether the restaurant were included in it or not.
- 313 3622. There is a restaurant there?
- Yes.
- 314 3623. What is that staff constituted of?
- Mostly Italians and French. I do not know. I never mix with them, so I cannot tell you; but there were none of them Englishmen as a Rule.
- 315 3624. How many Italians and Frenchmen would there be in the crew?
- Do you mean my average?
- 316 3625. Yes?
- Well, I should say 50 to 60.
- 317 3626. Can you tell us whose jurisdiction they were under outside the captain - the chief steward or somebody else?
- Mr. Gatti.
- 318 3627. Who was Mr. Gatti?

- A nice little man.
- 319 3628. What was Mr. Gatti's position on board the "Titanic"?
- He was like chief steward in his own department.
- 320 3629. Do you know if any of Mr. Gatti's men took part in any drill at all; had they a boat station?
- I do not know.
- 321 3630. Did you see any of those men after, shall I say, the alarm had been given?
- Well, I saw them all bunched together, but everyone was bunched together at first; but after that I only saw one, and he saved himself.
- 322 3631. I want to ask you your opinion - supposing there had been what we will call a proper boat muster of all hands on the "Titanic" to the boat stations when that collision took place, do you think, if that had taken place, and they had mustered on the boat deck it would have been possible from the time the ship struck, before the boats were lowered, to have got every woman and child out of the third, second and first class?
- Well, my opinion is, suppose everyone went to their boat stations - you had all your boat stations, and perhaps eight or ten stewards, five or six firemen, two or three sailors - I do not think there would have been more ladies in the boats.
- 323 3632. You missed my point. When you go to a boat station to muster, you go there to receive orders?
- Yes.
- 324 3633. A bugle goes - is that so?
- Yes.
- 325 3634. Did any bugle go that night?
- No.
- 326 3635. If a bugle had gone, the men would have gone to their boat stations, I take it?
- Some of them would have gone, and some would not, because they never thought about looking to their boat stations.
- 327 3636. Not the stewards department?
- Some of them did not.
- 328 3637. I am asking for your opinion. Supposing they had done so, was not there time then to turn the spare men out of the boat, and say, "Go down and show the women, second and third class, and also the first class, up here"?
- If you had got them up - but you could not drive the women.
- 329 3638. How do you know that?
- Because I tried it.
- 330 3639. Where did you try?
- For our boat.
- 331 3640. I mean down in the third class, in the rooms; that is what we want to get at - if the stewards had been told to go down and bring them up?
- They were told, but they did not think she would go down, and they were laughing when the passengers were carrying their baggage about.

332 3641. Your contention is that they were told, and that the women
would not come up on deck?
- I am certain of it.

333 3642. How are you certain of it. It is a very serious answer you
are giving now?
- Well, I am certain by our boys, because some of our boys would
have been saved if they had come to the boat stations.

334 3643. You have had conversations since?
- I have never spoken to the boys.

335 3644. How do you know?
- Because I know all the old ones were lost.

336 3645. That is not the point. You make a statement that a man was
there and that the women would not come up, and then you said,
"Some of our boys have been saved"?
- I did not say they were saved; I said all the best of the boys
went down.

337 3646. How do you know the women and children would not
come up?
- Well, I could tell by the bedroom stewards. I saw them driving,
and I saw Mr. Ismay try to drive a few, and he had a pair of
slippers on and his dust coat, and he was trying to get the
women, and they would not go in for him into our boat.

338 3647. That was on the boat deck. I am talking about down below
- the third class quarters?
- I was not down there, and I could not tell you.

339 The Commissioner:
This Witness was not down below in the third class quarters.

340 Mr. Cotter:
He states there was a steward sent down there, and he also states
that the women would not come up.

341 The Commissioner:
I suppose he only says that because he only saw some women
come up. Some certainly did come up and got into his boat.

342 3648. (Mr. Cotter.) You are not sure what was going on down
below?
- No.

343 3649. You say the second steward, Mr. Dodd, came back with a
dust coat over his head?
- Yes, he had his dust coat in his hand and gave me his lifebelt,
and did not come back for it.

344 3650. Did he give any orders?
- No, he gave orders in the glory hole; he had no business to give
orders on the deck.

345 3651. Are you sure he had no right to give orders to the steward
department on deck?
- Certainly not; it is under the Officers, that.

346 3652. Now when you got into the boat did you find any biscuits
and water there?
- No. I trampled over a loaf of bread, a big pan loaf; there were
biscuits carried up, but nobody seemed to care to put them in.

..People calm, follow ord

..Women shortage

..Women & Childrei

..Women hesitate/r

- 347 3653. Who carried the biscuits up?
- Williams had one box - Billy Williams - and there might have been four or five boxes carried up through the companion way. They were shoving each other on.
- 348 3654. There were some stewards bringing the stores up?
- Yes, they were bringing the stores up.
- 349 3655. Had you any difficulty in launching your boat?
- Nothing at all earthly - easy.
- 350 3656. There was no attempt to rush the boat by the men?
- No; it would have been rushed at first; but when they saw it was not going down, they went away from our boat.
- 351 3657. Did you see any stewards putting lifebelts on the passengers?
- I did not, because I was not amongst them.
- 352 3658. How many women do you think were on deck just as your boat was lowered?
- When it was lowered there was not a woman near our boat, because we could not get any more to go in.
- 353 3659. Were there any there?
- They were walking up and down. As I told you I saw Mr. Ismay trying to get them into our boat, and he took them to the starboard side; he went to the starboard side with them.
- 354 3660. Was your boat the first away?
- No, I should think it would be about fifth on the port side - fourth or fifth on the port side when it went away.
- 355 3661. Yours was one of the emergency boats?
- Yes.
- 356 3662. It would be the first boat on the other side?
- Yes.
- 357 3663. Number 2?
- Yes.
- 358 3664. Did you see any of the foreign waiters on the deck?
- I saw them in a bunch before I went to my boat.
- 359 3665. You did not see any on the deck?
- No.
- 360 3666. You never saw them after you saw them in that bunch?
- No.
- 361 3667. You do not know whether they assisted with the passengers in any way?
- I do not know.
- 362 3668. Did you go to Belfast on the "Titanic"?
- Yes.
- 363 3669. So you would have a thorough knowledge of the way round her?
- Well, I was every night round her and every day. I went round every part of her, or I think I did - but you could not go round her.
- 364 3670. Can you tell us where the glory holes are situated in the "Titanic"?
- All amidships.

365 3671. On which side, port or starboard?
- Port side.

366 3672. On the port side?
- Yes.

367 3673. Can you show on that chart?
- Underneath the saloon as near as possible. They would hold about 28. Some of them hold about 28, some 40, and some 60 or 70.

368 3674. Would they have any difficulty at all in getting up the companions, and round the ship?
- Certainly not.

369 3675. No difficulty at all?
- Certainly not.

370 3676. Was there a lifebelt for every steward in the glory hole?
- Yes.

371 Examined by Mr. HOLMES.

372 3677. Did you hear any order given by the captain as to the sending away of your boat?
- I think it was the captain told us to make for that light and come back again.

373 3678. Did you hear him tell the Fourth Officer [Boxhall] to go away?
- Yes, and come back.

374 3679. Is it not the fact that you did in fact try to pick up some passengers who were in the water? After you had left the "Titanic" did not you make any attempt?
- I did not see any people in the water; we heard them, but did not see them.

375 The Commissioner:
I understand he heard cries, but saw no one.

376 Mr. Holmes:
I am basing my question on the report of the evidence given by the Fourth Officer in America.

377 The Commissioner:
I do not know what that is.

378 Examined by Mr. EDWARDS.

379 3680. Do you remember the names of the members of the crew who were in your boat?
- I do not know any of them.

380 The Commissioner:
Whom do you represent?

381 Mr. Edwards:
The Dockers' Union.

382 The Commissioner:
How is the Dockers' Union interested in the matter? Were any of your members on board?

383 Mr. Edwards:
Yes, my Lord. I am sorry this should be raised again. I made an application. You told me to put the thing in writing.

384 The Commissioner:

I know that, but I want you to tell me exactly how they are interested?

385 Mr. Edwards:
Quite a large number of the deckhands on board the "Titanic" were members of the Dockers' Union.

386 The Commissioner:
I see; I understand. Are they members of any other Union?

387 Mr. Edwards:
No, my Lord.

388 The Commissioner:
Very well, that is quite enough.

389 3681. (Mr. Edwards - To the Witness.) You said that you saw a list of men allotted to each boat?
- Certainly.

390 3682. Was that a printed list?
- Written out. It is a printed bill, but your name is put for each boat.

391 3683. Are the names written in?
- Yes.

392 3684. Would those names be written before you left Southampton?
- I saw my name on the Thursday night.

393 3685. That I understand, but would they in fact be written out before you left Southampton or not?
- No, they would be written out after we got away, I should think. They have always been in every ship I have been in.

394 3686. So that there would be no copy on shore of this list?
- I do not think so.

395 Examined by Mr. LAING.

396 3687. Did you hear the Fourth Officer give his evidence in America?
- No.

397 3688. Is it true, so far as you know, after you were in the water you attempted to rescue three more persons for whom there was room, but without success?
- I did not see them.

398 3689. Do you remember anything of that sort?
- No.

399 Re-examined by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

400 3690. Now just explain to us a little more. What do you mean by the glory hole?
- It is where we all live.

401 3691. The stewards?
- Yes; it is called "glory hole" in all ships.

402 3692. Is it next to the galley?
- No, it is on E deck, the working alleyway. There are two exits, one from the saloon companion and the other up through the pantry.

403 3693. It is on the port side, I understand?
- Yes.

404 3694. The glory holes are on the port side of the alleyway?
 - Yes, the outside.

405 3695. The alleyway goes up - that is, the port alleyway?
 - The port alleyway is the working alleyway.

406 3696. And you are on the port side of that?
 - Yes, on the off side.

407 3697. Against the side of the ship?
 - Yes.

408 3698. Against the port side?
 - Yes.

409 3699. I think I see where it is; it is on "E," if I understand?
 - Yes.

410 3700. (The Attorney-General.) Your Lordship sees no doubt
 where it is. (To the Witness.) You told us about Mr. Ismay in
 answer to one of my learned friends? Was Mr. Ismay still on the
 "Titanic" when your boat left?
 - Yes, he was doing as much as any other Englishman could do.

411 3701. Standing on the deck?
 - He was not; he was trying to entice women to go to the boats.

412 3702. As I understand he had tried that on the port side where
 you were?
 - He took them across. There is about that height where my boat
 was, and he took them round there to the other side abaft the
 second funnel, I think.

413 3703. Why did he take them the other side?
 - Because they would not come into ours, and he tried to get
 them to the other side to go into another boat.

414 3704. You told us something about a bulkhead drill?
 - I did not tell you that.

415 3705. I thought you answered a question?
 - I answered a question. I know nothing about bulkhead drill.

416 3706. Did you see a bulkhead drill?
 - In our position we would not know anything at all; it might
 happen dozens of times and we would not see it.

417 3707. So far as you are concerned you know nothing about that?
 - I know nothing at all about it.

418 (The Witness withdrew.)