

Open Wash Ports of *Titanic's* Forward Well Deck

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Introduction

This article is being written to highlight a modification which was made to *Titanic*. *Titanic* and *Olympic* had openings in the bulwarks of their forward and aft well decks. These wash ports were incorporated in the bulwarks to enable rapid drainage of water during heavy weather. This article will show the change to *Titanic's* wash ports.

Olympic and *Titanic's* forward well deck wash ports

This article will focus only on *Olympic* and *Titanic's* wash ports found in the bulwarks of the forward well deck. The wash ports of *Titanic* and *Olympic* in her aft well deck bulwarks were covered by wash port doors which were hinged to open outboard. On *Olympic* as built, her forward well deck wash ports also had hinged doors as is seen in Figure 1.

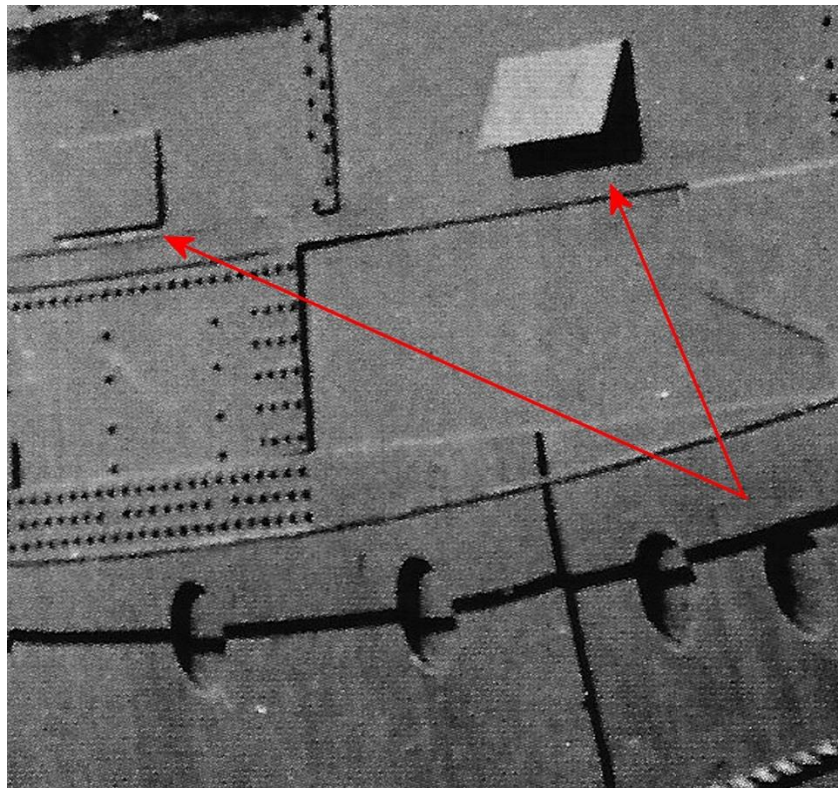


Figure 1

Figure 2 is a maiden voyage photo of *Olympic* showing the wash ports of the forward well deck with the wash port doors present and closed.



Figure 2

Sometime during *Titanic's* fitting out, it was decided to eliminate the wash port doors in the bulwarks of *Titanic's* forward well deck. Figure 3 shows *Titanic* in Southampton. It can be seen that there are no wash port doors in the bulwarks of the forward well deck because the white painted areas of the well deck can be seen through the open wash ports.

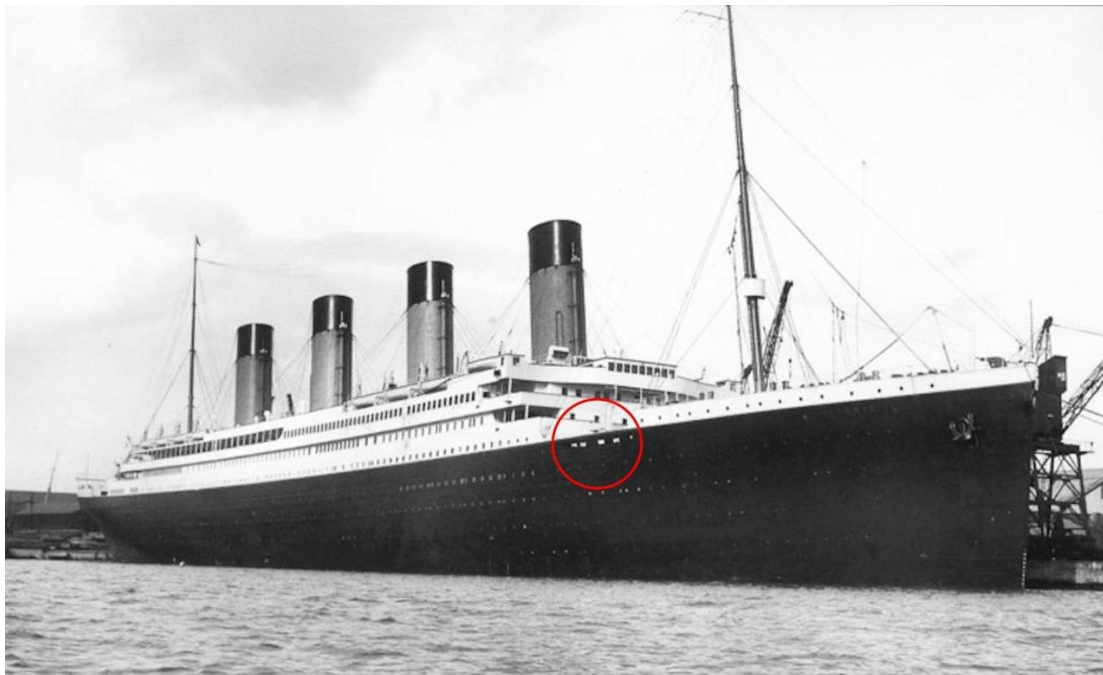


Figure3

In some *Titanic* where there are passengers lining the bulwarks of the forward well deck, it is not possible to see these open ports because the passengers with dark clothing are blocking the open ports. Figure 3 was taken before there were any passengers aboard.

Later *Olympic* had the same modification made to her forward well deck wash ports. In Figure 4, *Olympic's* later open wash ports can be seen.



Figure 4

We know that the wash port doors have been removed because the doors were on the outboard side of the bulwarks and could not swing inboard.

It can be seen in Figure 4 that the open wash ports have two horizontal safety bars. Even the wash ports in the bulwarks of the aft well deck have both safety bars and wash port doors.

Figure 5 shows the open starboard forward well deck wash ports on *Titanic*.

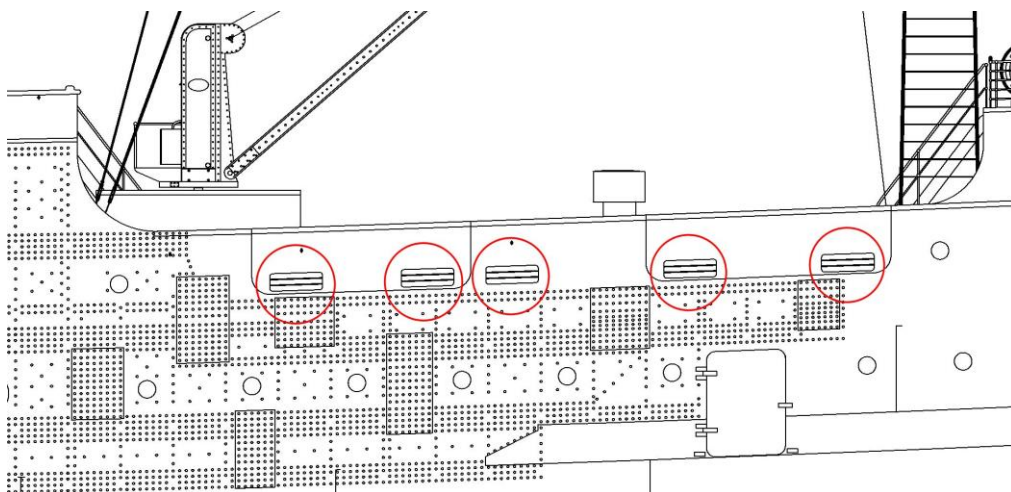


Figure 5

Conclusion

The modeler, artist or historian should note that *Titanic* had open wash ports on the bulwarks of her forward well deck. The aft well deck had hinged wash port doors. This is a feature that most modelers have neglected to incorporate into their models even though this feature has been known for some time.