

# British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry

## Day 5

### Testimony of Alfred Shiers

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

Examined by Mr. BUTLER ASPINALL.

4502. Were you a fireman on the "[Titanic](#)" at the time of this casualty?  
- Yes.

4503. Did you join the ship on the day she left Southampton?  
- Yes.

4504. Did you see any boat's list?  
- Not at Southampton.

4505. After you left Southampton did you see any boat's crew list?  
- Yes, the Sunday afternoon.

4506. On the Sunday?  
- Yes, after we left Southampton.

4507. Not till Sunday, the day of the accident?  
- No.

4508. Where did you see it?  
- Posted outside the forecastle door.

4509. I suppose if you had looked there before you might have seen it before?  
- No, I saw them put it up.

4510. You saw it being put up on the Sunday?  
- Yes.

4511. What time on Sunday did you see it being put up?  
- It was after dinner, but I could not say what time.

4512. At what time do you dine?  
- At 12 o'clock, as a Rule.

4513. Who was putting it up?  
- One of the engineers.

4514. After it was put up did you look at it and see what your boat was?  
- Yes.

4515. What was the number of your boat?  
- [No. 3](#).

4516. At the time of the striking of the iceberg were you off watch?  
- Yes.

4517. It was the 8 to 12 watch, was it not? You were off watch?  
- Yes.

4518. Where were you?  
- In my bunk.

4519. Did you feel the shock?  
- Yes.

4520. On which side are your quarters, on the port side or the starboard side?  
- On the starboard side.

..On other deck first

- 25 4521. What did you hear or feel? Did you hear anything?  
- The rumble - the shock. It was not much.
- 26 4522. What did you do?  
- I got out of my bunk and went up on the deck.
- 27 4523. When you got on deck, did you see anything?  
- I went on to the forecastle head first, and underneath.
- 28 4524. On the [forecastle head](#) did you see anything?  
- No.
- 29 4525. Did you see any ice?  
- I did on the deck - when I got out on the deck.
- 30 4526. Did you leave the forecastle?  
- Yes.
- 31 4527. And go where?  
- I left the forecastle and went underneath the forecastle head.
- 32 4528. Did you see ice?  
- Not there.
- 33 4529. Where did you see ice?  
- On the [forewell deck](#).
- 34 4530. Did you have a look round?  
- Yes.
- 35 4531. Did you see anything?  
- I saw the berg that was going away.
- 36 4532. Where was the berg away from you - on the port side or the starboard side, or ahead, or where?  
- On the starboard quarter, off the stern.
- 37 4533. It was off your quarter, was it?  
- Yes.
- 38 4534. How soon after you felt the striking of the iceberg did you see it away on your quarter?  
- About four or five minutes.
- 39 4535. Tell me what you did - that will give me an idea - did you get up at once?  
- Yes, I was reading in my bunk at the time.
- 40 4536. You got up at once?  
- I went up on the forecastle.
- 41 4537. Did you run up?  
- I walked up; our forecastle is only outside the companion ladder.
- 42 4538. Did you see the berg then?  
- No, not then.
- 43 4539. What did you do before you saw it?  
- Looked towards the window underneath the forecastle head to see if there was anything there.
- 44 4540. That took a short time, I suppose?  
- It is only just a walk round from our room.
- 45 4541. What did you do next?  
- Came out on the deck; on the starboard side of the deck.
- 46 4542. Was it then you saw the berg?  
- I saw the ice then, and then the berg when I looked over the side.
- 47 4543. And then the berg was away on the starboard quarter?

..Arrives before 0:40

- Yes.
- 48 4544. About how far off?  
- I could not say; it was very dim then; I could just see it.
- 49 4545. It was a dark night?  
- Yes, a starry night.
- 50 4546. Starry, but dark. When you saw the berg could you judge whether your ship was stopped or going ahead?  
- When I looked over the side there was a slight way on her; she was moving, but not much.
- 51 4547. You were moving through the water?  
- Yes, but not much.
- 52 4548. What did you do after you saw the berg?  
- I went down to the forecastle again.
- 53 4549. Why did you go back to the forecastle?  
- It was no good stopping on deck. There was nothing there only to see it going away.
- 54 4550. You thought there was nothing the matter, is that so?  
- Yes.
- 55 4551. When you got back to the forecastle did you see anything which told you there was something the matter?  
- Not then.
- 56 4552. Did you go down into the forecastle?  
- Yes.
- 57 4553. Did you see anything or hear anything there?  
- No.
- 58 4554. Did you see any water?  
- Not then.
- 59 4555. Did you remain in the forecastle?  
- Yes.
- 60 4556. Did you go back to bed?  
- No. I sat on my bunk.
- 61 4557. How long did you sit on your bunk before you noticed or heard or saw anything?  
- Not long. There was a fireman there with his toe cut.
- 62 4558. Did you do anything with this fireman?  
- Yes.
- 63 4559. Did you take him somewhere?  
- Yes.
- 64 4560. Where did you take him?  
- To the doctor.
- 65 4561. Did that take just a short time?  
- Yes.
- 66 4562. After that what did you do?  
- There was no doctor there then.
- 67 4563. After you had taken him to the doctor's shop, where did you go to?  
- I came back again to the forecastle.
- 68 4564. On this occasion when you got back again to the forecastle, did you see anything?  
- Yes, the wind coming up through No. 1 hatch; air was forcing the hatch.

- 69 4565. You could see that, could you?  
- Well, you could hear it there.
- 70 4566. Did you see anything?  
- No, not then.
- 71 4567. Did you remain there?  
- No, I took this man down to the other part of the ship. There was no doctor there at our place, and I took him under the alleyway towards the ship aft.
- 72 4568. After that did you go back again to the forecastle?  
- Yes.
- 73 4569. Now on this return to the forecastle, did you see anything?  
- Yes.
- 74 4570. What did you see?  
- Water coming up through the hatch.
- 75 4571. There are two hatchways, I see on the plan. Would it be No. 1 you are speaking of?  
- Yes.
- 76 4572. Where was the water? On what floor or deck was it when you saw it?  
- I do not know the No. of the deck.
- 77 4573. Where your quarters are? Was it on that deck?  
- No.
- 78 4574. Below that?  
- Below that.
- 79 4575. Was it coming up slowly or fast?  
- Slowly.
- 80 4576. Now, seeing that water, did you do anything?  
- No, we stood about watching it.
- 81 4577. How long did you stand about looking at it?  
- I could not tell you.
- 82 4578. Was it a short time?  
- That I do not know.
- 83 4579. What did you do? You stood about, you say?  
- Yes.
- 84 4580. What did you do next?  
- Went up on the deck again, the forewell deck.
- 85 4581. When you got there, did you see any passengers there?  
- Not on our deck; not on the well deck; only the crew.
- 86 4582. What did you do when you got on the forewell deck?  
- I stood about talking with the crew.
- 87 4583. And what happened next?  
- I went down to the forecastle again.
- 88 4584. You returned to the forecastle?  
- Yes.
- 89 4585. When you got back to the forecastle on this occasion, did you again see the water?  
- No. I went down to put my coat on then, when I went down the next time.
- 90 4586. Was there water to be seen when you looked?  
- Yes.
- 91 4587. Had it got higher?  
- Yes.

..Additional Observations

..Crowd small

- 92 4588. A good deal higher?  
- Yes.
- 93 4589. Did you clear out or remain there?  
- I remained there, and went up on deck again after that.
- 94 4590. When you got to the deck on this occasion did you see any people there  
- any passengers?  
- No, only the crew, with their lifebelts.
- 95 4591. They had their lifebelts on?  
- Yes, they had had orders to get them then.
- 96 4592. Did you remain there?  
- I went down to the forecastle head to get my lifebelt.
- 97 4593. Did you get it?  
- No.
- 98 4594. Why was that?  
- There was none there for me.
- 99 4595. Where did you go to look for a lifebelt?  
- On the rack.
- 100 4596. They had all gone?  
- Yes.
- 101 4597. Had there been lifebelts there before?  
- Yes.
- 102 4598. You had seen them?  
- Yes.
- 103 4599. The other members of the crew had taken those that were there?  
- Yes.
- 104 4600. Then did you come up again?  
- I came up on the deck.
- 105 4601. Where did you go to then?  
- I stood round.
- 106 4602. Did you hear any orders being given?  
- Yes, one order came down to go up to the boats.
- 107 4603. Did you go up to the boats?  
- Yes.
- 108 4604. Which boat was yours?  
- No. 3.
- 109 4605. Did you go to No. 3?  
- Yes.
- 110 4606. When you got to No. 3 was there anything being done with No. 3?  
- No.
- 111 4607. Was there anybody at No. 3?  
- No.
- 112 4608. Any of the crew?  
- No, there was only me there.
- 113 4609. Were there any passengers there?  
- Passengers were getting into [No. 7](#) boat.
- 114 4610. Was No. 7 boat being looked to?  
- Yes.
- 115 4611. You had got to No. 3. Did you remain at No. 3?  
- No, I walked down the deck just to look at this boat.

..Additional Observations

..Officers in charge

- 116 4612. No. 7?  
- No. 7.
- 117 4613. Did you help to get No. 7 away?  
- I helped to clear the falls.
- 118 4614. Were the falls in good working order?  
- They were new.
- 119 4615. Did they work properly?  
- Yes.
- 120 4616. Did you see that boat lowered down?  
- Yes.
- 121 4617. Where did you go to after that?  
- I came along the deck towards my own boat.
- 122 4618. No. 3?  
- Yes.
- 123 4619. When you got to No. 3 boat, your own boat, was there any Officer at it?  
- No.
- 124 4620. Any other members of the crew?  
- Three or four firemen about.
- 125 4621. Where was No. 3? Was it in the chocks then, or was it outboard?  
- Outboard.
- 126 4622. Somebody had put it outboard?  
- Yes.
- 127 4623. You got back to it. What happened about it, did you remain at it?  
- Yes.
- 128 4624. What was done with regard to that boat?  
- Nothing then.
- 129 4625. Did you remain there till something was done?  
- Yes, I was in between the chocks of the two boats.
- 130 4626. What was done?  
- Nothing to that boat.
- 131 4627. Yes, I know, but later something was done?  
- [No. 5](#) boat was filled up.
- 132 4628. After No. 5 was filled, did an Officer come to No. 3?  
- No.
- 133 4629. Did somebody come to No. 3?  
- He sung round for any of the crew.
- 134 4630. Who sung round for any of the crew?  
- An Officer.
- 135 4631. Did some of the crew come and attend to No. 3?  
- There were only two firemen.
- 136 4632. Was No. 3 attended to?  
- Not then.
- 137 The Commissioner:  
When will you get this man to say something which is material?
- 138 Mr. Butler Aspinall:  
It is very difficult, my Lord.
- 139 The Commissioner:  
He seems to have spent his time running about from one place to another.

..If no more women - fill |

..Crowd small |

- 140 4633. (*Mr. Butler Aspinall - To the Witness.*) Very shortly afterwards did somebody come and attend to No. 3?  
- I could not say.
- 141 4634. Was No. 3 swung out?  
- It was swung out off the chocks.
- 142 4635. It was?  
- Yes.
- 143 4636. Did you see it swung out?  
- Yes.
- 144 4637. Who swung it out?  
- I could not tell you.
- 145 4638. Some of the crew?  
- I do not know. I was not there then. I was not there when it was swung out.
- 146 4639. (*The Commissioner.*) Did you ever get to No. 3?  
- Did I get to No. 3? No. 5, Sir.
- 147 4640. (*Mr. Butler Aspinall.*) No. 3 was your boat?  
- No. 3 was my boat.
- 148 4641. (*The Commissioner.*) Did you ever get to it?  
- Yes.
- 149 4642. (*Mr. Butler Aspinall.*) Did you see it swung out, or was it swung out when you got there?  
- It was swung out. All the boats were swung out when we got up there.
- 150 4643. Were women and children put into No. 3?  
- No.
- 151 4644. (*The Commissioner.*) Was anybody put into No. 3?  
- No.
- 152 4645. Did it remain empty from the beginning to the end?  
- No, it came away after. He asked for any of the crew; he turned and asked me what I was. I said, "A fireman," and he said, "Get into the boat."
- 153 4646. (*Mr. Butler Aspinall.*) Did you get into it?  
- I got into No. 5 boat.
- 154 4647. You did?  
- Yes, the boat he ordered me to.
- 155 4648. You left No. 3 and got into No. 5?  
- No, I was in between the chocks between No. 3 and No. 5.
- 156 4649. (*The Commissioner.*) Did you ever get into No. 3 at all?  
- No, there was nobody in that boat then.
- 157 4650. You never got into No. 3?  
- No. We had to stand by the boats.
- 158 4651. (*Mr. Butler Aspinall.*) Were there any passengers about No. 3 boat?  
- No, only where they were filling the other boats.
- 159 4652. No passengers about No. 3, and no Officer or seaman about No. 3?  
- There might have been seamen; I did not see them there though.
- 160 4653. Then you got into No. 5? Was No. 5 lowered?  
- Yes.
- 161 4654. Who were in No. 5? You were, who else?  
- One other fireman, a steward, and a quartermaster.
- 162 4655. And were there some women and children in No. 5?  
- Women, no children.

- 163 4656. Do you know how many women?  
- No.
- 164 4657. Was the boat full or not?  
- It was not full - as many as it would take off the davits was what the Officer said - as many as he thought the boat would take off the davits.
- 165 4658. As many as the davits would support, I suppose he means, my Lord - as many as they would safely carry. (*To the Witness.*) When the boats were lowered were there other women left on the ship?  
- I never noticed any.
- 166 4659. When the boat was lowered what became of the boat? Did it remain close alongside the ship or row off a bit?  
- We had orders to row off a bit from one of the Officers on top.
- 167 4660. And were the orders obeyed?  
- Yes.
- 168 4661. Did you see the vessel sink?  
- Yes.
- 169 4662. Did you look to see if there was any light in the boat?  
- No, there was no light.
- 170 4663. Did you look?  
- No, I did not; it was not my place.
- 171 4664. As far as you know, did anybody look for a light?  
- I could not say who looked before we got up there.
- 172 4665. Were there oars in the boat?  
- Yes.
- 173 4666. How many oars were being pulled?  
- Four.
- 174 4667. You did not count the number of the people in the boat?  
- No.
- 175 4668. You do not know?  
- No.
- 176 Then you were picked up by the "[Carpathia](#)."
- 177 4669. (*The Commissioner.*) Can you give us any idea of the number of the people in the boat?  
- I could not.
- 178 4670. Were there 100 people in it?  
- No, my Lord.
- 179 4671. Then, you see, you can tell us something. Were there 60?  
- About 40.
- 180 4672. You see you can tell us if you try. Were they women or mixed?  
- Women.
- 181 Examined by Mr. SCANLAN.
- 182 4673. You have told the Court that an Officer was giving orders on the boat deck shortly before you got into No. 5. Is that so?  
- Yes.
- 183 4674. Do you know who that Officer was?  
- The Officer who got into our boat mentioned his name when he gave him orders.
- 184 4675. Is this what you are trying to convey, that the Officer who sang out for a crew for No. 3 was the quartermaster who got into your boat, No. 5?



- No.

185 4676. Try and recollect. You have spoken of an Officer on the boat deck singing out for a crew?  
- Yes.

186 4677. What Officer was that?  
- I do not know.

187 4678. Was it because no crew came for lifeboat No. 3 that you were sent to the lifeboat No. 5?  
- No, the crew were there.

188 4679. Was there a crew for No. 3?  
- No, there was only me there for that boat, and I went for this other boat.

189 4680. Did the Officer sing out for a crew?  
- He said, "Are there any of the crew here?"

190 4681. And was there any of the crew there except you?  
- Me and another fireman and a quartermaster.

191 4682. How long was it from the collision until that order was given by the Officer?  
- I could not say.

192 4683. You have no idea at all?  
- No.

193 4684. An hour?  
- It may have been.

194 4685. Was there confusion amongst the Officers and amongst the crew?  
- No.

195 4686. If there was no confusion amongst the Officers and amongst the crew, how can you account for this, that so long after the collision as the time you speak of when the Officers gave the order the crew had not come to their boats?  
- They were all standing about; they did not think it was serious. So many had come up, those who heard the order.

196 4687. You spoke of an order having been given down in your quarters to go up to the boat deck?  
- Not in my quarters - off this deck. It came from the top deck; I do not know who gave the order.

197 4688. I suppose there must have been confusion among the Officers and the men if they could not get proper crews for the boats?  
- No; there was one boat filled with women when I got up there.

198 4689. You found on the rack where your lifebelt should have been that there was no lifebelt?  
- Yes.

199 4690. Are we to understand from you that there were not provided in your quarters sufficient lifebelts for all the men there?  
- There was none there for me when I got there.

200 4691. And you did not see any of your fellow members of the crew having more than one lifebelt?  
- Yes.

201 4692. What?  
- Yes.

202 4693. Had some of them more than one?  
- Only the one lifebelt on them and holding one for another man to put on. That is all I saw.

203 The Attorney-General:  
We do not want unnecessarily to go into evidence about that, and we have not asked; but is it suggested that there were not enough lifebelts on the boat?

204 Mr. Scanlan:  
I only make the suggestion because this Witness in his evidence in chief said that there was no lifebelt for him when he came down to find it.

205 The Commissioner:  
What he said, Mr. Scanlan, was, as I understand, that there was a lifebelt for him in his bunk, but when he came, after he had been wandering about over the ship for some time (what he was doing I do not quite know), he found his belt had gone.

206 The Attorney-General:  
I only asked my friend because we do not want to go into this evidence with all the Witnesses. I do not think there is any question of there not being sufficient lifebelts on board.

207 Mr. Scanlan:  
There has not been any question. The only thing that suggested it was the evidence of this man himself.

208 The Commissioner:  
When he went back, after he had been wandering about, he found his belt had gone.

209 4694. (*Mr. Scanlan - To the Witness.*) What distance from the ship was the iceberg when you saw it?  
- I could not say.

210 4695. After you got on to the forecastle deck?  
- I could not say; I do not know the distance.

211 4696. Can you give some idea as to this? What height was the iceberg standing above the water?  
- I could not say that.

212 4697. Was it higher than the forecastle?  
- About that - higher than the forecastle; it looked higher anyway.

213 4698. I suppose it must have been higher, as some of the ice from it fell on to the forewell deck?  
- Yes.

214 4699. Could you get a good view of it from where you were standing?  
- No, only dim.

215 4700. Was there a haze at the time; was the air clear, or was there a haze?  
- It was hazy. When I saw that berg it was hazy. The berg was in a haze.

216 4701. Had you a sufficient crew in No. 5 to man that lifeboat?  
- No.

217 4702. There was no light in the boat?  
- No.

218 4703. I suppose you know that if there had been a light provided it would have been found in the usual place?  
- Yes.

219 4704. Where is the usual place in a lifeboat?  
- Underneath one of the thwarts of the boat.

220 4705. Was it looked for there?

- Yes.
- 221 4706. By whom?
- I do not know. When we got down into the water it was looked for.
- 222 4707. Do you know whether this boat had a compass?
- No, I never saw one.
- 223 4708. Had it a sea anchor?
- I do not know that.
- 224 Examined by Mr. HARBINSON.
- 225 4709. Can you tell me how long elapsed from the time of the collision until you got to your boat No. 5?
- Over half-an-hour.
- 226 4710. You got into the boat half-an-hour from the time of the collision?
- I should say about three quarters of an hour.
- 227 4711. That is to say you got into the boat three quarters of an hour after the collision?
- Yes.
- 228 4712. And the intervening time you spent going up and down?
- Yes, it was after the fireman had cut his foot; I went for the doctor.
- 229 4713. After your passages up and down you saw what was going on; during this time that you were going to the forecastle backwards and forwards, you could see what was going on?
- I saw men standing about.
- 230 4714. Your quarters, I understand, were very near the third class - near the steerage quarters, in the front of the boat?
- On the top part, the first door when you get down in our quarters.
- 231 4715. So that the steerage was quite close to you?
- Yes.
- 232 4716. Did you hear any of the stewards or other officials of the White Star Line giving any instructions to the steerage passengers?
- No.
- 233 4717. Could such instructions have been given without your hearing them?
- Yes.
- 234 4718. Did you see any of the stewards or other officials going about while you were going up and down?
- On the other deck - when I was going aft, I saw them then.
- 235 4719. In the front?
- No.
- 236 4720. About the forecastle?
- No.
- 237 4721. And so far as you know, none were given?
- No.
- 238 4722. Now you say you saw a number of people standing about; who were they?
- The crew.

..Women & Childrei  
..Women shortage  
..Crowd small

- 239 4723. Did you see any of the third class passengers coming out of their bunks?  
- No.
- 240 4724. None?  
- No.
- 241 4725. During none of the times when you were going up and down?  
- They were nowhere near the third class bunks.
- 242 4726. Are not they at the front?  
- No, not that I know of.
- 243 4727. Do you know whether or not the male portion of the steerage passengers was in front of the boat, in the forecastle?  
- No, I do not know.
- 244 4728. You do not know?  
- No.
- 245 4729. You never saw any of them?  
- No.
- 246 4730. And you heard no instructions given?  
- No.
- 247 4731. Now who was supposed to give you orders in case of emergency? Under whose control were you supposed to be?  
- The engineer's.
- 248 4732. Were there any engineers about to give you any orders?  
- No.
- 249 4733. How did you come to go to the boat deck?  
- I was sung off the boat deck.
- 250 4734. And it was in answer to this order that you went to the boats?  
- Yes.
- 251 4735. How many Officers were up there at the time?  
- I could not say.
- 252 4736. Did you see any?  
- No.
- 253 4737. You do not know who was the Officer who told you to get into boat No. 5?  
- No; he was an Officer.
- 254 4738. Did you see any Officer or anyone giving instructions as to the manning of boat No. 3?  
- No.
- 255 4739. Were there many people on the boat deck at the time - many passengers?  
- No.
- 256 4740. When you went up there?  
- No.
- 257 4741. Were there many about boat No. 5?  
- That boat was filled.
- 258 4742. Boat No. 5 was filled?  
- Yes.
- 259 4743. Do you suggest that all the passengers practically on the boat were being taken away by boat No. 5?

..Women & Children  
..Women shortage  
..Crowd small

..Crew and 3rd class

- 260 - All the women.  
4744. Were there men left behind?  
- Yes.
- 261 4745. Many?  
- I could not say how many.
- 262 4746. Did you see men standing about?  
- Yes.
- 263 4747. Were they members of the crew or passengers?  
- I do not know.
- 264 4748. Do you know who manned boat No. 3?  
- No.
- 265 4749. Did you see it lowered?  
- I saw it come down after us into the water.
- 266 4750. How many people were in it?  
- I could not say.
- 267 4751. While your boat was being lowered did it stop at the third class deck?  
- No.
- 268 4752. It went straight down?  
- It went straight down.
- 269 4753. Was your boat full?  
- What it would hold off the davits; they would not have any more in the boat.
- 270 4754. You do not know whether or not there were any women left behind on any of the decks?  
- No; it was the second boat lowered.
- 271 4755. After you came down you rowed some distance away?  
- Yes.
- 272 4756. Did you see the "Titanic" sink?  
- Yes.
- 273 4757. What did you do when you saw the "Titanic" sink?  
- I had orders to pull round the front of the boat.
- 274 4758. Did you do so?  
- Yes.
- 275 4759. Did you pick up any passengers?  
- No, we never got so far as that.
- 276 4760. Did you hear cries?  
- The women in the boat stopped that, and the Officer who was in charge of the boat -
- 277 4761. Stopped them going round?  
- Officer Pitman told us to pull to the boat.
- 278 4762. Was he the Officer in charge?  
- Yes.
- 279 4763. Where was he? Was he at an oar?  
- No, in the stern.
- 280 4764. And the women said, "Do not go back"?  
- "Do not go back."
- 281 4765. And what did he say?  
- We were pulling away and he told us to lay on our oars.
- 282 4766. And he did not go back?

- We pulled again afterwards.

283 4767. Did the boat go back?

- I do not know where it was; I was not steering the boat.

284 4768. You were at the oar?

- Yes.

285 4769. As a matter of fact, did you hear cries at this time -

- Yes.

286 4770. Many cries?

- Wailing noises.

287 4771. Were they far from you?

- I could not tell you the distance.

288 4772. Could you see any passengers in the water?

- No.

289 4773. You had not a light in the boat?

- No.

290 4774. You did not pick up any passengers out of the water?

- No.

291 4775. Had you room for more passengers?

- There was room for more.

292 4776. There was room in the boat and the Officer acting under the instructions of these female passengers refused to allow the boat to go back?

- They said if they went back the boat would be swamped.

293 4777. Who said that?

- The passengers - the females in the boat.

294 4778. What did he do?

- He gave orders to lay on our oars.

295 Examined by Mr. LEWIS.

296 4779. Have you ever received instructions as to what to do in the event of a collision or accident?

- No.

297 4780. None whatever?

- No.

298 4781. As a matter of fact I suppose you would have obeyed only orders given to you by the engineers or any other Officer?

- Yes.

299 4782. You were off duty at the time?

- Yes.

300 4783. You sort of went about on a roving commission?

- Yes.

301 4784. All parts of the deck?

- I went to the well deck and to the forecastle.

302 4785. You did not see any disorder at all?

- No.

303 4786. Did you see any of the passengers being left on the decks?

- No.

304 4787. Is it customary to have any Officer tell you in any way at all how you are to muster in the event of an accident?

- No.

305 4788. So that as far as you were aware all you had to do was to

wander about and await instructions?  
 - We had no instructions. We had no lifeboat drill or anything of that kind.

306 4789. How long have you been in the employ of the White Star Company?  
 - This is my first voyage with that Company.

307 4790. So far as the "Titanic" was concerned it had no drill whatever?  
 - No.

308 4791. But you knew your boat?  
 - Yes, that afternoon.

309 4792. Where did you get that information from?  
 - The list.

310 4793. You saw a list?  
 - Yes.

311 4794. Can you tell me why it was that so few men reported themselves to their boats. Have you any idea at all? You knew your boat number?  
 - Yes.

312 4795. Can you explain why so few went?  
 - No, I cannot.

313 4796. Did you leave many in your quarters? Were there many firemen left there when you went up?  
 - There was none in my quarters when I went down for my belt; when I came up again they were on the deck.

314 4797. When you were in the boat, do I understand you heard the cries and you did not return because the Officer was impressed by what the women had said that it was dangerous to go back?  
 - Yes.

315 4798. I suppose if they had gone back, and there had been a matter of 100 people in the water, it would have been dangerous?  
 - Yes.

316 4799. Very dangerous?  
 - Yes.

317 4800. And you think that if the women did impress the Officer, Pitman, not to go back, they were using common sense? Would you yourself, if you had been in charge, have gone back had you believed there to be a large number in the water?  
 - I do not know.

318 You think it would have been very dangerous indeed?  
 319 Examined by Mr. COTTER.

320 4801. How long have you been going to sea?  
 - Eleven years.

321 4802. What companies have you been in of first class liners?  
 - The Union Castle Company and the Royal Mail Company.

322 4803. Do those companies have general boat drill? I mean for all the crew?  
 - Yes.

323 4804. Have you taken part in general drill?  
 - Yes.

- 324 4805. Bulkhead drills as well as boat drills?  
- Yes.
- 325 4806. You knew exactly your station in those companies?  
- Yes.
- 326 4807. You did not have any drill in the White Star Line?  
- No.
- 327 4808. Now how did you know where your boat was? Had you ever been on the boat deck before?  
- No.
- 328 4809. So you simply had to roam round and find where your boat was?  
- No, I asked.
- 329 4810. Whom did you ask?  
- The quartermaster, when I got up on the deck. I asked him which was the starboard side.
- 330 4811. When you got to No. 5 what Officer gave the order for you to go into No. 5 boat?  
- I do not know his name.
- 331 The Commissioner:  
He told us that three or four times.
- 332 4812. (Mr. Cotter.) You said that Officer Pitman was in No. 5 boat?  
- Yes.
- 333 4813. Was it Officer Pitman who gave the order?  
- No; there was another Officer there.
- 334 4814. Who gave the order to lower the boat?  
- I do not know who that was.
- 335 4815. You do not know?  
- No.
- 336 4816. Did you assist to get the women and children into that boat?  
- Yes.
- 337 4817. Had you any difficulty?  
- No, I never had a difficulty.
- 338 4818. Was the boat far from the ship's side when she was slung out?  
- About a foot.
- 339 Examined by Mr. LAING.
- 340 4819. Did the Officer who told you to lower away No. 5 tell you what to do when you got to the water?  
- He did not tell me; he told the other Officer.
- 341 4820. What did he tell him?  
- When he got down into the water to take charge of that line of boats as they came down, and stand off at 200 yards.
- 342 4821. Stand off the ship 200 yards?  
- Yes.
- 343 4822. And Pitman, I think, was your Officer that went in the boat?  
- Yes.
- 344 4823. Was there water in your boat?



- No.  
345 4824. Did you look?  
- Yes.  
346 4825. Were there biscuits?  
- Yes.  
347 4826. Was the Officer on the deck who ordered your No. 5 boat  
to be lowered picking the crews for the boats?  
- He turned round and asked you what you were.  
348 4827. And then told you to go into the boat if he selected you?  
- Yes.  
349 Re-examined by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL.  
350 4828. I think I understood you to say that on the Union Castle  
Line you had had bulkhead drills?  
- Yes.  
351 4829. How often did you have them?  
- Every Saturday.  
352 4830. What did you do?  
- Close the watertight doors, go to the boats, swing them out, and  
fetch them back inboard again.  
353 (The Witness withdrew.)