

FATED SHIPS HOLD AFIRE

The Stevens Point Journal

Saturday 27 April 1912

Fireman Details How Flames Broke Out In Coal Bunkers After Leaving Southampton and Steamship Was Rushed Westward So That Blaze Might Be Extinguished in New York Port.

The story told by J. Dilley was as follows:

Stokers Fight the Flames

"No, sir, we didn't get that fire out. And among the stokers there was talk that we would have to empty the coal bunkers after we put our passengers off in New York and then call the fireboats there to help us put out the fire."

"But we didn't need such help. It was right under bunker No. 6 that the iceberg tore the biggest hole in the Titanic, and the flood that came through the Titanic put out the fire that our tons and tons of water hadn't been able to get rid of."

Another fireman said that because of the fire the ship sank more rapidly than otherwise would have been the case.

"It had been necessary to take the coal out of sections two and three on the starboard side forward," he said, "And when the water came rushing in after the collision the bulkheads would not hold because they did not have the supporting weight of the coal."

"Somebody reported to Chief Engineer Bell that the forward bulkhead had given way and he replied: 'My God, we are lost.'"

The Committee ended the taking of testimony in New York and adjourned to meet in Washington.

Courtesy of Marion James

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