

TITLE 58 Miles

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58 Miles

Screenplay by Jo Miles

Based on true events and dialogue taken from witness statements in the public domain. Some dialogue is imagined for narrative purposes.

WGA 1944623

2.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DOCKYARD DAY

CAPTION: 1901, Newcastle on Tyne

(CG)A ship's keel is being laid noise, movement, shouting.

The ship is 170m long and 19.58m in width.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DOCKSIDE NEW YORK DAY

CAPTION: 11th April 1912

A ship's CAPTAIN (CAPTAIN ROSTRON age 42) in uniform strides along the NEW YORK dockside, he nods in greeting to various people.

The CAPTAIN passes the bows and the name CARPATHIA is revealed. He approaches the gangway. The dock is bustling with crew and passengers along with cargo, mainly frozen meat is being loaded.

PAN ACROSS

As the CAPTAIN boards lifeboats are visible on the deck.

(There are 20 in total but not all are visible).

DISSOLVE TO:

3.

INT. DINING AREA CARPATHIA DAY

The area is decorated in cream and gold, upholstery is rich, furniture is mahogany, gold curtains cover the ports. The dining salon has a stained glass dome at its centre with an electric fan.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE OF CARPATHIA, DAY

CAPTAIN ROSTRON checks charts discusses plans with an OFFICER.

ROSTRON

How is the coal holding out?

OFFICER

Well for now Sir, we should reach Gibraltar on time.

ROSTRON

Good, excellent.

PAN TO:

EXT. DOCKSIDE NY DAY

(CG) The CARPATHIA casts off from New York Pier 54 and departs with pilot boats guiding. The crowds and transport

on the dockside disperse; some passengers are on deck waving
most walk and talk or sit.

4.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRST CLASS SALON DAY

New York can be seen slipping past the portholes.

CHARLES H MARSHALL sits reading a newspaper. He is 67 years old; his wife, a good deal younger smiles, rises and leaves the room. There is background noise and a mantel clock ticks but otherwise all is calm and quiet.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRST CLASS SMOKING ROOM, DAY

A room with walnut paneling, groups of men talk and most smoke, the atmosphere is calm and relaxed.

PAN TO:

INT. ON-BOARD LIBRARY DAY

The LIBRARY is the forward end of the Bridge Deck this is generously fitted. Empty of passengers, one CREW member

checks the room and tidies some books, does some dusting.

FADE OUT

INT. FIRST CLASS DINING SALON NIGHT

5.

Groups of well dressed people talk and socialise snippets of conversation can be heard.

A MAN sits opposite his WOMAN companion.

WOMAN

How is your fish dear?

The MAN raises his eyes to his partner and kisses his fingers to signify approval; they raise their glasses to each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THIRD CLASS DINING SALON NIGHT

There is seating for 300 people, this is almost full and very noisy. The CREW are in constant motion to serve and clear away. The salon extends the full width of the ship; it is decorated with polished oak with a teak dado rail.

PAN TO:

INT. THIRD CLASS SMOKING ROOM, NIGHT

Forward of the Dining Salon is the THIRD CLASS Smoking Room, groups of men sit talking, laughing, they are loud, some are

accompanied by women.

6.

PAN ACROSS

EXT. DECK, NIGHT

A young woman passenger exits the Second Class Dining Salon and steps onto the ENCLOSED PROMENADE C Deck. The stars are bright in a pitch black sky, the young woman's breath is visible in the air. It is very quiet and contrasts with the noise from the Dining Salon.

FADE OUT

Montage to show the passage of time. Contrast between classes during mealtimes and in the smoking rooms.

Prevailing atmosphere of calm on board CARPATHIA.

CAPTION 14 April 1912

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

(CG) A long shot of SS CALIFORNIAN, the ship is in an ice field.

CUT TO:

INT. GANGWAYS OF CALIFORNIAN, NIGHT

CAPTAIN LORD of SS CALIFORNIAN strides along the gangways to the ENGINEER'S CABINS.

CUT TO:

7.

INT. CABIN, NIGHT

A clock displays the time 10.20.

CAPTAIN LORD

I'm stopping her. Too much ice.

ENGINEER EVANS

I see.

CAPTAIN LORD

Do you know of any ships in the area?

EVANS

Only the TITANIC. About 5 miles distant.

CAPTAIN LORD

Tell her we're stopped – surrounded by ice.

EVANS nods. As CAPTAIN LORD leaves the ENGINEER'S ROOM

EVANS turns to message TITANIC.

EVANS operates the wireless; after a short period of time (3 beats) EVANS receives a reply. EVANS reads the reply.

EVANS

Huh! Stuff you then!

FADE OUT

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

(CG) Long shot of SS CALIFORNIAN'S silhouette, still against the night sky.

CUT TO:

8.

INT. SS CALIFORNIAN, CHART ROOM, NIGHT

CAPTAIN LORD is sleeping. All is silent.

FADE IN:

INT. WIRELESS ROOM CALIFORNIAN, NIGHT

EVANS rises, switches off the equipment, and prepares to leave the room. The clock shows 11.35 as EVANS turns off the light and closes the door.

CUT TO:

INT. CARPATHIA BRIDGE, NIGHT

HAROLD COTTAM rises and leaves the Bridge.

CUT TO:

INT. CARPATHIA GANGWAYS, NIGHT

HAROLD COTTAM walks down a flight of stairs, he greets some crew members as he passes, no passengers are around.

CUT TO:

INT. CABIN, NIGHT

HAROLD enters his CABIN, leaving the door open. He removes his jacket and throws it across the back of the chair. He

puts on his headphones. A clock on the wall shows 12.05. A

CREW MEMBER puts his head around the door, seeing HAROLD he

leans in.

9.

CREW #1 (yawning)
I thought you were off shift?

HAROLD removes the headphones and rests them on his neck.

HAROLD
I am.

CREW #1
Where have you been?

HAROLD
I was on the Bridge. A long day and
another ahead tomorrow.

CREW #1 nods and leaves the CABIN.

HAROLD stretches, he is uncertain to return to his
headphones. He shuts his eyes and leans against the wall.
(3 beats).

The wall clock shows 12.11; HAROLD pushes his body away from
the wall, replaces his headphones, he takes up paper
messages for transmission. HAROLD reacts to a message he
receives (from TITANIC). He stares in disbelief, rises
from his chair, whips the headphones off as he pulls his
jacket on.

CUT TO:

INT. CARPATHIA GANGWAYS, NIGHT

HAROLD runs through gangways to the BRIDGE.

10.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE CARPATHIA, NIGHT

2 OFFICERS are on watch.

HAROLD
Sir, Sir! This – just in from
TITANIC!

OFFICER #1 reads the note, OFFICER #2 reads over the
shoulder of OFFICER #1.

OFFICER #1 (reading from the note)
STRUCK ICEBERG, IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE
ASSISTANCE.

OFFICERS #1 and #2 look askance at each other. Then at
HAROLD.

HAROLD snatches the note from OFFICER #1 with an abrupt nod.

CUT TO:

INT. GANGWAYS CARPATHIA, NIGHT

HAROLD runs, in great agitation, through the gangways to a
LADDER down to the CAPTAIN'S CABIN. HAROLD sees a light
under the door.

HAROLD bangs on the cabin door.

CUT TO:

INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN CARPATHIA, NIGHT

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
What the hell?!

HAROLD
The TITANIC'S struck ice Sir, she's
in distress – I've got the position
here!

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Well, give it to me.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON reads the note as he pulls on a dressing
gown.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON strides to a (PHONE) connecting to the
BRIDGE.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
TURN AROUND!

CAPTAIN ROSTRON turns to HAROLD.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Are you absolutely sure this is a
distress from TITANIC?

HAROLD
Yes Sir. We've received this from
TITANIC requiring immediate
assistance. Position of Latitude 41°
44 minutes North, Longitude 50° 24
minutes West - I'm absolutely
certain.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON hurriedly dresses and calls the BRIDGE.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
(MORE)

12.

Set course for Latitude 41° 46
minutes North, Longitude 50° 14
minutes West. Send the CHIEF
ENGINEER to me immediately.

He turns to HAROLD

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Tell her we're on our way. We will
take about four hours.

FOCUS ON CAPTAIN ROSTRON'S FACE AS HE CONTINUES TO DRESS.

His face works with thought, his eyes are intelligent and
mobile.

The CHIEF ENGINEER enters the cabin.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Call another watch of STOKERS, make
all possible speed to TITANIC – she's
in trouble.

CUT TO:

INT. CREW DECK CARPATHIA, NIGHT

CAPTAIN ROSTRON hurries to a group of men, roused from their
cabins, rubbing sleep from their eyes.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
We are making all speed to the aid of
TITANIC, she's struck a berg.
Prepare all public rooms for
survivors – lay out bedding,
blankets. Have doctors ready to

treat those wounded in 1st, 2nd and 3
class dining rooms. Have the
kitchens prepare hot soup and drinks.
Prepare quantities of oil to pour
into the lavatories either side of
the ship. Get the names, where you
can, of survivors.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON turns to the CHIEF ENGINEER.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON(Continued)
Turn off the heating and hot water.
The engines will need the power.
Post extra lookouts. Ice will be all
around. Maintain, quiet – as far as
is possible, maintain absolute
silence.

The men quickly and quietly disperse.

FOLLOW CAPTAIN ROSTRON AS HE ENTERS A SMALL CABIN.

He kneels in prayer.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

(CG) View of distress signals from TITANIC for attention of
The SS CALIFORNIAN – the porthole lights are visible – then
the stern light.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE CALIFORNIAN, NIGHT

On SS Californian; 2 men are on watch, they are viewing the
signals from TITANIC using binoculars.

HERBERT STONE
I'd say she's about 5 miles off; a
tramp, could be a liner.....

HERBERT STONE (Second Officer) passes the binoculars to
JAMES GIBSON (Apprentice)

JAMES GIBSON
Skipper is asleep? She looks rather
to have a big side out of the water.

HERBERT STONE looks at JAMES GIBSON with a measured gaze.

HERBERT STONE
Umm. A ship is not going to fire
rockets at sea for nothing. She
looks very queer out of the water —
her lights look queer.

I'll try the Morse lamp.

JAMES GIBSON
Everything is not all right with her.

CUT TO:

INT. CHART ROOM, CALIFORNIAN, NIGHT

CAPTAIN LORD sleeps, fully clothed on the sofa.

PAN ACROSS VARIOUS MUNDANE ITEMS IN THE ROOM.

Absolute silence.

FADE IN:

INT. BRIDGE CALIFORNIAN, NIGHT

HERBERT STONE lifts the speaking tube and 'whistles up' the
CHART ROOM.

HERBERT STONE

We can see rockets Sir, from TITANIC.

LORD'S reply is inaudible.

HERBERT STONE (Continued)
Yes Sir.

15.

STONE hangs up the TUBE and turns to JAMES GIBSON

HERBERT STONE
We're to continue signaling and
notify the CAPTAIN if she moves.

CUT TO:

INT. CHART ROOM, CALIFORNIAN, NIGHT

CAPTAIN LORD is sleeping on the sofa. There is a knock at
the door and JAMES GIBSON enters.

JAMES GIBSON
TITANIC is moving Sir. She fired
eight white rockets.

CAPTAIN LORD
What time is it?

JAMES GIBSON
2am Sir.

CAPTAIN LORD
You're sure of these rockets? They
are white?

JAMES GIBSON
Yes sir.

CAPTAIN LORD
Umm. You can go.

JAMES GIBSON leaves the CHART ROOM quietly closing the door
behind him.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

LONG SHOT - CARPATHIA REACHES THE EDGE OF THE ICE FIELD.

16.

ZOOM IN

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

Moving through the ice CARPATHIA avoids icebergs, ice grinding along the hull can be heard. The CARPATHIA makes a sudden turn.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE CARPATHIA, NIGHT

CAPTAIN ROSTRON and an OFFICER on watch view the iceberg-strewn horizon. The grinding sound of ice against the hull and the occasional thud of a larger berg can be heard.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Speed?

OFFICER #1
Seventeen and a half knots Sir.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON nods and returns his gaze to the dark horizon.

Night flares can be seen coming from CARPATHIA to the sides of the Bridge.

FADE OUT

17.

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

(CG) LONG SHOT PANNING OVER 25 ICEBERGS OVER 200 FEET IN HEIGHT AND DOZENS SMALLER.

Empty life jackets and nameless wreckage float lazily on the calm waters.

ZOOM SLOWLY TO LIFEBOAT.

EDITH RUSSELL is wearing a sheath dress wool cap, white fox, brown fox, thin fur coat, velvet slippers with diamond buckles, clutching a 'pig' mascot music box, the snout of the pig is damaged and 3 legs are missing.

There are some children in this lifeboat, they are listless, silent save one quietly sobbing.

PAN TO: COLLAPSIBLE WITH 3 DEAD MEN.

PAN ACROSS CUTTER BOAT 1 WITH 12 SURVIVORS - 3 WOMEN, 3 MEN AND 6 CREW, 1 MAN AND 1 WOMAN ARE WELL DRESSED, FIRST CLASS PASSENGERS.

PAN ACROSS: LIFEBOAT WITH A STEWARDESS 1 CRADLING A BABY, SEVERAL OTHER WOMEN. ALL LISTLESS AND SILENT.

FADE OUT

EXT. OCEAN, NIGHT

(CG) Green flares seen against the night sky.

FADE OUT

EXT. OCEAN, DAWN

(CG) LONG SHOT OF CARPATHIA THE FIRST LIFEBOATS ARE SEEN AS SHE APPROACHES THE SITE. THE SEA HAS A SLIGHT-MODERATE SWELL.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, DAWN

Next to the hull of CARPATHIA, OFFICER BOXALL of TITANIC is the first lifeboat to be collected (3.55am). Ladders are over the side of the CARPATHIA from gang doors. BOXALL assists survivors onto the ladders.

A CARPATHIA CREW MEMBER leans out of a gangway door, he shouts down to OFFICER BOXALL.

CARPATHIA CREW #1
Captain ROSTRON asks that you go to him as soon as possible.

BOXALL
When the boat is empty – I have only one sailor in the boat.

CUT TO:

INT. COVERED DECK, CARPATHIA, DAY

Next to a gangway, more survivors are taken onboard; the passengers and CREW of CARPATHIA help them. CARPATHIA passengers are distinguished from TITANIC survivors through having dry clothing, fewer layers.

A STEWARDESS 1 is taken on board – she has a baby in her arms,

a CREW MEMBER administers neat brandy in a small glass and hands her to another (CREW) who sits her on a bench and wraps her in a blanket. A woman pushes through the crowd – she approaches the STEWARDESS 1 rapidly and snatches the baby

from her arms, she does not speak – her expression shows no gratitude, just takes the baby in a business-like fashion.

The STEWARDESS 1 is too tired, shocked and cold to question the event.

Two boys aged 3 and 4 years are being tended to by a CARPATHIA passenger; they look dazed but are quiet. The youngest rocks himself, this is hardly visible.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRST CLASS CABIN, CARPATHIA, DAY

A knock is heard at the door, CHARLES MARSHALL pulls on a dressing gown and answers it to a CARPATHIA STEWARD.

STEWARD 1
Sir, your niece wishes to speak to you.

CHARLES MARSHALL
I do not understand – I have three
nieces, all are on the TITANIC.

(MORE)

STEWARD 1
Yes sir, but there has been bad news – the TITANIC sank, your nieces are among the survivors and they are coming aboard with us to take them to safety.

CHARLES looks in disbelief he nods.

STEWARD 1
Is there anything else sir?

CHARLES MARSHALL
No, thank you.

CHARLES MARSHALL closes the cabin door.

CUT TO:

INT. COVERED DECK, CARPATHIA, DAY

PAN ACROSS: SURVIVORS SIT PASSIVELY IN THE AREA NEAR THE GANGWAY.

Benches are arranged, blankets and drinks are handed around by CARPATHIA CREW and PASSENGERS.

2 (separate) survivors have small dogs on leads. A young woman survivor uses a broken hand mirror to check her appearance – she appears numb, she is not judging her appearance, she merely regards herself as though looking at another person. Another survivor (MALE) clutches at a bag, the whites of his knuckles can be seen clearly as he is

clutching so tightly.

A WOMAN survivor sits with A 6 YEAR OLD CHILD; she holds the child close.

There is a gentle hum of conversation – snatches can be heard:

SURVIVOR 1
All will be well....

SURVIVOR 2
What Class was she....?

SURVIVOR 3
He was in the same boat as you or another....?

Gentle sobs can be heard from time to time.

PAN ACROSS: THREE WOMEN (MRS CHARLOTTE APPLETON, MRS HELEN CORNELL, MRS CAROLINE BROWN) SIT WITH CHARLES AND JOSEPHINE MARSHALL, THEY TALK QUIETLY.

CHARLES and JOSEPHINE listen intently.

CHARLOTTE APPLETON

We took to the lifeboats, myself and Helen. We were separated from Caroline and Miss Evans. We rowed constantly, after dawn we saw the CARPATHIA approach.

CAROLINE BROWN

All was confusion and fear. The feelings rose – people all around us became unrecognisable, wild eyed. We stood at the boats, myself and Miss Evans (voice cracks) – there were but two boats remaining – Edith told me ‘You take this place, you have children waiting for you, you take the place.’ That was the last I saw

of her.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE CARPATHIA, DAWN

CAPTAIN ROSTRON is standing, expectantly waiting.

BOXALL enters the BRIDGE.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
The TITANIC went down?

BOXALL
Yes. (voice cracking) She went down
at about 2.30 – about an hour and a
half ago.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Alas that we had not been nearer.

CUT TO:

INT. FIRST CLASS DINING ROOM, CARPATHIA, DAY

PAN ACROSS THE ROOM, SURVIVORS AND PASSENGERS OF CARPATHIA
ARE GATHERED FOR A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE. BACKGROUND MUSIC
IS HEARD, SINGERS MOVE THEIR LIPS BUT THE SINGING IS NOT
HEARD.

FADE IN:

EXT. CARPATHIA, DECKS DAY

4 bodies are covered with Union Jack flags; CREW members
attend. The bodies are buried at sea one by one. The

first three slip almost silently into the ocean. The final body makes contact with the water almost horizontally and makes an unpleasant sound.

23.

FADE OUT

EXT. SOUTHAMPTON CITY, DAY

PAN ACROSS THE NORTHAM AREA OF THE CITY; SEVERAL ROWS OF TERRACED HOUSES HAVE THE BLINDS DRAWN.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK GATE, SOUTHAMPTON, DAY

A crowd have gathered (mainly women) they are reading survivors' lists.

Some react with relief when finding the names of loved-ones listed; many scour the lists and walk silently away finding no information.

CUT TO:

EXT. TERRACED HOUSES, SOUTHAMPTON, DAY

AN (INSURANCE) MAN TURNS THE CORNER AND WALKS TOWARDS CAMERA, HE APPROACHES A FRONT DOOR KNOCKS AND WAITS FOR AN ANSWER.

VIOLET LEWIS answers her front door to the knock.

VIOLET
Morning.

MAN
Morning.

MAN
An awful thing has happened.

VIOLET
What's that?

24.

MAN
The TITANIC has gone down with all
hands.

VIOLET holds herself against the door frame.

VIOLET
Don't tell me that – my hubby's
aboard

MAN
If I had known that I wouldn't have
told you for all the world.

VIOLET grabs a shawl from her hallway, slams her front door
and hurries along to the next street; she hammers on the
door.

A man answers the door.

VIOLET
Go quick – go to the docks and find
out what's happened to TITANIC. I've
been told she's gone down – (SOBS)
all are lost!!

MAN
Of course I'll go Vi.

The MAN immediately leaves his house and runs towards the
DOCKS.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE CARPATHIA, DAY

CAPTAIN ROSTRON is in discussion with BRUCE ISMAY.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
For disembarkation, the Azores is an
option.. Halifax is closest but the
route is ice-laden.

ISMAY
Umm.

HAROLD COTTAM enters the Bridge. He addresses CAPTAIN
ROSTRON.

HAROLD COTTAM
Sir, hundreds of messages are coming
through, many addressed to you, they
want news Sir....

CAPTAIN ROSTRON (irritated)
Who wants this news?!

HAROLD COTTAM
Relatives – and the papers Sir.
They're offering money... (his voice
trails off)

CAPTAIN ROSTRON stiffens.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON (softer)
Tell them – refer the messages to
White Star, provide details of the
OLYMPIC.

HAROLD COTTAM nods.

COTTAM
Yes Sir.

He leaves the Bridge.

BRUCE ISMAY turns to CAPTAIN ROSTRON

26.

ISMAY
New York, we might head for New
York....?

FADE OUT

EXT. OCEAN, DUSK

(CG) scout cruiser the USS CHESTER escorting CARPATHIA.

CAPTION 18th April 1912

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK, NEW YORK, DUSK

PAN ACROSS THE DOCKSIDE AND GATES. A LARGE CROWD (30,000)
ARE WAITING IN SILENCE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF CARPATHIA.

As the ship nears the dock some waiting call out names.

The atmosphere is solemn and names are called one by one,
almost as a roll call rather than a clamour.

(CG) THE CARPATHIA EDGES INTO VIEW.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK, NEW YORK, DUSK

Preparations are made for disembarkation, there is some shouting of orders but the crowd wait almost silently.

PAN ACROSS: 15 TITANIC LIFEBOATS ARE STOWED ON THE DECKS OF THE CARPATHIA.

As the survivors disembark they proceed through the dock gates, some are assisted by crew and CARPATHIA passengers.

On the dockside tables are set with clothing, survivors are beckoned to choose items to take, they put on overcoats, hats. Most look bulky and overloaded with the extra layers, they nod or smile faintly in thanks. Some are met by relatives – hugging and sobbing, holding each other whilst others shoulder their way past.

Sisters Mrs APPLETON, MRS CORNELL and MRS BROWN are met by their husbands. Their uncle CHARLES H MARSHALL and JOSEPHINE MARSHALL walk with them. They pass out of view and are lost in the crowd.

Others (survivors and passengers) walk alone and disappear into the crowd – they dodge members of the PRESS who break the silence and the clamour for pictures and statements rises.

Passengers and survivors start to react and hurry away, most avoiding the PRESS. Some give statements willingly, others

are cornered and give brief and curt statements which can't be heard.

28.

A SURVIVOR with his small DOG walks resolutely through the gates, he elbows through the PRESS. He lifts the dog and disappears into the crowd.

Gradually the dock empties.

The CREW unload the last of the cargo.

FOCUS ON THE FACE OF CAPTAIN ROSTRON. HE IS TIRED AND DRAWN.

FADE OUT

EXT. DECK AREA, CARPATHIA, DAY

CAPTAIN ROSTRON is shaking hands with MOLLY BROWN, she presents him with a medal and silver CUP with 2 handles.

Cameras flash, the PRESS try to crowd them but are held back by OFFICIALS.

2 CREW MEMBERS step up to receive medals from another official. Cameras flash, people smile and shake hands.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL HOUSE, FRONT-PARLOUR, DAY

SOUTHAMPTON. A woman dressed in black sits in an armchair,

she has a cup of tea next to her. There is silence apart
from the ticking of the mantle clock.

FADE OUT

CAPTION: 19th April 1912

EXT. DOCKS BOSTON DAY

(CG) SS CALIFORNIAN SLOWLY DOCKS IN BOSTON.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCKSIDE DAY, BOSTON

The crew of the CALIFORNIAN follow procedure to dock and start to unload cargo (lumber).

The area is quiet apart from the occasional shouted instruction or question.

CAPTAIN LORD disembarks, he nods in recognition of 2 CREW members, he leaves purposefully walking through the dock gates, he draws little attention.

CUT TO:

INT. BOSTON COFFEE SHOP, DAY

CAPTAIN LORD is sitting alone at a table, he has a cup, saucer and teapot in front of him. A REPORTER approaches.

REPORTER
CAPTAIN LORD?

LORD

Yes – who are you?

REPORTER

I'm from the BOSTON TRAVELLER – you
agreed to meet us, that's right isn't
it...?

LORD gestures the REPORTER to the empty seat at his table and nods in greeting.

The REPORTER sits and eagerly takes up a pen and notepad.

He smiles ingratiatingly at LORD.

REPORTER
Well CAPTAIN, I am most grateful to you for agreeing to speak to us on what most be a very trying occasion.....?

LORD nods, unsmiling.

REPORTER (Continued)
So, where can we start.....? Let's see.... Tell me where you were, distance wise, from TITANIC, when she sank?

CAPTAIN LORD
We were 30 miles from her as she went down.

REPORTER
I see..... And what were you doing? Your ship I mean?

CAPTAIN LORD
We'd stopped in the ice. We were therefore doing nothing.

The REPORTER makes hurried notes – he nods and raises his eyebrows.

REPORTER

So you didn't see any signals, any rockets or anything from TITANIC.....?

LORD

No, that would not have been possible at that distance.

REPORTER
But, you went to assist when you had
news of the disaster?

LORD
Yes, we scoured the area for three
hours.

REPORTER
And what did you find?

LORD
Wreckage..... not many bodies.

REPORTER
And what did you do with these...
finds?

LORD
Nothing, there was nothing we could
do.

REPORTER
Anything else you want our readers to
know?

CAPTAIN LORD
No. That's all, that's it.

The two sit quietly, supping tea. 3 beats

The REPORTER gets up, nods and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

US SENATE INQUIRY 19TH APRIL 1912 A CLOCK SHOWS 10.30AM

Crew members (TITANIC and CARPATHIA) file into the paneled room there is a long table in the middle, the room is crowded. Officials talk to each other, the conversations are inaudible, there's just the murmur. Officials receive papers from CLERKS. There is a strong PRESS presence. People take their seats.

SENATOR WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH is the CHAIRMAN of the Inquiry; he sits at the table, sips a glass of water.

FADE OUT

EXT NEW YORK STREET DAY

A WOMAN walks carrying a small child, her clothes are mismatched; she is approached by a FAMILY – MOTHER, FATHER, 2 CHILDREN of about 8 and 9 years old. Their clothes are smart. The FATHER waves a pen and paper at the woman and smiles encouragingly; the WOMAN puts her child down, still holding his hand, and signs the paper with her free hand, she gives a weak smile and hands the pen and paper back to the FATHER. The FAMILY walk away, the CHILDREN glance back at the WOMAN.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

INQUIRY - Seated at the table are a group of men including
CAPTAIN ROSTRON.

Senator SMITH
You are CAPTAIN ROSTRON of Crosby,
Liverpool?

Captain ROSTRON
Yes Sir.

Senator SMITH
How long have you been at sea?

Captain ROSTRON
Twenty seven years, through every
rank in the merchant service up to
Captain.

Senator SMITH
You are now the Captain of the
CARPATHIA? For how long?

Captain ROSTRON
Yes, with the Cunard line – I was
appointed on 18th January of this
year.

Senator SMITH

Please explain events and information
relating to when your ship received
the message from TITANIC.

Captain ROSTRON
From up to Sunday midnight we had
fine, clear weather, and everything
was going on without any trouble of
any kind. At 12:35am on Monday I was
informed by our wireless operator and
first officer of the urgent distress
signal from the TITANIC.

Senator SMITH

How did you respond?

Captain ROSTRON

I asked the operator to absolutely confirm this message – I asked him twice, he told me he was certain of it so I gave the immediate order to turn my ship around.

Senator SMITH

And you were given the location of the TITANIC?

Captain ROSTRON

Yes Sir, the position of the TITANIC at the times was 41° 46" north, 50° 14" west. In the meantime I was dressing, and I picked up our position on my chart, and set a course to pick up the Titanic. The course was north 52 degrees west true 58 miles from my position. After that I gave the first officer, who was in charge of the Bridge, orders to knock off all work which the men were doing on deck, the watch on deck, and prepare all our lifeboats, take out the spare gear, and have them all ready for turning outboard.

Other orders I gave were for all the hands to be called; get coffee, etc. All gangway doors to be opened. A block with line hooked in each gangway. A chair sling at each gangway, for getting up sick or wounded. Boatswains' chairs. Pilot ladders and canvas ash bags to be at each gangway, the canvas ash bags for children.

I ordered company's rockets to be fired at 2:45 a.m and every quarter of an hour after to reassure TITANIC.

The assembled Inquiry members make notes and one or two exchange glances.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON (Continued)

At 2:40, I saw a flare, on the port bow, and immediately took it for granted that it was the TITANIC itself, and I said that she must be still afloat, as I knew we were a long way off, and it seemed so high. Soon after seeing the flare I made out an iceberg on the port bow, to which I had to go to port to keep well clear of. Knowing that the TITANIC had struck ice, I had to take extra care to keep clear of anything that might look like ice.

Between 2:45 and 4 o'clock, the time I stopped my engines, we were passing icebergs on every side and making them ahead and having to alter our course several times to clear the bergs.

At 4 o'clock I stopped. At 4:10 I got the first boat alongside. Before getting the first boat alongside, I saw an iceberg close to me, right ahead, and I had to starboard to get out of the way. I had to clear this ice. I am on the scene of action now. This is 4:10 with the first boat alongside.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP, BOSTON, DAY

CAPTAIN LORD shares a table with another REPORTER. They are part way through a conversation, the REPORTER makes notes.

CAPTAIN LORD

As I said, we were 20 Miles from
TITANIC. We could see no flares or
lights, my crew didn't report any
such problem.

REPORTER 2
CAPTAIN, what is 'the Scrap Log'?

CAPTAIN LORD Frowns.

CAPTAIN LORD
Why would you ask?

REPORTER 2
I understand this is a log detailing
events on-board any ship...?

CAPTAIN LORD
Then you have answered your own
question...

The REPORTER shifts in his seat. He plays for time by turning a page of his note book, he looks at it intently and then turns it back.

REPORTER 2
Yes, so it would seem, but I would
like to know why, particularly, it is
called the SCRAP log?

CAPTAIN LORD
Because it is destroyed at the end of
each day – this is standard
procedure.

REPORTER 2
That seems rather strange to me.

CAPTAIN LORD
There are many strange things in the
maritime world, Sir.

CAPTAIN LORD gets up to leave.

FADE OUT

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH continues his questioning of CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Senator SMITH
And so, at 4.10am you are picking up
people now?
(MORE)

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Yes.

Senator SMITH

Please describe that in your own way.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

We picked up the first boat, and the boat was in charge of an officer. I saw that he was not under full control of this boat, and the officer sung out to me that he only had one seaman in the boat, so I had to move the CARPATHIA to get as close to the boat as possible, they got alongside, and they got them up all right.

By the time we had the first boat's people on-board it was breaking day, and then I could see the remaining boats all around within an area of about 4 miles. I also saw icebergs all around me. There were about 20 icebergs that would be anywhere from about 150 to 200 feet high and numerous smaller bergs; also numerous - what we call "growlers." You would not call them bergs. They were anywhere from 10 to 12 feet high and 10 to 15 feet long above the water.

I moved the ship and we gradually got all the boats together. We got all the boats alongside and all the people up aboard by 8:30am.

I was then very close to where the TITANIC must have gone down, as there was a lot of - hardly wreckage but small pieces of broken-up bits, nothing large.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON (Continued)
At 8 o'clock the Leyland Line steamer
CALIFORNIAN hove up, and we
exchanged messages. I gave them the
notes by semaphore about the TITANIC
going down, and that I had got all
the passengers from the boats; but we
were then not quite sure whether we
could account for all the boats. I
told them: 'We think one boat is
still unaccounted for.' He then
asked me if he should search around,
and I said, 'Yes, please' - It was
then 10:50am I want to go back - a
little bit. At 8:30 all the people
were on-board. I asked for the
purser, and told him that I wanted to
hold a service, a short prayer of
thankfulness for those rescued and a
short burial service for those who
were lost. I consulted with MR ISMAY.
I ran down for a moment and told them
that I wished to do this, and MR
ISMAY left everything in my hands.
I then got an Episcopal clergyman,
one of our passengers, and asked him
if he would do this for me, which he
did, willingly. While they were
holding the service, I was on the
Bridge, of course, and I moved around
the scene of the wreckage. We saw
nothing except one body.

Senator SMITH
This body was floating?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Yes Sir, floating with a life
preserver on. That was the only body
I saw.

Senator SMITH

Was it male or female?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Male. It appeared to be one of the crew. He was only about 100 yards from the ship. We could see him quite distinctly, and saw that he was absolutely dead. He was lying on his side and his head was awash. Of course he could not possibly have been alive and remain in that position. I did not take him aboard. For one reason, the TITANIC'S passengers then were knocking about the deck and I did not want to cause any unnecessary excitement or any more hysteria among them, so I steamed past, trying to get them not to see it. From the lifeboats we took three dead men, who had died of exposure.

Senator SMITH

From which boats were they taken – do you know?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

No sir, I'm only giving general news now. We took 4 dead men from the boats and they were taken aboard. Another man was brought up – I think he was crew – he had died at about 10 that morning. He and the other 3 were buried at sea at 4 that afternoon.

Senator SMITH

Was there a way in which they could be identified?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Two officers one of my own and one of the TITANIC'S officers identified the bodies, as far as possible, they took everything which could have been of the slightest clue or use. Nothing was left but their clothes. There was

very little taken, of course. But, as regards details, I can not give you much. I have been too busy.

Senator SMITH
Do you have the names of these men?

(MORE)

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Yes, we have the names, but I do not have them with me.

Senator SMITH

Captain, how many lifeboats were there?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

There were 15 alongside. There were several ladies in the boats. They were slightly injured about the arms and things of that kind, of course; although I must say, from the very start, all these people behaved magnificently. As each boat came alongside everyone was calm, and they kept perfectly still in their boats. They were quiet and orderly, and each person came up the ladder, or was pulled up, in turn as they were told. There was no confusion whatever among the passengers. They behaved magnificently - every one of them.

There were 15 lifeboats alongside. We accounted for those with passengers in them. There was one lifeboat that we saw that was close to the ship, but it had been abandoned because it had got damaged, and was in a sinking condition. The officer had taken all the people out of that lifeboat, and left it absolutely vacant. There was no one in it. It was empty.

CUT TO:

INT. BOSTON COFFEE SHOP, DAY

CAPTAIN LORD sits with REPORTER 3; they have almost empty

coffee cups in front of each of them.

REPORTER 3
The GLOBE is very grateful to you for
talking to us today CAPTAIN LORD.

CAPTAIN LORD nods.

REPORTER 3 (Continued)
I understand you've been most obliging to other members of the PRESS, it is fascinating to hear your account of events surrounding this terrible tragedy.

The REPORTER looks expectantly at CAPTAIN LORD, CAPTAIN LORD returns his look steadily, almost unblinkingly.

REPORTER 3 (Continued)
So, perhaps you would remind me how far from TITANIC you said you were when she went down....?

CAPTAIN LORD
That is a 'State Secret' Sir, I cannot tell you.

REPORTER 3
My understanding was that you were as little as five miles away....?

CAPTAIN LORD reddens. He shifts in his chair and then rises.

CAPTAIN LORD
Your sources are mistaken. Goodbye.

CAPTAIN LORD leaves abruptly.

The REPORTER makes some final notes and gives a faint, wry smile.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH continues to question CAPTAIN ROSTRON.

Senator SMITH
Was there any special suffering of
the TITANIC'S passengers after they
got aboard the CARPATHIA?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

I never heard of anything special. I have not yet received the medical reports.

All I know is that the doctor came to me, on Tuesday morning and said that he was pleased to report that there was a clean bill of health.

Senator SMITH

No damage done by one to another – as far as you know? Any trouble or difficulty?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

No – none whatever, no trouble of any kind.

Senator SMITH

How many lifeboats do you carry on the CARPATHIA?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

We carry 20.

Senator SMITH

What is their capacity?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

I cannot say at this time - I really forget.

Senator SMITH

Do you carry the regulation 20 in obedience to the British Board of Trade?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

I think it is 20; yes.

There is murmuring in reaction within the wider meeting.

Senator SMITH
What did you say was the tonnage of
your ship?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Thirteen thousand, six hundred tons.

Senator SMITH
What was the tonnage of the TITANIC?

MR UHLER
It was 45,629 tons.

Senator SMITH
Are these regulations of the British Board of Trade new regulations or old regulations?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
They are recent.

Senator SMITH
Because, under these regulations, you are obliged to carry 20 lifeboats and the TITANIC was also only obliged to carry 20, despite her additional tonnage, means to me either that these regulations were prescribed long ago –

CAPTAIN ROSTRON (interjecting)
No, sir; it has nothing to do with tonnage - it has to do with the ship itself. The ships are built nowadays to be practically unsinkable, and each ship is supposed to be a lifeboat in itself. Unsinkable under certain conditions. That is why in our ship we carry more lifeboats, for the simple reason that we are built differently from the TITANIC; differently constructed.

Senator SMITH
In estimate – how many passengers are provided for on the CARPATHIA?
Approximately, I do not ask you to be accurate about it.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Two thousand two hundred; and about
250 first and second combined.

Senator SMITH

That makes 2,450. And the number of
crew? Including officers.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

That, of course, varies. We have about 300 aboard now, with six officers.

Senator SMITH

You say the captain of a ship has, ordinarily, absolute control and discretion over the movements of his vessel?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Absolutely. However - by law, the captain of the vessel has absolute control, but in the event we get orders from the owners of the vessel to do a certain thing and we do not carry it out - then we are liable to dismissal. When I turned back to New York, I sent my message to the CUNARD COMPANY telling them that I was proceeding to New York unless otherwise ordered. You see what I mean there? I said, 'For many reasons, consider New York most advisable.'

Senator SMITH

And you immediately reversed your course?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

I came right around for New York immediately, and returned to New York. The principal reason was that we had all these women aboard, and I knew they were hysterical and in a bad state. I knew very well, also, that you would want all the news possible. I knew very well, further, that if I went to Halifax, we could get them there all right, but I did not know how many of these people were half dead, how many were

injured, or how many were really sick, or anything like that. I knew, also, that if we went to Halifax, we would have the possibility of coming across more ice, after their experience – no one would want to see that.

(MORE)

I knew very well that if we went to Halifax it would be a case of railway journey for these passengers - they would have to go to New York, and there would be all the miseries of that.

Furthermore, I did not know what the weather might be, or what accommodation I could give them in Halifax, and that was a great consideration - one of the greatest considerations that made me turn back.

Senator SMITH
You say, Captain, that you ran under a full head of steam?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Yes, towards the TITANIC.

Senator SMITH
Would you have done so in the night-time?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Yes, it was in the night-time, I can say that had I known at the time that there was so much ice about I would not have... But I was right in it then - I could see the ice. There is one other consideration – although I was running a risk with CARPATHIA and my own passengers, I had to consider what I was going for.....

Senator SMITH
To save the lives of others? You were prompted by your interest in humanity?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Absolutely.

Senator SMITH
And you took the chance?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

It was hardly a chance. Of course it was a chance, but at the same time I knew quite what I was doing. I considered that I was perfectly free, and perfectly right in what I did.

Senator SMITH

I suppose no criticism has been passed upon you for it?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

No.

Senator SMITH

In fact, I think I may say, for my associates, that your conduct deserves the highest praise.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

I thank you, sir.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM, DAY

HAROLD BRIDE, Wireless Operator from TITANIC is speaking with a REPORTER. HAROLD is of slight build. He is in bed, propped up on pillows.

REPORTER 4

Tell me what happened when you arrived back in New York?

HAROLD

Well, I can go back further than that you see – if you want me to?

The REPORTER nods and indicates he wants HAROLD to elaborate.

HAROLD (Continued)

I was injured you know, in the wreck,
my back, my ankles were injured. I
was the WIRELESS OPERATOR on TITANIC.

(MORE)

Anyway, that was partly because I was helping someone keep their life-jacket from being taken from them – that delayed me getting to my boat you see? I know that others were lost, men who worked alongside me that night.

I had been working in the Wireless Room with JACK PHILLIPS, he'd just had his 25th birthday.... We'd had problems with the equipment, on 14th April, I went to bed early because I needed to relieve Jack at midnight, but I woke up at about 11.45pm because I heard a noise, and asked Jack 'What's going on?' He told me 'We've hit something.' I said 'Oh...' something like that – quite matter-of-fact you know? Anyways, I got ready to go on duty and then the CAPTAIN comes to us and says to be ready to start sending a distress signal.

The REPORTER makes hurried notes.

HAROLD (Continued)
He – the CAPTAIN gave our position. I said to Jack 'You could send the new SOS – it may be the last chance you have to send it!' I was joking really – I didn't know what a dire position we were in.... Everyone said 'TITANIC – the ship that can't sink.'

REPORTER 4

Did you believe that then? That she couldn't sink?

HAROLD
Yes sir, everyone did I think. Although there was talk of some passengers who would not go proper to

bed – what I mean is they stayed all dressed and ready, so to speak.

The REPORTER looks back at his notes.

(MORE)

REPORTER 4

You were sending the messages – CQD?
What happened then?

HAROLD

Well, Jack came in, pretty shaken I can tell you. He said ‘We’re to put more clothes on – and our life vests.’ I did that.

Anyways, shortly afterwards, the power was nearly out, so the CAPTAIN comes to us and says ‘You men have done all you can – you must go.’ So Jack kept on working for a time, as he turned his back I saw a crew member – can’t remember his name – sneak in and take Jack’s life-jacket! I was mad - I tell you, so I grabbed him and Jack jumped up – punched him straight in the face, he did, and the man went down. By then water was coming into our room. So we ran out – I started freeing one of the last two lifeboats and it washed off the deck – it was upside down and I was washed off underneath it. I swam out from under it and climbed on, me and fifteen others. It was sinking too – being waterlogged see.

The REPORTER looks up from his note taking.

REPORTER 4

You are a very lucky man then, Mr BRIDE? What happened on CARPATHIA?

HAROLD

Well, we were taken from the sinking collapsible into a proper lifeboat – then, in the early morning we went onboard CARPATHIA. I was injured as I say, so I rested and helped

HAROLD – that's HAROLD COTTAM of CARPATHIA send out many personal messages from survivors. I knew HAROLD already – we are good friends.

REPORTER 4

And what for you now, HAROLD?

HAROLD

Well, now sir, I will report to the Inquiry, they will come to me – and I will recover.

REPORTER 4

How old are you?

HAROLD

I'm 22 years old now sir.

REPORTER 4

What else happened on CARPATHIA?

HAROLD

Well, we all got by in our own way if you get my meaning? Some cried a lot – not just the women. Some were of course in terrible shock and made no noise at all. That was somehow almost worse. Anyways, I had a visit from MARCONI himself – the company owner you know? He came to me and asked me all about it. So I told him.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH continues his questioning of CAPTAIN ROSTRON.

Senator SMITH

And we are very grateful to you, Captain, for coming here. Did I ask you about the number of passengers that died aboard ship on your way to New York?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

No, sir. So far as I am aware, none died on the ship. We took three bodies from the boats, already dead, and the man who died on board from exposure, who was taken from the lifeboat, was a seaman. I am almost sure that he was a seaman.

(MORE)

Senator SMITH
In the first lifeboat you say there
was only one man?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
No; only one seaman. I think there
were two more men. To tell the truth,
I am not quite sure how many men
there were.

Senator SMITH
These lifeboats, of course, were
being propelled by oars?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Yes sir.

Senator SMITH
Were there any women using these
oars?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Yes sir - I saw women, I think, in at
least two boats rowing - in one I saw
two. It is very hard to give the
exact number, because one or two of
the boats were rather crowded,
especially one boat that had got
damaged and was foundering. That boat
was very crowded. I could not say how
many women were pulling. I saw
certainly two or three women pulling
at the oars. I know, as a matter of
fact, in one boat there were two or
three women pulling.

Senator SMITH
In which boat was Mr ISMAY?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
I have not the faintest idea. The
first I knew that MR ISMAY was aboard
was when we got the last boat
alongside, and we were getting the

last passengers aboard.

Senator SMITH

You do not remember the number of
seamen in that boat?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
I have not the faintest idea.

Senator SMITH
Do you remember the number of men in
the other boats?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
I can give no details. Remember one
thing, unless the sailors were
dressed in some distinctive uniform,
I could not tell the seamen, firemen,
stewards, or passengers.

Senator SMITH
You picked up a message from the
CALIFORNIAN?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
No, we did not pick up a message.
Wait a minute - we knew the
CALIFORNIAN was about, because the
operator had told me he had heard the
CALIFORNIAN reply to signals. At 8
o'clock in the morning he was in
sight. This was at the wreck, and I
left him when I returned to New York
at 8.50, I believe - when I put on
full speed to come back. He was
searching the vicinity of the
wreckage, and I left for New York.
The next day I got a message from the
CALIFORNIAN saying 'Have searched
position carefully up to noon and
found nothing and seen no bodies'.

Senator SMITH
Did your wireless fail you at all?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON
Never. The only thing is that we were
not fitted up with long-distance - it
is only a short-distance outfit, for
what we call ship messages, and close

to land stations.

Senator SMITH
How far can you communicate using
CARPATHIA'S short-range wireless?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Under good conditions, 200 miles. We only reckon, under ordinary conditions, on 150 miles. Fog, mist, haze, snow, or any other unfavourable weather conditions make it so that we may not get more than 90 to 100 miles.

Senator SMITH

It was rather accidental, then, that you happened to be within the radius of your instrument when you got the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

Yes; we were only 58 miles away from them.

Senator SMITH

It was providential?

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

The whole thing was absolutely providential. I will tell you this, the wireless operator was in his cabin, at the time, not on official business at all, but just simply listening as he was undressing. He was unlacing his boots at the time. He had his apparatus on his ear, and the message came. That was the whole thing. In 10 minutes, maybe he would have been in bed, and we would not have heard the messages.

Senator SMITH

It was a very remarkable coincidence.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

It was very remarkable, and, as I say, the whole thing was

providential, as regards our being able to get there.

Senator SMITH
Have you any knowledge at all regarding the force of the impact which wrecked the TITANIC?

(MORE)

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

I know nothing about it, sir. I have not asked any questions about this kind of business. I knew it was not my affair, and I had little desire to make any of the officers feel it any more than they did. Mind you sir, there is only this - I know nothing, but I have heard rumours from different passengers; some will say one thing and some another. I would, therefore, rather say nothing. I do not know anything. From the officers I know nothing. I could give you silly rumours of passengers, but I know they are not reliable, from my own experience; so, if you will excuse me, I would prefer to say nothing.

Senator SMITH

I think that is all, Captain, and I want to thank you for your courtesy in appearing before the Committee and giving us the information at your disposal.. We are very much obliged to you, CAPTAIN ROSTRON.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON

You are quite welcome, sir. If there is anything further I can do, I shall be very glad.

MR J A HUGHES

Mr. Chairman, I want to make a brief statement. A statement has been made in the press with reference to myself, concerning which I wish to say to this:

I received this telegram:

MR HUGHES takes the papers from a leather folder.

'HUNTINGTON, W. VA.
JAMES A. HUGHES;

You are quoted in press reports
declaring, following Mrs. Smith's
story, that ISMAY should be lynched.
(MORE)

Please wire us, 500 words, your view
of TITANIC disaster.
THE ADVERTISER.'

J A HUGHES (Continued)

To that I have sent this in reply:

'HUNTINGTON ADVERTISER, Huntington,
W. Va.,

Press reports untrue. My DAUGHTER
said nothing that would bring any
such statement from me. I may have
said, if investigation showed neglect
of any officer, no punishment was too
severe for him. ISMAY was rather
criticised by some for being among
the men who were rescued. My daughter
had no criticism of him. The press
report will give full information as
to details, ISMAY gave what Senate
Committee considered a fair statement
before the Committee. He is subject
to further call from the Senate
Committee. Captain of the CARPATHIA
before the Senate Committee
testifying now. My daughter states
all possible aid was given them by
the captain on CARPATHIA and officers
of the CARPATHIA.'

Senator SMITH nods ruefully.

Senator SMITH
We will take a recess until 3 o'clock
this afternoon.

A wall clock shows 1.20pm.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON rises and leaves the room. The others file
out.

FADE OUT

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Groups of men talk outside the MEETING ROOM. Senator SMITH moves through the crowded area, into the MEETING ROOM. The men file in after him and take their seats. The Meeting resumes – a wall clock shows 3 o'clock. Men talk quietly and arrange papers. CAPTAIN LORD enters the room, there is a murmur and all eyes are on him, his manner is a little arrogant. He sits at the table.

Senator SMITH
State your full name and where you reside.

CAPTAIN LORD
Stanley LORD, Liverpool, England.

Senator SMITH
What is your business?

CAPTAIN LORD
Master Mariner.

Senator SMITH
How long have you been a mariner?

CAPTAIN LORD
Twenty years.

Senator SMITH
In what ships have you sailed as master?

CAPTAIN LORD
The ANTILLIAN, the LOUISIANIAN, the WILLIAM CLIFF and the CALIFORNIAN.

Senator SMITH

Where were you in your ship on the
14th day of April last at 6am?

CAPTAIN LORD (looking at a book)
We have not got it down here, Sir. I
can give it to you at 9.40 o'clock
and at noon.

(MORE)

Senator SMITH
Give it to me at 9.40, specifically.

CAPTAIN LORD
42 north and 47 west.

Senator SMITH
Are you reading from the log of the
CALIFORNIAN?

CAPTAIN LORD
The ship's log, yes.

Senator SMITH
Where were you when you made the next
log entry?

CAPTAIN LORD
42, 5 and 57, 10.21 on the same date.
14th of April.

Senator SMITH
What other entries have you in the
log, of your position on that date at
6.30?

CAPTAIN LORD
At 6.30pm yes; we had, 42° 5' and 49°
10', as having passed two large
icebergs.

Senator SMITH
What is the next entry?

CAPTAIN LORD
There is no position given there. The
next entry was 7.15 o'clock. 'Passed
one large iceberg, and two more in
sight to the southward.'

Senator SMITH
Where were you at that time?

CAPTAIN LORD

No position entered here, sir.

Senator SMITH
Did you attempt to communicate with
the vessel TITANIC on Sunday?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes Sir.

Senator SMITH
At what time?

CAPTAIN LORD
Ten minutes to eleven.

Senator SMITH
AM?

CAPTAIN LORD
PM

Senator SMITH
That is ship's time?

CAPTAIN LORD
At the ship's time for 47° 25'
longitude, west.

Senator SMITH
What was that communication?

CAPTAIN LORD
We told them we were stopped and
surrounded by ice.

Senator SMITH
Did the TITANIC acknowledge that
message?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes, sir; I believe he told my
operator he had read it, and told him
to shut up, or stand by, or
something; that he was busy.

SENATOR BOURNE
That was the TITANIC'S reply?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH
Once TITANIC said 'Shut up' or words
to that effect - did you have further
communication with the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN LORD
Not at all, sir.
(MORE)

Senator SMITH
Did the TITANIC have further
communication with you?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir.

Senator SMITH
Do you know the TITANIC'S position on
the sea when she sank?

CAPTAIN LORD
I know the position given to me by
the VIRGINIAN as the position where
she struck an iceberg, 41° 56' and
50° 14'.

Senator SMITH
Did the TITANIC operator answer
immediately the message sent by you?

CAPTAIN LORD
I believe he did.

Senator SMITH
This was at 11 o'clock and how many
minutes?

Senator BURTON
10.50, he said.

CAPTAIN LORD
Eleven, approximately.

Senator SMITH
Do you know what time the TITANIC
sent out this C.Q.D. call?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir; I do not.

Senator SMITH
Did the CALIFORNIAN receive that

call?

CAPTAIN LORD
No sir.

Senator SMITH
Either from the TITANIC or any other
ship?

CAPTAIN LORD
We got it from the VIRGINIAN.

Senator SMITH
What time did you receive it?

CAPTAIN LORD
Six o'clock, sir. Am on the 15th....

Senator SMITH
What is the average speed of the
steamship CALIFORNIAN under fair
conditions?

CAPTAIN LORD
It would depend upon the consumption
of coal.

Senator SMITH
What speed do you attempt to make?

CAPTAIN LORD
On our present consumption we average
11 in fine weather.

Senator SMITH
In case of distress, I suppose it
would be possible for you to exceed
that considerably.

CAPTAIN LORD
Oh, we made 13 and 13 1/2 the day we
were going to TITANIC.

Senator SMITH
Were you under full speed then?

CAPTAIN LORD
We were driving all we could.

Senator SMITH
Captain Lord, for the purpose of
making it clear - what did you say
your position was at 10.50 pm Sunday,
April 14?

CAPTAIN LORD
I did not say at all.
(MORE)

Senator SMITH
Will you state?

CAPTAIN LORD
It was the same position I was in
when I stopped at 10.21, and that I
gave you before as 42° 5' and 50° 7'.

Senator SMITH
You had stopped, and your position
did not change?

CAPTAIN LORD
No.

Senator SMITH
For how long were you stopped?

CAPTAIN LORD
We moved the engines first at 5.15 on
the morning of 15th of April, full
ahead.

Senator SMITH
Do you know anything of the TITANIC
disaster - of your own knowledge? Did
you see the ship on Sunday?

CAPTAIN LORD
No Sir.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE HOUSE, BOSTON, DAY

ERNEST GILL sits expectantly at a table, he has a coffee in
front of him, untouched. ERNEST is 29 years old. He watches
the door.

A REPORTER 5 approaches him.

REPORTER 5

ERNEST GILL?

ERNEST
Yes, you are.....?

REPORTER 5
MR BLAKE, of the BOSTON AMERICAN.
(Beat) I understand you have an
interesting account of the night the
TITANIC was lost? You are a crew
member of the CALIFORNIAN?

ERNEST
Yes. Take a seat.

BLAKE takes the seat opposite, he takes a notepad and pen
from his jacket pocket.

ERNEST (Continued)
Perhaps we can first talk about my
fee, my money.

BLAKE
Yes, a fee of \$500 was agreed by my
office.

ERNEST takes a long draught of his coffee, wets his lips.

ERNEST
That's fine. Where shall I start?

BLAKE
Tell me about your CAPTAIN, CAPTAIN
LORD?

ERNEST
He's older than me, just. He's a
hard man, not one you would upset if
you get my meaning... Not one I'd like
to take bad news to.

BLAKE nods encouragement.

ERNEST (Continued)
We knew there was trouble that night,
we'd stopped in ice, Captain's
orders. I was on duty until midnight

in the Engine Room, just before midnight I came up on deck, the stars were shining brightly, it was very clear and I could see for a long distance. We were drifting in the floe ice, the engines were stopped at 10.30pm.

BLAKE makes notes hurriedly.

BLAKE
What did you see? How did you react?

ERNEST
I looked over the rail on the starboard side I saw the lights of a very large steamer. I could see her broadside lights. I watched for at least one minute - they couldn't have missed her from the Bridge. She was about 10 miles off.

BLAKE
What happened then?

ERNEST
By then it was midnight, I went to my cabin and woke my mate, William Thomas. He had heard the ice crunching alongside the ship and asked me if we were in ice – I said 'Yes' but told him that it must be clear off to the starboard because I saw the big vessel going along full speed. I told him she looked as if she might be a big German.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH continues his questioning of CAPTAIN LORD.

Senator SMITH
Was the TITANIC beyond your range of vision?

CAPTAIN LORD
I should think so. 19 1/2 or 20 miles away.

Senator SMITH
How long did it take you to reach the
scene of the accident, from the time
you got under way Monday morning?

(MORE)

CAPTAIN LORD

Here is our log entry 'Six o'clock, proceeded slow, pushing through thick ice, 6.30 clear of the thickest ice – proceeded full speed, pushing the ice. 8.30 stopped close to steamship 'CARPATHIA'.

Senator SMITH
Was the CARPTHIA then at the scene of the wreck?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes sir – she was taking the last of the people out of the lifeboats.

Senator SMITH
Do you know the CARPATHIA'S position when she received the distress call from the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN LORD
No Sir.

Senator SMITH
Would you tell me of your experience of ice at sea?

CAPTAIN LORD
I have not a great deal of experience in ice. This is my first experience amongst an ice field. Previous to this I have seen small bergs, in the North Atlantic, only. I have seen any amount of it around Cape Horn, but that was when I was in a sailing ship.

Senator SMITH
Have you ever heard of the steam whistle being used for the purpose of detecting proximity to ice?

CAPTAIN LORD

By the echo?

Senator SMITH
Yes.

CAPTAIN LORD

I have read of it, but I have never heard of anyone doing it. I have never tried it myself....

Senator SMITH

Have you ever heard of the natural explosions of icebergs, which in themselves, might constitute a warning?

CAPTAIN LORD

Yes; I think I have heard about ice breaking adrift.

Senator SMITH

If you had received the C.Q.D. call of distress from the TITANIC Sunday evening after your communication with the TITANIC how long, under the conditions which surrounded you, would it have taken you to have reached the scene of the catastrophe?

CAPTAIN LORD

At the very least, two hours. The way the ice was packed around us, and it being night-time.

Senator SMITH

Do you know how long it took for the CARPATHIA to reach the scene of the accident from the time the C.Q.D. call was received by Capt. ROSTRON?

CAPTAIN LORD

Only from what I have read in the paper.

Senator SMITH

You have no knowledge of your own on that?

CAPTAIN LORD

No, sir.

Senator SMITH
Capt. ROSTRON told you nothing?

CAPTAIN LORD
Oh, no. I asked him the particulars
of the accident; that was all.

Senator SMITH
It took the CARPATHIA about four hours to reach the scene of the TITANIC accident, after they received word. Do you know from your log, or from any other source, the position of the CARPATHIA when she received the C.Q.D. call?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir.

Senator SMITH
You were about 20 miles away?

CAPTAIN LORD
Nineteen and one-half to twenty miles from the position given me by the TITANIC.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE HOUSE, BOSTON, DAY

The meeting between ERNEST GILL and REPORTER BLAKE continues.

BLAKE
After you'd spoken to (glances at notebook) William, what happened?

ERNEST
I turned in but could not sleep. In half an hour I got up, I decided to smoke a cigarette but because of the cargo I couldn't smoke 'tween decks so I went out on deck again.

BLAKE nods and inclines his head to encourage ERNEST to continue.

ERNEST (Continued)

I had been on deck about 10 minutes when I saw a white rocket about 10 miles away on the starboard side – I thought it must have been a shooting star.

(MORE)

About 8 minutes after that I distinctly saw a second rocket in the same place. I said to myself 'That must be a vessel in distress.'

BLAKE
What did you do then?

ERNEST
It was not my business to notify the Bridge or the lookouts, but they could not have helped but to see those rockets. So... I turned in immediately – I supposed the ship would pay attention to the rockets.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH continues to question CAPTAIN LORD.

Senator SMITH
How long after the CARPATHIA reached the scene of this accident did you reach the scene?

CAPTAIN LORD
Well, I don't know what time we got there.

Senator SMITH
Had the lifeboats, with their passengers, been picked up and taken aboard the CARPATHIA?

CAPTAIN LORD
I think he was taking the last boat up when I got there.

Senator SMITH
Did you see any of the wreckage when you got there?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes sir.

Senator SMITH
Tell the Committee what you saw?

CAPTAIN LORD

I saw several empty boats, some floating planks, a few deck chairs, and cushions; but considering the size of the disaster, there was very little wreckage. It seemed more like an old fishing boat had sunk. A few life belts were floating around.

Senator SMITH

Did you see any persons, dead or alive?

CAPTAIN LORD

No Sir.

Senator SMITH

How long did you remain in the vicinity of the wreck?

CAPTAIN LORD (looking at the log)

At eleven twenty we proceeded on our course.

Senator SMITH

And you reached there at what hour?

CAPTAIN LORD

At 8.30, sir.

Senator SMITH

During that time what did you do?

CAPTAIN LORD

I talked to the CARPTAHIA until 9 o'clock. Then he left. Then we went full speed in circles over a radius - that is, I took a big circle and then came around and around and got back to the boats again, where I had left them.

Senator SMITH

That was all you saw?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes, sir.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE HOUSE, BOSTON, DAY

The meeting of ERNEST GILL and MR BLAKE continues.

BLAKE

But it's true to say that the
CALIFORNIAN did not respond?

ERNEST

I knew no more until I was 'woken by
the Chief Engineer at 6.40am – he
said 'Turn out to render assistance.
The TITANIC has gone down.' I yelled
out – 'bloody hell' or something of
the sort and leaped from my bunk. I
went on deck and found we were
underway at full speed. We were
clear of the field ice but there were
many bergs about.

I went down on watch and heard the
second and fourth engineers talking.
MR EVANS is second and MR WOOTEN is
the fourth. The Second was telling
the other that the Third Officer had
reported rockets had gone up on his
watch. I knew then that it must have
been the TITANIC I'd seen.

BLAKE

What did others say? Were there more
who were aware of the tragedy?

ERNEST

The SECOND ENGINEER said that the
CAPTAIN had been told of the rockets,
the Apprentice, GIBSON, I think his
name is, told him. The CAPTAIN had
told him to Morse to the vessel. MR
EVANS said that MR STONE, SECOND
NAVIGATING OFFICER, was on the Bridge
at the time.

Then I overheard MR EVANS say that
more lights had been shown and more

rockets went up. According to MR EVANS, MR GIBSON went to the CAPTAIN and reported more rockets. The Skipper told him to continue to Morse until he got a reply. No reply came back.

Both men are silent for 3 beats. They drink coffee thoughtfully.

BLAKE
What other comments were made?

ERNEST
The next I heard the SECOND OFFICER say 'Why in the devil didn't they wake the Wireless Man?' The entire crew of the steamer have been talking among themselves about the disregard of the rockets. (2 beats), I personally urged several to join me in protesting against the conduct of the CAPTAIN – but they refused, they feared they would lose their jobs.

This statement hangs between the two men.

ERNEST (Continued)
A day or two before we reached port, CAPTAIN LORD called the Quartermaster – he was on duty at the time the rockets were discharged. The Quartermaster went to the Skipper's cabin. There were in there for about three-quarters of an hour. After that, he, the Quartermaster, told us that he did not see the rockets.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Questioning of Captain LORD continues.

Senator SMITH
I will ask you whether you saw any icebergs while you were making your circle in the area?

CAPTAIN LORD
I was surrounded by icebergs.

Senator SMITH
How large were they?

CAPTAIN LORD

The ones way to the southeast were much larger than the ones to the westward.

Senator SMITH

How large was the largest, in your judgment, above the water?

CAPTAIN LORD

I suppose the largest was about 150 feet - 100 to 150 feet.

Senator SMITH

No one has described the size of any of these icebergs that were seen about the place of this wreck. I do not know how accurately you could give us this information, but you say that one was approximately 100 feet high?

CAPTAIN LORD

That is, the farthest away, the most easterly ones, the largest ones. The ones to the westward were not very high, and they were mixed up with field ice.

Senator SMITH

How high was that iceberg above water?

CAPTAIN LORD

I suppose about 100 feet.

Senator SMITH

How wide was it?

CAPTAIN LORD

700 or 800 feet, it seemed to be. It was a long way off. That seemed to be the biggest one.

Senator SMITH
Have you ever seen the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN LORD
Never.

Senator SMITH
Have you ever seen the OLYMPIC?

CAPTAIN LORD
Only at about 5 miles away.

Senator SMITH
How much larger than the OLYMPIC
would that iceberg be; have you any
idea?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir.

Senator SMITH
As a matter of fact, it would be
larger than the TITANIC if it was as
large as you suggest, would it not?

CAPTAIN LORD
I do not know the length of the
TITANIC.

Senator SMITH turns to Committee member MR FRANKLIN.

Senator SMITH
How long was the TITANIC MR FRANKLIN?

MR FRANKLIN
882 and a half feet.

Senator SMITH
And it was 70 feet above the water?

MR FRANKLIN
Yes; and 92 feet beam.

Senator SMITH
Now, from what you know of an iceberg
in the north Atlantic, or any place
else, what proportion of the iceberg
is submerged and what proportion is
out of the water?

CAPTAIN LORD

I can only tell you what I saw that morning when we were at the mouth of the field.

(MORE)

They were not really bergs, but they were big chunks of ice, and I suppose they were about 2 feet above water, when we were driving along toward the TITANIC, and we would probably get to the corner of one of them and turn it over, and probably see about 10 or 11 feet to it, and I could not see any end to it.

Senator SMITH
The CALIFORNIAN, of which you are commander, belongs to what line?

CAPTAIN LORD
The Leyland Line.

Senator SMITH
The Leyland Line is a member or part of the International Mercantile Marine Co., is it not?

CAPTAIN LORD
I believe it is; yes.

Senator SMITH
And is represented in this country by MR FRANKLIN?

CAPTAIN LORD
So I understand; yes.

Senator SMITH
And in England by MR ISMAY?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes, sir.

Senator SMITH
Captain, during Sunday, when you were in the vicinity of ice, did you give any special instructions to your wireless operator?

CAPTAIN LORD

No Sir.

Senator SMITH

Are there any particular rules and regulations for the wireless operator or operators on your ship?

CAPTAIN LORD

No, they are under the same discipline as the rest of the crew.

Senator SMITH

Do you recognise them as subordinate to your wishes while they are at sea – also to the responsibility to the Marconi Company?

CAPTAIN LORD

To an extent they are subordinate, they also have responsibility to Marconi.

Senator SMITH

So their responsibility is somewhat divided?

CAPTAIN LORD

Yes.

Senator SMITH

You had one operator?

CAPTAIN LORD

Yes, only one.

Senator SMITH

And what was his name?

CAPTAIN LORD

MR EVANS.

Senator SMITH

Do you know whether your wireless operator was on duty Sunday night after you sent this warning message to the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN LORD

I do not think he was.

Senator SMITH

Then you are unable to say whether an attempt was made to communicate with the CALIFORNIAN?

CAPTAIN LORD

No; I do not know as to that. I went past his room at about a quarter to 12, and there was no light in there.

Senator SMITH

Does that indicate he was out, or asleep?

CAPTAIN LORD

That would indicate he was asleep.

Senator SMITH

Did he have any hours particularly prescribed for him by yourself or anyone else after you became aware of your proximity to ice?

CAPTAIN LORD

No.

Senator SMITH

On Sunday?

CAPTAIN LORD

No.

Senator SMITH

Suppose your wireless operator had been at his post in the operating room when the C.Q.D. call of distress came out from TITANIC, which was received by the CARPATHIA and other ships, would your ship have been told of the distress of the TITANIC? I mean, have you such ability and equipment that you would have likely caught this message?

CAPTAIN LORD

If the operator had been on duty – most certainly.

CUT TO:

INT. NY APARTMENT, DAY

EDITH RUSSELL sits with an ELDERLY MAN. He looks at her sympathetically.

EDITH (AMERICAN ACCENT)

I couldn't shake the feeling of depression. I wrote to my friend when we were in Queenstown. I told her that 'TITANIC is wonderful, but I cannot get over my feeling of depression – and trouble'.

On my way to my stateroom, I felt a bump, as I got to my stateroom, there was another – and a third. I went to investigate with a friend. On the promenade deck we saw a large grey object – like a huge building, as it bumped along us it shed ice on the deck. We thought nothing of it – we played snow balls. Then I went to bed.

A man knocked on my door, he said 'Madam, put on your lifebelt'. Then I dressed and locked all my cupboards. That was strange, I know.

Of course, when we knew we had to take action - apart from the horror of it all – being loaded into the lifeboat wearing ridiculous clothes; nothing suitable anyhow, people judged me when I wanted to take my 'pig'.

The ELDERLY MAN looks askance at her.

EDITH (CONTINUED)

People thought that it was a moneybank – they didn't understand that it is my lucky charm, mother gave it to me for luck, it is my mascot. Because it plays music, it amused some of the children in the lifeboat. They stopped crying.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. COFFEE HOUSE, DAY

The meeting with the REPORTER - BLAKE continues, BLAKE removes two cigarettes from his jacket pocket, he offers one to ERNEST GILL who declines with a shake of his head.

BLAKE
It must have been traumatic for you?

ERNEST
Yes. The whole episode is a tragedy.
Some say that even if we, the
CALIFORNIAN, had made it to TITANIC,
no more lives would have been saved.
People need to remember that in those
waters someone would only survive 15
minutes. Maybe more, but not much.

BLAKE
And when you returned, you saw no
bodies? How was that?

ERNEST
The bodies would have either been
taken down with the sinking, the
pressure would have destroyed them.
Others will have drifted and become
trapped in ice or not been visible
behind bergs.

BLAKE
And what of CAPTAIN LORD – what do
you make of his conduct?

ERNEST
I have no ill-will towards the
Captain or any officer of the ship.
I am losing a profitable berth with
this statement. I am driven by the
conviction that no captain who
refuses, or neglects, to give aid to
a vessel in distress should be able
to hush up the men.

This statement hangs between the men for a brief moment.

BLAKE

Thank you for meeting me, thank you for talking so frankly. Is there anything you would like to add to what you have told our readers?

ERNEST

Only this – I am quite sure that the CALIFORNIAN was less than 20 miles from the TITANIC, this is what the Officers report to have been our position. I could not have seen her if she had been more than 10 miles distant – and I saw her very plainly.

CUT TO:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

CAPTAIN LORD is giving his final statement to the Inquiry.

Senator BOURNE

I understood you to say nobody attempted to prevent your responding to the Senate subpoena to be here - none of the people with whom you are connected, or your company?

CAPTAIN LORD

No. As soon as the marshal came to me I told him I did not like to go without notifying - at least I told him I would not go until my owners gave me permission.

Senator BOURNE

Nobody made an objection?

CAPTAIN LORD

Not to me; no.

Senator BURTON

On that Sunday night, when you were stopped by the ice were you hemmed in by it, or was your ship floating about?

CAPTAIN LORD

We were just floating about.

Senator BURTON

You spoke about the use of glasses by
the lookout men in the crow's nest?

CAPTAIN LORD

Yes, sir.

Senator BURTON

What is your opinion in regard to that?

CAPTAIN LORD

I do not see any necessity for it.

Senator BURTON

Why not?

CAPTAIN LORD

A light is visible a great deal farther from the crow's nest than it is from the bridge. With two men of equal eyesight and range of vision the man in the crow's nest would see farther than the man on the bridge. Once he reports that light, it has nothing to do with him what it is afterwards.

Senator BURTON

But as regards objects ahead?

CAPTAIN LORD

The officer on the Bridge can see the objects far enough. I very rarely hear a man in the lookout report a light before the man on the bridge has seen it.

Senator BOURNE

The object is not merely to observe light, but to see any obstacle in the passage of the ship?

CAPTAIN LORD

Yes; but I do not use glasses.

Senator PERKINS

You have never used them?

CAPTAIN LORD

Only in the case of the TITANIC. The men did not see anything that day quicker than from the Bridge.

Senator BURTON
That is all.

Senator FLETCHER
You were asked by Senator SMITH a moment ago whether, if the wireless operator on the CALIFORNIAN had been on duty, he would have picked up this message from the TITANIC giving the alarm?

CAPTAIN LORD
Yes.

Senator FLETCHER
Could you have gone to the relief of the TITANIC at that time?

CAPTAIN LORD
Most certainly.

Senator FLETCHER
The engines were not running then?

CAPTAIN LORD
The engines were stopped; perfectly stopped.

Senator FLETCHER
But you could have gone to the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN LORD
The engines were ready. I gave instructions to the Chief Engineer and told him I had decided to stay there all night. I did not think it safe to go ahead. I said, "We will keep handy in case some of those big fellows come crunching along."

Senator FLETCHER
Did you keep lookout men on duty after your engines were stopped?

CAPTAIN LORD

A man on the lookout; only one, the
man in the crow's nest.

Senator SMITH
On that Sunday night, the 14th of
April, one man was relieved and the
other was kept on duty?

CAPTAIN LORD
We discontinued the one on the
Forecastle Head. We just kept the one
on the Crow's Nest.

Senator SMITH
Captain, did you see any distress
signals on Sunday night, either
rockets or the Morse signals?

CAPTAIN LORD
No sir; I did not. The officer on
watch saw some signals, but he said
they were not distress signals.

Senator SMITH
They were not distress signals? But
he reported them?

CAPTAIN LORD
To me. I think you had better let me
tell you that story.

Senator SMITH
I wish you would.

CAPTAIN LORD
When I came off the Bridge, at half
past 10, I pointed out to the officer
that I thought I saw a light coming
along, and it was a most peculiar
light, and we had been making
mistakes all along with the stars,
thinking they were signals. We could
not distinguish where the sky ended
and where the water commenced. You
understand, it was a flat calm. He
said he thought it was a star, and I

did not say anything more. I went down below. I was talking with the Engineer about keeping the steam ready, and we saw these signals coming along, and I said "There is a steamer passing. Let us go to the wireless and see what the news is."

(MORE)

But on our way down I met the operator coming, and I said, "Do you know anything?" He said, "The TITANIC" So, then, I gave him instructions to let the TITANIC know. I said, "This is not the TITANIC; there is no doubt about it." She came and lay at half past 11, alongside of us until, I suppose, a quarter past, within 4 miles of us. We could see everything on her quite distinctly, see her lights. We signaled her, at half past 11, with the Morse lamp. She did not take the slightest notice of it. That was between half past 11 and 20 minutes to 12. We signaled her again at 10 minutes past 12, half past 12, a quarter to 1 o'clock.

We have a very powerful Morse lamp. I suppose you can see that about 10 miles, and she was about 4 miles off, and she did not take the slightest notice of it. When the second officer came on the bridge, at 12 o'clock, or 10 minutes past 12, I told him to watch that steamer, which was stopped, and I pointed out the ice to him; told him we were surrounded by ice; to watch the steamer that she did not get any closer to her. At 20 minutes to 1 I whistled up the speaking tube and asked him if she was getting any nearer. He said, "No; she is not taking any notice of us." So, I said "I will go and lie down a bit." At a quarter past he said, "I think she has fired a rocket." He said, "She did not answer the Morse lamp and she has commenced to go away from us." I said, "Call her up and let me know at once what her name is." So, he put the whistle back, and, apparently, he was calling. I could hear him 'ticking' over my

head. Then I went to sleep.

Senator SMITH
You heard nothing more about it?

CAPTAIN LORD

Nothing more, until about something between then and half past 4, I have a faint recollection of the

Apprentice opening and shutting the room door. I said "What is it?" He did not answer and I went to sleep again. I believe the boy came down to deliver me the message that this steamer had steamed away from us to the southwest, showing several of these flashes or white rockets.

CUT TO:

INT. NY OFFICE, DAY

JAMES GIBSON of CALIFORNIAN sits opposite a REPORTER. JAMES is from Merseyside, UK he is 20 years old. The REPORTER offers GIBSON a cigarette, GIBSON declines.

REPORTER 6

Thank you for coming in sir. Tell me about your part in recent events?

GIBSON

What do you want to know?

REPORTER 6

What is your job on the CALIFORNIAN and how old are you?

GIBSON

I'm 20 – an Apprentice.

REPORTER 6

What did you see of TITANIC before she was lost?

GIBSON

I saw lights – we, on the

CALIFORNIAN, were signaling her with Morse but she didn't reply.

REPORTER 6

Tell me about CAPTAIN LORD – he is your CAPTAIN?

GIBSON

CAPTAIN LORD commands the
CALIFORNIAN, yes.

REPORTER 6

What is he like? To serve under I
mean?

GIBSON

He is experienced. Not to be crossed,
but I have heard of worse.

REPORTER 6

Did he give you any particular
command about TITANIC and speaking of
it?

GIBSON

Not to me, no. He doesn't think much
of reporters I think, so he may have
spoken to others from the crew to
choose their words...

The REPORTER shifts in his chair.

REPORTER 6

What about the 'Scrap Log' how is
this record used?

GIBSON

This is, as you would guess, a
temporary log of events - the CAPTAIN
approves it then we enter them into
the log - then the scrap is
destroyed.

REPORTER 6

Why is the log destroyed?

GIBSON

Because it is temporary – the
official log is the one any ship

would keep.

REPORTER 6

What do you think, or what do you know now about the lights from TITANIC? The rockets I mean?

GIBSON

We were very close to her – about 5 miles out, we could see lights, we thought they were masthead lights or stars. Then she disappeared at about 2.20 in the early morning. Now we know she hadn't moved off. Now we know she had sunk.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH continues to question CAPTAIN LORD.

Senator SMITH

Captain, these Morse signals are a sort of language or method by which ships speak to one another?

CAPTAIN LORD

Yes, sir; at night.

Senator SMITH

The rockets that are used for the same purpose and are understood, are they not, among mariners?

CAPTAIN LORD

As being distress rockets?

Senator SMITH

Yes.

CAPTAIN LORD

Oh, yes; you never mistake a distress rocket.

Senator SMITH

Suppose the Morse signals and the

rockets were displayed and exploded on the TITANIC continuously for a half to three-quarters of an hour after she struck ice, would you, from the position of your ship on a night like Sunday night, have been able to see those signals?

CAPTAIN LORD

We could not have seen her Morse code; that is an utter impossibility.

Senator SMITH

Could you have seen rockets?

CAPTAIN LORD

I do not think so. Nineteen and a half miles is a long ways. It would have been way down on the horizon. It might have been mistaken for a shooting star or anything at all.

Senator SMITH

Describe to us the message you received which told you of the disaster?

CAPTAIN LORD

I think the first message we got was, "Ship sunk." But I understand between the German (on the FRANKFURT) and English operators they do not always grasp one another's messages; there is some confusion about it.

Apparently we did not get it. The first report I got to the Bridge that morning was from the Chief Officer he came from the Operator and said, "He reports a ship sunk." I said, "Go back and wait until you find out what it is. Get some more about it." So he went back, and I suppose 10 minutes afterwards he came back and said, "The TITANIC is sunk, and hit an iceberg."

Senator SMITH

The wireless operator told you?

CAPTAIN LORD

No; he did not tell me. The Chief Officer was delivering the message. I was on the bridge, and he was running backward and forward to the Operating Room.

(MORE)

I said, "Go back again and find the position as quickly as possible." So he went back, and he came back and said "We have a position here, but it seems a bit doubtful." I said, "You must get me a better position. We do not want to go on a wild goose chase." So in the meantime, I marked off the position from the course given me by the FRANKFURT in the message just from one operator to another. I marked that off and headed the ship down there.

Senator SMITH
Will you kindly give it to us?

CAPTAIN LORD
I gave it to you earlier.

Senator SMITH
That was your position?

CAPTAIN LORD
That was the position of the TITANIC given by the FRANKFURT.

Senator SMITH
I recall that. I thought you said you had the position of the FRANKFURT?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir; he gave the position of the TITANIC disaster.

Senator SMITH
Was that the first information you got of the sinking of the TITANIC?

CAPTAIN LORD
That was the first information.
I remember perfectly well, at 6 o'clock; here it is in the log book:
Six o'clock, received message re TITANIC. This from the VIRGINIAN.

'Captain, (It does not say which ship) TITANIC struck berg; wants assistance; urgent; ship sinking; passengers in boats. His position 41° 46', longitude 40° 16'.
CAMPBELL, Commander.

(MORE)

Senator SMITH
You heard nothing further from the source?

CAPTAIN LORD
From the VIRGINIAN? - I had a message about an hour and a half after. He said, "When you get to the scene of disaster will you please give me particulars of what is happening?"

Senator FLETCHER
Let me ask you a question with reference to that steamer you saw 4 miles away. What was her position in reference to your ship?

CAPTAIN LORD
Pretty near south of us, 4 miles to the south.

Senator FLETCHER (Continuing)
As to being on the starboard or port side?

CAPTAIN LORD
Well, on our ordinary course, our ordinary course was about west, true; but on seeing the ice, we were so close we had to reverse the engine and put her full speed astern, and the action of reversing turned the ship to starboard, and we were heading about northeast true. When this man was coming along he was showing his green light on our starboard side, before midnight. After we slowly blew around and showed him our red light.

Senator FLETCHER
And he passed southwest?

CAPTAIN LORD
He was stopped until 1 o'clock, and

then he started going ahead again;
and the second reported he changed
from south-southeast to west-
southwest, 6 and a half points; and
if he was 4 miles off, the distance
he traveled I estimated to be 7 or 7
and a half miles in that hour.

Senator FLETCHER
Was he ever any closer to you?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir.

Senator FLETCHER
Were you able to tell what kind of a ship it was?

CAPTAIN LORD
The Officer on watch, myself and the Apprentice - I saw it before 1 o'clock, before I went to the watch room - were of the opinion that it was an ordinary cargo steamer.

Senator FLETCHER
Did you see the funnels?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir. It had one masthead light and a green light, which I saw first.

Senator FLETCHER
You could not hear any escaping steam, or the siren, or the whistle?

CAPTAIN LORD
No, sir.

Senator FLETCHER
You have two men on duty in the crow's nest, but only one on duty at a time?

CAPTAIN LORD
No; we never have two in the crow's nest. When we double the lookout we have one man on the Forecastle head. That is right up in the bow of the ship.

Senator SMITH

The steamer you described just now -
have you any idea what steamer that
was?

CAPTAIN LORD

Not the faintest. At daylight we saw a yellow-funnel steamer on the southwest of us, beyond where this man had left, about 8 miles away.

Senator FLETCHER

Do you suppose that was the same one?

CAPTAIN LORD

I should not like to say. I don't think so, because this one had only one masthead light that we saw at half past 11.

Senator SMITH

From the log which you hold in your hand, and from your own knowledge, is there anything you can say further which will assist the Committee in its inquiry as to the causes of this disaster?

CAPTAIN LORD

No, sir, there is nothing; only that it was a very deceiving night. That is all I can say about that. I only saw that ice a mile and a half off.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, DAY

(CG) A ship THE MACKAY-BENNETT slowly proceeds through the TITANIC wreck area. 7 CREW MEMBERS are straining to look over the rails.

PAN DOWN SEVERAL BODIES ARE FLOATING IN LIFE JACKETS.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, DAY

CREW members enter the lifeboats, they row steadily away from the MACKAY-BENNETT and approach the bodies. They begin to lift the bodies gently into lifeboats.

90.

PAN ACROSS THERE IS EVIDENCE OF BURNS, CUTS. GRAPHIC DETAIL IS NOT SEEN.

PAN UP THE FACES OF THE CREW LOOK STUNNED, SOME ARE VISIBLY SHAKEN, UPSET BY THE CONDITION OF THE VICTIMS.

FADE OUT

EXT. MACKAY-BENNETT, DECK, DAY

Dozens of bodies are in sacking bags, piles of neatly stored personal possessions including clothes, most of these have been labelled with names which cannot be seen. Crew members move amongst the possessions and read labels. A crate contains several items – a child's toy, mens' shoes, glasses, these are not labelled. A pair of small, brown leather shoes with a strap across the ankle is visible, they have closed toes.

CUT TO:

EXT. MACKAY-BENNETT, DECK, DAY

Several bodies are buried at sea – A PRIEST gives the blessing whilst CREW look on, heads bowed.

FADE OUT

EXT. HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, DOCK, DAY

(CG) The MACKAY-BENNETT returns, a crowd has gathered on the dockside, many REPORTERS stand expectantly. Some bystanders are weeping quietly. There is a police guard.

91.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION, HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA, DAY

A POLICEMAN sits at a desk; he looks through a list of items, compares this with a list of names claiming items. He hand-writes tags for a watch, a pair of glasses and a pair of leather gloves; he places these in a cardboard box; the front is referenced G-K.

Other items, including a pair of child's brown shoes (leather, closed toes, strap across the ankle), he places in a cardboard box marked UNCLAIMED.

The POLICEMAN, rubs his eyes with the forefinger and thumb of his right hand, gets up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRASSED AREA, BACK OF POLICE STATION, DAY

Fires are burning clothing and possessions. The POLICEMAN has in his hands the box marked UNCLAIMED – he looks thoughtfully at the box for 2 beats, he removes the child's pair of shoes and places these in his coat pocket, he places the box on the ground and leaves the area abruptly.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION, DAY

The POLICEMAN gently places the child's shoes in his desk drawer.

FADE OUT

EXT. SOUTHAMPTON, DAY

PAN ACROSS: SHIPS ARE TOWERING OVER THE ADJACENT STREETS, SEVERAL ROWS OF TERRACED HOUSES ARE VISIBLE.

PAN DOWN: THE STREETS ARE RAIN-LASHED, MOST WINDOWS HAVE CURTAINS DRAWN.

A WOMAN #1 hurries along with a small child in a pram, she wears black. She is the only person visible in the streets. She takes a key from her pocket, pushing open the front door of a terraced house about midway down the street. She awkwardly manoeuvres the pram into the interior, she enters after the pram.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL PARLOUR, DAY

WOMAN #2 in black, standing by the window in the modestly furnished front parlour. She pulls one black curtain back and a faint streak of light enters – she stares through the window into the street.

PAN ACROSS MUNDANE ITEMS IN THE PARLOUR INCLUDING 2 PHOTOS OF A UNIFORMED MAN AND A 3RD PHOTO OF THE SAME MAN WITH A SMALL BOY ON HIS KNEE. THE LAST IS A STUDIO PHOTO. THE TICKING OF A MANTEL CLOCK CAN BE HEARD.

The woman lets the curtain drop, raises her hand to her

mouth and sobs silently.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUTHAMPTON, TERRACED HOUSE, DAY

A YOUNG MAN approaches the house of VIOLET LEWIS; he knocks, almost immediately VIOLET answers the door and receives a telegram from the YOUNG MAN, she opens it quickly and reads it. VIOLET clutches the telegram and mouths 'thank you' with a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. PHOTOGRAPHER'S STUDIO, NY, DAY

A WOMAN dressed in black sits ready to pose with two boys of 3 and 4 years; the older has dark curly hair, the younger has blond curly hair.

PHOTOGRAPHER
You have a most interesting story I
understand? Would you tell it to me?
Me dirais-tu?

The WOMAN smiles shyly, she sits between the two boys in an armchair, each child is perched on an arm of the simple wooden chair, the older is dressed in a pale blue short

legged suit (on her left) the younger is dressed in a similar style in white.

WOMAN (French Accent)
These are my sons, I did not know
that they were on the ship. They
cannot speak English. The horror of
the discovery. My husband had taken
them. He went down with TITANIC.

FADE OUT

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL, NY, DAY

Senator SMITH addresses a small gathering of men, some are
PRESS Reporters.

Senator SMITH

The failure of CAPTAIN LORD to raise
the wireless operator on his ship,
(who could have easily established
the name of the vessel in distress
and reached her in time to prevent
huge loss of life) – this failure
places a tremendous responsibility
upon CAPTAIN LORD from which it will
be very difficult for him to escape.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, DAY

CAPTION 15th July 1918

(CG) the CARPATHIA is moving slowly in open water. Progress
is slow and steady.

CUT TO:

INT. CARPATHIA, BRIDGE, DAY

CAPTAIN WILLIAM PROTHERO, (Full beard and moustache, he is 41) is in command of the CARPATHIA; 2 OFFICERS are with him on the BRIDGE. All is quiet and calm, the men go about their duties, checking charts, keeping an eye on the horizon.

CAPTAIN PROTHERO (to FIRST OFFICER)
Anything to report?

FIRST OFFICER
No Sir, all is well.

CAPTAIN PROTHERO
Confirm our position if you will.

FIRST OFFICER
49°25N 10°25W.

For 3 beats we stay on the BRIDGE. The CAPTAIN and OFFICERS watch quietly.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, DAY

PAN: (SFX) FROM A DISTANCE A SUDDEN EXPLOSION IS SEEN AND HEARD ON THE PORT SIDE OF THE CARPATHIA.

A second explosion is heard and seen.

(CG) The CARPATHIA begins to sink bow first, listing to port.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDGE CARPATHIA, DAY

CAPTAIN PROTHERO
Abandon ship! Give the order!

OFFICER 1
Yes Sir.

96.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARPATHIA, DECKS, DAY

57 passengers and 161 crew gather on the decks - they are in stunned silence.

Groups of crew are organising the passengers and themselves into the lifeboats. It is orderly, quiet.

CUT TO:

EXT. OCEAN, DAY

(CG) POV OF A GERMAN U BOAT, IT BREAKS SURFACE WATER AND FIRES ANOTHER TORPEDO. A HUGE EXPLOSION PULSES AT THE CARPATHIA.

(CG) THE CARPATHIA STARTS TO SINK MORE RAPIDLY.

(CG) HMS SNOWDROP MOVES TOWARD THE U BOAT AND FIRES REPEATEDLY WITH GUNS.

The U boat slips beneath the waves.

CUT TO:

EXT. DECK/HULL OF THE SNOWDROP, DAY

Survivors of the CARPATHIA are helped aboard the SNOWDROP.

Some clutch mundane items, all are quiet, subdued.

THE END

VO/CAPTION

FIVE CREW WERE KILLED IN THE TORPEDO ATTACK ON THE CARPATHIA. SHE LIES APPROXIMATELY 120 MILES WEST OF FASTNET.

ARTHUR ROSTRON COMPLETED A DISTINGUISHED CAREER AT SEA, RETIRING IN 1931. HE DIED ON 4TH NOVEMBER 1940 AND IS BURIED IN WEST END CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON.

BOTH THE US AND UK INQUIRIES FOUND CAPTAIN LORD'S ACTIONS ON THE NIGHT OF THE DISASTER LACKING. NO CHARGES WERE BROUGHT AND STANLEY LORD SPENT THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE TRYING TO CLEAR HIS NAME. HE DIED IN JANUARY 1962 AND IS BURIED IN WALLASEY CEMETERY, MERSEYSIDE.

Sans Serif

98.

Send