

Why *Titanic's* 1912 Surveyor's Report on Crew Space Accommodation Can't Be Considered Reliable for Ventilators and Skylights

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Introduction

For several years the 1912 Board of Trade Surveyor's Report on Crew Space Accommodation for *Titanic* has been used to support the speculative existence and configuration of various ventilators and skylights on *Titanic*. The detailed nature of the report has been used as justification for its accuracy. This article will examine some specific areas of the report which call into question the accuracy of this report. If it can be proven that there are crucial inaccuracies in the report as they apply to ventilators and skylights, then this document can no longer be considered a reliable source of information about ventilators and skylights on *Titanic*. This report only deals with ventilators and skylights over crew accommodation areas and not working areas. **No general ventilator inventory for *Titanic* has ever been uncovered.**

The Officers' Mess

The officers' mess on *Titanic* was located on the starboard side of the deckhouse under the third funnel. The ventilation of this space is listed on the Surveyor's Report as "2 - 10" mushroom vents". The entry is shown in Figure 1.

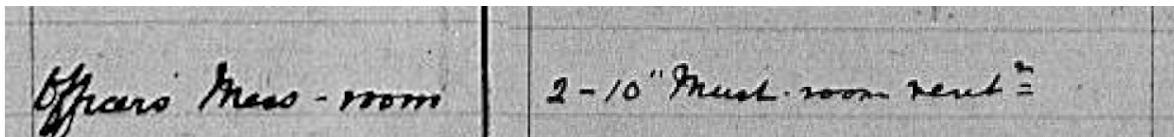


Figure 1

Ventilation reported for *Titanic's* officers' mess

This report entry can easily be refuted by actual photos of *Titanic*. Figures 2 and 3 show two different views of the officers' mess on *Titanic* which is outlined. There is only one mushroom ventilator over the mess which is indicated by an arrow.

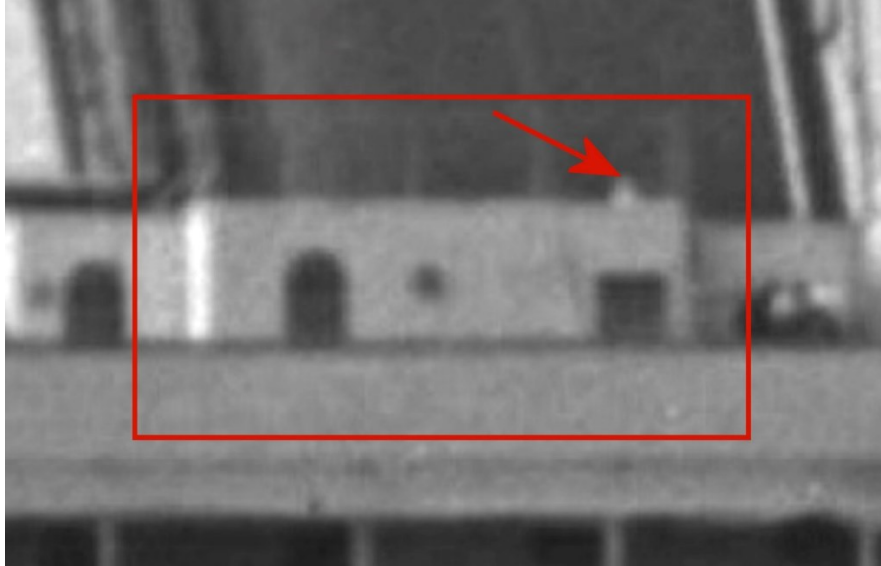


Figure 2

Titanic's officers' mess with single mushroom vent indicated

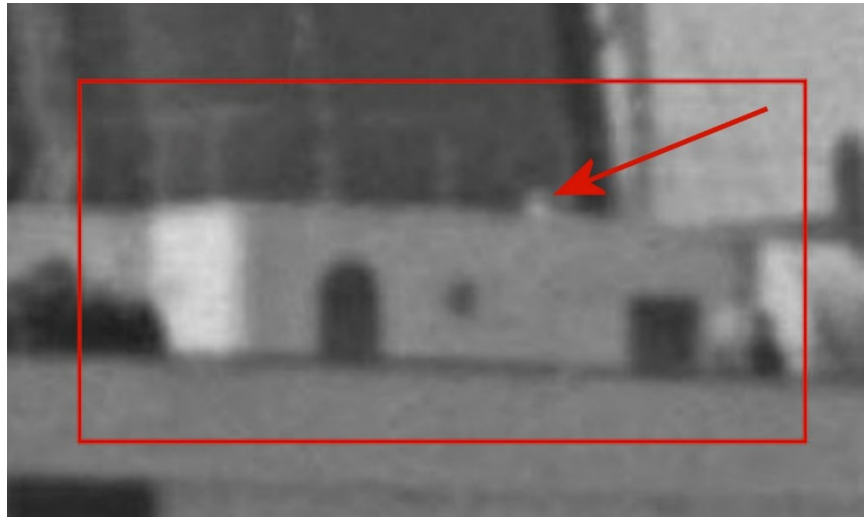


Figure 3

Titanic's officers' mess with single mushroom vent indicated

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The Marconi Officers Bedroom

The facilities for the operation of the Marconi wireless radio occupied a suite of three rooms at the aft aspect of the officers' quarters deckhouse on the boat deck. Two of these rooms, the Marconi wireless radio room and the silent room, were work areas. As such they were not surveyed as part of the Marconi operators' accommodation. Their accommodation which was surveyed was their bedroom only. Figure 4 shows the report entry for the Marconi operators' bedroom.



Figure 4

Survey Report entry for Marconi operators' bedroom

If a mushroom vent for the Marconi operators' bedroom were present, we would see some evidence for it on the starboard side of the skylight. Figure 5 shows the starboard side of the Marconi suite skylight looking to port and there is no evidence of a mushroom vent on the starboard side which would be present if the Survey Report were accurate.



Figure 5

Marconi skylight showing no evidence of mushroom vent on starboard side

The only mushroom vent over the Marconi suite was over the silent room as is shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6

Officers' Quarters Skylights

There are two opening skylights on the officers' quarters deckhouse. The first is the skylight over the officers' lavatory and the second is the skylight over the Marconi operators control room and bedroom. The Surveyor's Report entry for these is shown in Figure 7.

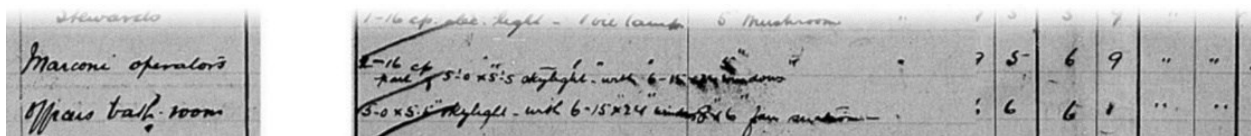


Figure 7

Entry in Surveyor's report about officers' quarters skylights

The dimensions of the skylights are given as 5'- 0" X 5 - 5". The part of the entry that appears to be incorrect is that it says that the skylights each have 6 – 15" X 24" panes (3 on each of the two sashes). When this report first surfaced a few years ago, I disputed this skylight pane configuration because there was Titanic fitting-out photo evidence which contradicted it. I argued the case in detail for skylights with two panes per sash in this article: [Titanic's Officers' Quarters Skylights](#). At the time I didn't examine the rest of the report in detail because I thought that the skylight entries might have just been anomalies. With more details being included on plans and paintings which are based on the Surveyor's Report, I decided to take a closer look. As can be seen in the previous examples, the Report has a number of provable errors. Figure 8 shows a sash or sashes for one of the skylights leaning against the stokehold vent aft of #1 funnel. The skylight has not yet been assembled. It can be clearly seen that the skylight sash in the photo has only two panes rather than the three described in the report.

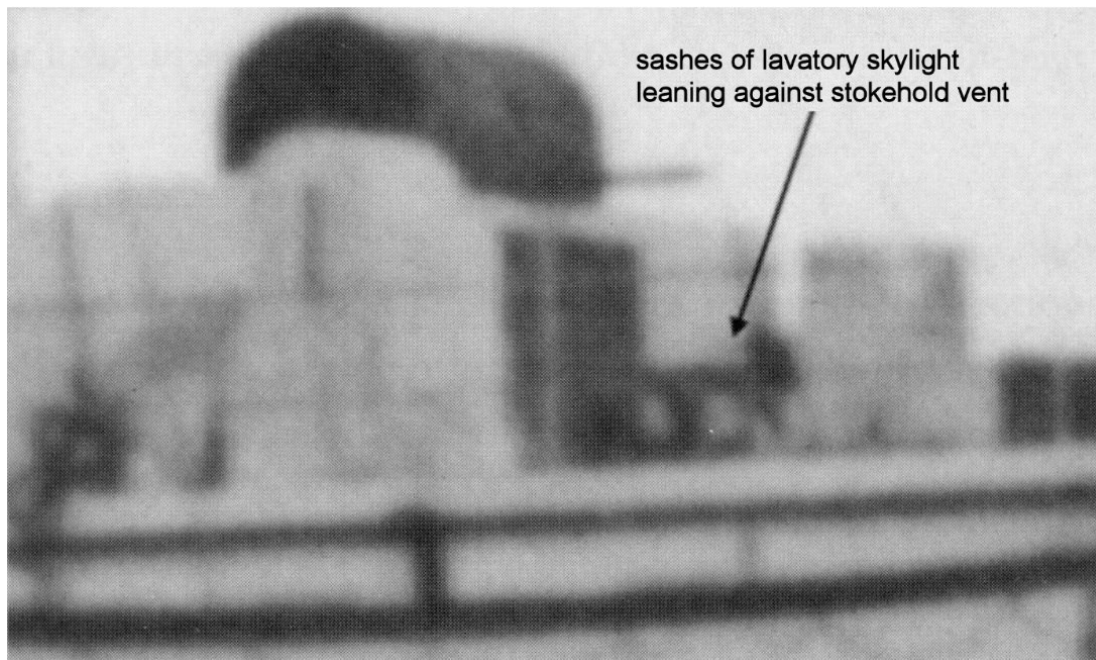


Figure 8

Fitting-out photo of *Titanic* showing two-paned skylight sash

Conclusion

During the last few years several *Titanic* "discoveries" have been incorporated into plans and photos. These "discoveries" are based solely on entries in the 1912 Surveyors Report of Crew Space Accommodation. These "discoveries" relate to ventilators and skylights. After studying the Report more closely for this article, I found that several entries were not supported by photographic evidence. I now believe that this Report cannot be used as the basis for any

“discoveries” relating to ventilators or skylights unless there is other supporting evidence (preferably photos).