

# Life Ring Locations on *Titanic's* Weather Decks

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## Introduction

This article will identify all life rings visible on *Titanic's* weather decks. As much as is possible, *Titanic* photos will be used. In one isolated case near the bridge, an early *Olympic* photo will be used. It has been found that pre-disaster *Titanic* and *Olympic* had life rings in the identical positions. All life rings on the starboard side of the ship are mirrored on the port side of the ship with the exception of the docking bridge. There are an equal number of life rings on both sides of the docking bridge but their locations are different due to the presence of the ladder to the docking bridge on its starboard side.

### Area #1 – Docking Bridge. Life rings #1-4

Figure 1 shows a photo of *Titanic's* docking bridge with life rings #1-4.



Figure 1

*Titanic's* docking bridge. Life rings #1-4

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Figure 2 shows plan and aft elevation views of *Titanic's* docking bridge. All life rings are mounted on the aft railing of the docking bridge. Life rings are indicated in red.

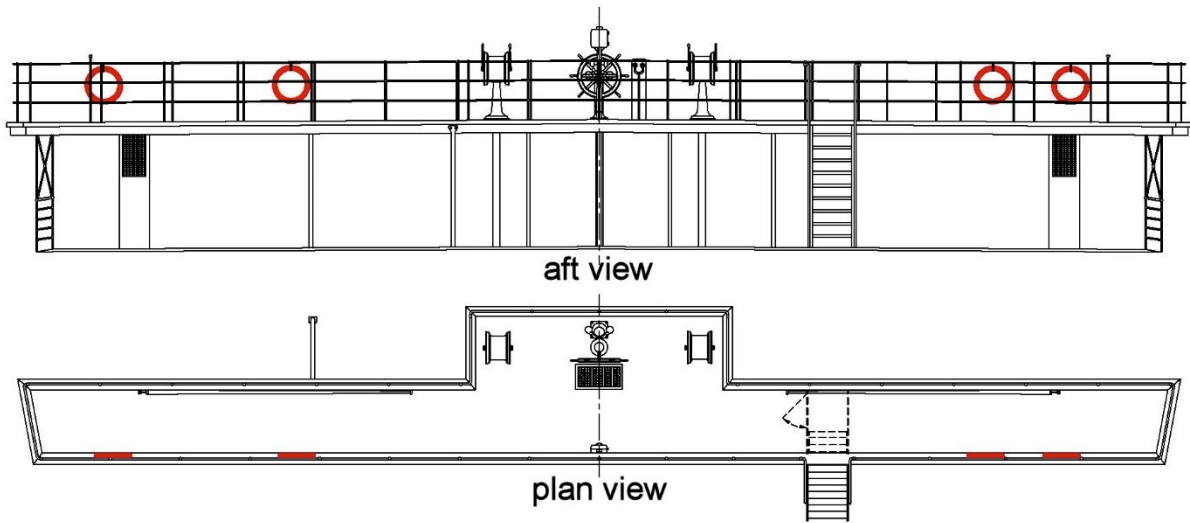


Figure 2

Plan and aft elevation views of *Titanic's* docking bridge

**Area #2 – Forward poop deck port and starboard, outboard. Life rings #5-6**

Figure 3 shows a photo of *Titanic's* forward, starboard poop deck and the starboard life ring indicated. The port life ring was placed in the same position.



Figure 3

*Titanic* photo showing starboard life ring on forward, starboard poop deck

Figure 4 shows the life ring on the starboard, forward poop deck. There is a life ring in the same position on the port side. The life ring is in red.

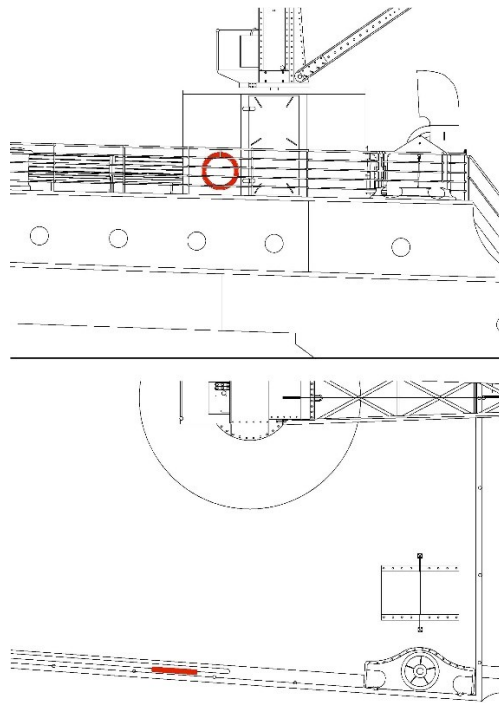


Figure 4

Life ring on forward, port side of *Titanic's* poop deck

**Area #3. Aft end of B deck on port and starboard sides. Life rings #7-10**

Figure 5 shows the starboard aft end of *Titanic's* B deck.

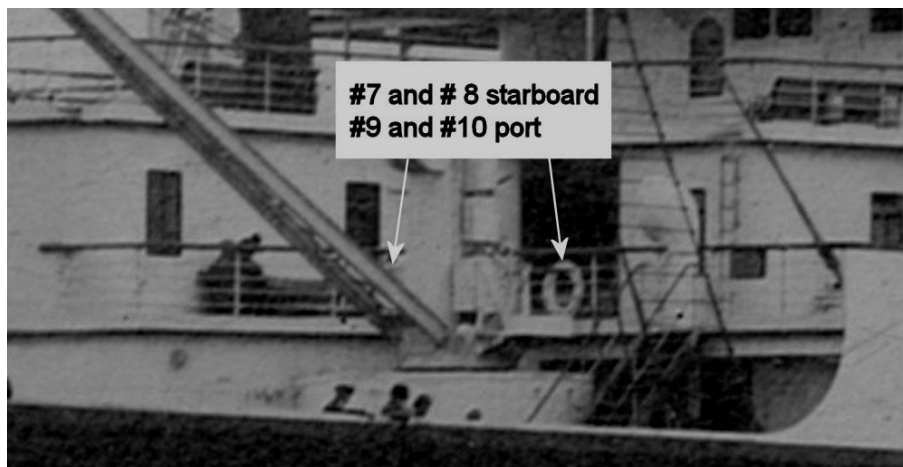


Figure 5

Aft end of *Titanic's* B deck, starboard side

Figure 6 shows plan and elevation views of *Titanic's* starboard, aft B deck. Life rings are in red. There are two life rings in the same positions on the port side.

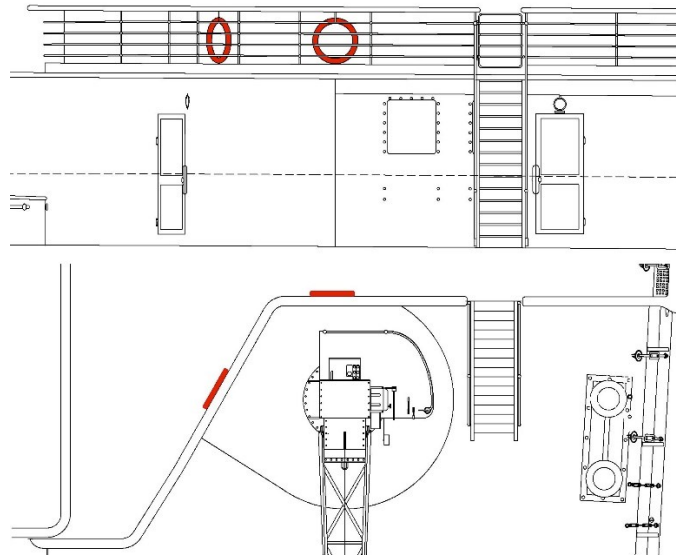


Figure 6

Aft, starboard end of *Titanic's* B deck

**Area #4 – Bulwark from wing cabs port and starboard outside the navigating bridge. Life rings #11-12 and #13-14.**

Figure 7 shows the starboard bulwark from the wing cab outside early *Olympic's* navigating bridge. There is a life ring in the same position on the starboard side.



Figure 7

Life ring on bulwark from *Olympic's* starboard wing cab

Recently a photo surfaced of *Olympic* in 1911 which showed a life ring on the port bulwark to the aft aspect of the wing cab. Figure 8 is the photo with the life ring outlined in red.

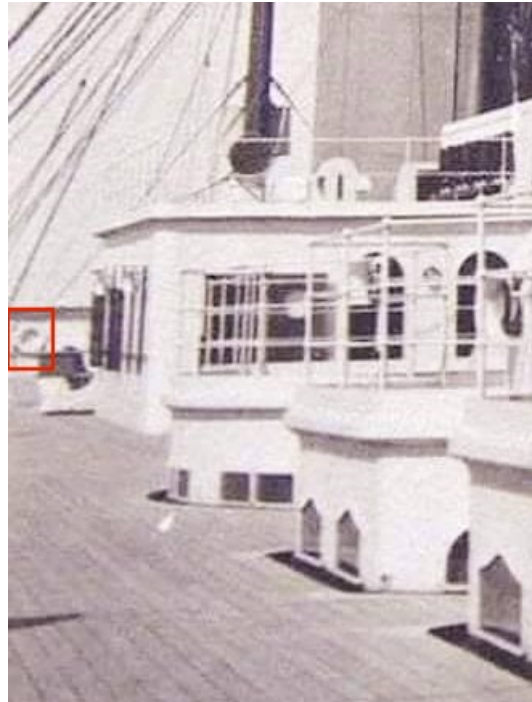


Figure 8

### *Olympic* 1911 showing life ring on aft bulwark to wing cab

Life rings were seen in this position on later *Olympic* but it was unknown if this was a later addition. The 1911 photo demonstrates that the inclusion of life rings in this location was from the earliest days of *Olympic*. The question then became what about *Titanic*? With the inclusion of these life rings p&s on early *Olympic* it reasonable to assume that they were also included on *Titanic*.

Another photo was recently uncovered which shows a life ring on 1912 *Olympic* located on the aft side of the starboard wing cab. As with the other life rings, this one would be mirrored on the port side. Figure 9 shows the location of this life ring in the photo. It is partially obscured by a lifeboat davit sheave.

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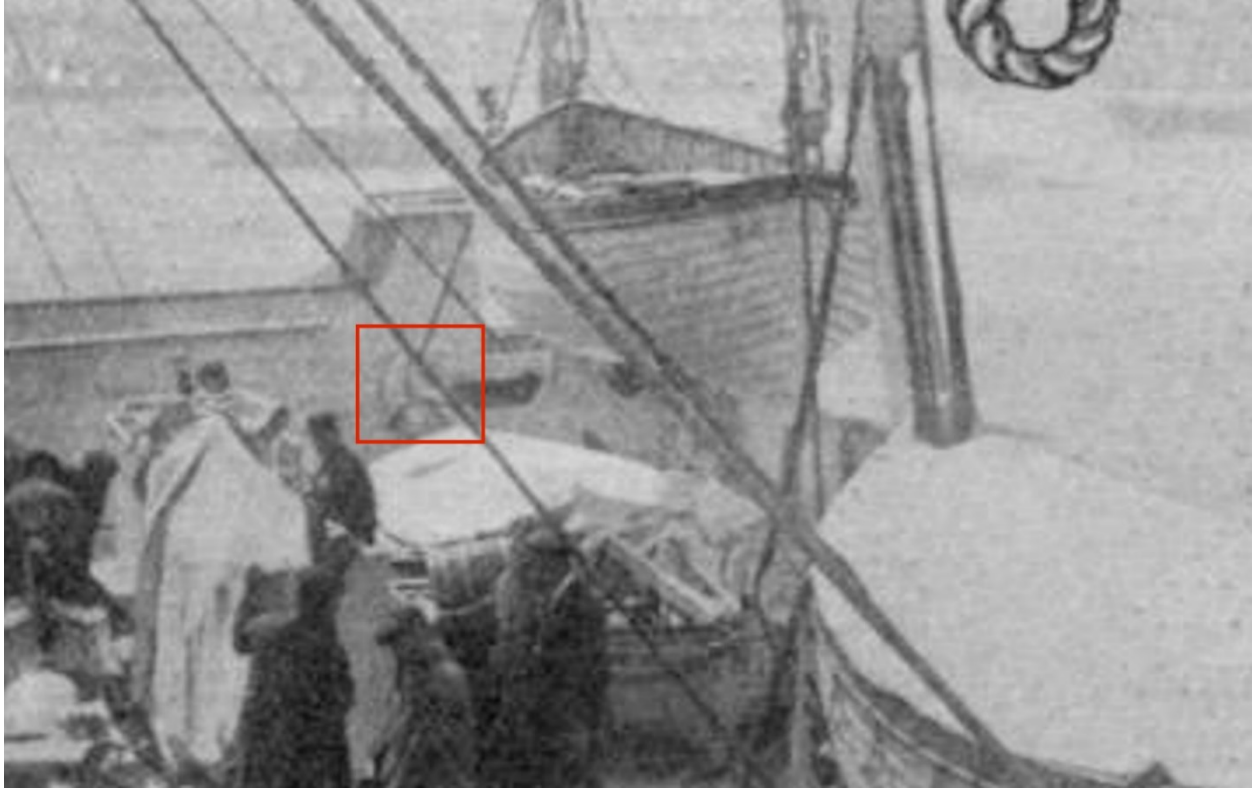


Figure 9

Life ring on aft side of starboard wing cab of *Olympic* May, 1912

The problem is that the life ring which could be seen in the 1911 photo is no longer there. I believe that they moved this life ring on both sides further outboard to the aft side of the wingcabs by 1912 on Olympic. If they did this on Olympic, in the absence of other evidence, I believe it is reasonable to assume that Titanic had life rings at the more outboard position.

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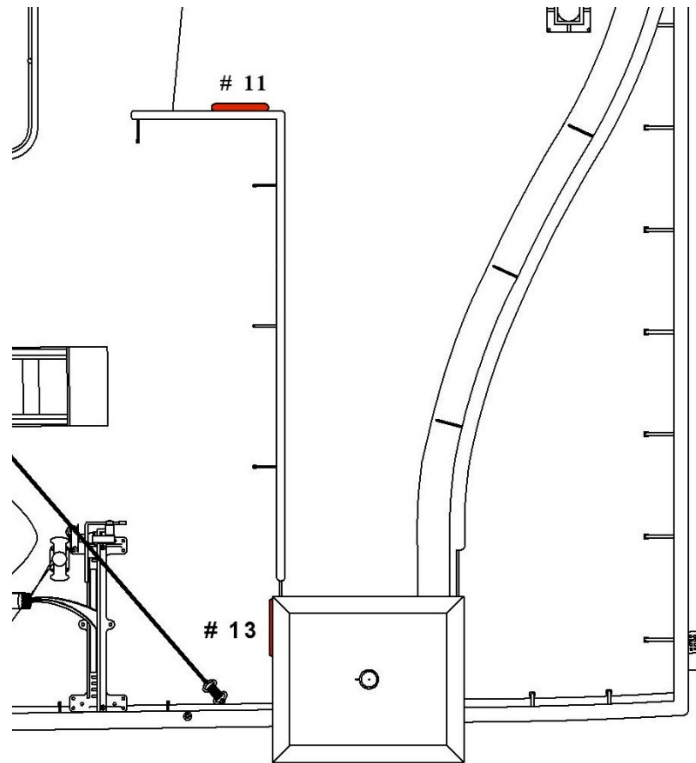


Figure 10

Plan view of starboard side of *Titanic* showing life rings #11, #13, #15, which are mirrored on port side

Figure 11 shows an elevation of the aft face of the starboard bulwark to the aft of the wing cab.

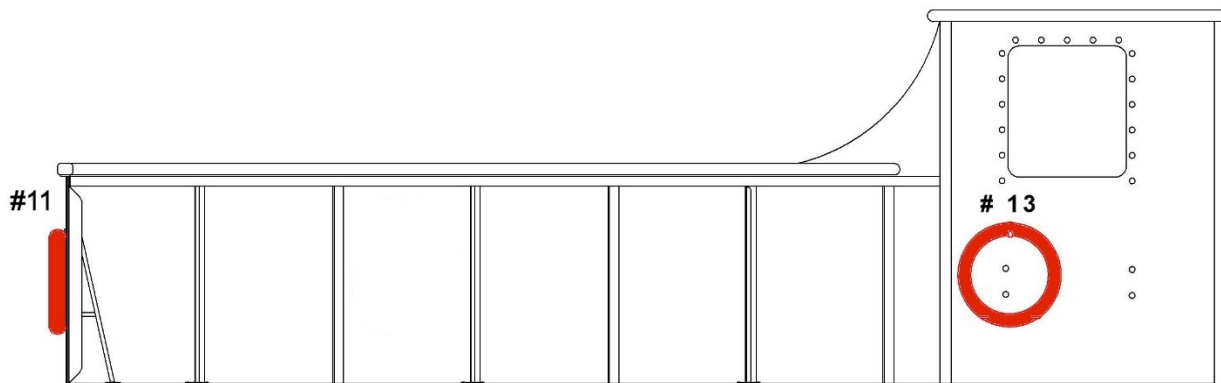


Figure 11

Elevation of starboard side of *Titanic* showing the location of the life ring on the aft face of bulkhead (#13)

## Conclusion

This article has demonstrated the locations of life rings visible on *Titanic's* weather decks. The locations are:

Docking bridge: Life rings #1-4

Forward poop deck: Life rings #5-6

Aft end of B deck: Life rings #7-10

Bulwark from wing cab outside navigating bridge: Life rings #11-12 , #13-14.